Low Cost Production Method of CdS Based Photocatalysts

Radu Banica^{1,2}, Petrica A. Linul¹*, Andrei Racu^{1,3}, Paula Svera^{1,2}, Cristina Mosoarca¹

¹Renewable Energies Laboratory – Photovoltaics, National Institute for Research and Development in Electrochemistry and Condensed Matter, Str. Dr. A. Păunescu Podeanu 144, 300569 Timisoara, Romania;

²University Politehnica Timisoara, 2 Piata Victoriei, 300006 Timisoara, Romania; ³Institute of Applied Physics of Moldova, ASM, 5 Academiei Str., Chisinau, Moldova; Corresponding author: linulpetrica@yahoo.com

In order to produce visible active photocatalysts for water splitting [1] in the presence of sulfide ions, a cheap and environmentally friendly method was developed. Thus, efficient PdS/

Cd_{1-x}Zn_xS type photocatalysts [2] were obtained in a single step by hydrothermally converting cadmium hydroxide originated from Ni-Cd battery wastes in the presence of zinc sulphide. The influence of pH and ultrasonic field on photocatalysis reaction was investigated. The pH was controlled by the addition of NaOH in solution. Photocatalysis experiments were also performed in monochromatic (470 nm) and simulated solar light. The photocatalysts reactivation by hydrothermal treatment was also investigated. The photocatalysts were characterized by X-ray powder diffraction (XRD), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), UV–visible spectroscopy, photoluminescence spectroscopy (PL) and energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX).

References

[1] Z. Xiong, M. Zheng, C. Zhu, B. Zhang, L. Ma, W. Shen, One-step synthesis of highly efficient three-dimensional $Cd_{1-x}Zn_xS$ photocatalysts for visible light photocatalytic water splitting, *Nanoscale Research Letters*, 2013, 8, 334;

[2] J. A. Villoria, Rufino M. Navarro Yerga, S. M. Al-Zahrani, Jose Luis G. Fierro, Photocatalytic hydrogen production on $Cd_{1-x}Zn_xS$ solid solutions under visible light: influence of thermal treatment, *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research*, 2010, 49, 6854–6861.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of National Education, project number PN 09-34 02 06.