

# **The Growing Significance of the New Biofuels**

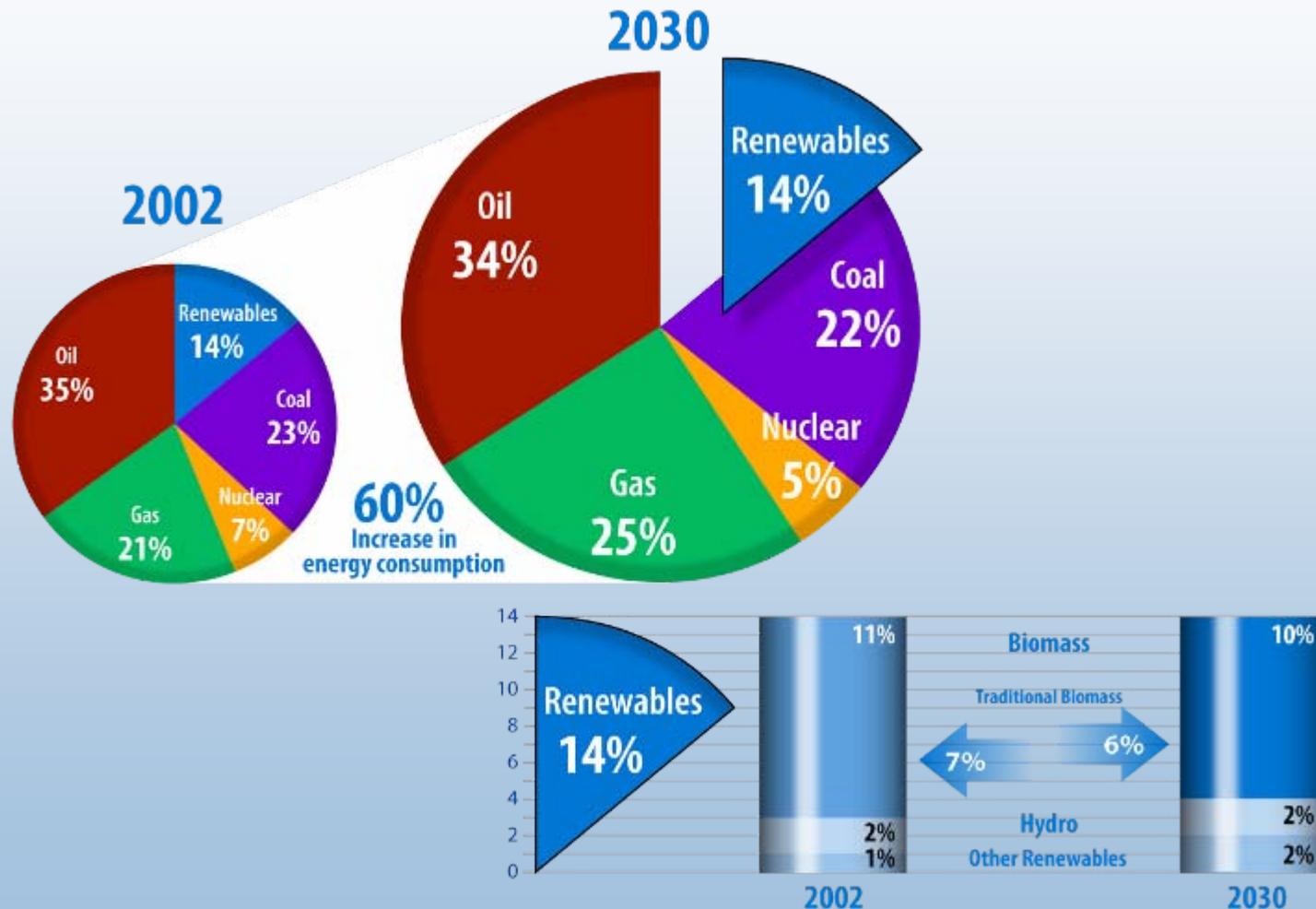
**Presented at the Kennedy School of Government  
at Harvard University**

**February 5, 2007**

Dan E. Arvizu

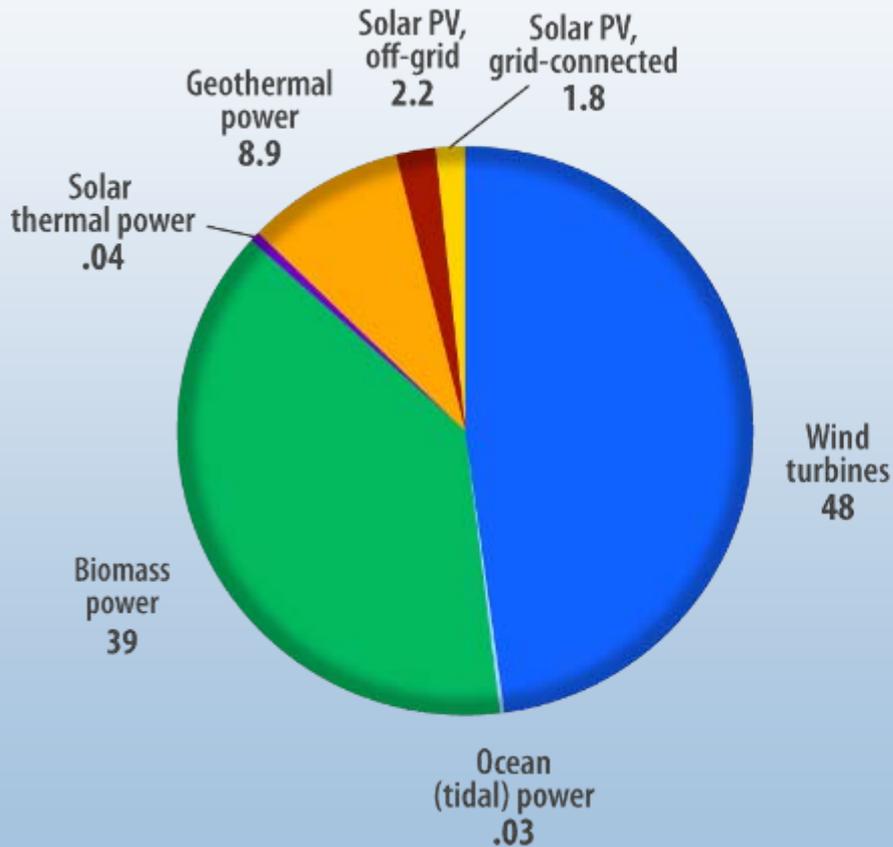
Director, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

# World Energy Supply and the Role of Renewable Energy

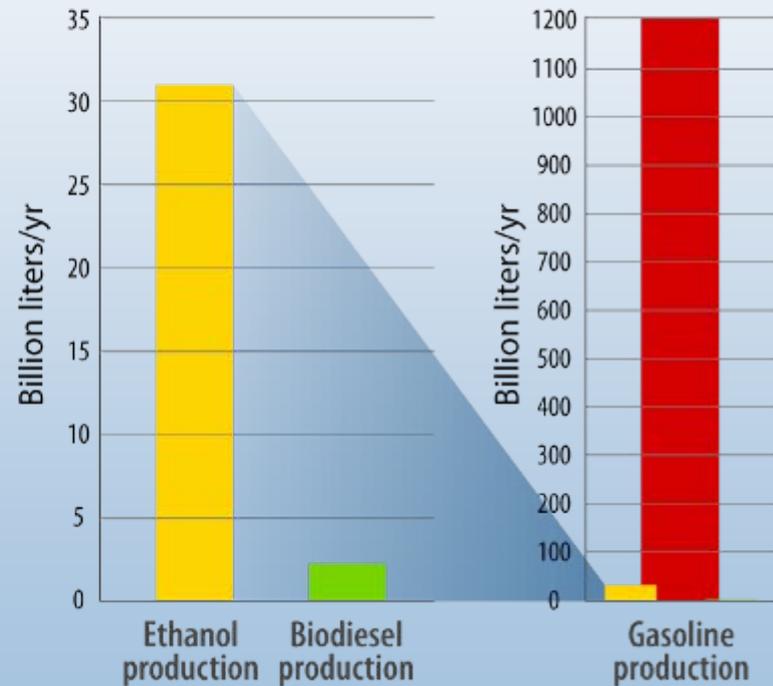


# Global Renewable Energy Indicators

## Power Generation Existing Capacity\* – GW



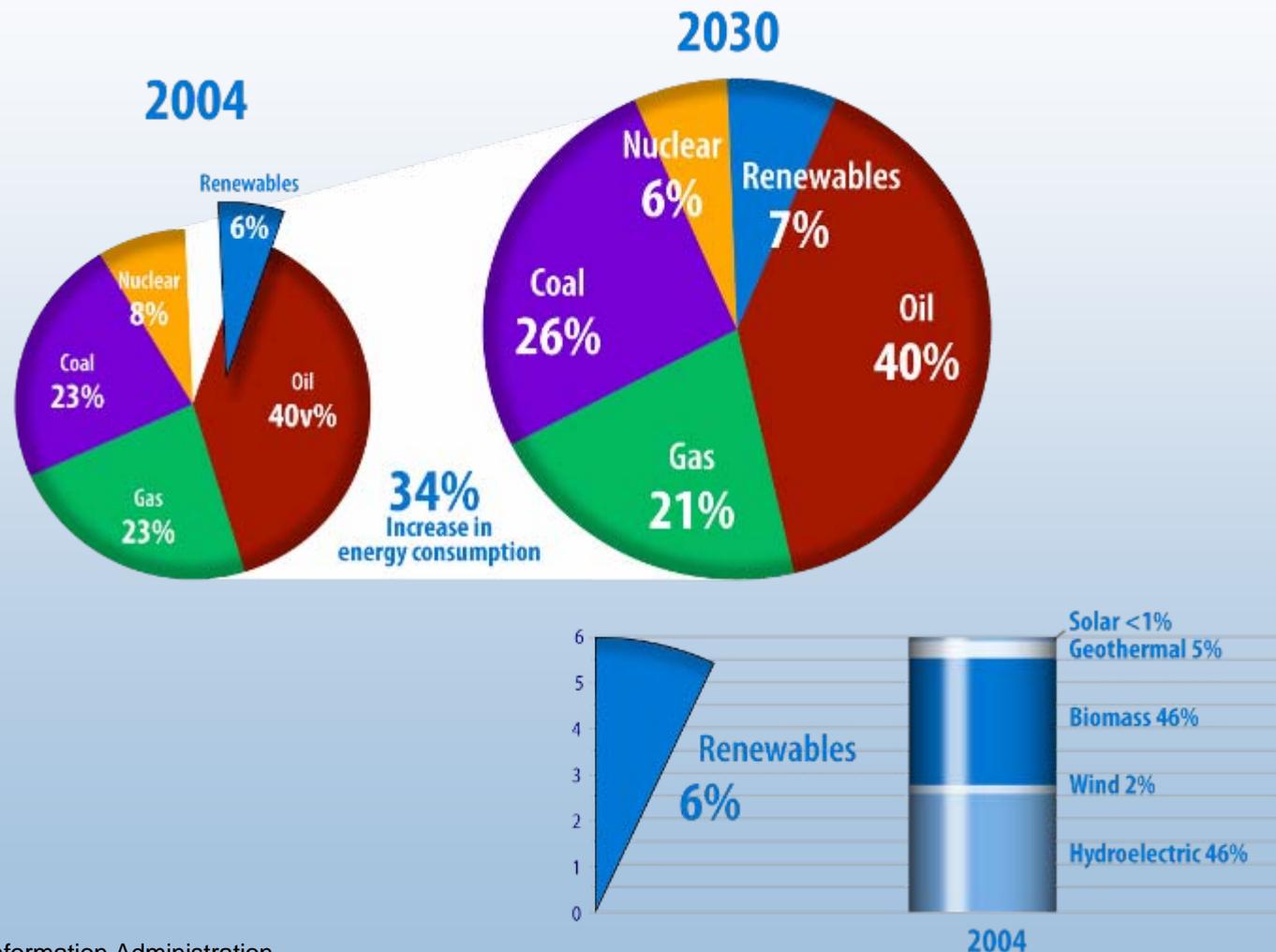
## Transportation Fuels Billion liters/year



Note: Does not include hydropower.

