



**Trinity College Dublin**  
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**COST Action PEARL PV Conference – Enabling the  
PV Terawatt Transition**

# **Advances in Luminescent devices for BIPV**

Capturing diffuse light

**Dr Sarah McCormack**  
Associate Professor

15/03/2022



## **Background to Luminescent solar concentrators**

- Introduction to LSCs and limitations

## **Current research on Luminescent devices for BIPV**

- Review of current upscaled LSC performance for BIPV

## **Commercial LSC for BIPV**

- Currently available

## **Conclusions**

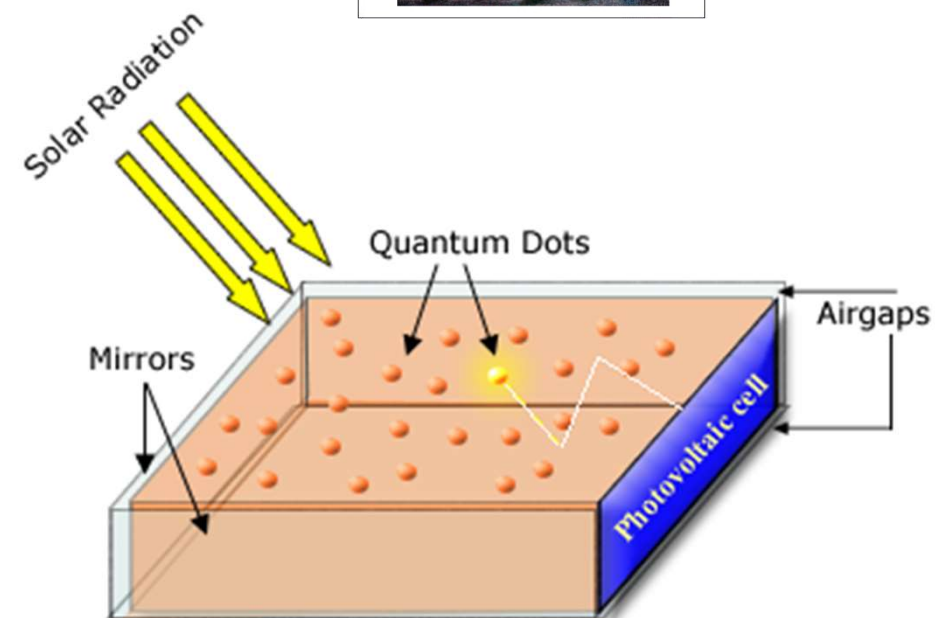
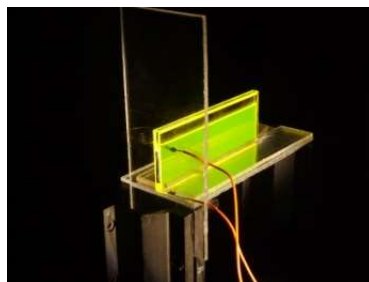
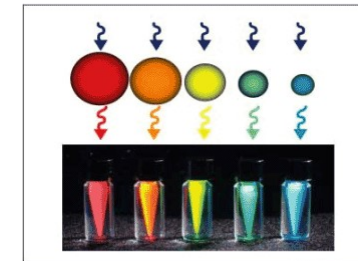


# Luminescent Solar Concentrators

## An introduction

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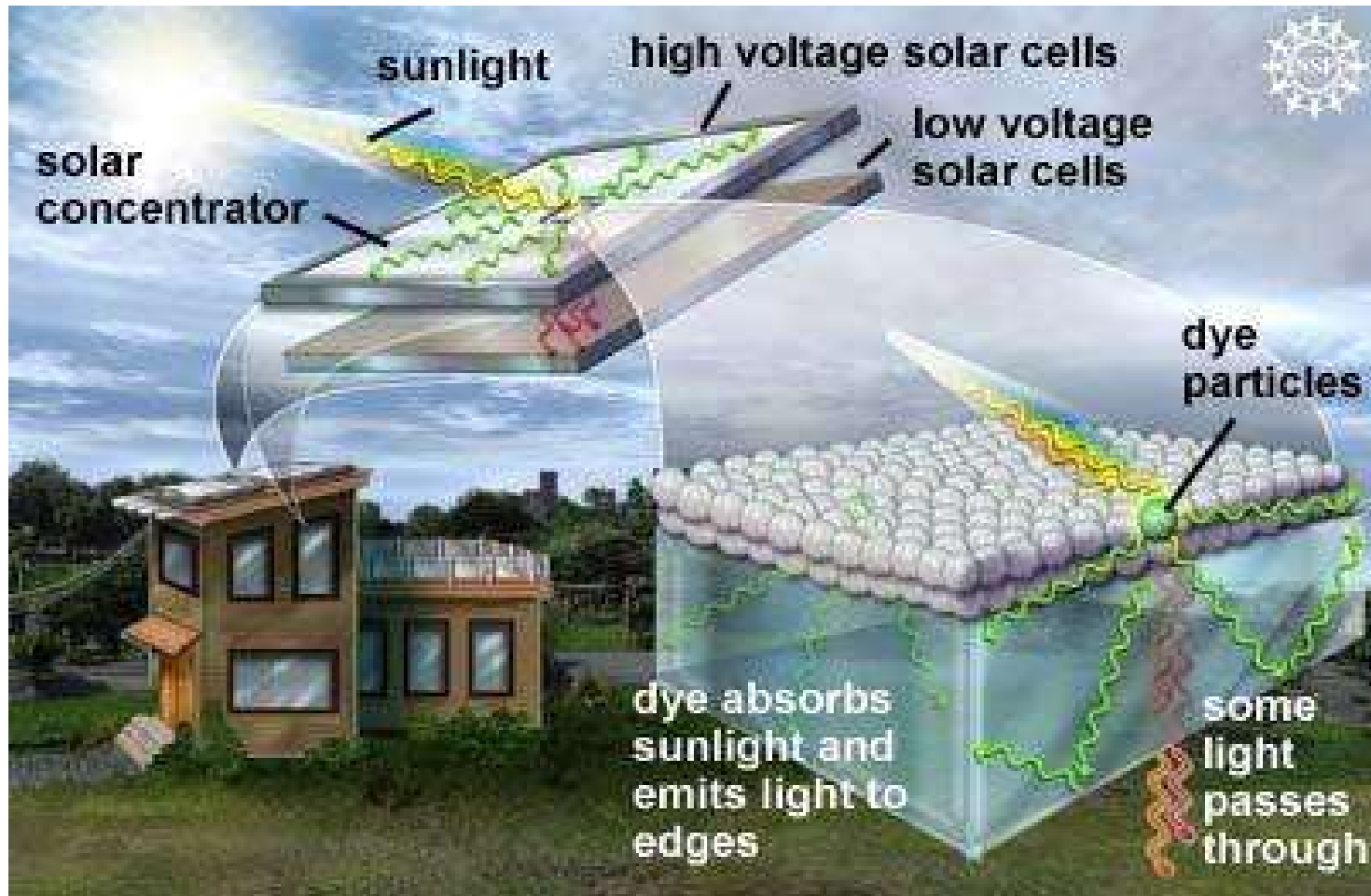
- First conceived in the 1970's by Goetzberger & Greubel.
- Use of dyes, quantum dots, rare earth materials
- However many loss mechanisms
- Research mainly focuses on small scale
- This talk will discuss work where LSCs have been upscaled for BIPV applications



# Advantages of LSC

Static diffuse concentrator building elements suited to BIPV

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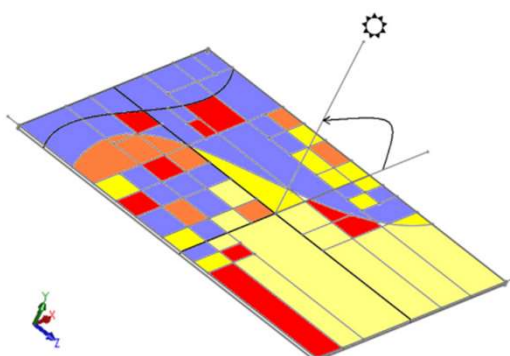




