

CIGS Production by Würth Solar

Illustration

CIGS solar cells got a big boost when one of the classical entrepreneurs from the heydays of the German *economic miracle* took an interest in the topic.

- **Reinhold Würth**, started as an apprentice in the hardware store (specialized on screws) of his father in Künzelsau (in Suebia). He took over, **19** years old, in **1953** when his father died. Then he turned the small local company into the "Würth group", nowadays present in **86** countries and grossing **8.5 · 10⁹ Euro** in **2007**
- **1994** his daughter took over the company he founded - giving **61** year old Reinhold Würth the opportunity to pursue a few hobbies like collecting art in a major way (he owns a few museums for his **> 10.000** substantial art pieces), teaching at various universities (and collecting honorary degrees in the process), riding his Harley-Davidson whenever he doesn't pilot his plane (he has a professional licence and his **CIGS** factory is next to his private airport in Schwäbisch-Hall), or furthering the cause of alternative energy.
- **1999** he founded [Würth Solar](#), being fascinated with photovoltaics and in particular with **CIGS**. Being a successful business man, his goal was to get the **CIGS** technology into industrial large-scale production
- Cooperations with the "Zentrum für Sonnenenergie- und Wasserstoffforschung Baden-Württemberg" (**ZSW**) lead to a pilot factory in Marbach (next to the town I grew up in and birthplace of Friedrich **Schiller**) and to the first major **CIGS** factory built in **2006** in Schwäbisch Hall for **55 · 10⁶ Euro**.
- Here is their Internet page with some data about the factory.

