



# How to Achieve the Sunshot Goal of \$0.50/watt at the Module Level Using Compound Semiconductors?

## Industrial Perspective

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## Program Topics and Presentation Outline/Approach

### ❖ Program Topic: **How to Achieve the Sunshot Goal of \$0.50/watt at the Module Level Using Compound Semiconductors?**

- What are the Major Costs in PV?
- Is this an Achievable and Realistic Goal?
- Identify Areas/Components of High Cost and Ideas to Lower those Costs. What Needs to Happen?
- What can Material Scientists do to Reach the Goal?

### ❖ Presentation Outline/Approach

- **Assess Cost of the Module Finishing Materials**
  - ✓ Required For All Technologies and Module Manufacturers
  - ✓ Impact as a Function of Conversion Efficiency
- **Determines Budget for Remainder of a Module Product**
  - ✓ Cells Materials, Interconnect Materials, Direct Overhead, Direct Labor
- **Challenges and Possible Requirements to Meet Sunshot Goals**



# Definitions To Aid Discussion

## ❖ Efficiency

- **Active Area** → Area of the Active PV Only
  - ✓ Subtract Grid Area from Area
  - ✓ Don't Count Cell-to-Cell Spacing, Cell-to-Edge Spacing, Frame Area
- **Aperture Area or Cell Area** → Includes Grid Shadowing Losses
  - ✓ Don't Count Cell-to-Cell, Cell-to-Edge, Frame Areas
- **Total Area** → Efficiency Measured Using The Frame-to-Frame Area
  - ✓ Includes Grid Shadowing Losses
  - ✓ Includes Area Losses Associated with Cell-to-Cell Spacing, Cell-to-Edge Spacing and Frame
- **Example of Active Area-to-Module Losses**

Cell Configuration -->	Single Cell Module		MI Module
	125 mm Pseudo Sq	125 mm Sq	0.5 cm wide cell
Losses			
Cell Area and Resistance	8.99%	8.99%	12.84%
Cell Spacing	7.56%	2.81%	0.00%
Current Mismatch	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%
Periphery	6.40%	6.40%	6.40%
Last Cell (Covered with Buss)	0.00%	0.00%	4.88%
<b>Total Loss</b>	<b>22.95%</b>	<b>18.20%</b>	<b>34.12%</b>



# Definitions To Aid Discussion

## ❖ Cost Definitions for \$/W Discussion

- **Product**

- ✓ Cells
- ✓ Strings
- ✓ Module with All Components to Be Sold
  - Laminated with Frame, J-Box, Label, and Instructions

- **Accounting**

- ✓ Direct Material and Labor
- ✓ Direct Material, Labor, and Overhead (OH)
  - Includes Depreciation, Utilities, Factory Floor Space, Inbound Shipping
- ✓ Total Factory Cost
  - Bullet Above + Indirect OH, Sales/Marketing, G&A, Tax

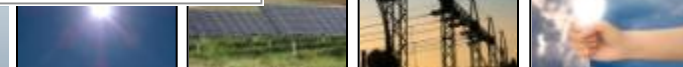
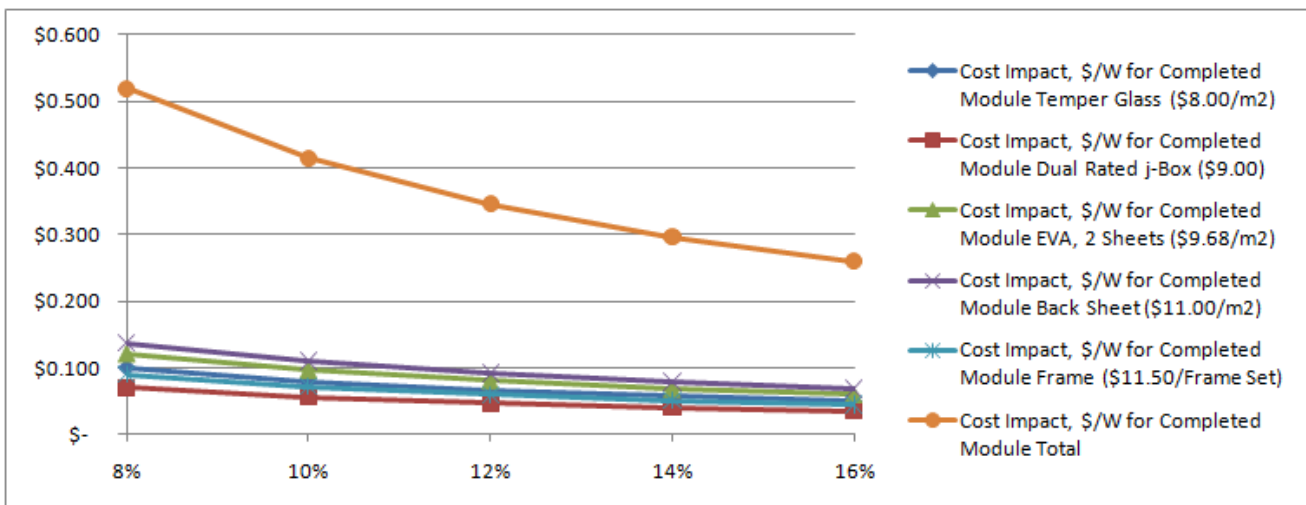


