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# TECHNOLOGICAL AND MARKET PROGRESSES IN RENEWABLE, WIND AND EFFICIENCY: A SHORT TRAVEL BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND THE WORLD



# PHOTOVOLTAICS AND ENERGY SYSTEMS IN NEUCHÂTEL

CONTRACTS WITH  
OVER 40 COMPANIES  
ALONG THE CHAIN



**EPFL**



**csem**

**2800 M<sup>2</sup> OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND 120 PEOPLE.....**

# SMART GRID ACTIVITY PORTFOLIO

## Networks

- ↔ Flexibility services from distributed resources
- ≡ Inverter control
- </> Code generation for multi-vector optimization



## Batteries

- 🔋 Multi-service battery system
- 📊 Model-based state estimation

## Renewables

- 🔍 Anomaly detection and diagnostics
- 📊 PV system modelling
- 🌍 High-resolution PV forecasting

- ✓ Intelligent valves
- ✓ Improved COP of heat pumps
- ✓ Better district heating

## Buildings

- 🏠 Building model identification
- 👤 Prosumer optimization
- 📄 Individual tenant billing



# PRODUCTION FORECAST AND PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR ENERGY ASSETS WITH CSEM AI

Digital Energy

Machine learning from Big data sets and physical knowledge of systems

## Applicability

- Wind
- Hydro
- Solar
- Heat pumps
- Cooling
- Batteries





# BATTERY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT CSEM BATTERY INNOVATION HUB

Batteries

## Coatings and Interfaces



- Thin-film coatings
- Wet coatings
- Interface functionalization

## Solid-state electrolytes



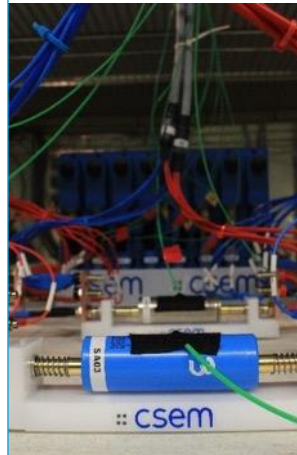
- Polymer solid state
- Ceramic solid state
- Integration and stabilization in cell

## Cell modelling



- SoX estimators based on EIS
- Validation vs. measurements
- Simulations

## Cell/module testing



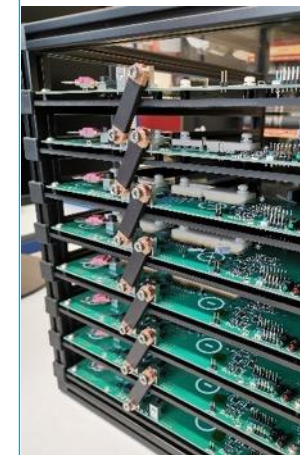
- Technological screening
- Ad-hoc testing protocols
- Second-life testing procedures

## Post mortem analyses



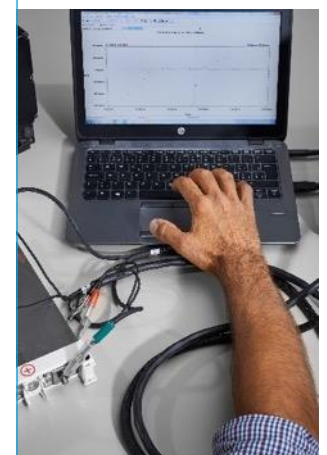
- Opening
- Imaging
- Modelling

## BMS prototyping



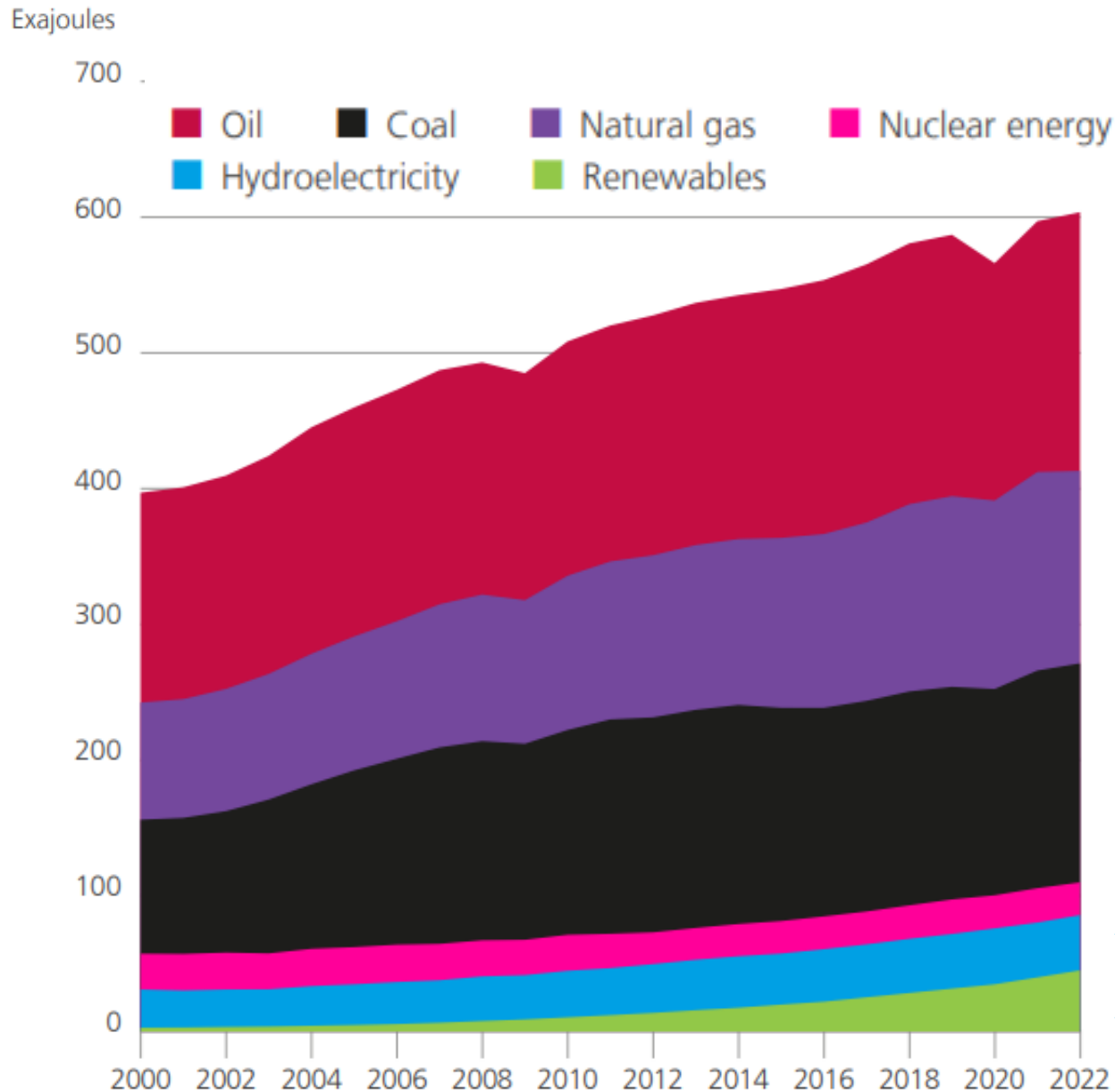
- CMS concept
- Active balancing
- EIS integration

## System-level analyses



- Frequency regulation
- Power trading optimization
- V2G analysis

# PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION



~ 168'000 TWh (CH 320 TWh)

2% annual growth  
driven by **China and India**  
Still 80% fossile fuel

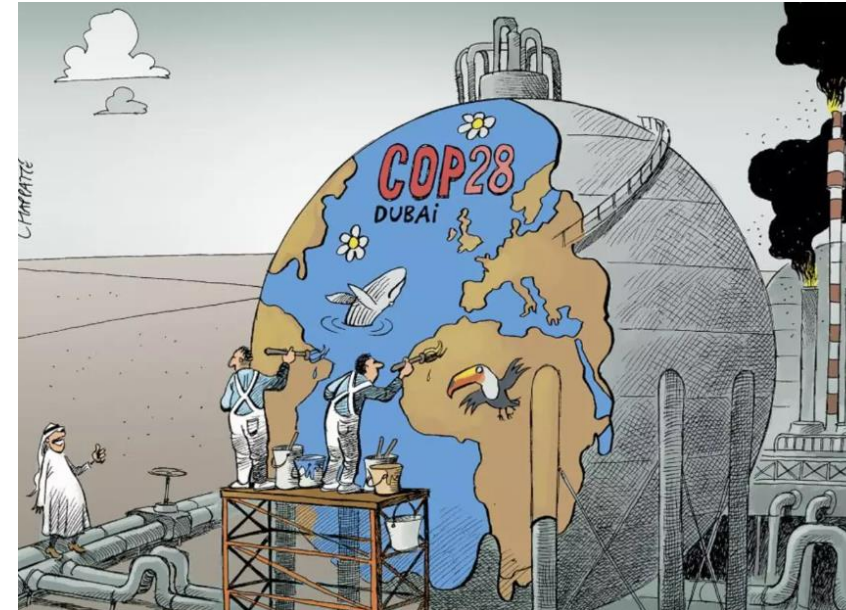
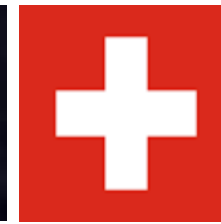
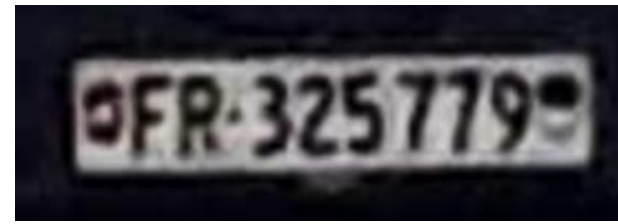
\*Electricity in kWh of biomass, hydro, solar, nuclear wind taken **multiplied by 2.5** to be shown as primary energy source (BP)

CO<sub>2</sub>  
free

Statistical review of world energy  
World Energy Outlook 2023 (windows.net)







# QUICK RULE OF THUMBS ESTIMATIONS

- With a 1.5 % growth in primary\* energy need (instead of 2%...)  
→ **250'000 TWh** in 2050
- **Strong electrification** of heating/mobility + biomass + rest electricity for H<sub>2</sub>  
→ **100'000 TWh** electrical production by 2050

