

# Utility Scale Power Generation using Third Generation Photovoltaics based on III-V Semiconductor Technology

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# PV Solar Cells – A High Growth Market:

- **Drivers**

- Environmental concerns driving need for clean and sustainable energy sources
- Aggressive legislation to achieve environmental targets
- Economic drivers for alternative energies

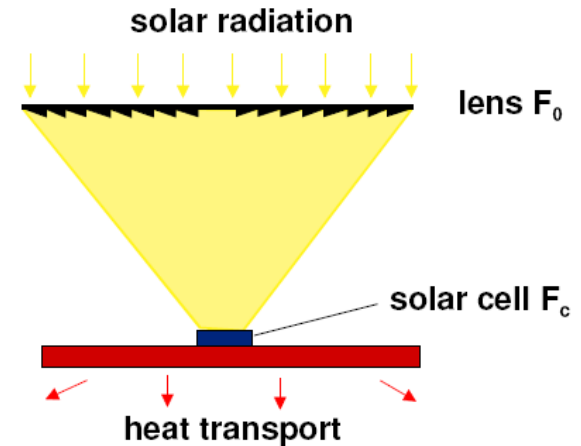
- **Technologies**

- First Generation: Silicon based
  - ~20% efficiency
  - ~\$2.5/Wp
- Second Generation: Thin film
  - <15% efficiency
  - ~\$1-\$2/Wp
- Third Generation: GaAs CPV (Concentrator Photovoltaics)
  - >40% efficiency
  - <\$1/Wp



# What is CPV?

- III-V multi-junction PV cells operated under optical concentration (lenses or mirrors) – mounted on 2-axis solar tracker
- Typically x500-600 suns
- This reduces need for III-V material and increases device performance (reduced cost)



**Seven 5-inch Silicon Cells  
Provide Equal Power to One  
1cm<sup>2</sup> Multi-junction Solar Cell**

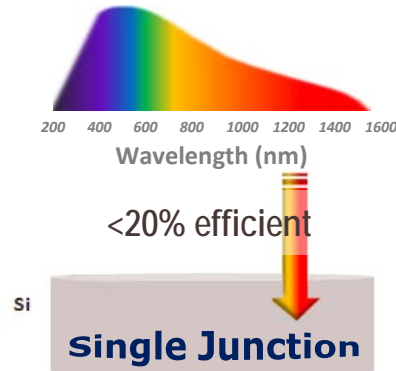


Source: Emcore

# Third Generation Solar: Concentrating PV technology.....

significantly reducing solar power generation costs

SILICON

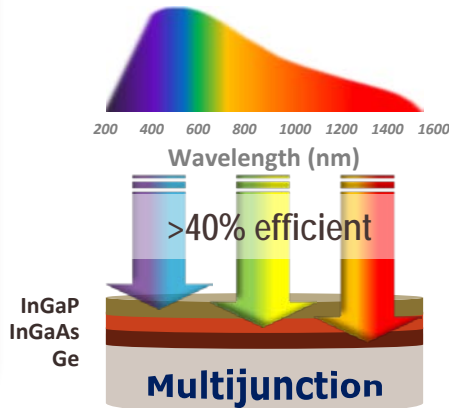


~1000x decrease in semiconductor area for III-V vs. c-Si



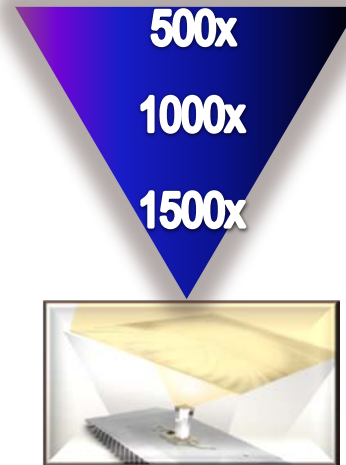
SILICON

High conversion efficiency



COMPOUNDS

High concentration



Less material (lower cost)



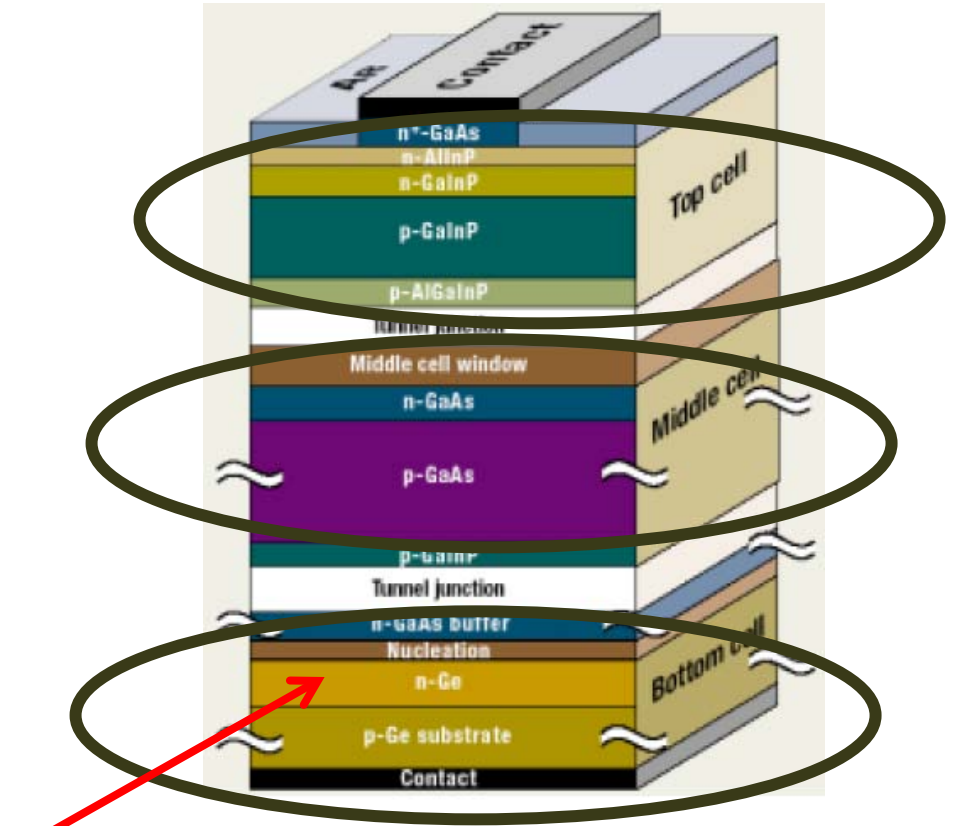
1cm<sup>2</sup> Multi-junction Solar Cell provides as much power as seven 5-inch Silicon Cells

