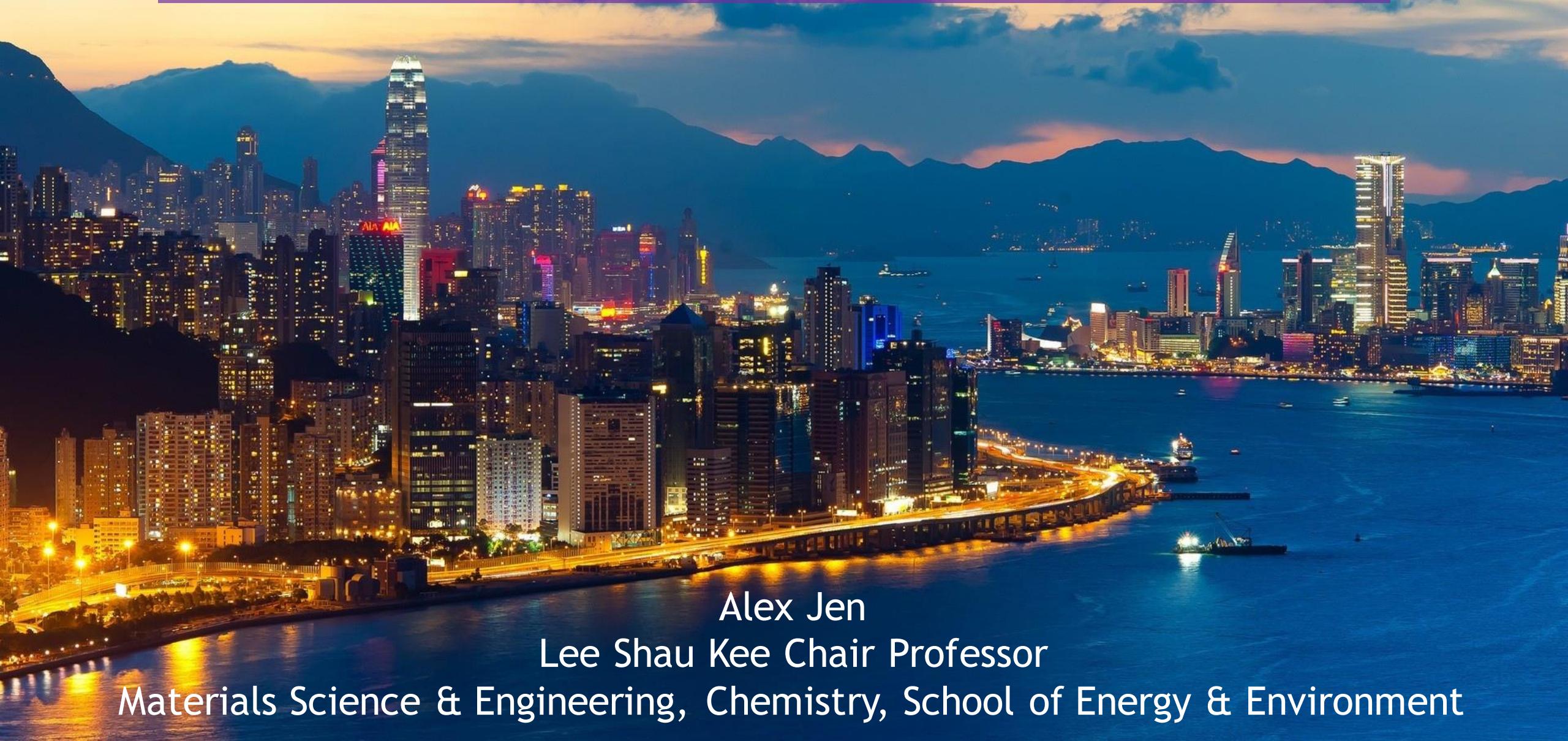


Printable Solar Cells for Transformative Clean Energy and Sustainable Society



Alex Jen
Lee Shau Kee Chair Professor
Materials Science & Engineering, Chemistry, School of Energy & Environment

ENERGY IMPACTS MANY THINGS

ENVIRONMENT



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CLEAN WATER



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ECONOMY



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

BUSINESS

Tesla Plans \$5 Billion Battery Factory



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HUMAN HEALTH

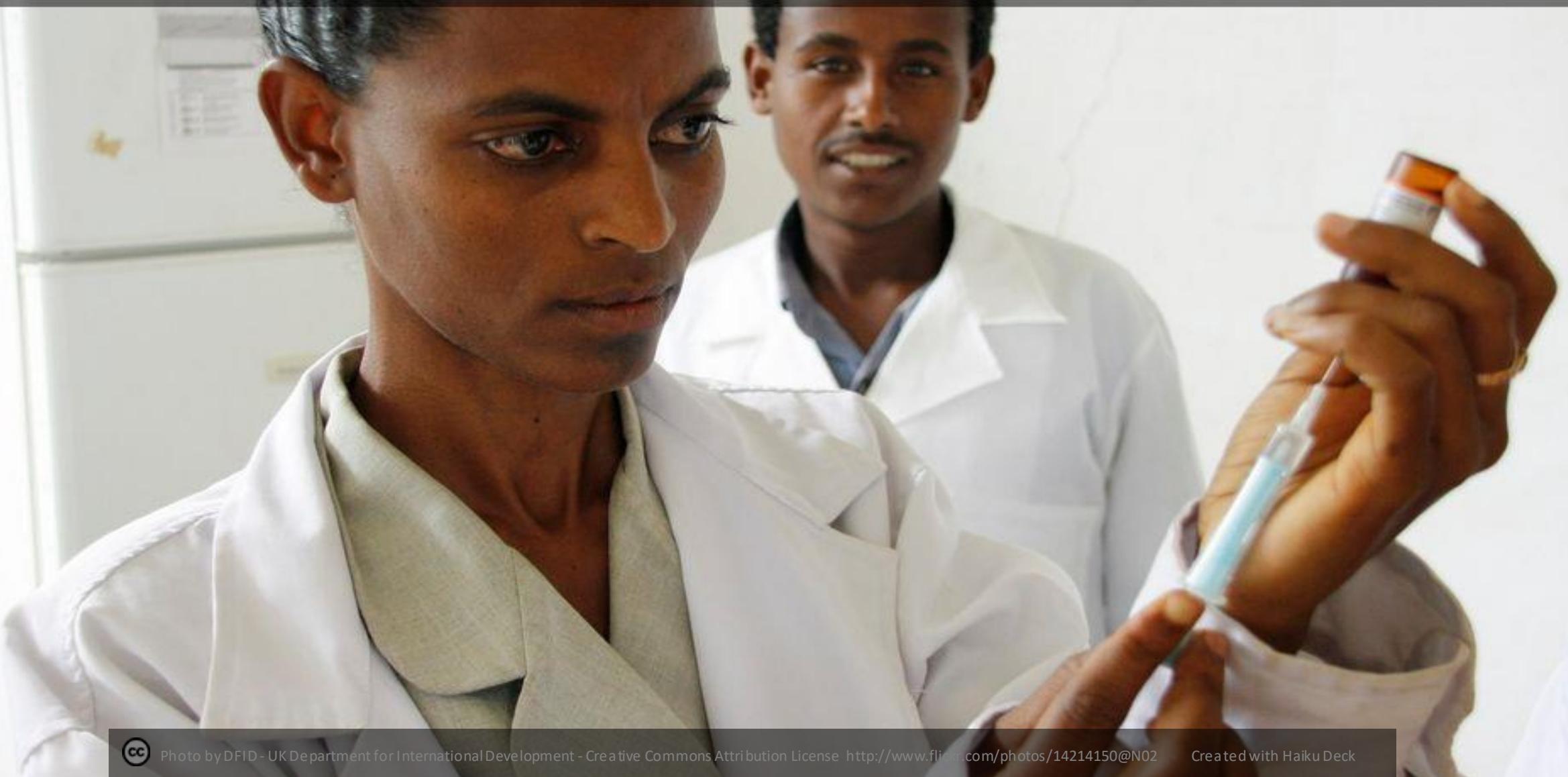


Photo by DFID - UK Department for International Development - Creative Commons Attribution License <http://www.flickr.com/photos/14214150@N02>