# Huge amount of literature on LSCs

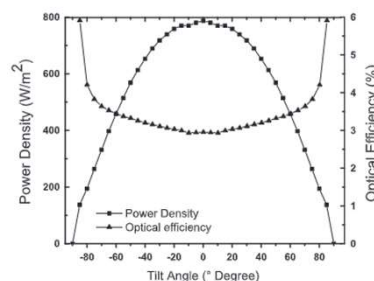
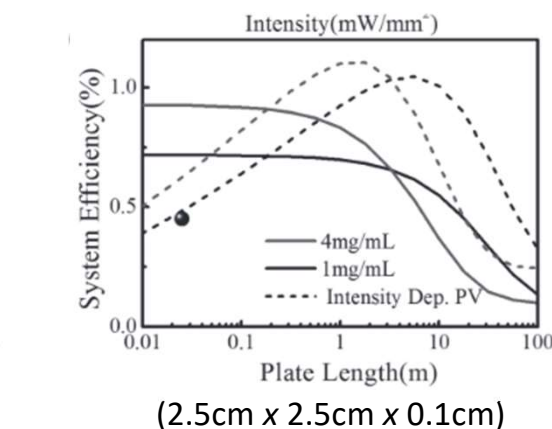


- Excellent reviews on LSCs available – but not including large scale BIPV
- Even when included in the title – still only small scale –
- predicting consistent efficiencies up to 10 m<sup>2</sup>
- modelling devices



The stained glass window design modelled using five Lumogen dye colours

Power density and optical efficiency of a square stained glass window (47 cm x 58 cm x 0.5 cm) for varying the tilt angle



Optics Express Vol. 16, Issue 26, pp. 21773-21792 (2008) • <https://doi.org/10.1364/OE.16.021773>

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GROUP

## Luminescent Solar Concentrators - A review of recent results

Wilfried G.J.H.M. van Sark, Keith W.J. Barnham, Lenneke H. Slooff, Amanda J. Chatten, Andreas Büchtemann, Andreas Meyer, Sarah J. McCormack, Rolf Koole, Daniel J. Farrell, Rahul Bose, Evert E. Bende, Antonius R. Burgers, Tristram Budel, Jana Quilitz, Manus Kennedy, Toby Meyer, C. De Mello Donegá, Andries Meijerink, and Daniel Vanmaekelbergh

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## Thirty Years of Luminescent Solar Concentrator Research: Solar Energy for the Built Environment

Michael G. Debijs\* and Paul P. C. Verbunt

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## Transparent Luminescent Solar Concentrators for Large-Area Solar Windows Enabled by Massive Stokes-Shift Nanocluster Phosphors

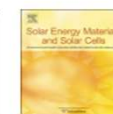
Yimu Zhao and Richard R. Lunt\*

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Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/solmat](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/solmat)



Luminescent solar concentrators: From experimental validation of 3D ray-tracing simulations to coloured stained-glass windows for BIPV

A. Kerrouche, D.A. Hardy, D. Ross, B.S. Richards\*

School of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, EH14 4AS, United Kingdom



# Large LSC module performance

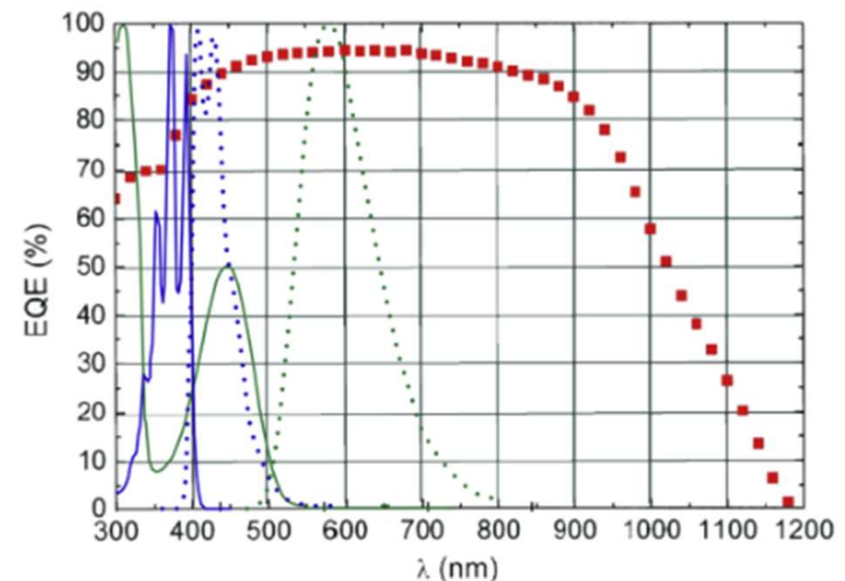
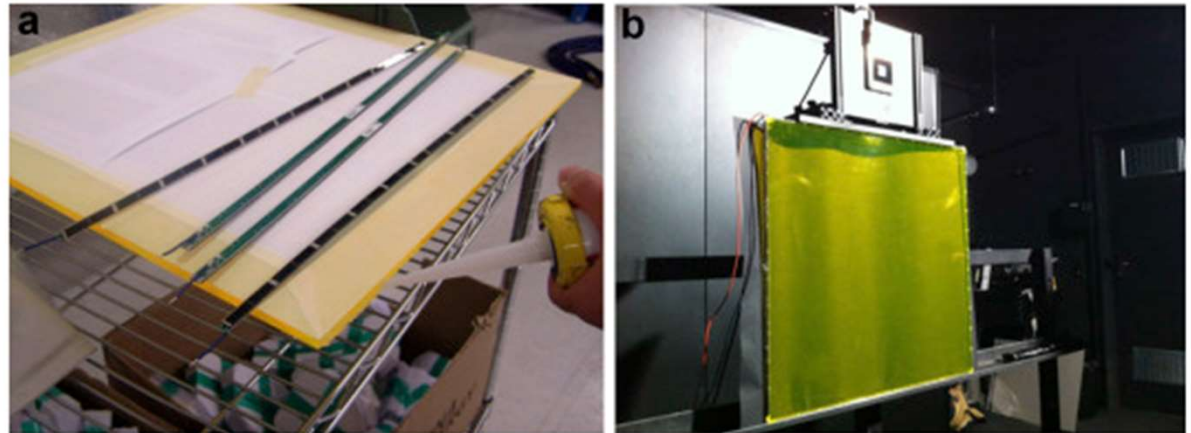
Aste et al., 2015



Aste et al., describe the first operating measurements carried out on an LSC prototype

PV Test Facility of the Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

- PMMA plates (6mm) doped with 2 in-house dyes
- 88 monocrystalline PV cells, (22 x 7 mm each, in a combined series-parallel connection,
- Six 50 x 50 cm panels in a single metal frame to realise a 108.4 x 161.8 cm LSC module.
- Total nominal power of the 528 cells installed in the module was 11.77 Wp.