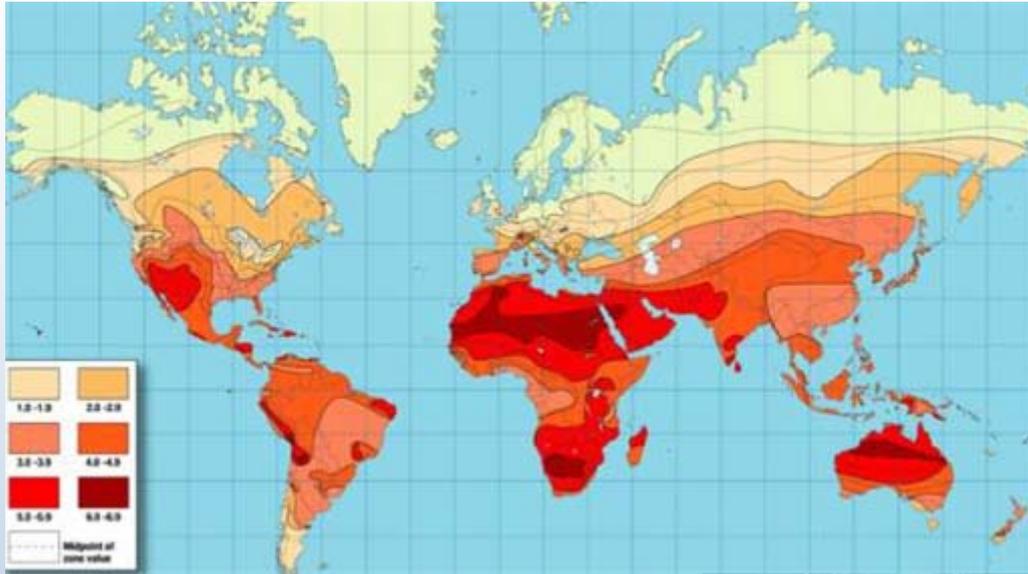
Source: REN21 Renewables 2005 Global Status Report

# U.S. Energy Consumption and the Role of Renewable Energy



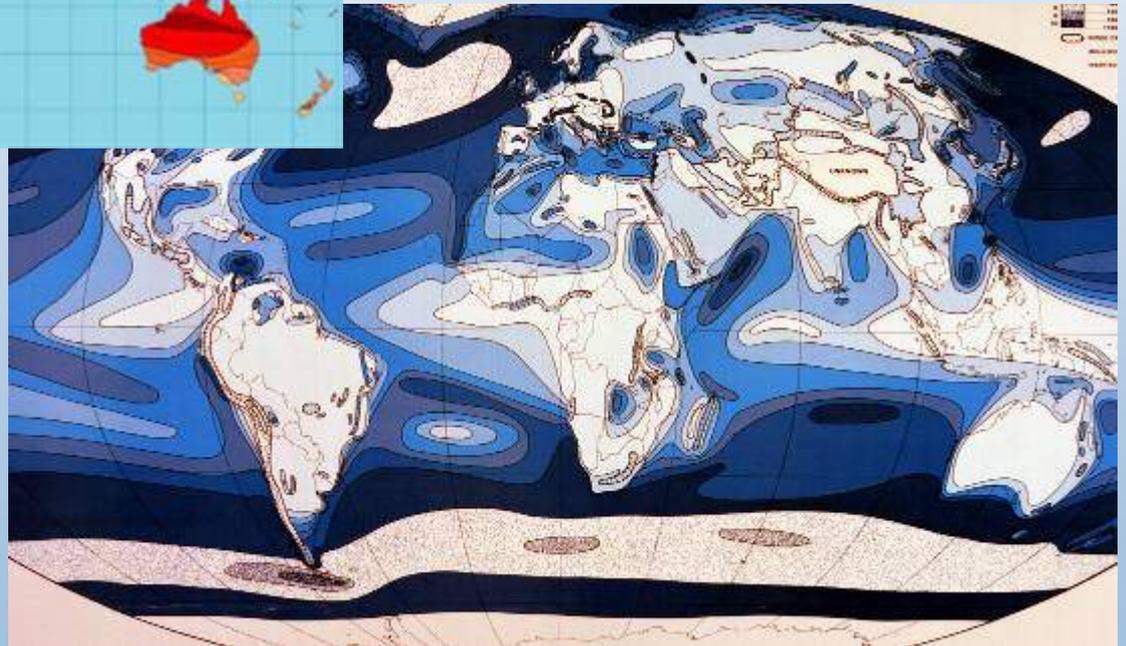
Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 2006*, Table D4

# Plentiful Resources

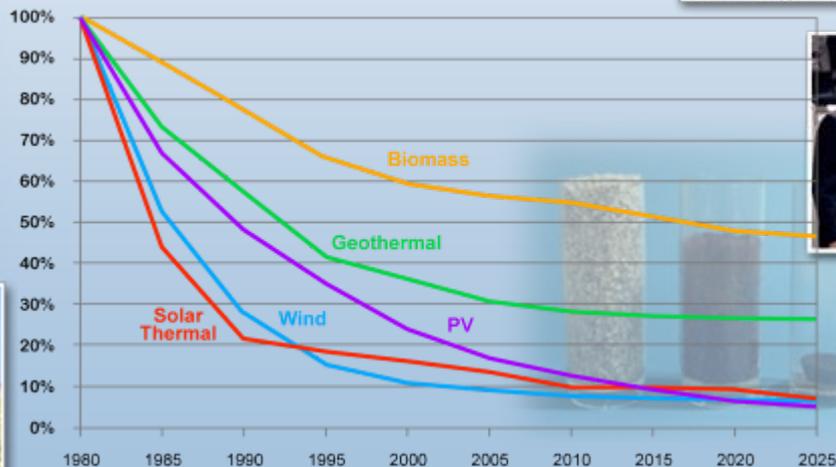
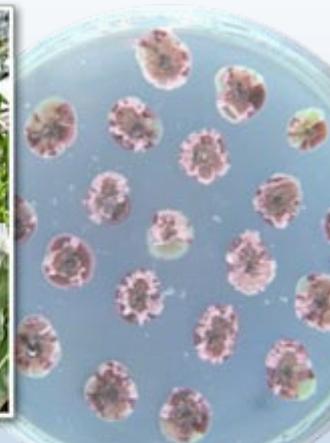


**Solar**

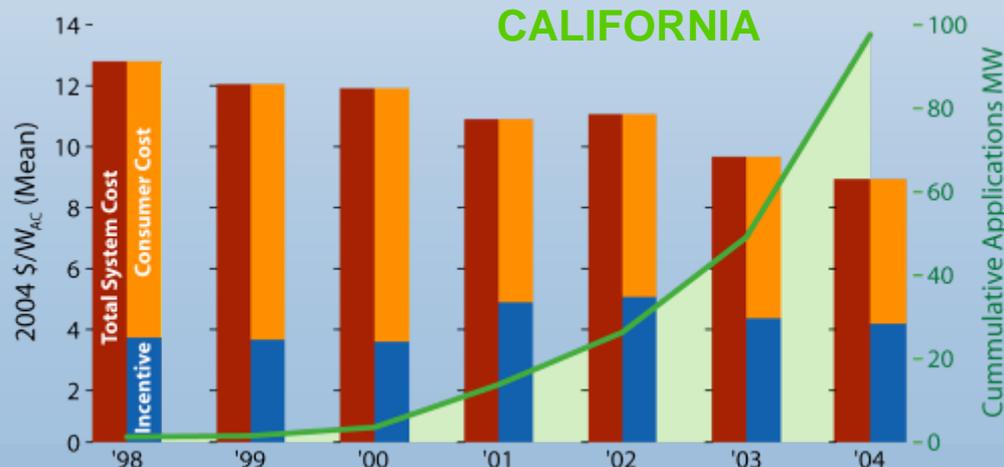
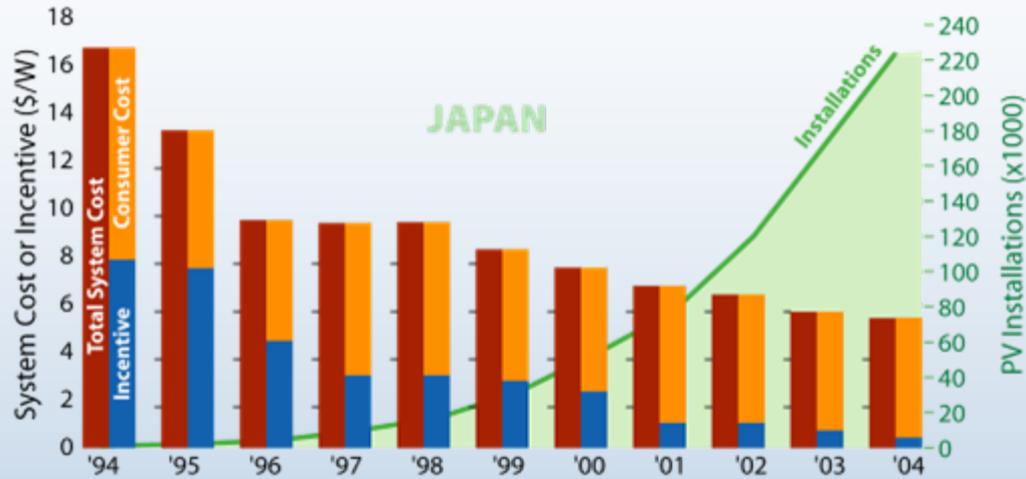
**Wind**



# Impressive Cost Reductions

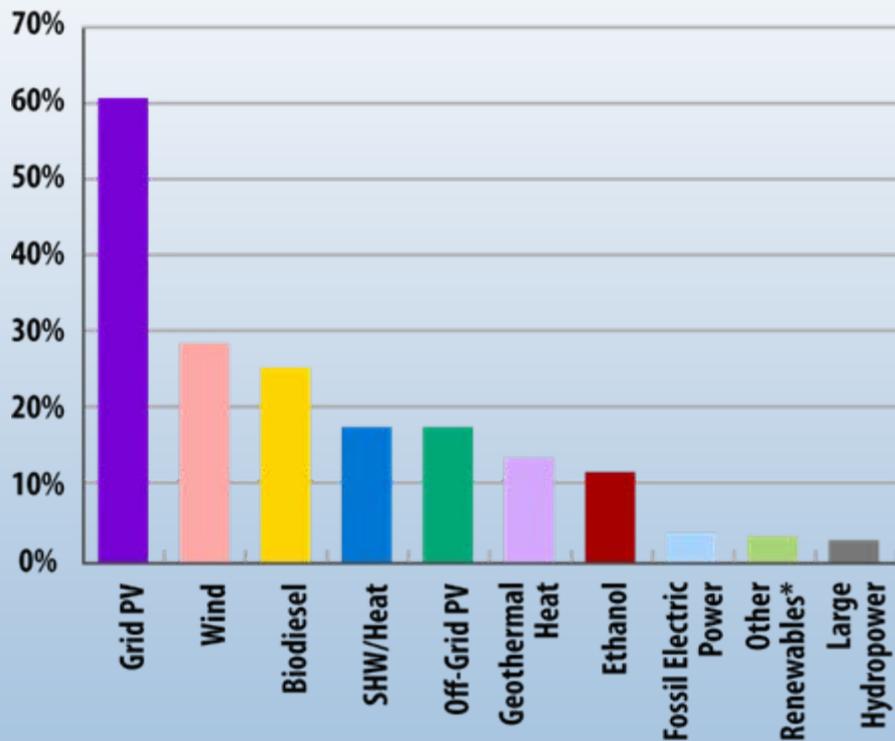


# Worldwide Markets Have Driven Cost Reductions

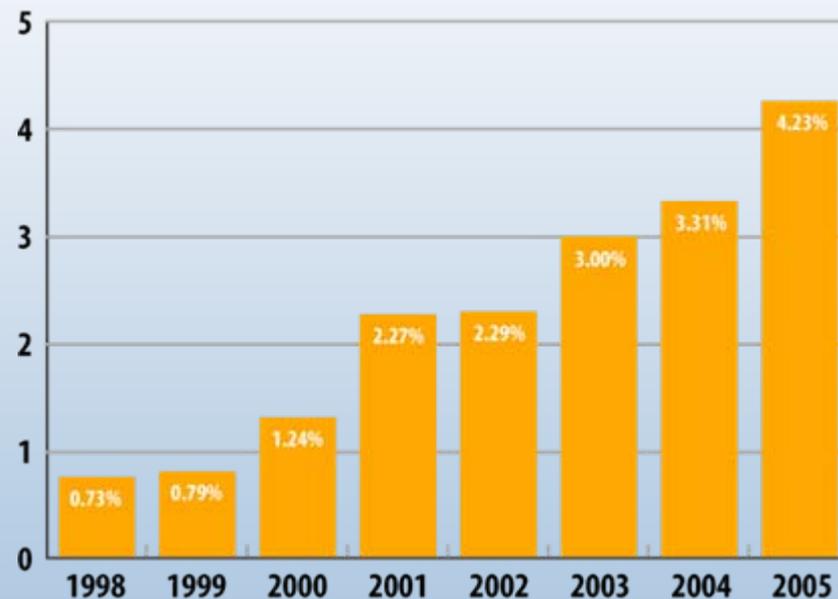


# Investing in the Future

## Global Renewable Energy Annual Growth Rates 2000-2004



## Energy-Tech Investments Percent of Total U.S. Venture Capital



Sources:  
Renewables 2005 Global Status Report, REN21  
Clean Energy Trends 2006, Nth Power LLC

