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**Title:** Interplay of Optical, Morphological, and Electronic Effects of ZnO Optical Spacers in Highly Efficient Polymer Solar Cells**Author(s):** Ben Dkhil, S (Ben Dkhil, Sadok); Duche, D (Duche, David); Gaceur, M (Gaceur, Meriem); Thakur, AK (Thakur, Anil K.); Aboura, FB (Aboura, Fatima Bencheikh); Escoubas, L (Escoubas, Ludovic); Simon, JJ (Simon, Jean-Jacques); Guerrero, A (Guerrero, Antonio); Bisquert, J (Bisquert, Juan); Garcia-Belmonte, G (Garcia-Belmonte, Germa); Bao, QY (Bao, Qinye); Fahlman, M (Fahlman, Mats); Videlot-Ackermann, C (Videlot-Ackermann, Christine); Margeat, O (Margeat, Olivier); Ackermann, J (Ackermann, Joerg)**Source:** ADVANCED ENERGY MATERIALS **Volume:** 4 **Issue:** 18 **Article Number:** 1400805 **DOI:** 10.1002/aenm.201400805 **Published:** DEC 29 2014**Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection:** 7**Total Times Cited:** 7**Usage Count (Last 180 days):** 4**Usage Count (Since 2013):** 60**Cited Reference Count:** 43**Abstract:** Optical spacers based on metal oxide layers have been intensively studied in poly(3-hexylthiophene) (P3HT) based polymer solar cells for optimizing light distribution inside the device, but to date, the potential of such a metal oxide spacer to improve the electronic performance of the polymer solar cells simultaneously has not yet been investigated. Here, a detailed study of performance improvement in high efficient polymer solar cells by insertion of solution-processed ZnO optical spacer using ethanalamine surface modification is reported. Insertion of the modified ZnO optical spacer strongly improves the performance of polymer solar cells even in the absence of an increase in light absorption. The electric improvements of the device are related to improved electron extraction, reduced contact barrier, and reduced recombination at the cathode. Importantly, it is shown for the first time that the morphology of optical spacer layer is a crucial parameter to obtain highly efficient solar cells in normal device structures. By optimizing optical spacer effects, contact resistance, and morphology of ZnO optical spacers, poly[[4,8-bis[(2-ethylhexyl)oxy]benzo[1,2-b:4,5-b']dithiophene-2,6-diyl] [3-fluoro-2-[(2-ethylhexyl)carbonyl]thieno[3,4-b]thiophenediyl]] (PTB7):[6,6]-phenyl-C71-butyric acid (PC70 BM) bulk heterojunction solar cells with conversion efficiency of 7.6% are obtained in normal device structures with all-solution-processed interlayers.**Accession Number:** WOS:000346983100010**Language:** English**Document Type:** Article**KeyWords Plus:** CARRIER TRANSPORT; BUFFER LAYER; FILL-FACTORS; PERFORMANCE; BULK; FULLERENE; NANOPARTICLES; INTERFACE; SOLVENT; VOLTAGE**Addresses:** [Ben Dkhil, Sadok; Gaceur, Meriem; Thakur, Anil K.; Videlot-Ackermann, Christine; Margeat, Olivier; Ackermann, Joerg] Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, CINaM UMR 7325, F-13288 Marseille, France.

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