

*Exceptional service in the national interest*



## *An Overview of Sandia National Laboratories and research in solar microsystems*

# Organization of the talk

## 1. Sandia National Laboratories Overview

### 1. Overview and Mission areas

1. Defense Systems and Assessments
2. Nuclear Weapons
3. International Homeland and Nuclear Security
4. Energy, Climate, and Infrastructure Security
  1. Overview
  2. Mission and Objectives
  3. Recent Accomplishments
5. Science and Engineering Foundations
  1. Microsystems
  2. Facilities
6. Workforce

## 2. Solar microsystems

1. Motivation
2. CdTe micro/nano solar cells
3. GaAs multijunction cells
4. Concentrators
5. Flexible Silicon

# Sandia's History

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1949

Dear Mr. Wilson:

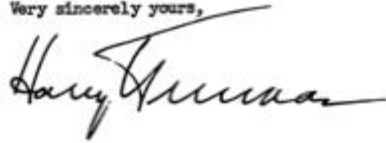
I am informed that the Atomic Energy Commission intends to ask that the Bell Telephone Laboratories accept under contract the direction of the Sandia Laboratory at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This operation, which is a vital segment of the atomic weapons program, is of extreme importance and urgency in the national defense, and should have the best possible technical direction.

I hope that after you have heard more in detail from the Atomic Energy Commission, your organization will find it possible to undertake this task. In my opinion you have here an opportunity to render an exceptional service in the national interest.

I am writing a similar note direct to Dr. O. E. Buckley.

Very sincerely yours,



Mr. Leroy A. Wilson,  
President,  
American Telephone and Telegraph Company,  
195 Broadway,  
New York 7, N. Y.



# Sandia's Sites

*Albuquerque, New Mexico*



*Livermore, California*



*Kauai, Hawaii*



*Waste Isolation Pilot Plant,  
Carlsbad, New Mexico*



*Pantex Plant,  
Amarillo, Texas*

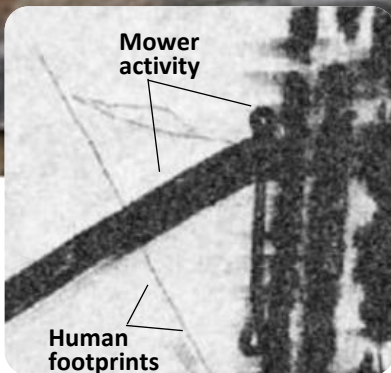


*Tonopah, Nevada*



# Defense Systems and Assessments

## Synthetic aperture radar



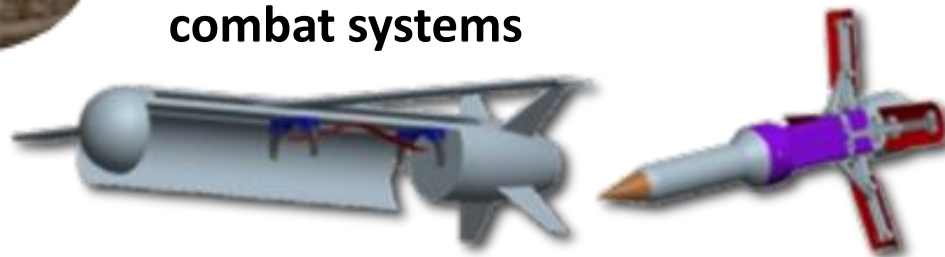
## Support for NASA



## Support for ballistic missile defense



## Ground sensors for future combat systems



# Nuclear Weapons

Pulsed power and radiation effects sciences



Design agency for nonnuclear components

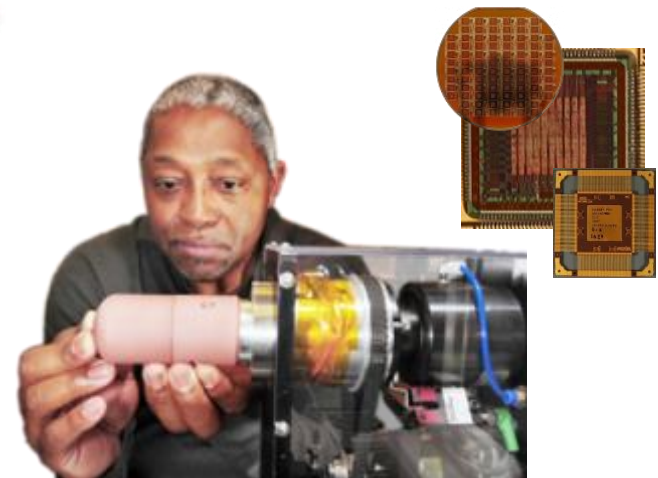
- Neutron generators
- Arming, fuzing and firing systems
- Safety systems
- Gas transfer systems



Warhead systems engineering and integration



Production agency



# International, Homeland, and Nuclear Security

## Critical asset protection



## Homeland defense and force protection



## Homeland security programs



## Global security



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## 2. Solar microsystems

1. Motivation
2. CdTe micro/nano solar cells
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4. Concentrators
5. Flexible Silicon

# Energy, Climate, and Infrastructure Security

Energy



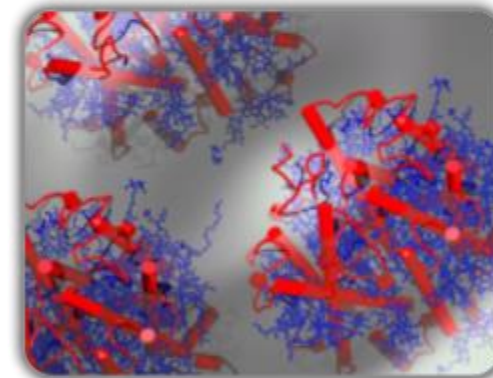
Infrastructure



Crosscuts  
and enablers



Climate



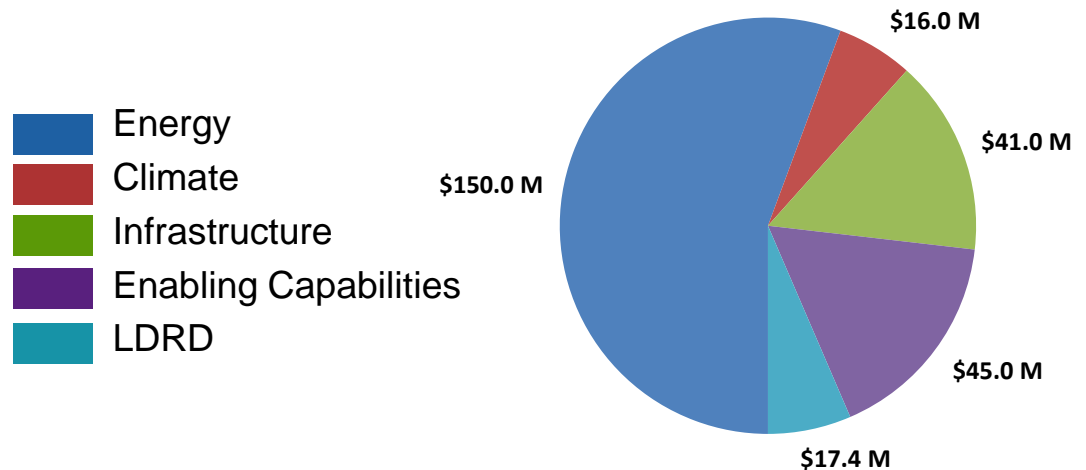
# 2012-2015 ECIS SMU Strategic Plan

## Our Vision:

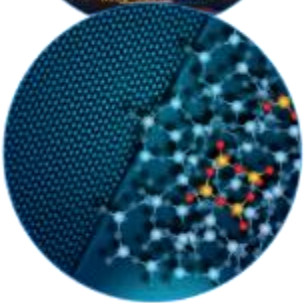
To enhance the nation's security and prosperity through sustainable, transformative approaches to our most challenging energy, climate, and infrastructure security problems.



## FY12 Projected Budget = \$269.4M



# ECIS strategy targets national security missions



- *Reduce our dependence on foreign oil*
- *Increase deployment of low carbon stationary power generation*
- *Understand risks and enable mitigation of climate change impacts*
- *Increase security and resiliency of critical infrastructures*
- *Strengthen the nation's S&T base in energy, climate, and infrastructure*

# Recent Mission Accomplishments



## WINNERS:

- Sandia Cooler
- MEPV



**JCESR: Public-Private Partnership Awarded \$120M to Develop Energy Storage**



**Sandia technology was used to remove radioactive material from more than 43 million gallons of contaminated wastewater at the damaged Fukushima Daiichi plant.**

**Unmanned Aircraft Test Flights Completed at Oliktok Point**



**Groundbreaking ceremony at the Scaled Wind-Farm Technology (SWIFT) Facility at Texas Tech University**



**“Clean Sweep” Red Team report for the Department of Labor**



**Sandia Experts Lead Technical Investigation of Hydrogen Release Incident**



**Popular Science magazine names Greg Nielson “One of the 10 most promising young scientists working today”**

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## 2. Solar microsystems

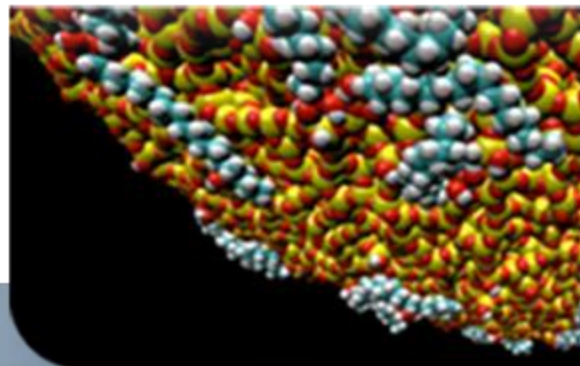
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# Science and Engineering Foundations

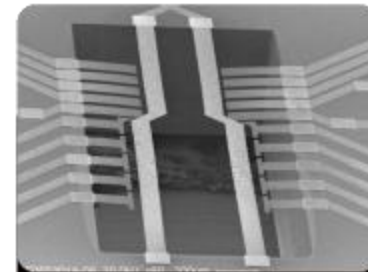
**Computing and information science**



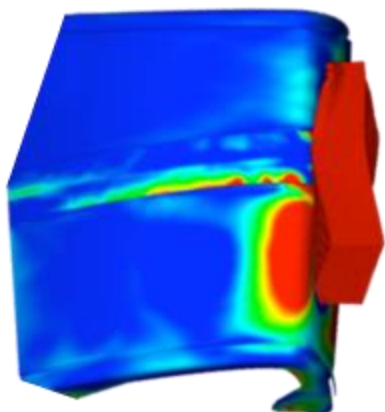
**Materials science**



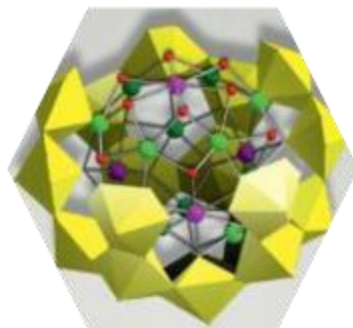
**Nanodevices and microsystems**



**Engineering sciences**



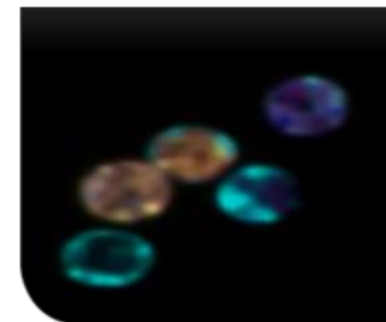
**Geoscience**



**Radiation effects and high-energy density science**



**Bioscience**



# Microsystems Science, Technology, and Components Center

**We are a research, development and production capability that converts concepts into working hardware.**

- **We have key infrastructure**
- **We design, develop, fabricate, and qualify products**
- **We partner with industry, universities, and government laboratories to rapidly convert the most advanced concepts into hardware.**

