

MRS Bulletin

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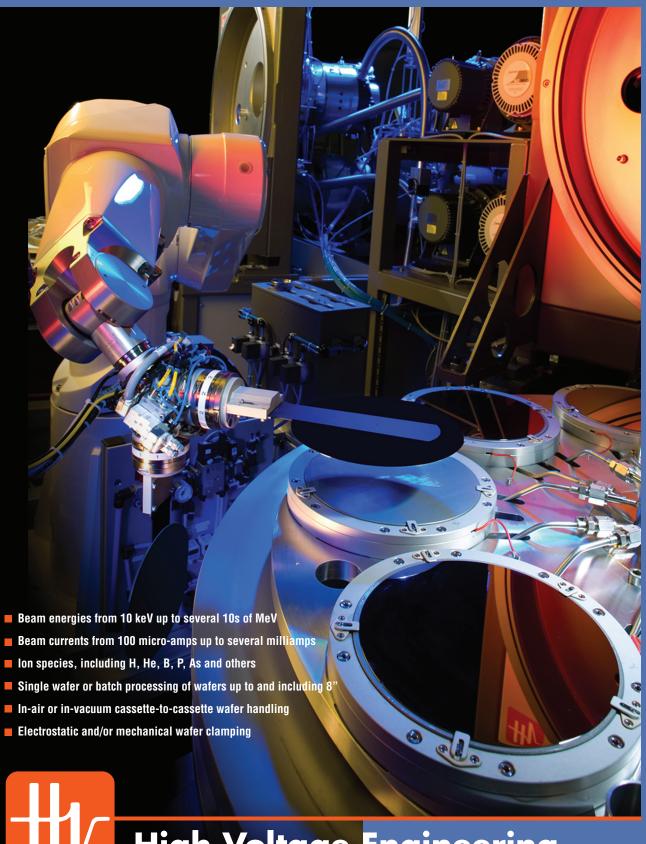
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High-performance computing for materials design to advance energy science

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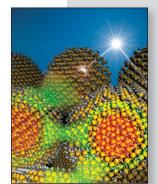
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ON THE COVER

High-performance computing for materials design to advance energy science. This issue of MRS Bulletin explores the many ways in which high-performance computing is being used to design materials that improve the collection, conversion, and storage of energy. Such computational design projects typically scrutinize architectures and processes at the atomic level. For instance, the cover image illustrates the collection of solar energy by silicon atoms (small tan spheres) assembled into quantum dots (large spheres) that are then functionalized with ligands to shield them from oxidation and/ or change their electronic properties. The dots shown are comprised of thousands

of silicon atoms and have diameters on the order of four nanometers. A given absorbed photon from the sun generates an exciton, a coupled electron-hole-pair depicted as diffuse, adjacent green and orange regions. This quasi-particle is initially confined to a single quantum dot but can subsequently tunnel to neighboring dots until it reaches a collection center. There the electron and hole are separated, resulting in an electrical current. The graphic was created by Mark Lusk, Department of Physics, Colorado School of Mines. See the technical theme that begins on p. 169.

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The Materials Research Society (MRS), a not-for-profit scientific association founded in 1973, promotes interdisciplinary goal-oriented basic research on materials of technological importance. Membership in the Society includes almost 16,000 scientists, engineers, and research managers from industrial, government, and university research laboratories in the United States and close to 70 countries.

The Society's interdisciplinary approach differs from that of single-discipline professional societies because it promotes information exchange across the many technical fields touching materials development. MRS sponsors two major international annual meetings encompassing approximately 70 topical symposia, and also sponsors numerous single-topic scientific meetings. The Society recognizes professional and technical excellence and fosters technical interaction in local geographic regions through Sections and University Chapters.

MRS participates in the international arena of materials research through the International Union of Materials Research Societies (IUMRS). MRS is a member of ASTRA and is an affiliate of the American Institute of Physics.

MRS publishes symposium proceedings, MRS Bulletin, Journal of Materials Research, and other publications related to current research activities.

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