



University of South Florida  
College of Engineering/Department of Electrical Engineering  
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### **Professor and Interim Chair Chris Ferekides awarded \$750,000**

*Professor Ferekides is helping to create tools and models that show how solar situational awareness will enhance power-system resilience at critical infrastructure locations.*

March 29, 2019, Tampa, Florida – Chris Ferekides, Professor and Interim Chair for the Electrical Engineering Department at USF, was selected to receive a \$750,000 award from the [U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office](#) (SETO) to advance photovoltaics (PV) research and development. The project will explore a new cell design which starts with n-type CdTe instead of p-type CdTe commercially used today.

This new approach could enable higher efficiency levels than the CdTe cells currently being mass produced. The team will use industrially relevant deposition techniques to demonstrate that the fabrication of n-CdTe solar cells is possible at scale with efficiencies approaching 25%, an increase of 2% from current world record CdTe solar cells.

Dr. Ferekides was selected as a part of the Energy Department’s effort to invest in new projects that will lower solar electricity costs and support a growing solar workforce. Dr. Ferekides is one of [several photovoltaics research projects](#) that will focus on improving the performance and reliability of PV cells, modules, and systems and reducing materials and processing costs.

#### **About Electrical Engineering at the University of South Florida**

The mission of the Electrical Engineering Department in the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida is to provide a high quality education in electrical engineering for our students and practicing professionals; create new knowledge and solve real world problems via innovative research, and disseminate this information for the benefit of society; and to engage in effective regional, national and international service and outreach.

#### **About the Solar Energy Technologies Office**

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office supports early-stage research and development to improve the affordability, reliability, and performance of solar technologies on the grid. Learn more at [energy.gov/solar-office](http://energy.gov/solar-office).