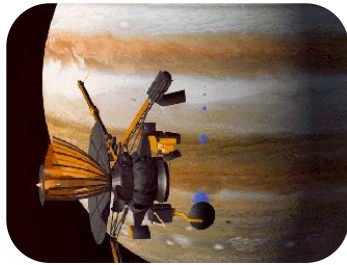


# Sandia has a long history in Microelectronics and Microsystems

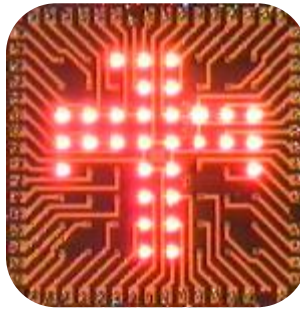
Laminar Flow  
Clean Room



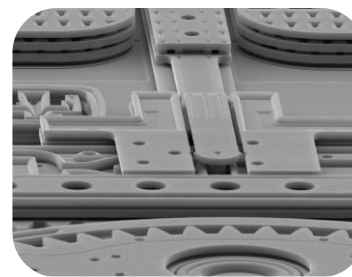
Design/Build  
Galileo ICs



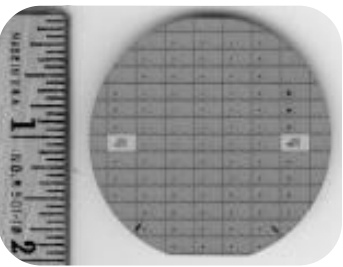
High Efficiency  
VCSEL



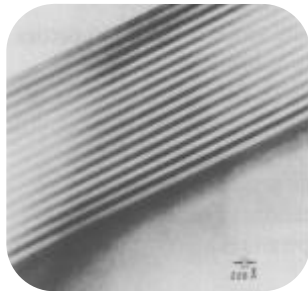
5-Level Surface  
Micromachining



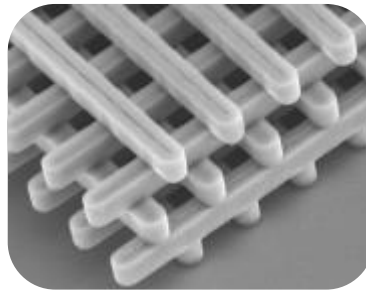
Microsystems-Enabled  
Photovoltaics



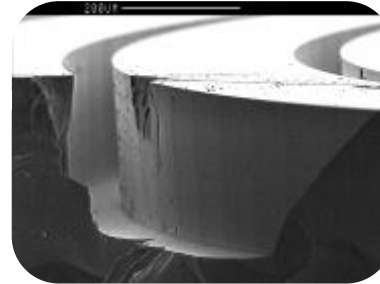
Radiation-Hardened  
CMOS



Strained-layer  
Superlattices



Photonic  
Lattice



MicroChemLab



Quantum  
Computing

1960s

2000s

# Silicon Fabrication Facility

- Total clean room area 34,500 Square Feet
- 22 Separate laminar flow clean room bays
- 11,900 square feet of class 1 clean room space
- In-house microelectronics technology & facility to deliver specialized IC products



# Microfabrication Facility

- 14,900 sq. ft. Class 10 and Class 100 clean room space



# Microsystems Laboratory (MicroLab)

- Workspaces to support approximately 274 personnel
- 40 Chemical, electrical, and laser light laboratories



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  1. Microsystems
  2. Facilities
6. **Workforce**

## 2. Solar microsystems

1. Motivation
2. CdTe micro/nano solar cells
3. GaAs multijunction cells
4. Concentrators
5. Flexible Silicon

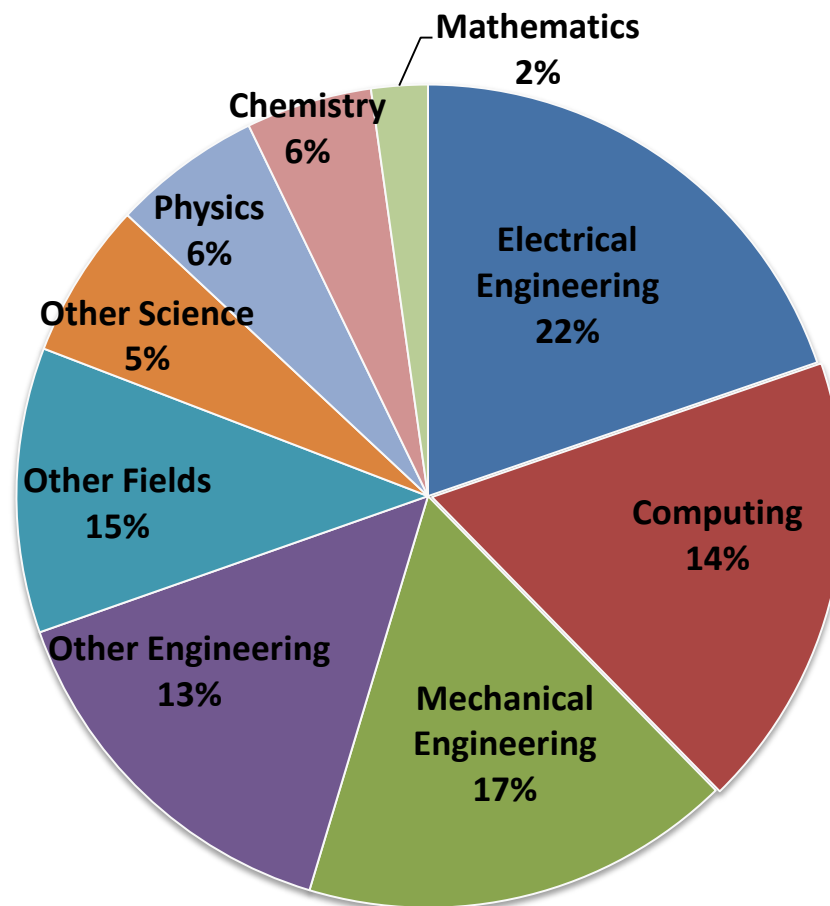
# Our Workforce

- On-site workforce: 11,711
- Regular employees: 9,494
- Gross payroll: ~\$1.046 billion

*Data as of April 12, 2013*



## R&D staff (4,799) by discipline



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"Don't get me wrong: I love nuclear energy! It's just that I prefer fusion to fission. And it just so happens that there's an enormous fusion reactor safely banked a few million miles from us. It delivers more than we could ever use in just about 8 minutes. And it's wireless!"

William McDonough

# The consequences of having inexpensive energy are immense

*“Energy is the single most important challenge facing humanity today”*



Nobel Laureate  
Richard Smalley

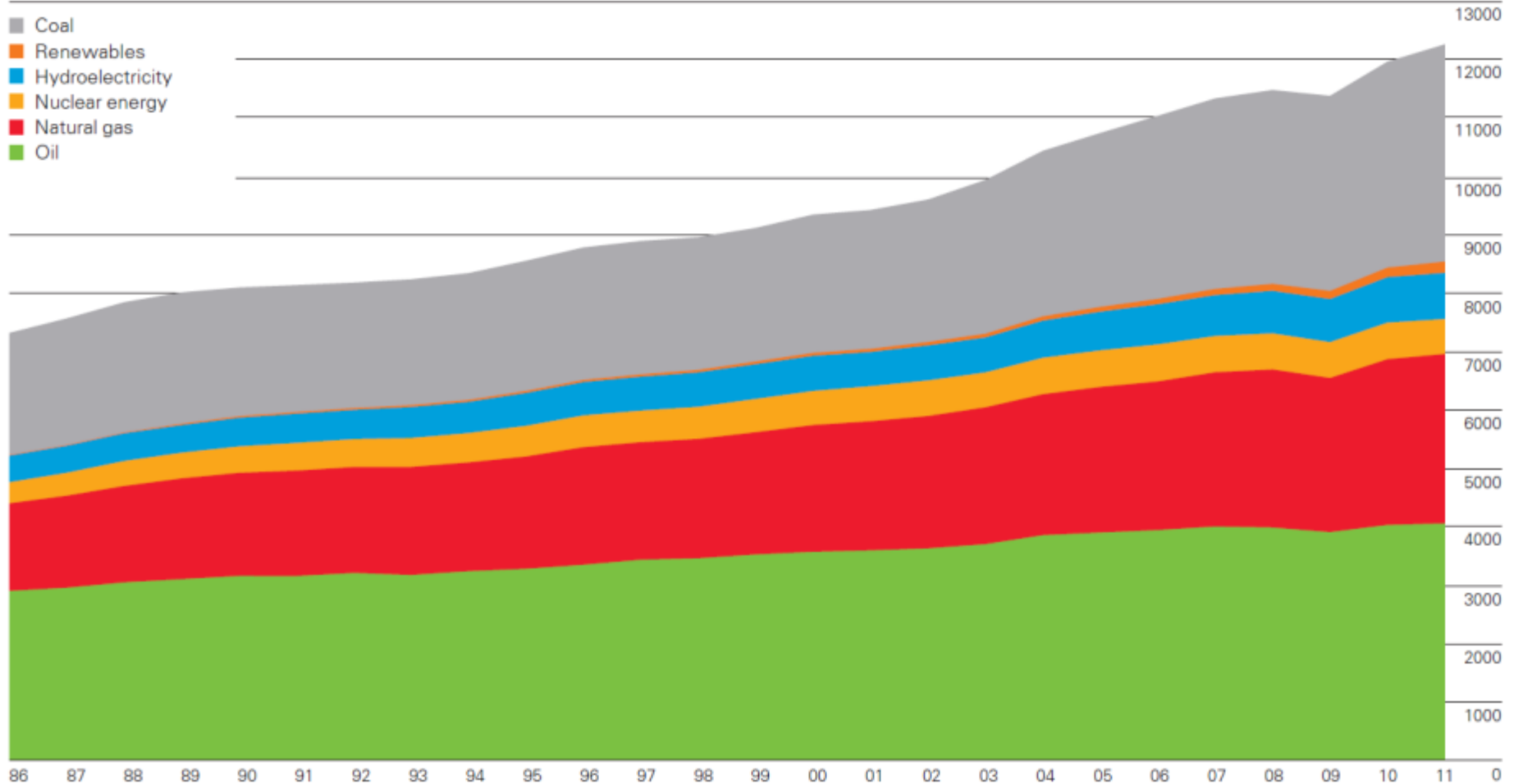


Dr. R. E. Smalley, “Top Ten Problems of Humanity for Next 50 Years”,  
Energy & Nanotechnology Conference, Rice University, May 3, 2003