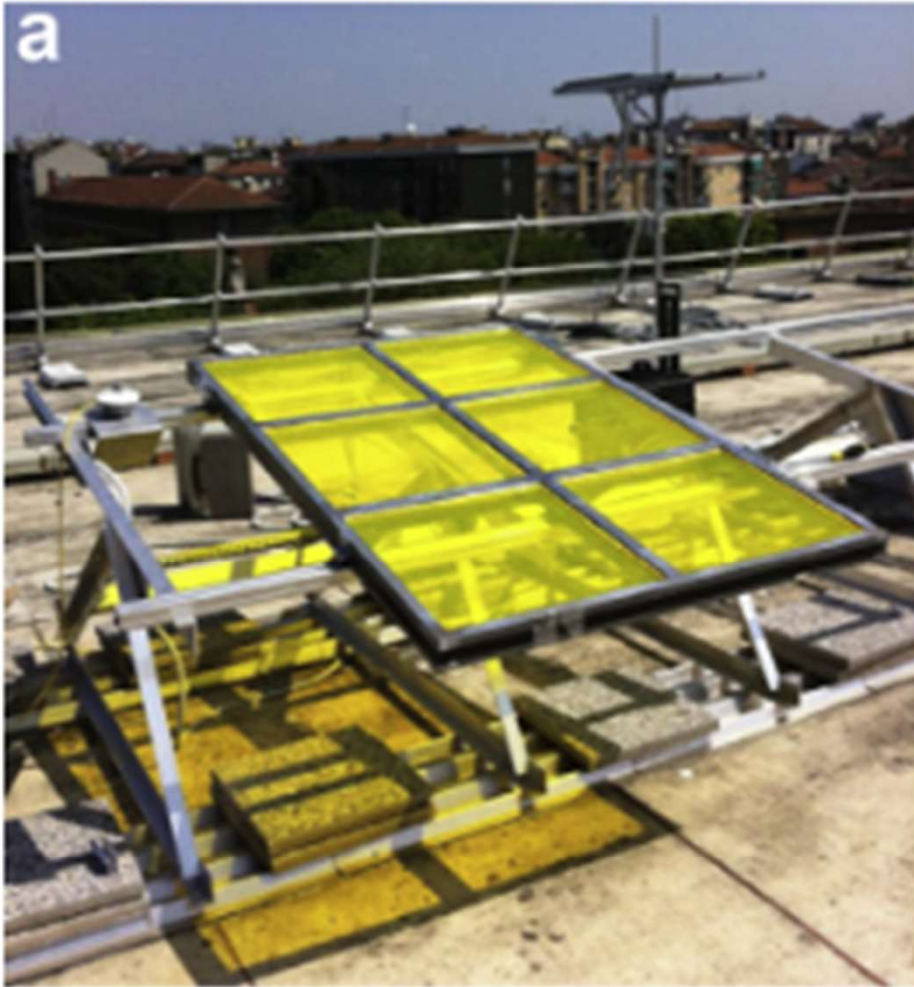




# Large LSC performance

Aste et al., 2015

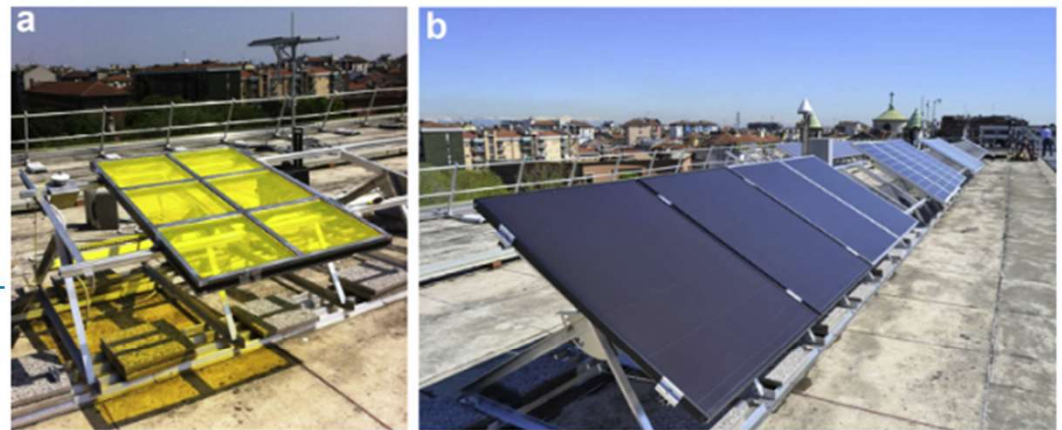
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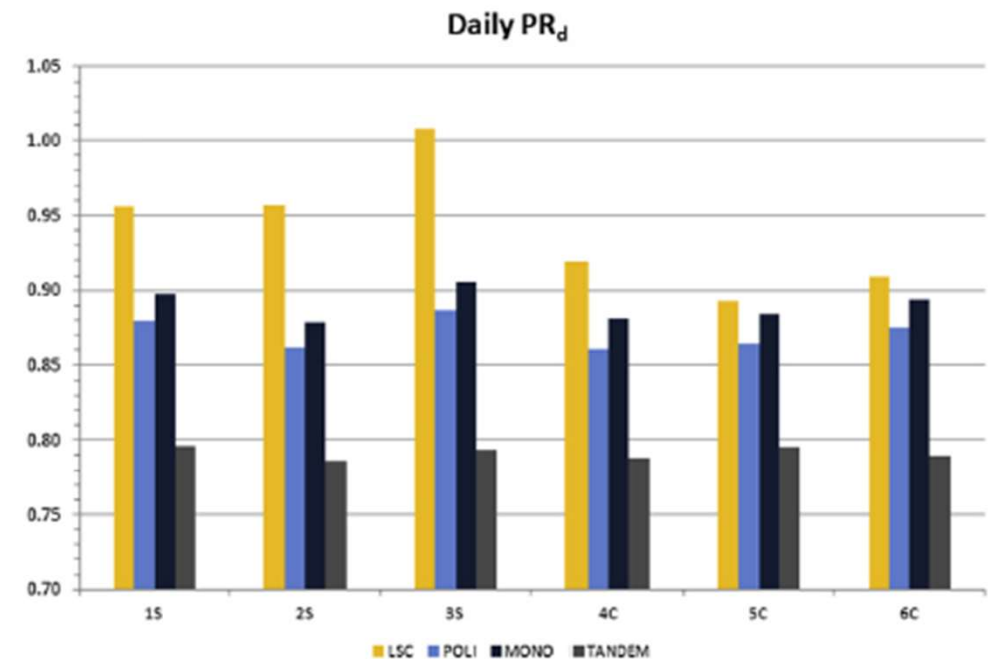
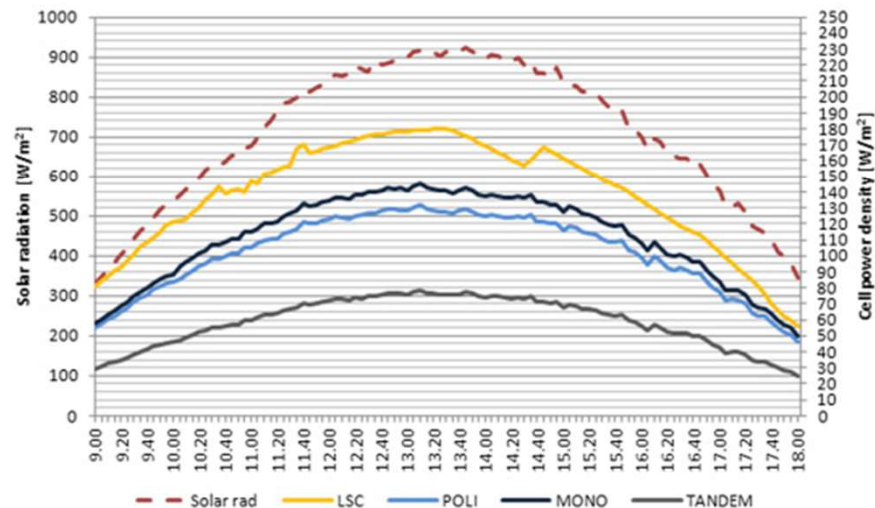
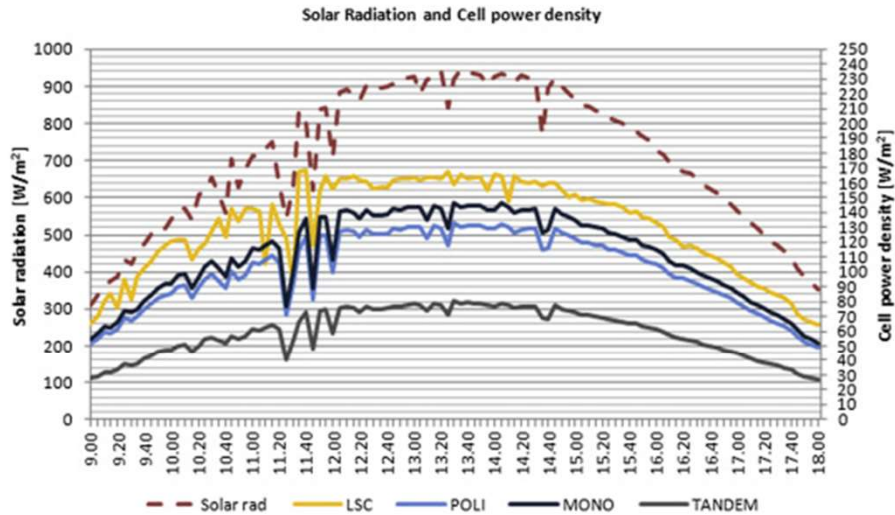
(a) ENI module and (b) standard photovoltaic modules at the PV Test Facility of the Politecnico di M

# Large LSC performance

Aste et al., 2015



(a) ENI module and (b) standard photovoltaic modules at the PV Test Facility of the Politecnico di Milano University, Italy.



Daily performance ratio related the ENI module and the standard PV modules.  
S = sunny days; C = partially cloudy days.