COMPOUNDS



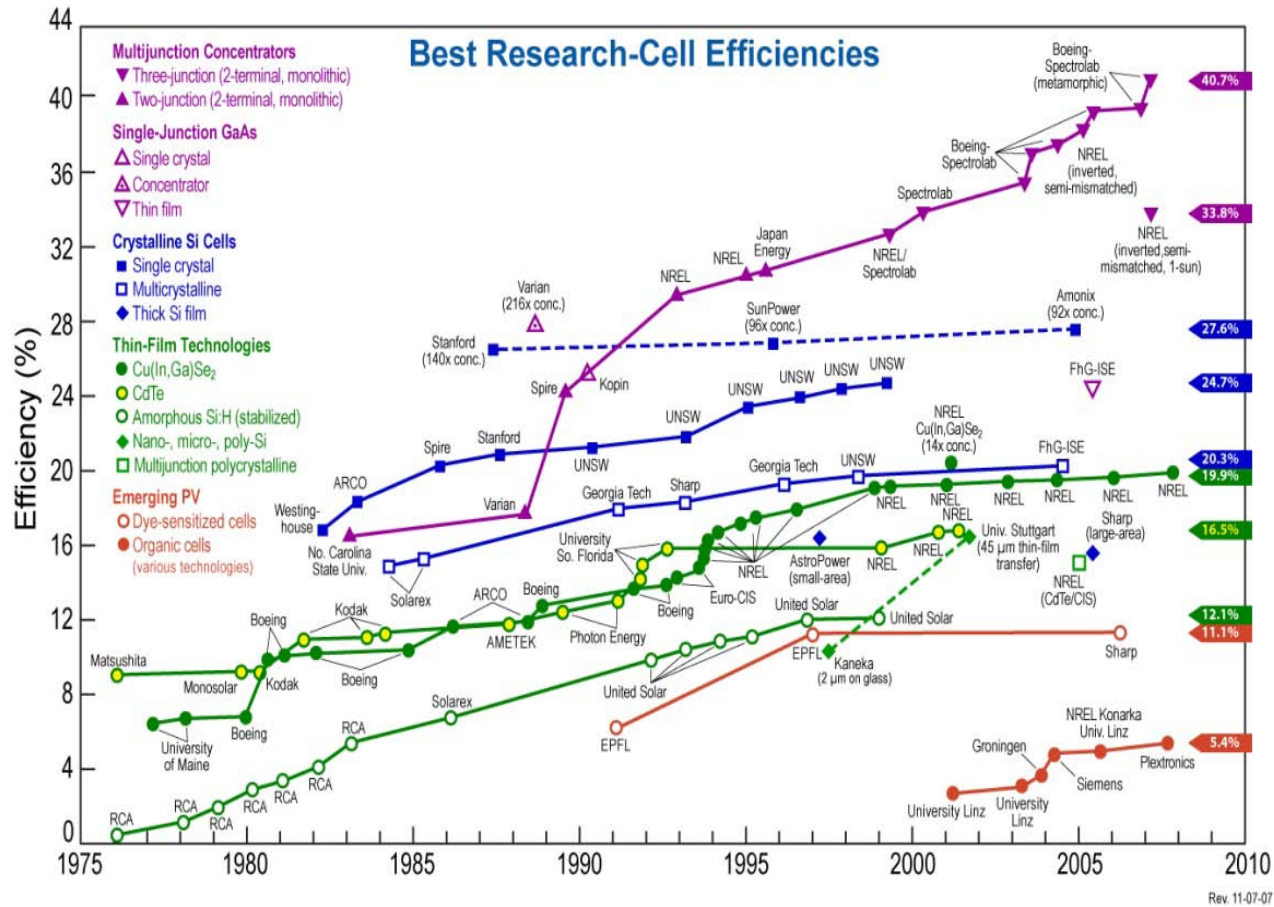
# CPV Device Structure:

- Classic triple junction with InGaP, InGaAs, Ge junctions epitaxially grown onto Germanium substrate
  - Lattice matched, 4" wafers (or larger)
  - 2x Tunnel contacts (important)
  - Typically 6-7 $\mu$ m thick
- Ge bottom sub-cell created by Group V diffusion into Ge substrate



