

# **Solar Technologies and Their Role in Transforming the US Energy Enterprise**

**Margie Tatro**

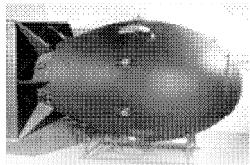
**NMSEA Solar Fiesta  
August 27-28, 2011**



**Sandia National Laboratories is a multi program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.**



# HISTORY OF Sandia Energy Programs



as a nuclear  
engineering  
laboratory with deep science  
and engineering  
competencies



Energy crisis of the 1970s  
spawned the beginning of  
significant energy work

Strategic  
Petroleum Reserve  
– geological  
characterization of  
salt domes to host  
oil storage caverns



DOE's Tech Transfer  
Initiative was  
established by  
Congress in 1991



Advent Solar

Energy Policy Act  
of 2005

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2007

2010

Our core NW  
competencies  
enabled us to  
take on  
additional  
large national  
security  
challenges

Vertical axis  
wind turbine

NRC cask  
certification  
studies &  
core melt  
studies

Solar Tower  
opens



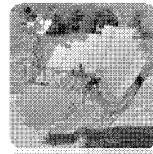
CRF opens to  
researchers



Power grid  
reliability  
study



SunCatcher™  
partnership  
with Stirling  
Energy  
Systems



Distributed Energy Technology  
Laboratory (DETL) to integrate  
emerging energy technologies into  
new and existing electricity  
infrastructures

Large-scale pool fire  
tests of liquefied  
natural gas (LNG) on  
water



Climate stu  
uncertainties to  
economies



Combustion Research  
Computation and  
Visualization (CRCV)

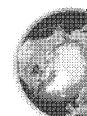
Combustions Research  
Facility (CRF) &  
Cummins partner on  
their newest diesel  
engine



Joint BioEnergy  
Institute



Consortium for  
Advanced Simulation of  
Light Water Reactors  
(CASL)



Climate stu  
uncertainties to  
economies

# Our Vision

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



# National Challenge Focus Areas

## Energy Security

- *Reduce our dependence on foreign oil*
- *Increase deployment of low carbon stationary power generation*

## Climate Security

- *Understand risks and enable mitigation of climate change impacts*
- *Provide the foundation for a future global climate treaty*

## Infrastructure Security

- *Increase security and resiliency of the electrical grid and energy infrastructure*
- *Assure energy security for critical installations*