# Performance under changing light conditions

Debiye & Rajkumar (2015)

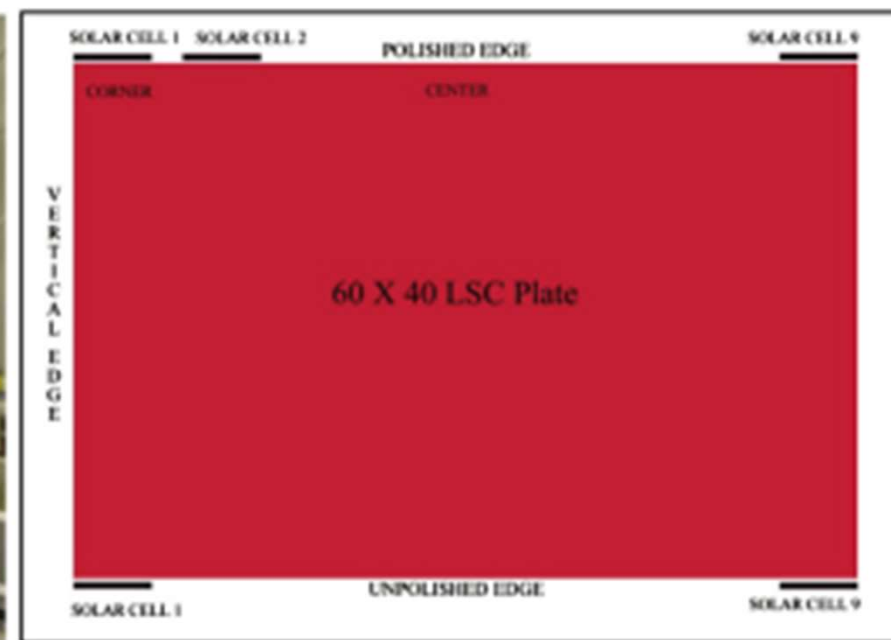
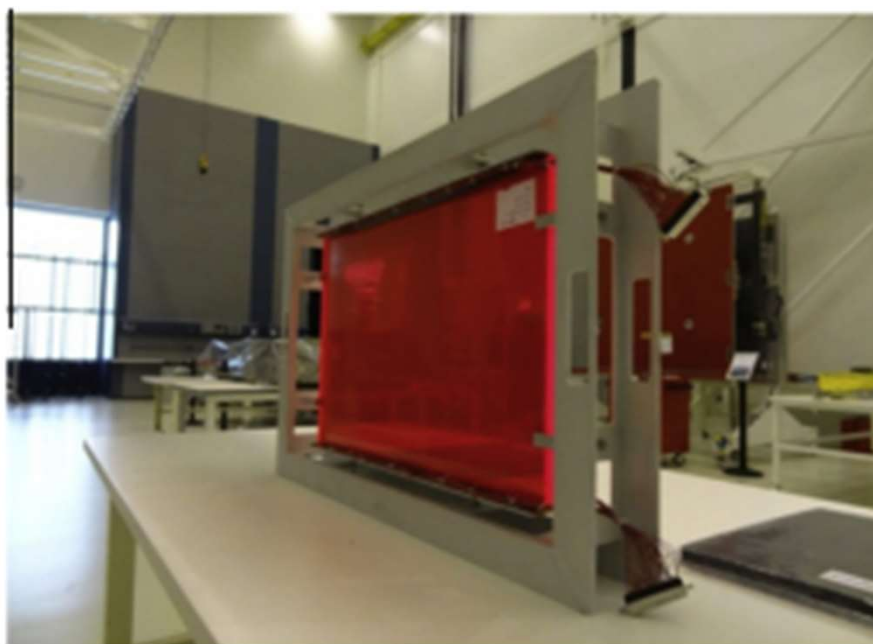
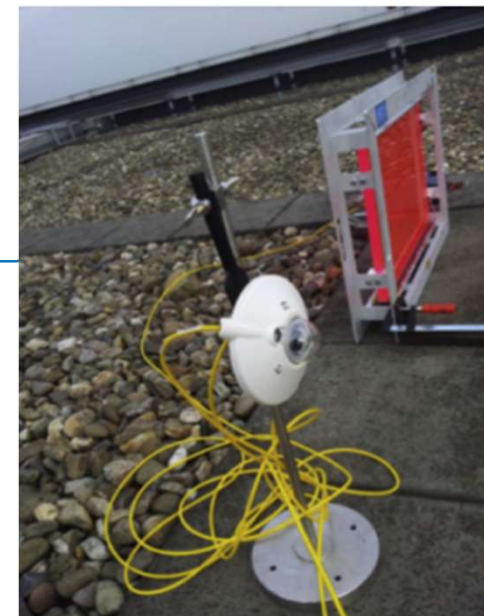
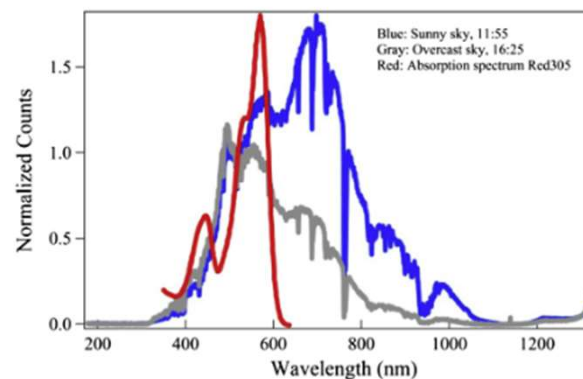
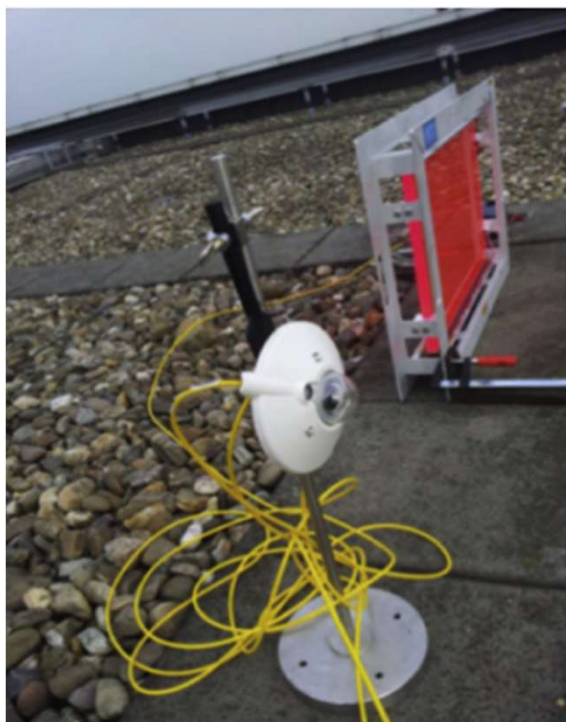


Fig. 1. (Left) the luminescent solar concentrator prototype, (right) depiction of solar cell placement.

# Performance under changing light conditions

Debiye & Rajkumar (2015)

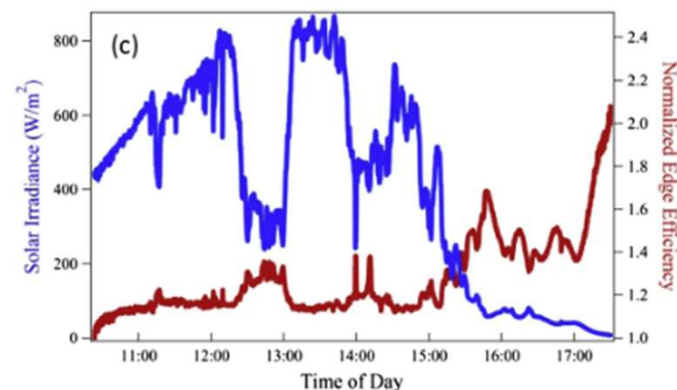
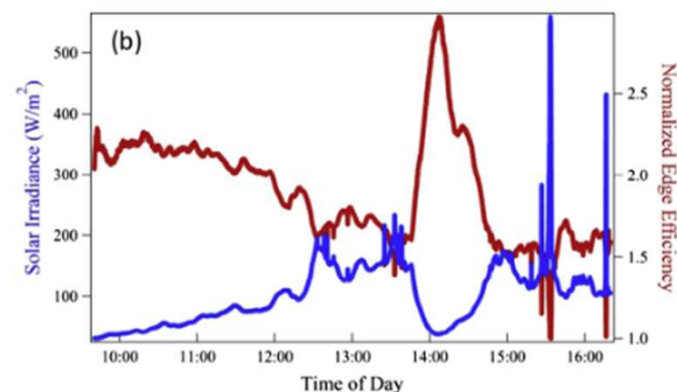
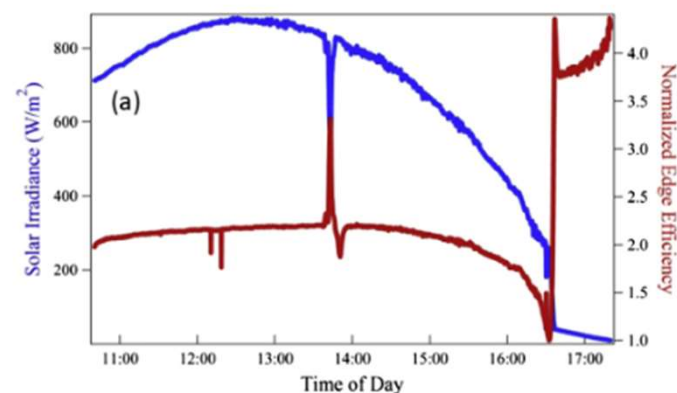


