

What is a CdTe solar cell?

CdTe is a material made from the combination of two elements: Cadmium (Cd) and Tellurium (Te). It plays a critical role of light absorption--hence why a CdTe solar cell is named after it. However, a cell needs more than just the CdTe material to function. CdTe is a material made from the combination of two elements: Cadmium (Cd) and Tellurium (Te).

How are CdTe solar cells produced?

Usually, CdTe solar cells are produced on a glass substrate with a pre-deposited thin transparent conducting surface. This is one reason that these cells are inexpensive to produce. A thin (~ 100 nm) polycrystalline (poly)-CdS layer is deposited on a glass/TCO (thin conducting oxide) stack, followed by the deposition of a ~ 4 mm poly-CdTe layer.

How efficient is a CdTe solar cell?

The maximum theoretical efficiency of the CdTe solar cell corresponding to a band gap of 1.5 eV is about 28%-30%. CdTe has long been known as a leading thin film photovoltaic material due to its near optimal direct bandgap of 1.44 eV and high absorption coefficient.

What are PV solar cells based on CdTe?

PV solar cells based on CdTe represent the largest segment of commercial thin-film module production worldwide. Recent improvements have matched the efficiency of multicrystalline silicon while maintaining cost leadership.

Can CdTe based solar cells be made on other substrates?

In thin film technologies, buffer layers were introduced to attempt to make lower-recombination interfaces with the absorber. CdTe-based solar cells have been made on other substrates such as steel or polymers in laboratories, but these approaches have yet to be commercialized.

Are CdTe solar systems competitive with other forms of solar energy?

Recent installations of large First Solar CdTe PV systems were claimed to be competitive with other forms of solar energy: First Solar's 290- megawatt (MW) Agua Caliente project in Arizona is one of the largest photovoltaic power stations ever built.

CdTe solar cells can be fabricated using multiple progressive methods, including sputtering [[7], [8], [9]], electrodeposition [10], and vapor deposition [11], which are relatively ...

The CdTe film acts as the primary photoconversion layer and absorbs most visible light within the first micron of material. Together, the CdTe, intermediate, and TCO layers form an electric field that converts light

absorbed in the CdTe ...

Using epitaxial CdTe as a demonstration platform, and employing new passivation and p-type contact layers in a double-heterostructure cell design, we demonstrate a V_{oc} beyond the 1 V barrier...

The second-generation solar cells having a power conversion efficiency are 28.8 %, 22.1%, and 22.6% for GaAs, CdTe, and CIGS solar cell, respectively.[2] ... high-efficiency CdTe solar cells ...

Recent advancements in CdTe solar cell technology have introduced the integration of flexible substrates, providing lightweight and adaptable energy solutions for various applications. ...

Employing sunlight to produce electrical energy has been demonstrated to be one of the most promising solutions to the world's energy crisis. The device to convert solar energy to electrical energy, a solar cell, ...

The next-generation applications of perovskite-based solar cells include tandem PV cells, space applications, PV-integrated energy storage systems, PV cell-driven catalysis ...

CdTe solar cells have achieved efficiency beyond 22%, but their full potential lies in attaining higher voltage (V_{OC}) and fill factor (FF) (Sites and Pan, 2007). To increase the ...

CdTe is one of the leading materials for high-efficiency, low-cost, and thin-film solar cells. In this work, we review the recent first-principles study of defect properties of CdTe ...

