Tata Steel and Dyesol have been undertaking an exciting stage of industrialisation of DSC on steel at the PV Accelerator in Shotton, North Wales, since the completion in July of the Welsh Government supported project.

The challenge has been to create the Biggest and the Best DSC modules utilising the pilot production line and the team will achieve these goals in under four months.

The team has been constructing a DSC 20 m² roof array that will be demonstrated and monitored at the Sustainable Building Envelope Centre (SBEC) test bed facility on the Shotton site.

This demonstrates the capability of the processes, developed during the industrial development phase, to manufacture a module that can be integrated and installed as an operational array. This has also required the accelerated development of the product finishing steps.

In parallel, the team has more than doubled the power output while eliminating costly silver conductors.

The major drive now is to bring forward by more than one year the Technology Road Map delivery of high performance, matched by lower cost materials that will enable grid parity to be achieved with DSC arrays integrated into steel roofing.

This would make the Tata/Dyesol products independent of the need for Feed-in Tariffs.

To date, traditional solar products from China that come closest to achieving grid parity can only perform well in high solar flux solar farms and do not perform adequately as building products, leaving this rapidly growing market sector open for significant exploitation by Tata/Dyesol DSC technology.

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The Technology – DYE SOLAR CELLS
DSC technology can best be described as ‘artificial photosynthesis’ using an electrolyte, a layer of titania (a pigment used in white paints and tooth paste) and ruthenium dye deposited on glass, metal or polymer substrates. Light striking the dye excites electrons which are absorbed by the titania to become an electric current many times stronger than that found in natural photosynthesis in plants. Compared to conventional silicon based photovoltaic technology, Dyesol’s technology has lower cost and embodied energy in manufacture, it produces electricity more efficiently even in low light conditions and can be directly incorporated into buildings by replacing conventional glass panels or metal sheets rather than taking up roof or extra land area.

The Company – DYESOL Limited
Dyesol, a global company headquartered in Australia, was founded to commercialize and supply 3rd generation solar technology - Dye Solar Cells (DSC). DSC uses a form of artificial photosynthesis to capture energy like a leaf, using a dye analogous to chlorophyll. Dyesol provides photovoltaic functionality to mainstream products, by developing and supplying materials and technology to global partners which have routes to market for solar enabled components, including building products such as glass and steel for facades and roofs. The company is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (DYE), the German Open Market, and is trading on the OTCBB (DYSOY) through its depositary BNY Mellon. More details about the company and the technology can be found at: http://www.dyesol.com

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