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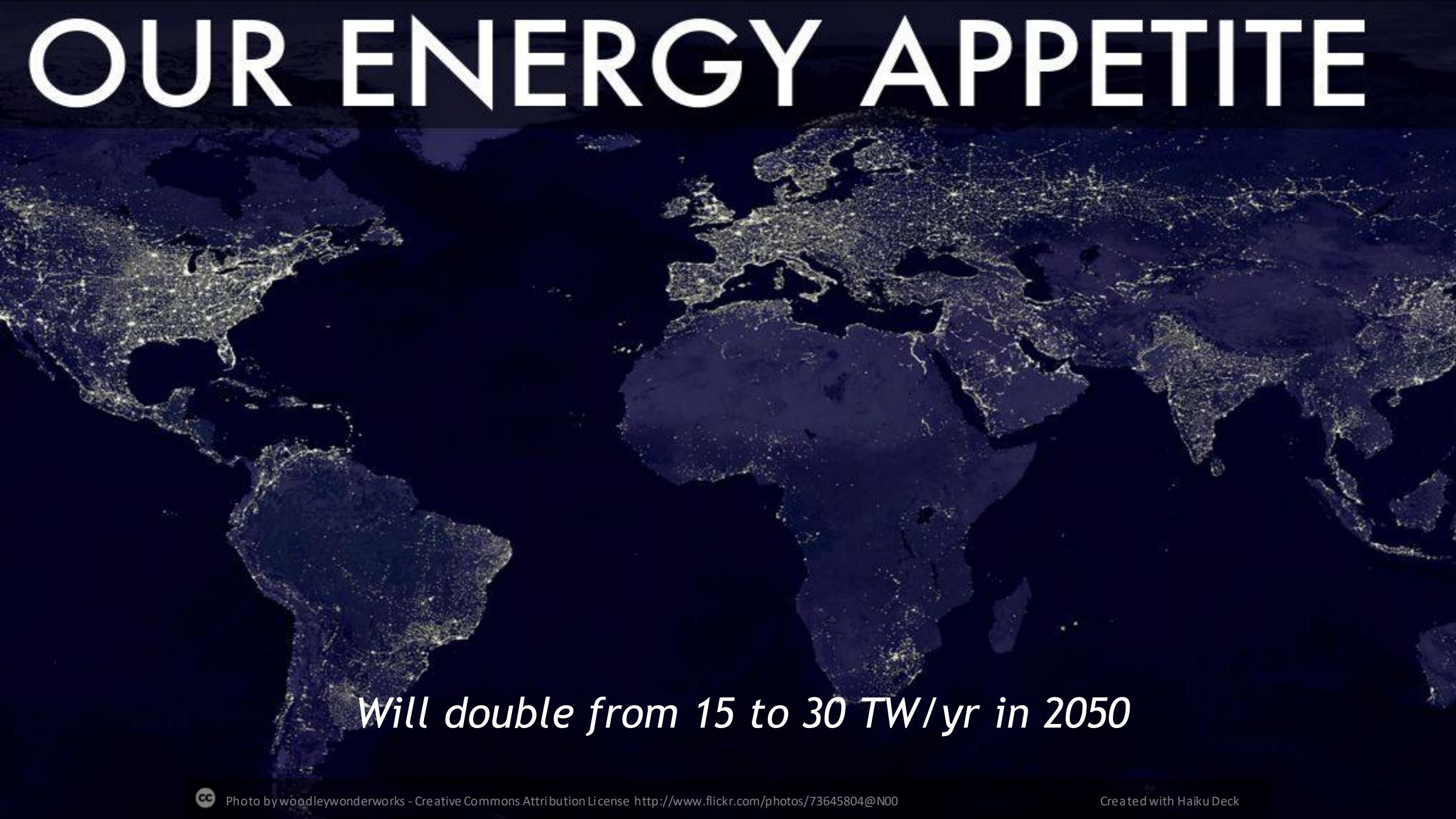
SECURITY



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OUR ENERGY APPETITE

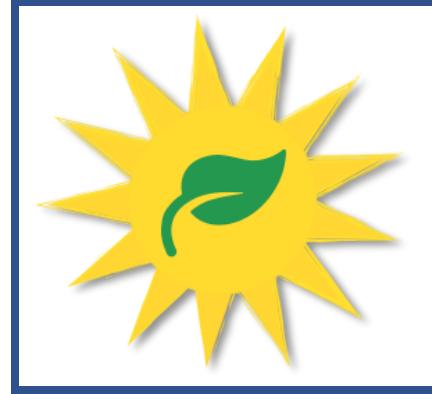


Will double from 15 to 30 TW/yr in 2050



An Integrated Energy Solution Should Include:

Clean Energy Sources



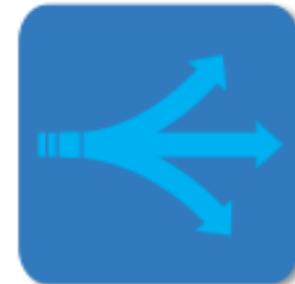
Better Energy Storage



Efficient Energy Usage



Better Distribution

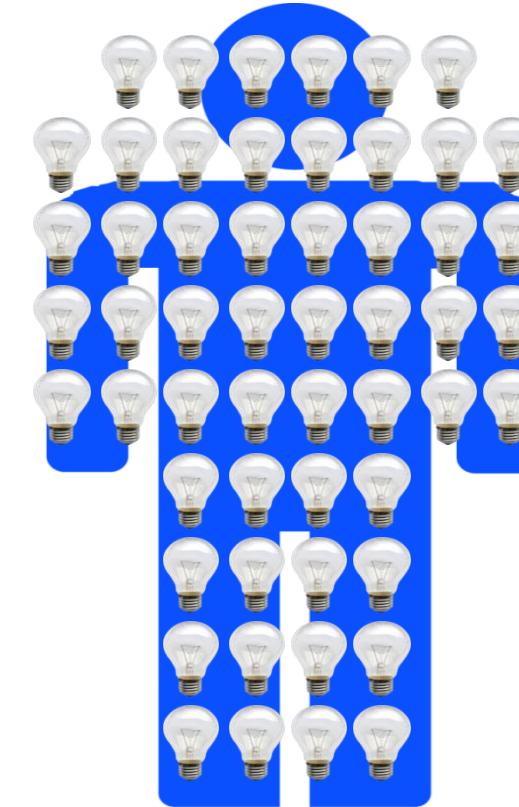


Need to Balance Energy Demands and Environmental Sustainability

China is #1 in energy consumption in the world: 6.88TW (1.44 billion people)

Per person, this corresponds to:

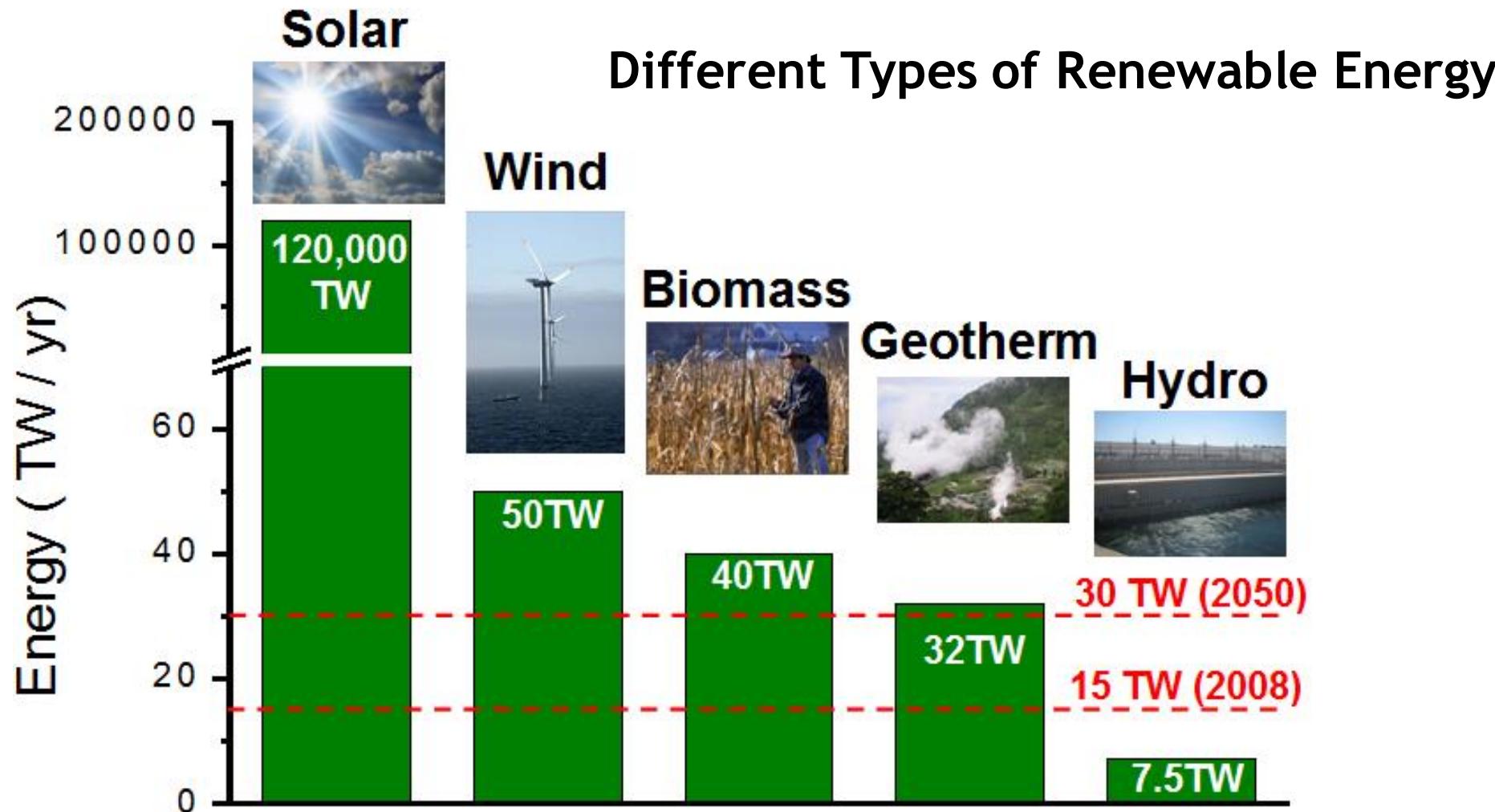
- 53 100-Watt incandescent light bulbs on continuously....or
- 1,436 gallons of oil....or
- 12,920 lbs of coal



This translates to 10,432,751,400 tons of CO₂ emission (29.2% in the world and 7.38 tons per person) !

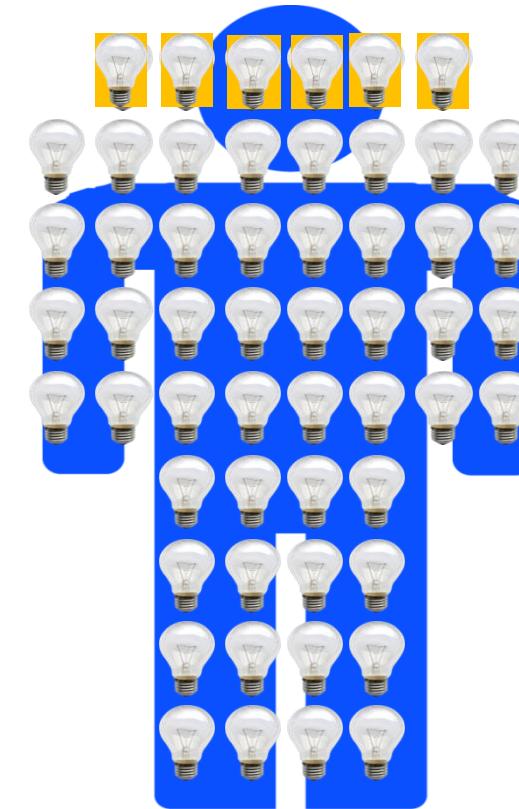
What are the Potential Solutions to Meet the Carbon Neutral Demand in 2050 ?

