#### The Route from Organic Materials Synthesis to High Performance Processable Electro-optical Devices

Dr Jeremy Burroughes FREng, FRS

**Organic Materials: New Opportunities for Synthetic Chemists** 

- Introduction to Solution Processable OLEDs
- Synthesis of Conjugated Polymers for Blue OLEDs
  - Summary of Synthetic Schemes
  - Impact of Purification on Performance
  - Maximising RGB Efficiency
- OLED Applications
- Other Solution Processed Devices
  - Thin Film Transistors
  - All-Printed OLEDs
  - Solar Cells
- Summary

#### Introduction to Solution Processable OLEDs

### 1989 – First Polymer Generated Light

- CDT originated from work at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge
- In 1989, an investigation of the breakdown voltage of Poly(pphenylene vinylene) found the device emitted green light!
- The research teams quickly focused on the commercial potential of this effect



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#### What is OLED?

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... The next generation display and solid state lighting technology

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#### How OLED works

### C|D|T



#### **Semiconducting Polymers**

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Semiconducting properties arise from overlap of delocalised pi-orbitals



#### **Light Emission from Organic Polymers**

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Light emission results from recombination of injected charges



### Device structure of Polymer-OLED (PLED) $\operatorname{C}\operatorname{D}\operatorname{T}$



- 1. LEP thickness and carrier mobilities à Optimum RZ and outcoupling
- 2. Introduction of iL **à** Hole injection, efficiency and lifetime
- 3. HIL and ITO thicknesses **à** Colour and outcoupling
- 4. Electrodes / charge injection layers à Stable electron/hole injection



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#### Synthesis of Conjugated Polymers for Blue OLEDs Summary of Synthetic Schemes

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### **Polymer History & Options**

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#### Disadvantage

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Emission from more conjugated segments, broadening and red-shifting emission – energy gap not big enough for blue

Addition of solubilising substituents twist backbone, disrupt  $\pi$ -electron system and decrease PLQY

Large Stokes shift after annealing (yellow) attributed to polymer stacking (formation of excimers)

Blue emission – low internal efficiencies (0.1%)

### Good efficiencies but homopolymers show short lifetime

#### Design of Polymers for R,G,B Emission

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- Quantum chemistry to look at trends in polymer properties
- Selection of the backbone monomer considering
  - Efficient charge transport.
  - Solubility
  - Rigidity
  - Twist of the chain
  - Aggregation
- Colour through selection of appropriate emitting monomer units
- Selection of functional groups
  - Limit number of trap site/ quenching
  - Tune the HOMO-LUMO for good injection and transport properties
  - Ensure good solubility polymer

### **Molecular Engineering**

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- Polyfluorene blue emitter, deep delocalized HOMO and moderate delocalised LUMO – wide band gap
- Co-polymerise with benzothiodiazole, deep HOMO and deep LUMO smaller band gap



### CIE 1931 Chromaticity Chart C|D|T



PLEDs can be used to produce light of any visible hue

### Single Component Polymers

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Integration of all functions using copolymer system



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### Important Factors - Polymerisation Process C D T

- Robust process
- Availability of air stable catalysts for ease of handling
- Range of available monomers
  - Crystalline and air stable
  - A variety of functional groups are tolerated
- Control of polymer architecture
  - Control of monomer feed
- Control of molecular weight
  - Ability to synthesize a range of molecular weights for different solution processing methods with narrow Pd
- Reproducibility of polymerisation
  - Batch to batch reproducibility
- Produces high purity polymers
- Scalable (Research and Production scale)

### Synthesis Methods for LEPs

- Yamamoto Chemistry
  - Air and water sensitive reaction
  - Poor Pd
    - $\frac{XArX}{XArX}$ Ni(II)L<sub>m</sub>  $\longrightarrow$  (Ar)
- Pd or Ni catalysed Coupling of Grignard reagents
  - Air and water sensitive reaction



- Suzuki Chemistry
  - Air sensitive reaction
  - Water tolerant, versatile to a wise range of functional groups
  - High Mw & Good (low) Pd