# Putting the Pieces Together



**Technologies**

**Policies**

**Markets**

# Past Investments Have Had a Significant Impact



Created a commercial nuclear power option

Reduced emissions from coal-fired power plants



Enhanced oil recovery from wells

Enabled hybrid vehicles to enter the market



Brought utility-scale wind into our generation mix



Improved energy productivity



# NREL Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technology Development Programs



## Efficient Energy Use

- Vehicle Technologies
- Building Technologies
- Industrial Technologies



## Renewable Resources

- Wind
- Solar
- Biomass
- Geothermal



## Energy Delivery and Storage

- Electricity Transmission and Distribution
- Alternative Fuels
- Hydrogen Delivery and Storage

# Wind

## Today's Status in U.S.

- 11,603 MW installed at end of 2006
- Cost 6-9¢/kWh at good wind sites\*

## DOE Cost Goals

- 3.6¢/kWh, onshore at low wind sites by 2012
- 7¢/kWh, offshore in shallow water by 2014

## Long Term Potential

- 20% of the nation's electricity supply

## NREL Research Thrusts

- Improved performance and reliability
- Distributed wind technology
- Advanced rotor development
- Utility grid integration

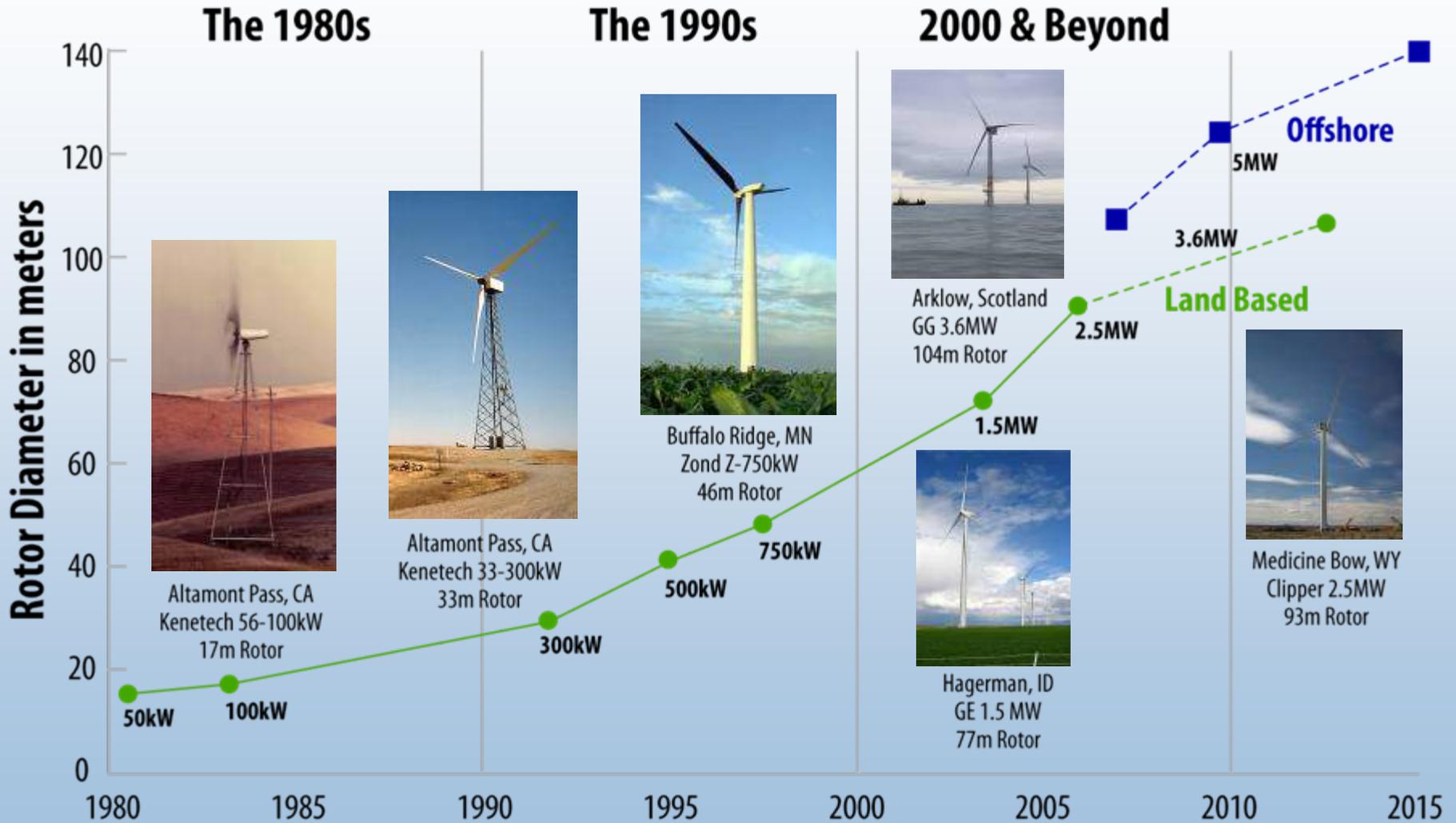


\* With no Production Tax Credit

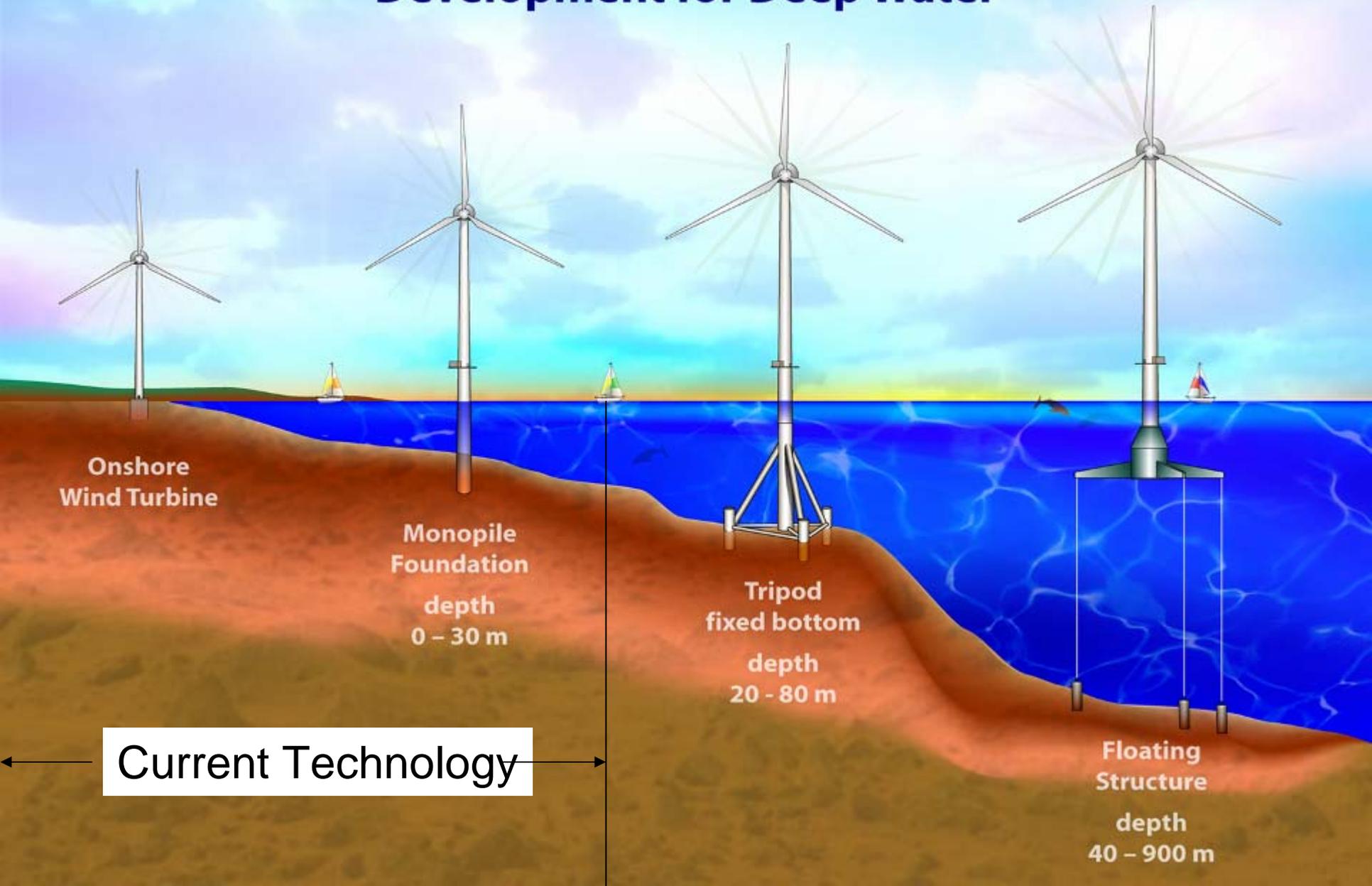
Updated January 23, 2007

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, American Wind Energy Association