Energy in 1 hr of sunlight is ~14 TW. There is ≈600 TW solar energy potential

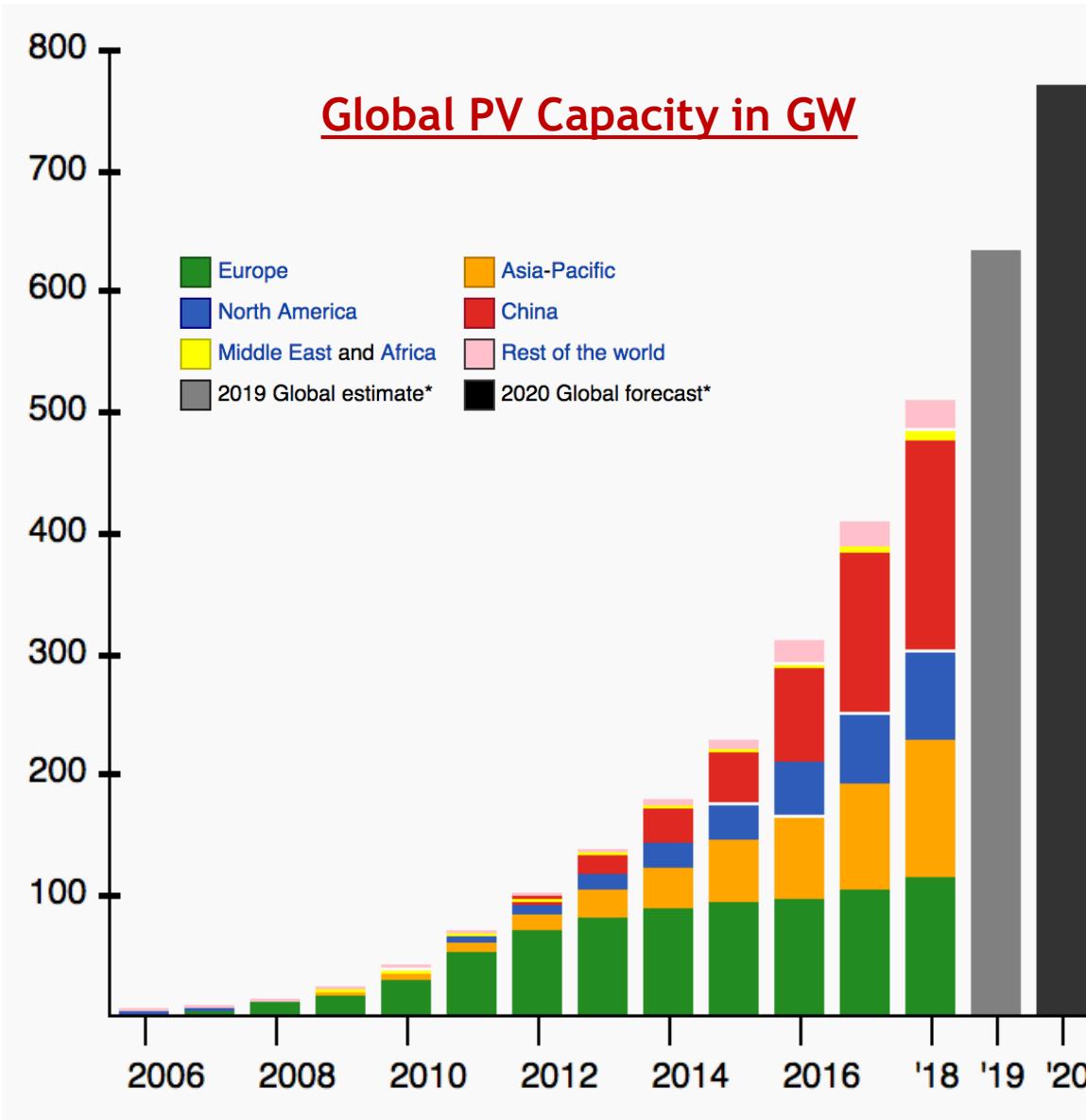


Most of China's Current Renewable Energy Comes from Hydropower, Solar, and Wind

- China is **#1** in the world in electricity production (**790 GW**) from renewable energy sources (more than twice that of US), which account for **11.5%** of total energy it consumed.
- Hydropower capacity: 356 GW
- Solar power capacity: 240 GW
- Wind power capacity: 224 GW
- ***China's renewable energy sector is growing faster than its fossil and nuclear power.***



Worldwide PV Deployment is Rapidly Growing



- By 2030, worldwide PV market ~ **1700 GW** (1.7 TW)
- In 2020 alone, China added **48 GW** PV capacity
- By 2030, China will reach **650 GW** solar PV
- In HK, the installed PV capacity is ~**6.3 MW** in 2017, which is ~**0.01%** of its total energy consumption
- It can reach **1% (~500 MW)** if all the available rooftops in HK are installed with PV panels

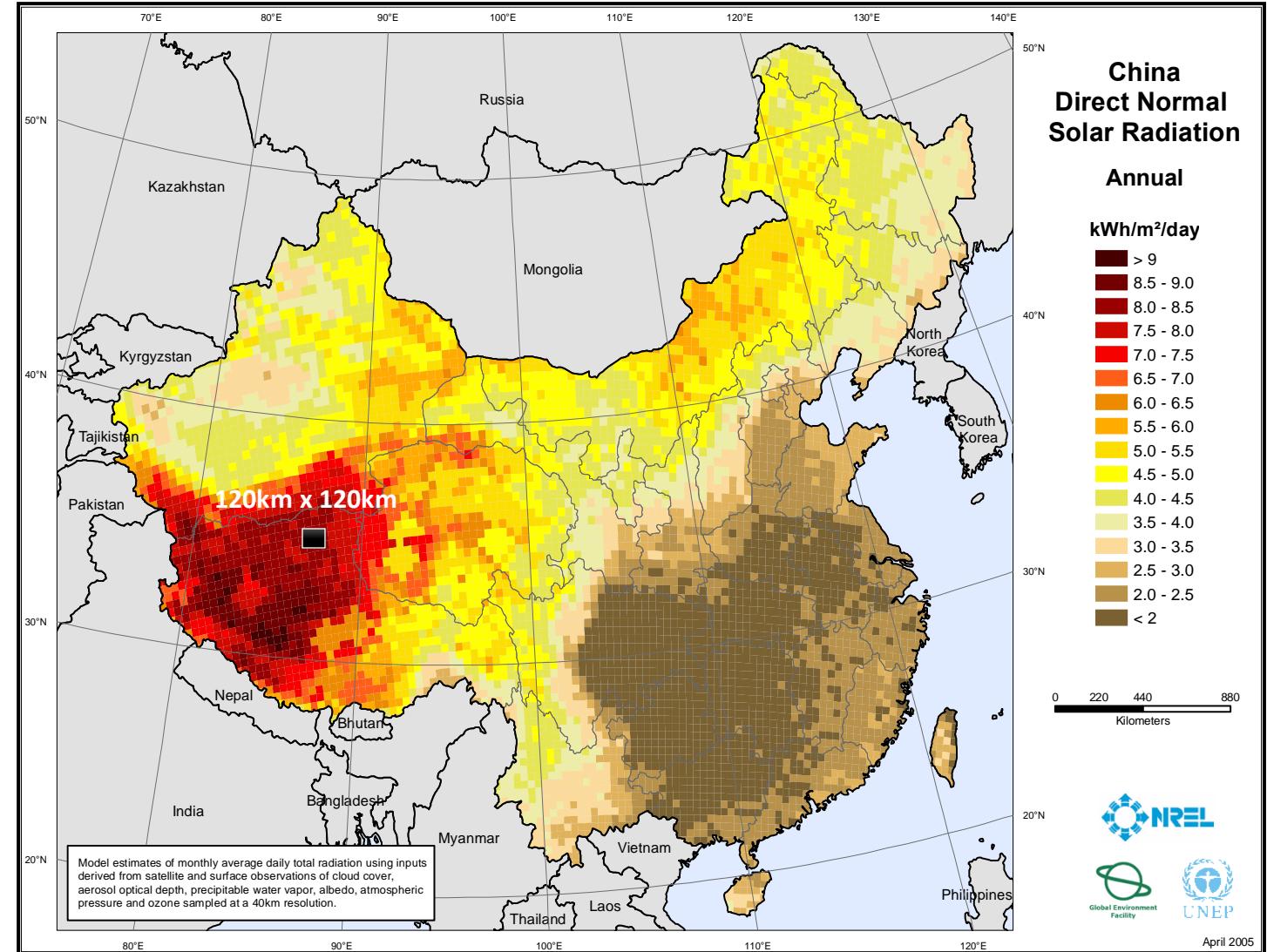


Solar Cells (10% Efficiency) Covering $(120 \text{ km})^2$ of Land Would Provide 6.88 TW Energy for the Whole China