**3x more electricity by 2050,  
while stopping coal oil and in  
large part gas**



Today:  
28'000 TWh

## In 2022\*:

- hydro ~ 4300 TWh
- Nuclear 2600 TWh
- wind 2100 TWh
- Solar 1300 TWh

\*according to BP substitution technique technique

\*Global Electricity Review 2023 | Ember ([ember-climate.org](https://ember-climate.org))



# 4 MAJOR OPTIONS FOR 100'000 TWh ANNUAL ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

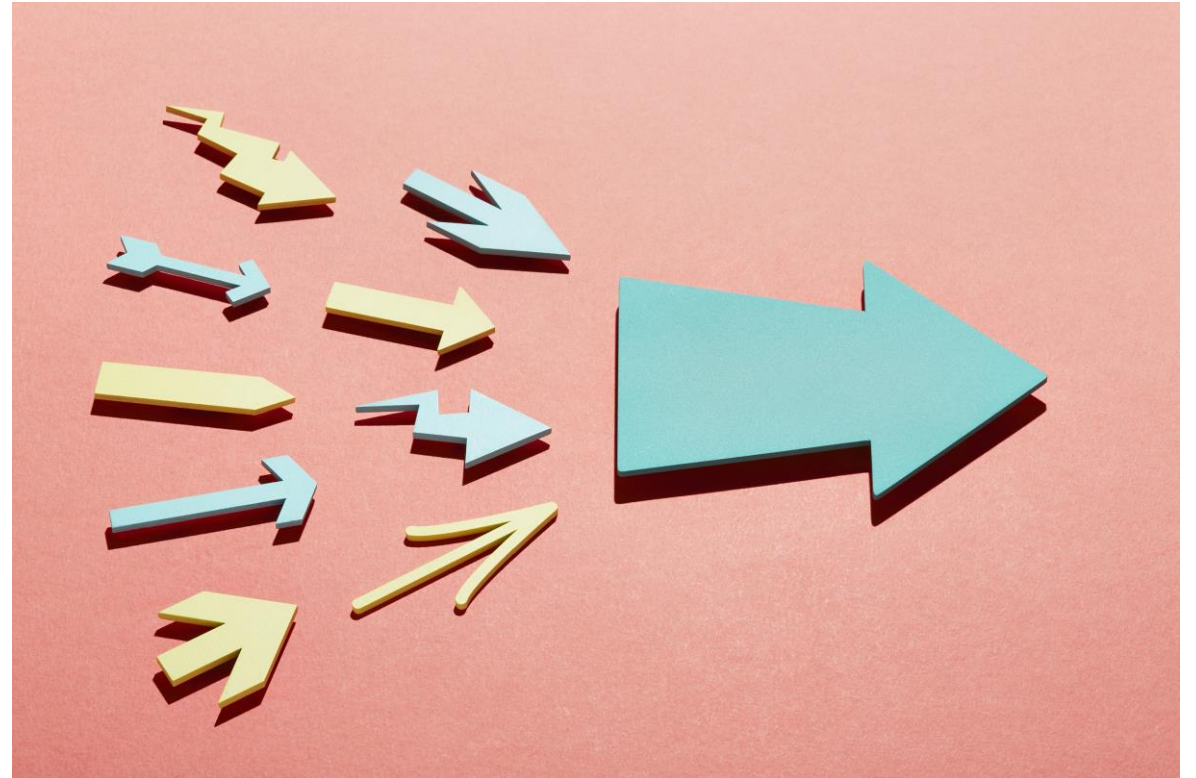
Which can be combined.....

- a e.g. 40'000 GW of Solar and 15'000 GW of Wind (+ Hydro + Biomass)
- b 13'000 x 1 GW nuclear power plants
- c Carbon sequestration
- d Don't care (or too late...)

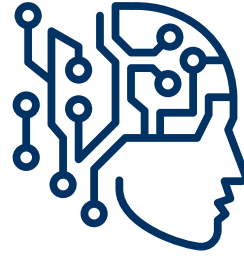
1GW Nuclear → 8 TWh/year (8000 hours)

1GW solar → 1-2 TWh/year (1000-2000 hours)

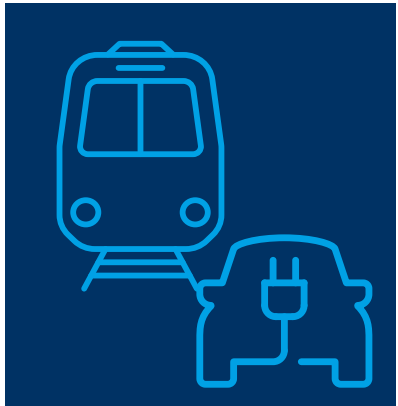
1GW wind → 2-4 TWh/year (2000-4000 hours)



# MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL ROUTES FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION



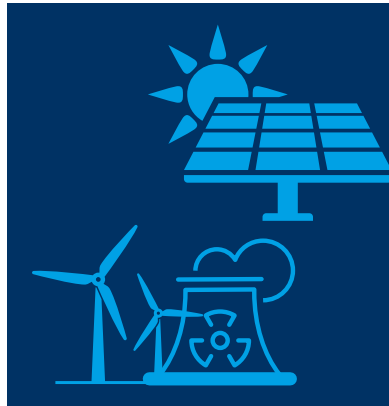
Flexibility and intelligence (e.g. good forecast)



Public transport  
or **electric cars**  
+  
**batteries**



**Heat pumps**  
(air and  
geothermal)



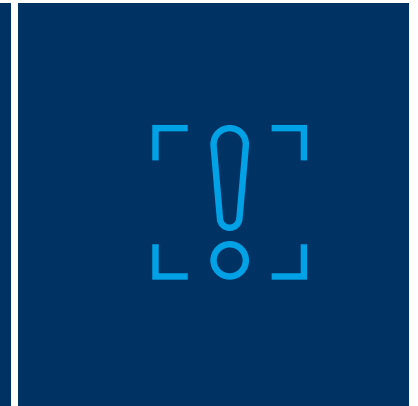
**Solar, Hydro,  
Wind, Biomass**  
(Nuclear)



**Insulation,  
efficiency**



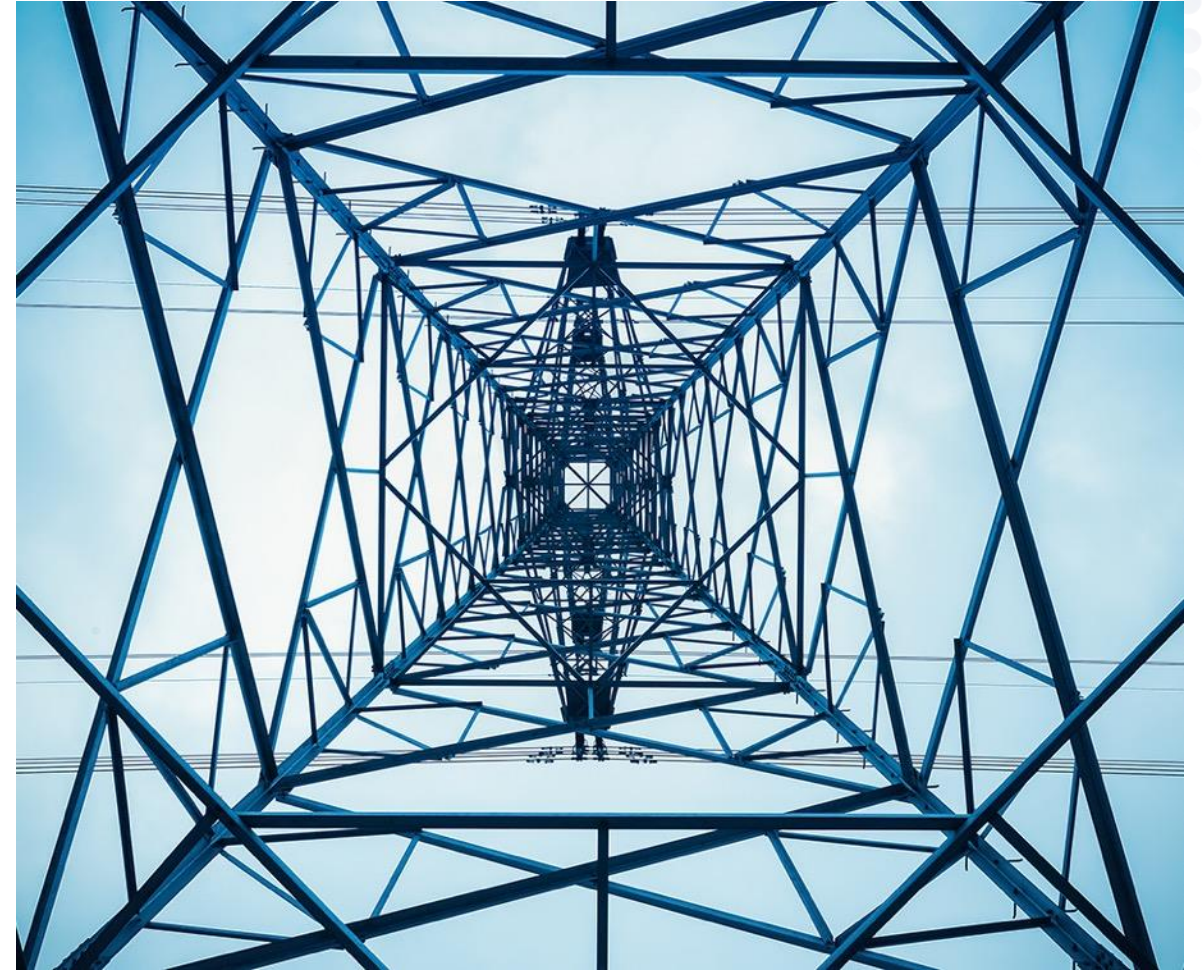
**Tracking  
losses**



**+ many small  
(but important)  
+ H2 ....**



**With massive wind and solar,  
European grid can be  
balanced on an hourly/weekly  
basis but short-term storage  
(batteries mostly and pump  
storage) required**



