

*Press release for immediate publication*

## **Research and Industry: creation of CSEM's 25th start-up**

### **Nolaris, the CSEM Solar Islands start-up**

**Neuchâtel, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007 – CSEM, true to its mission as a technology incubator, has just founded Nolaris, its 25<sup>th</sup> start-up, whose goal is to undertake the design and production of new solar energy installations: the “Solar Islands”.**

Last May, CSEM presented its concept of floating “Solar Islands” in the presence of Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Heir to the Ras Al-Khaimah Emirate (one of the seven states of the United Arab Emirates), and at the same time announced its plans to build the first prototype of a solar island in the region.

With new needs emerging and changes in lifestyles, the development of sustainable sources of energy is increasing and constitutes an important driver of innovation. CSEM, a leader in innovation in Switzerland, intends to leverage its entrepreneurial expertise to help guarantee the Earth's future energy needs. To this end, it has created, in Neuchâtel, Nolaris SA, its 25<sup>th</sup> start-up, whose goal is to promote, develop and build solar energy units such as the “Solar Islands”.

This company will be active not only in the field of solar energy, whose potential is at least 100 times higher than other renewable energies, but also in sustainable development. CSEM is currently the major shareholder of this start-up, with Thomas Hinderling, CEO of CSEM, as President of the Board of Directors and Yassine Allini as the Director. This young company already employs four salaried staff and can pride itself on having a potential portfolio of orders of close to 8 million CHF. CSEM and the main inventors have transferred to Nolaris SA all the intellectual and industrial property rights in the context of solar islands.

The construction of the first prototype of a Solar Island in the Emirates – announced earlier in the year – will remain with CSEM. A Nolaris-UAE subsidiary will soon be created in the United Arab Emirates in order to ensure the manufacturing of solar panels with an exclusive manufacturing license covering the geographical zone of the Near and Middle East.

#### **CSEM as a technology incubator**

With extensive experience in company creation, CSEM has participated during the last 12 years in the launch of 25 companies. These companies have directly generated over 500 highly qualified positions, and attracted over 170 million CHF venture capital investment for an annual turnover in 2006 of over 100 million CHF. Among the previous spin-offs of CSEM, it is worth mentioning in particular: Jade Invest SA, an investment company for high-tech start-ups; Xemics SA, subsequently bought by Semtech Corporation (California, USA), world supplier of microelectronic components; and Colibrys SA, a leading manufacturer of electro-mechanical microsystems (MEMS) and other opto-electro-mechanical components (MOEMS).

**CSEM – an innovation center**

Established in 1984, CSEM (Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique SA) is a private R&D centre specializing in microtechnology, nanotechnology, microelectronics, systems engineering and communications technologies. It provides its industry customers and partners with tailor-made, innovative product solutions based on its commercial and technological expertise, further expanded by the results of its applied research. Additionally, through the establishment of start-up businesses, it actively contributes to developing Switzerland as a centre of industry and commerce. To date, CSEM has established a total of 25 new enterprises with more than 500 employees.

More than 340 highly-qualified employees from the most varied scientific and technical fields work for CSEM in Neuchâtel, Zurich, Alpnach and Landquart. They represent more than 20 different nationalities and constitute the basis of the company's creativity, dynamism and innovation potential.

Further information is available at [www.csem.ch](http://www.csem.ch)

**Additional information**

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