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#### Suzuki Advantages

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- High molecular weight polymer produced
  - Mw > 1,000,000
  - Pd 2-3
- Good reaction control and therefore good batch to batch reproducibility
  - Also tailor Mp for deposition techniques
    - Spin coat, Ink jet etc
- Simple purification procedure
- Control over end capping process
- Several thousand different polymers have been prepared using this process





#### Synthesis of Conjugated Polymers for Blue OLEDs Impact of Purification on Performance

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#### **Monomer Purification**

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- Absolute monomer purity is critical for successful polymer synthesis
  - Impurities can have negative impact device performance
- >5 Recrystallisations is not unusual
- Repetitive chromatography or sublimation is often used for emitters
  - Development of "clean" robust chemistry is often required to facilitate scale-up
    - Might require purification after each synthesis step!
- Monomers must be stable & non-hygroscopic

#### Monomer Analysis & QC

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- CDT synthetic chemists have a "Love/Hate" relationship with our analysts
  - HPLC methods are optimised for each compound to give best sensitivity
  - New analytical methods are implemented whenever possible
  - Impurity profiling can identify "problematic" impurities
- QC includes HPLC, LCMS, GCMS, NMR, TGA, Mp, GPC, ICP, solution clarity
- Alignment of Chromatography methods is also required for outsourcing projects

#### **Effects of Monomer Purity**

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 Method development on a nominally pure monomer identified a 0.3% impurity



 Removal of the impurity has a dramatic effect on Mw & device lifetime

#### **Termination & Isolation**

- Polymer is end-capped to remove reactive terminal groups
  - ppm bromine levels
- Washes to remove inorganics & Pd
- Filtration for Pd(0) removal & clarification
  - ppm levels of metals & inorganics
- Precipitation into anti-solvent
  - Removal of organic impurities
- Processes complicated by solution viscosity



#### Halogen Effect

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 High levels of bromine (& other halogens) have a catastrophic effect on device lifetime



 End-capping & removal of Bromine by-products must be effective

### Routine Polymer Analysis Capability CDT

- GPC absolute Mol. Wt. determination
- DSC Tg
- PLQY photoluminance quantum yield (emitter efficiency)
- UV optical & band-gap properties
- Electrochemistry HOMO/LUMO & bad-gap levels
- ICP ppm metal analysis
- XRF complimentary to ICP + halogen analysis
- FTIR low resolution structural information
- 600MHz NMR high resolution structural characterisation

### Material QC – The Final Test

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 After POLED has passed analytical QC, the material performance is assessed in a light emitting test cell.



 Analytical and purification method development continues to improve baseline material performance!

### **Challenge Summary**

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- Monomer purity > commonly required in other chemical industries
- Polymer defects must be carefully controlled
- Polymer impurities must be removed to ppm level
  - Or even ppb levels!

 Despite the challenges, tremendous progress has been made over the past 10 years

#### Synthesis of Conjugated Polymers for Blue OLEDs Maximising Efficiency

#### **P-OLED RGB efficiency**

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#### Key parameters

Materials improvements

#### mcavity performance

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# C D T P-OLED RGB efficiency Key parameters Materials improvements mcavity performance

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- Phosphorescent materials potentially have 100% Internal QE
- For displays require a deep blue emitter
  - Phosphorescent blues have much shorter operational lifetime than fluorescent materials
  - RG for displays is phosphorescent and RGB (White) for lighting is phosphorescent
  - Blue emission for displays is fluorescent
    - How to maximize fluorescent efficiency?

### Solution Processable Phosphorescent Materials

- CDT Phosphoescent platform is built around dendrimer emitters blended into the polymer host matrix
- Dendrimers have complex structure allowing independent control of:
  - Optoelectronic properties in the core
  - Physical properties in the shell



### Key parameter 1 - Singlet Yield C|D|T

From TTA

From charges



**a** Up to 40% Singlet Yield expected for standard spin statistics

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 $\mathbf{F}_{s:t} = S:T$  ratio


## **a** 32% lower limit to Singlet Yield ....some scope for improvement...

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**a**In this analysis, all PL quenching effects are taken into account in the parameter 'PLQE@RZ'