# COST OF ELECTRICITY

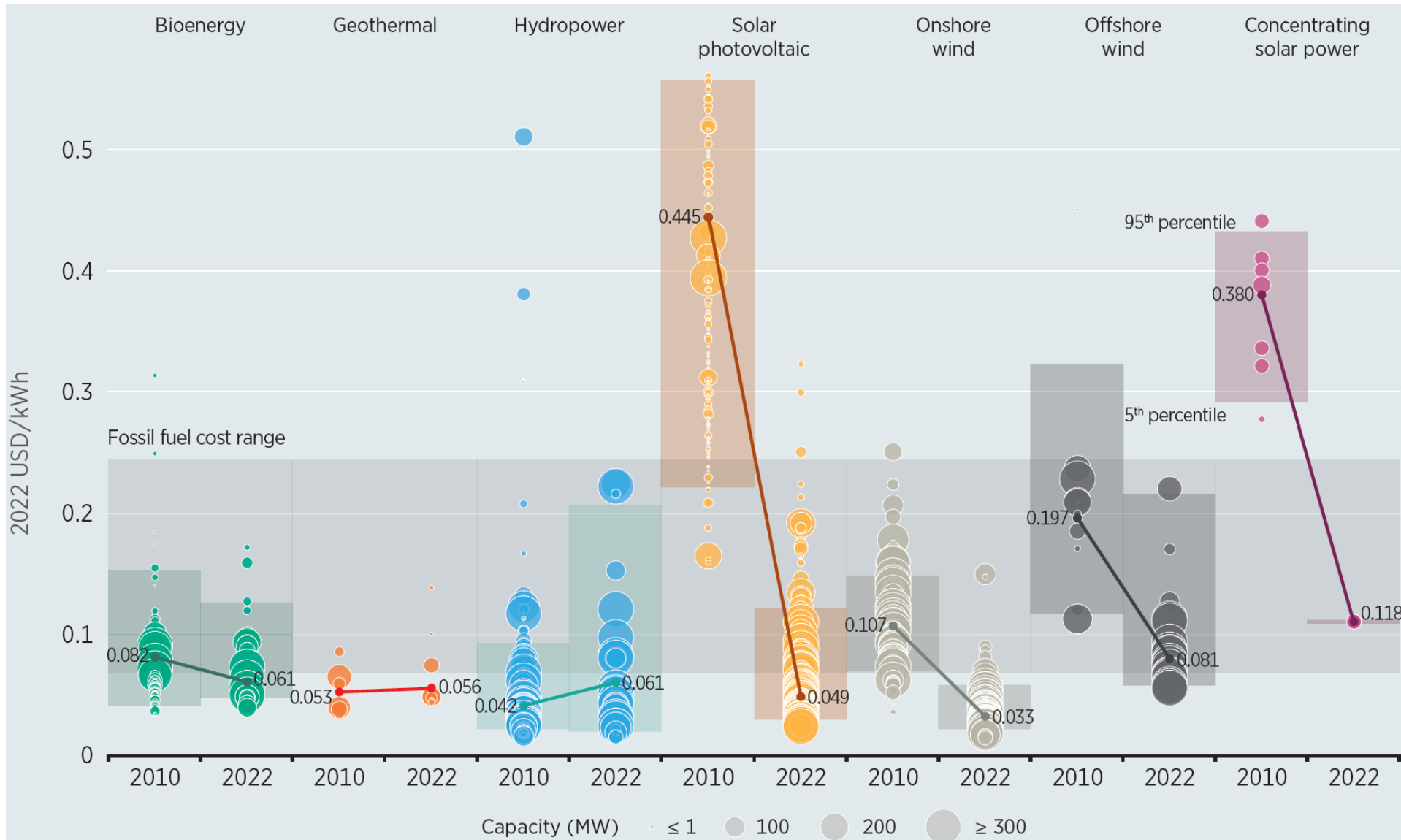
Global LCOEs from newly commissioned, utility-scale renewable power generation technologies, 2010-2020

## Drop in generation costs of renewables from 2010 to 2022

### FOSSILE FUEL COST RANGE 2022

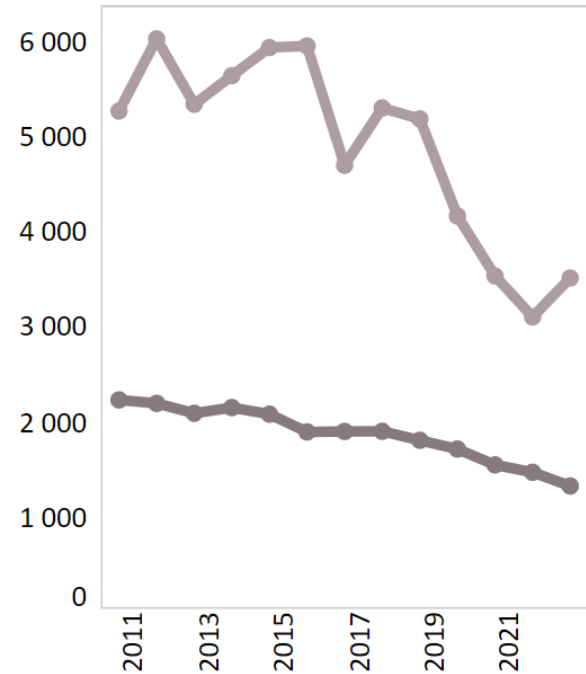
In ten years  
Wind and solar  
large parks direct  
electricity costs  
well below fossile  
fuels

Source:  
IRENA report  
«Renewable power  
generation costs in  
2022»

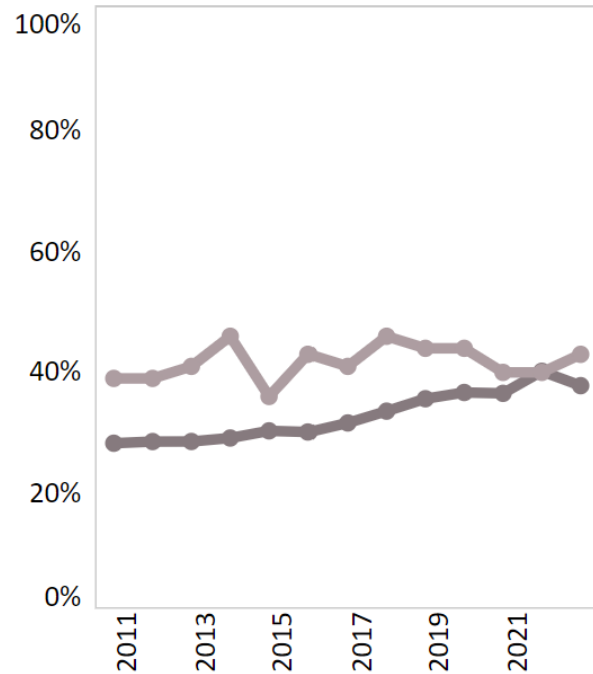




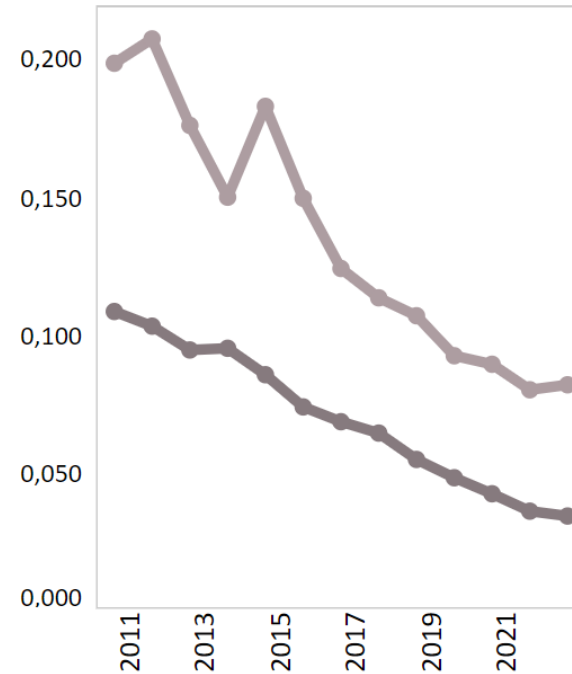
Total installed cost (2022 USD/kW)



Capacity factor (%)



LCOE (2022 USD/kWh)


[Submit feedback](#)
[Download chart data](#)


**On-shore EU wind cost decrease (1.3 M\$/MW)**  
 Increased capacity factor with larger turbines  
 Average LCOE ~ 4 cts/kWh  
 (best place in the 2-3cts/kWh)

**OFF-shore wind System cost decrease (3.2 M\$/MW)**  
 Slightly higher capacity factor  
 Average LCOE ~ 8-9 cts/kWh  
 (best place in the 6cts/kWh)

<https://www.irena.org/Statistics/View-Data-by-Topic/Costs/Global-Trends>

Increased in Capacity factors thanks to large windmills



# Not for Switzerland... but impressive size



20-MW turbine in Hainan,



26-MW Turbine offshore, 310 diameter !

# PV ? MANY IMPROVEMENTS! AND MORE DURABLE

## 1<sup>st</sup> major improvement

**Siemens silicon  
recrystallation  
process 200 kWh/kg  
of Si in 2000!!!**

Today:

Can make 10 tons of silicon per run,  
tubular filaments, cold reflected coated walls.

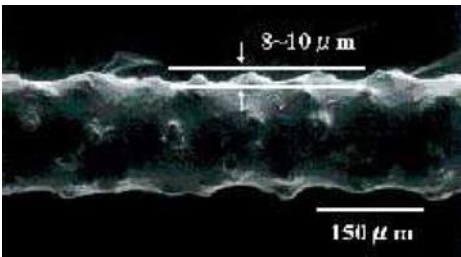
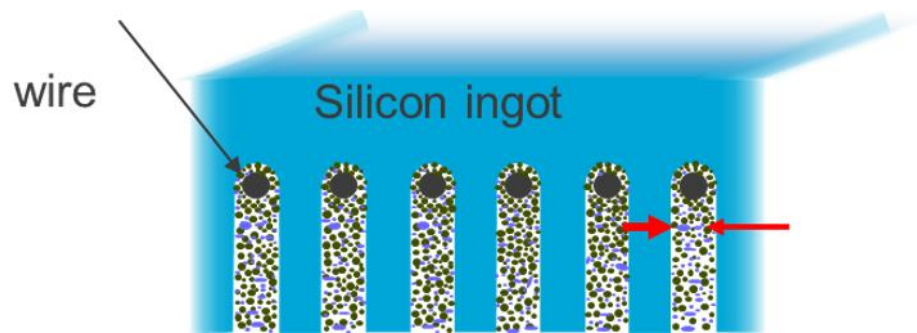
**Only 40-45 kWh/kg.**





# DURABILITY OF PV

## 2<sup>nd</sup> major improvement Wafer sawing



Yesterday, multi-wire sawing, SiC particles  
→ 200 microns lost Si

Today, diamond wires for mono c-S  
→ 50 microns lost Si (36 microns wire)  
→ 80 % more wafers than 5 years ago!