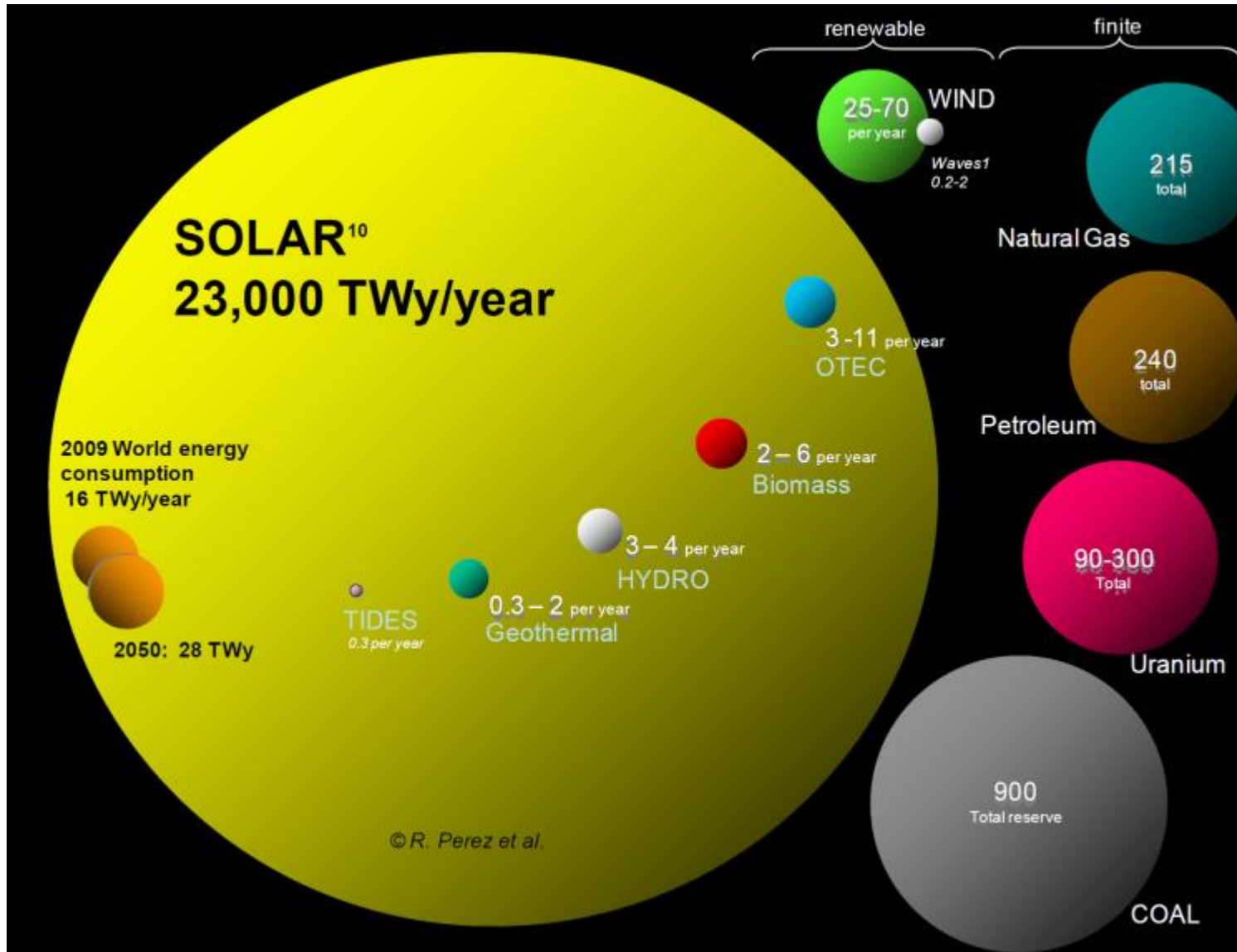
# How are we going to meet this increasing demand while considering the environment and social impacts?

## World consumption

Million tonnes oil equivalent



- From all the sources of energy there is one that is remarkably abundant and renewable



# ■ Photovoltaics

- Method to directly transform the radiation from the sun into electrical energy through the photovoltaic effect.
- It is composed from several solar cells
- Advantages
  - Clean
  - Uses renewable energy from the sun
  - Virtually maintenance free
  - Noise free (no moving parts)

