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# How fast can solar energy take over from fossil energy?

Anne Jorun Aas

*Ny-Ålesund symposium,  
June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010*

"If you can't dream it,  
you can't do it"

Walt Disney



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# Alf Bjørseth – a Norwegian solar dreamer and pioneer



- Established ScanWafer – a precursor to Renewable Energy Corporation (REC) – in 1994 (!)
- REC was the world's first fully integrated solar energy company
- REC went public in 2006, then valued at EUR 7.2 billion

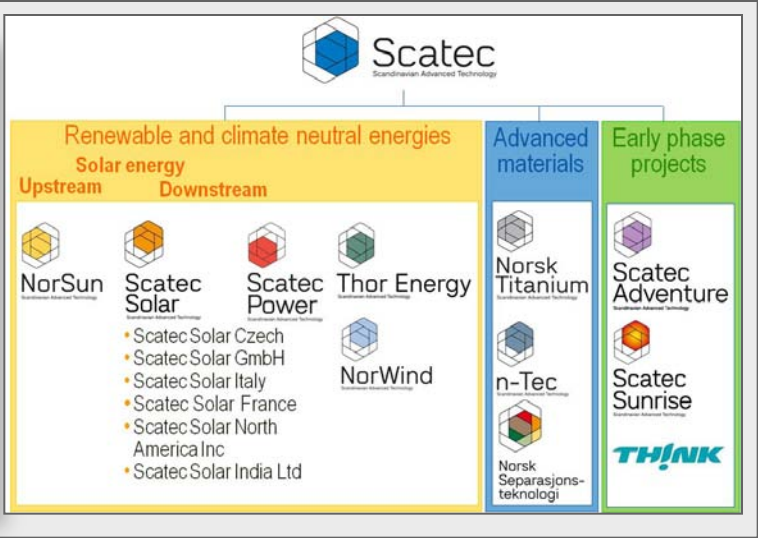
# Further solar ambitions – through Scatec

## Vision

To create value and make the world a *little* cleaner

## Business Idea

Develop and industrialize new technology to produce renewable energy and advanced materials





One hour of solar radiation =  
one year of global energy consumption

# Photovoltaics produces electricity directly and has some unique advantages

## Sustainable

- No fuel, no emissions
- No moving parts, no noise
- Low to no maintenance

## Modular

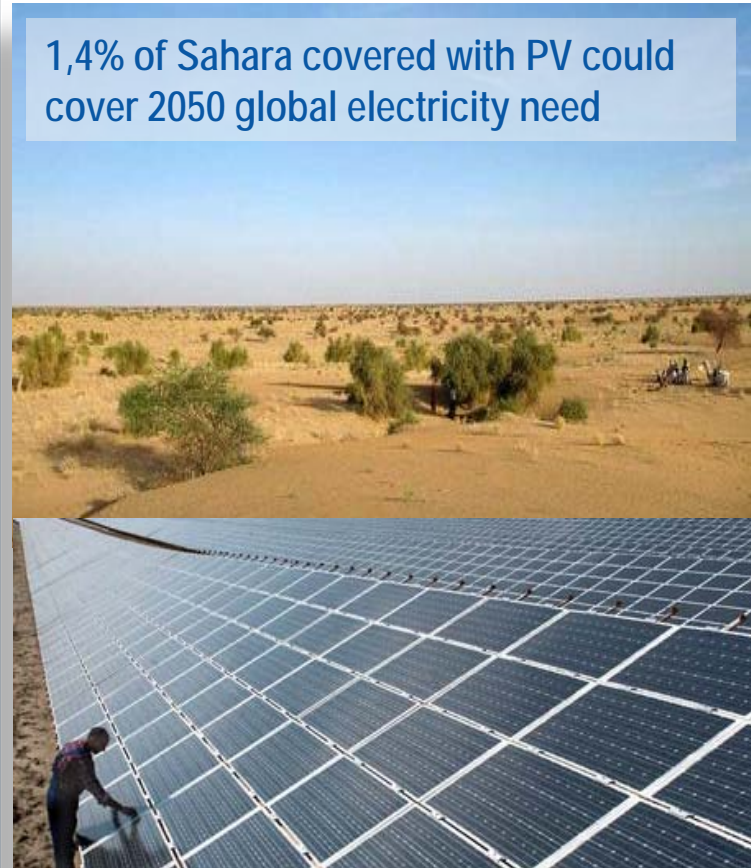
- Fast installation
- Fast production start
- Easy to expand with demand

