



The Eni-MIT Solar Frontier Center

Given the positive results achieved in the first two years of activity, Eni has decided to strengthen its commitment in the next three years, particularly with regard to research on advanced solar technology.

In 2009, Eni and MIT decided to create the "Solar Frontier Center (SFC) at MIT, a center dedicated to R&D on solar energy, consisting of spaces and laboratories shared by Eni and MIT.

There are two laboratories: one for activity characterization (measuring instruments) and one for duration tests and some realization phases. There is also a meeting room with video-conferencing facilities.

The Solar Frontier Center enables Eni's research to be supported not only by "virtual" laboratories, but also provides the opportunity for cultural exchange in a technological environment. Within these laboratories, there is equipment which increases the possibility of finding "hybrid" solutions in the various fields of energy production.

The SFC will increase the effectiveness of current programs, reducing the time trials, allowing a greater understanding of technology and the complex workings of advanced solar cells, and constituting a point of reference for all SFC researchers, and researchers of other areas.

During the next three years, the SFC will become the focus of cooperation between Eni and MIT under the medium-term strategy in the field chosen by Eni

- for the medium-term large-scale: solar concentrators and their integration with high efficiency natural gas fuelled;
- for long term: advanced solar cells able to overcome the present techno-economic boundaries;
- bridging technology: innovative materials for the generation and accumulation of energy in all its forms.