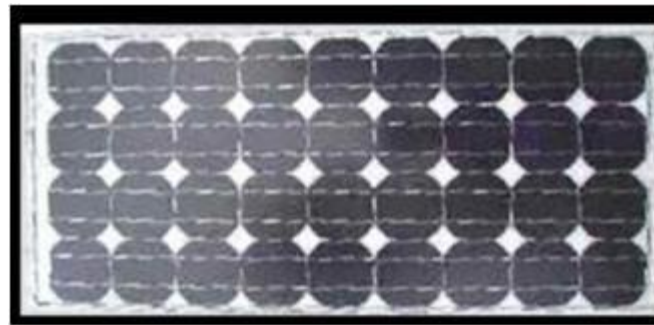


# Current technologies are based on concepts proposed 30-40 years ago

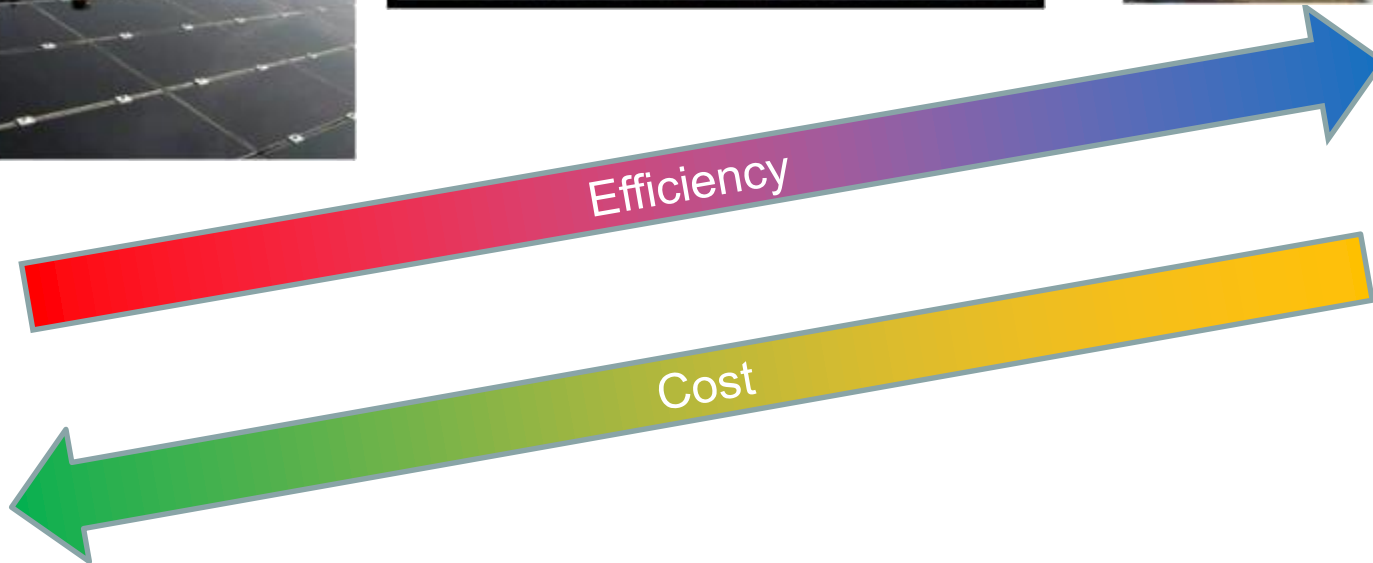
Concentrated PV



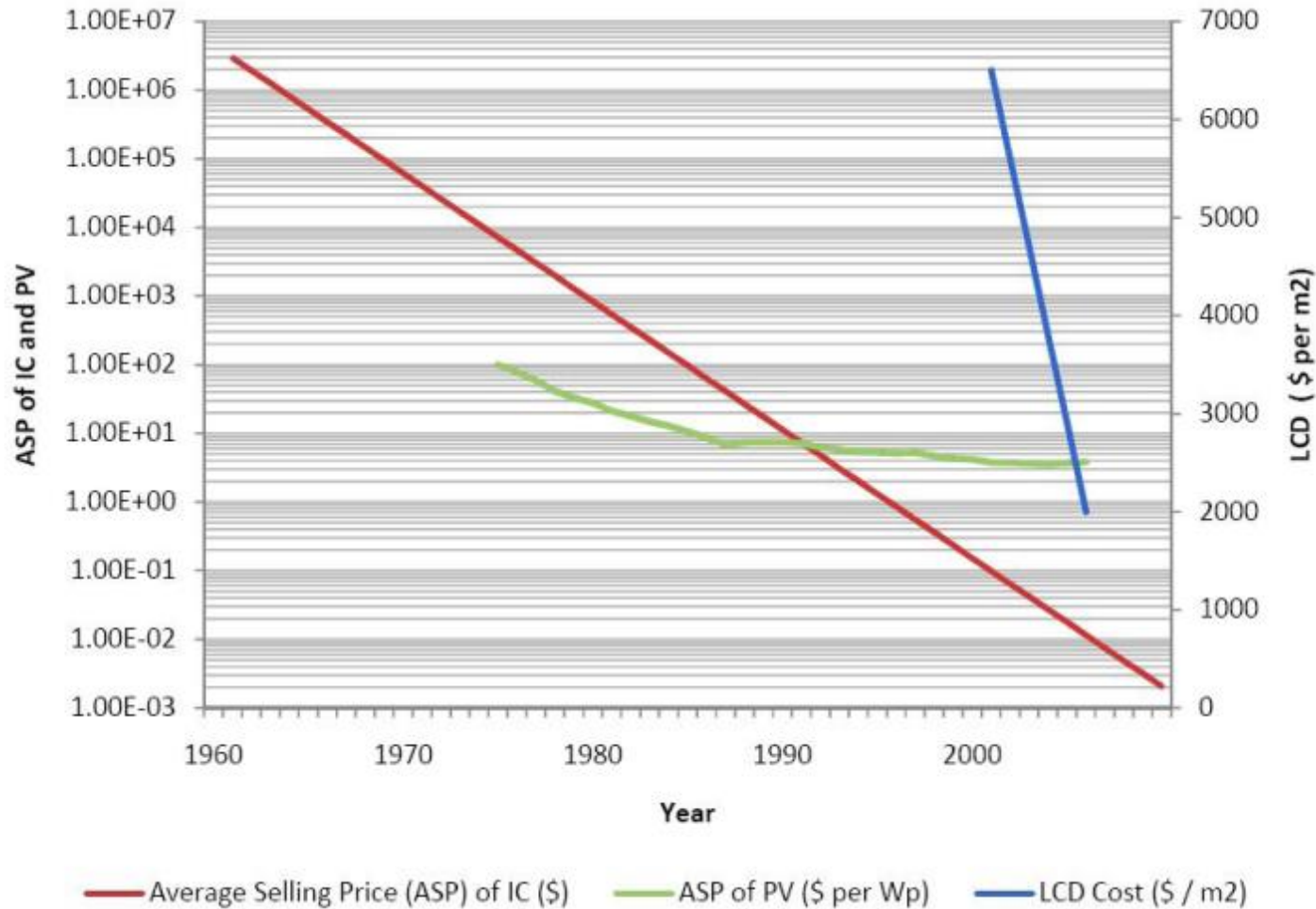
C-Si PV



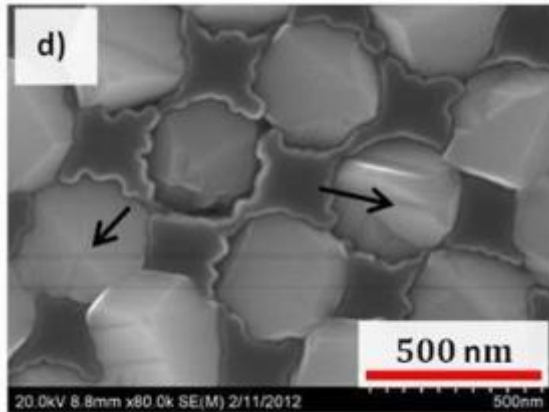
Thin Film PV



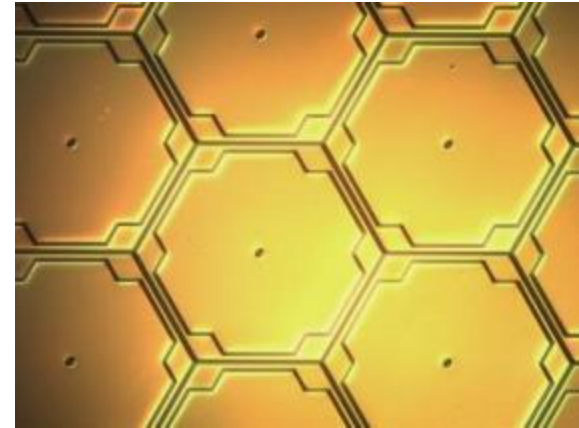
# The use of a different technology to create PV is necessary to lower the costs



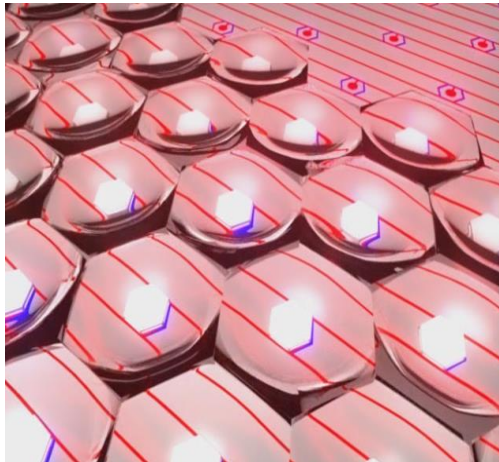
# Research areas



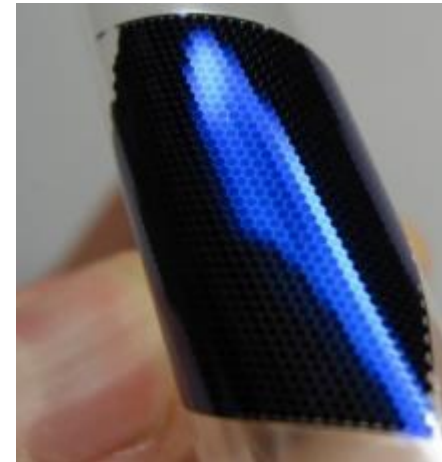
1. CdTe nanogrowth for high efficiency thin films



2. GaAs and III-V materials with multijunction

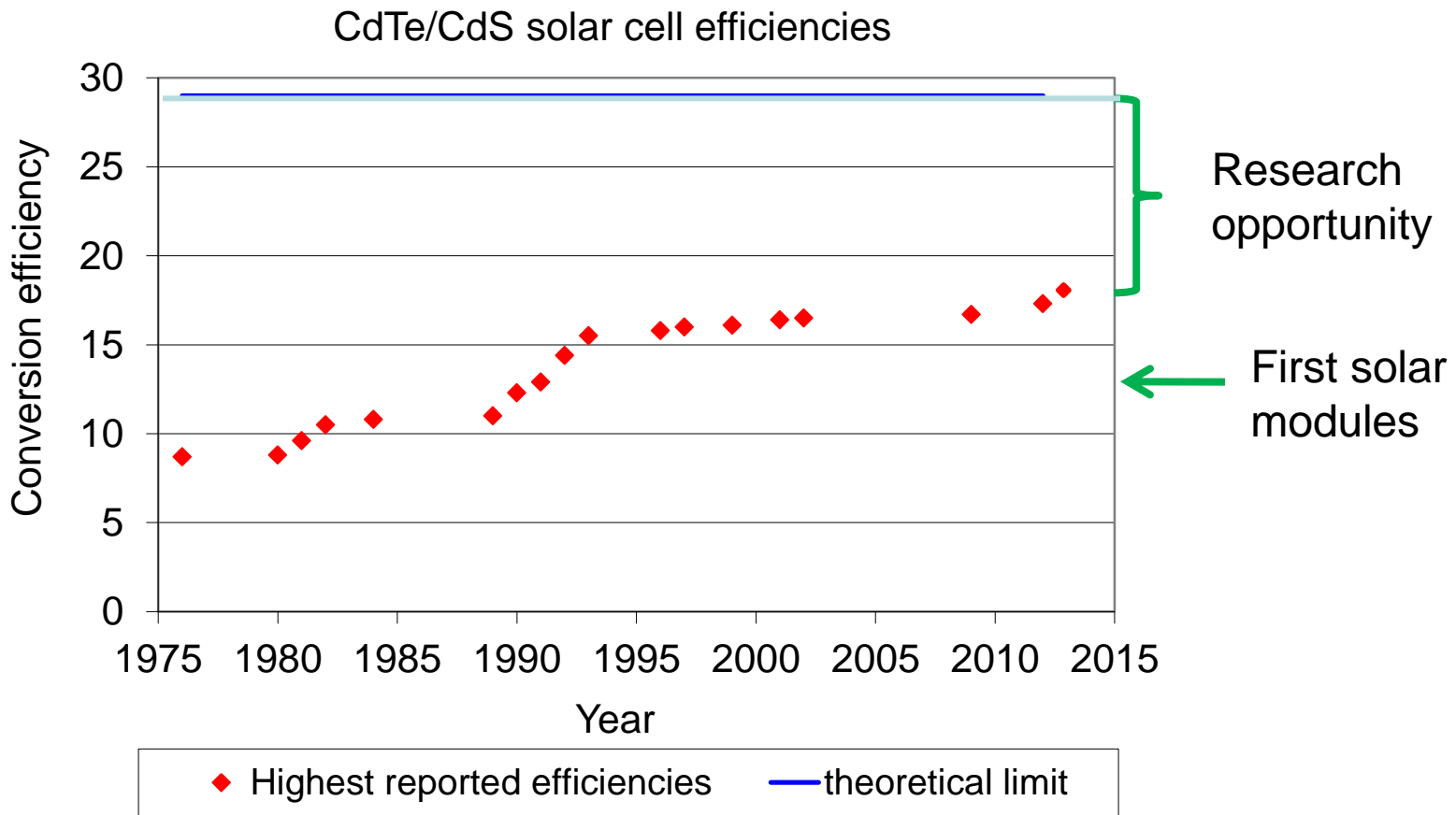


3. Microconcentrators

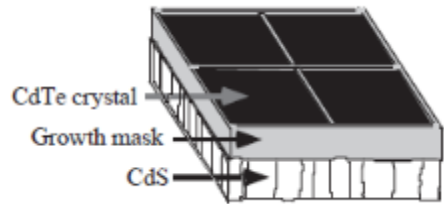


4. Crystalline silicon flexible film

# CdTe cell efficiencies have increased little over 18 years



# We propose nanopatterning and lattice matching to enhance cell performance



Nanopatterning

1. Improved uniformity

Lattice matching

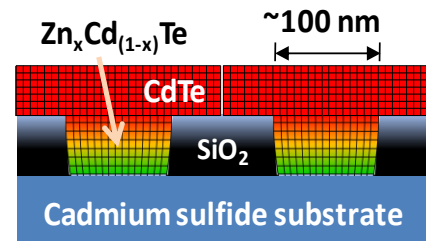
2. Reduced defects

Graded Bandgap

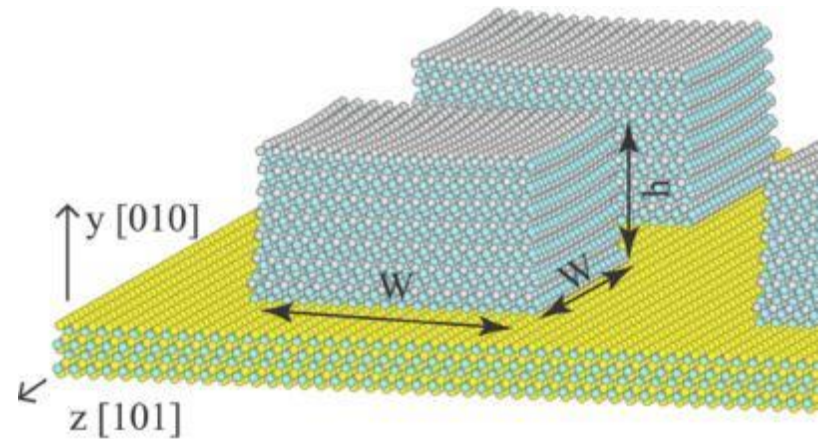
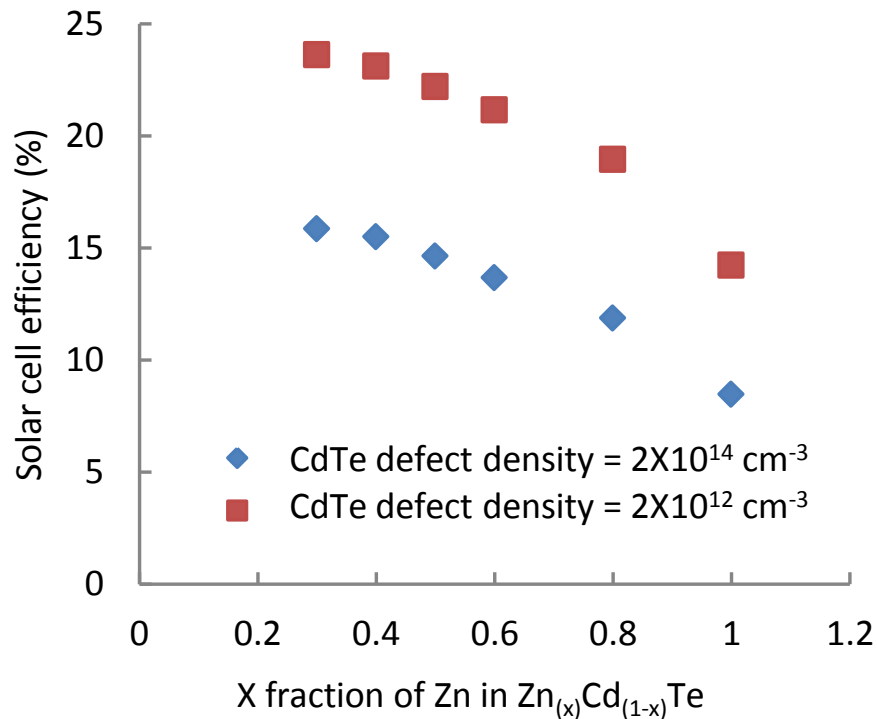
3. Increased current

