

PROF. GREGORY NEMET



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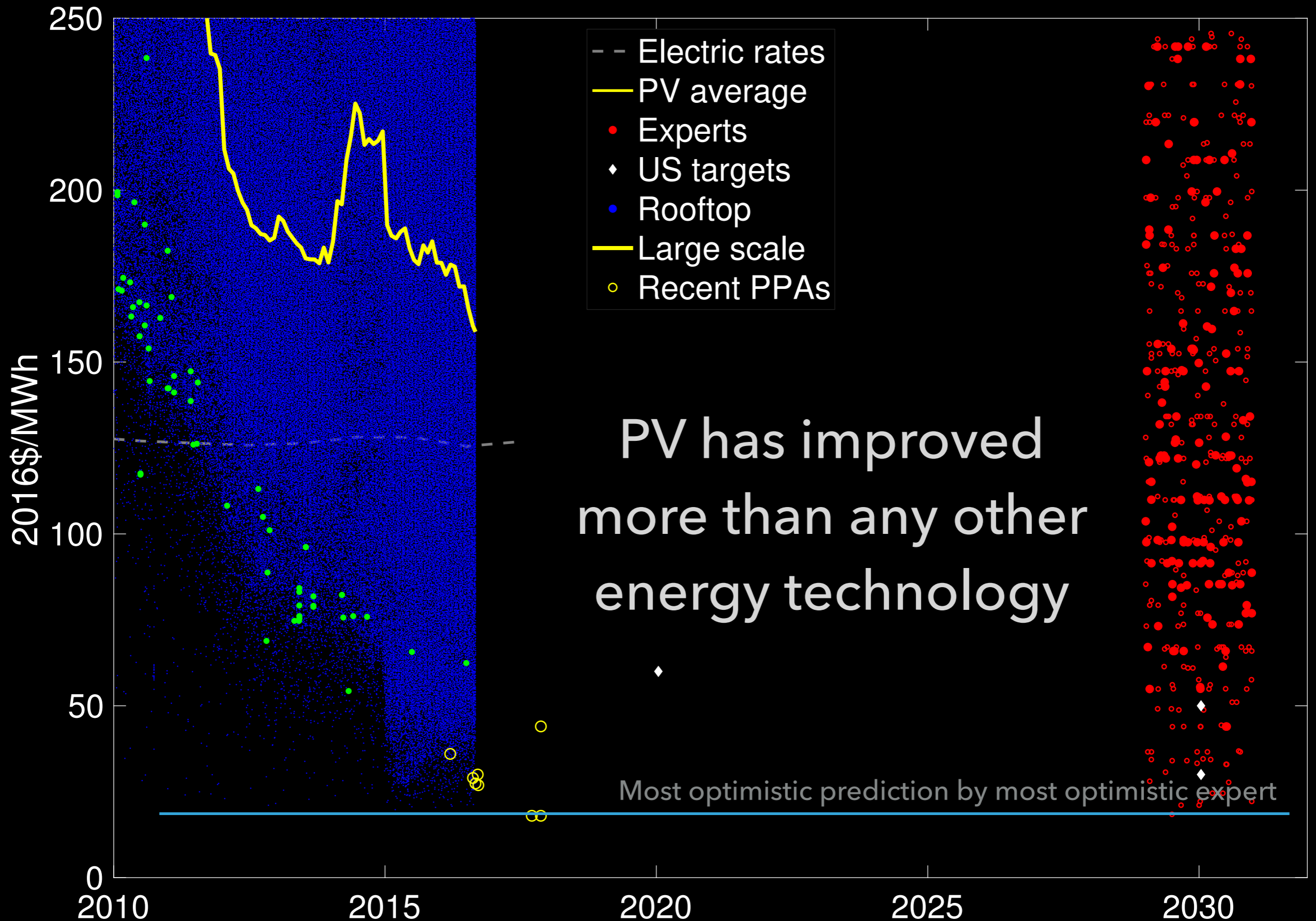
HOW SOLAR ENERGY BECAME CHEAP