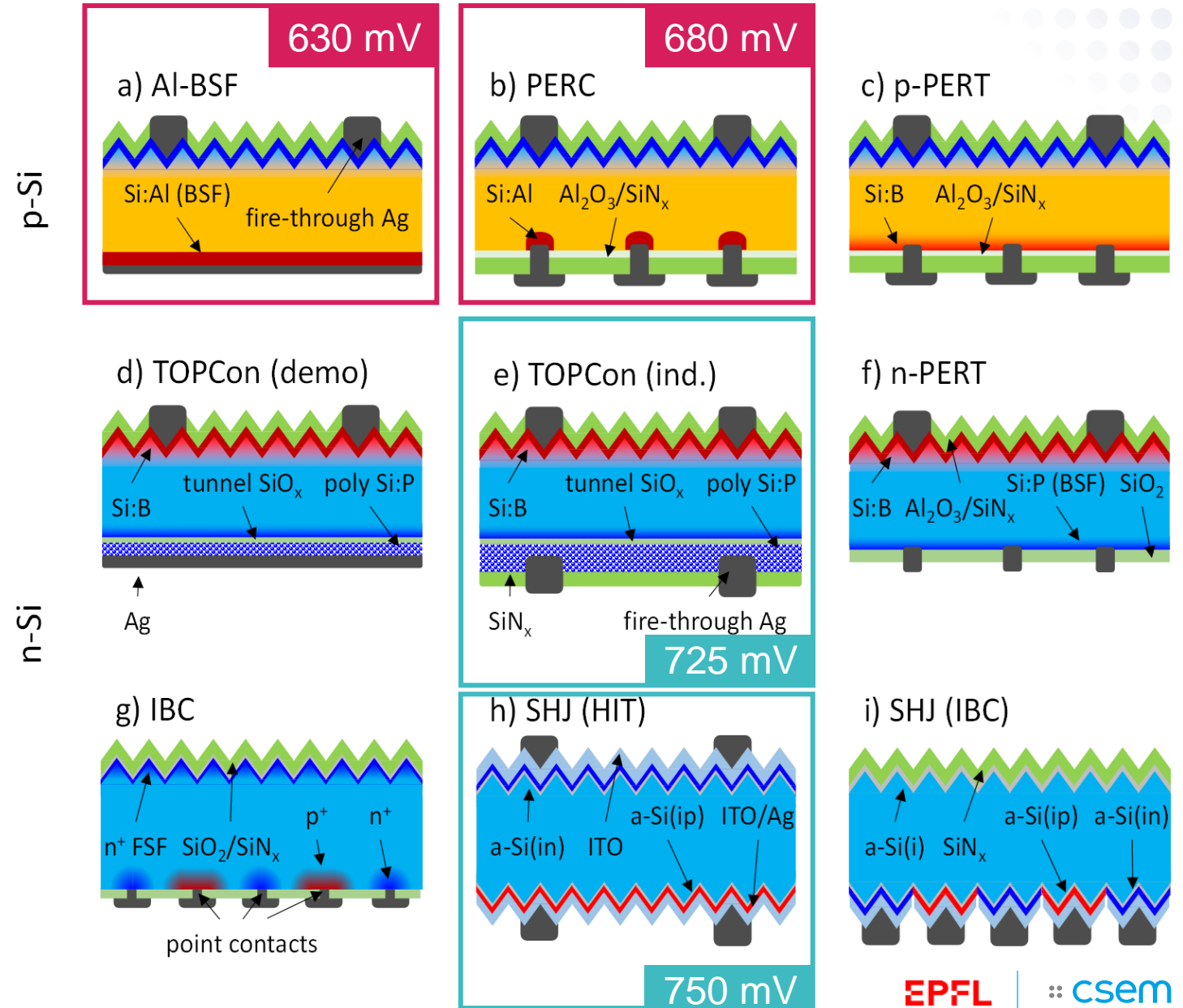
# DURABILITY OF PV

**3<sup>rd</sup>** major improvement technologies

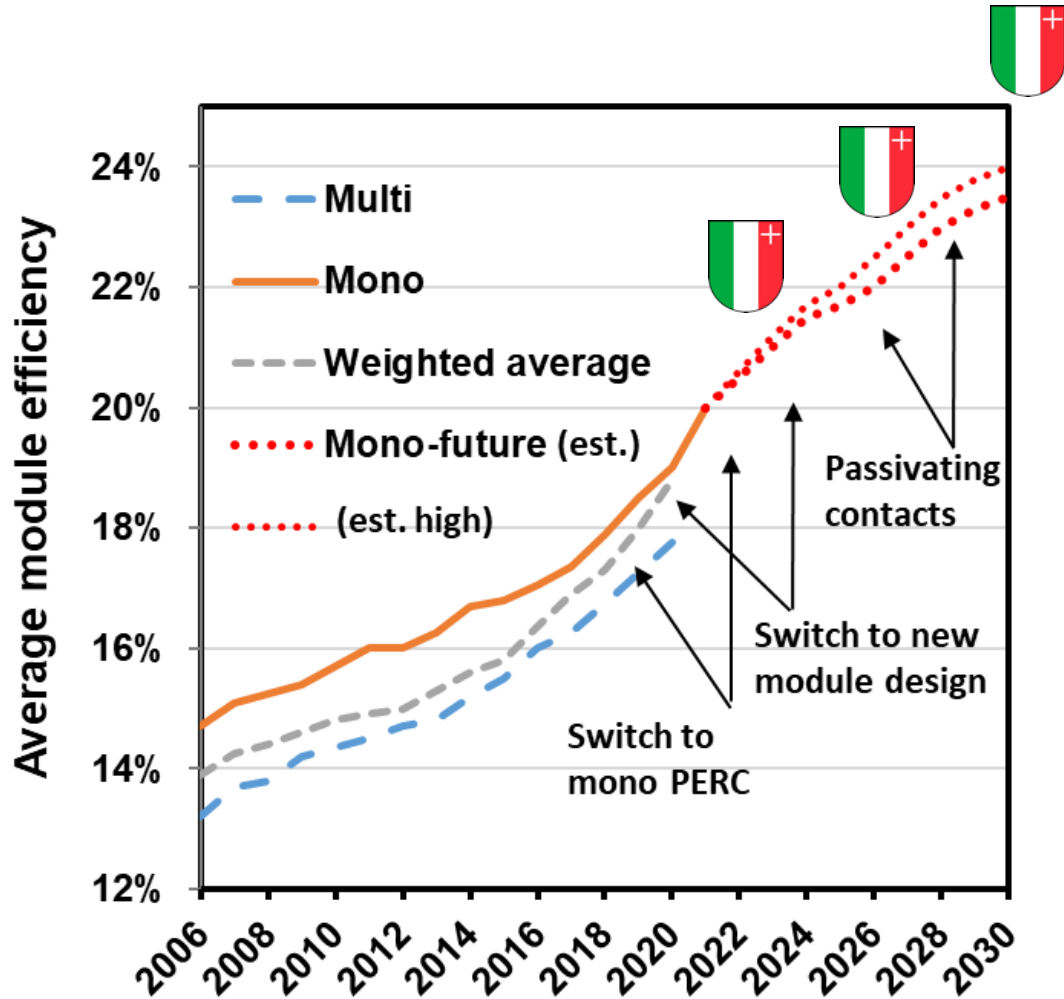
The various types of silicon technologies:

More and more Voltage !!

Ballif/Haug et al. Nat. Rev Materials 2022



# PERMANENT INCREASE IN THE MODULE EFFICIENCY

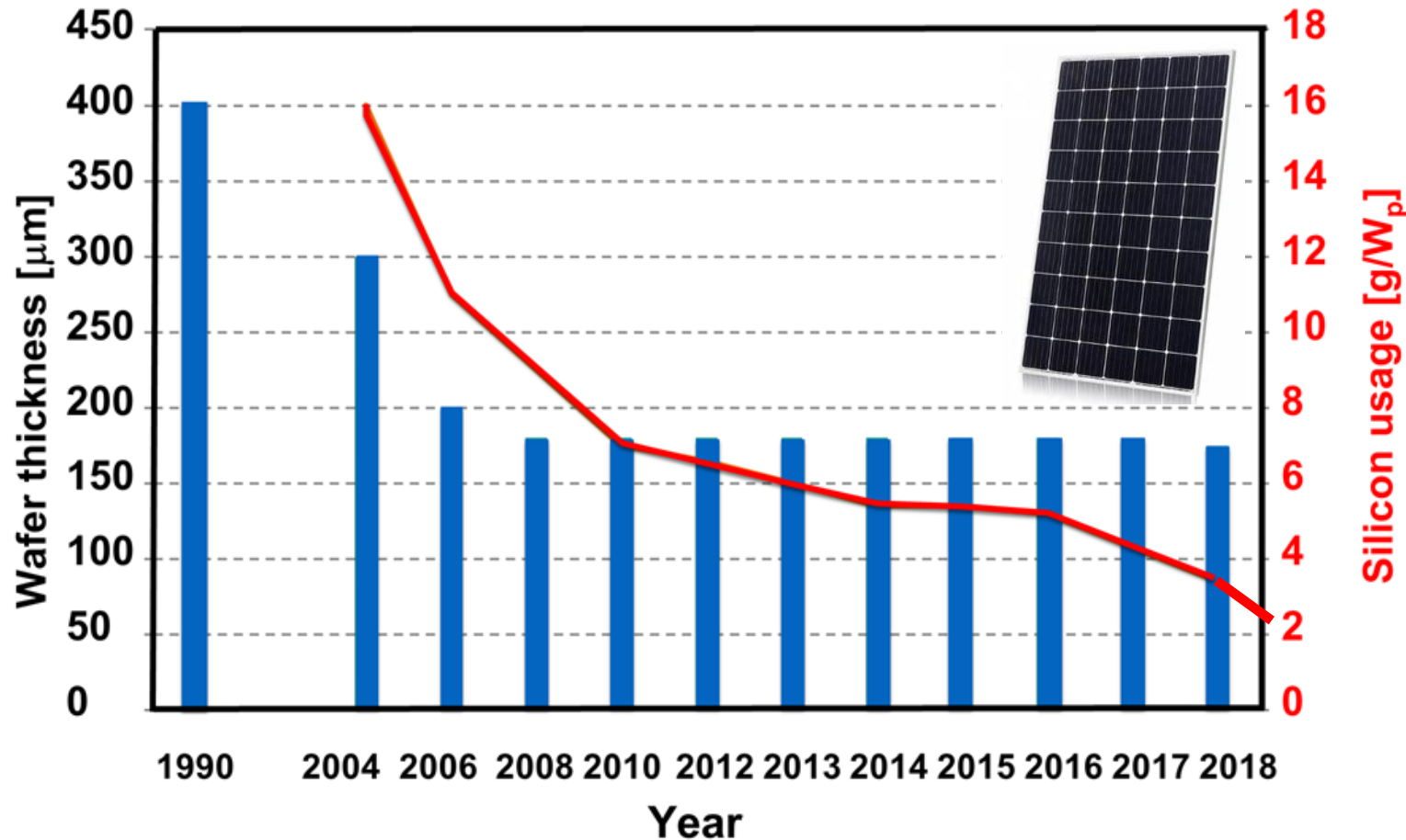


- 0.4-0.5% gain per year
- Today's average cells at 22.5-23.5%, modules at 20.5-21% average
- Efficiency will further increase → practical limit at 24–25%