4. Improved contact

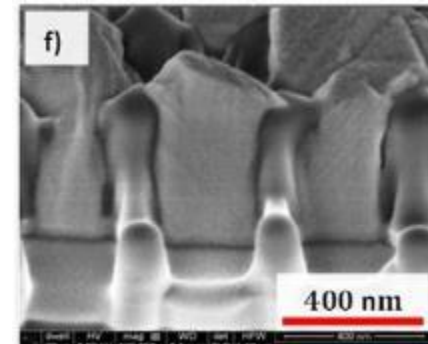
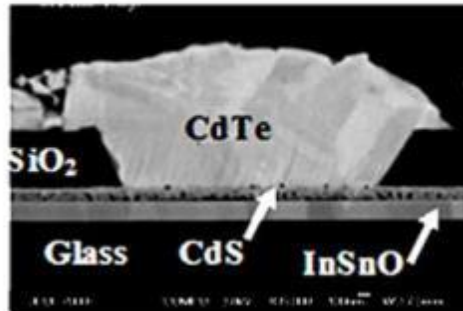
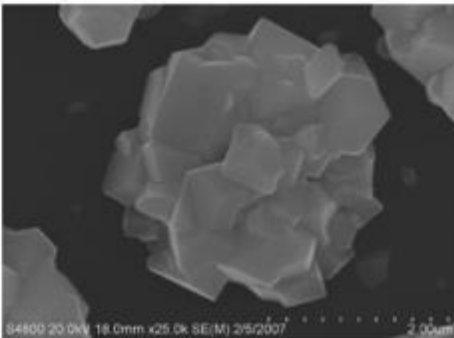
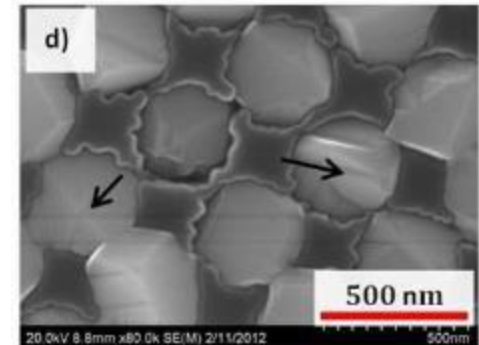
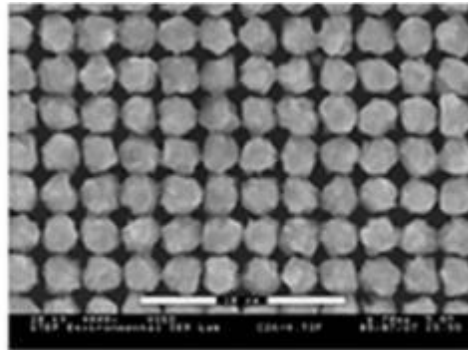
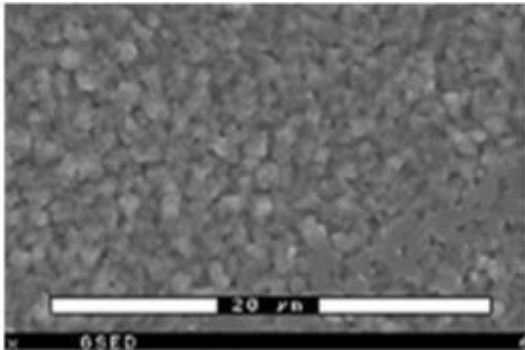
High efficiencies



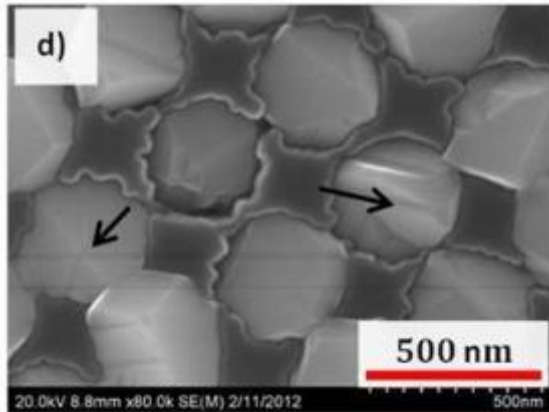
# Simulations show that reducing defect density enhances performance



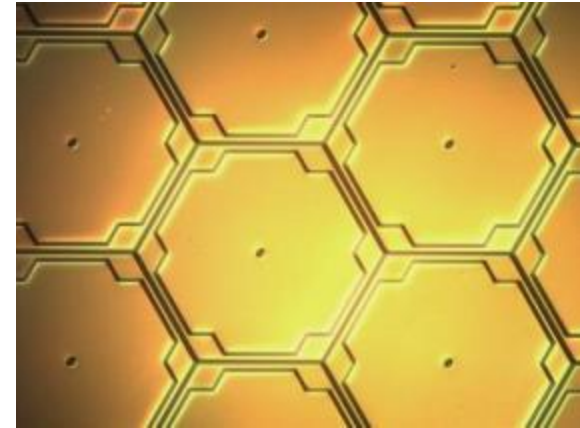
# So far we have been able to demonstrate that micro-scale cells have less defects



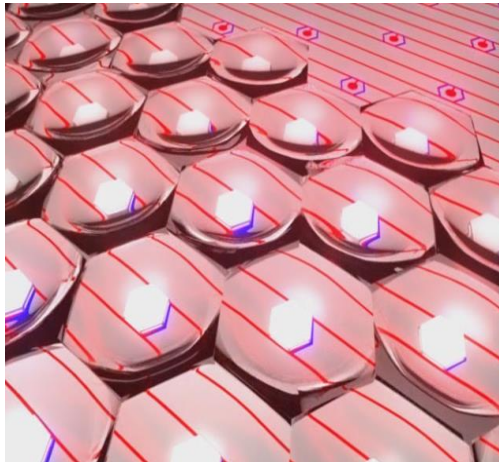
# Research areas



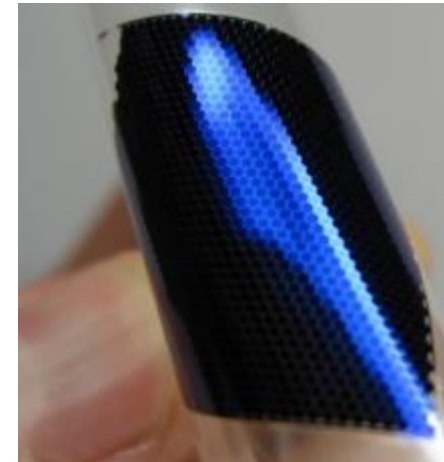
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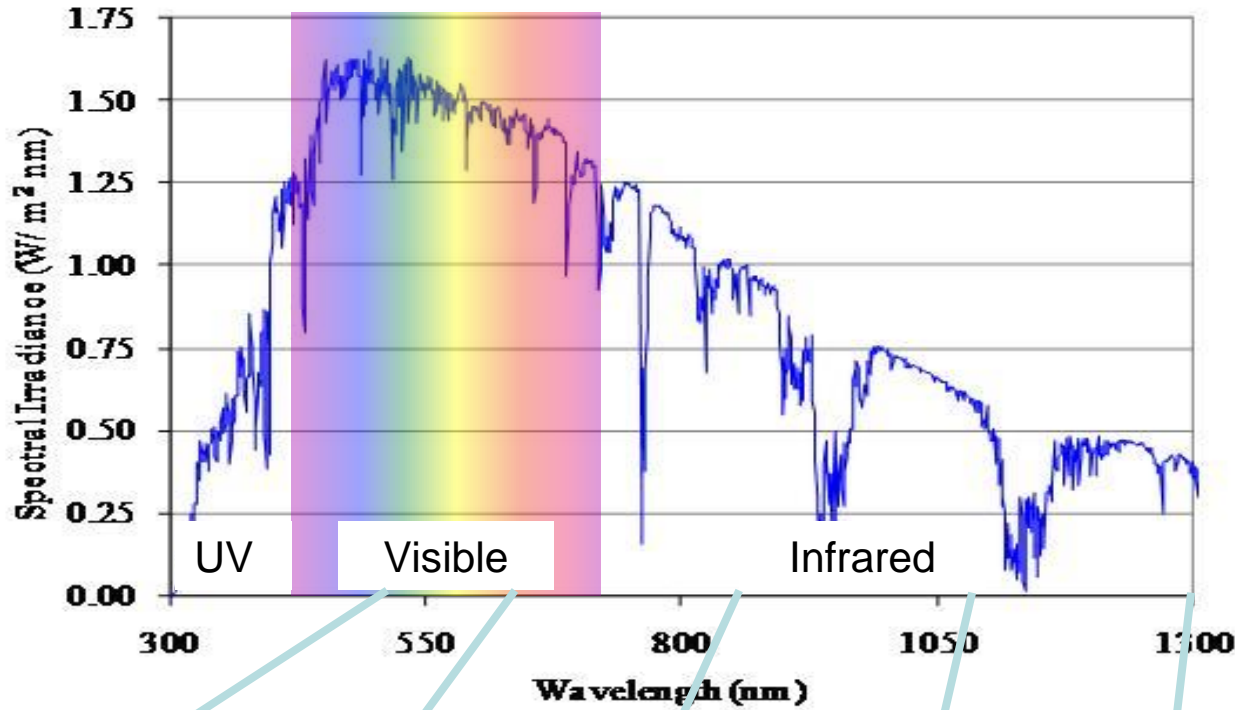
3. Microconcentrators



4. Crystalline silicon flexible film

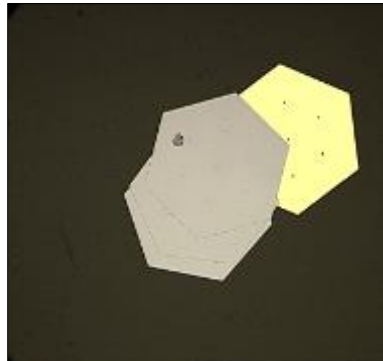
# We are developing a stack of independently connected materials that best absorb each of the parts of the spectrum