A MODEL FOR LOW-CARBON INNOVATION

Gregory F. Nemet

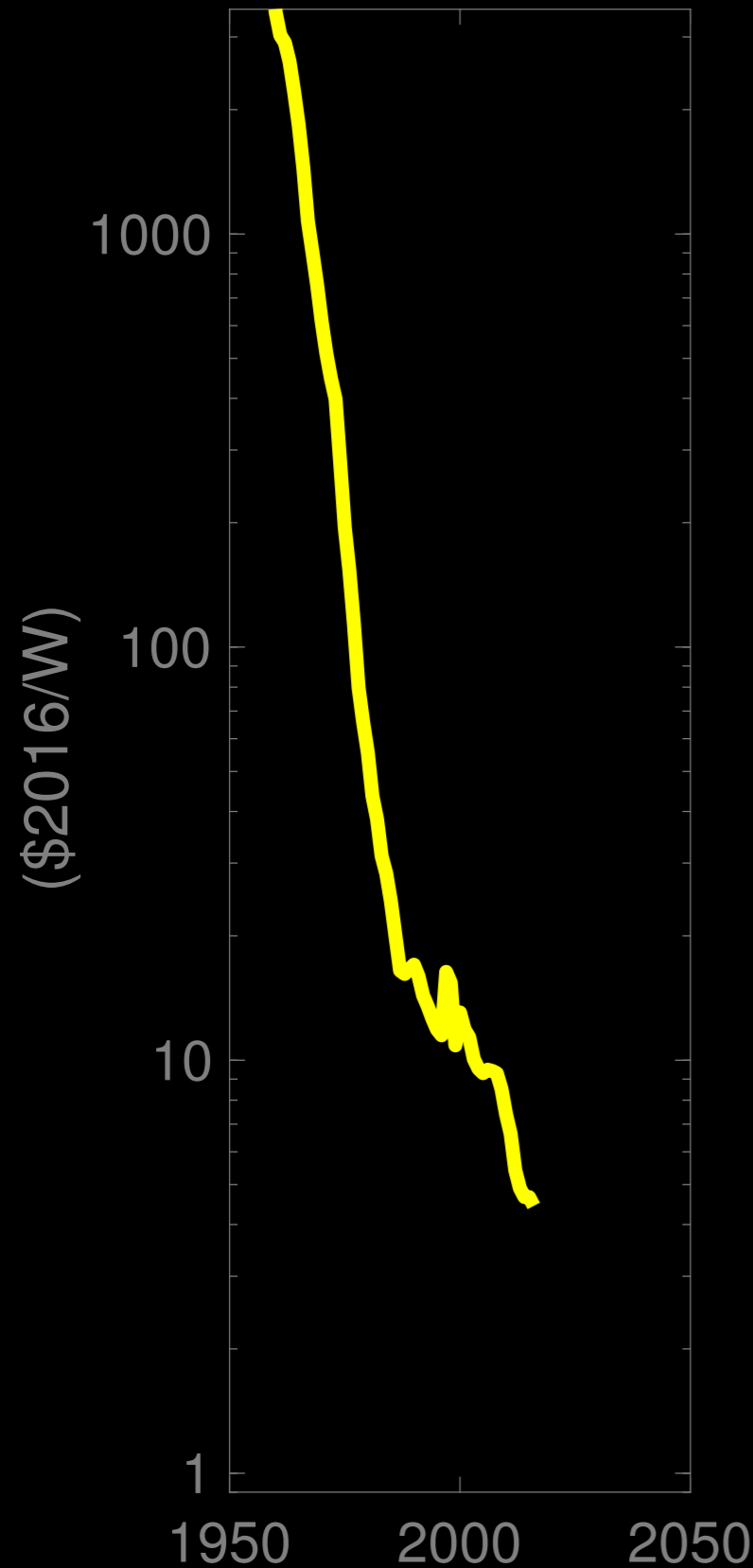
earthscan
from Routledge

PV IS NOW CHEAP...BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

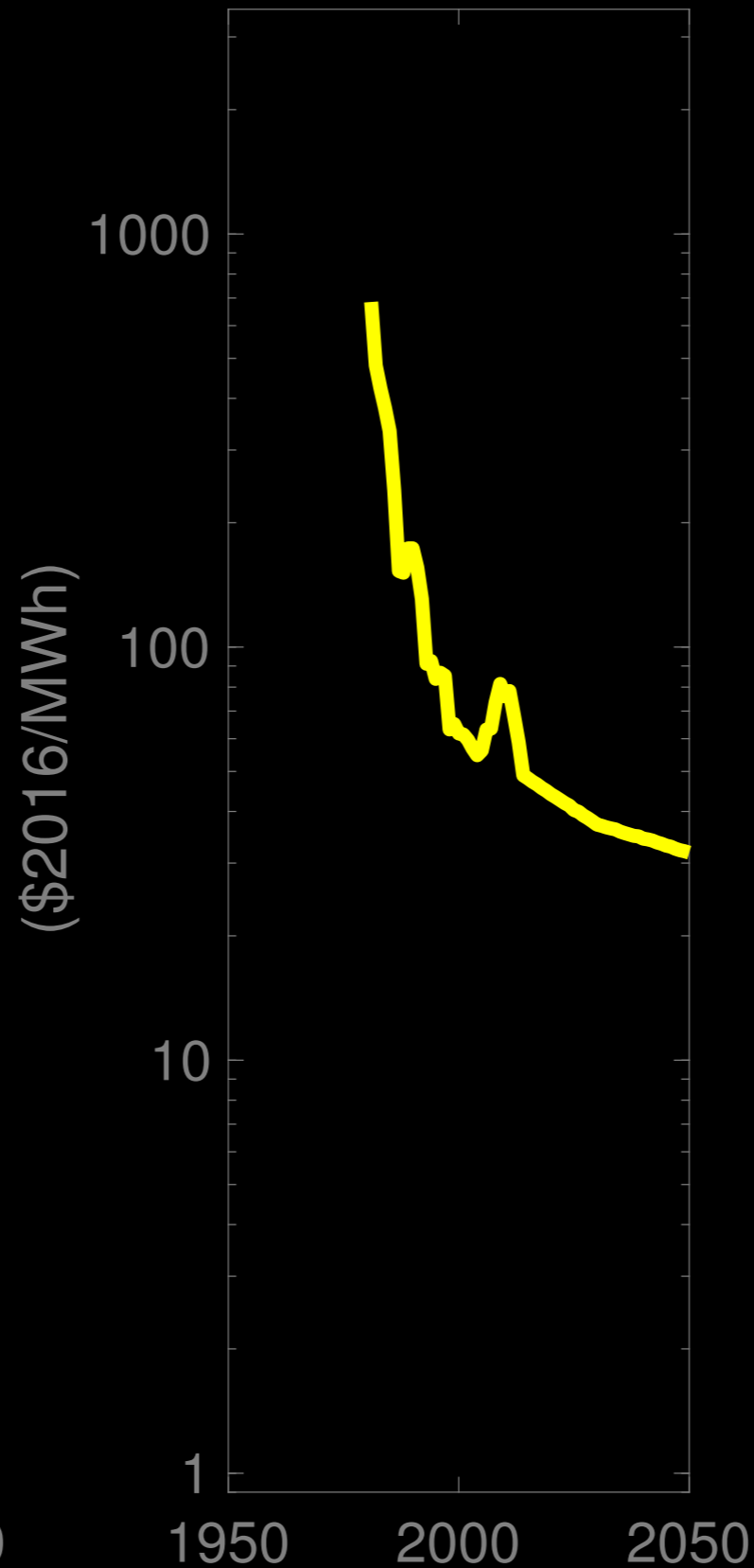


LONG TERM COST REDUCTIONS

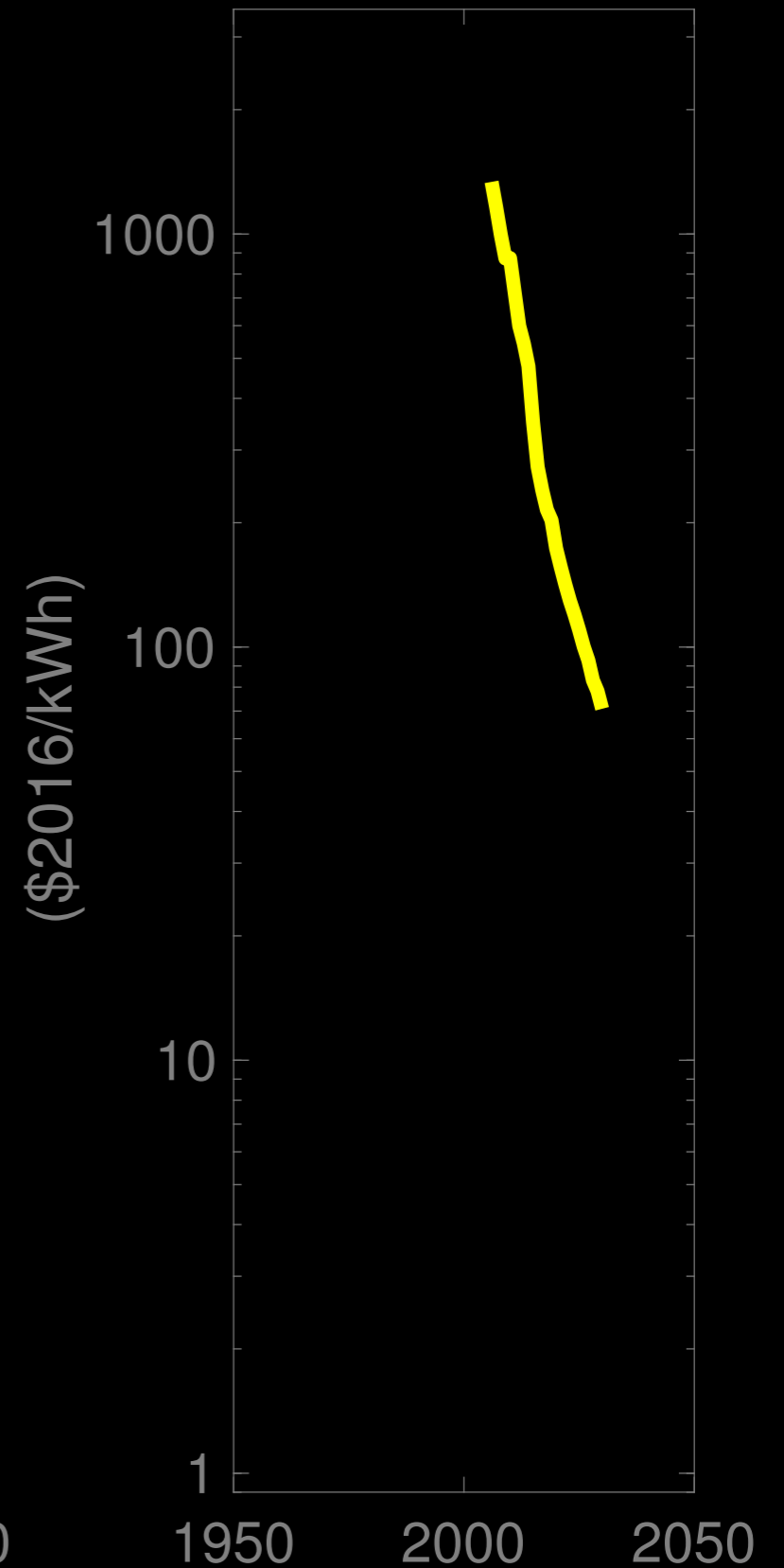
PV



Wind



Batteries



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How did solar become cheap?
2. Why did it take so long?
3. How can it be a model

ANDREW
CARNEGIE
FELLOWS
PROGRAM

This study was made possible by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. The statements made and views expressed are solely the responsibility of the author.