# Evolution of U.S. Commercial Wind Energy



# Offshore Wind Turbine Development for Deep Water



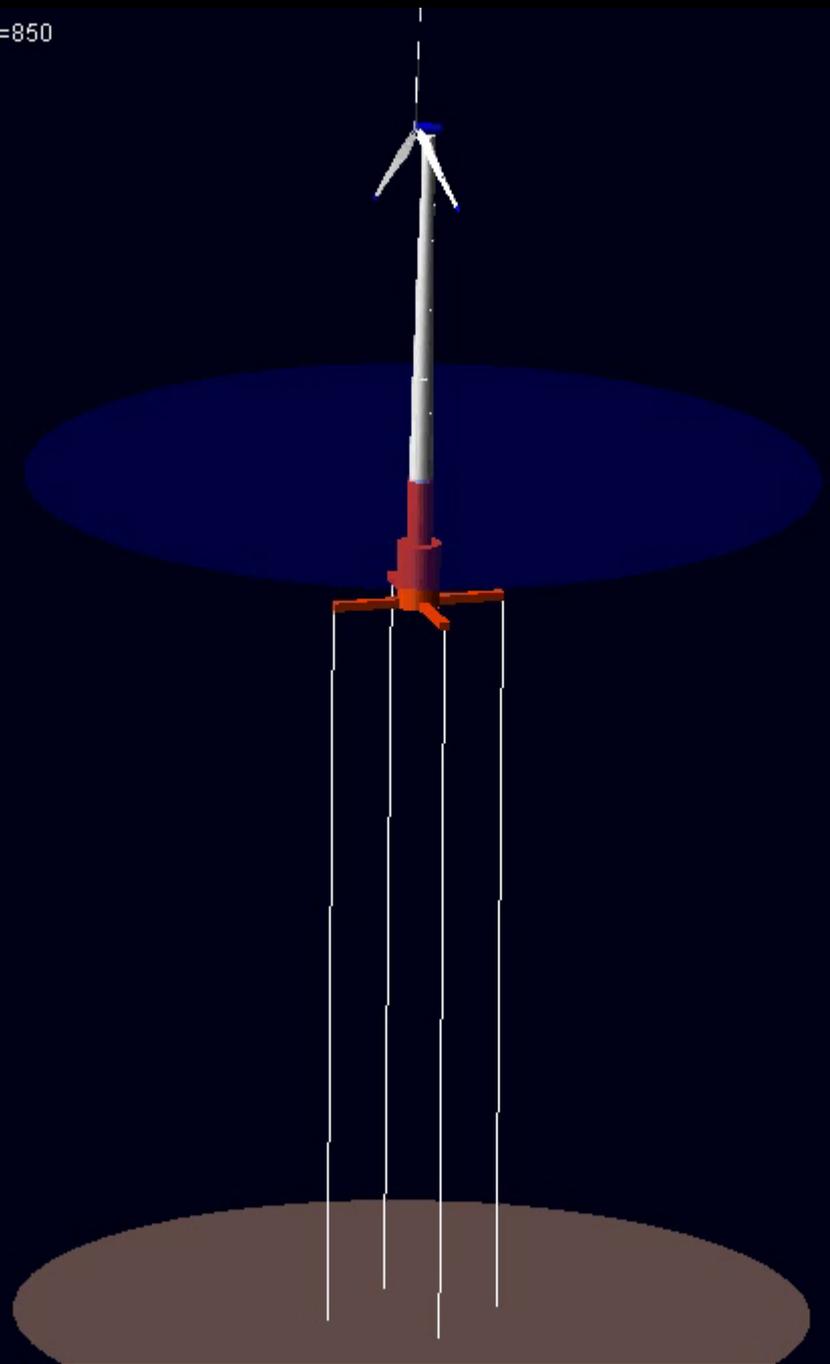
Onshore  
Wind Turbine

Monopile  
Foundation  
depth  
0 - 30 m

Tripod  
fixed bottom  
depth  
20 - 80 m

Floating  
Structure  
depth  
40 - 900 m

Current Technology



# Solar

## Photovoltaics and Concentrating Solar Power

### Status in U.S.

#### PV

- 526 MW
- Cost 18-23¢/kWh

#### CSP

- 355 MW
- Cost 12¢/kWh

### Potential:

#### PV

- 11-18¢/kWh by 2010
- 5-10 ¢/kWh by 2015

#### CSP

- 8.5 ¢/kWh by 2010
- 6 ¢/kWh by 2015



### NREL Research Thrusts:

#### PV

- Partnering with industry
- Higher efficiency devices
- New nanomaterials applications
- Advanced manufacturing techniques

#### CSP

- Next generation solar collectors
- High performance storage



Ridge Vineyards  
PV Rooftop  
65 kW, CA

WorldWater & Power, Irrigation System  
267 kW, Seley Ranches, CA

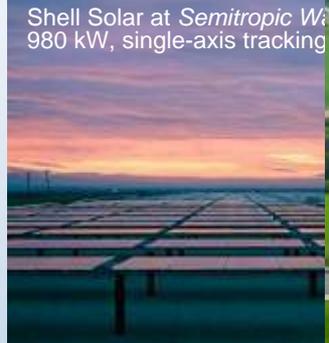


RWE Schott Stillwell Avenue Subway  
Station, PV Canopy Roof, 250,000  
kWh/yr, Brooklyn, NY

# ...toward our destination



Powerlight, Bavarian community  
6.750 MW, single-axis tracking  
Mühlhausen, Germany