**ASTMG173-03 Reference Spectra**

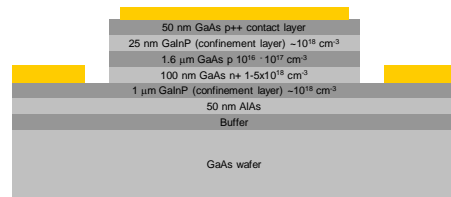


Material	InGaN 2.2 eV	InGaP 1.85eV	GaAs 1.4eV	Si 1.1eV	InGaAsP 0.9eV	InGaAs 0.6eV
Wavelengths best absorbed	Less than 560nm	Less than 670nm	Less than 886nm	Less than 1127nm	Less than 1378nm	Less than <sup>34</sup> 2070nm

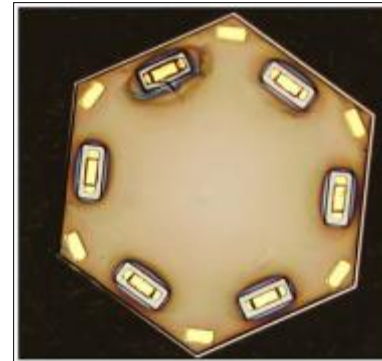
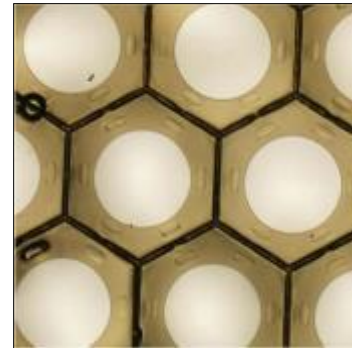
# Our III-V designs have evolved into a more complex, more functional cells



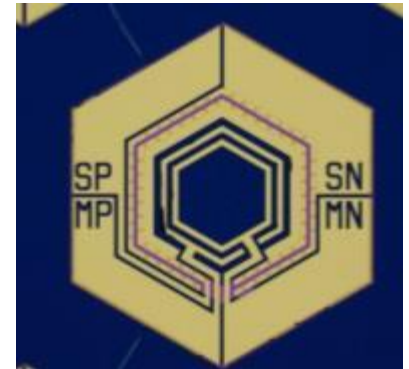
Single junction with front-back contacts



Single junction with all back contacts at different levels



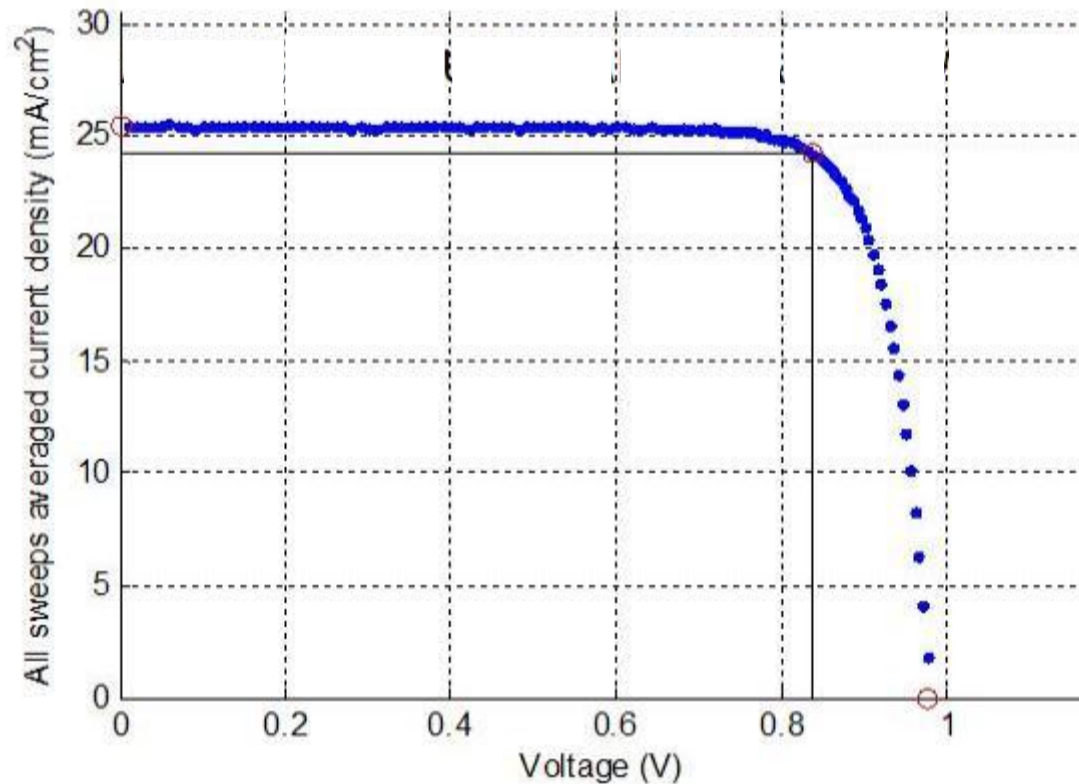
Double junction with all back contacts at the same level



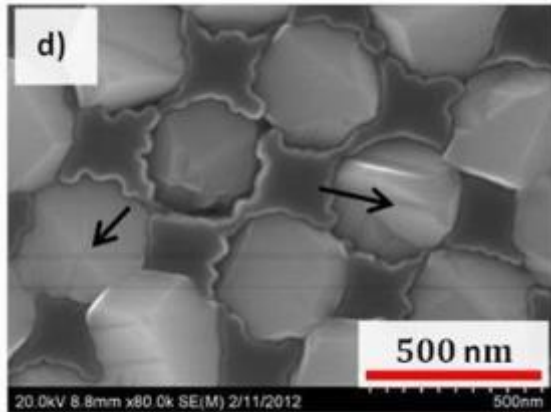
Bonding of cells and all back contacts at silicon receiving substrate

# The performance per gram is outstanding: only 3 microns of material used!

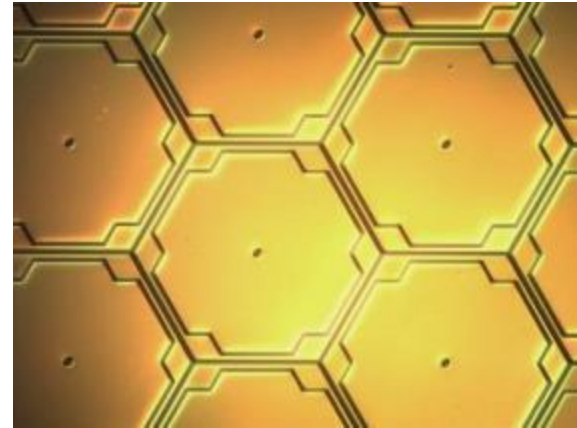
$I_{SC} = 222 \mu A$ ,  $J_{SC} = 25.5 \text{ mA/cm}^2$ ,  $V_{OC} = 0.975 \text{ V}$ ,  $P_{Max} = 177 \mu W$ ,  $FF = 81.9\%$ ,  $\eta = 20.7\%$



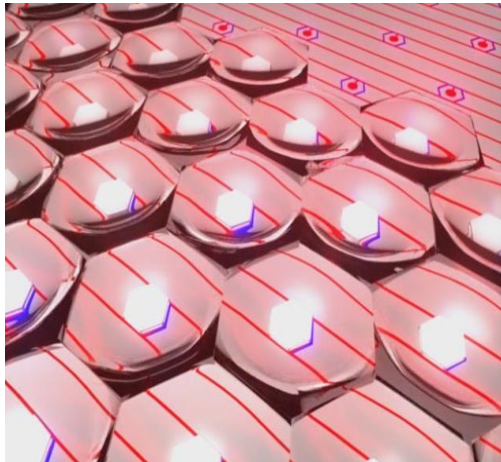
# Research areas



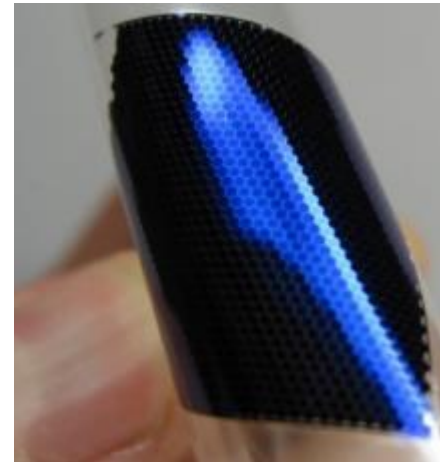
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2. GaAs and III-V materials with multijunction