HOW SOLAR ENERGY BECAME CHEAP

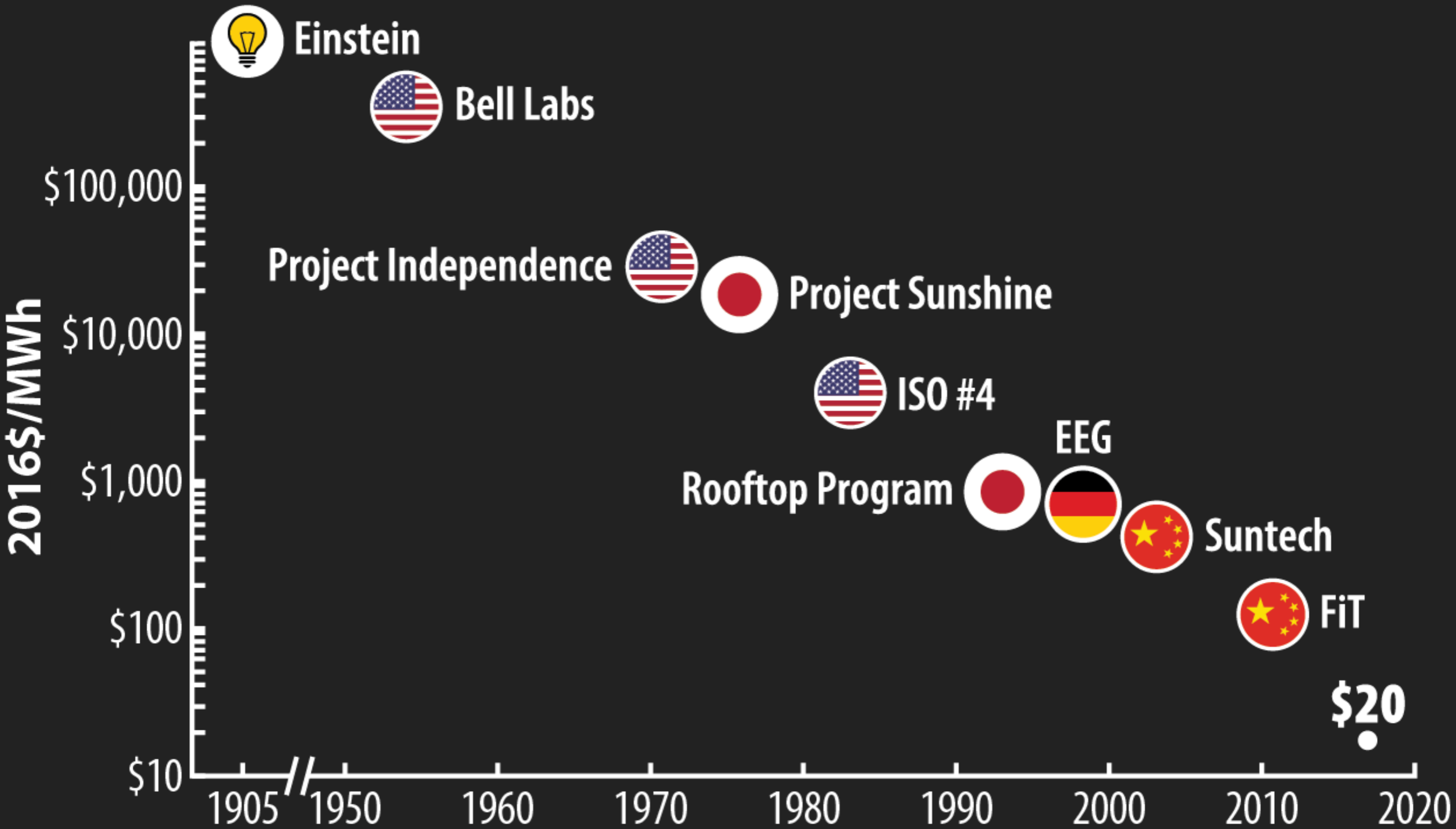
A MODEL FOR LOW-CARBON INNOVATION

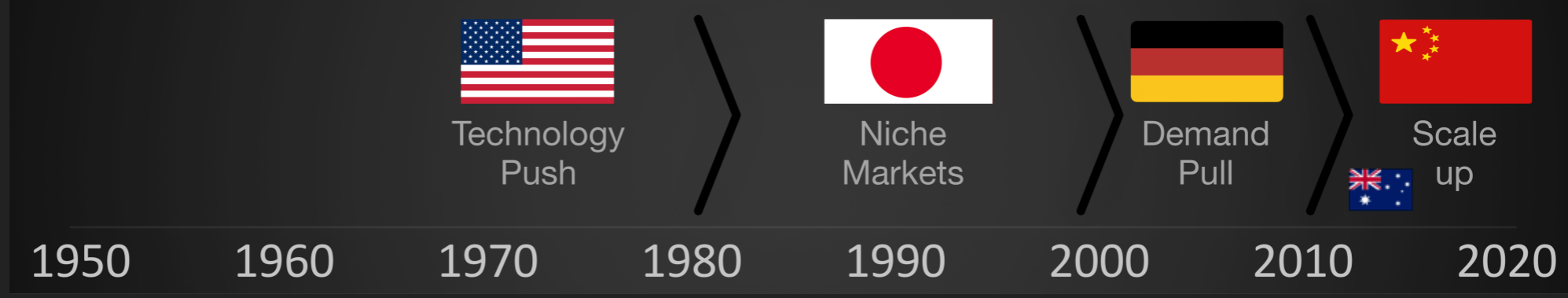
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MILESTONES

