

MISSION STATEMENT



Empa

Materials Science and Technology



Materials and Technologies for a Sustainable Future

Our vision is as simple and straight-forward as it is bold and ambitious. It is a beacon of sorts that shows us where we ought to be heading and what we should strive for. It serves as a gold standard for many if not all our activities.

To cope with the manifold challenges that loom ahead and to deliver solutions advancements in science and technology will be crucial. At Empa, we are taking on the task of developing and sketching out paths into a livable future for the coming generations.

To assume this role responsibly Empa has elaborated, based on the institute's vision, a comprehensive mission statement spelling out its goals, core values and corporate culture, which guides all of us in our endeavor to excel and to contribute to making the world a more sustainable place. At the very heart of all of this are the 1'000-odd scientists, engineers, technicians and general staff, the asset that makes Empa a world-renowned research institute for materials science and technology.

Together with our partners from research, industry or the public sector we are pushing the limits in science and technology for a prosperous tomorrow.



Gian-Luca Bona
CEO Empa



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OUR VISION

Materials and Technologies for a Sustainable Future



OUR MISSION

Empa – The Place where Innovation Starts

- Empa is the interdisciplinary research institute for materials science and technology of the ETH Domain and conducts cutting-edge research for the benefit of industry and the well-being of society.
- Within national and international networks we develop science-based solutions for pressing challenges of society and industry in the areas of energy, mobility, building technologies, personal health and the environment as well as advanced materials and surfaces.
- Together with our partners we turn research results into innovations, thus boosting the innovative capacity and the international competitiveness of the Swiss economy.
- Furthermore, Empa works out the scientific basis for the sustainable development of our society and for political decisions. We actively engage in public debate about novel technologies and their wider societal implications – all this to one end: to shape our future economically successful and environmentally sustainable at the same time.