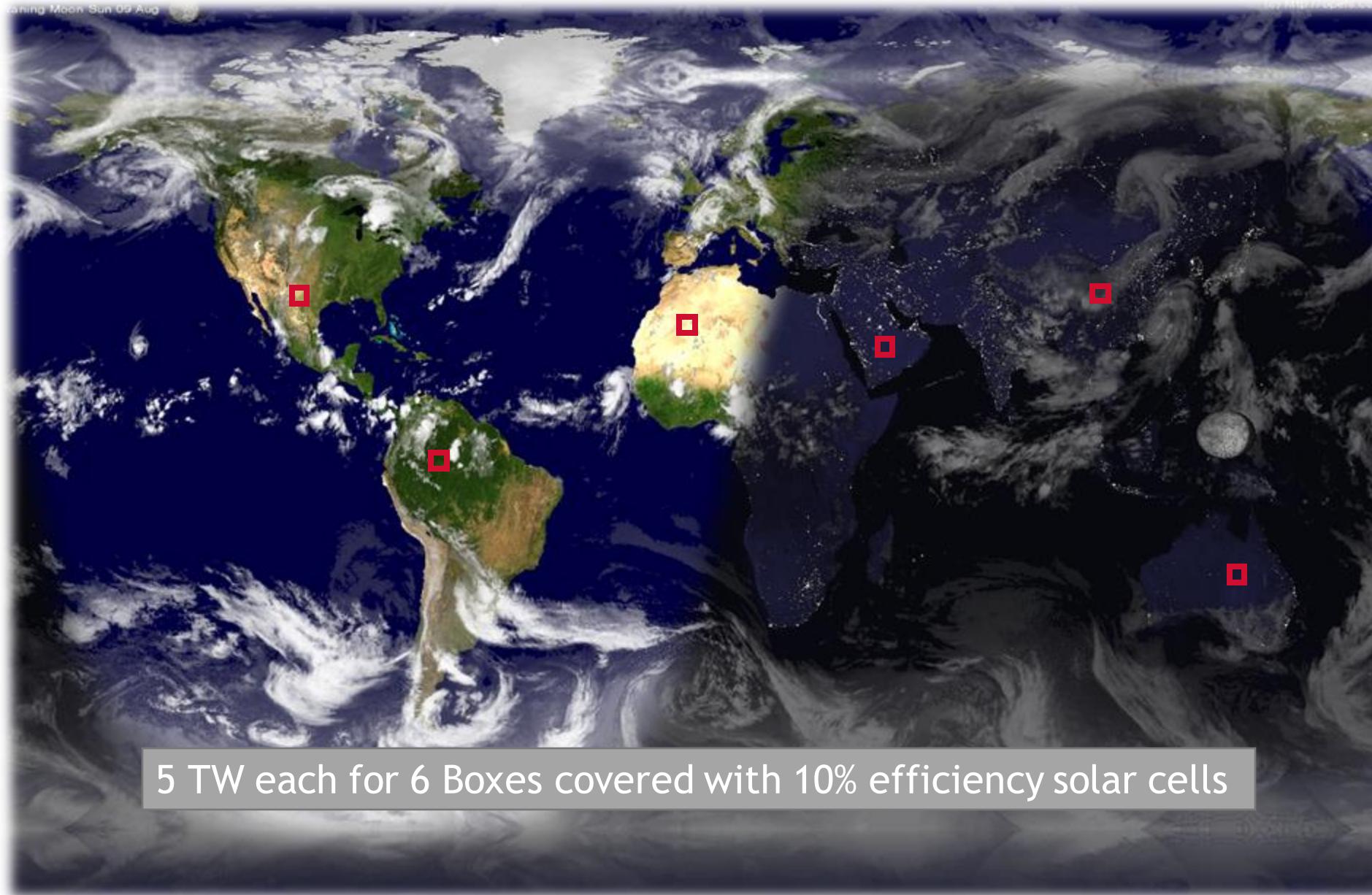
5 kWh per square meter per day of incoming solar energy.

At 10% efficiency, energy contained in 60 square meters could power the utilities of a house (30 kWh).

Solar energy falling on the total area of rooftops and roads meets total energy demand for China!



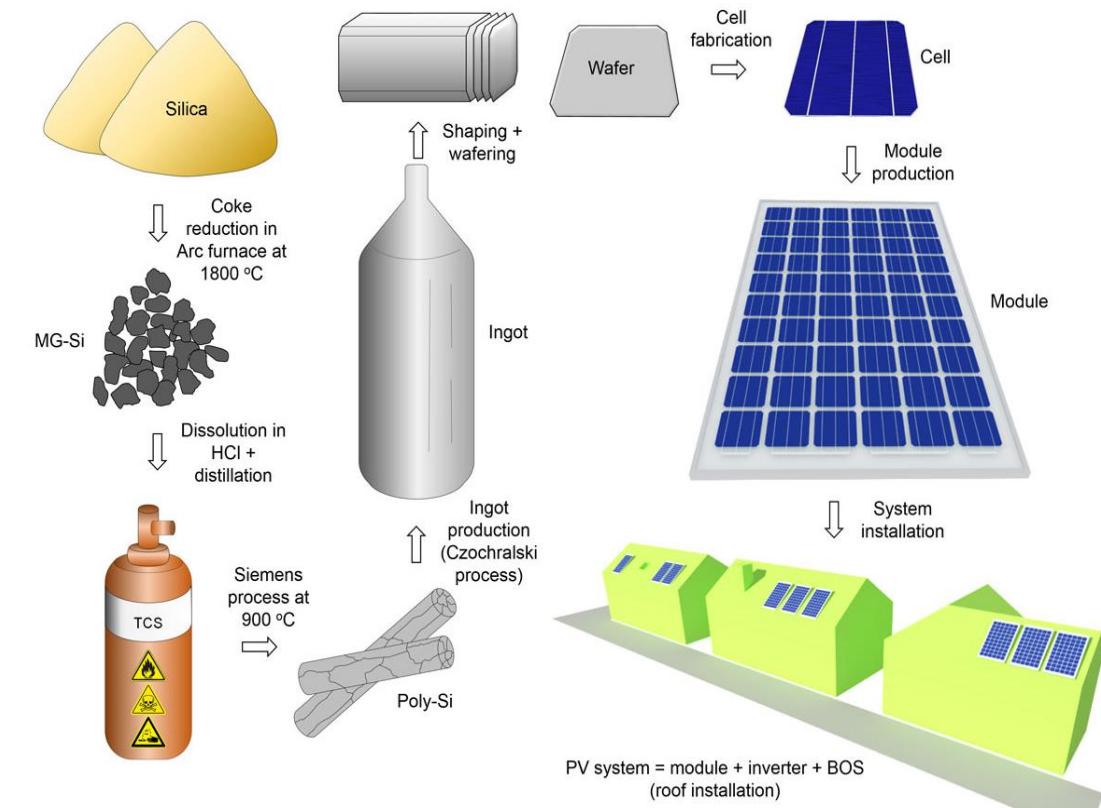
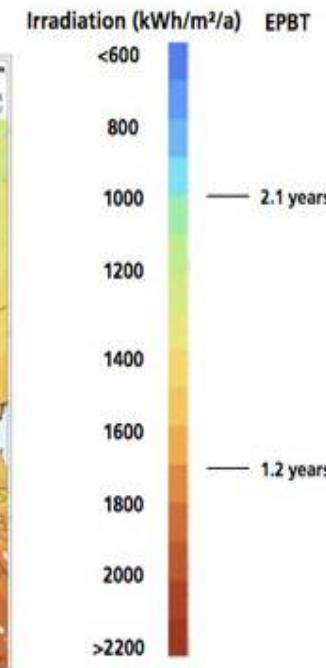
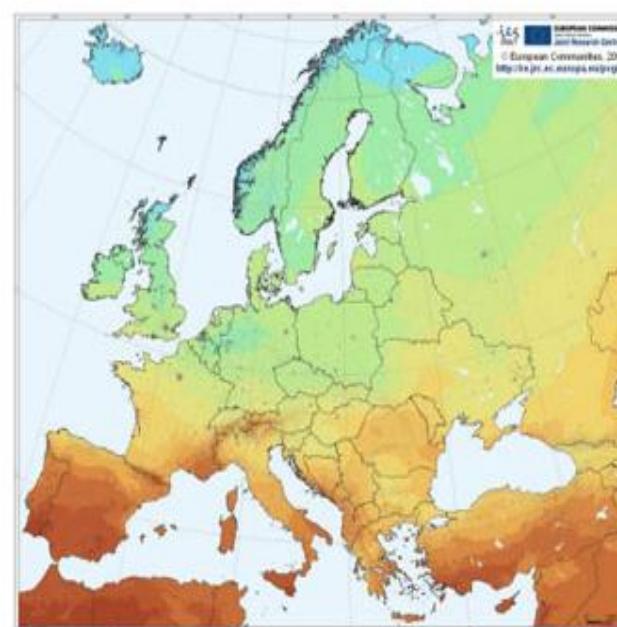
Potential Land Required for 30 TW Solar Power



Unfortunately, to achieve Tera Watt scalability we need to burn more fossil fuels in order to make enough silicon solar modules

Energy payback time (EPBT) of a power generating system is the time required to generate as much energy as is consumed during production and lifetime operation of the system

Energy Pay-Back Time of Multicrystalline Silicon PV Rooftop Systems - Geographical Comparison