3. Microconcentrators



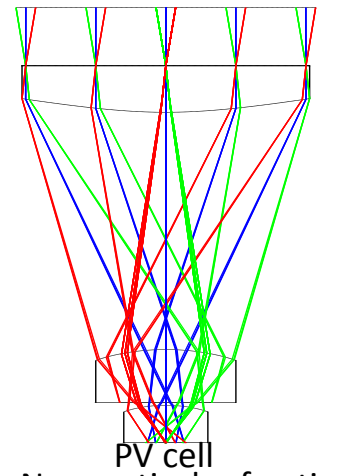
4. Crystalline silicon flexible film

# Our approach has a defined path to make solar the least expensive energy source

Incoming sunlight



Small cells



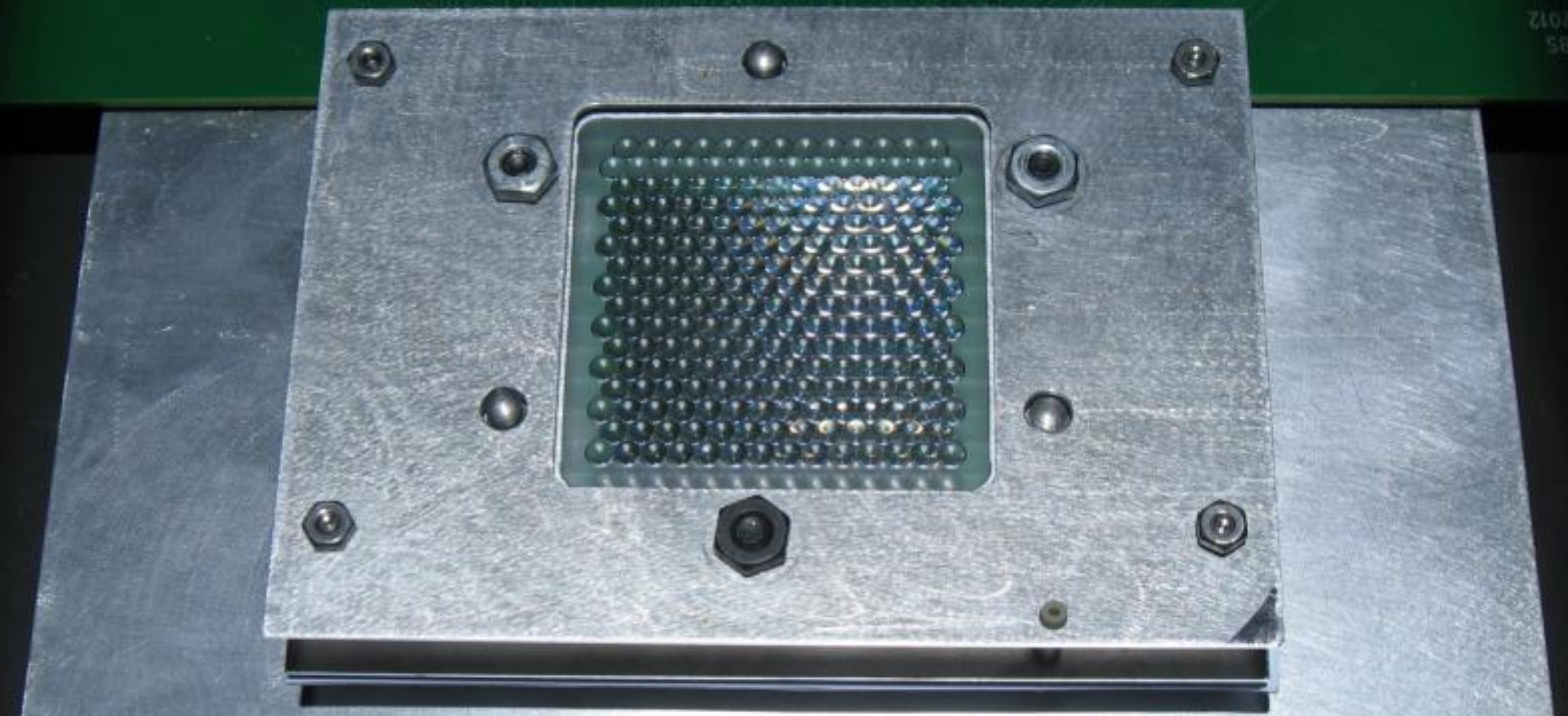
PV cell  
New optical refractive designs for tracking



Low-cost, coarse 2-axis tracking with high acceptance angle and flat external surface



Use of mature microsystems technologies

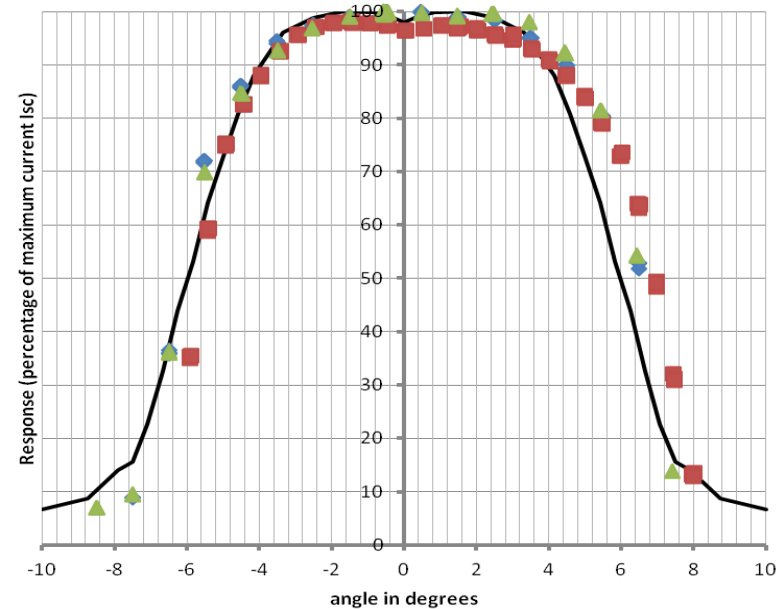
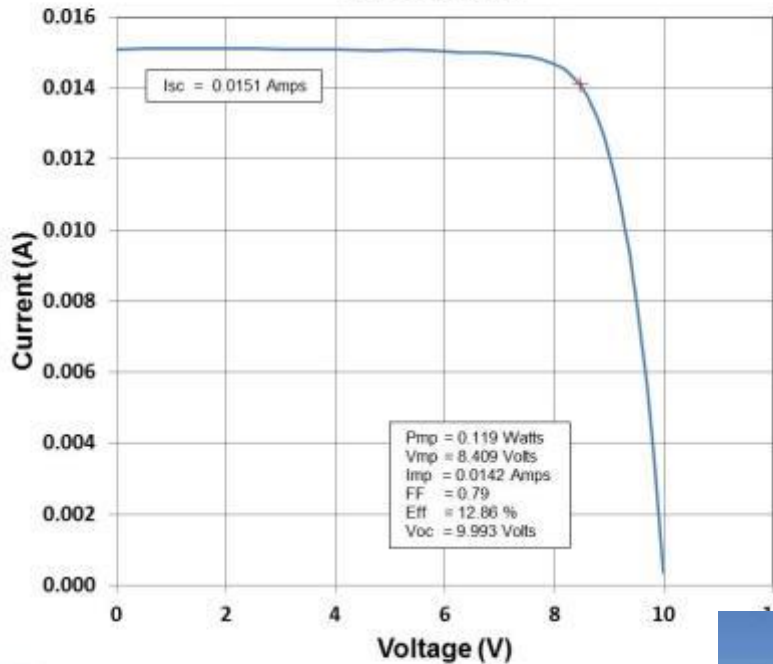


The team was able to simulate, design, fabricate, and test a fully functional prototype

# Outdoor testing of Prototypes had very encouraging results

**Sandia MEPV Prototype #1**

PSEL - Albuquerque, NM



... elevation ■ Elevation ▲ Diagonal — indoor testing

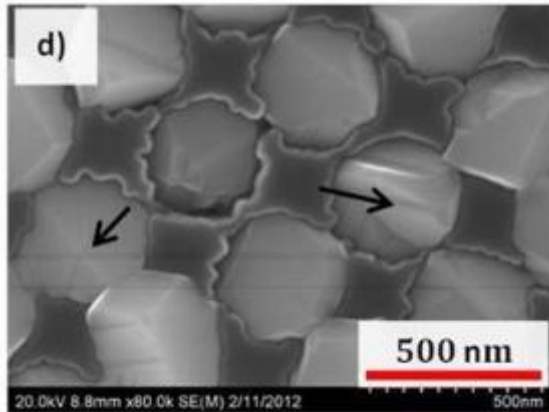
Above 12% efficiency

4 degrees acceptance angle

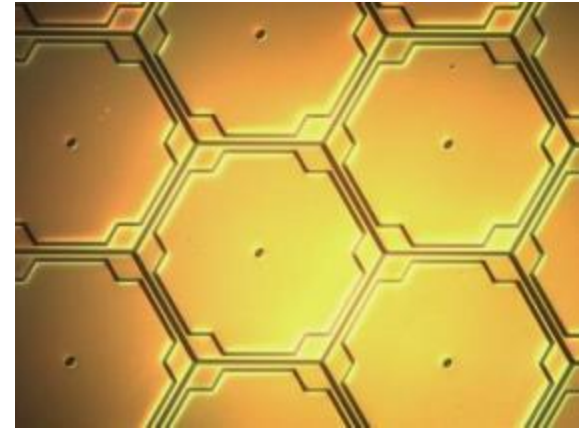


\*This IV curve assumes perfect optics (effective concentration of 15.1X vs 36X)