## Distributed

- Grid independent
- Suitable for remote areas

## Energy security

1,4% of Sahara covered with PV could cover 2050 global electricity need



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# Key requirements for PV to take over

Fundamentals  
must be in  
place



Competitive Costs



Large Scale

No barriers for  
rapid  
deployment



Access to Financing

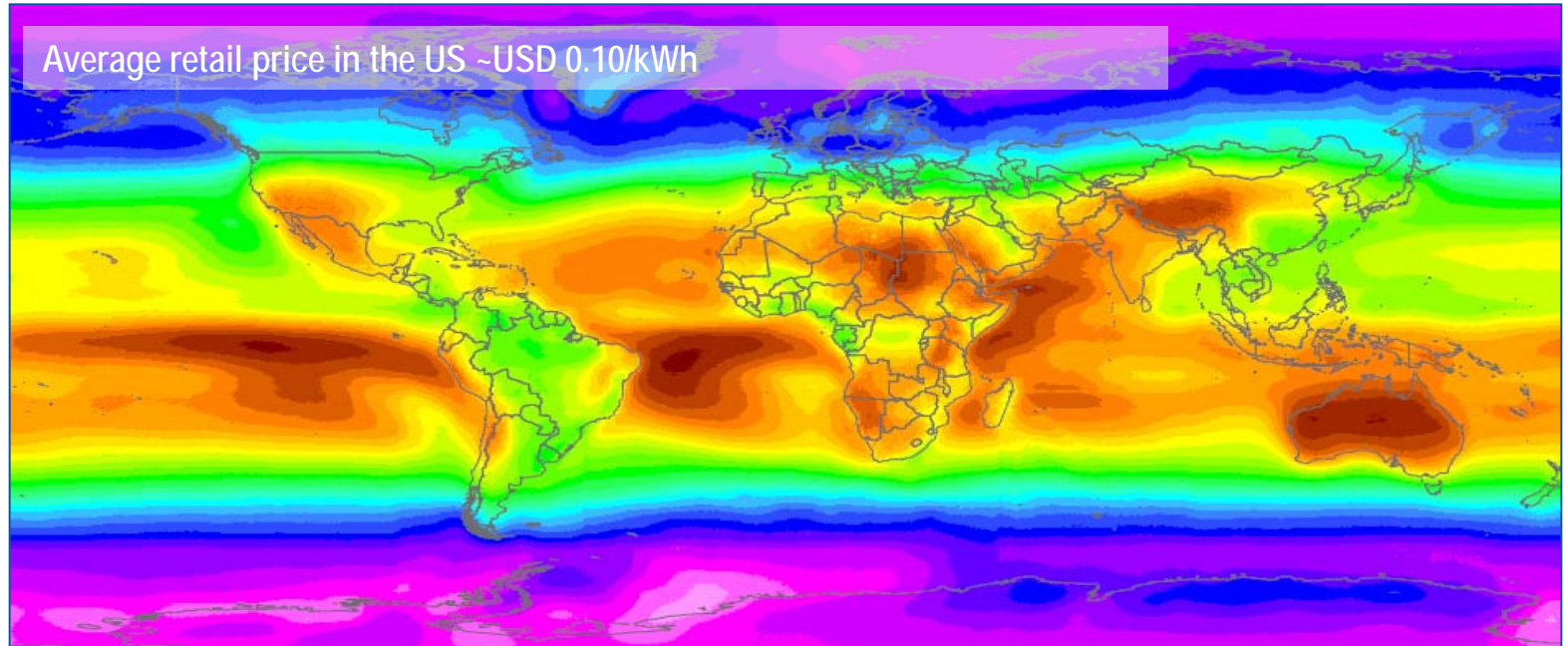


Infrastructure capabilities



# Costs: PV needs to be competitive in most segments

System cost  $\sim 2 \text{ USD/Wp} = 0.10 \text{ USD/kWh}$  in best locations

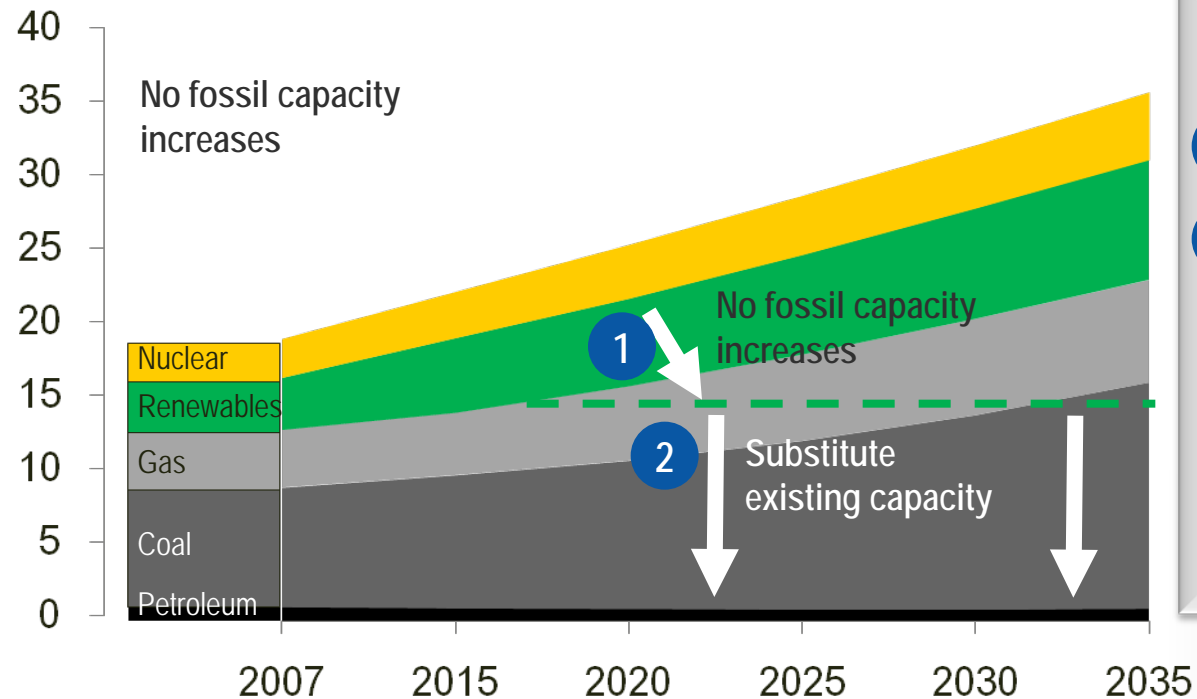


Discount rate	Cost of electricity (\$/kWh) with module cost = 1.00 \$/Wp + non-module cost = 1.00 \$/Wp				
5%	0.47	0.22	0.14	0.10	0.08