**a** RZ widths d < 20nm give efficiency within 90% theoretical max





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## Key parameter 4 - Dipole orientation $C \mid D \mid T$



A Model blue PLEDs anisotropic...some scope for improvement..
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## Key parameter 4 - Dipole orientation $C \mid D \mid T$

Variations in materials (Amine%) and bake temperature (15mins in N<sub>2</sub>)





## ▲Both materials design and processing are key to optimising emitter orientation



- Singlet Yield (F  $_{s:t'}$  c  $_{TTA}$ )
- PLOE at RZ ( $k_{rad}$ ,  $k_{nrad}$ )
- Recombination Zone profile
- Dipole orientation (k<sub>x</sub>, k<sub>y</sub>, k<sub>z</sub>)

- → Scope for increasing %DF
- → Consider IL quenching
- → Within ~10% of optimum
- → Scope for increasing planarity

## P-OLED RGB efficiency

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#### Key parameters

Materials improvements

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#### Blue – standard model

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à Some scope for improvement in all areas

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## PLQE at RZ – reduced iL quenching C D T



à Control of IL S1 can reduce PL quenching at emission zone



à Improved materials give a higher Singlet Yield from TTA

## Anisotropy – improved alignment C | D | T



### **Blue – Improved efficiency**

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MODEL		<b>à</b> 9cd/A (0.14,0.14)	MODEL		<b>à</b> 13cd/A (0.14,0.12)
PLQE@RZ = 65% (Intrinsic PLQE = 80%)			PLQE@RZ = 80% (=Intrinsic PLQE)		
Singlet Yield = 32%			Singlet Yield = 38%		
RZ profile = <b>15nm</b> width near iL			RZ profile = <b>15nm</b> width near iL		
Dipole orientation = $k_z/k_x = 0.3$		Dipole orientation = $k_z/k_x = 0.2$			

EXPT 9.4cd/A (0.14,0.14) à 13.4cd/A (0.14,0.12)



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#### à 7cd/A at 1000cd/m2 (0.15, 0.08) achieved

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#### Green – std model

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## PLQE at RZ – reduced iL quenching CDT



à Reducing iL quenching is key to high green efficiency

### Green – improved efficiency

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MODEL		<b>à</b> 56cd/A (0.32,0.63)	MODEL		<b>à</b> 88cd/A (0.32,0.63)
PLQE@RZ = 44% (Intrinsic $PLQE = 75%$ )			PLQE@RZ = 75% (=Intrinsic PLQE)		
Triplet Yield = 100%			Triplet Yield = 100%		
RZ profile = <b>15nm</b> width near iL			RZ profile = <b>15nm</b> width near iL		
Dipole orientation = $k_z/k_x = 1$ (isotropic)		Dipole orientation = $k_z/k_x = 1$ (isotropic)			

EXPT 56cd/A (0.32,0.63) à 88cd/A (0.32,0.63)



a 88cd/A at 1000cd/m2 (0.32, 0.63) achieved

#### Red – standard model

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## Red – improved efficiency

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EXPT 19.2cd/A (0.65,0.35) **à** 21.8cd/A (0.65, 0.35)



à 21.8cd/A at 1000cd/m2 (0.65,0.35) achieved

# Efficiency improvement summary for weak cavity devices

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Previous efficiency	Improved performance	Origins of improvements
9.4cd/A (0.14,0.14)	13.4cd/A (0.14, 0.12) 7cd/A (0.15, 0.08)	TTA Yield Dipole orientation iL Singlet energy Deep blue Emitter
56cd/A (0.32, 0.63)	88cd/A (0.32, 0.63)	iL Triplet energy
19.2cd/A (0.65, 0.35)	21.8cd/A (0.65,0.35)	Material PLQE

#### **P-OLED RGB efficiency**

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#### Key parameters

Materials improvements

mcavity performance

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**a** meanity device structures can significantly improve colour © CDT 2014

## Blue – mcavity





a 6.3cd/A at 1000cd/m2 (0.145,0.055) achieved CLIZVIA

### Green – mcavity



à 120cd/A at 1000cd/m2 (0.217,0.723) achieved © CD1 ZVIT

## Red – mcavity

## C|D|T



à 26.5cd/A at (0.67,0.33) achieved

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# Efficiency and colour achievement summary for mavity devices