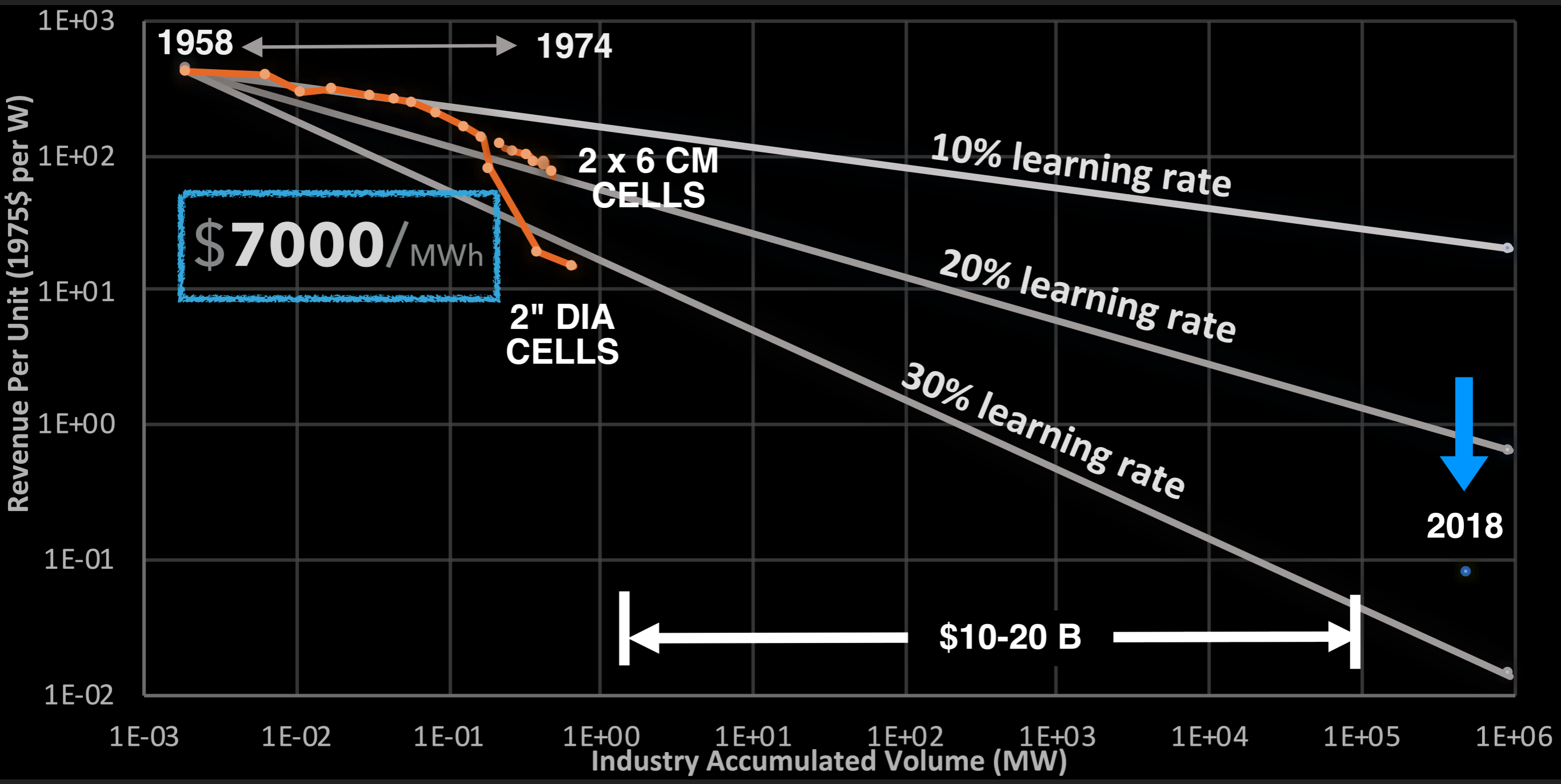
10⁻⁴



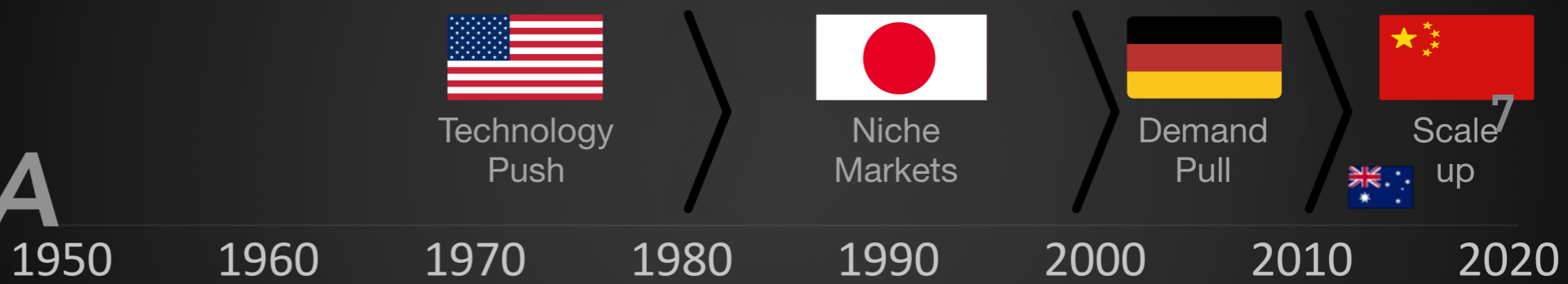


PROJECT INDEPENDENCE

1ST PV LEARNING CURVE



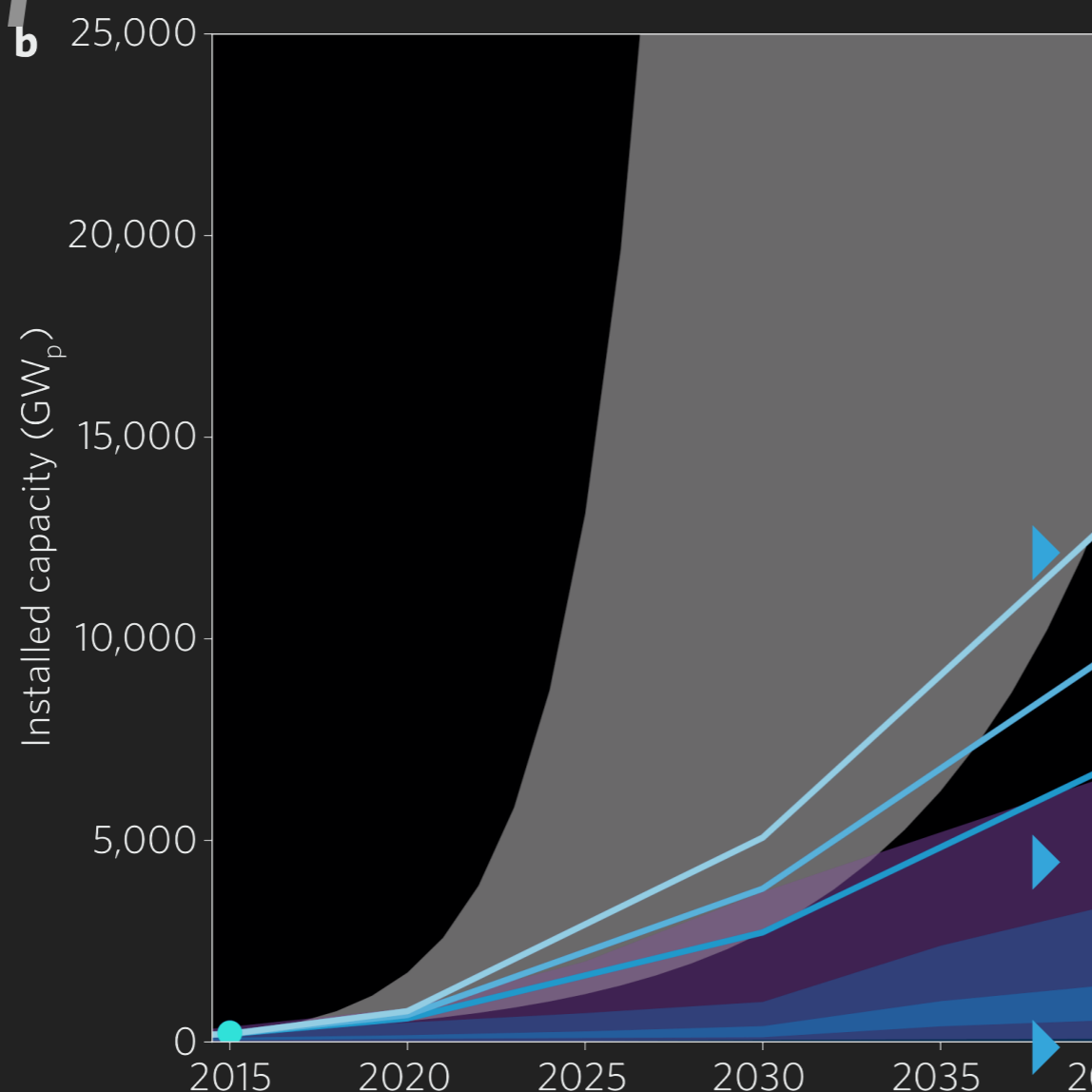
GERMANY: CREATING A MARKET



1. Policy window
2. Policy diffusion
3. Demand Pull
4. "Gift to the world"

A composite image. At the top right is a black and white photo of a woman with a sign in the background that reads 'WER SONST BRINGT DIE ENERGIE-WENDE?'. Below this are three flags: USA, Japan, and Germany. A green arrow points from the USA flag to the Germany flag with the text 'Investment installations'. A yellow arrow points from the Japan flag to the Germany flag with the text 'Feed-in tariff'. At the bottom is a photo of a solar panel manufacturing machine with orange electrical components.