**Key assumptions:** Plant operation period: 20 yrs, Annual degradation: 0.2 %, Opex: 50 \$/kWp per yr, Corporate tax rate 30 %

# Scale: Must be sufficient to first capture fossil growth – and then substitute existing capacity

Thousand TWh



Annual PV capacity required:

1 ~200 GW

2 ~400 GW

Key assumptions

- PV takes 50% of fossil capacity, other renewables the rest
- Fossil is phased out over 25 years



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Source: EIA; Key assumptions: Total CAGR: 2.3%, PV take 50% of the growth, wind, hydro and other renewables the rest, 1500 solar hours

# How close are we to “taking over”?



Cost, USD2/Wp



Scale, 200/400GW



Financing



Infrastructure

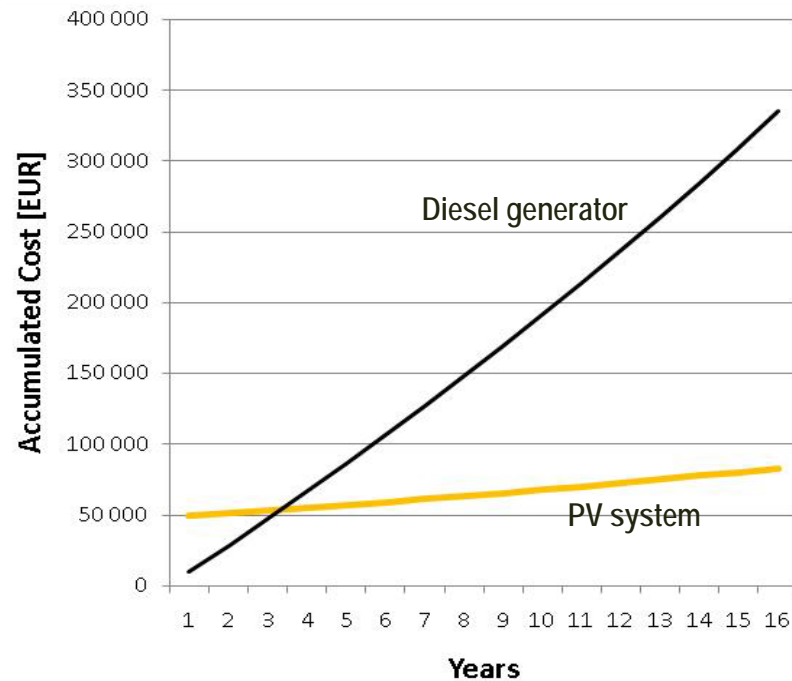
On the verge of competitiveness



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# PV is already competitive in niche markets