# Module Material Cost as a Function of Efficiency (“Back End Cost”)

## ❖ Module Packing Materials

- Quotes from Recognized UL/IEC Qualified Suppliers for 1.0 x 1.6-m Module, >20MW/yr Volume

Module Efficiency	Typical 1.0 x 1.6-m Module, Watts	Cost Impact, \$/W for Completed Module					
		Temper Glass (\$8.00/m <sup>2</sup> )	Dual Rated j-Box (\$9.00)	EVA, 2 Sheets (\$9.68/m <sup>2</sup> )	Back Sheet (\$11.00/m <sup>2</sup> )	(\$11.50/Frame Set)	Total
8%	128	\$ 0.100	\$ 0.070	\$ 0.121	\$ 0.138	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.519
10%	160	\$ 0.080	\$ 0.056	\$ 0.097	\$ 0.110	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.415
12%	192	\$ 0.067	\$ 0.047	\$ 0.081	\$ 0.092	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.346
14%	224	\$ 0.057	\$ 0.040	\$ 0.069	\$ 0.079	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.296
16%	256	\$ 0.050	\$ 0.035	\$ 0.061	\$ 0.069	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.259



## Module Material Cost Drivers

### ❖ Material

- Glass → Energy....Glass Plants are Virtually Fully Automated
- J-Box → Petroleum Products for Box Resin, Copper
- EVA → Polymers (Vinyl Acetate and Ethylene)
- Back Sheet → Polymers (Polyvinyl Fluoride, PET, EVA Bond Layer)
- Frame → Aluminum, Energy

❖ *All Module Finishing Materials are Already Commoditized and Further Cost Reductions Are Unlikely → Likely a Rising Fixed Commodity Cost For Module Packaging Materials*