Shell Solar at Semitropic  
980 kW, single-axis tracking



er & Geothermal Energy Co.  
Wastewater Plant, 622 kW,  
CA

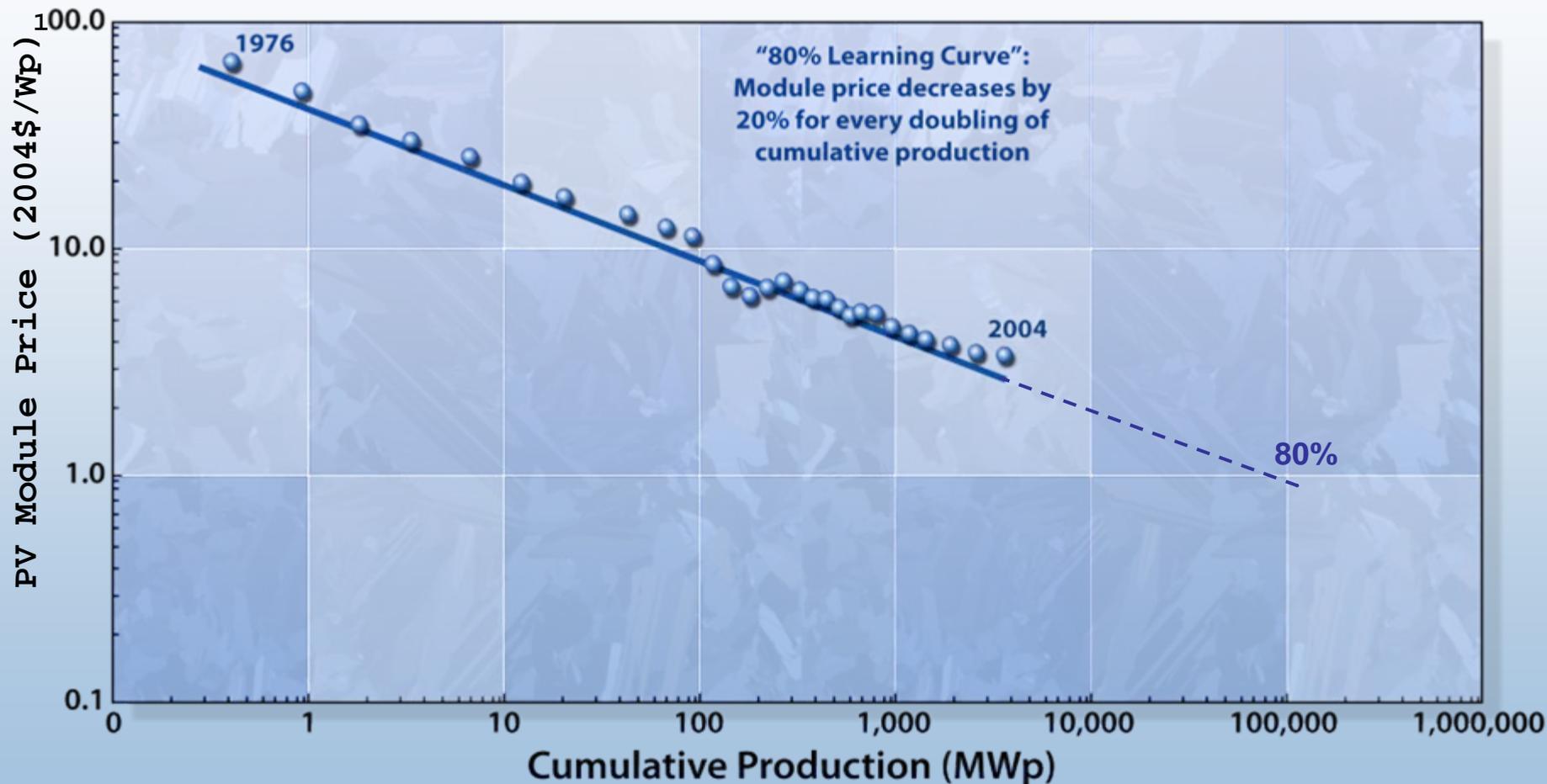


PowerLight PowerGuard  
536 kW, Toyota Motor C

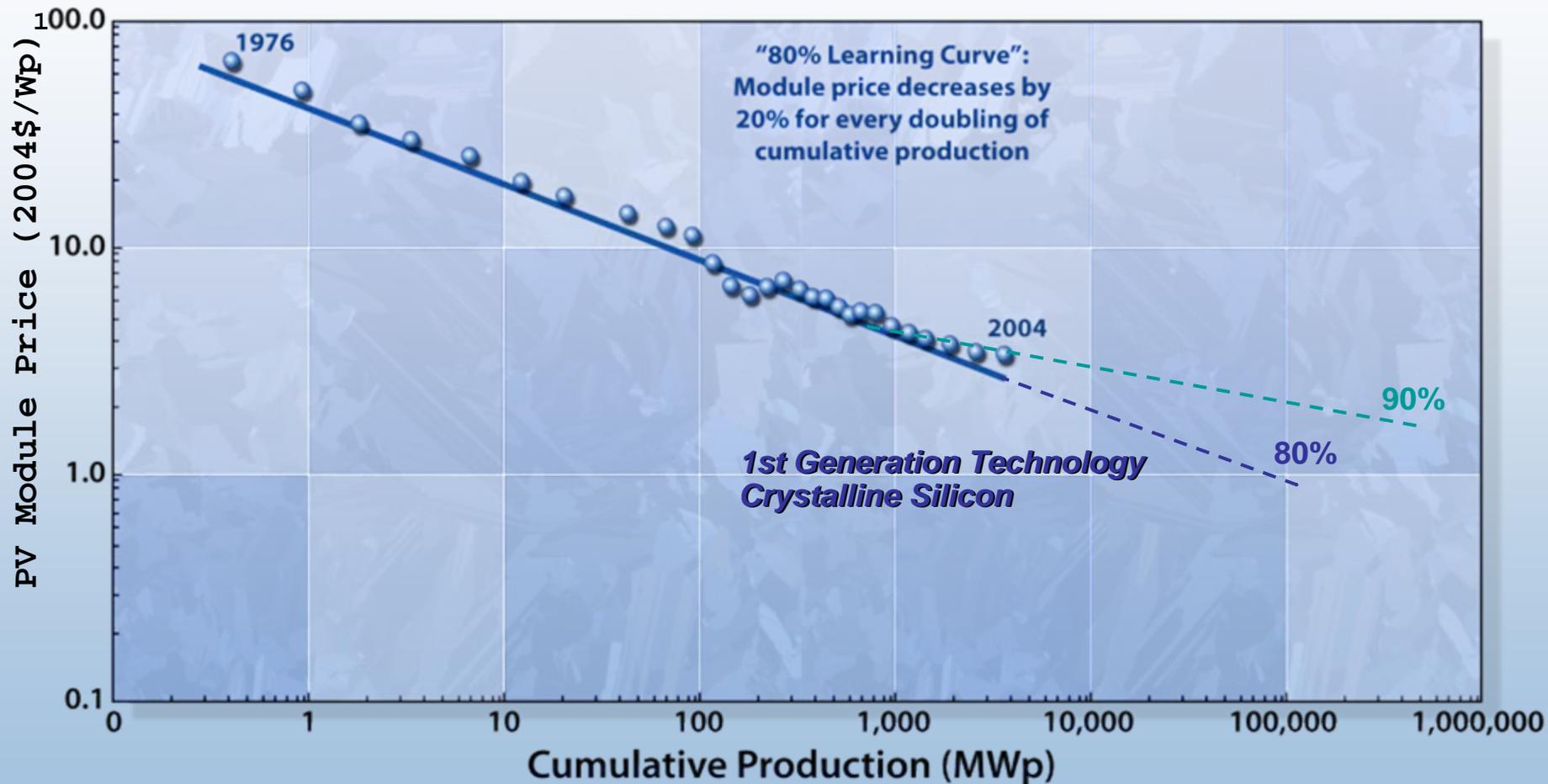


op system,

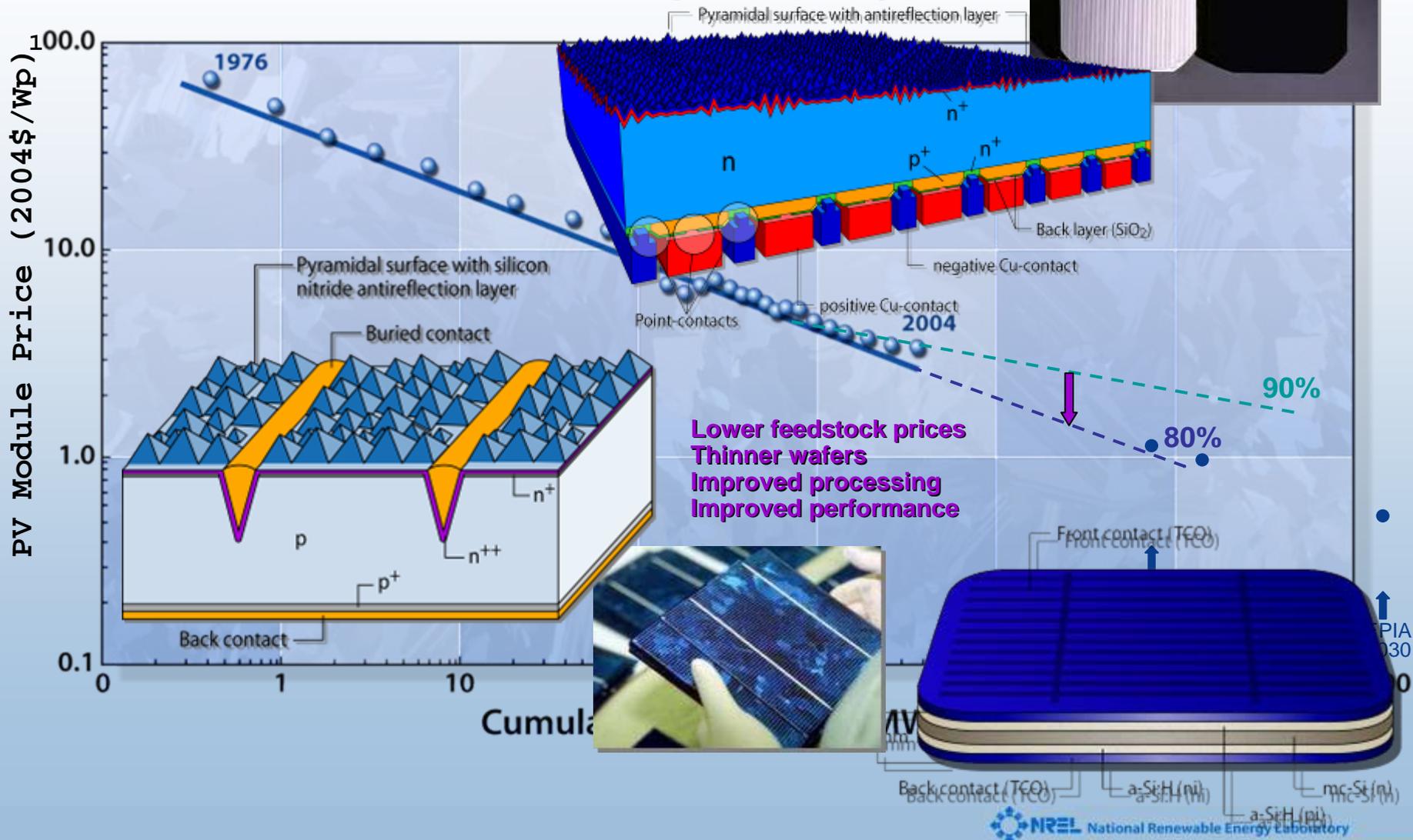
# PV Module Production Experience (or “Learning”) Curve



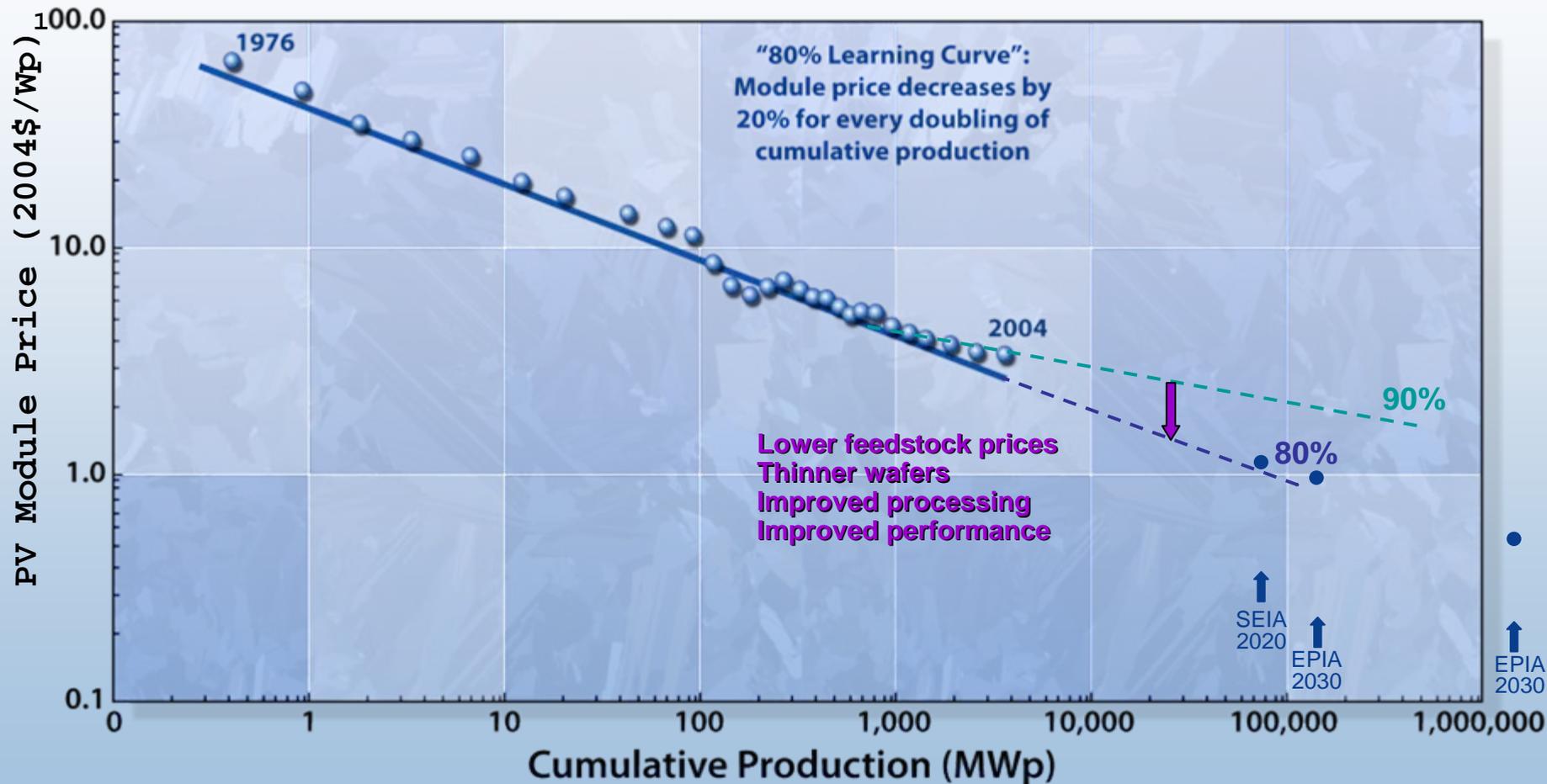
# PV Module Production Experience (or “Learning”) Curve



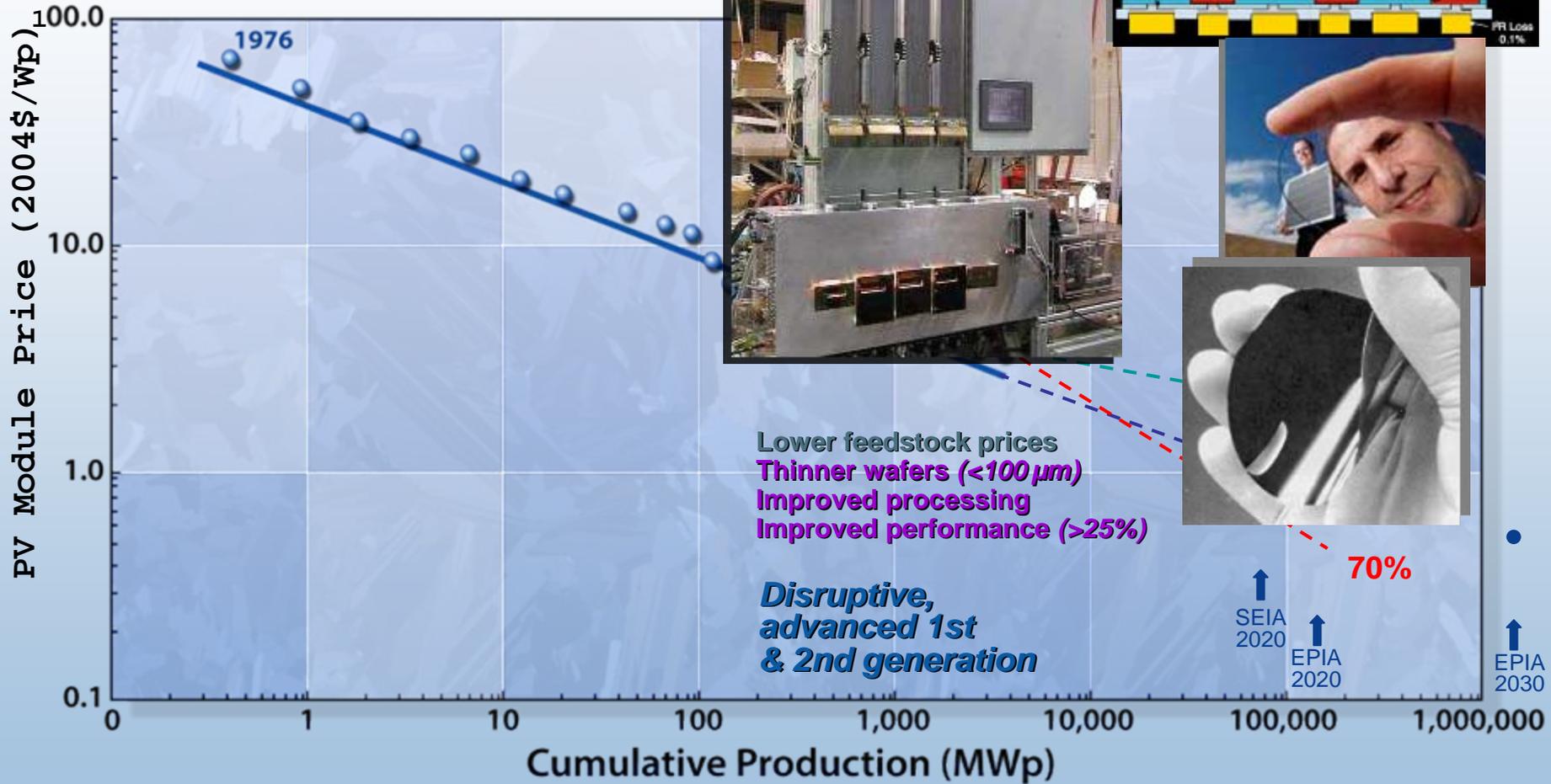
# PV Module Production Experience (or "Lea