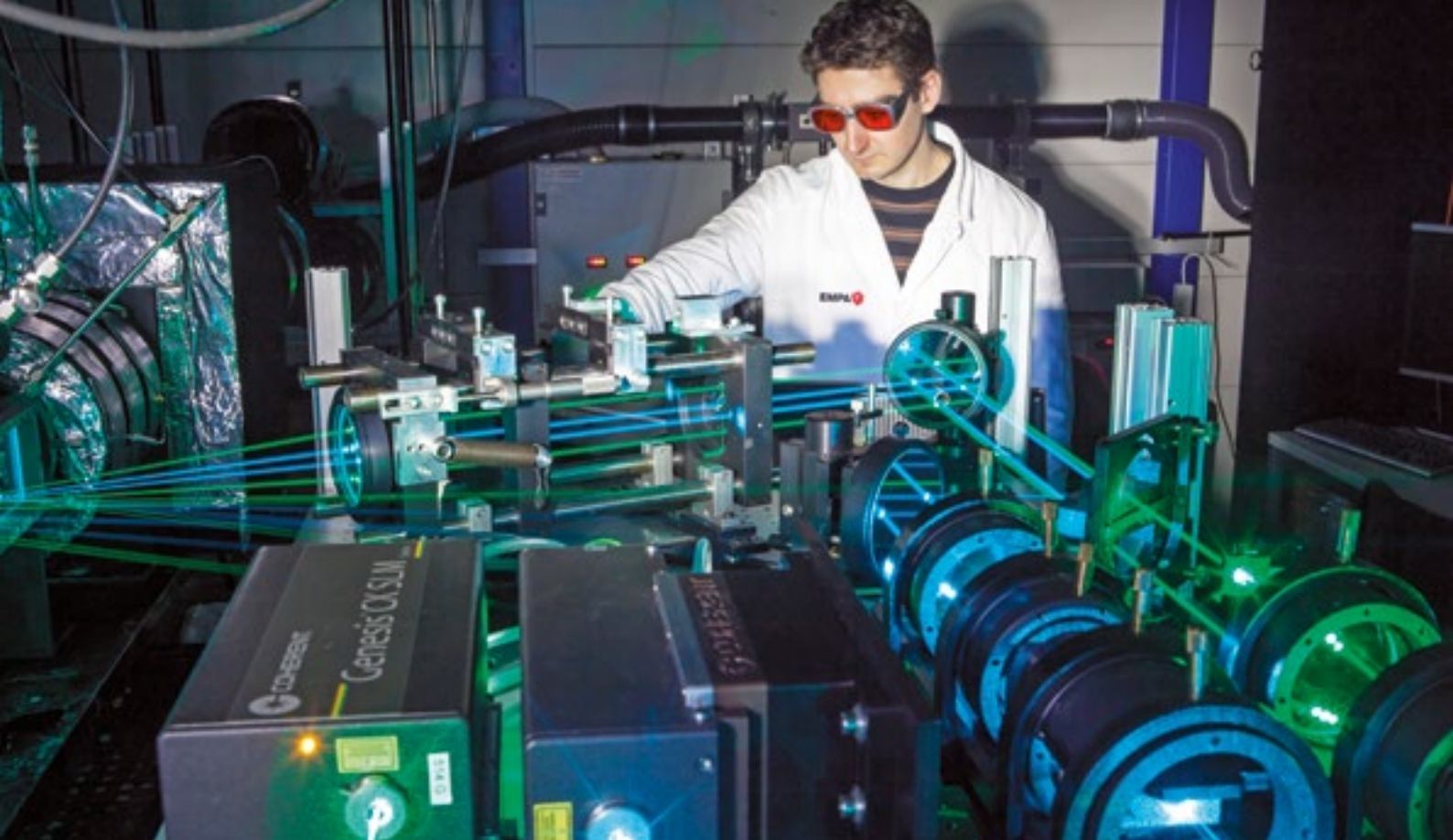


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OUR CORE VALUES

The “Empa Culture”

- Curiosity, creativity, flexibility
- Diversity of both individuals as well as ideas
- Freedom, independence, impartiality
- Social responsibility
- Integrity
- Trust, openness, respect
- Cooperativeness



OUR RESEARCH

Science with an Impact

To deliver solutions to today's increasingly complex challenges Empa has concentrated its efforts in five Research Focus Areas (RFAs):

- **Energy** for a secure, clean and efficient energy supply and innovative building and mobility concepts
- **Natural Resources & Pollutants** for a sustainable and efficient use of our natural resources and a sound environment
- **Health & Performance** to safeguard and maintain personal health and wellbeing, especially of the elderly
- **Sustainable Built Environment** to develop solutions for the sustainable design, construction, renewal and preservation of the built environment
- **Nanostructured Materials** as a cross-sectional RFA providing solutions for all of the above mentioned challenges and research areas

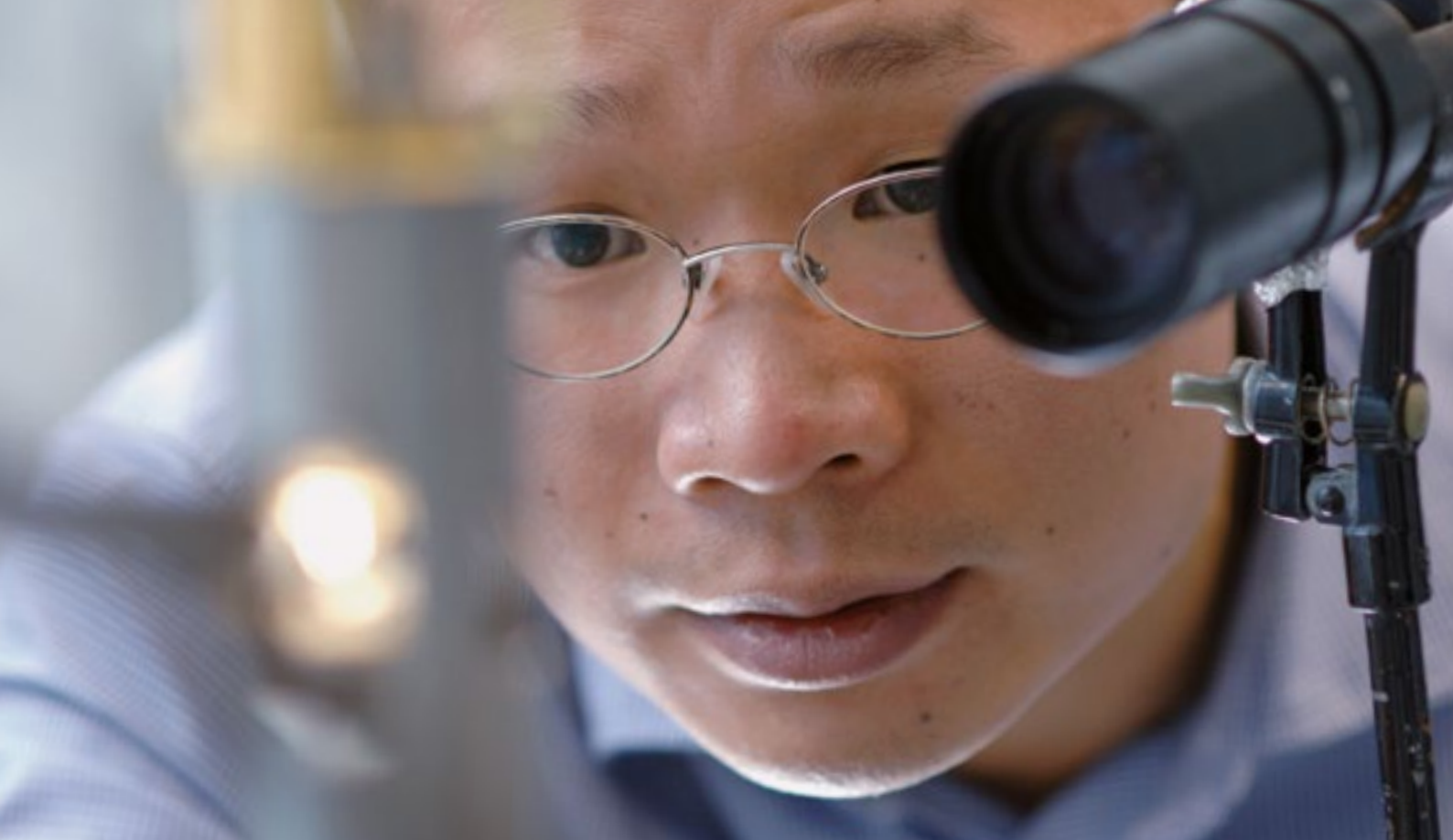
Empa's RFAs are geared towards developing inter- and transdisciplinary solutions, which can be realized within due time and thus have an impact on society and at the same time strengthen the competitiveness of Empa's partners.