(Good News!) New Discoveries Beyond Silicon Semiconductor

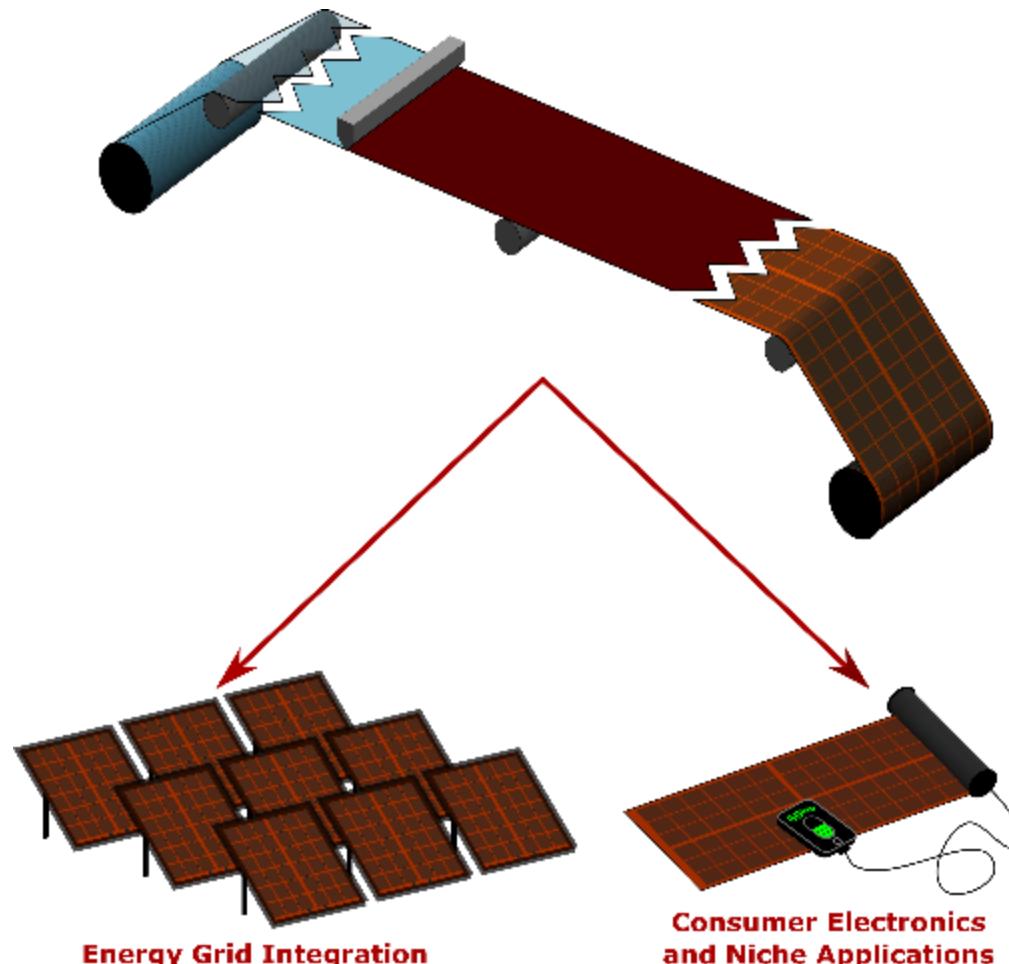
Organic and Perovskite Semiconductors

Advantages:

- Low temperature solution/vapor processible
- Low cost
- Flexible form factors
- Broad applications in LEDs, *displays*, FETs, *lighting*, PV, BIPV, detectors, sensors, *integrated photonics* for ultrafast information processing, hybrid silicon photonics, THz
- Potential billion/trillion dollars industry

Potential for Printable Solar Cells

Organic Solar Cells - Perovskite Solar Cells



Low Manufacturing Costs
High throughput processing

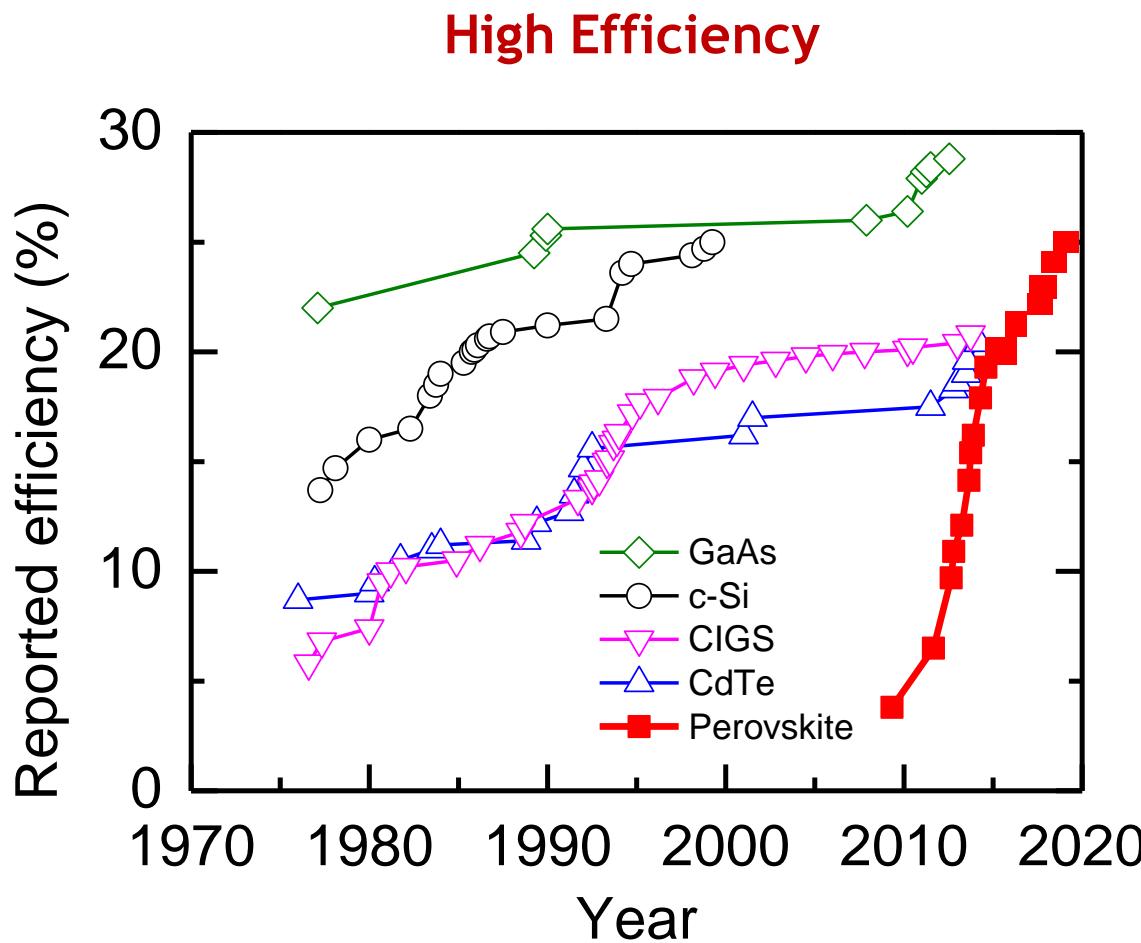
Tunable Material Properties
Molecular and composition engineering