Calculated normalized electrical edge efficiency (red) and global vertical solar irradiance (blue) plotted as a function of time for 3 different days

Generally PV efficiency decreases with decreased irradiance

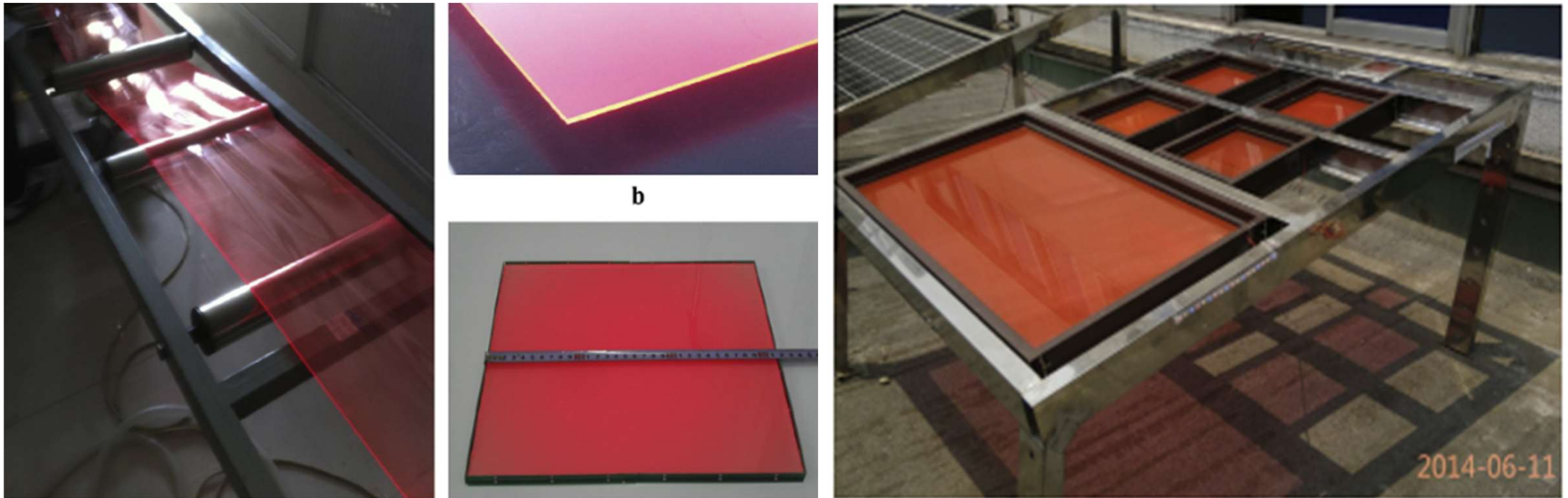
Drop in solar irradiance (a) led to a spike in edge efficiency

LSC efficiency improved under cloudy and diffuse light conditions



# Large area glass laminate LSCs

Zhang et al., 2015



In this study, different size glass laminated luminescent solar concentrators (GL-LSCs) of

$7.8 \times 7.8 \text{ cm}^2$ ,

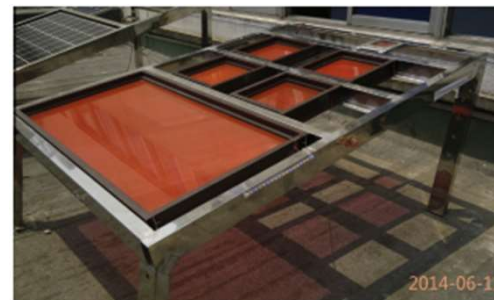
$15.6 \times 15.6 \text{ cm}^2$ ,

$31.2 \times 31.2 \text{ cm}^2$  and  $61 \times 122 \text{ cm}^2$  were fabricated by using fluorescent dyes Lumogen Red 305 and Yellow 083, ultra-white glass and commercial mono-crystalline silicon solar cells.



# Large area glass laminate LSCs

Zhang et al., 2015



As size increase, output power of GL-LSCs increases, but power conversion efficiency (PCE) decreases

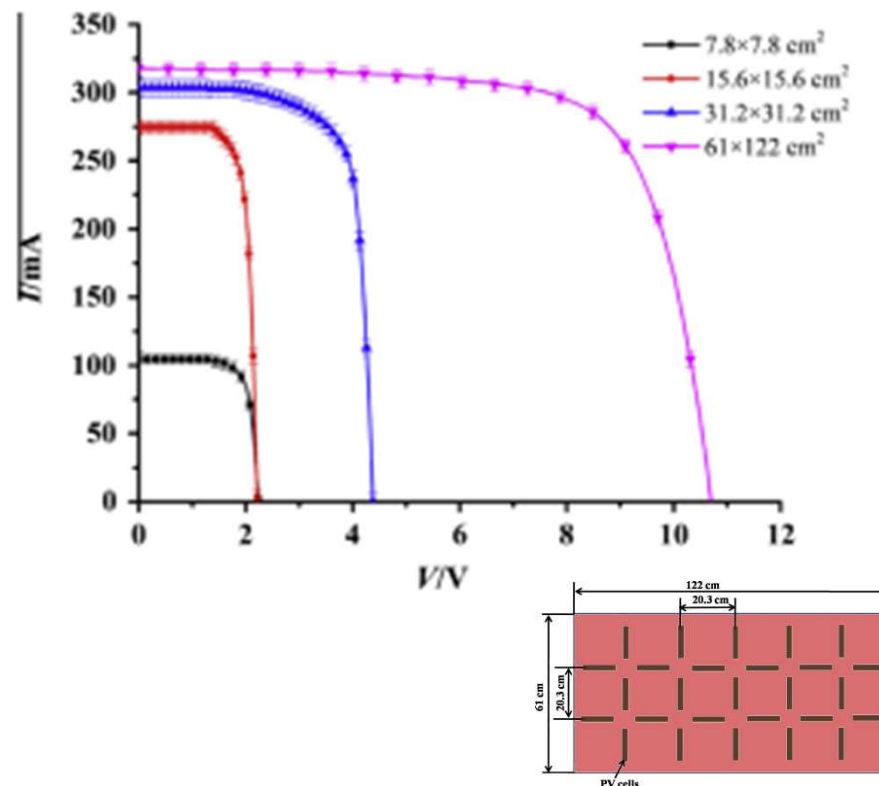
A series of GL-LSCs with bottom-mounted PV cells were fabricated.

The relationship between the area of luminescent waveguide and the gain of the bottom-mounted PV cells was investigated for the optimization of the GL-LSCs performance.

A highest gain of 1.38 was achieved in power over the bare PV cells was obtained with PV cell coverage of 4.54%.

A highest PCE of 2.28% was achieved with PV cell coverage of 11.32%.

It was found that the design with PV cell coverage of 9.07% have the lowest cost of \$ 1.25/WP with a PCE of 2.02% and a gain of 1.27.



Performance and cost per  $W_P$  for all bottom-mounted PV cells GL-LSCs with a white reflector.