EXCELLENCE – AS WE DEFINE IT

Innovation that Matters

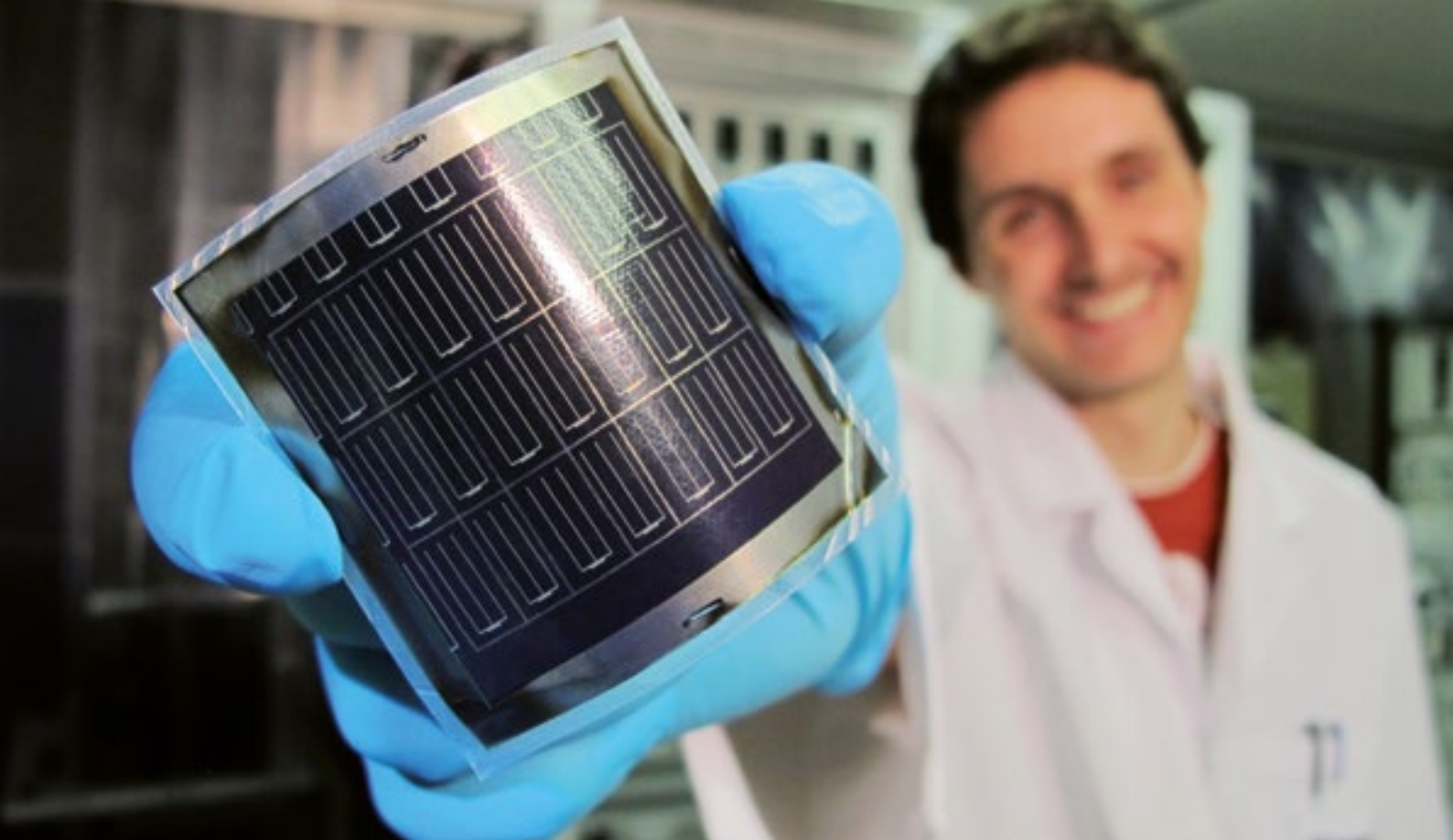
- We strive for scientific excellence in all our endeavors.
- At Empa, we link top-notch science with a passion for delivering interdisciplinary solutions to real-world problems.
- We establish new knowledge not for its own sake but for applying it, for turning it into innovations that succeed on the market.
- Empa acts as a bridge between the realms of science on one end and business and industry on the other. We thus combine the cultures of research and industry.
- As a reliable and creative partner we tackle each project with multidisciplinary teams that comprise all the required capabilities (and more) to come up with unique concepts that also have an impact in non-related fields of application.



