



Leap's Vision and Technology Revolution

Leap Photovoltaics is a team of passionate people tackling the climate crisis by transforming the way solar cells are manufactured. Leap was founded in 2020 by founders and advisors with experience working with start-ups, major solar manufacturers and equipment suppliers, universities, and national labs to bring new solar technology to market. We are funded by the California Energy Commission, U.S. Department of Energy and prizes from multiple competitions. We are based in San Francisco, CA, with lab space in Mountain View, CA, and collaborators at the National Renewable Energy Lab, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, UC San Diego, the Washington Clean Energy Testbeds, and Arizona State University.

Leap is developing a revolutionary process to manufacture crystalline silicon solar cells without wafers. Our additive manufacturing approach can achieve the same performance and reliability as traditional solar cells at half the cost using entirely local supply chains. This unique combination leaps the barriers of thin margins and supply chain disruptions that are holding back the explosive growth in solar manufacturing that we need to achieve our decarbonization goals.

Role Description

We are seeking a **Coating Process Engineer** who is passionate about changing the world through renewable energy. As a founding member of the engineering team, you will have a unique opportunity to make major technical contributions by developing and owning key processes for solar cell fabrication, and leading collaborations with the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), and the Washington Clean Energy Testbeds (WCET).

Responsibilities: Lead process development for Leap's novel solar cell architecture, focusing on coating processes for metal inks, particle dispersions/slurries, and solution-processed insulators like spin-on glass.

- Work with in-house scientists and external collaborators to select currently available tools and materials for fabricating solar cells and test structures.
- Design and execute experiments to optimize performance of solar cells and cell components by controlling process parameters.
- Track and report experimental results.
- Lead collaborations with NREL, LLNL, and WCET—manage agreements and coordinate use of facilities, sample fabrication and characterization.
- Identify and procure equipment for scale-up.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Direct experience with wet coating tools and particle inks/suspensions/slurries.
- Controls systems awareness (PLCs, HMIs, Data Gathering, Integrated sensors)

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- Demonstrated ability to work independently and spearhead collaborative projects.
- Willingness to be flexible, adaptable, and do whatever needs to be done in a fast-paced start-up environment.

Preferred Qualifications:

- 10+ years work experience in coating or Bachelor Degree + 5 years/Master Degree + 3 years/Ph.D. in related field.
- Experience formulating particle suspensions and inks.
- Expertise in fabrication of silicon solar cells, particularly screen-printed metallization.
- Experience with spin-on glass and printed metallization for electrodes.
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate projects with external collaborators and contractors.
- Demonstrated experience engaging with suppliers and vendors.
- Previous safety training and access to NREL facilities a plus.

Coating Process Engineer will report to the CEO/CTO and be based at the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in Golden, CO. Candidates located outside the Denver area with a willingness to travel regularly (50%+) to NREL will be considered with preference given to those in the San Francisco Bay, Seattle, and Tempe areas.

If you're ready to take a leap forward in clean energy, email a resumé and cover letter to David Berney Needleman at david AT leap-pv DOT com.