

Self-assembling solar cells

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Using laws of nature, a team of researchers lead by Robert J. Knuesel and Heiko O. Jacobs of the University of Minnesota has developed a process enabling self-assembly of solar cells on any kind of surface. After previous efforts in this direction had been unsuccessful for years because the components were the wrong size, leading to problems with gravity, researchers have now managed to find a cheap, effective and very simple way to create solar cells.

The method relies on basic laws of nature to get components to organise themselves into a solar panel. It uses the well-known fact that oil- and water-based liquids do not mix. The method works as follows: a flexible, thin layer of copper is covered ...

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