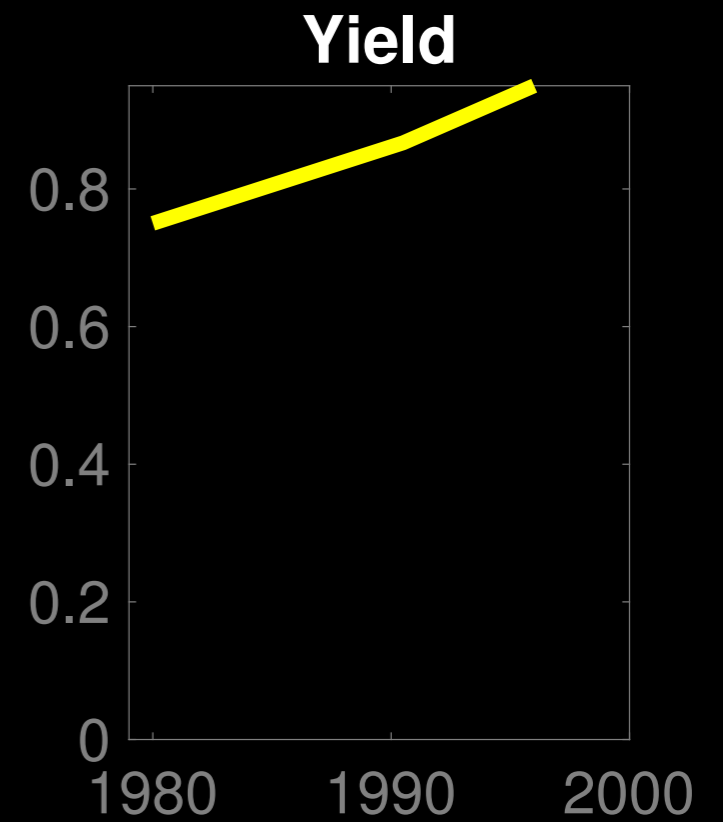
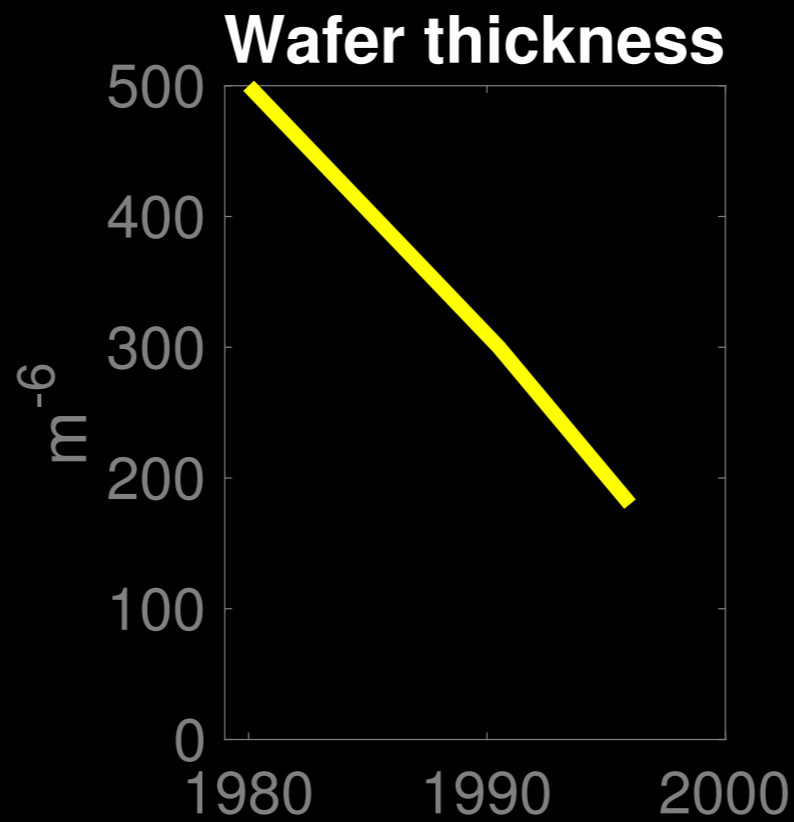
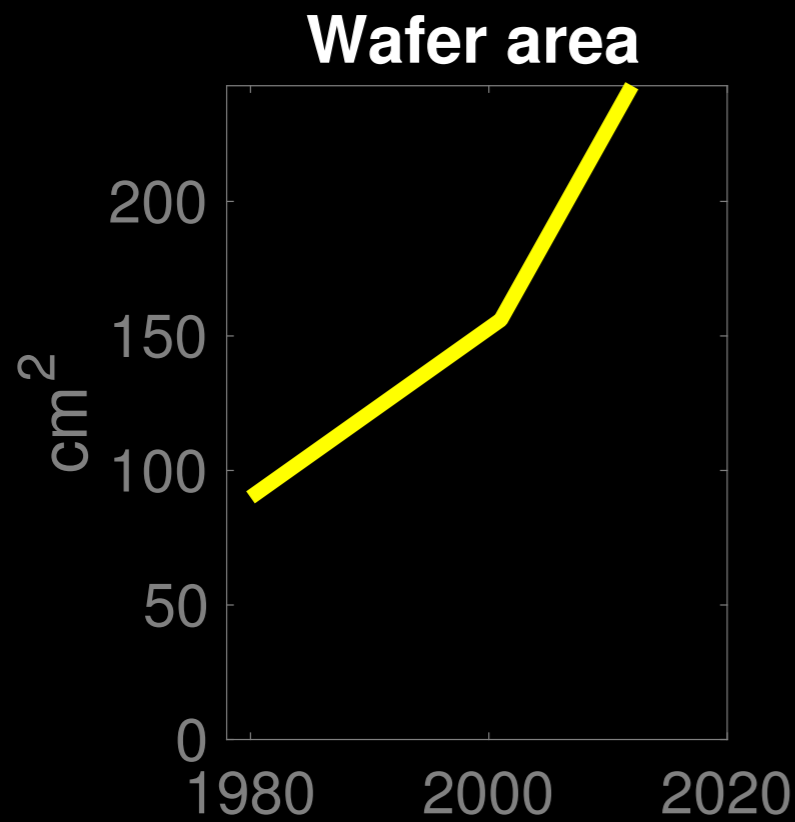
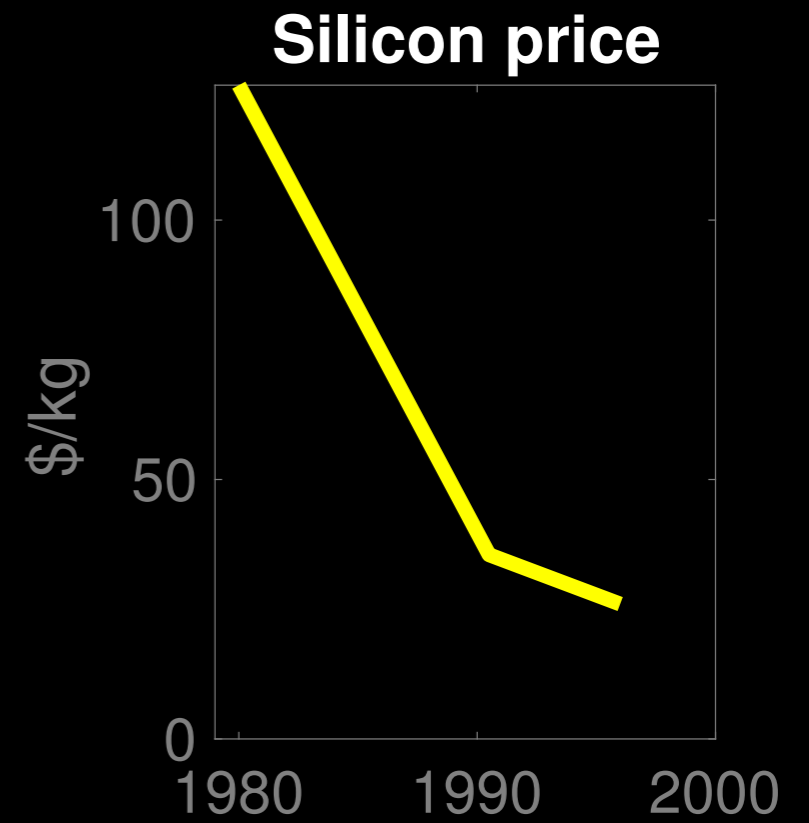
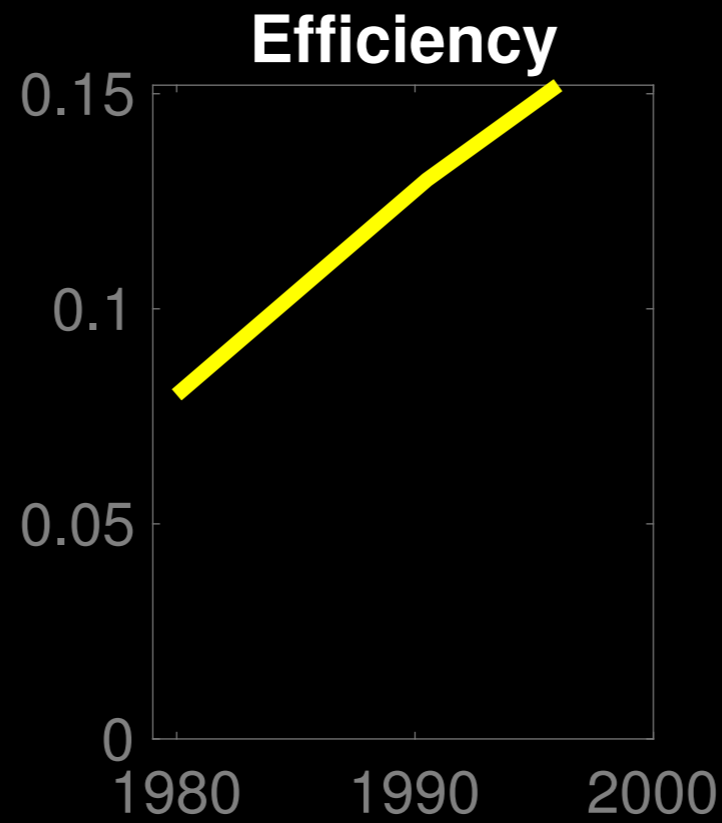
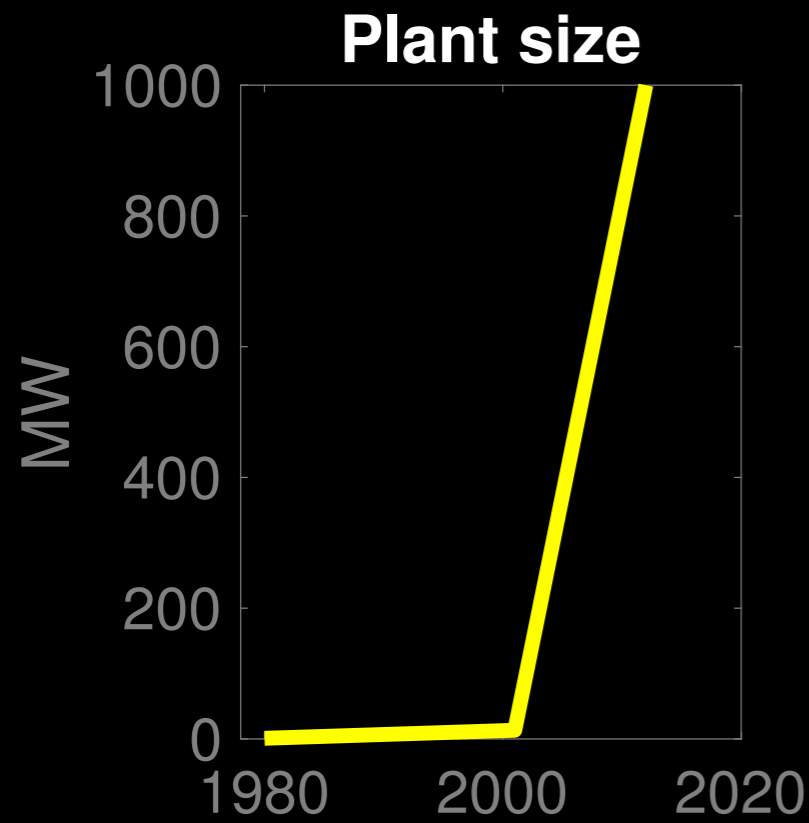
CHINA: MAKING IT CHEAP