# PV Solar Cells – A History:

Source: NREL

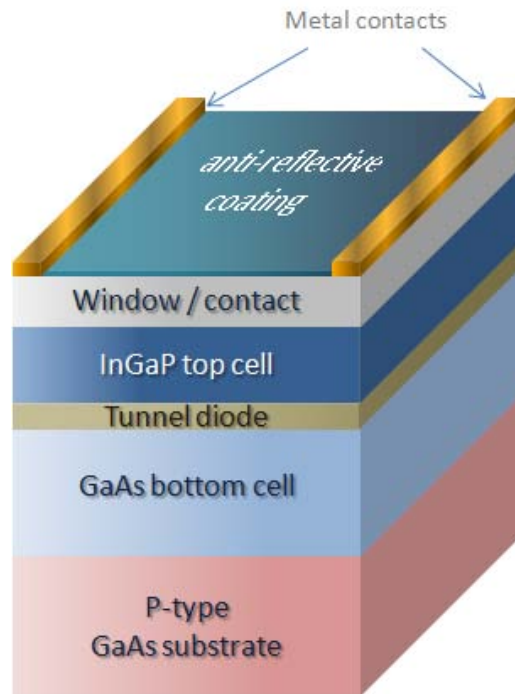


- Multi-Junction cells have by far the highest efficiency and the fastest rate of improvement
- But cost is a major issue – they are very expensive

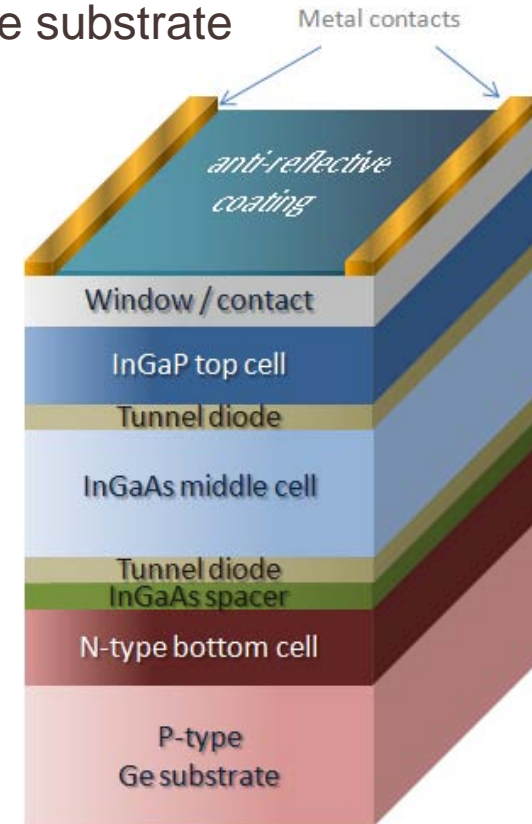
# IQE CPV Technology & Capabilities:

## Solar Cell Schematic Structures

a) Dual Junction utilising GaAs substrate

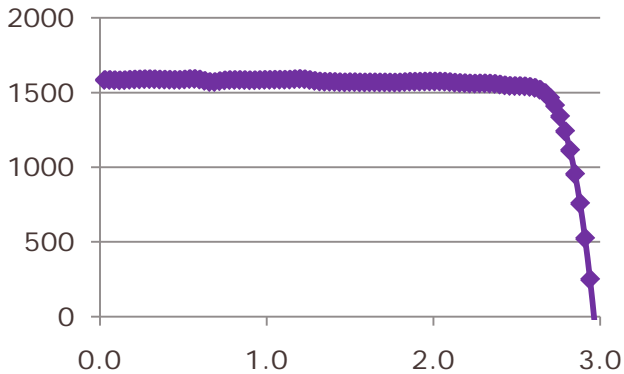


b) Triple Junction utilising Ge substrate

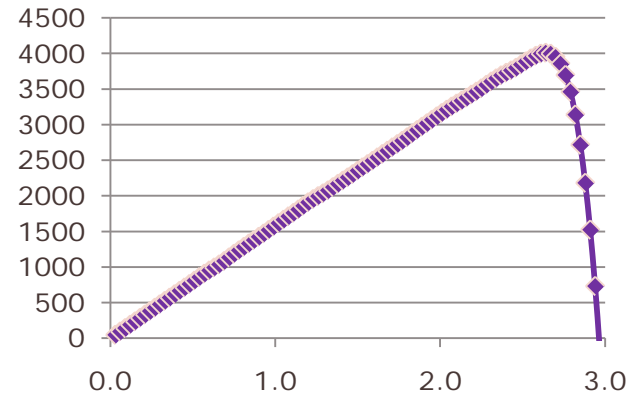


# Triple Junction solar cell status:

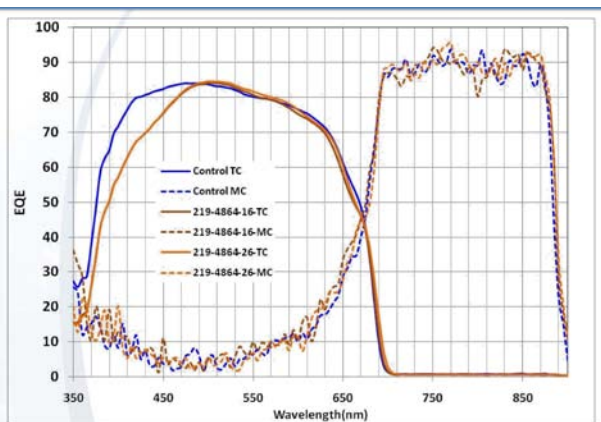
a) Triple junction on Ge multisun I-V curve



b) Triple junction on Ge multisun P-V curve



c) External QE



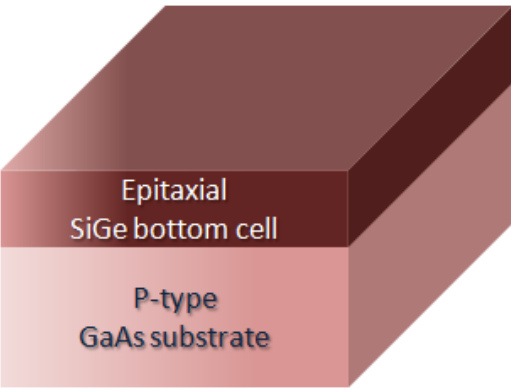
- $V_{oc} \sim 3V$ ,  $I_{sc} \sim 1.6A$
- Fill Factor  $\sim 87\%$
- Efficiency  $\sim 39\%$  at 200 suns
- EQE close to 'benchmark' - Spectrolab
- Customers have IP that add 1-1.5% absolute efficiency