## Enabling Capabilities

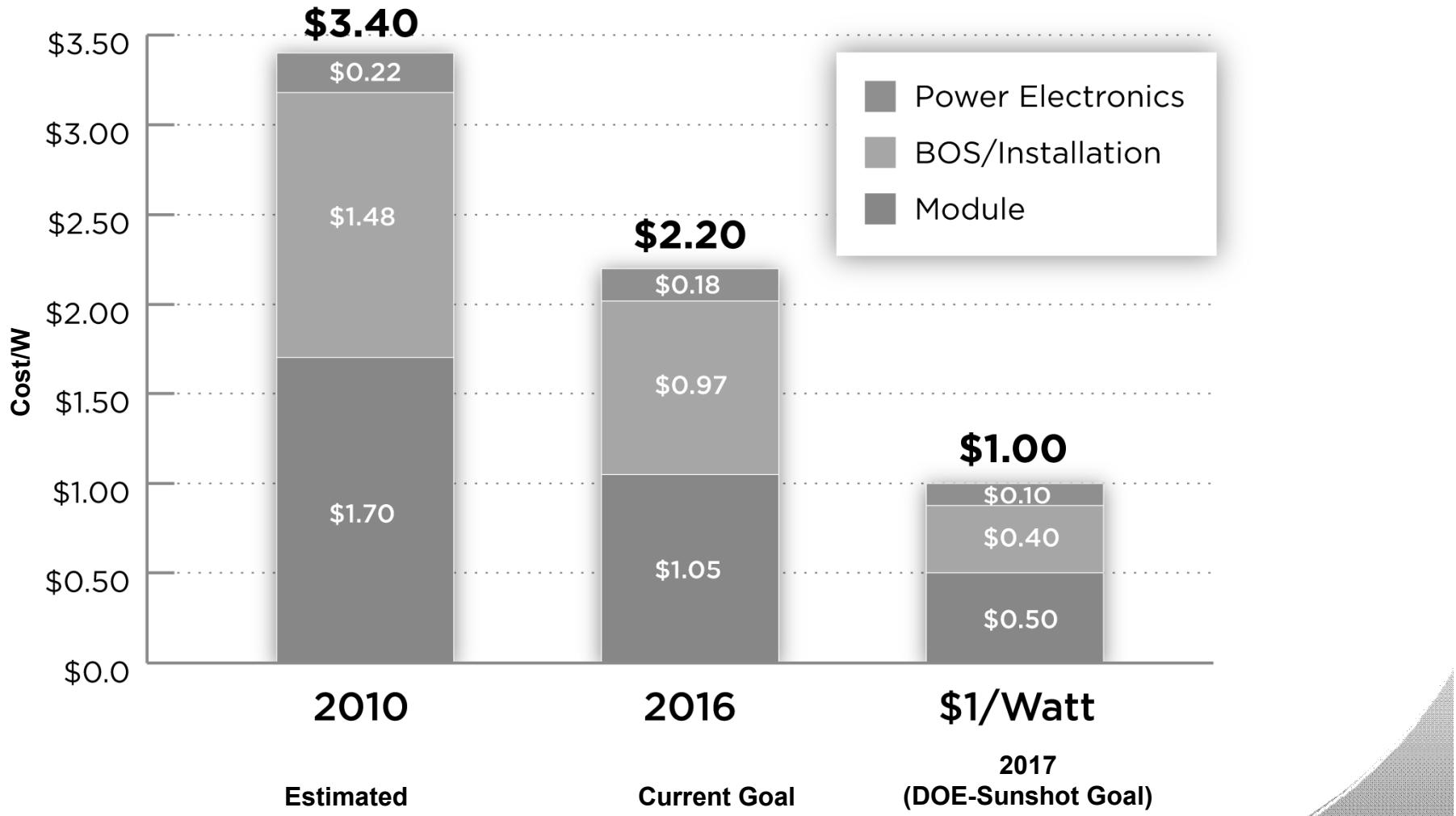
- *Strengthen the nation's S&T base in energy, climate, and infrastructure*

## Two of Our Major Goals – Solar Energy Innovations

- Develop advanced solar technologies to allow a domestic solar industry to deliver at less than 10 cents per KW/hr.
- Demonstrate 12.5% sunlight to syngas that will enable greater than 10% lifecycle sunlight to fuel.