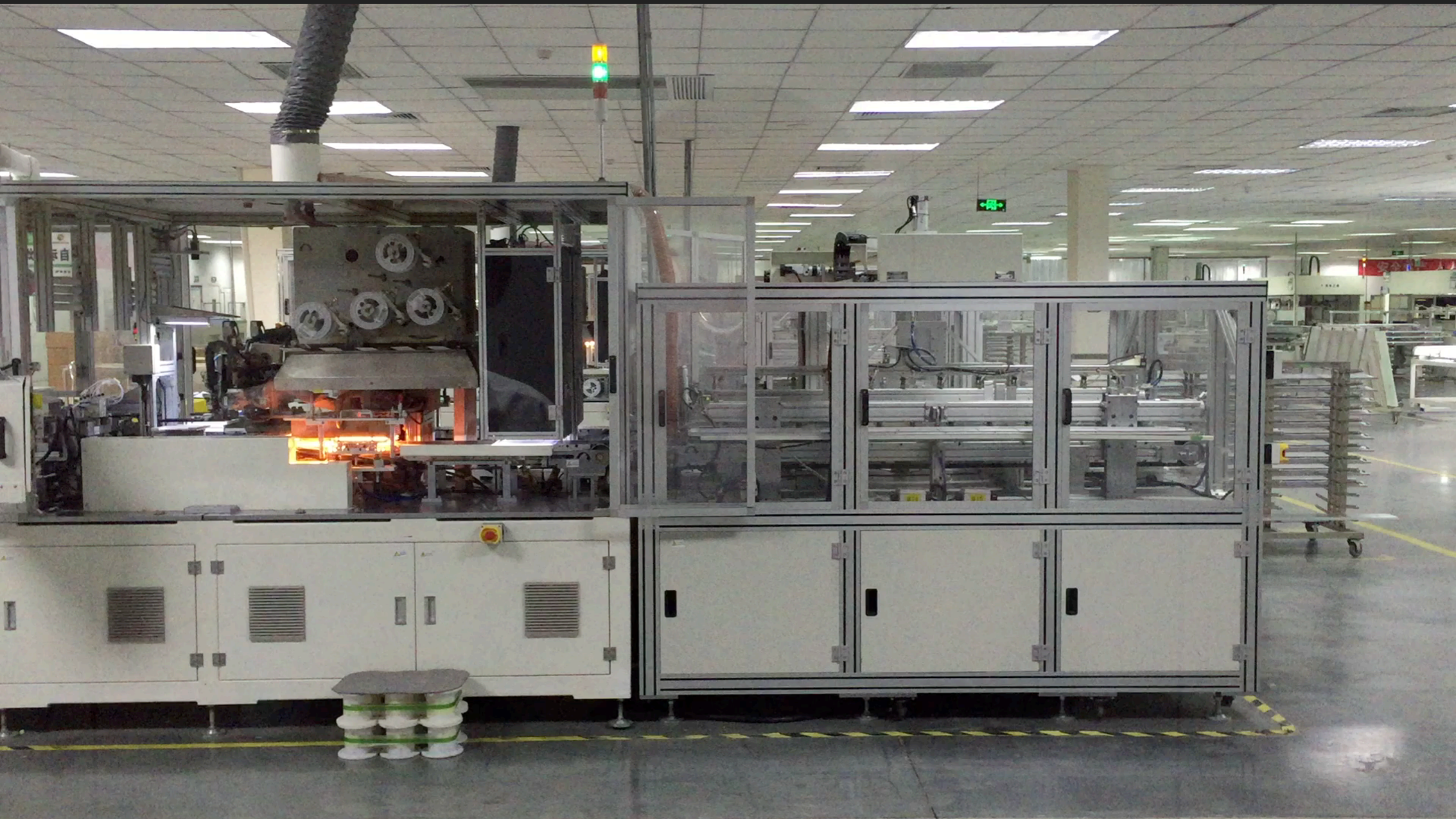
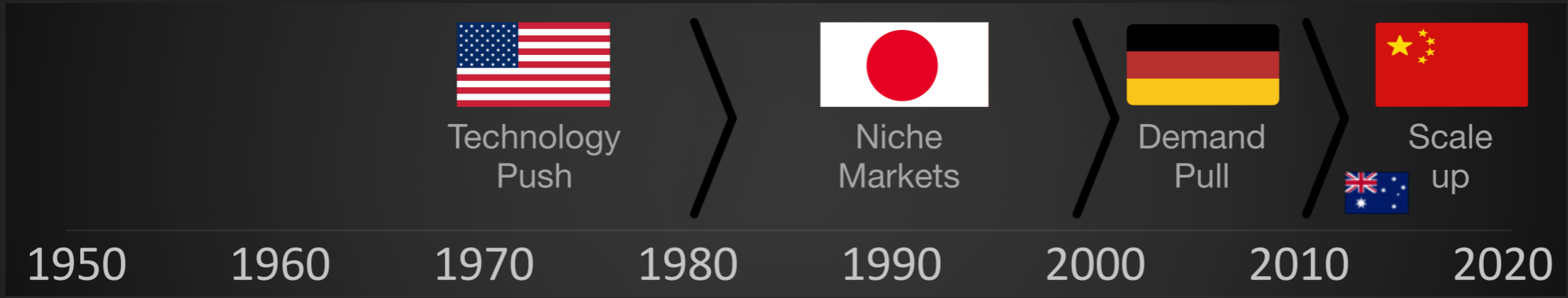