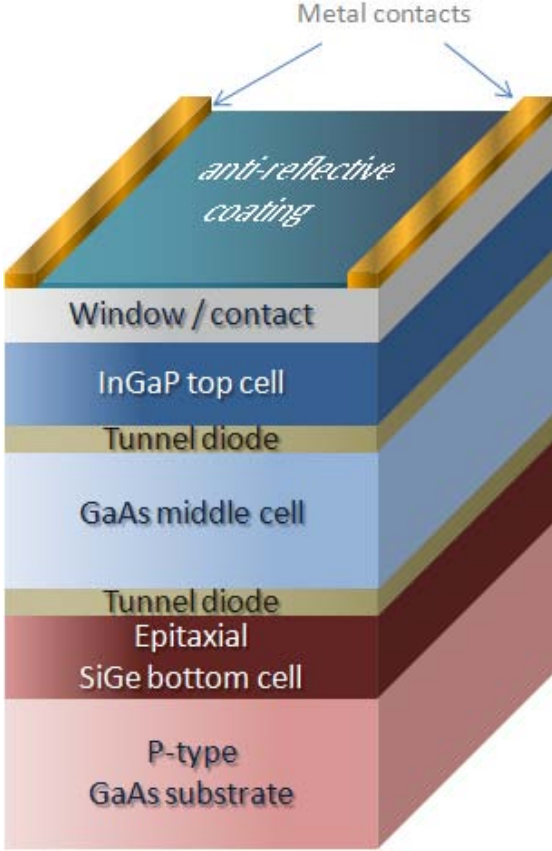
# Triple Junction Solar Cell with epitaxial SiGe bottom cell:

Schematic:

(IQE Patent pending)



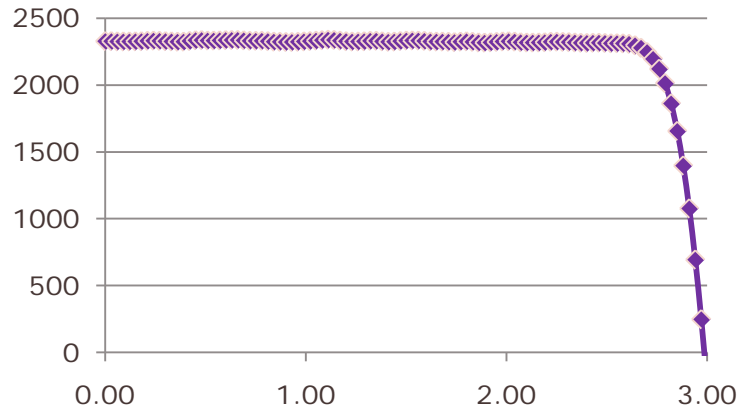
a) SiGe grown lattice matched onto GaAs substrate – growth by CVD at IQE Silicon



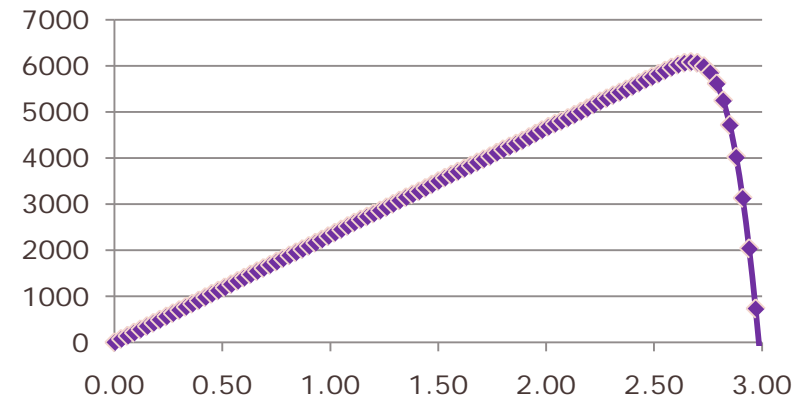
b) Subsequent III-V overgrowth by MOCVD to define solar cell

