

Press release

Aesthetic solar panels to boost the energy transition

The beauty of invisible solar

Neuchatel, 29 September 2021 - Right in the heart of Zurich, the head office of the city's emergency services (Schutz & Rettung Zürich) has been fitted with an innovative solar roof. Newly developed color technology opens up a much broader scope for design geared to the energy transition. MegaSlate Flair is a potential solution for protected historic buildings.

The roof of the building on Weststrasse that houses the head office of Schutz & Rettung Zürich, which operates the city's emergency services, was renovated last winter. Working with the specialists from [SunTechnics Fabrisolar](#) in Küsnacht, the client sought a suitable solar power solution. The original plan was to install solar panels on top of the roof, but the client eventually opted for a pilot project using a colored solar solution integrated into the roof structure. As a result, one of the largest colored solar roofs in Europe was constructed in central Zurich.

Functional and aesthetic panels

The project was the first ever to combine the tried-and-tested solar roof system made by 3S Solar Plus in Thun, which has been on the market for 20 years, with the color technology offered by [Solaxess](#) one of [CSEM](#) technology start-up. The solar roof thus replaces tiles in terms of color as well as function. "The tile color 'Terracotta Rust' is just one of many available with MegaSlate Flair. Even complex roof shapes are not a problem. We take measurements on site, and then the roof is totally covered in no time at all," says Dr. Patrick Hofer-Noser, owner and CEO of 3S Solar Plus. This roof unites the robust MegaSlate system with a color innovation from CSEM's research and development center.

A high level of collaboration

"We have been working with Solaxess for many years to achieve unique levels of viability and reliability for color film technology. 3S Solar Plus, with its experience and unrivaled high-level manufacturing operation in Thun, was an ideal partner to manufacture the solar building components for this truly remarkable solar architecture project!" explains Christophe Ballif, Director of CSEM's PV Center.

The two south-facing roof surfaces have been completely covered with both active and passive solar modules for a total output of 76 kWp. The use of color gives architects unprecedented scope to reconcile solar energy with good esthetics and thus drive the energy transition forward. The MegaSlate solar roof system is made in Thun and has been installed on more than 14,000 buildings since 2001.

The development of the technologies by Solaxess, CSEM and 3S Solar Plus is supported by Innosuisse and the EU Be-smart project.



Right in the heart of Zurich, the head office of the city's emergency services (Schutz & Rettung Zürich) has been fitted with an innovative solar roof / Copyright 3S Solar plus



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About 3S Solar Plus

3S Solar Plus develops and manufactures construction products that generate energy. Its team is led by the Swiss solar pioneer Patrick Hofer-Noser, a dynamic engineer from the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich whose vision led to the company's development of its MegaSlate product. Instead of being fitted on top of the roof, the solar modules are integrated directly into the building shell as part of the roof, façade or balconies. Available in a range of sizes and colors, they are a highly versatile alternative to conventional tiles, railings or cladding with the added benefit of producing electricity.

Further information is available at www.3s-solarplus.ch

About CSEM

CSEM—technologies that make the difference.

CSEM is a Swiss research and development center active in the fields of precision microfabrication, digitalization, and renewable energy. CSEM builds up the ties between industry and academia. It supports companies as a hub of ingenuity, a center of technological excellence and innovation, and accelerator of the digital transformation.

Further information is available at www.csem.ch

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