# The Solar PV Challenge



# Solar Glitter is a Microsystem-Enabled PV Concept

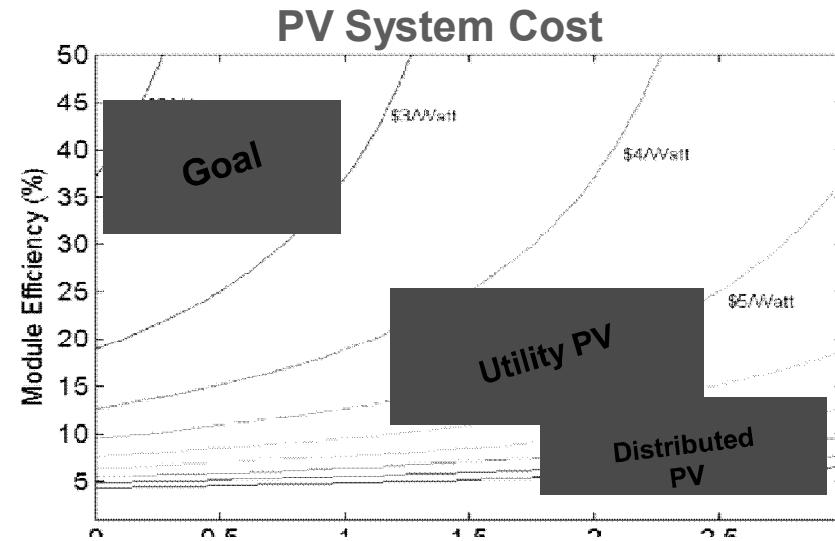
## Thin PV Cells



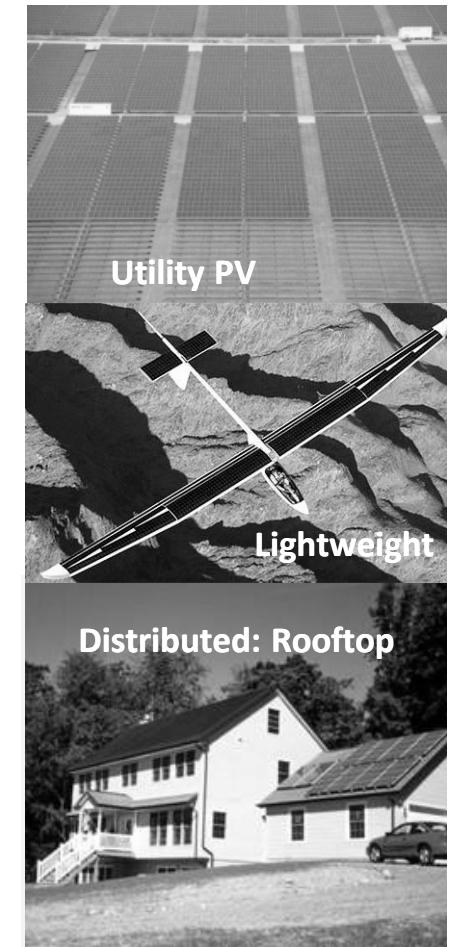
**Goal:** Develop advanced solar technologies and systems that will provide the US industry with a competitive advantage worldwide in delivering solar electricity at less than 10 cents per kWhr.

### Motivation:

- Double the efficiency and half the cost of conventional PV systems
  - high efficiency (*cell level* >50%, *system level* >40%)
  - reduced cost (module cost of ~\$0.5/Watt<sub>peak</sub>, system cost of 2-3/Watt<sub>peak</sub>).