2017-> cheap electricity

billions of low
cost expansion
strategy
2011: Chinese
Iterative upscaling
Feed-in tariff

IMPROVEMENTS IN PV MANUFACTURING



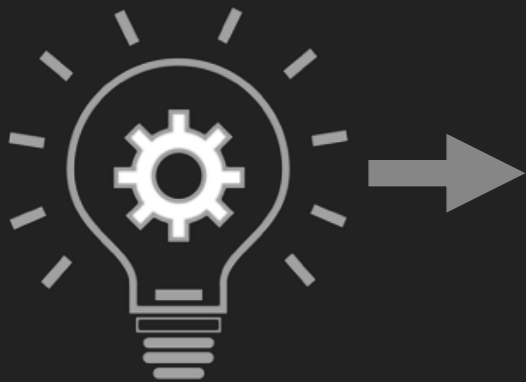


HOW DID SOLAR GET CHEAP?

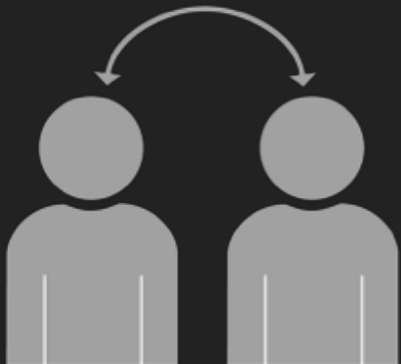
CREATING TECHNOLOGY



SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING



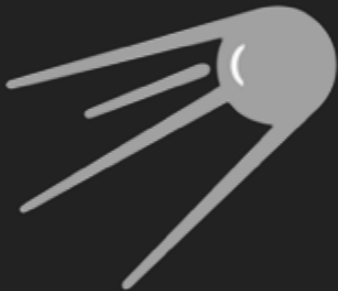
EVOLVING R&D FOCI



KNOWLEDGE SPILLOVERS



BUILDING A MARKET



NICHE MARKETS



MODULAR SCALE



ROBUST POLICY SUPPORT



MAKING IT CHEAP



LEARNING BY DOING



ITERATIVE UPSCALING



DELAYED SYSTEM INTEGRATION

PV AS A MODEL FOR LOW-CARBON INNOVATION

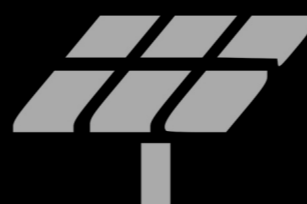
WE NEED MULTIPLE MODELS

Technology type

Innovation model

Low-carbon target

1. High-tech, iterative, disruptive



Solar PV



Direct air capture

2. Low-tech, small, distributed



Green revolution



Soils

3. Large, system integration intensive

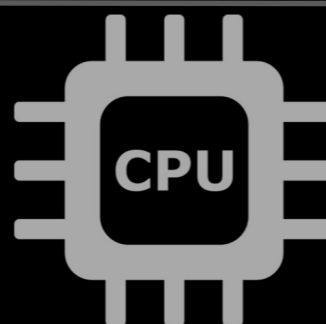


Chemical plants

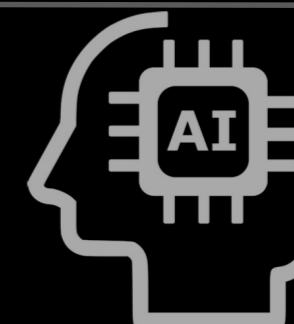


BECCS

4. General purpose



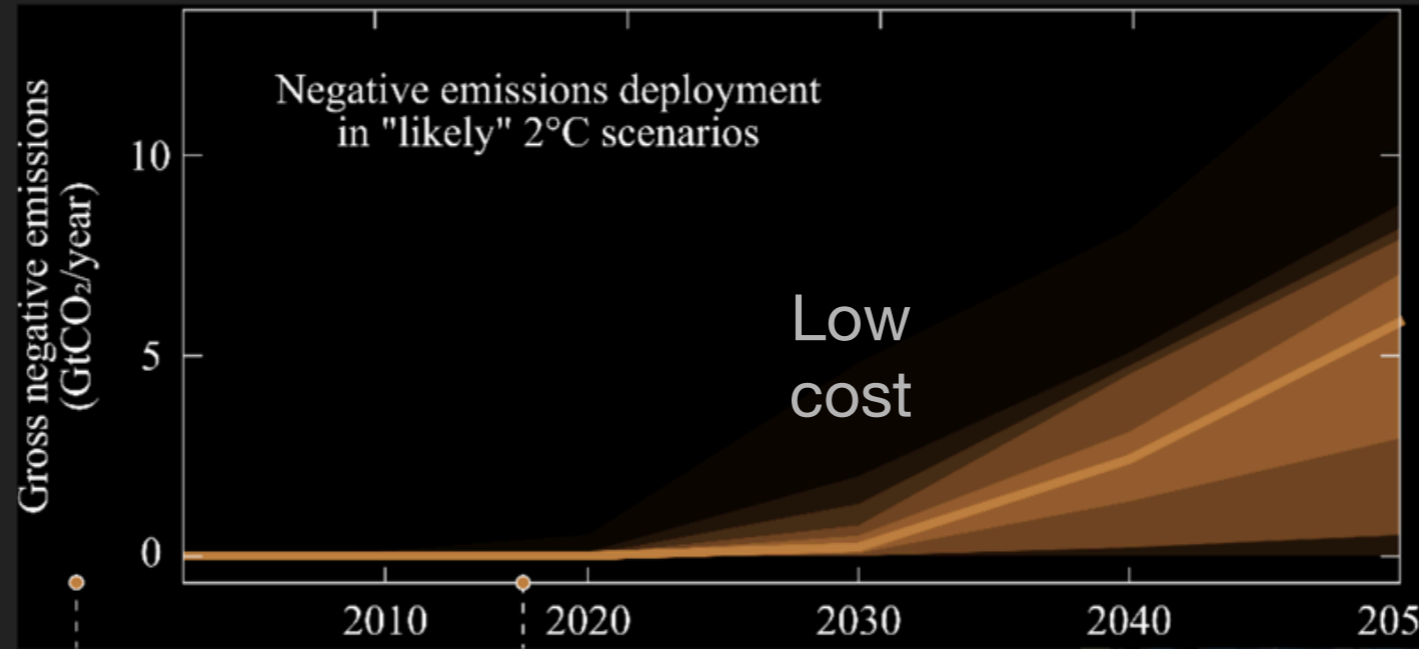
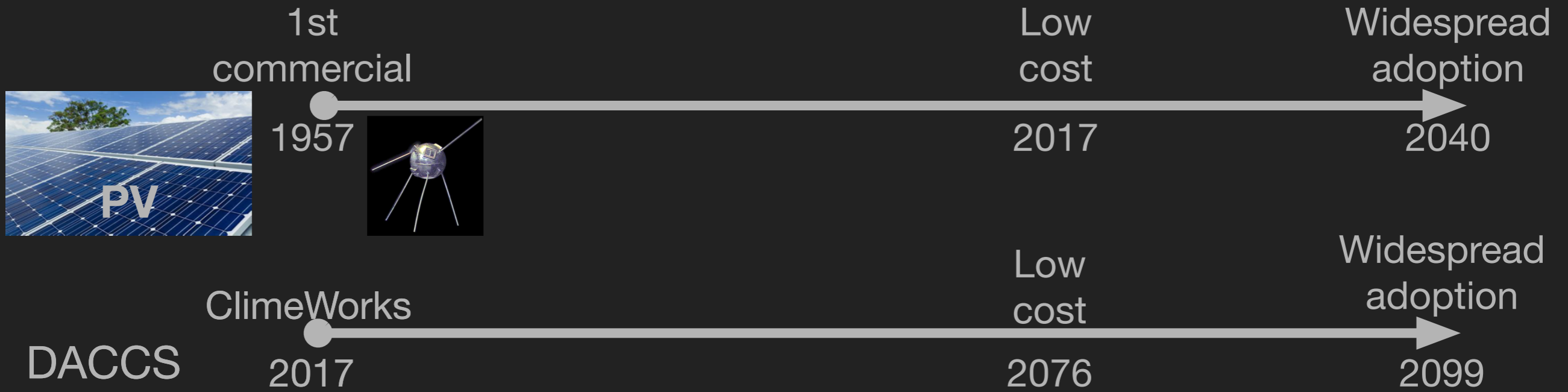
Micro-processors