PV cell size (cm <sup>2</sup> )	PV cell coverage (%)	$\eta_{LSC}$ (%)	Gain	$p^a$ ( $W_P$ )
15.6 × 2.0	11.32	2.28	1.15	\$ 1.27
15.6 × 1.0	5.66	1.36	1.37	\$ 1.47
12.5 × 2.0	9.07	2.02	1.27	\$ 1.25
12.5 × 1.0	4.54	1.10	1.38	\$ 1.65

# Liv-Lib project

Zarcone et al 2016 - Université Paris-Est & University of Ferrara



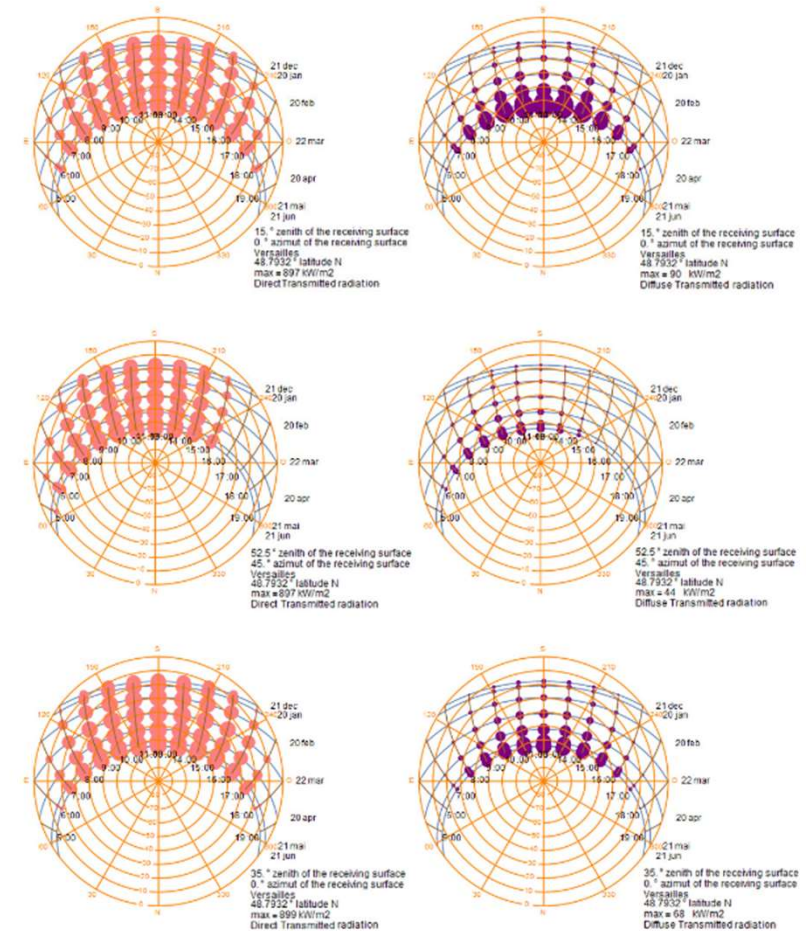
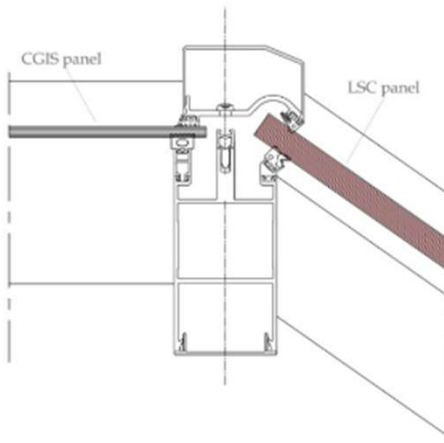
A solar canopy specially designed for Liv-lib' project at Solar Decathlon Europe 2014 (SDE2014) in Versailles, integrating an innovative system for energy production, LSC jointly with Copper Indium Gallium diSelenide (CIGS) solar cells.



Night view of the Liv-lib during the SDE 2014 competition, showing; (b) The LSC panels stand out on the roof; (c) Under the canopy the light gets a red hue caused by the re-emitted light that doesn't undergo total internal reflection

# Liv-Lib project

Zarcone et al 2016



The photovoltaic electricity demand of the house is satisfied through 30 thin film CIGS solar panels (21.6 m<sup>2</sup> at 120 Wp/m<sup>2</sup> giving 2.6 kWp) and 25 LSC panels (23.0 m<sup>2</sup> at 16 Wp/m<sup>2</sup>, giving 370Wp) for a total power of 2.97 kWp installed.

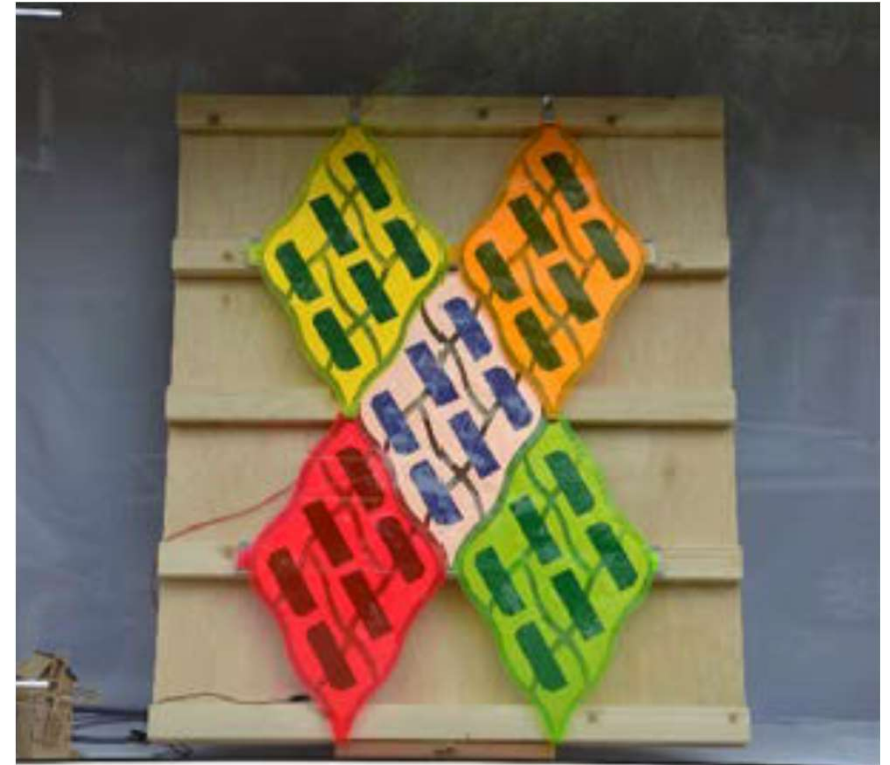


# Leaf Roof Tiles

Reinders et al 2016



- A Leaf Roof tile, shown in consists of a 5 mm thick LSC waveguide of PMMA containing 80 ppm of Lumogen® F Red 305 dye.
- It is equipped with SunPower™ C60 solar cells, cell wiring and a metallic back reflector made from copper.
- The total area of the front surface of the Leaf Roof element is 0.11 m<sup>2</sup>, leading to a theoretical efficiency of 4,4% with an Impp of 1,39 A and a Vmpp of 3,49 V, without encapsulation with the PMMA waveguide.
- For the prototype design, a tile configuration consisting of 6 PV cells with a customized size of 52 cm<sup>2</sup> (resulting from cutting complete cells in 3 slices) has been chosen. The total area covered by PV cells is therefore 312 cm<sup>2</sup>.
- It has shown an energy yield which is 9 % higher compared to a reference prototype with a transparent PMMA waveguide (without dyes).



# Electric Mondrian

Moraitis et al., 2018

Inspired by the painting style of Piet Mondrian.