## Cost comparison, PV off grid versus Diesel Generator

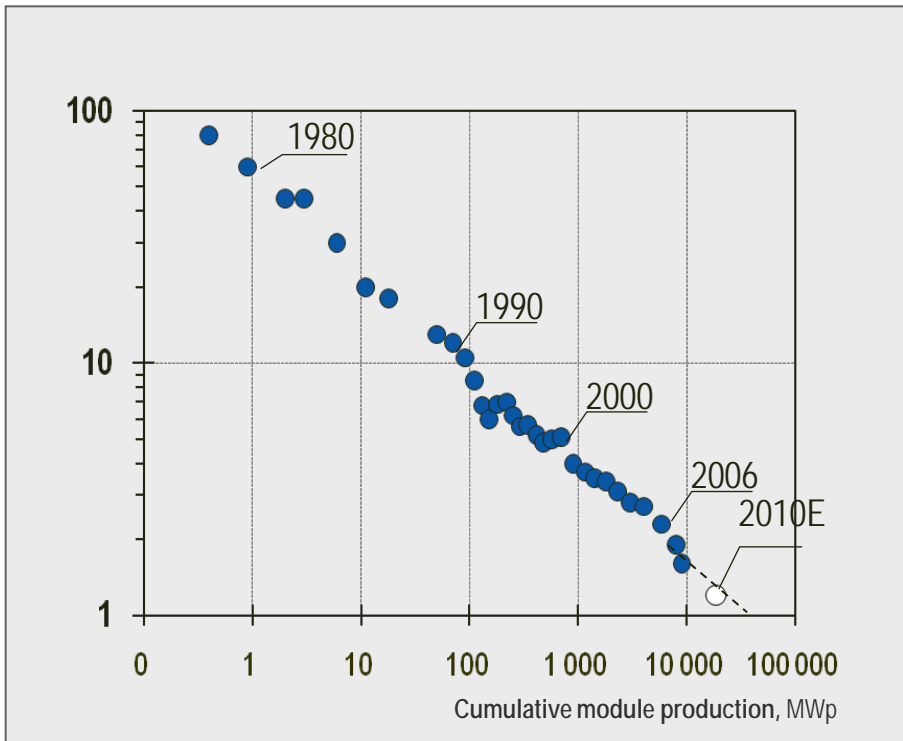


### Key assumptions

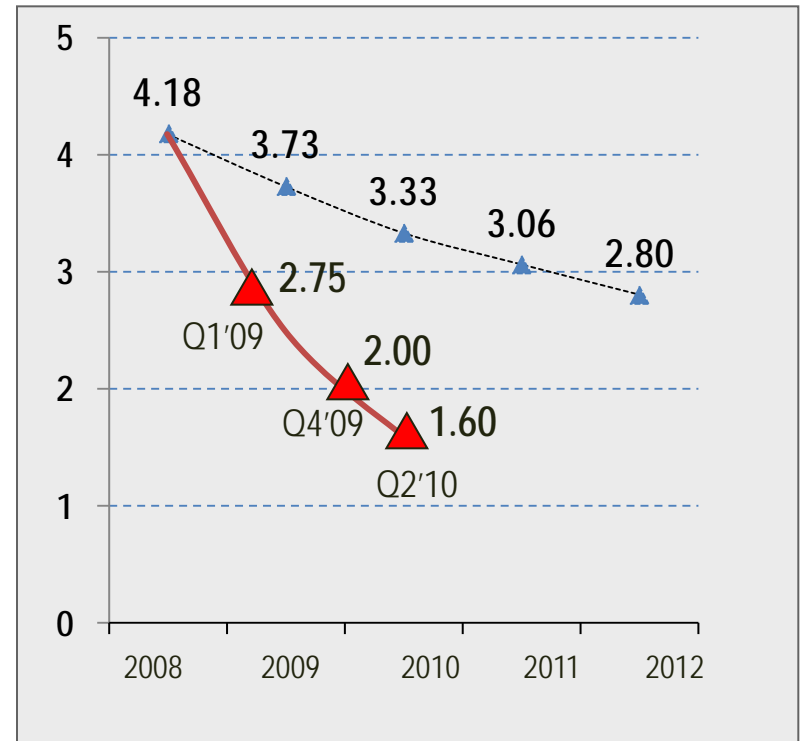
- Capex PV System: 50 kEUR
- Capex Diesel Generator System: 10 kEUR
- Diesel price: 0.7 EUR/ltr, 2 % yearly increase
- Diesel Generator running 24/7