OUR STRENGTHS

A Truly Competent Partner

- The basis for Empa's success is its highly skilled and self-motivated staff.
- With a dynamic mixture of permanent and fixed-term scientists, engineers and technicians we have the ability to tackle complex problems in the long run and to establish long-lasting partnerships, which far extend single-project cooperations and create new business opportunities and added value for both sides.
- Empa's broad research portfolio allows for an all-encompassing interdisciplinary approach to upcoming challenges and ensures solutions of utmost quality.
- Empa actively pursues a coordinated technology transfer strategy; together with international corporations, SMEs or start-ups we advance research results for market entry.
- Empa's laboratories are equipped with an outstanding infrastructure, which can be operated professionally and effectively thanks to the world-class expertise of its staff.
- We actively maintain and foster an extensive national and international network with partners from both academia and industry. We are thus capable of pushing a technological invention through the entire value chain.



OUR OUTPUT

Added Value for Swiss Industry and Society

- We generate new knowledge and disseminate it widely through publications, conferences and public events.
- Hundreds of Bachelor, Master and PhD students, interns and apprentices, scientists and technicians are educated and leave Empa each year. This “brain transfer” is one of our main strategies to bring innovations to the market.
- We actively encourage the foundation of spin-off and start-up companies in business incubators by fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among our staff.
- To secure intellectual property rights to our inventions we file patents and issue licenses to partners from industry.
- Through demonstrators we illustrate the feasibility of novel technologies.
- In public-private partnerships we kick off flagship projects in select focus areas.
- Based on our extensive partner networks we initiate clusters to tackle topics of great importance for various branches of industry.



OUR USP

Thinking Ahead with the Big Picture in Mind

- As a bridge between science and its implementation in the real world we understand the necessities of our partners, be they from academia, public administration or industry, be they SMEs or international corporations, and maintain a partner- and customer-centered approach by helping them achieve their goals.
- Cooperation is key for solving increasingly complex challenges. Empa has long-term experience in identifying and assembling the best partners in larger national and international consortia.
- Based on our extensive and profound knowhow in materials science and technology and our high-class analytical infrastructure we can support industry as trend and innovation scout.
- Due to our impartiality we are a trusted and reliable partner for authorities and other public bodies when it comes to studies related to public goods or technology assessments.
- At Empa we consider the ramifications of our research activities on society at large and actively foster a public dialog about novel technologies and their societal impact.



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OUR STAFF

It's People that Make All the Difference

- Empa's employees are highly skilled and self-motivated. They combine professional competence with an entrepreneurial mindset and interpersonal skills.
- Empa fosters an inspiring work environment that boosts creativity, innovation, personal development, fruitful cooperation and team spirit.
- Mutual respect, trust, openness and personal responsibility are guiding principles for the way we interact with each other and with our external partners.
- Our staff acquire a broad knowhow and a set of expert capabilities allowing them to assume high-level positions in academia, industry and administration.
- Empa actively promotes diversity, equal opportunities and the compatibility of work and family life.
- At Empa we lead by example, in a people- and objective-centered manner. We share responsibilities and grant freedom for the personal development of our employees. Our decisions are comprehensible and transparent.
- To define professional and personal development objectives, we carry out regular performance reviews with our staff. In an open dialog we agree upon specific measures to be taken.

Empa – The Place where Innovation Starts

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