Reduces all other material costs/usage per W



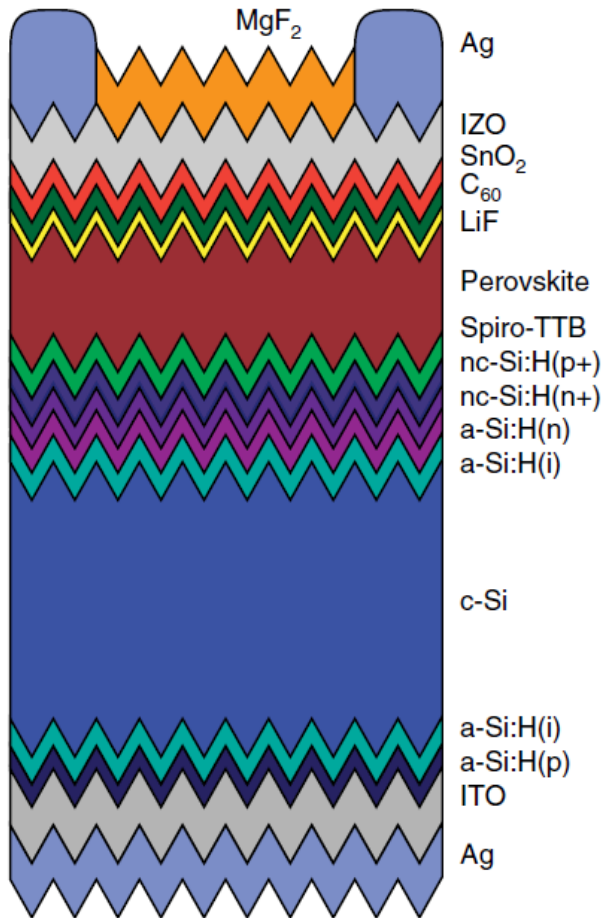
# PURIFIED SILICON USAGE PER WATT FOR SILICON PV MODULES



From 17 to 2 g/W in 2022  
in 20 years thanks to:

- Improved processes (poly-si)
  - Diamond wire sawing
  - Thinner wafers
  - Efficiency increase
- 
- Energy paybacktime below 1 year, lower CO2 content

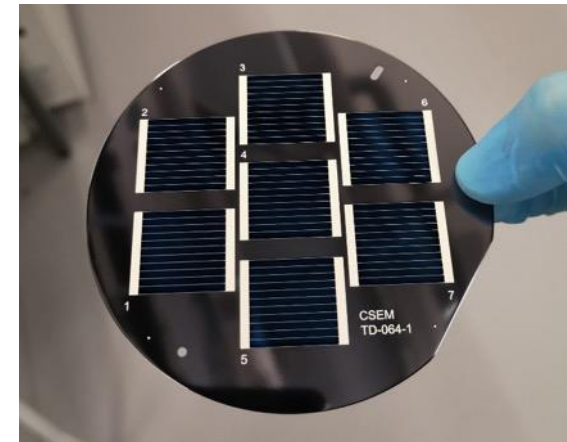
# CELLS ABOVE 30%? FOR THE FIRST TIME PEROVSKITE/SILICON TANDEM SOLAR CELL BY EPFL/CSEM



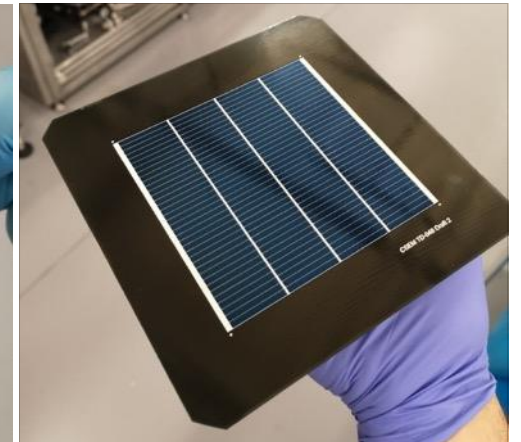
Sahli et al. Nature materials 2018



EPFL PV-lab/CSEM  
first time WR > 30%  
Certified > 31.3%\*



CSEM  
Upscaling ongoing  
And 29.6% certified on 25 cm<sup>2</sup>

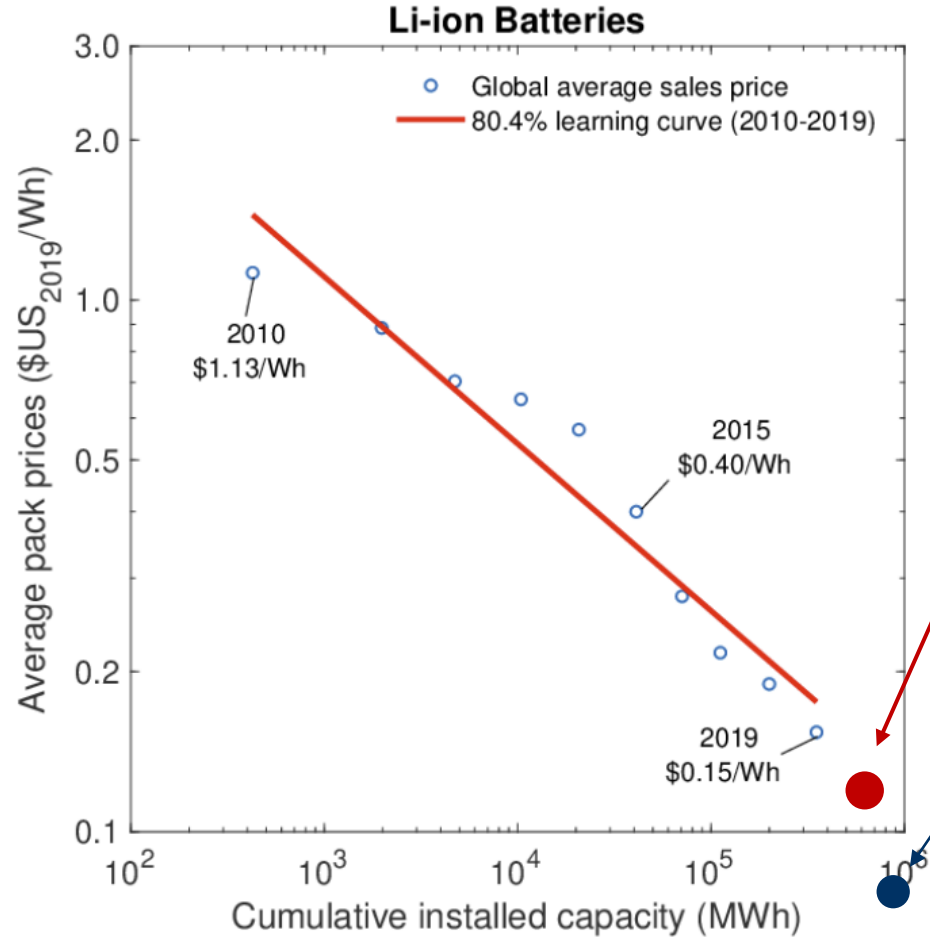


Xin Yu Chin et al. Science, 2023

Turkey et al. Artuk et al.

# STORAGE STIMULATED BY THE AUTOMOTIVE MARKET

## Automotive Battery learning curve



Today automotive battery pack at 100-120 \$ /kWh

“We expect the price of an average battery pack to \$62/kWh by 2030

**Ultra-fast learning curve, as for PV**

**Usable for stationnary storage**



Cost Dynamics of Clean Energy Technologies, Glenk et al.





**510 GW IN 2023 NEW INSTALLATION OF  
RENEWABLES.... INCLUDING 375 GW SOLAR  
AND 107 GW OF WIND**

**SO WE INSTALLED THE EQUIVALENT OF 100  
TO 110 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OF 1 GW  
EACH RUNNING 100% OF THE TIME**

**BUT THE WORLD NEEDS TO INSTAL 4-5X MORE PER  
YEAR TO REACH NET ZERO BY 2050**

Energy transition will require even huge amount of solar panels, batteries, windturbines, electric cars, electrolyzers .....

And huge investment in manufacturing plants,...

e.g. > 120-150 billions \$ to make the production lines (equipements and building) to make and extra 1000 GW of PV



- Massive investment (>> 200 Billions in production assets) during COVID times: in PV, batteries and Wind manufacturing  
(+ in electric cars)

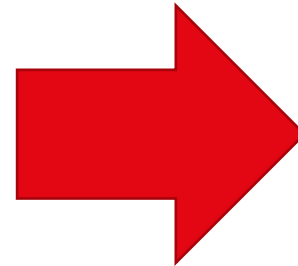
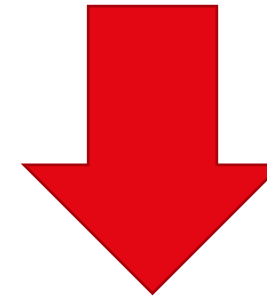
**In PV close to 1400 GW** of production capacity are ready  
(enough for ideal scenario....)