# PV has gone through steep learning curve and increasing price pressure

Learning curve – module cost vs. cumulative installed capacity, USD/Wp

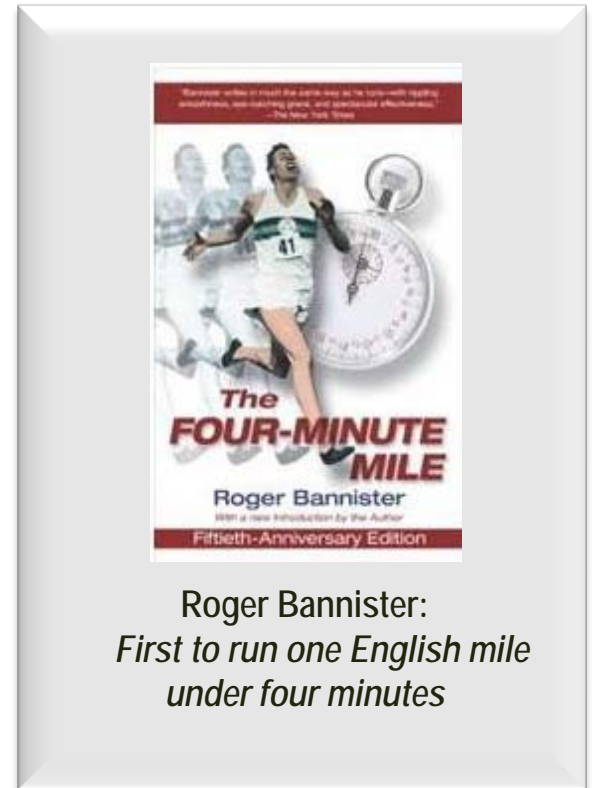
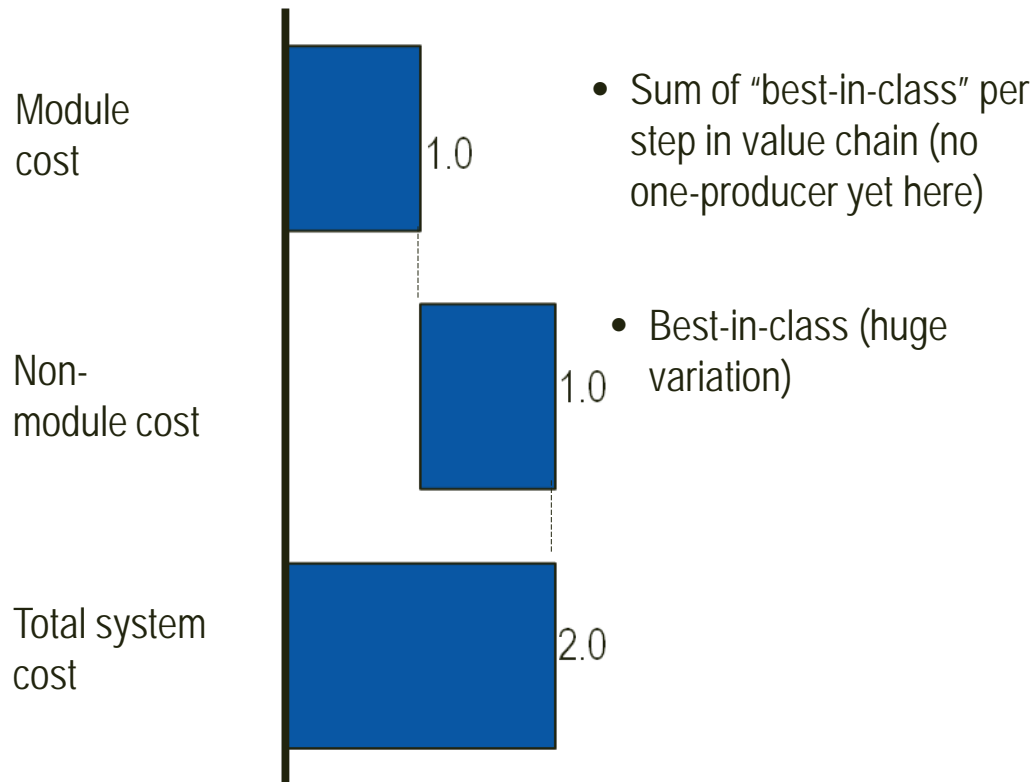


