Michael Thomas

Project 06 - Polymer/Nanostructured Silicon Heterojunction Solar Cells
Project 03 - Highly Efficient Low-Cost Polymeric Solar Cells

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As a physics graduate from Dresden, Germany, I joined Dr. Michael J. Brett's group at the University of Alberta for my Ph.D. studies about three years ago in order to broaden my research into organic photovoltaic cells. At the Photovoltaic Innovation Network Annual Meeting I was excited to see how much passion the researchers have towards photovoltaics research. The network did not just focus on excellent research, but also involved graduate students to a high degree. In a working group under the guidance of Dr. Mario Leclerc, we developed strategies and ideas to improve student development and training within the network. The enthusiasm in our group fueled several approaches from using social network tools towards the organization of summer schools. I was surprised and excited how open the leadership of the network were towards our suggestions and I am sure it will help to improve collaboration within the network, since, from my experience, scientific collaboration is a bottom-up development.