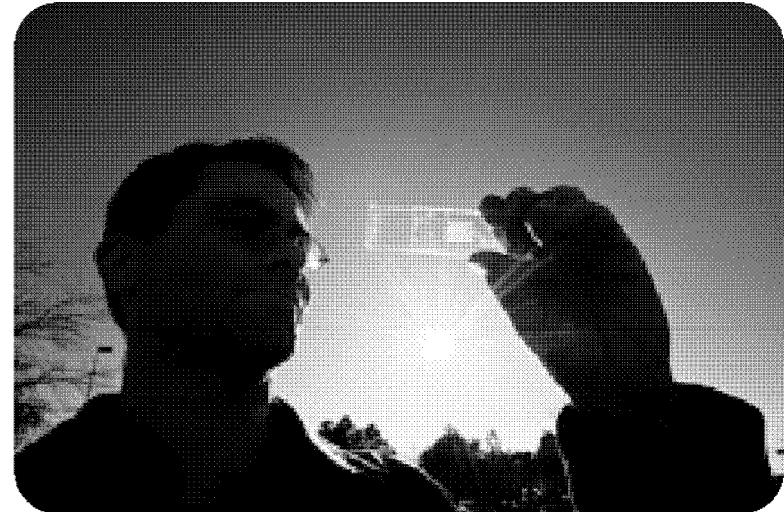


## Possible Applications

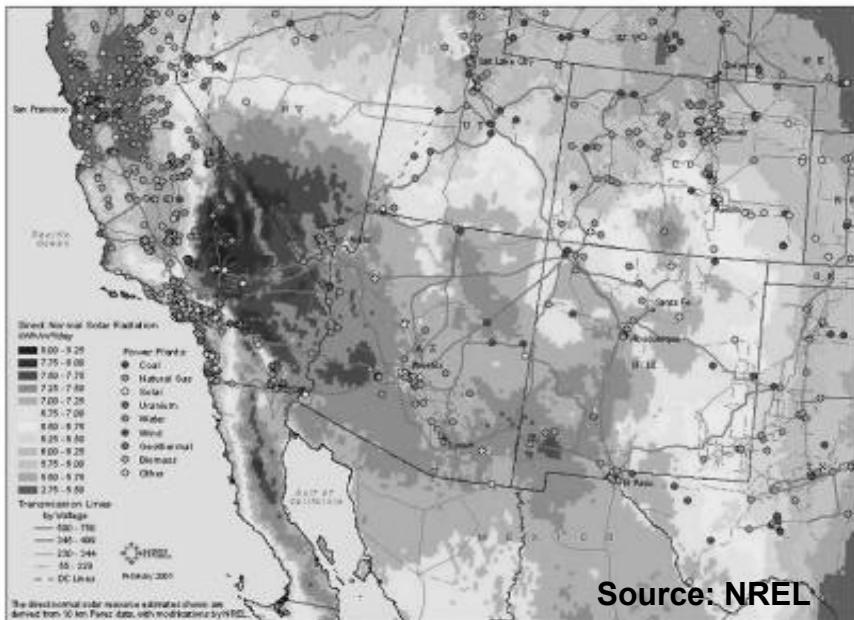


# Micro-PV Benefits

- Improved performance
- Reduced costs
- Higher efficiencies
- New applications:
  - Units could wrap around unusual shapes for solar power integrated into buildings, tents, and maybe even clothing.
  - Rooftop micro-PV modules could have intelligent controls, inverters, and even storage built into the chip—simplifying the grid-integration process.
  - The tiny cells could turn a person into a solar battery charger—military personnel in the field or backcountry hikers could recharge batteries for phones, cameras, and other electronics as they walk or rest.