Forecasted (June 08) vs. actual module prices USD/Wp



# The "holy grail" of PV, USD 2/W, is achievable with current technology, setting a new industry standard

Cost (USD/Wp)



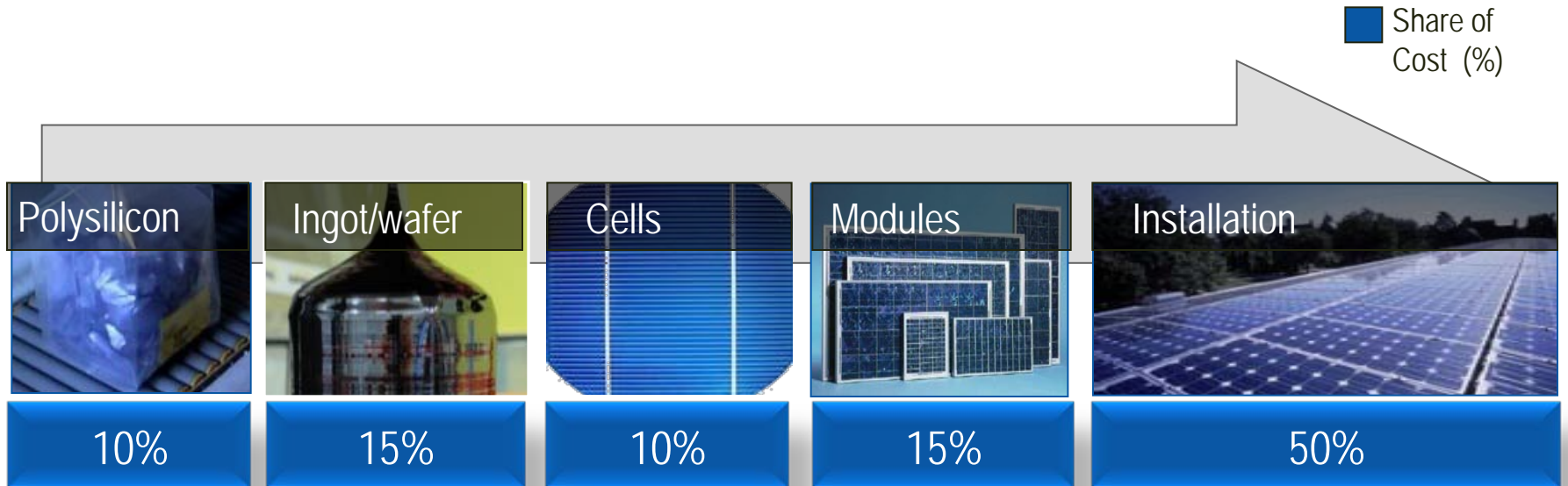
Roger Bannister:  
*First to run one English mile  
under four minutes*



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Sources: Deutsche Bank (Feb 2010); Macquarie (Apr 2010); Morgan Stanley (Mar 2010)

# Further cost reductions visible in all parts of the value chain



~50% of high value material wasted

Only 10-20% of sunlight converted to electricity

Immature and fragmented industry – several options for standardization and tailoring of system design



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# How close are we to “taking over”



Cost, USD2/Wp



Scale, 200/400GW



Financing



Infrastructure

## On the verge of competitiveness

- PV is already cost competitive in selective segments
- Visibility of reaching cost target with *existing technology*
- Further cost reductions likely in all parts of the value chain



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# How close are we to "taking over?"



