Proceeding Book of ISESER 2019

## O 54. APPLICATION OF HOLMIUM (Ho+3) DOPED TiO2 PHOTOANODES TO IMPROVE PHOTOVOLTAIC PERFORMANCE OF DYE SENSITIZED SOLAR CELLS

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**ABSTRACT:** In this work, pure and Holmium  $(Ho^{+3})$  doped TiO<sub>2</sub> pastes were employed to produce dye sensitized solar cells (DSSCs). The influence of using Ho<sup>+3</sup> doped TiO<sub>2</sub> photoanodes on the photovoltaic performance of DSSCs was investigated. For this purpose, firstly, pure and doped TiO<sub>2</sub> solutions were prepared by sol-gel method and mixed with TiO<sub>2</sub> nanopowder to produce TiO<sub>2</sub> pastes. Then these pastes were applied on FTO substrates by doctor blade technique. The prepared films were used as photoanodes in DSSCs. Some morphological, structural and optical characterization parameters of the photoanodes were determined by SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope), XRD (X-Ray Diffraction) and UV-Vis spectroscopy analyses. The performance of the fabricated cells were determined by Current (I)-Voltage (V) analysis. The impact of doping on the physical properties (characterization) of the photoanodes and thereby the efficiency of the DSSCs was analyzed. It was concluded that the modifications of TiO<sub>2</sub> photoanodes with Holmium (Ho<sup>+3</sup>) doping enhanced the performance of the cells.

Keywords: Dye sensitized solar cell, Holmium, photoanode