

## **Solar energy**

Most of the activity of the group was aimed to the development of solar cells and panels in connection with the argentine space program. In this respect:

- During 2002 the R&D activities executed in the frame of a CNEA-CONAE agreement included: (i) building of a Laboratory (Clean Room, Class 10000) for the integration of solar modules; (ii) development of numerical tools for simulating and designing solar arrays; (iii) design and test of interconnectors for solar cells; (iv) development of bonding, soldering and welding procedures; (v) setting up of characterization techniques for solar devices; (vi) development of crystalline Si devices; (vii) development of radiation damage test facilities. Particularly, several experiments of radiation damage on crystalline Si and GaInP/GaAs devices using an external beam from TANDAR accelerator were performed.
- Continuing with the collaboration with other national institutions, the Solar Energy Group designed and constructed low-cost solarimeters with new developments and provided them to the Salta National University (which were installed at Puna region, Province of Salta), and to the National Technologic University (which were installed at Provinces of Córdoba and Buenos Aires).