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Financing



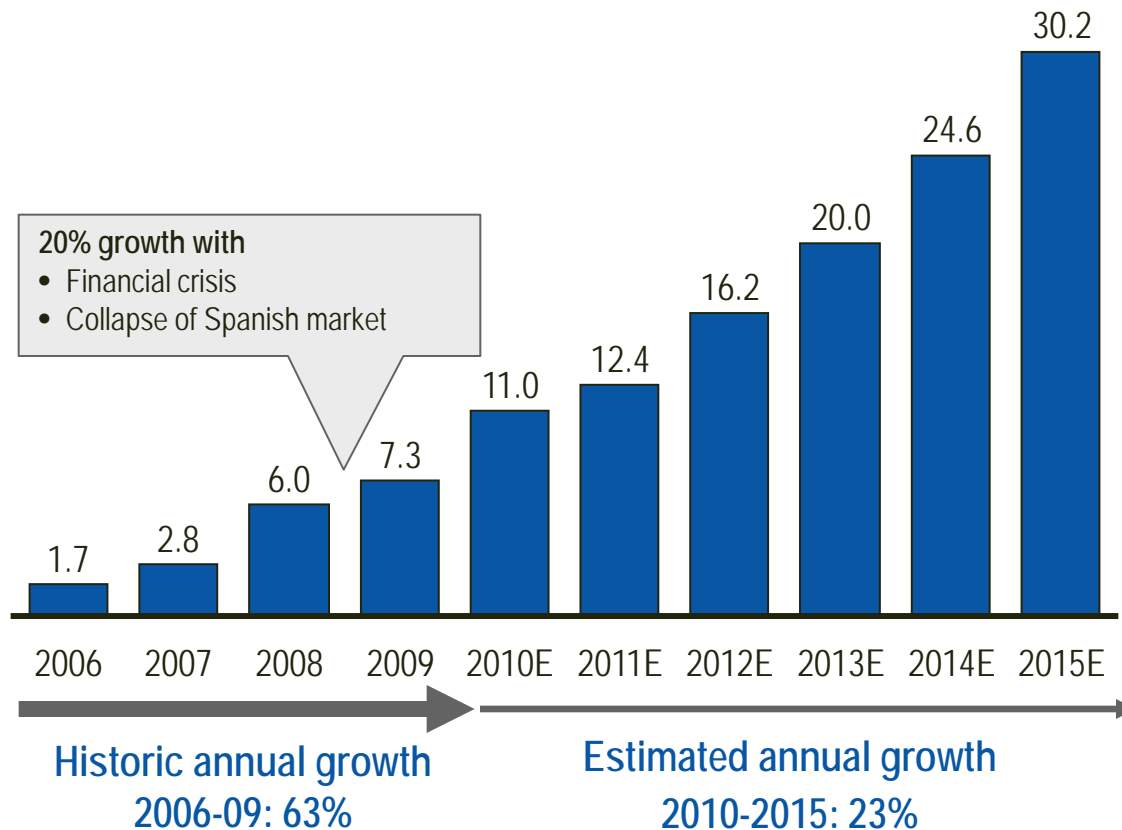
Infrastructure

Still small, but fast growing and no show stoppers



# Installed volumes have grown quickly over the past few years with a lot more coming

Annual world PV installations (GW)



Capacity additions making a difference

Cumulative installed capacity  
-Today : 23 GW  
-2015: 137 GW



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# Appearance of giant markets and players will boost volumes and further professionalize the industry

## New PV markets emerging

### China

- Ambitions: 20 GW PV by 2020
- Building up a strong domestic PV industry
- *Scatec Solar & Datang intend to realize 2500 MW of PV plants in 2011-2016*

### India

- Ambitions: 20GW PV by 2020
- *Scatec Solar building tens of off-grid PV systems for rural electrification*

### Other regions

- *Brazil*
- *North America*
- *South Africa*

## Giant players entering



**SAMSUNG**

"We aim to become the world's leading provider of solar power by 2015"

*Choi Dong-wook,  
VP Solar Energy at Samsung*

"Solar is definitely the next wind for us. It's not there yet, but it's moving very rapidly"

*Michael Idelchik,  
VP at GE Global Research*



# No fundamental barriers for massive growth

Abundant raw material

Silicon makes up 25.7% of the Earth's crust and is the second most abundant element

Managable production volumes

Total weight of 400GW of PV ~ 50 million ton, equal to 2008 annual flat glass production

Short energy pay-back time

Energy payback time for today's best PV technology is below 1 year (making 100% growth rates self sustainable)



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# How close are we to “taking over?”



Cost, USD2/Wp



Scale, 200/400GW



Financing



Infrastructure

Still small but fast growing and no show stoppers

- Installed volumes have grown quickly with a lot more supply coming
- New markets emerging and giant players entering
- No fundamental barriers for growth in the value chain



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# How close are we to “taking over”?



Cost, USD2/Wp



Scale, 200/400GW



Financing



Infrastructure

Increased knowledge and predictability is key

High upfront investment costs requires long term predictability and stability

Currently very time consuming in new markets due to

- New industry for financial institutions increase perceived risk
- Unclear regulations

Therefore critical to have

- Predictability from governments - on financials and regulations
- 



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# How can it be done: Case example from Norway

- Portfolio financing of EUR 85 mill for 9 solar parks in the Czech Republic
- Requires 30% Norwegian content



Provide loans under commercial interest rates conditions



Guarantees for 70% of the loans, covers commercial and political risk



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## Main benefits

- Reduces uncertainties and time spent on financing issues
- Ensures rapid and successful development of solar parks – financing is key
- Competitive terms and guarantees ensure profitability