# Triple Junction Solar cell utilising epi SiGe on GaAs:

a) Multisun I-V curve

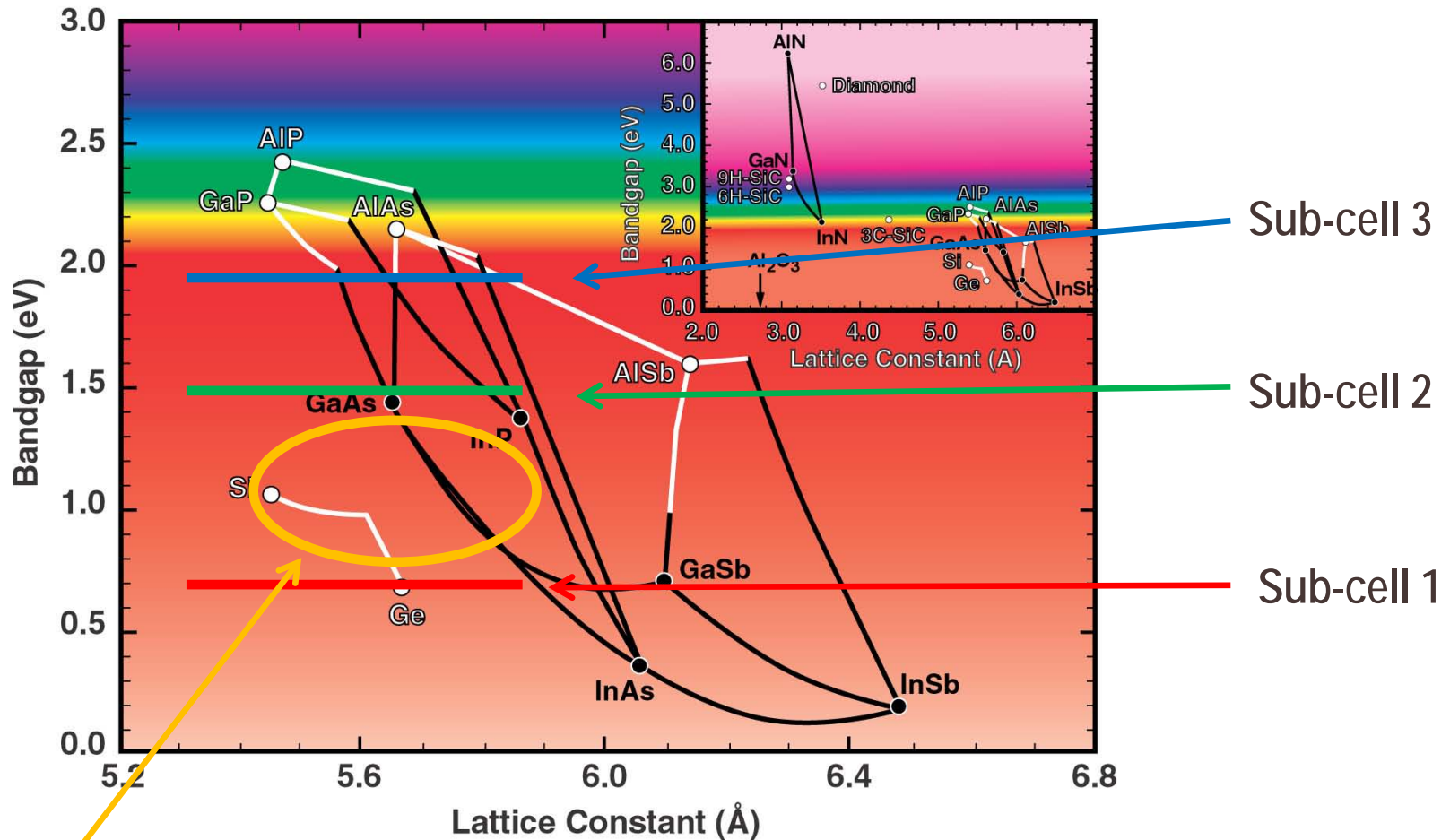


b) Multisun P-V curve



- First ever triple junction solar device utilising SiGe bottom cell
- Increased  $V_{oc}$  compared with TJ on Ge (Larger bandgap of SiGe)
- Good device performance - >6W Pmax at ~x200 suns , Fill Factor ~90%
- Already demonstrated on 6" diameter substrates
- Equivalent performance to 3J on Ge (~38% multi-sun efficiency)
- Improved device performance and substrate removal investigation

# Lattice-matched multi-junction cells:



Lack of lattice matched, ~1.0eV material limits higher device performance

# Novel CPV Device concepts:

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## Improved Cell Efficiency:

Band structure Engineering – Quantum Wells, Quantum Dots

Novel Materials – InGaAsN, SiGeSn

## Cost Reduction:

Substrate re-use

III-V on Silicon



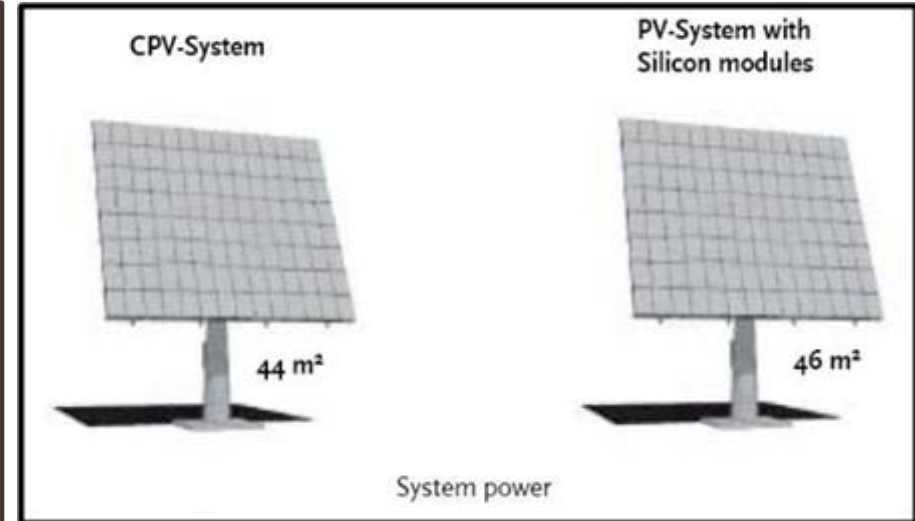
# Summary of CPV advantages:

## Highest efficiency solar convertor

- More power output per M<sup>2</sup>
- Optics concentrate sunlight onto cells at levels equivalent of up to 1500 suns
- Only CPV III-V triple junction solar cells maintain performance at normal operating temperatures (70°C)

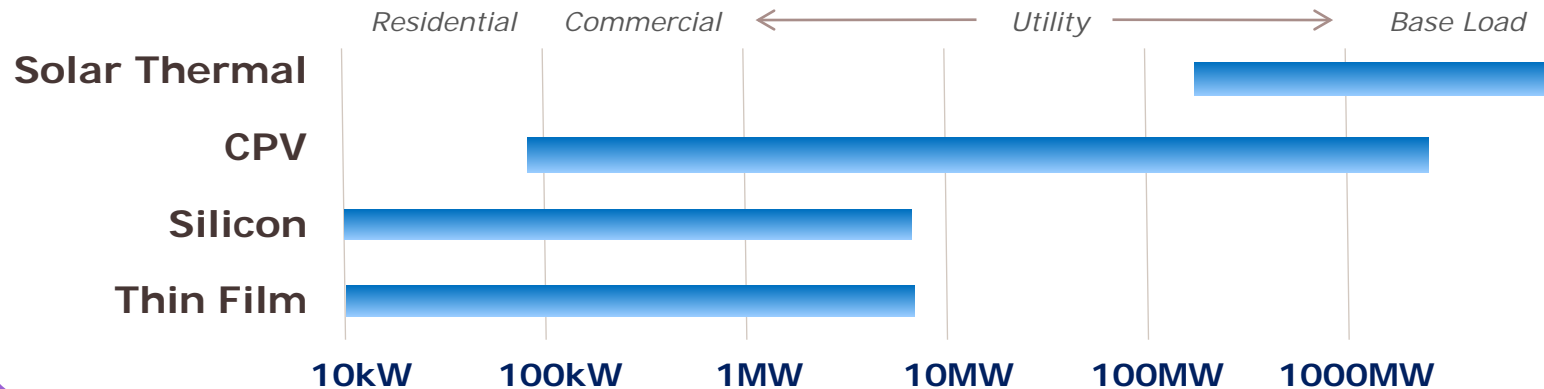
## Lowest £/kWh by:

- Increasing cell efficiency
- Reducing cell cost
- Precision optics & alignment
- Optimised tracking of the sun
- Cost reduced trackers
- Ensures cost of electrical energy from solar CPV will converge on that from fossil fuels

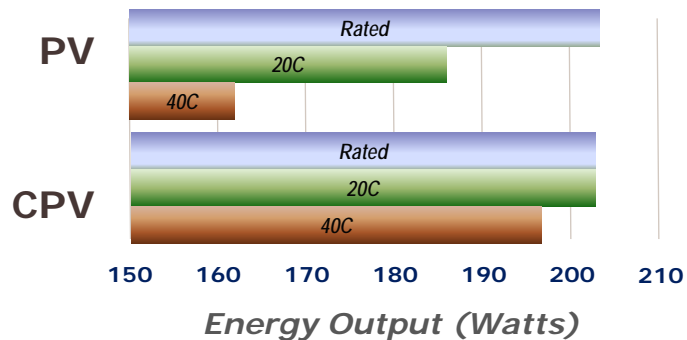


# Competitive advantages of CPV:

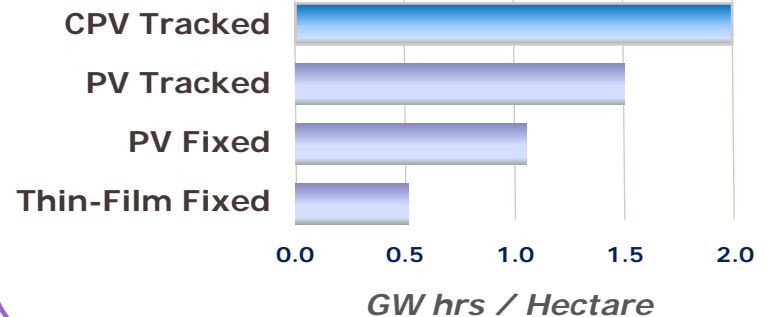
## Available across all levels of system integration