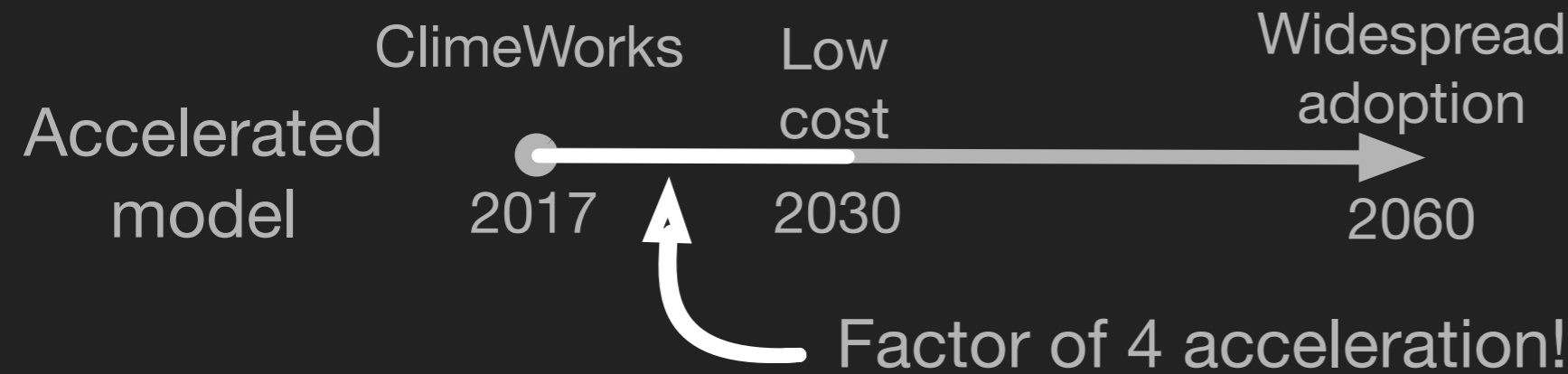
Artificial intelligence

% ELECTRICITY FROM PV

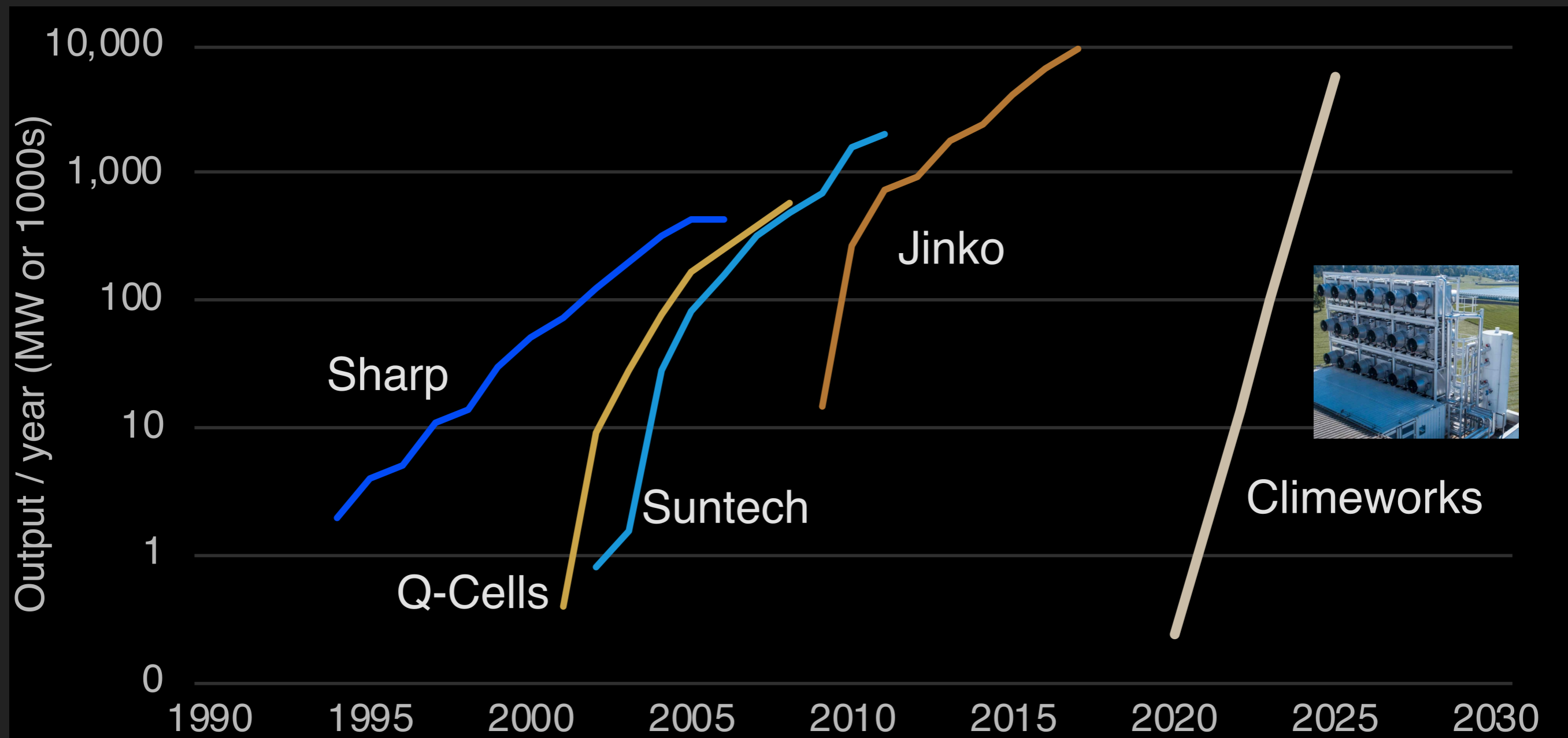




Widespread adoption



Scale-up needed for 1% of emissions by 2025 vs PV actuals



ACCELERATE INNOVATION

TECHNOLOGY PUSH



CONTINUOUS R&D



TRAINED WORKFORCE

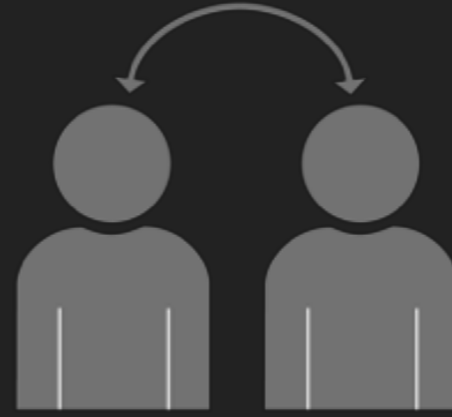


PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT

KNOWLEDGE FLOWS



CODIFY KNOWLEDGE



KNOWLEDGE
SPILLOVERS



GLOBAL MOBILITY

DEMAND PULL



ROBUST MARKETS



DISRUPTIVE
PRODUCTION



POLITICAL ECONOMY

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