For batteries, soon capacity **for 4800 GWh** by end 2025

( enough for **100 millions** car per year equivalent)



Ultra-harsh internal competition,  
Overcapacity (factor 2.5 to 3 for 2024)



- PV panels at 12cts/W
- Inverters at 3cts/W
- Battery cell at down to 55\$/kWh !
- Windturbine at 40 cts/W
- Electrolysers systems at 30 cts/W
- Ultra-low cost heat pumps



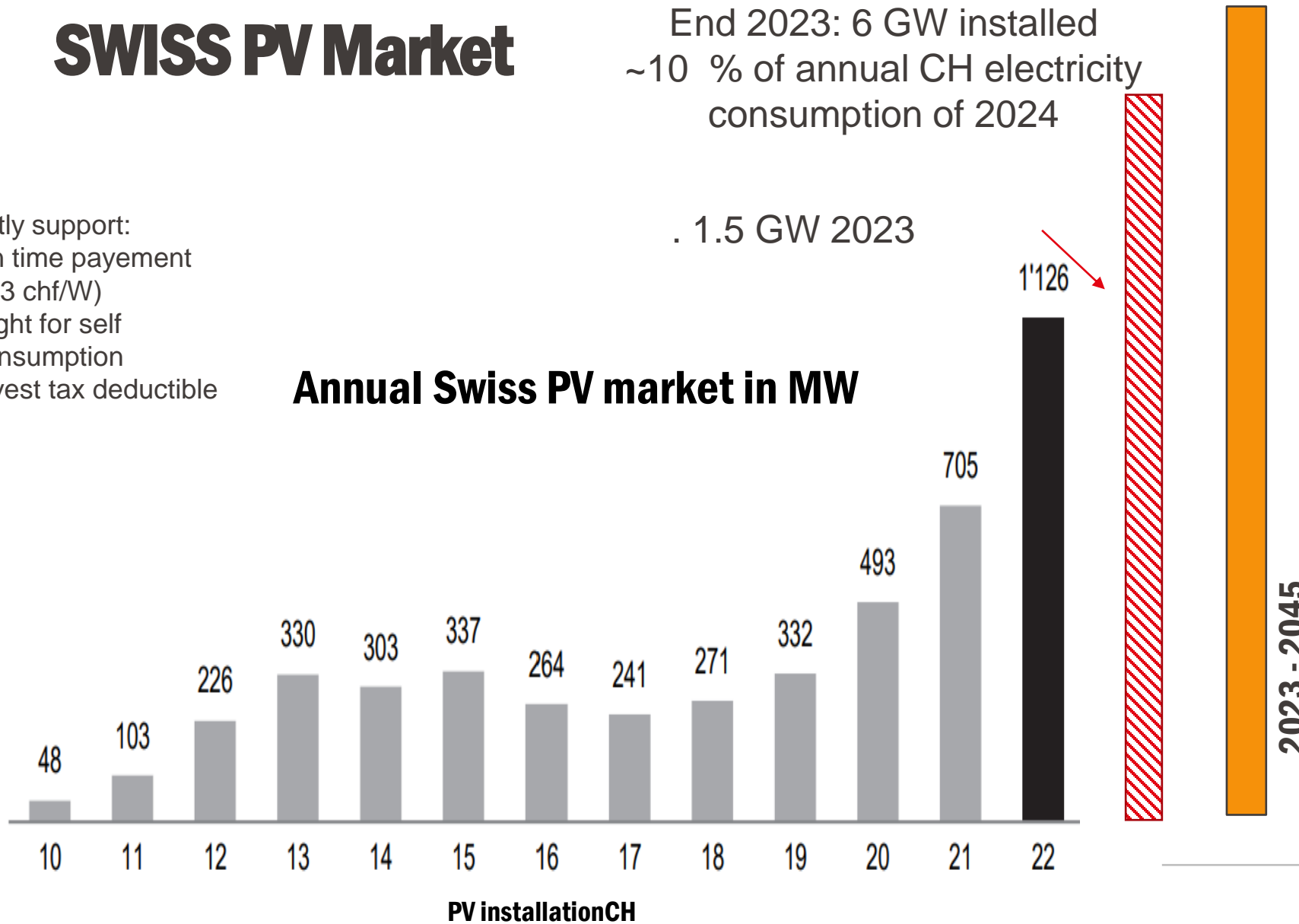


End 2023: 6 GW installed  
~10 % of annual CH electricity  
consumption of 2024

Currently support:

- On time payment  
(0.3 chf/W)
- Right for self  
consumption
- Invest tax deductible

### Annual Swiss PV market in MW



Min > 1.7 GW  
year

For scenarios  
with 50 GW  
solar....

Should be  
pushed with new  
electricity law !

Orders of magnitudes starts to be ok !



# HOW PV HELPS SOLVE THE «WINTER PROBLEM» IN CH –



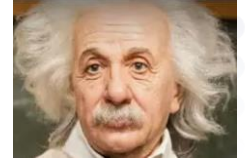
- Put more quickly more photovoltaics everywhere and curtail (easy)
- Put more PV on facades and in the Alps (less easy but useful)
- Increase some dams height/new dams, optimise for Swiss autarcy not costs
- More wind for winter production/  
reduce time to construction and opposition
- Biomass/biofuel, wastes, wood, for winter
- In 2040, hydrogen import (partially through NH3 systems ?) or closed loop CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub>..
- LOHC)



# BUT MANY CHALLENGES AHEAD IN CH

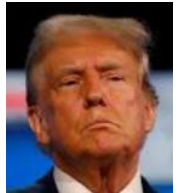
## Ideal scenario

- Intelligence and anticipate
- Control all heat pumps
- Car charging bi-directional
- Curtail PV



## Reality

- Some pockets of local optimisations
- No anticipation
- Uncontrolled management
- DSO will have to install many more batteries faster
- Forced Curtailement of PV



Forecast of  
demand and  
production  
imprecise

Limited system  
flexibility  
From heat  
pump and  
mobility



# THE CASE FOR HEAT PUMPS

Frédéric Louis-Pierre Raphaël Marie AMBLARD

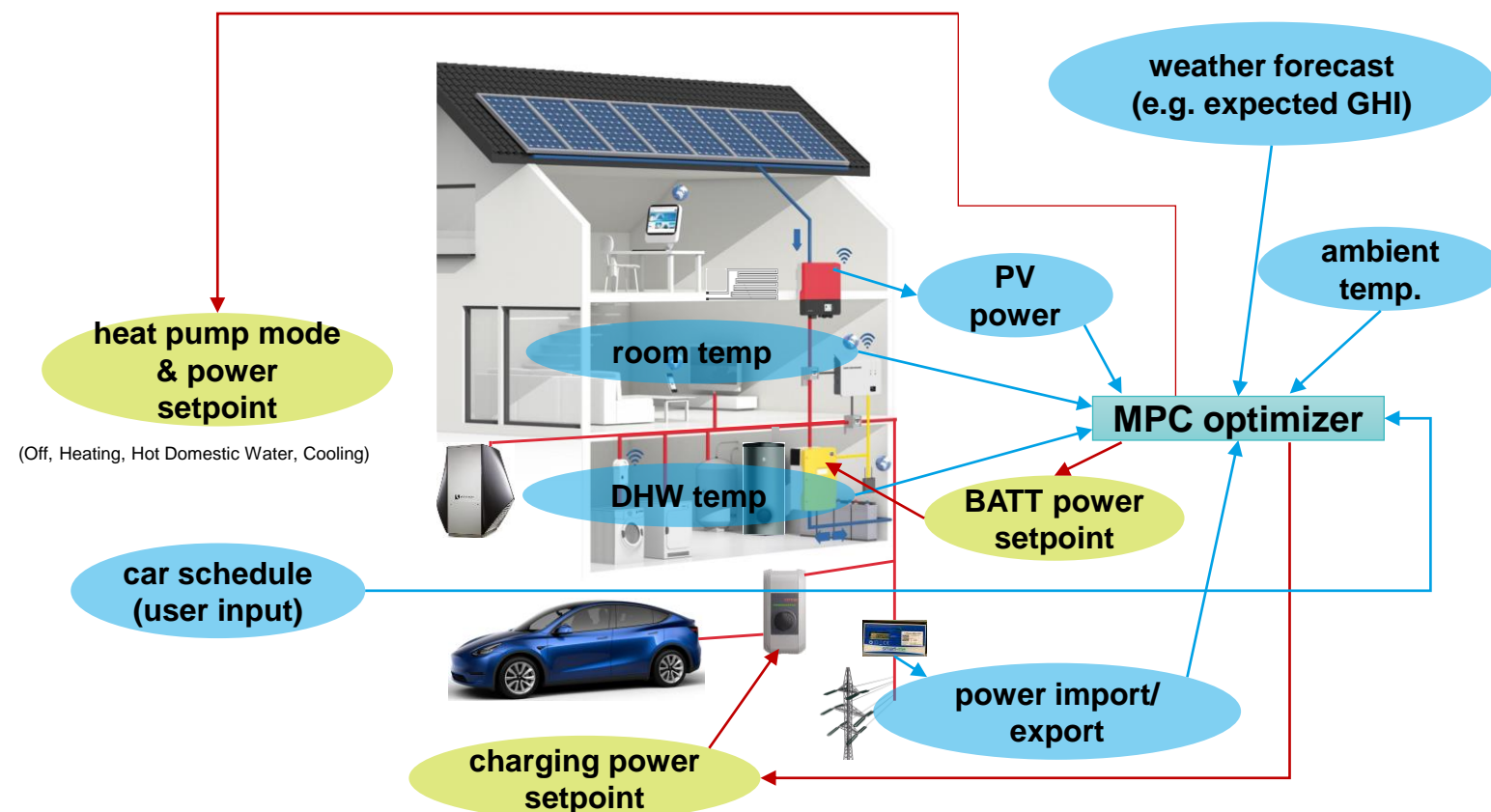
Reliability and Performance of Model Predictive  
Control for Demand Response with Residential Heat  
Pumps

Présentée le 8 janvier 2021

However, these industry standards do not translate well in the age of the Internet of Things (IoT) and for use with DR. Proprietary standards, and the lack of conversion interfaces, are the biggest technical obstacles preventing devices like heat pumps from being used for DR services.