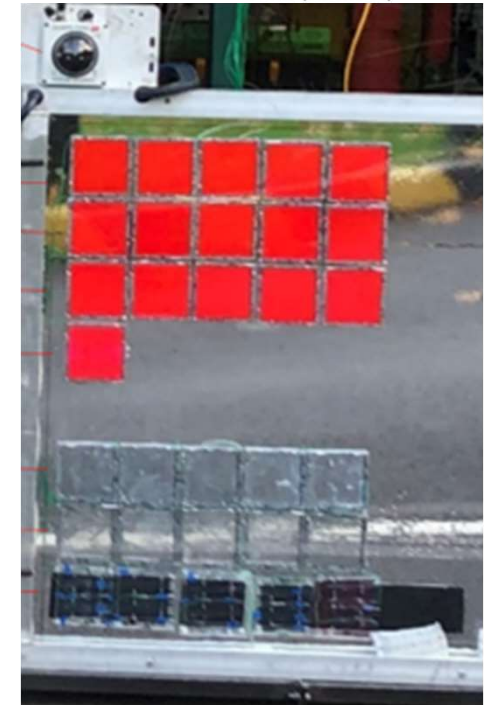
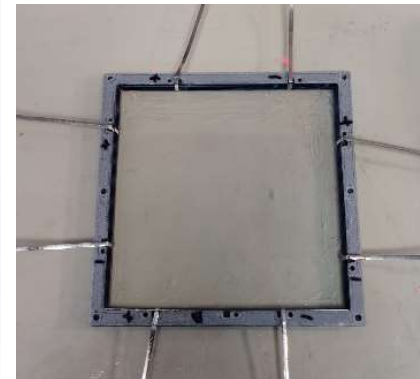
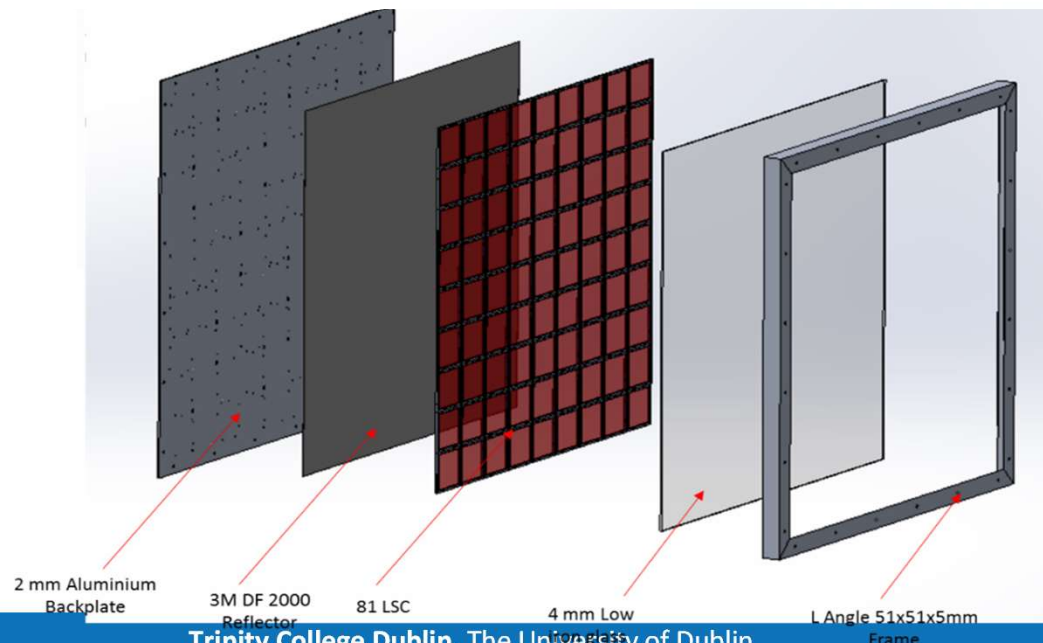
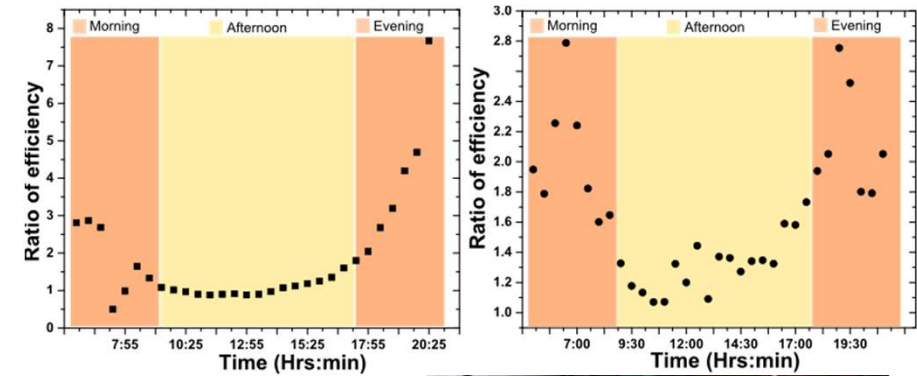
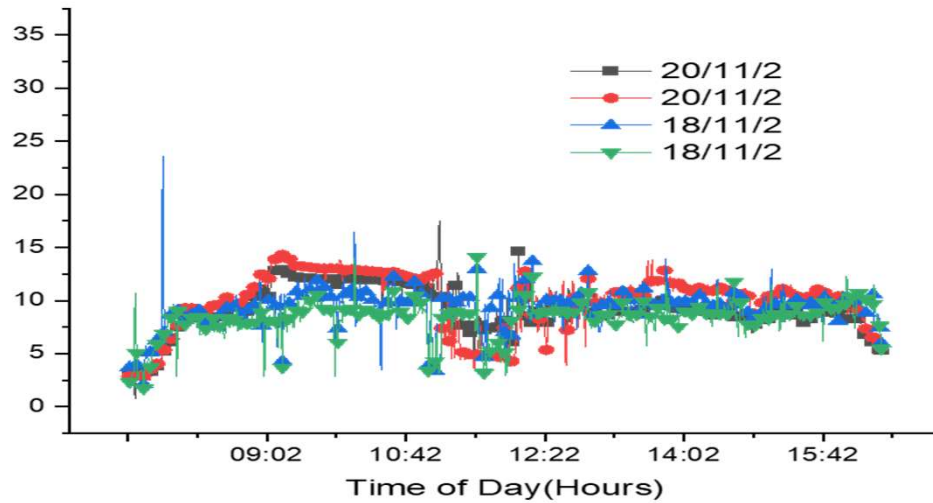
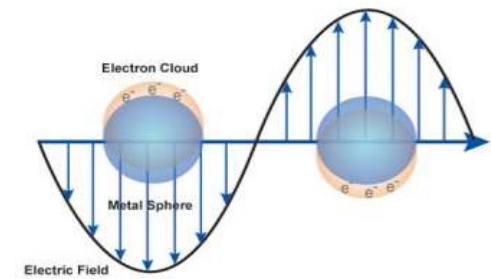
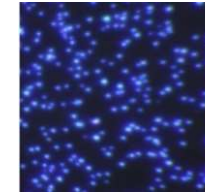
Colourful LSC plates embedded with Lumogen dyes were used to create a decorative element that could serve as a stand-alone charging point for mobile devices

This is the first attempt to create an actual LSC as part of a window. The small size of the device, approximately 1m<sup>2</sup>, would not cause color distortion in the living space of the room behind it and the modularity of the system would allow larger or smaller areas to be covered.



# Plasmonic LSCs for Building integration

Sethi et al., 2020; 2021





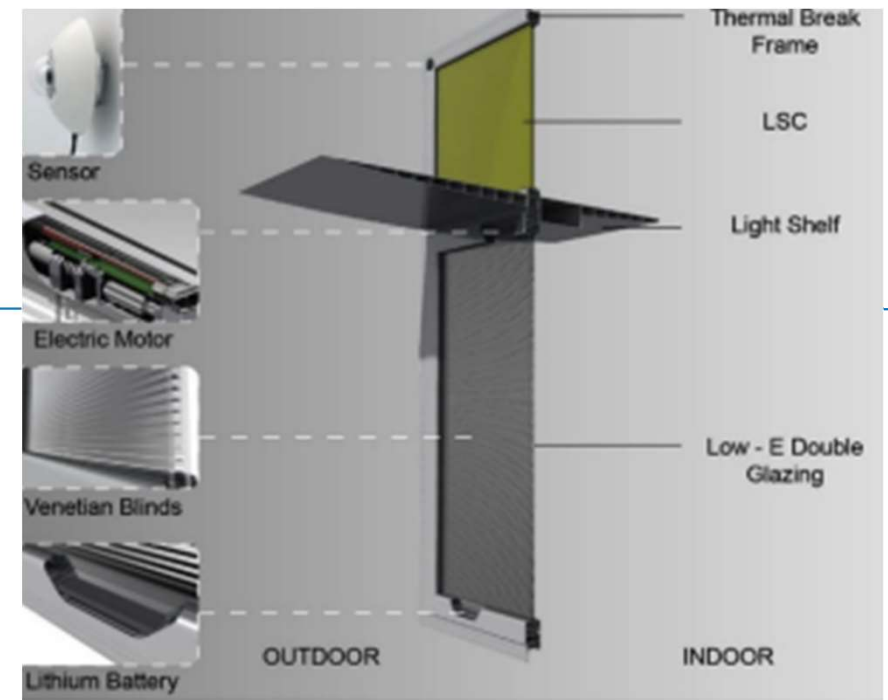
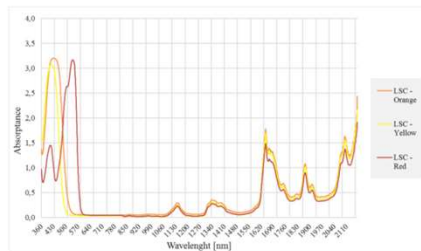
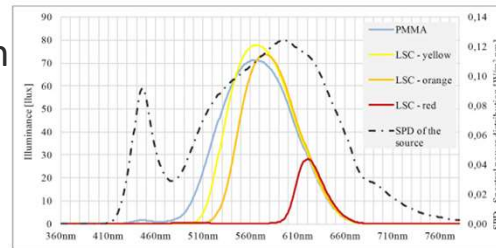
# Smart windows