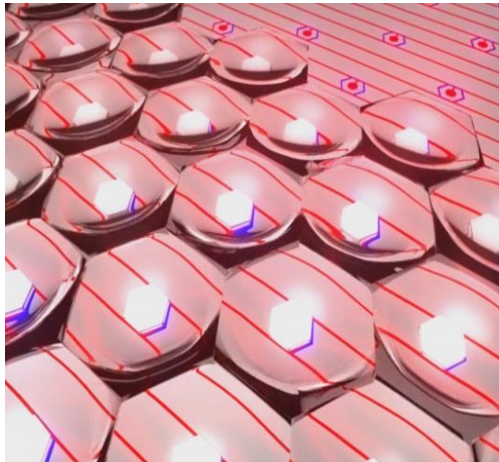
# Research areas



1. CdTe nanogrowth for high efficiency thin films

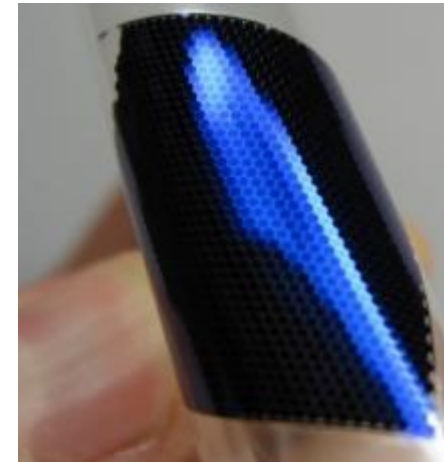


2. GaAs and III-V materials with multijunction



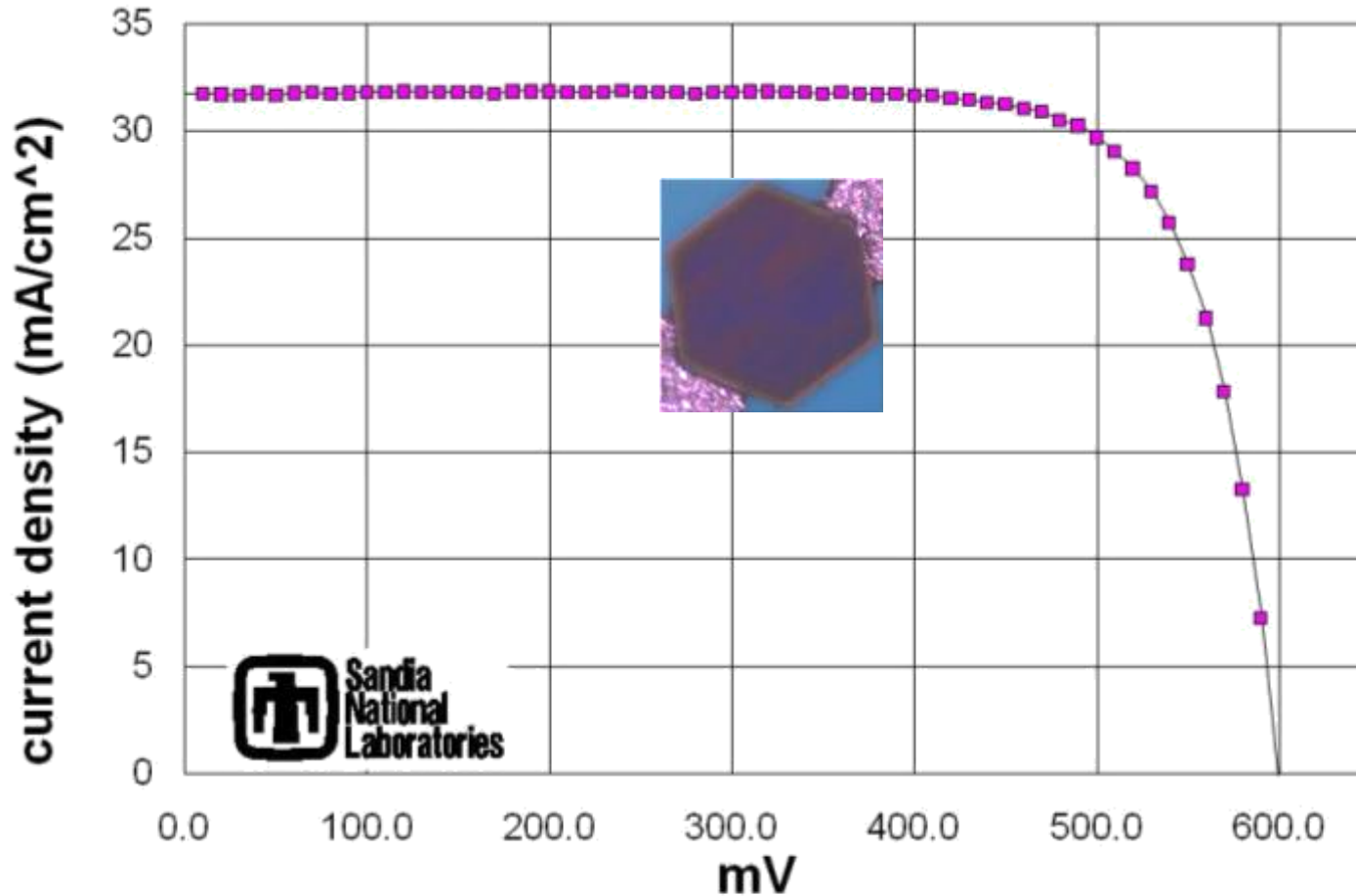
3. Microconcentrators

41



4. Crystalline silicon flexible film

# Sandia has produced the most efficient silicon cell for the amount of silicon used!



08/20/09 2:18 PM  
LN3\_2\_250k

25.0 °C  
1.0000 M\*  
1.0000 S\*

0.0003763 cm<sup>2</sup>  
597.3 V<sub>oc</sub>(mV)  
501. V<sub>mp</sub>(mV)

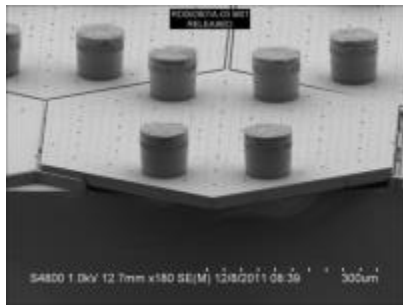
31.75 J<sub>sc</sub>(mA/cm<sup>2</sup>)  
11.946 I<sub>sc</sub>(uA)  
11.161 I<sub>mp</sub>(uA)

0.784 FF  
14.86 % Eff

AM1.5G  
1.00 Suns

# We have used the ultrathin silicon cells to create functional flexible prototypes

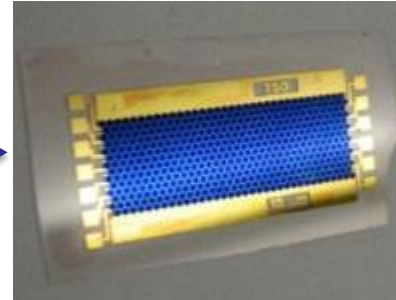
Leverages high-quality single-crystal Si and current IC/MEMS industry tools and infrastructure to achieve high performance and rapid scalability



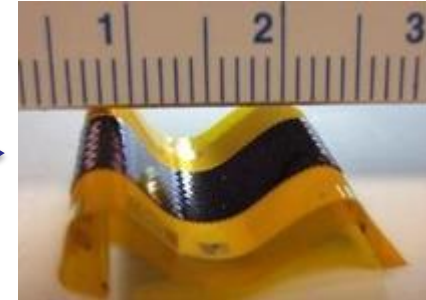
Uses standard wafers, fab tools, and solder interconnects to take advantage of fundamental scaling benefits in PV cells.



Assembly process compatible with existing electronics assembly tools and many substrate types

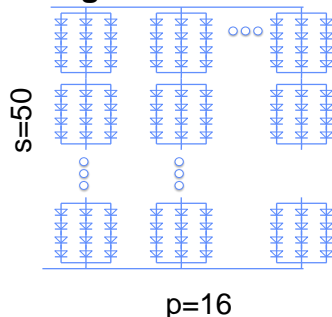


Large array of cells on wafer assembled and interconnected in one alignment/solder reflow step



Result is record setting performance in bend radius, W/kg produced, and overall module efficiency for highly flexible PV.

## Logical Connections

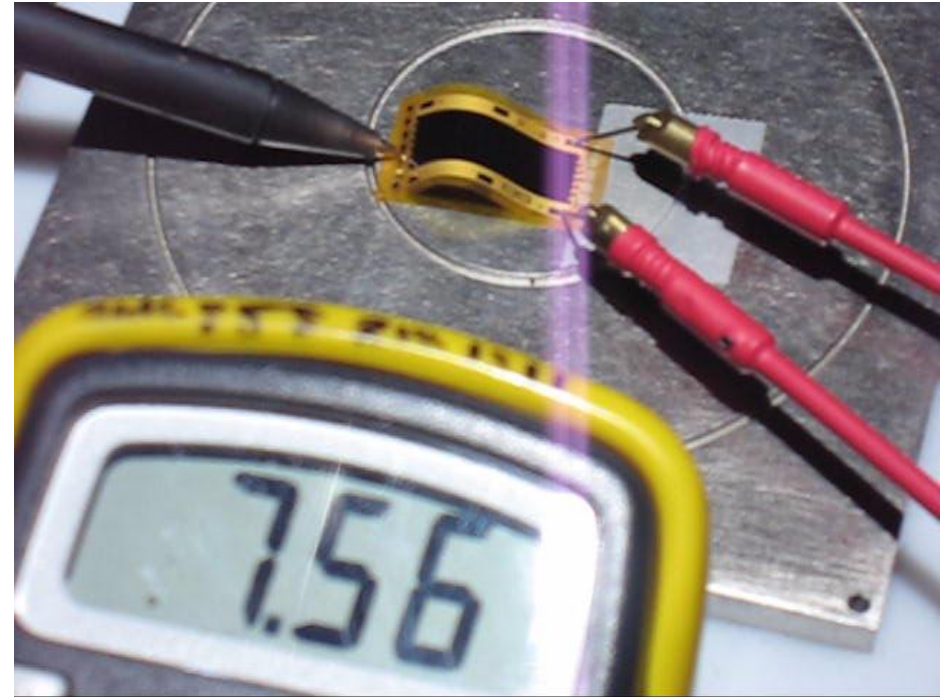
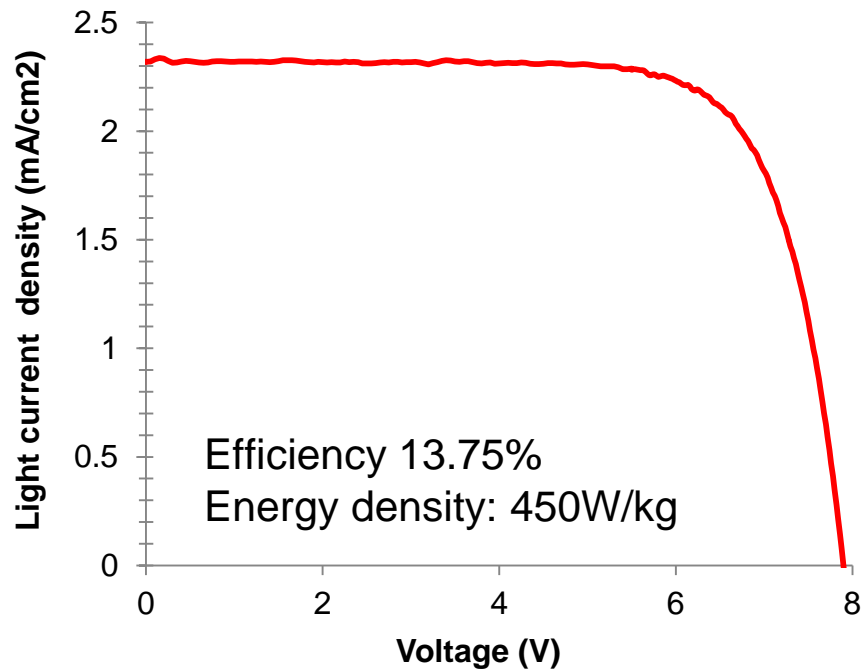


## MEPV Cell Interconnect Network

Large numbers of MEPV cells in a module allow a sophisticated cell interconnect network circuit that provides:

- High tolerance to cell failures and or damage (holes, abrasions, etc.)
- Significantly better shading performance than current PV modules
- Direct high voltage output
- Potential for reconfigurable power output

# Sandia is the first one to prove such a high energy density with such a small bending radius



The closest technology to energy density is an order of magnitude lower than what we achieved!

# Acknowledgements

**Sandia:** Murat Okandan, Paul Resnick, Bill Sweatt, Tony Lentine, Vipin Gupta, Jeff Nelson, Carlos Sanchez, Judi Lavin, Peggy Clews, Tammy Pluym, Jonathan Wierer, George Wang, Jeff Cederberg, Bob Biefeld, Willie Luk, Igal Brener, Bradley Jared, Anna Tauke-Pedretti, Jennifer Granata, Charles Alford, Ben Anderson, Robert Biefeld, Bradley Jared, Eric Langlois, Olivia Tsai, Scott Paap, Julie Chavez, Jaime McClain, Karen Cross, Terri Romantic, Brandon Aguirre, Jose Chavez, Xiaowang Zhou, Willie Luk, Douglas Pete

**Collaborators:** Mark Wanlass (NREL), Paul Sharps (Emcore), George Westby (Universal Instruments), Nathan Crane (USF), Mike Haney (UD), (Deposition Sciences), Chris Angeluci (IMI), David Zubia (UTEP), John McClure (UTEP)

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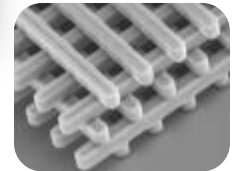
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# Conclusion

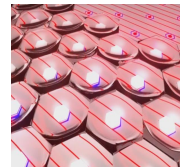
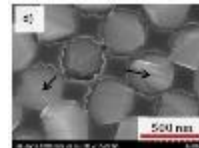
## 1. Sandia National Laboratories Overview

1. Overview and Mission areas
  1. Defense Systems and Assessments
  2. Nuclear Weapons
  3. International Homeland and Nuclear Security
  4. Energy, Climate, and Infrastructure Security
  5. Science and Engineering Foundations
  6. Workforce



## 2. Solar microsystems

1. CdTe micro/nano solar cells
2. GaAs multijunction cells
3. Concentrators
4. Flexible Silicon



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Don't forget to visit our booth in the UTEP career expo on  
September 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 don Haskins Center

Thank you for your  
attention  
Questions?