# Solar Resources Analysis Shows the Promise of Scale with High Efficiency Target



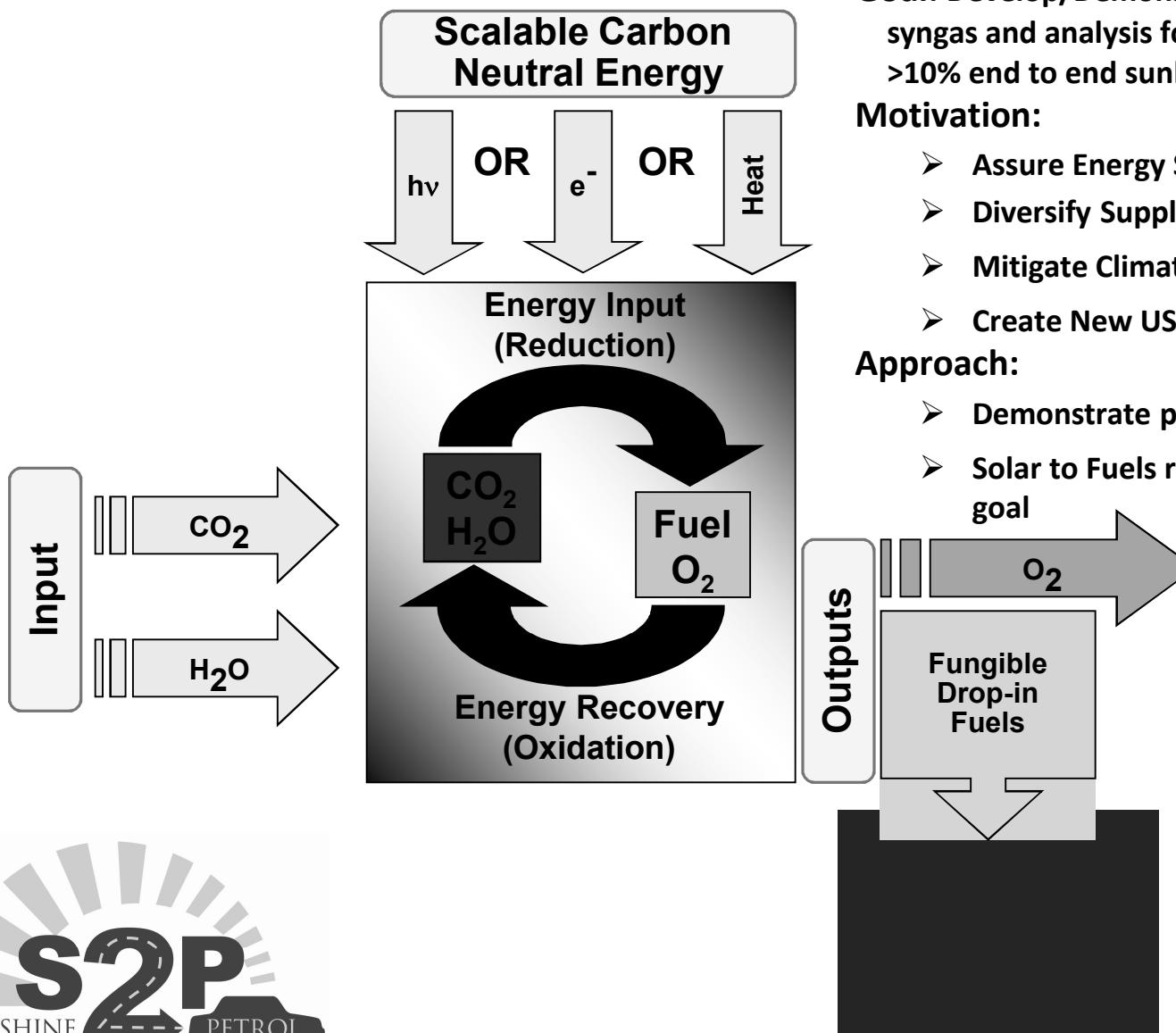
- U.S. petroleum demand is 20.7 million barrels per day (mb/d, 2007)
- 12.5% lifecycle efficiency could produce 16.6 mb/d (80% of total U.S. demand)
- NM alone could produce 23% of U.S. demand

## “Filtered” Land Area Analysis

State	Land Area ( $10^9$ m $^2$ )	Solar Capacity (TW)	Fuel Capacity (GW)	(mb/d)
AZ	49.9	3.37	421	5.9
CA	17.7	1.20	150	2.1
CO	5.5	0.37	46	0.7
NV	14.5	0.98	122	1.7
NM	39.3	2.65	331	4.7
TX	3.0	0.20	25	0.4
UT	9.2	0.62	78	1.1
Total	139.2	9.39	1,174	16.6

139 billion m $^2$  is 1.5% of total U.S. land

# Solar-driven Carbon Capture and Recycle to Fuels



**Goal:** Develop/Demonstrate 12.5% sunlight to syngas and analysis for a system design to achieve >10% end to end sunlight to fuel.