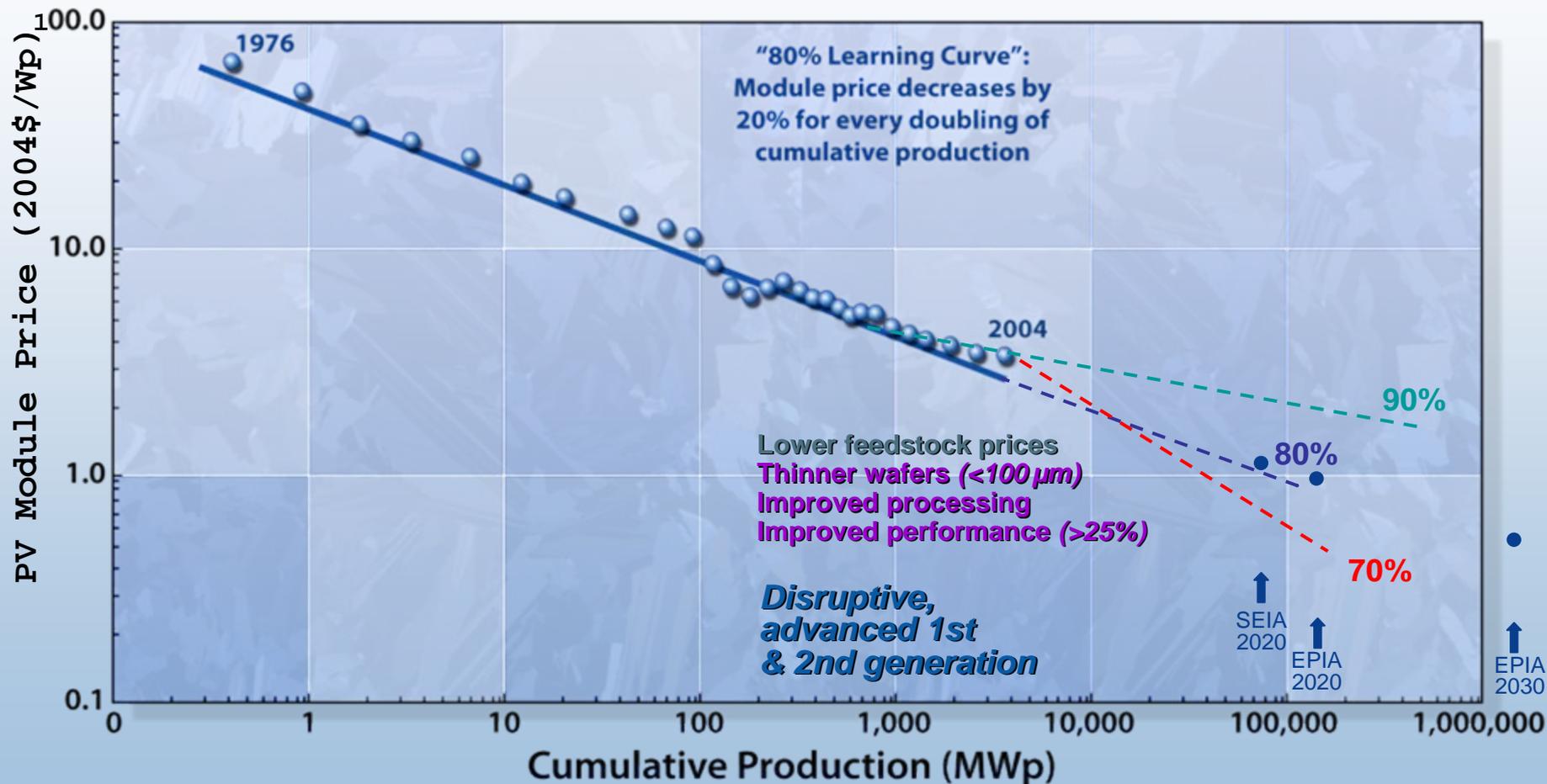
# PV Module Production Experience (or “Learning”) Curve



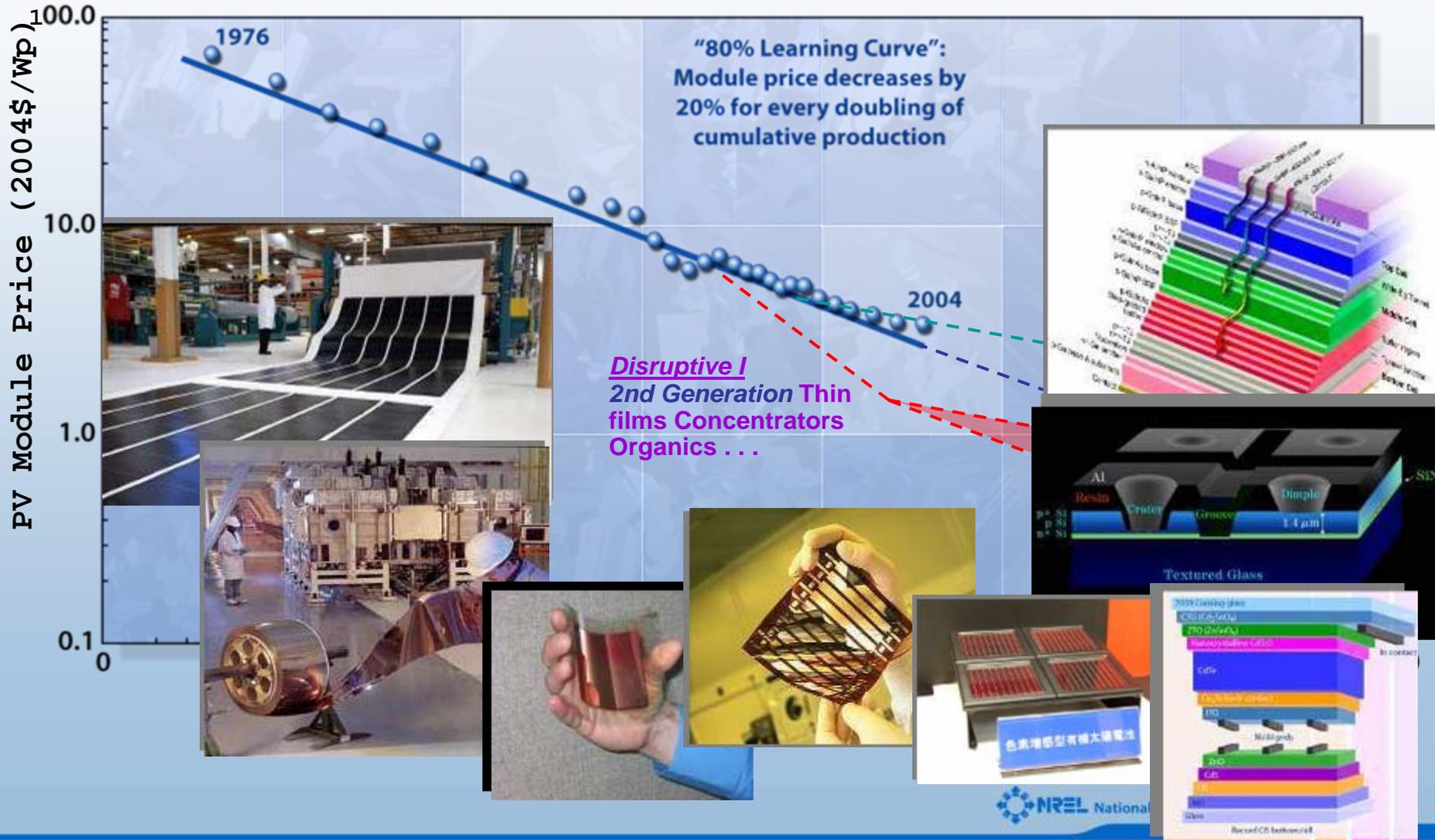
# PV Module Production Experience (or “Le



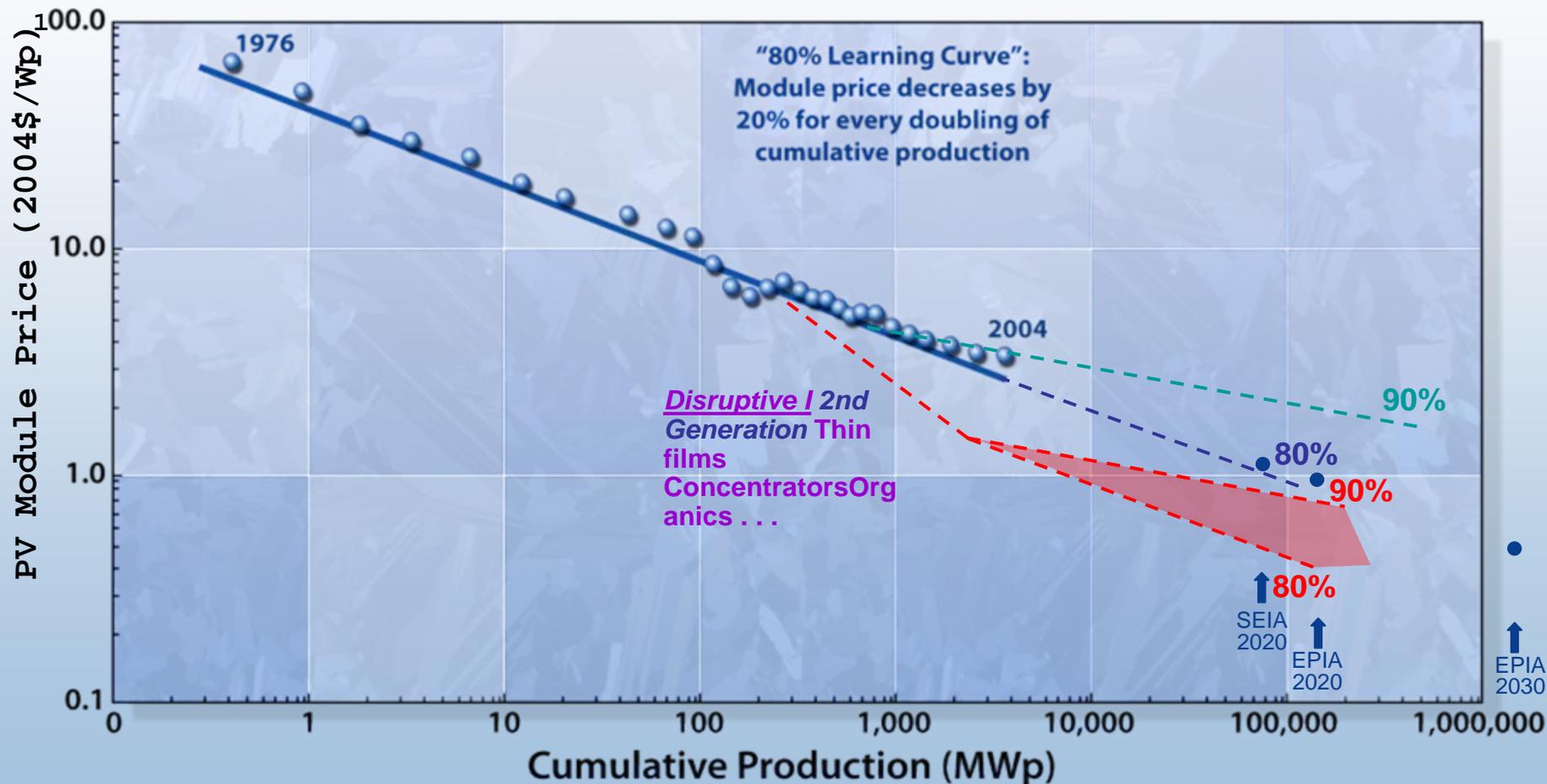
# PV Module Production Experience (or “Learning”) Curve