Finally, there needs to be concerted effort and collaboration between the market actors, heat pump manufacturers and the designers of the latest machine learning and control algorithms. There is a major gap between the solutions presented in research papers and their implementation on real systems. Software and hardware that are flexible enough to adapt

## NRG Maestro Optimizer



**ENERGY MANAGEMENT IN INDIVIDUAL HOUSES AND MULTI-APARTMENT BUILDINGS**



**ENERGY MANAGEMENT IN ENERGY COMMUNITY DISTRICT IN COLLABORATION**



# Example of (relatively) optimal interface for HP

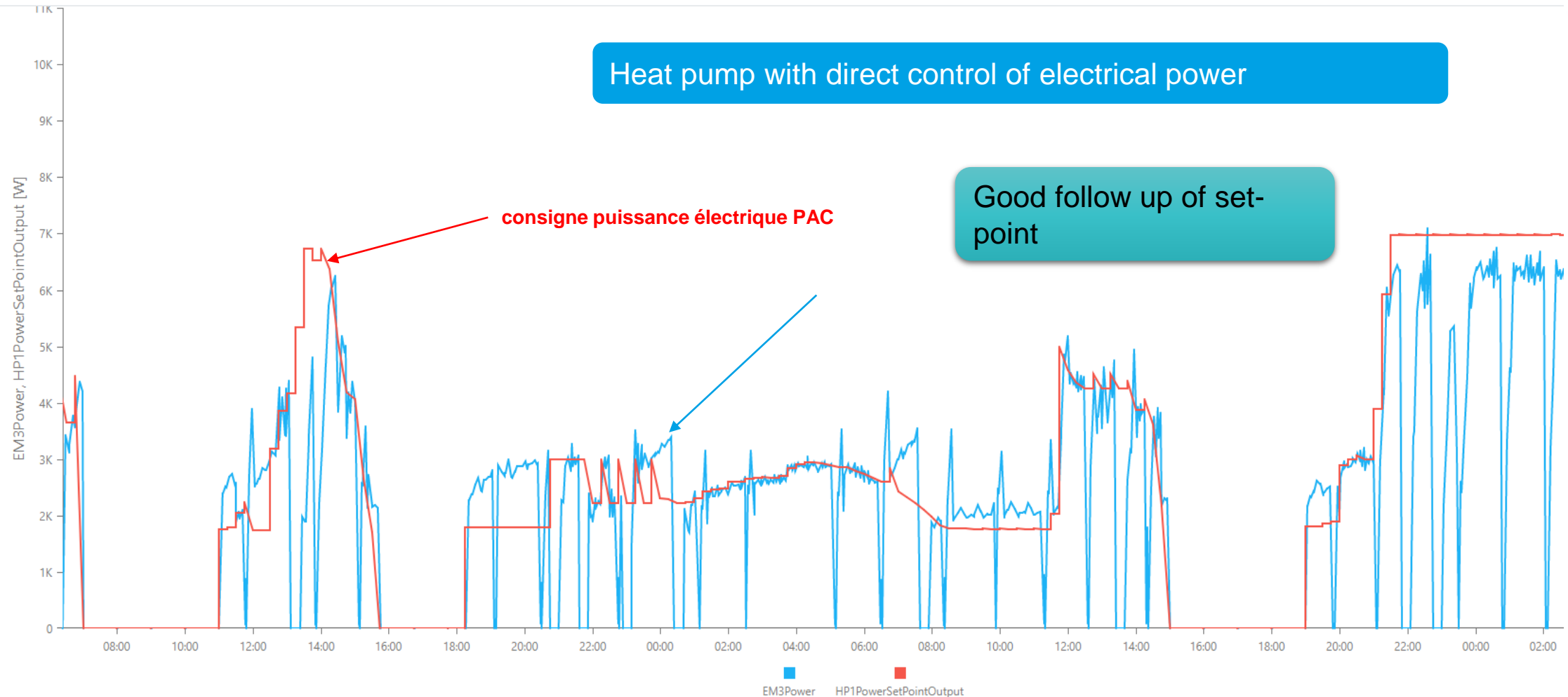


Soleco AG

Solar for economy & ecology

Hallo

Soleco Optimizer   Ansichten   Dashboard   Fahrzeuge   SmartPlugs   Sollwerte   Planung ▾   Trends   Administrator ▾

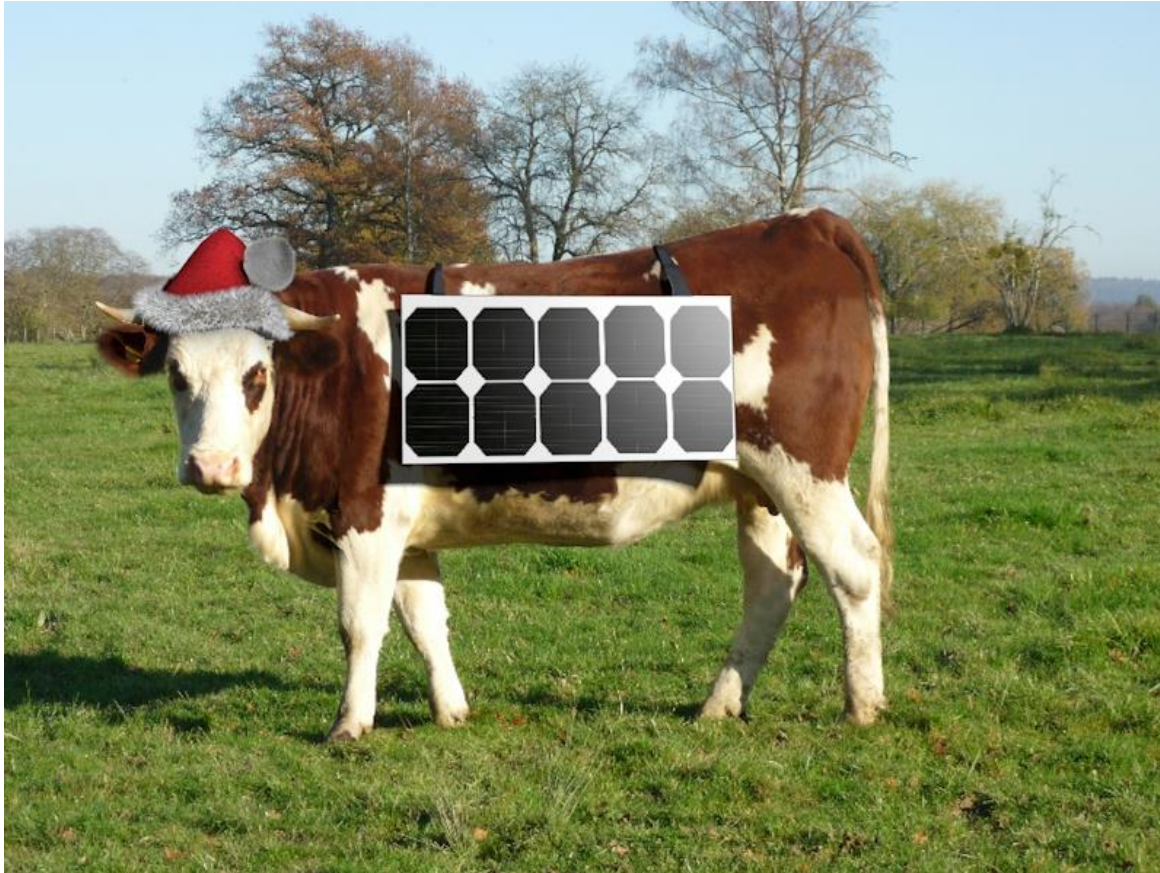




**ENERGY COMMUNITY NEEDS TO MOVE  
FASTER...  
HOPEFULLY MUCH MORE PV COMES  
SOON**

# SWITZERLAND, SENSITIVE TO ACCEPTANCE IN RURAL AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Sensitive to aesthetics







Neuchâtel, maison des associations, Swiss Solar Award 2015 «renovation category»

Over 20'000 “Megaslates” systems installed (3S solar solution), fast ramping up of Swiss production

New Production lines in Thun

Prix solaire Suisse 2015

# WHAT DO ARCHITECTS WANT ?







## **Elegance and architecture**

Transforming building  
and cities

CSEM as pioneer of  
transformative  
technologies for PV panes

Based on low cost c-Si  
modules, ....