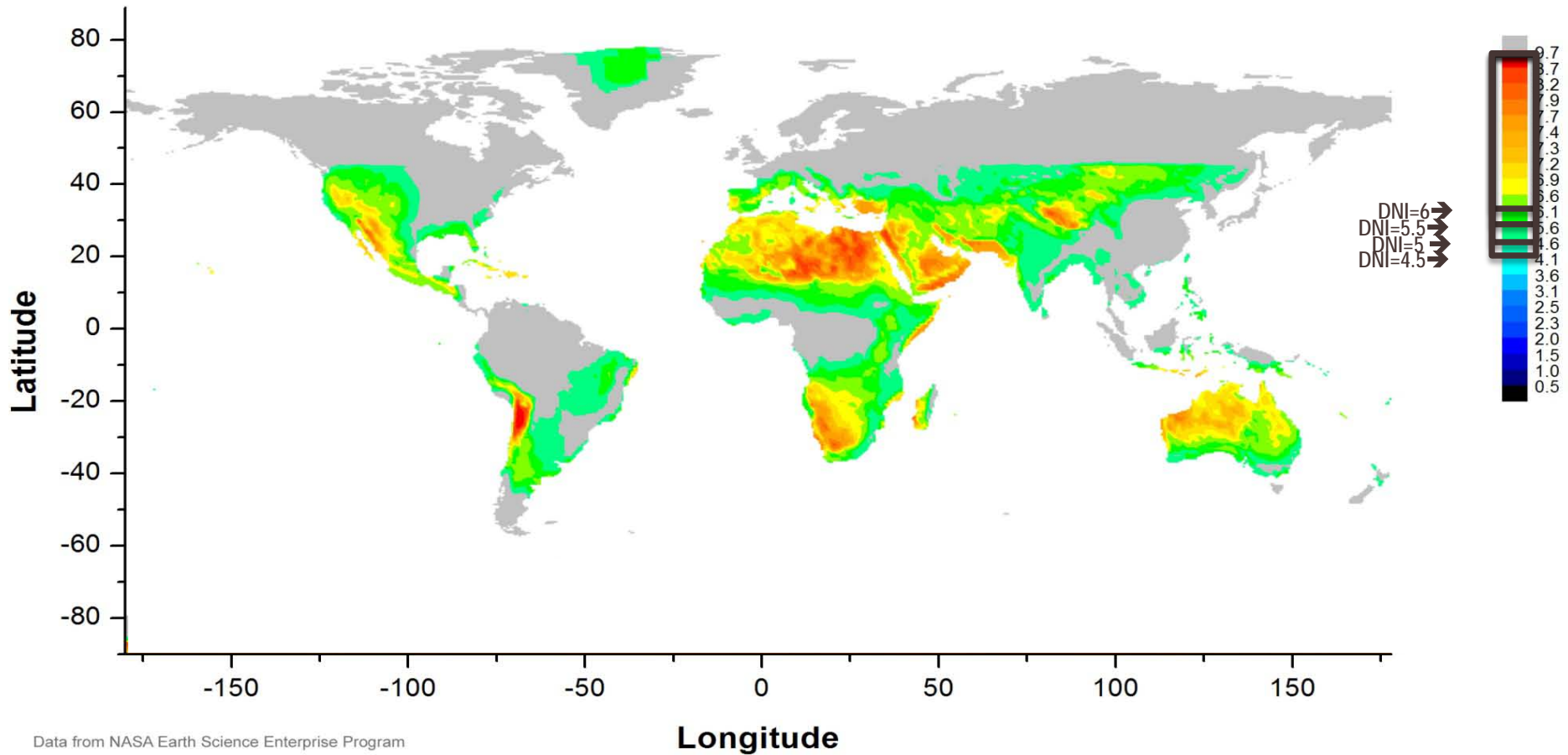
## Best solution for hot climates



## Highest Energy Density



# Improved solar system performance and/or lower cost expands the global LCOE parity region



\* LCOE – Levelised Cost of Energy

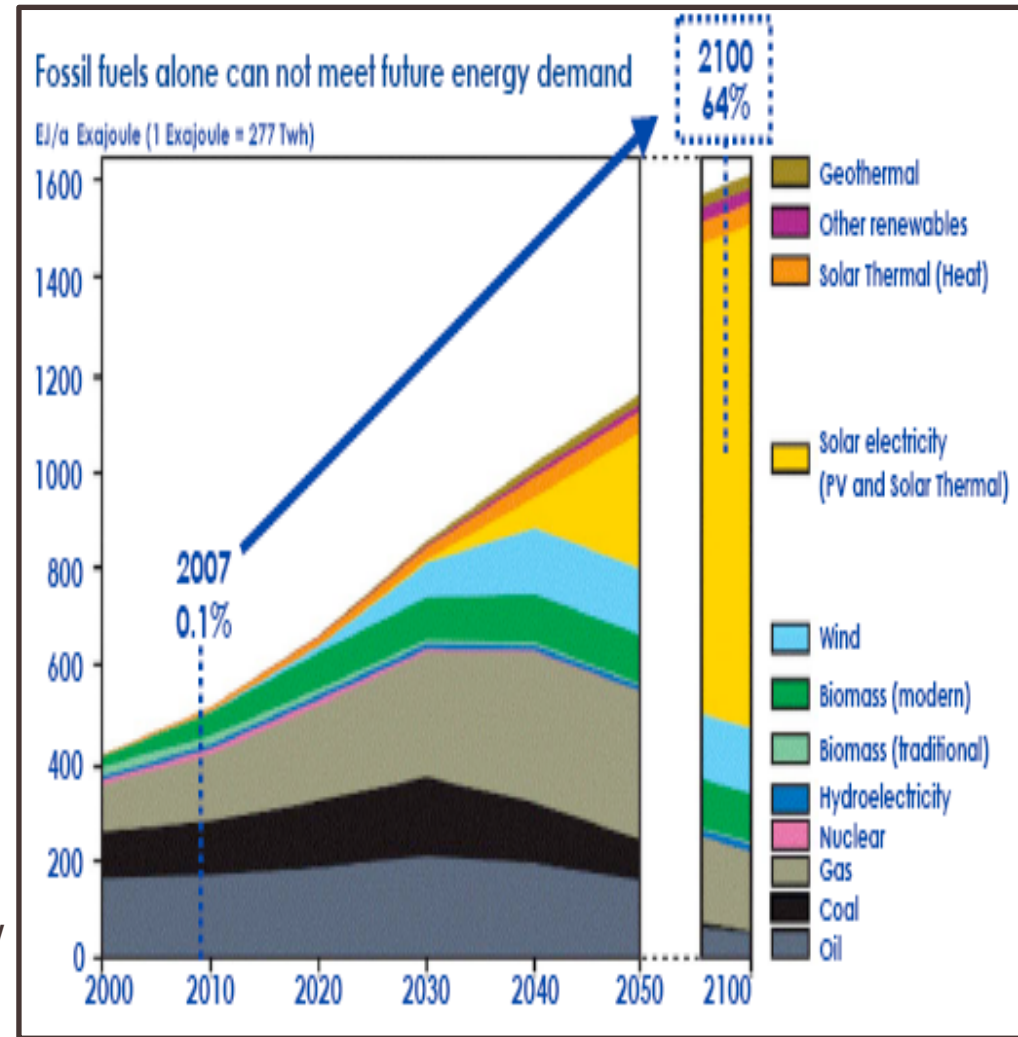
# Rapid growth in CPV installations

- Drivers

- Environmental concerns driving need for clean and sustainable energy sources
- Aggressive legislation to achieve environmental targets
- Economic drivers for alternative energies