# How close are we to “taking over”?



Cost, USD2/Wp



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Financing



Infrastructure

Key when PV and other renewables dominate energy supply - solutions exist but planning must start now

Solutions involve

- Increasing inter-regional network
- Developing storage solutions
- Facilitating demand response (smart grids)



# So where do we stand?



Cost, USD2/Wp



Scale, 200/400GW



Financing



Infrastructure

Fundamentals largely in place – PV getting close to self sufficiency, with massive growth potential

- Already cost competitive in some segments
- Grid parity within reach
- Industry prepared to scale

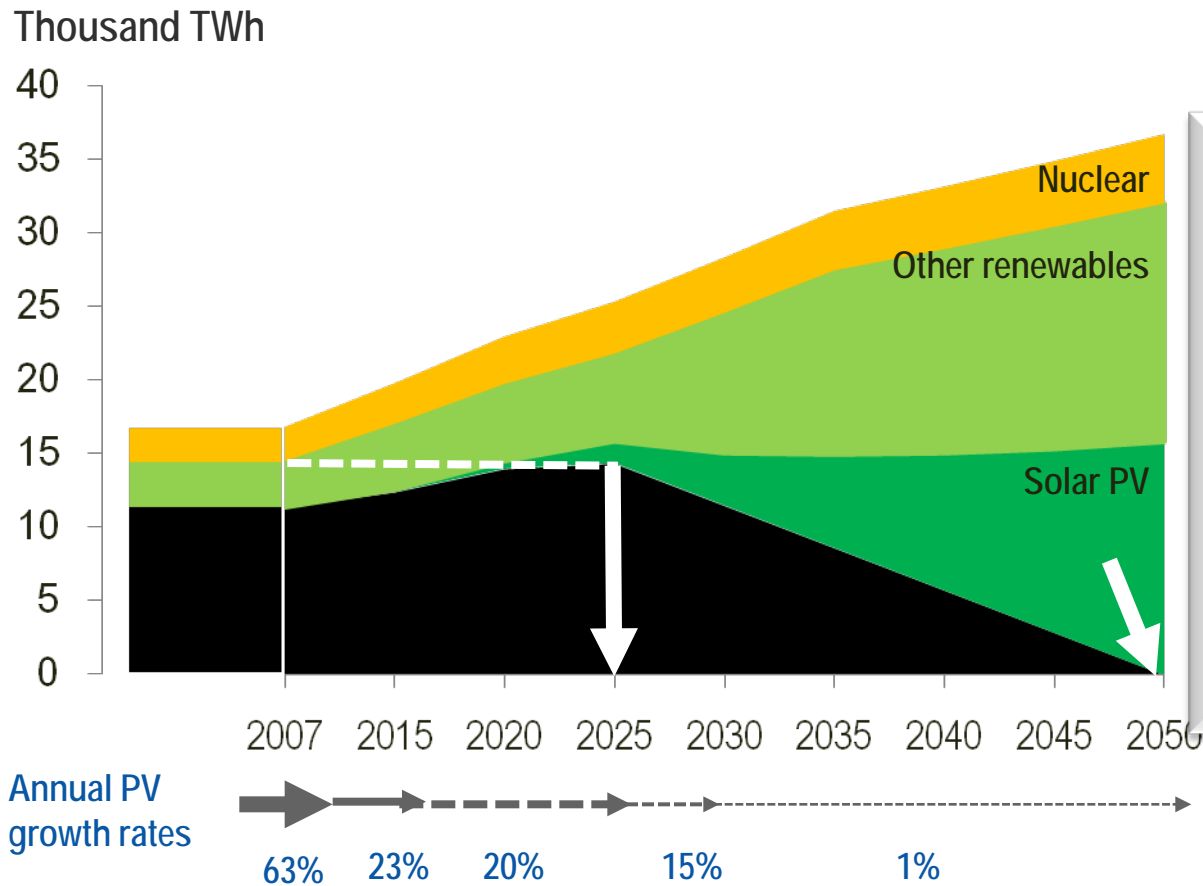
Important to remove barriers towards rapid deployment

- Facilitating financing, getting experience and minimizing risk through predictable support schemes and regulations are key
- Planning of infrastructure must start now



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# When can PV take over?



## Faster than you think!

With realistic growth rates:

- No fossil capacity increase from 2025 – PV and other renewables starts replacing capacity being phased out
- Fossil fuels for electricity phased out in 2050



Solar Energy – If not now, then when?

**“I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait till oil and coal run out before we tackle that.”**

Thomas Edison to his friends Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone (1931)