White PV panels,  
together with Solaxess



|| csem



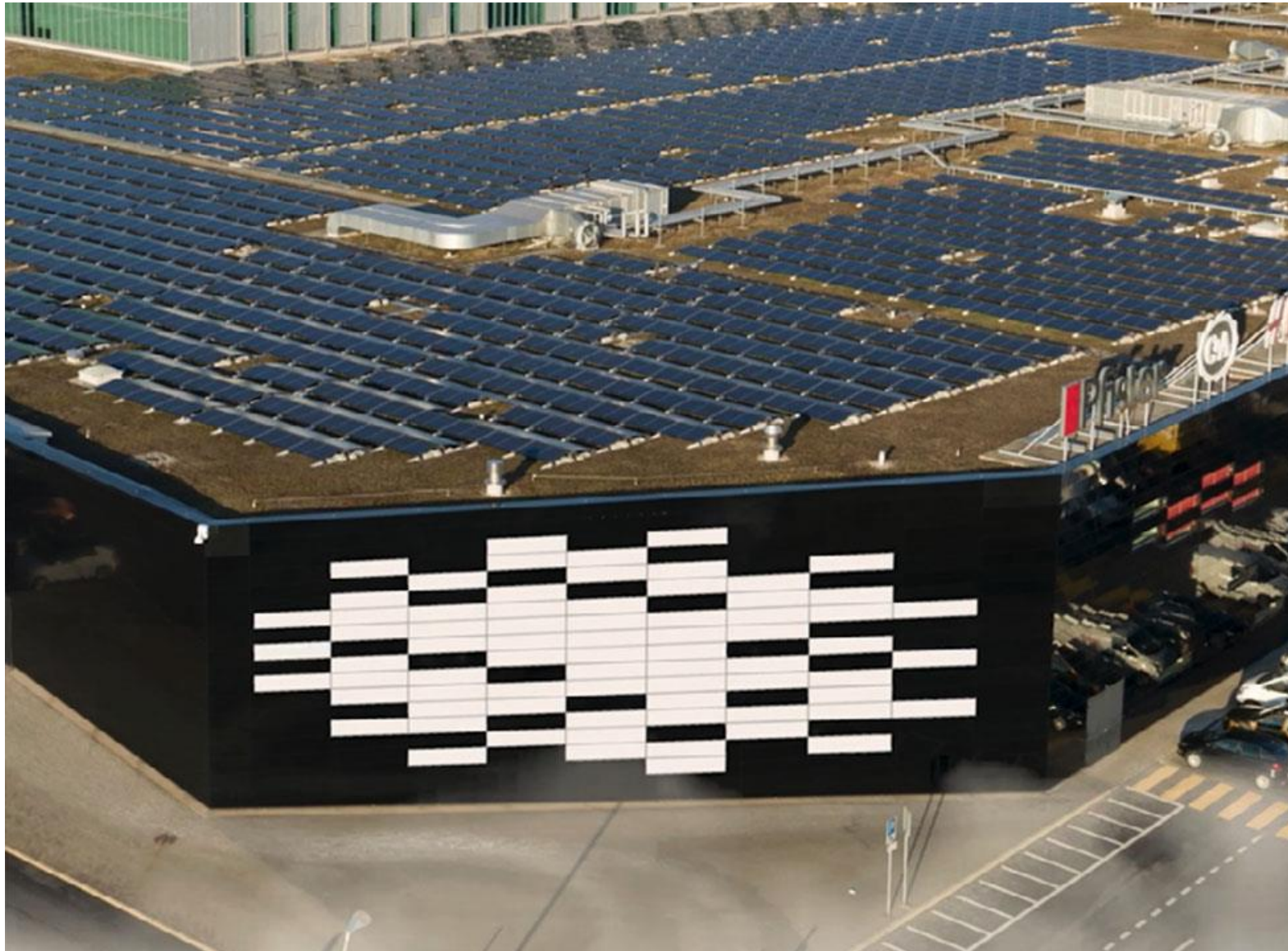








# FAÇADE ACTIVE, MIGROS DE MARIN





# LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS







## Ecuwillens


One of the  
Terra-cotta tones

With ISSOL, Solstis,  
Userhuus, SFOE

Soutien des Service de  
l'énergie et des biens  
culturels de Fribourg

Prix solaire  
Suisse 2018

**hflu**<sup>+</sup> Höhere  
Fachschule  
Luzern

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

 ETAT DE FRIBOURG  
STAAT FREIBURG

**Schweizer**  
Solrif®

:: csem

















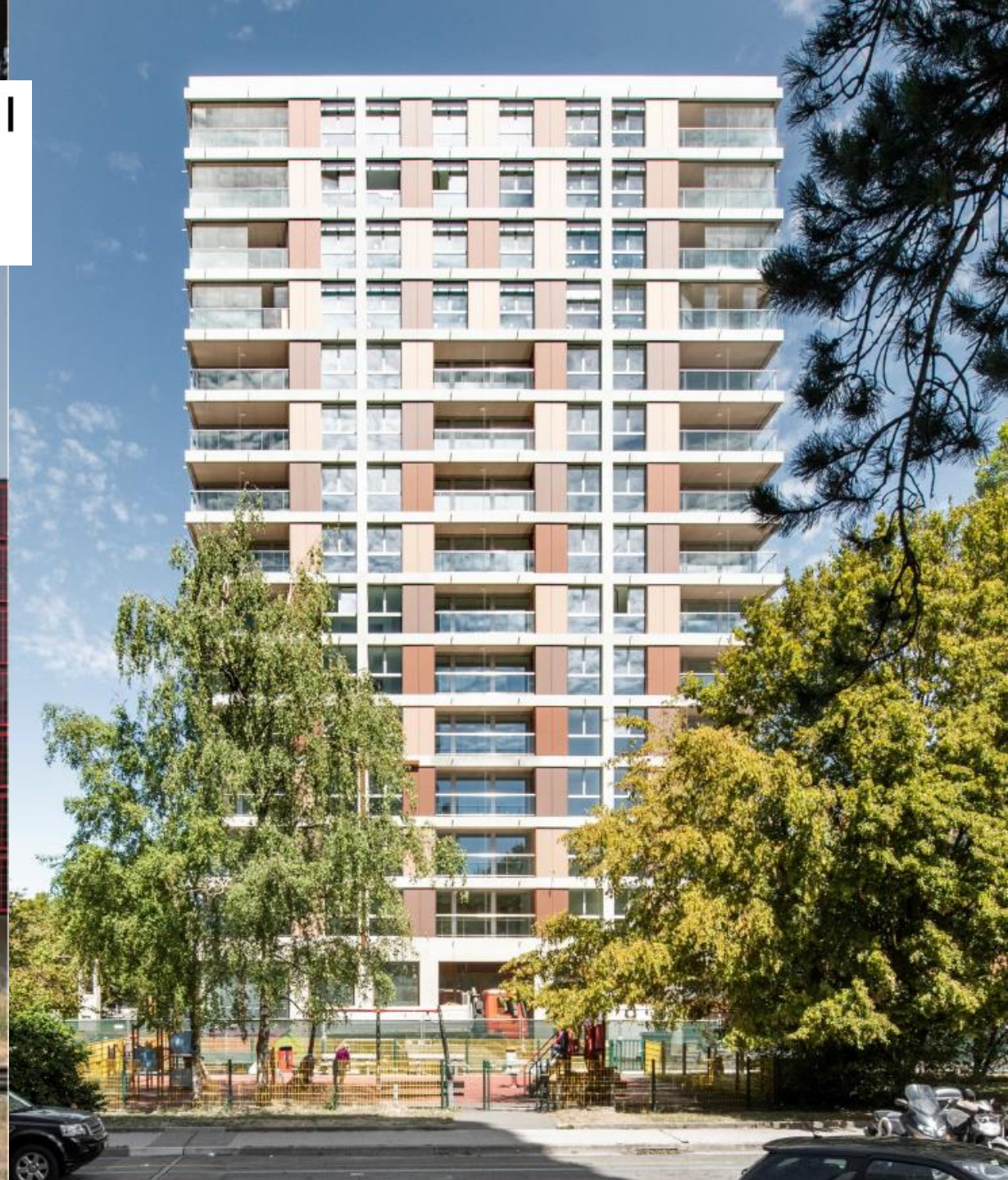




**Solarwall**

Architectural integrated  
photovoltaics

A Villars-Ste-Croix























## Private house Neuchâtel

Courtesy L.E.  
Perret-Aebi

**compáz**

|| csem



# INNOVATION IN SWITZERLAND

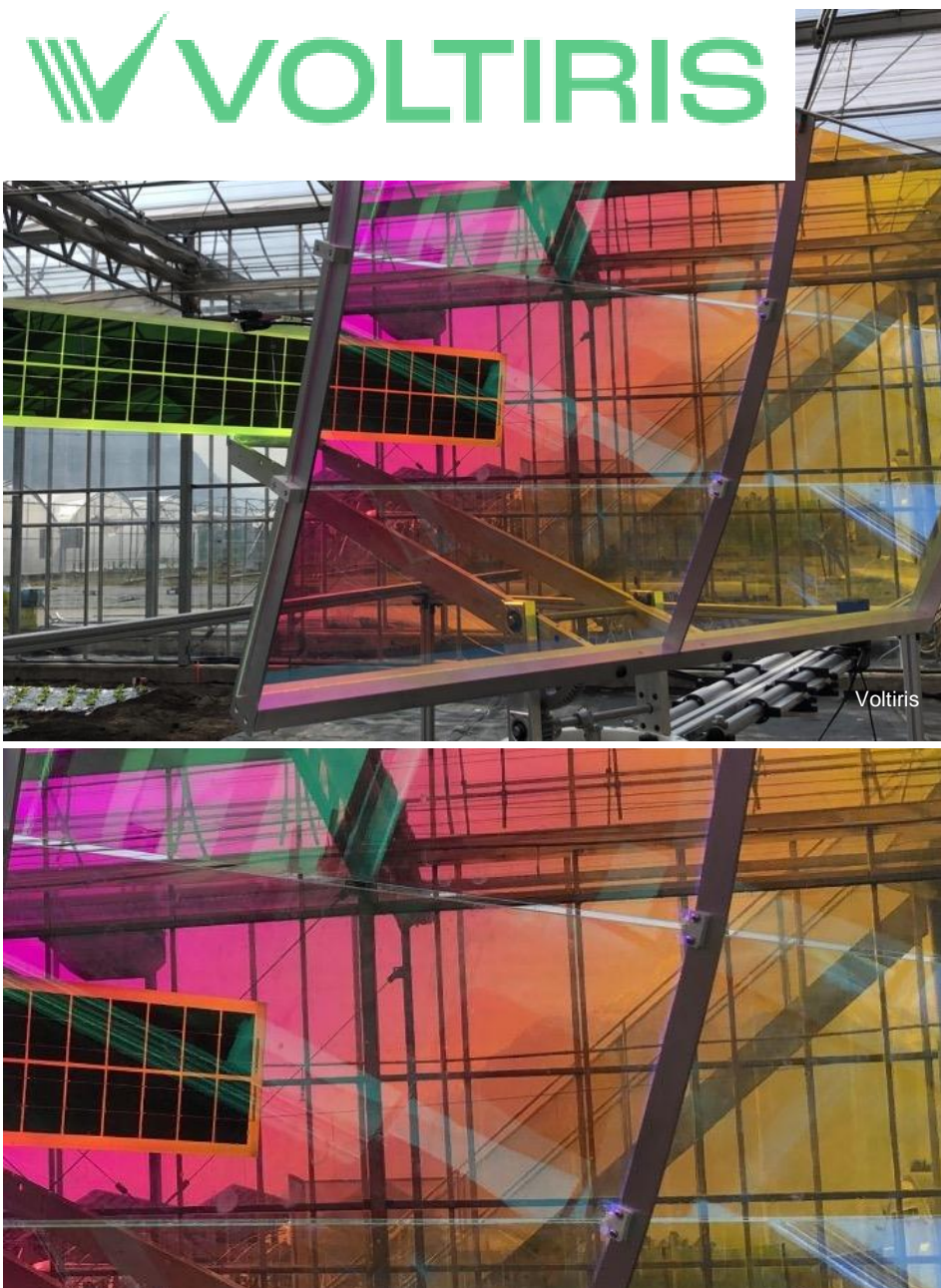


- Deployable PV systems





Agrivoltaics  
on the move

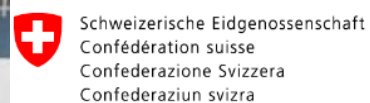




# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Do you want to work with us sponsor our activities?  
Don't hesitate to contact us !

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[Christophe.ballif@epfl.ch](mailto:Christophe.ballif@epfl.ch)



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