❖ *At 16% Module Eff. Cost of the Module Packaging is ~\$0.25/Watt*

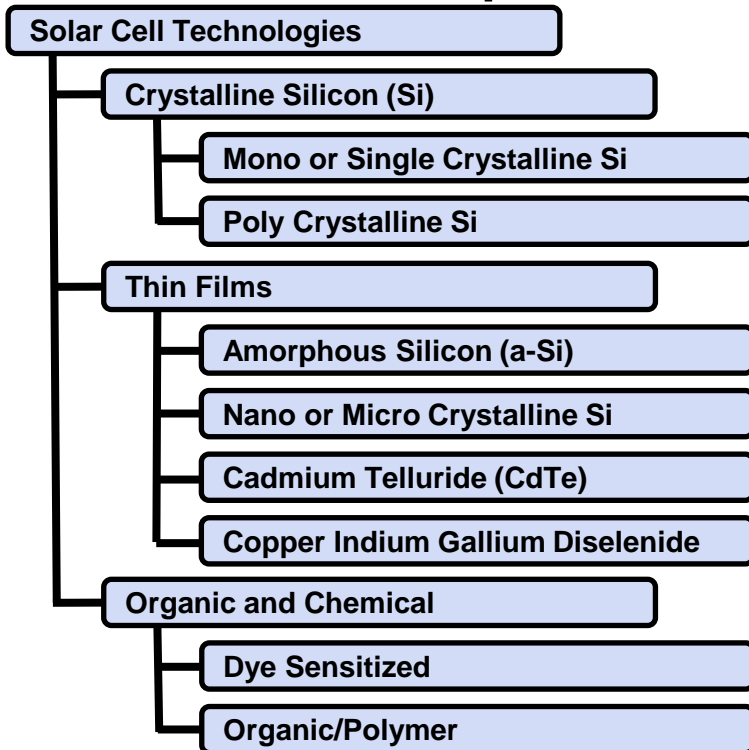
❖ *Leaves ~\$0.25/Watt for:*

- Factory, Direct Labor, Cell Direct Material, Interconnect Direct Material, Direct OH (Depreciation, Utilities, Consumables)



# Achieving High Efficiency to Support the SunShot Goal

## ❖ CIGS Provides the Highest Thin Film Efficiency and the Most Head Room For Improvement



Module Efficiency*	Record Lab Efficiency**	Efficiency Difference
15 – 18%	25%	39%
13 – 16%	20%	25%
5 – 8%	9.5%	10%
8 – 9%	10.1%	12%
8 – 10%	16.7%	67%
<b>8 – 10%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
N/A	10.4	N/A
N/A	5.1	N/A

***XsunX Approach → Rapid Single Cell Processing to Capture the CIGS Headroom Potential By Reducing Processing Variation***

\* Acquired from Published Data/Sell Sheets

\*\* Green MA, Emery K, Hishikawa Y, and Warta W. Solar Cell Efficiency Tables (Version 33). *Progress in Photovoltaics: Research and Applications* 2008; 17: 85-94.



# Challenges to Achieve the Sunshot Objective: \$0.50/Watt Module

## ❖ Efficiency Improvement is a Must

- At Less Than 10% Module Area Eff Entire Budget Required for Module Materials
- Requires High Cell Ef, Low Loss Interconnect, Low Loss Grids (Minimize Area)
  - ✓ a-Si, CdTe, CIGS, x-Si

## ❖ Factory Cost Requirements Must Be Minimized

- Must Be Low Cost (No H-Occupancy, B or F Occupancy) and Minimize Foot Print
  - ✓ a-Si, CdTe, CIGS, x-Si

## ❖ Long-Term Module Stability Is Required

- > 20 Year Warranty....Is 50 Year Possible? Decelerate the Gradual Degradation
- Field Performance Guarantee are Becoming the Norm
  - ✓ a-Si, CdTe, CIGS, x-Si

## ❖ Final Product Must No Have Toxic Materials Requiring Special Disposal

- Avoid Expensive Product Disposal Requirement (And Reserves on Revenue)
  - ✓ a-Si, CdTe, CIGS, x-Si

## ❖ Cell Materials Must be Low Cost and have Cost Stability

- Thin Films Are Much Less Susceptible to Cell Material Commodity Pricing Fluctuations
  - ✓ a-Si, CdTe, CIGS, x-Si

## ❖ Legend

- **Red:** Possible Major Impediment to Meeting the Sunshot Goal
- **Blue:** May Be a Challenge to Meeting the Sunshot Goal
- **Green:** Compatible with Meeting the Sunshot Goal





## All Roads Lead to CIGS

- ❖ **High Efficiency** → Highest of the Thin Films and Equivalent to Poly Crystalline Si (Laboratory Scale)
- ❖ **Tolerant Chemistry** → Good Performance Achieved with a Wide Range of Cu/(In+Ga) and Ga/(In +Ga) Composition Ratios
- ❖ **Thin-Film Nature** → CIGS absorber is ~2.5 um compared to ~170 to 250 um for Si
  - CIGS Less Susceptible to Commodity Pricing of Raw Materials or to Material Shortages
- ❖ **Stability** → CIGS Does **NOT** Exhibit Light-Induced Instability Found with Some Thin-Film Solar Devices
- ❖ **Non-Toxic** → *CIGS Does Not have Reportable Quantities of Hazardous Substances* → Ref: Vasilis Fthenakis, Brookhaven National Lab





**Thank You!!**

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