# Energizing American Competitiveness in Solar Technologies

SunShot Grand Challenge Summit and Technology Forum Denver, CO 13 June 2012

### Why do we want/need "Grand Challenges?"

The United States is in a fierce race to be the inventor and manufacturer of clean energy technologies that can drive our future economic growth and national security.

The Department of Energy is identifying the most critical grand challenges in clean energy technology.

Success will require *Discovery, Invention, Innovation* ...including innovation in technology, business models, finance and policy



• We want to let the stakeholder community know what the DOE is doing and why we are doing it.

 Identify key technical and non-technical challenges that need to be addressed.

• We want feedback from the community.

### So what is the SunShot Initiative?



# Costs of PV modules are dropping below the power law experience curves

Sources: (CdTe) First Solar Earnings Presentation, SEC Filings; (c-Si) Navigant, Bloomberg NEF, NREL internal cost models



### **US PV Cell and Module Production**



**Sources:** Navigant Consulting, Solar Services Program – 2011 Shipment Update, NPS-Supply6 - April 2011, Report NPS - Supply4, Report NPS - Supply3

# Silicon Crystal Growth

#### Czochralski growth

#### **Directional solidification**





### **Casting Single Crystal Wafers**



In 2007, the DOE supported research of BP Solar in the U.S. to make large single crystals of silicon using the directional solidification method. A prototype version of this technology achieved 20% efficiency, better than many CZ mono wafers in production.

Before the technology was taken to the manufacturing scale, intense competition with Chinese manufacturers caused BP Solar to shut down operations in the U.S.

This technology has been improved in China. Chinese companies may soon go into production of single crystal silicon using directional solidification.

To compete in the clean energy race, inventing new technologies is not enough.

We have to make them to sell them world-wide and use them.

# Manufacturing





"Abandoning today's 'commodity' manufacturing can lock you out of tomorrow's emerging industry."

> Andy Grove co-founder and former CEO, and author of "Only the Paranoid Survive: How to Exploit the Crisis Points That Challenge Every Company"



# In every Crisis lies the seed of Opportunity

# October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union placed a 184 pound satellite, "Sputnik," into orbit.



### President Kennedy (12 September 1962)



Embedded movie of moon shot speech

#### U.S. Natural Catastrophe Update Natural Disasters in the United States, 1980 – 2011 Munich RE Number of Events (Annual Totals 1980 – 2010 vs. First Six Months 2011)



Comparison of **measured precipitation extremes** and simulations of CO<sub>2</sub> increase, volcanoes and other changes S.-Ki Min, X. Zhang, F.W. Zwiers & G. C. Hegerl, *Nature* **470**, 378 (2011)

### **Observations**

Highest single day rainfall

Highest 5 day rainfalls

-0.1



### **Climate simulations without carbon emissions**



Aug. 2003: European heat wave Temperature anomalies reached 10°C 52,000 Europeans died\*



Country	Fatalities
Italy	18,257
France	14,802
Germany	7,000
Spain	4,130
England & Wales	2,139
Portugal	2,099
Smaller countries	4,025
Total of above	52,452

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=3714

# Residential SunShot 2020 Target





The Department of Energy is agnostic to any particular solar technologies:

Cryst. Si :19%  $\rightarrow$  22% efficiency  $\rightarrow$  lower cost?Poly-Si :14%  $\rightarrow$  16.5%  $\rightarrow$  ?CdTe:12%  $\rightarrow$  14.5%  $\rightarrow$  ?GaAs:26% efficient  $\rightarrow$  low cost ?

Multiple Junction with solar concentrators, CIGS, Gretzel ... ?

What about Concentrated Solar Power?

# SunShot CSP Pathway to 6¢/kWh



### **RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY PRICE 2012, INSOLATION, RESIDENTIAL PV LCOE 2012**



### **RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY PRICE 2012, INSOLATION, RESIDENTIAL PV LCOE 2014**



### **RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY PRICE 2012, INSOLATION, RESIDENTIAL PV LCOE 2020**



### **Predictions of Technology Naysayers**

### "The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty — a fad."

President of the Michigan Savings Bank to Horace Rackham, Henry Ford's lawyer.