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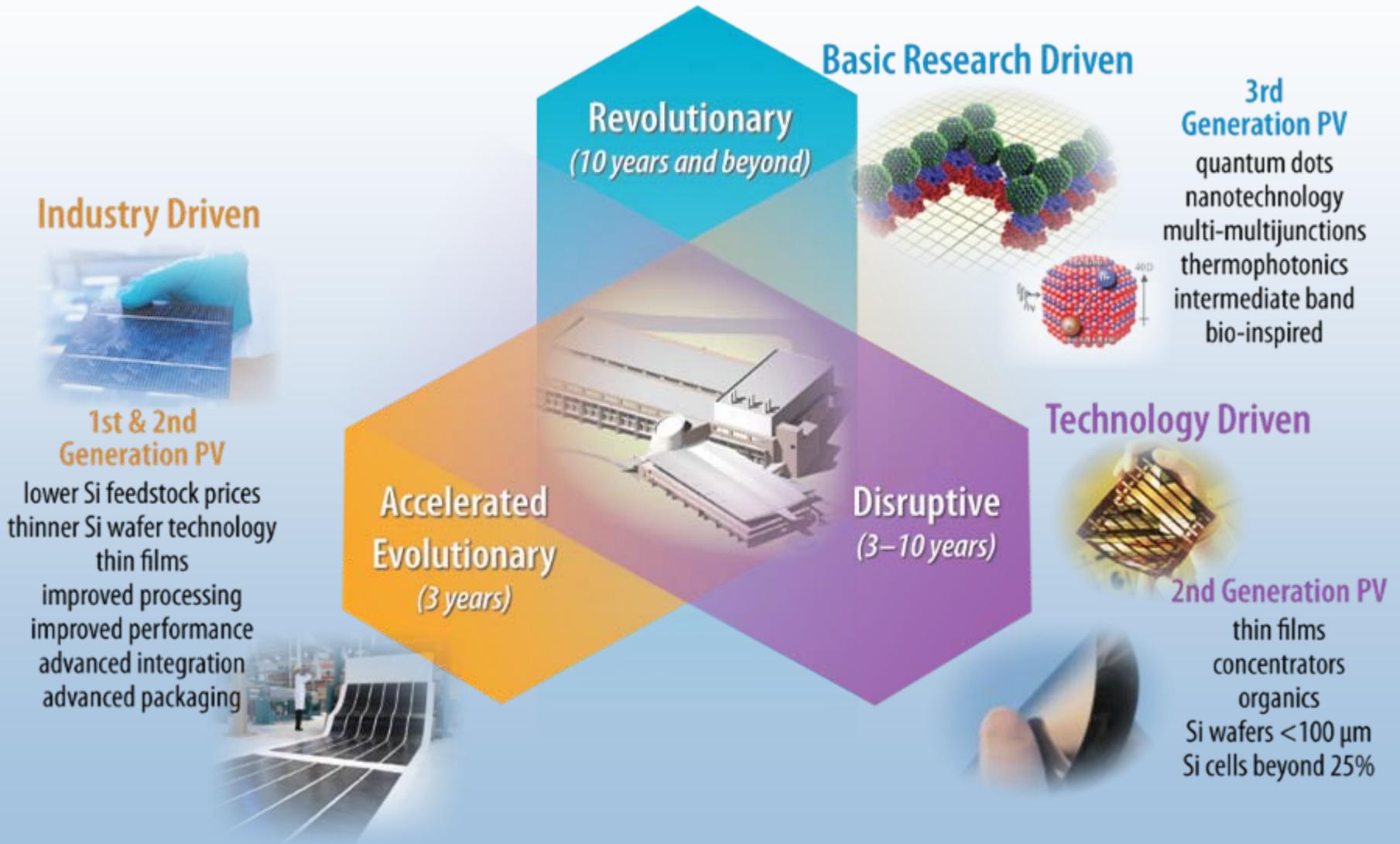


# PV Module Production Experience (or “Learning”) Curve





# Technology Investment Pathways



# The New Biofuels

# The New Biofuels

## President Bush's *"Twenty in Ten: Strengthening America's Energy Security"*

- Reduce U.S. gasoline consumption 20% by 2017
  - Require 35 billion gallons of renewable and alternative fuels by 2017 to displace 15% of projected annual gasoline use
- President's 2008 Budget will
  - Include nearly \$2.7B for the Advanced Energy Initiative, an increase of 26% above the 2007 request
  - Provide \$179M for the President's Biofuels Initiative, an increase of \$29M (19%) compared to the 2007 budget
- President's Farm Bill proposal will include more than \$1.6B of additional new funding over ten years for energy innovation, including bioenergy research and \$2B in loans for cellulosic ethanol plants

# Biofuels

## Current Biofuels status

- Biodiesel – 91 million gallons<sup>1</sup> (2005)
- Corn ethanol (Nov. 2006)
  - 106 commercial plants<sup>2</sup>
  - 5.1 billion gallon/yr. capacity<sup>2</sup>
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2006 rack price highly variable \$3.50 – 5.50/gallon of gasoline equivalent (gge)<sup>3</sup>
- Cellulosic ethanol
  - Projected commercial cost ~\$3.50/gge

## Key DOE Goals

- 2012 goal: cellulosic ethanol ~\$1.62/gge
- 2030 goal: 60 billion gal ethanol (30% of 2004 gasoline)

## NREL Research Thrusts

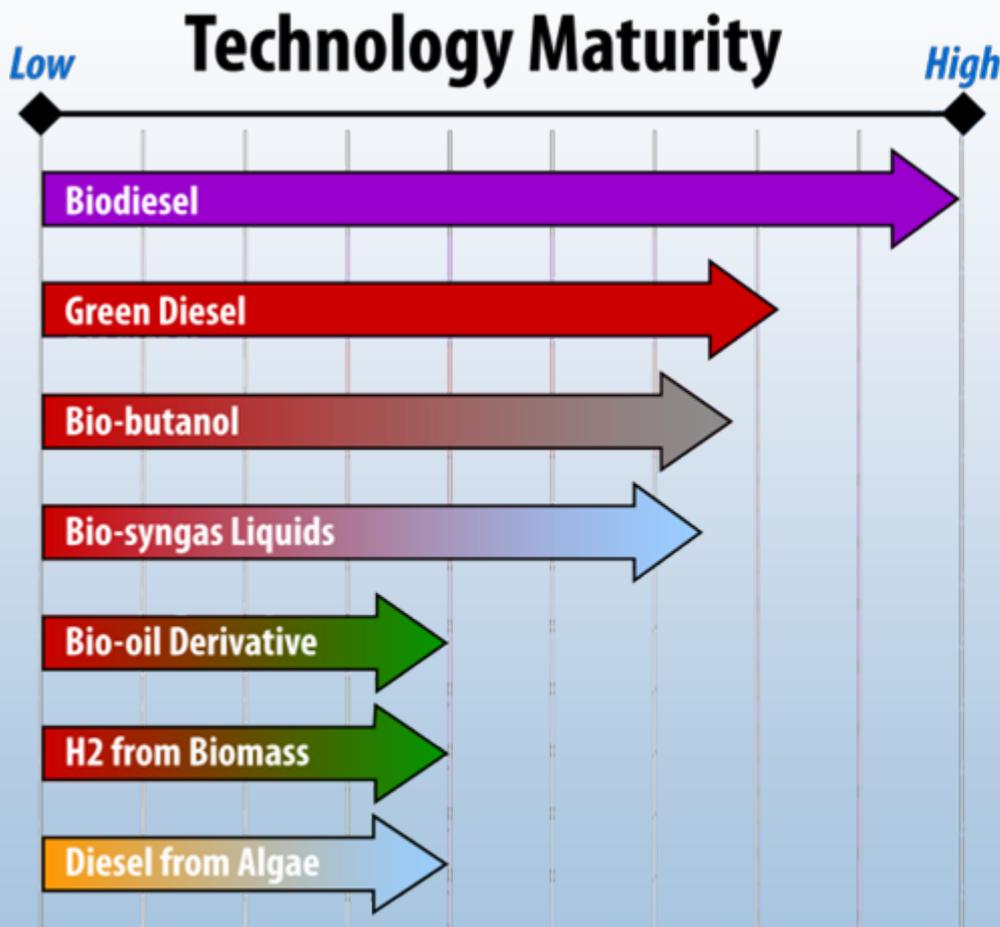
- The biorefinery and cellulosic ethanol
- Solutions to under-utilized waste residues
- Energy crops



Updated November 10, 2006

Sources: 1- National Biodiesel Board, 2 - Renewable Fuels Association, 3 – American Coalition for Ethanol, all other information based on DOE and USDA sources

# Biofuels R&D



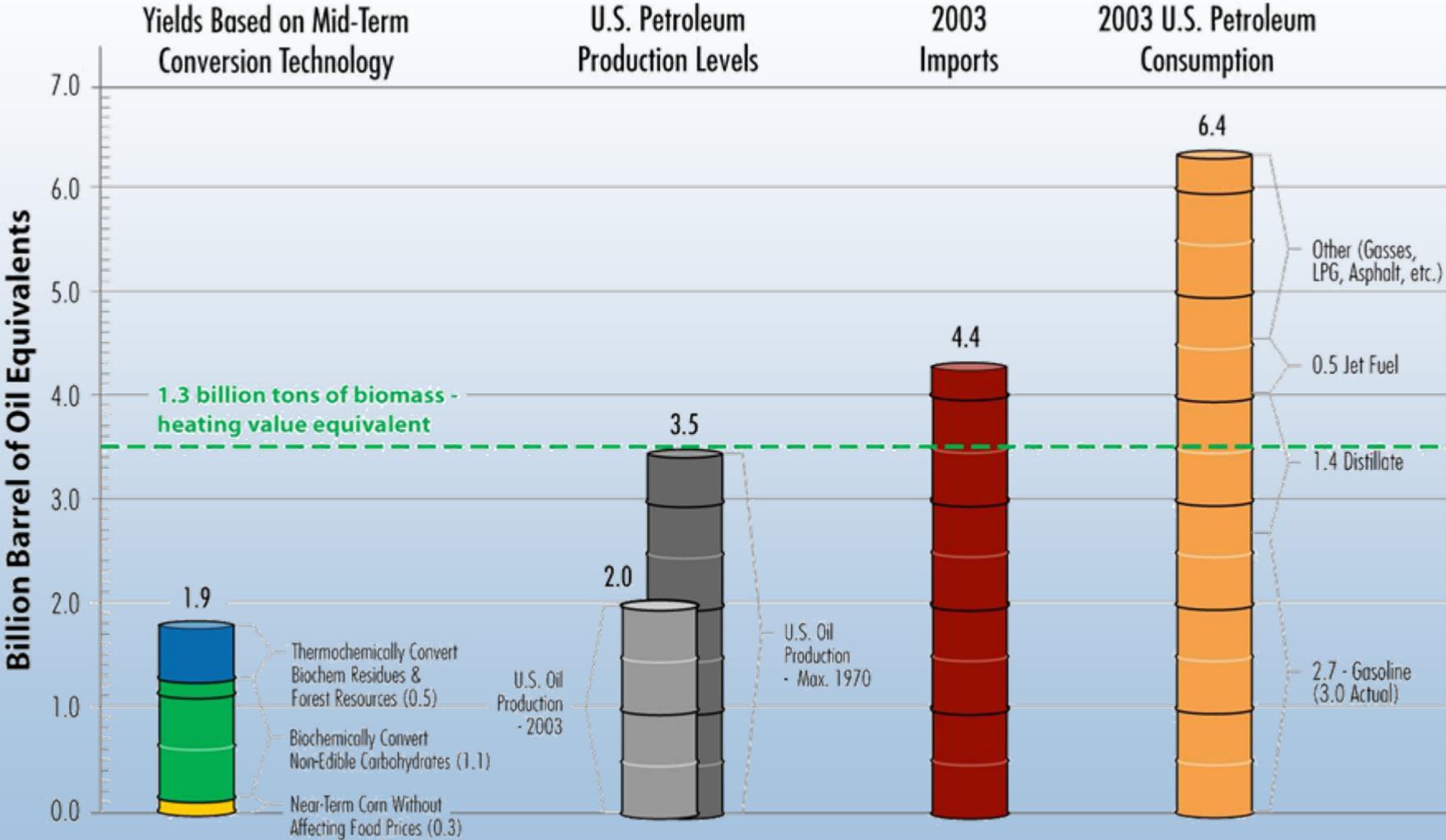
| Key Drivers                                                                    | Value Added                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New market for excess oils, fats, and greases.                                 | Petroleum compatible and biodegradable.                                                                                 |
| Lower cost and higher product quality than FAME.                               | Utilize existing assets. High quality jet fuel or diesel.                                                               |
| New market for grain and agriculture products. Large supply of lignocellulose. | Better gasoline blending properties than ethanol.                                                                       |
| Integration of biomass with Coal, Coke, Shale, or Heavy Oils.                  | High quality jet fuel or diesel. Reduced criteria for sequestration, and economy of scale (in combination with fossil). |
| Technical fit with woody biomass and liquid bio-crude.                         | Potential to integrate into existing large scale refinery and pipeline infrastructure.                                  |
| Potential transportation fuel from any fuel/power source.                      | Ideal feed for fuel cells, and lowest tail pipe emissions.                                                              |
| Lg. source of biomass on non-arable land, and capture of CO <sub>2</sub> .     | High quality jet fuel or diesel yield per acre, with both off-shore and on-shore potential.                             |

