

commercialization and subsidy programs. Germany's 1000-roofs program was one of the hallmarks of their efforts. Significant efforts in the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and France have also contributed to the European PV R&D efforts.

24.9.4 Future PV R&D Programs

Predicting the role for public sector funding of R&D is difficult at best. Fortunately, there appears to be good reason to follow the role of other high-technology programs that have come before. Possibly, the best is what has happened with the development of integrated circuits, which had strong government support during its development. Although one could predict that such support would decline and perhaps be phased out as products came out through the end of the development pipeline, the opposite has occurred. Successful research programs breed future successes in terms of new technologies and approaches. Since research is defined as exploring the unknown, there will always be paths to follow for those technologies that have been shown to be useful and successful. Such is the case for photovoltaics.

24.9.5 Sources of R&D Funding

The R&D programs of each country generally only fund organizations within the respective country. The following are the major funding organizations:

United States:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Solar Electric Technologies
1000 Independence Avenue, S. W.
Washington, DC 20585

Japan:

NEDO
Solar Energy Department
Sunshine 60 Bldg.
3-1-1 Higashi Ikebukuro
Toshima-ku
Tokyo 170-6028
Japan

Germany:

Bundesministerium fuer Wirtschaft Technologie
53107 Bonn
Germany

The Netherlands:

Novem
P.O. Box 8242