Aste et al, 2019

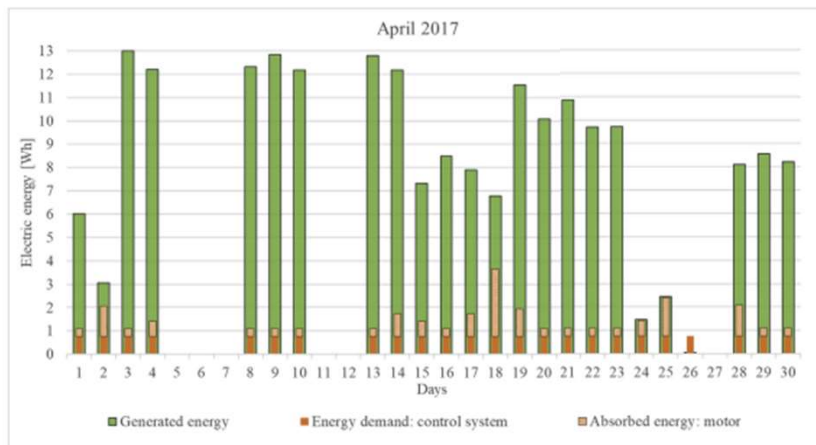
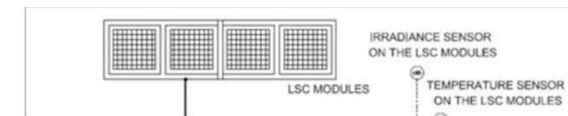
**Overcoming reabsorption using derivatives of benzothiadiazole, with a large Stokes shift with tunability.**

A new façade component has been developed able to exploit the multifunctionality in terms of solar electricity production, daylighting improvement and solar control.

Projected: Cost €35 per 50 x 50 panel - @3% efficiency



Smart Window concept design.



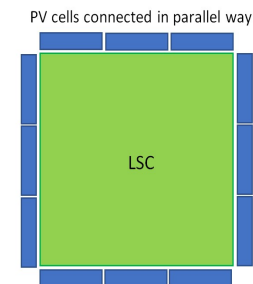
Daily energy balance of Smart Window.



# Large area LSC

Mateen et al., 2021

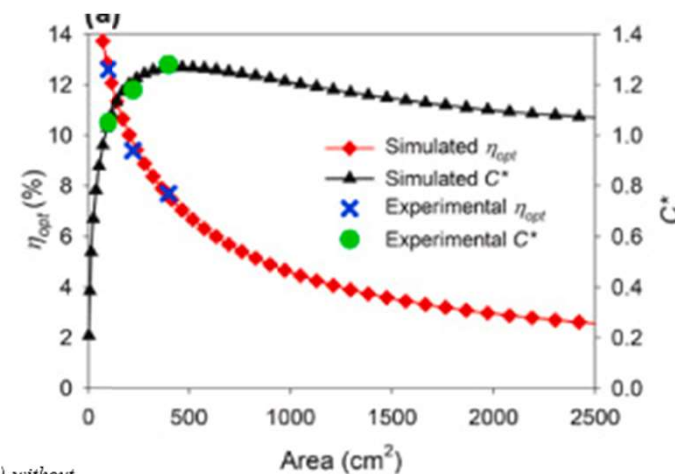
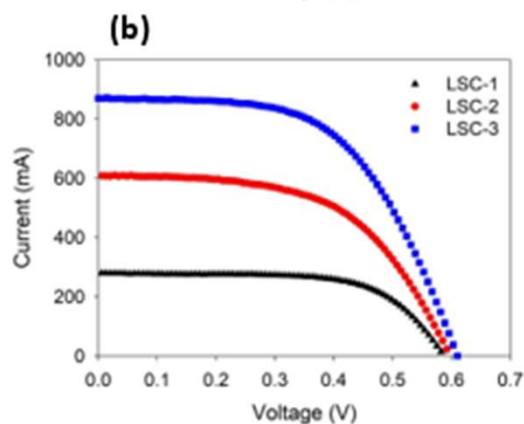
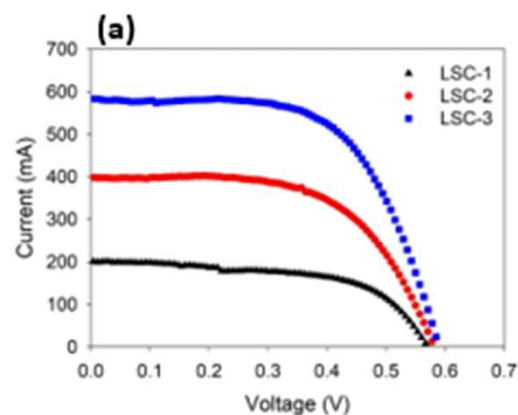
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Based on new TADF based dye with large Stokes shift

Mateen et al., 2021

up to 1474.5 cm<sup>2</sup>, G = 32



Current-Voltage (IV) curves of fabricated LSC devices Illuminated with AM 1.5G spectrum (a) without backside diffuser (b) With backside diffuser. LSC-1 (10 × 10 cm<sup>2</sup>), LSC-2 (15 × 15 cm<sup>2</sup>), LSC-3 (20 × 20 cm<sup>2</sup>)

# LSC Sound Barrier – SONOB project – Not BIPV!!

2016 - 2020

- The solar noise barrier project – a number of projects under this theme by Debijs et al
- full-size ( $1 \times 5 \text{ m}^2$ ) luminescent solar concentrator (LSC) has been constructed and the edge electric outputs from the attached photovoltaic cells monitored for a period of slightly over one year in the solar noise barrier (SONOB) “living lab” outdoor environment.

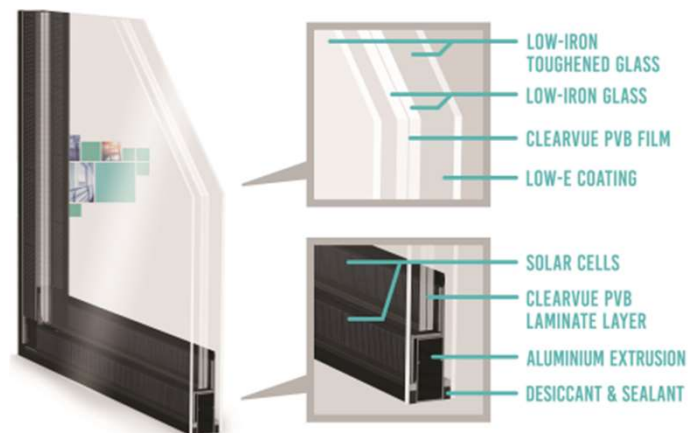


- Shading effects – street art , effects of seasonal spectral variation, cloud cover and heat distribution and modelling (Bognar et al., 2020).



# LSC - Companies & Products

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# Future of Large scale LSC development

P  A R L P V

Products are coming

But still need for

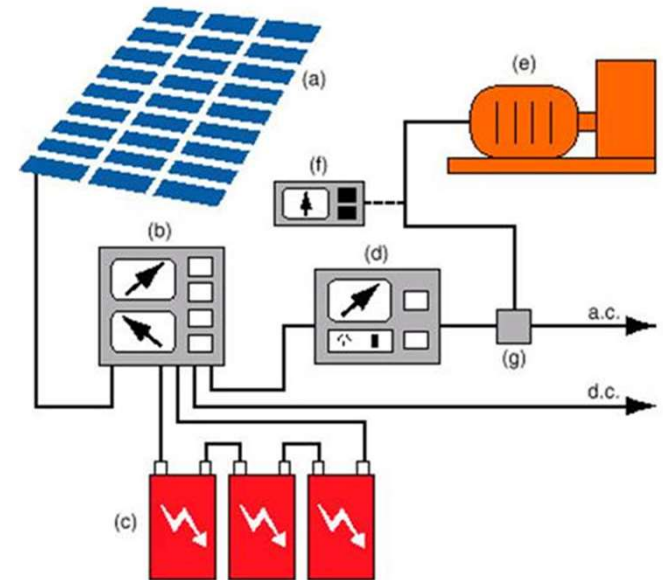
Material development

- Luminescent species (QY, Stokes shift)
- Move towards green polymers – less environmental impact

Upscale not as easy as perceived

More research needed on the façade integration of these devices

Efficient and low-cost transparent solar harvesting systems can be fabricated



BIPV system diagram

Courtesy of Murdoch University Energy Research and Innovation Group



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# Thank You