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## C|D|T

## **OLED Applications**



## PLED performance 2013/Autumn

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Non-cavity device

Spin/BE data @1000cd/m2	Red		Green		Blue			
Efficiency [cd/A]	31	22	17	75	75	12.4	8.6	7.3
Colour	x=0.62	x=0.65	x=0.65	x=0.32	x=0.32	x=0.14	x=0.14	x=0.14
(C.I.E. x,y)	y=0.38	y=0.35	y=0.35	y=0.63	y=0.63	y=0.12	y=0.12	y=0.13
T50 lifetime [hrs]	350k	350k	>150k	>300k	190k	16k	-	-
T95 lifetime [hrs]	-	-	>3000	-	2100	-	150	700
Vd [V]	4.2	4.1	3.6	5.1	4.5	3.9	3.6	4.1

Device structure

\*Lifetime estimated from acceleration test. \*No electrical-ageing applied before lifetime test.

ITO (45nm)/ spin-coated HIL (30-65nm)/ Interlayer (20nm)/ LEP (60-75nm) / low-WF cathode

Low-WF cathode EML IL HIL ITO

ü RGB common and simple layer structure.

**ü** Organics are fully solution-processed.

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#### **Materials for Display panels**

- Good efficiency can be achieved with micro-cavity
- >100% s-RGB can be achieved with micro-cavity
- Forward direction cd/A efficiencies
- T95 lifetimes key to avoid image sticking

#### Display parameters:

- Average luminance 200 cd/m<sup>2</sup>
- Circular polarizer transmittance 44%.
- Aperture ratio 38%.



0.2 0.3

CIEx

0.1

0.9

0.1

0

0

		Micro-cavity sub-pixel				
	Colour	CIEx	CIEy	Luminance (cd/m²)		
	Red	0.651	0.349	1200		
	Green	0.199	0.720	2000		
	Blue	0.142	0.060	270		

0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8

## C|D|T

•••• NTSC

SRGB

P-OLED

#### Materials Efficiency for Display panels

# C|D|T

	Optical efficiency, cd/A			
	2011	2012	2013	
Red	25	25	31	
Green	50	75	90	
Blue	3.8	4.4	5.6	
Colour gamut - CIExy (1936) % of sRGB	135%	145%	140%	
White point Optical efficiency (D65)	22.2cd/A	28.3cd/A	32.3cd/A	
White point				
Power efficiency	4.0cd/W	6.4cd/W	8.8cd/W	
cd/W				

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#### Lighting

- OLEDs have great potential for creating large area, diffuse light sources
- General lighting requires >80lm/W efficacy, large area tiles and low cost manufacturing 2



#### 2014 Sumitomo Light and Build stand: Ink Jet Printed

- In a standard device structure, only ~25% (external QE) of the light is emitted
- Technology challenges for lighting are not only materials related: device structure development is also key



The Lighting Devices Project at CDT tackles the key device technology challenges:

- Develop low cost structure and process => ITO free; low cost metal grid
- Extract trapped light out of the device to increase efficiency
- Develop a structure and process scalable to large area tiles (2" or 6")



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SDC test pixel Lm/W over time Technology Limited (Company Number 02672530)

### Automotive Engineering Exposition C|D|T2013

- Sumitomo Chemical demonstrates conformable solution processed lighting panels.
  - Fabricated using a glass substrate carrier
  - Red and White organic materials are printed by Ink Jet Printing
  - Layer thickness is designed so as to light the panel at the same voltage.
  - Electrodes are designed to achieve the uniform emission across the panel.