Renewable Fuels & Low GHG Emissions

## Organizations Leading the R&D

- Grain/Agriculture
- Coal
- Chemical
- Petroleum
- Forestry
- Academia & Startups

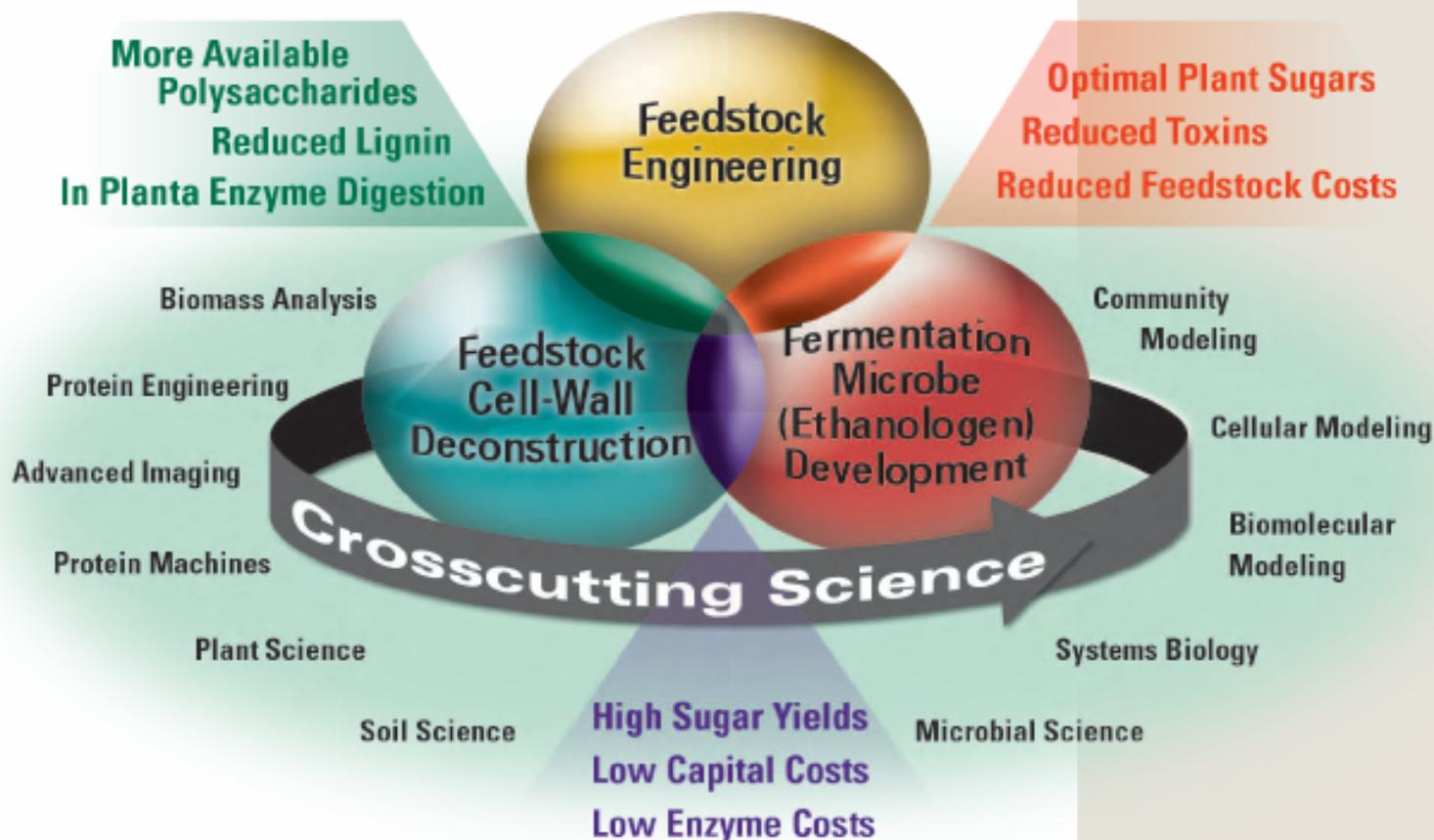
# Significance of the 1.3 Billion Ton Biomass Scenario



Based on ORNL & USDA Resource Assessment Study by Perlach et al. (April 2005)  
[http://www.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdfs/final\\_billionton\\_vision\\_report2.pdf](http://www.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdfs/final_billionton_vision_report2.pdf)

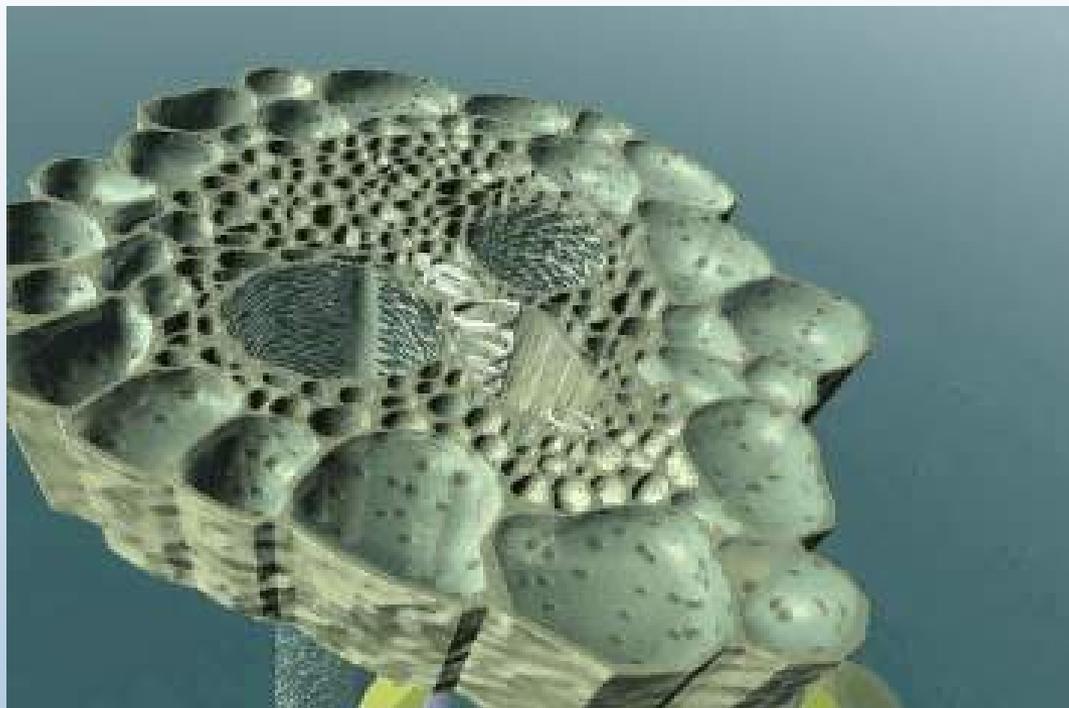
# From DOE GTL Bioenergy Roadmap

## Systems Biology to Overcome Barriers to Cellulosic Ethanol



# Feedstock Engineering

- Increase crop production (agronomics and plant engineering)
- Increase composition of desirable polysaccharides (cellulose)
- Decrease composition of undesirable polymers (lignins)



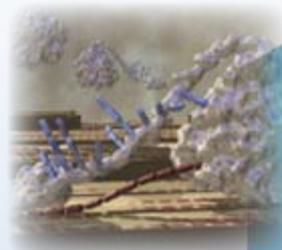
NREL “Corn Stem Tour”

# Technology Investment Pathways Renewable Fuels

## Basic Research Driven

### Deep Understanding

- Systems biology & HTP
- Structural biology
- Computational science
- Biomass ultrastructure
- Advanced imaging tools
- Photosystem biochemistry
- Enzyme engineering
- Photoelectrochemistry



**Revolutionary**  
*(10 years and beyond)*

## Technology Driven



### Translational S&T

- Process consolidation
- Biological hydrogen
- Photoelectrochemical hydrogen
- Biomass pretreatments
- Mapping the plant cell wall
- Plant delignification
- Chemistry of biomass toxins

**Disruptive**  
*(3–10 years)*

30X30 Report  
OSC/EE Workshop on  
Cellulosic Ethanol

IBRF Upgrade

**Accelerated  
Evolutionary**  
*(3 years)*

## Industry Driven

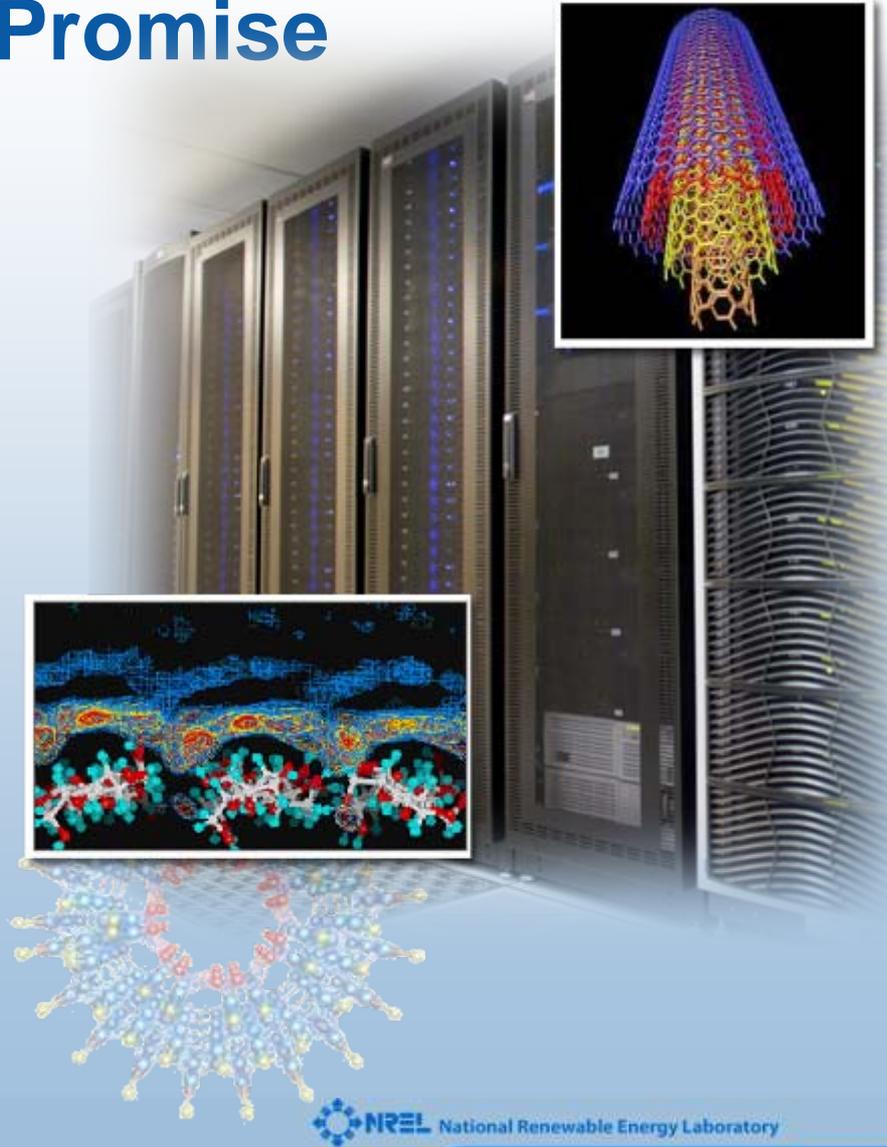


## Transportation Fuels

- Bioethanol pilot plant
- Technoeconomic analysis
- Performance testing for industry
- Biofuel cells
- Rapid biomass analysis
- Process unit testing

# Harnessing Innovation in Renewable Energy Science and Technology: The Future Promise

- Supercomputers
- Genomics
- Nanoscience
- Cellulosic and biofuels applications
- Hydrogen



**Nano/Bio/Info**

# The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory

[www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)



**Golden, Colorado**