Low Environmental Impact
Benign processes with low energy intake

Versatile Form Factor
Lightweight, flexible and portable

Multiple Applications
Building-integrated and semi transparent

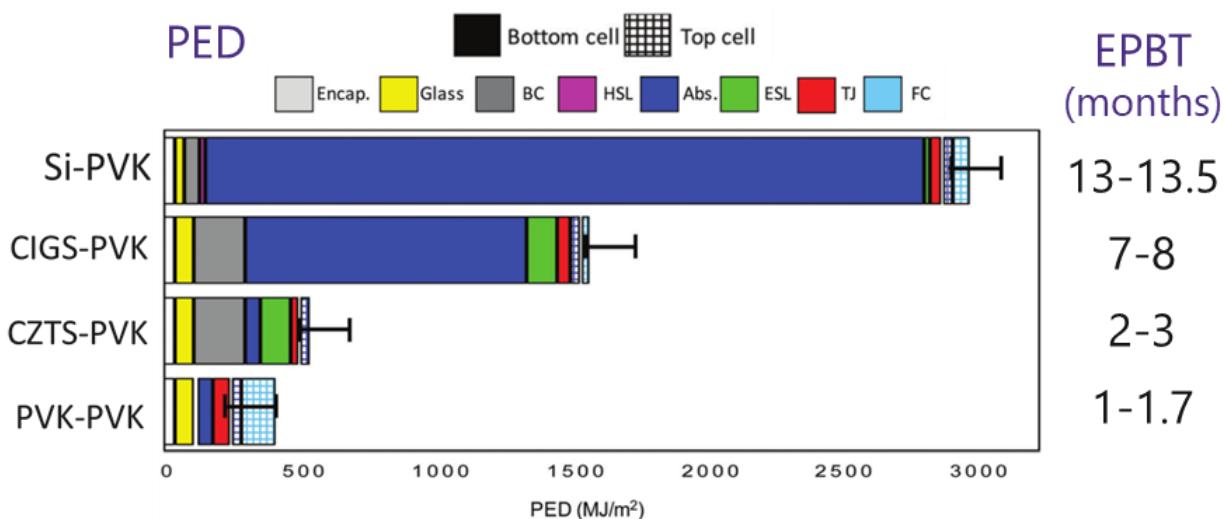
Rapidly Developing Perovskite Solar Cell Technology



Courtesy from H. Snaith

Low Primary Energy Demand & Payback Time

- Primary Energy Demand (PED): Energy consumed in manufacturing process
- Energy Payback Time (EPBT): Time required for generating back primary energy consumed

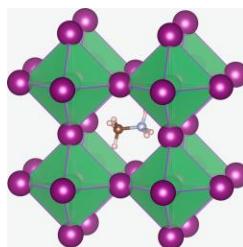


Apul et al. *Energy Environ. Sci.* 2017

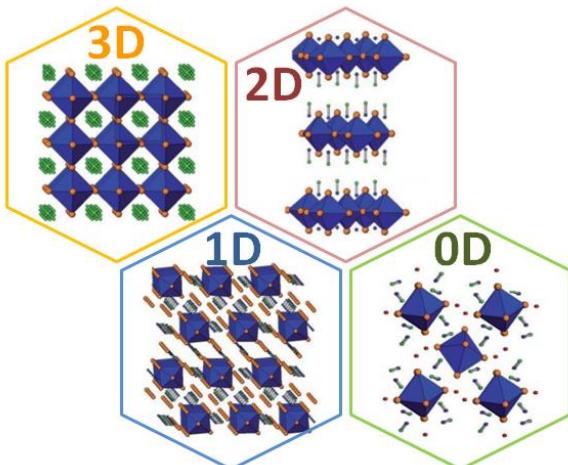
Hybrid Perovskites: A Nearly Perfect Family of Semiconductors

Superior Properties of Perovskites

- Tunable bandgap with a diverse range of composition
- Long carrier life time (up to μs)
- Superior carrier mobility (about $40 \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$ for MAPbI_3)
- Wide range of absorption (375-1150 nm)
- Light-weight
- Easy-processing and low cost

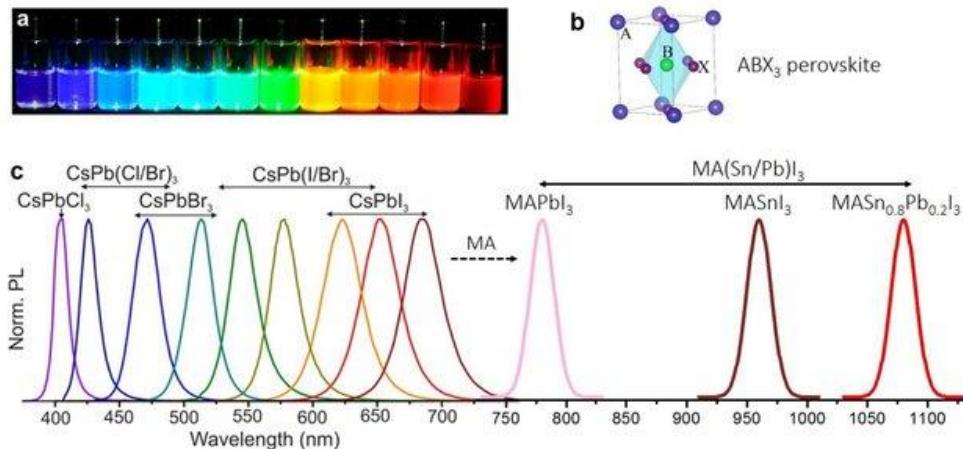
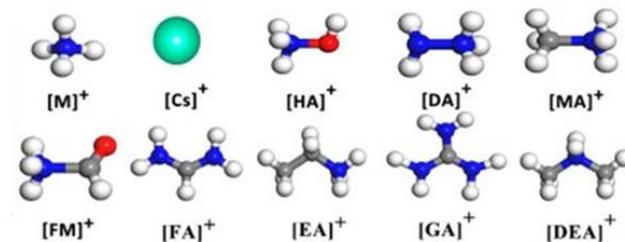