## Motivation:

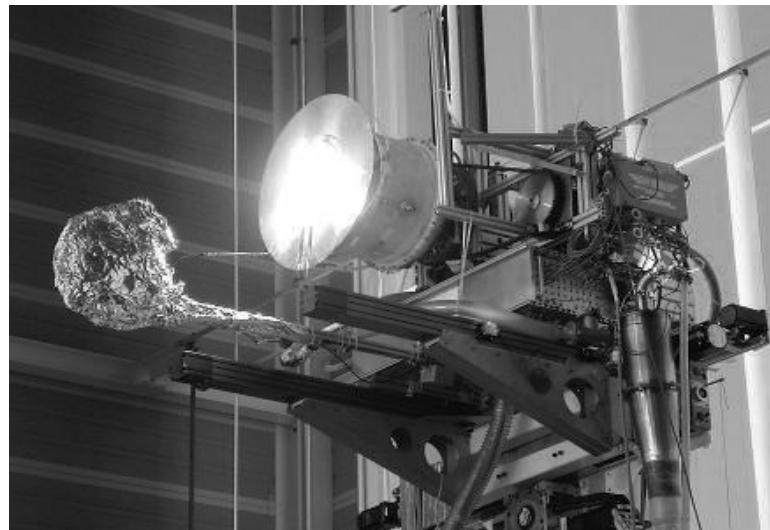
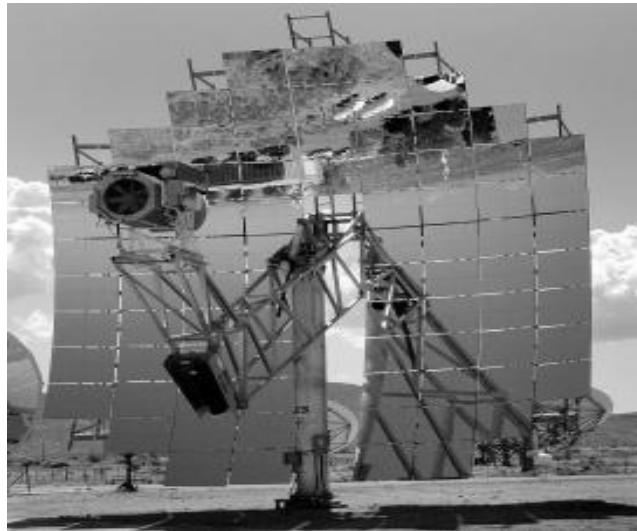
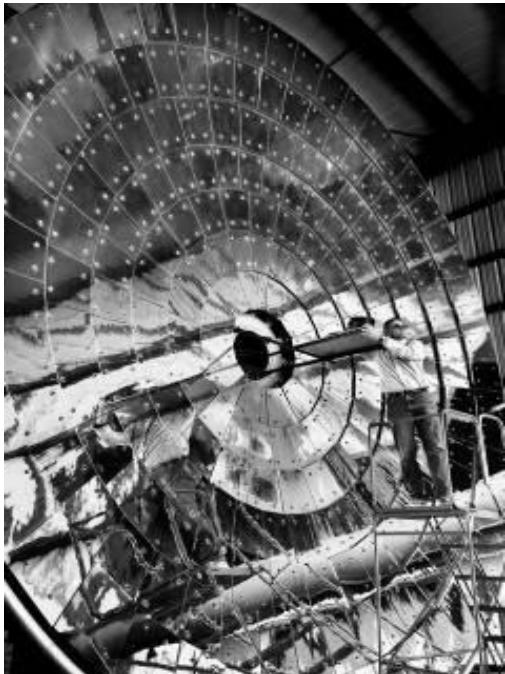
- Assure Energy Security
- Diversify Supply
- Mitigate Climate Change Risk
- Create New US Fuel Supply Industry

## Approach:

- Demonstrate prototype heat engine (CR5)
- Solar to Fuels roadmap for 10% efficiency goal



# Sunshine to Petrol uses the Sun to Break Apart CO<sub>2</sub> and Store Energy in Hydrocarbons



# CINT is one of five U.S. Dept. of Energy Nanoscience Centers



Center for Nanoscale Materials  
Argonne National Lab.

Molecular Foundry  
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.

Center for Functional Nanomaterials  
Brookhaven National Lab.

**Center for Integrated  
Nanotechnologies  
(CINT)**  
Sandia National Labs.  
Los Alamos National Lab.

Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences  
Oak Ridge National Lab.