### Other Solution Processed Devices: Organic Thin Film Transistors

### Introduction

- We are developing "3<sup>rd</sup> generation" semiconductors in collaboration with Sumitomo Chemical OSC Team
- OTFT development focus:
  - Material development: High mobility semiconductors
    - Single component and blend systems
  - Device platform development: Improved uniformity
  - Customer support: Material sampling & sales
- Device performance requirements:
  - Mobility >0.5cm<sup>2</sup>V<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> with ≤10µm channel length
  - On/off current ratio <sup>3</sup> 10<sup>5</sup>
  - Compatible with plastic substrates
- Material processing requirements:
  - Compatible with low temperature process (<100°C)</p>
  - Air stability:
    - Materials processable in air
    - Devices operational in air

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•C) Dielectric Source Drain

Gate

## OTFT Development: Platform Development $C \mid D \mid T$

- Device fabrication:
  - OTFT devices are fabricated & testing in air
  - No encapsulation
- Plastic substrates:
  - OTFT technology shifted to plastic/flexible substrates
  - Developed lithography on plastic substrates at 350mm size with 5µm channel resolution
  - High performance demonstrated
- Interface engineering & control:
  - More efficient devices by controlling metal-semiconductor interfaces
  - Improved control of OSC morphology

### OTFT Device Platform Development



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Device Performance

- Device improvements focussed to increase mobility for short channel devices
- Low contact resistance 4kWcm
- Low spread in mobility:

Devices fabricated in air. Upper process temp 100°C.



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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation OSC

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- New Formulation:
  - Modifying HOMO levels between components
  - Rc reduced from 4-5 kWcm to < 2 kWcm</p>
  - Long channel mobility suppressed
  - Short Channel performance improved
    - @ 10 mm channel length mobility > 1.8 cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs
    - @ 5 mm channel length mobility > 1 cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs



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### Other Solution Processed Devices: All Printed OLED

### LEC Technology

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- High specification best lifetime device structure
- High cost suitable for high information content displays – HDTV
- Rigid substrate because of high barrier property of glass

- Reduce number of process steps
- Reduce tool set cost
- Improve air stability à plastic flexible substrate



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- Standard LEPs incompatible with polyelectrolyte causing phase separation
  - Poor yield at target thickness
- But increased thickness impacts turn-on time

ØThicker film

**Ø**Smaller electrical field

Ølons slow to reach electrodes





## C D T

### **Compatible LEP**

- Solving the problem by materials design •
- Developing an LEP that is compatible with polyelectrolyte
  - ØReduced phase separation
  - **Ø**Smoother films



<1s turn-on

to 100cd/m<sup>2</sup>

### Improvement of visual appearance

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- Increasing contrast display:
  - Improved visual appearance à Improved user experience
  - Operation at lower brightness à Better stability
- Standard device has white background (outside of pixel area) and reflective cathode.
- High contrast device has dark background and non-reflective cathode.
  - Efficiency loss due to reduced out-coupling. But this is acceptable since device can be run at lower absolute brightness for same apparent clarity.



<u>High brightness device</u> Suitable for applications where high brightness is important but contrast is less important



High contrast device + Favourable visual appearance + Improved stability Additionally Observe improved lifetime

### Other Solution Processed Devices: Solar Cells

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### **OPV Introduction**

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- OPV research started in order to develop photovoltaic materials into new business areas beyond our core P-OLED technology
- Sumitomo Chemical & CDT jointly developing high performance, solution processable photovoltaic materials for OPV
- OPV programme encompasses material & device & process platform developments
   Delymor OLED
   Organic Photovoltacis



### **Organic photovoltaic cell activities in SCC Basic Device structure** Metal electrode P-type/n-type ITO Organic semiconductor (Transparent (Conjugated Polymers) electrode) 200 x 200mm Plastic substrate Light **Typical I-V characteristics** Flexible type Current density[mA/cm<sup>2</sup>] 15 -η=8.1% 10 $Jsc=18.9mA/cm^{2}$ ,

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0

0

Voc=0.70V, ff=0.61

0.4

Voltage[V]

0.6

0.8

0.2

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reference

Field test



### Summary

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### **Organic Electronics**

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- Chemists and Physicists required to work together in order to understand the fundamentals of device operation.
- Detailed knowledge of the impact of material design and synthesis required to maximise the intrinsic material performance
  - Purification to levels not normally required in order to achieve application requirements
- Device operation is the only way to measure the material performance
  - Device degradation understanding allows new materials development
- Analytical procedures require continual improvement
  - Impurities and defects < ppm levels required!</p>