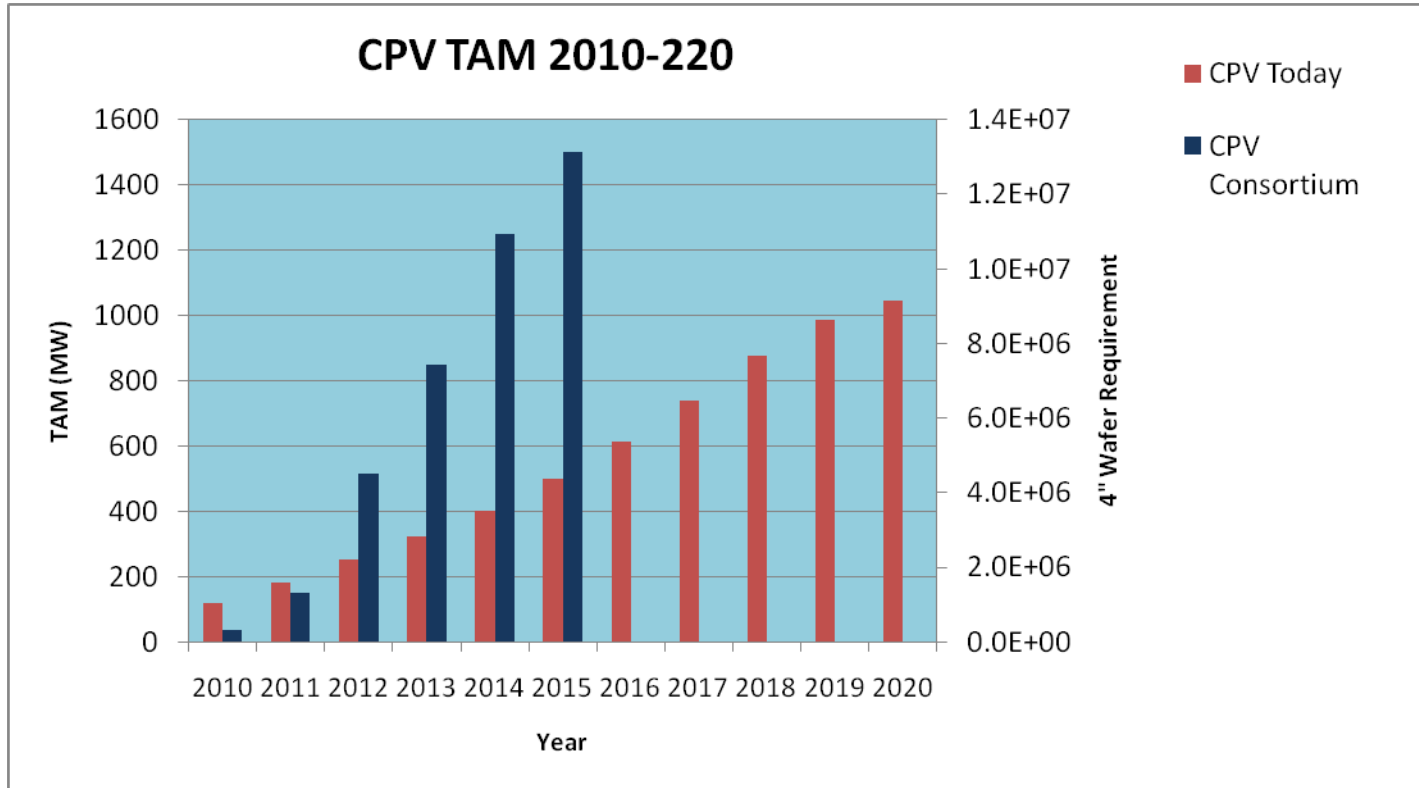
- Number of CPV installations forecast to grow rapidly as a result of:

- Multi-junction Compound Semiconductor cells used in space for over 20 years; proven long-term reliability
- Field test data over 12 to 15 months shows total power output within 3% of predicted levels
- with proven field test data, utility companies now engaging in major projects.





# Immediate Market Opportunity:



Total epiwafer market in excess of 1 Million wafers/yr by 2013 (4" equivalent)

# CPV solar: IQE at Inception of the emerging supply chain

e p i

## Epi Foundry



## Chip Suppliers & Chip Foundries

10-15 in total



## Systems

40-50 in total



T e r r e s t r i a l



Engaged with and designed into leading CPV suppliers



# Summary:

- Multi-junction CPV technology has the greatest potential to deliver lowest cost electricity
- Tracked, High DNI areas and utility scale
- Offers highest efficiency conversion of sunlight to electricity
- Offers greatest opportunity for significant cost reduction
- Novel device architectures offer route to higher efficiencies & lower cost
- IQE is ideally placed at the leading edge with state of the art performance and IP for improved devices





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# Thank You