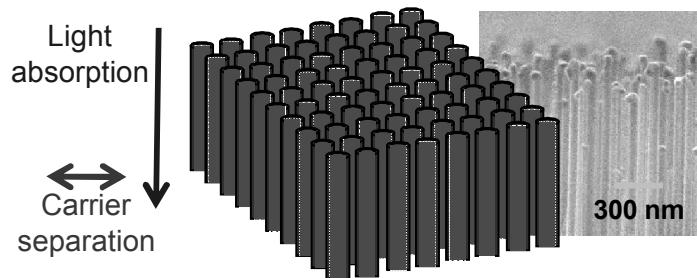
# Nanowires for New Energy Concepts



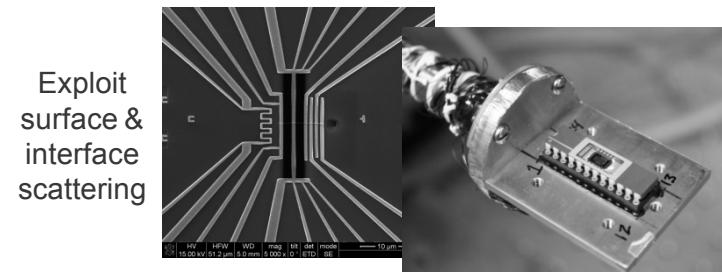
*Heterogeneous nanowires provide new approaches to energy harvesting and storage.*



**Goal:** Discovery new ways to decouple and enhance light absorption and carrier collection.



**Goal:** Discover new ways to enhance energy and power density.



## Integration Science Issues:

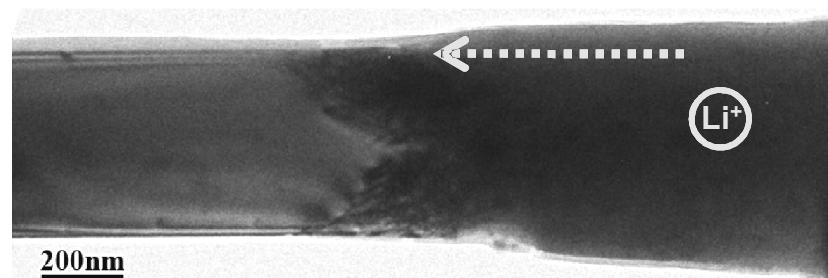
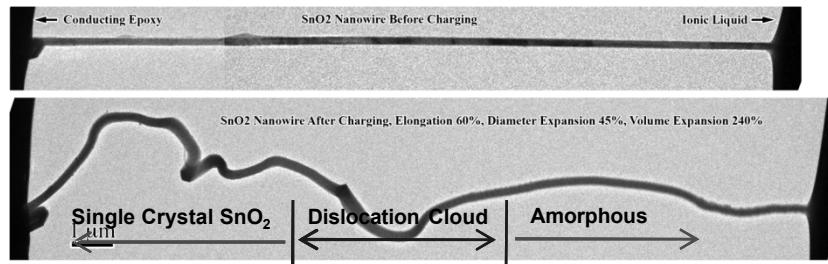
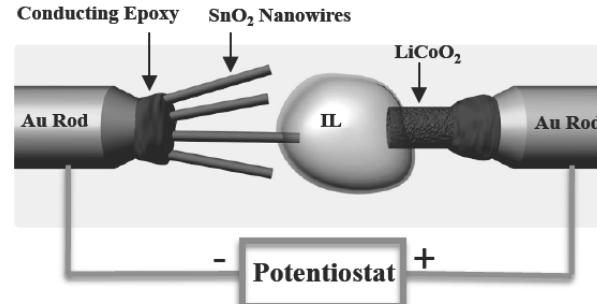
- Electrical transport in wires and at interfaces
- Optical & optoelectronic excitation of nanowires
- Thermal transport in wires and at interfaces

# nsight from a Single Nanowire Battery Electrode



*Improvements in Li-ion battery technologies require breakthroughs in materials and electrochemistry*

World's smallest battery inside a transmission electron microscope, enabling real time observations of electrochemistry process at atomistic length scales



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

# **Solar Technologies are Exciting Opportunities for the US**

**Microsystems based Photovoltaics**

**Solar Fuels**

**Nanotechnology inspired Photovoltaics and Batteries**

**... are just a few!**