Rackham ignored the advice, invested \$5000 in Ford stock, and sold it for \$12.5 million.

Reaction to Alexander Graham Bell's patent for the telephone by the Chief Engineer of the British Post Office: "The Americans have need of the telephone, but we do not. We have plenty of messenger boys."

# ExonMobil

Taking on the world's toughest energy challenges."



#### 2012 The Outlook for Energy: A View to 2040







### Exxon-Mobil estimate for electricity generation by 2030



# Sales of plug-in/electric are projected to be < 7% of the total new car market

#### Light duty vehicle fleet by type

Billions of vehicles

### Future targets (date varies by country) The U.S. target is 54.5 mpg by 2025



Why are the projections for plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles so modest?

By 2030, ExxonMobil expects that, on average, an electric vehicle (like Nissan's Leaf) will be \$12,000 more than similar sized conventional vehicles.

# What is the potential market for clean energy and energy efficiency technologies ?



"It's hard to make predictions, especially about the future."

### Yogi Berra

# SunShot CSP Funding and Selections

- <u>Goal</u>: To innovate and develop next-generation CSP technologies for lowcost collectors, high-temperature receivers and high-efficiency drycooled power cycles to meet the aggressive technical targets of SunShot.
- Investment: Up to \$55 million over 3 years in 21 projects at companies, universities and national laboratories.
- See them in the Tech Forum!



## **Incubator Supports Startups**



# **Multiple Incubator Rounds**



### **Incubator Startups**



# **Crossing the Chasm**

**GEOFFREY A. MOORE** 

A BusinessWeek Bestselle



# **Catalyzing Private Investment**

**Incubator Round 1 Companies Only** 



Sources: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission public filings, Form D (2012); GE press release (2011)

### **SUNPATH Goals and the SunShot Portfolio**



Domestic industrial scale manufacturing demonstration of a PV technology:

- 15% lower in cost per watt compared to the industry leader
- progressing significantly towards the SunShot goal of \$0.50/W modules
- >25 year lifetime and sufficiently high efficiency for low balance of systems costs.

Replication and expansion of commercial manufacturing in the U.S.



### New models for finance: OPIC-like structures Master Limited Partnerships

### The Issue:

"Even if you paid nothing for the hardware, you'd still pay thousands of dollars to install a residential solar power system" - Secretary Chu



# But Why So Pricey?

- Complicated and confusing process
- Process is different for every locale
- Unnecessarily high permit fees
  In-person application submission and inspection
- Long wait times for inspection and approval





# One Hypothetical City's Process...

... With an approval plan so complicated, the flow chart crashed my computer!





### **Germany's Success**



Register PV system with state energy agency for FIT

(1 page, submitted online in 15 min.)

As long as housing structure is built to code, no permits filed for residential PV in Germany

# **Rooftop Solar Challenge**

### **The Problem**

- 18,000+ local jurisdictions with different PV permitting requirements
- 5,000+ utilities implementing interconnection standards and net metering programs
- 50 states developing interconnection standards and net metering rules

### **The Solution**

The Challenge invests in **22** teams comprised of jurisdictions, utilities, and local stakeholders to develop the same requirements and processes across large geographic areas (500,000+ population). The Challenge also measures each team's progress to identify approaches that work.





NJ

#### **Uniform processes**



### Why should the installation of a PV system on your roof be handled like the installation of a gas water heater?



Residential PV in Germany costs ~\$2.50/W Residential PV in the U.S. costs ~\$6/W

# Soft Costs

### Bold Words From the DOE, MIT, and VC on Solar's Future

MIT Energy Conference speakers call for soft-cost reductions and predict that First Solar will be acquired.



photo courtesy of Convergence Energy, LLC, Steve Johnson

"Unlike physics, where we can fundamentally figure out the upper limit for the efficiency of solar cells, there is no such limit to bureaucracy"