Structure of Perovskite

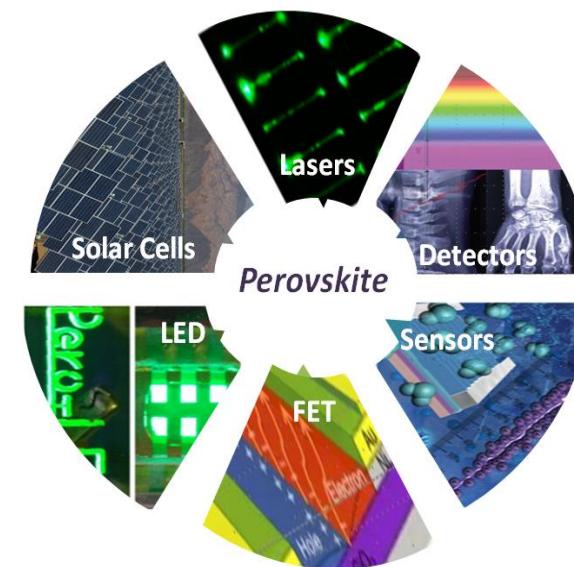


ABX_3

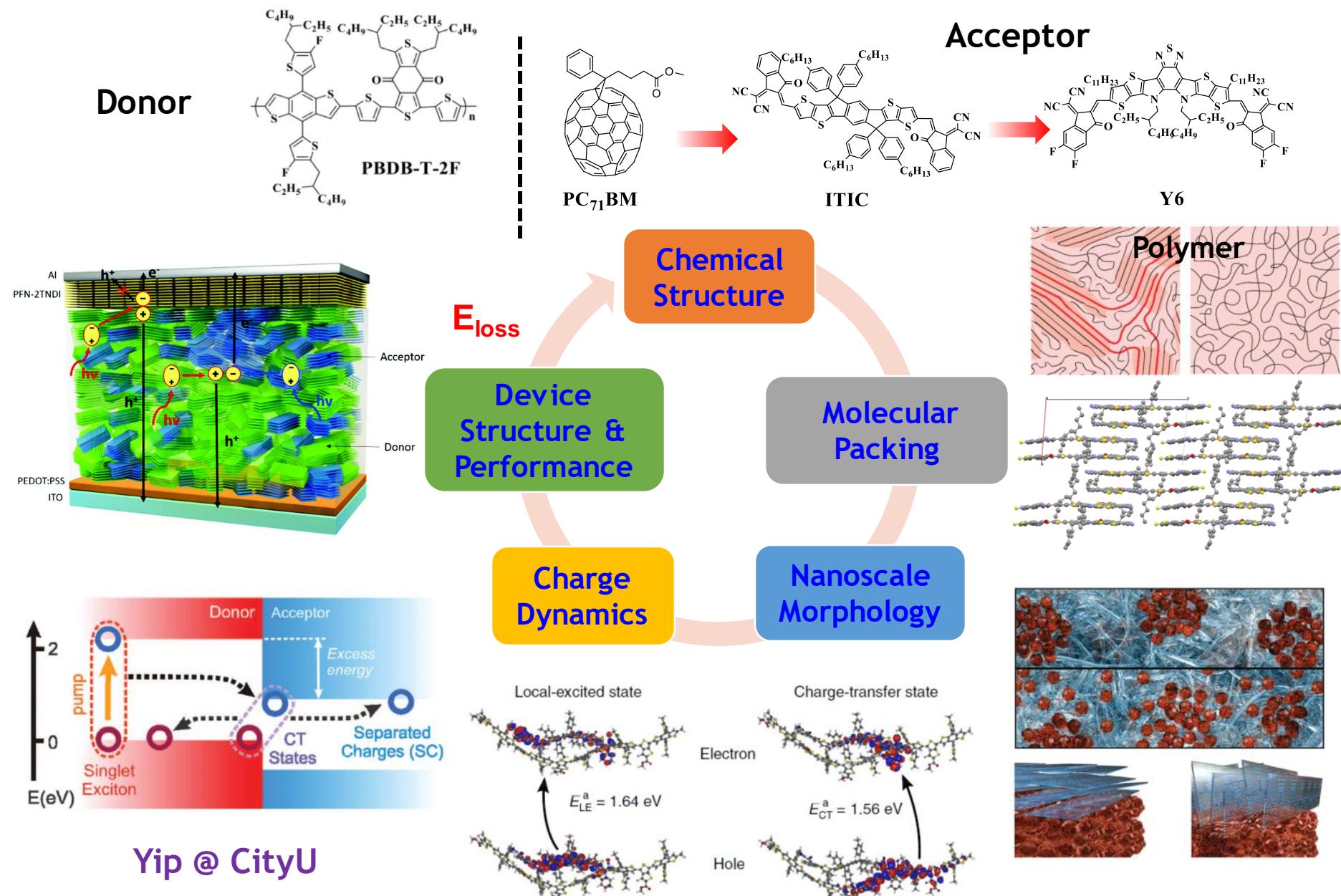
- A= CH_3NH_3^+ , $\text{NH}_2\text{CHNH}_2^+$, Cs^+ ...
- B= Ge^{2+} , Sn^{2+} , Pb^{2+} ...
- X= I⁻, Br⁻, Cl⁻...



Applications



Donor-Acceptor Based Organic Solar Cells

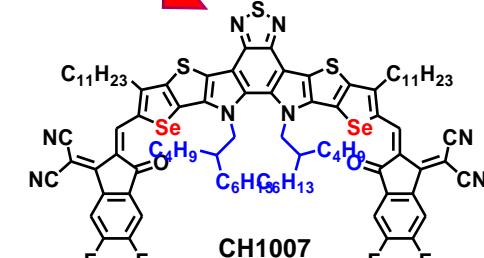
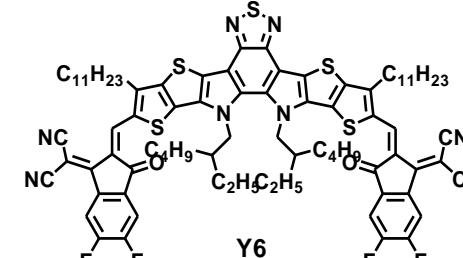
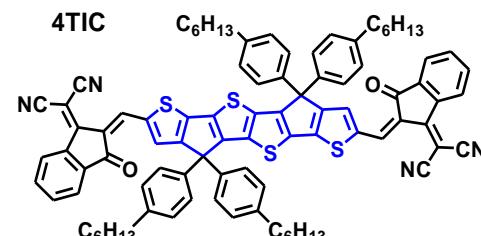
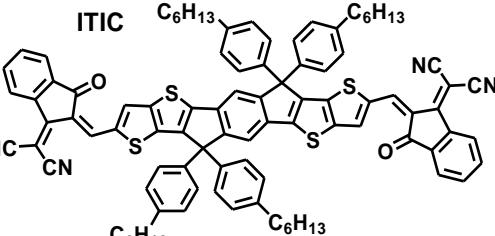
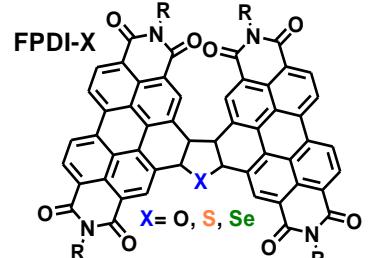


1st Generation**• Fullerene Acceptor**

- ✓ Last 20 Years (PCE ~11%)
- ✓ Isotropic/High electron mobility
- ✓ Limited absorption and energy level
- ✓ Morphological stability and lifetime

2nd Generation**• Non-Fullerene Acceptor**

- ✓ Recent ~5 Years (PCE: ~18%)
- ✓ Rational Molecular Design
- ✓ Device Engineering
- ✓ Interfacial Modulation

Typically Chemical Structures for Non-Fullerene Acceptors

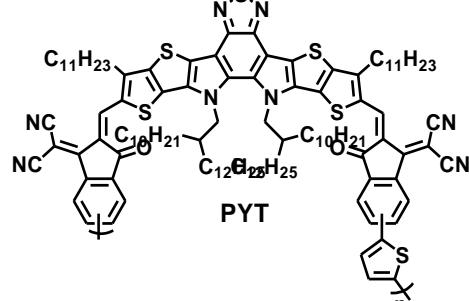
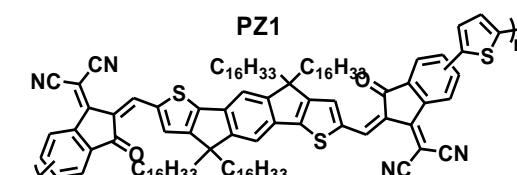
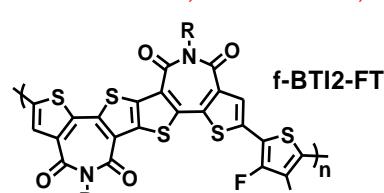
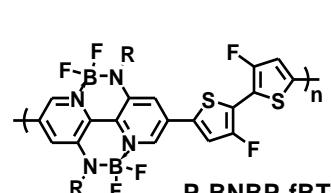
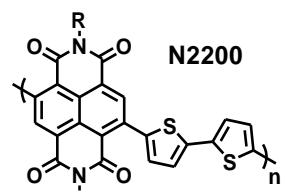
PCE: 6.72% A. Jen., Adv. Mater. 2016, 28, 951.

PCE: 6.8% X. Zhan, Adv. Mater. 2015, 27, 1170.

PCE: 10.43% A. Jen., Chem. Mater. 2017, 29, 8369.
 PCE: 11.07% A. Jen., Adv. Energy Mater. 2018, 8, 1702831.
 PCE: 13.20% A. Jen., Chem. Mater. 2018, 30, 5429.

PCE: 15.7% Y. Zou, Joule, 2019, 3, 1140.

PCE: 17.08% A. Jen., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2020, 142, 36, 15246.



A Facchetti, Nature, 2009, 457, 679.

PCE: 8.27% Y. Li, Adv. Mater. 2016, 28, 1884.

PCE: 9.16% F. Huang, Energy Environ. Sci. 2017, 10, 1243.

PCE: 9.27% F. Huang, Sci. China. Chem. 2018, 61, 427-436.

PCE: 6.85% X. Guo, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 15304.

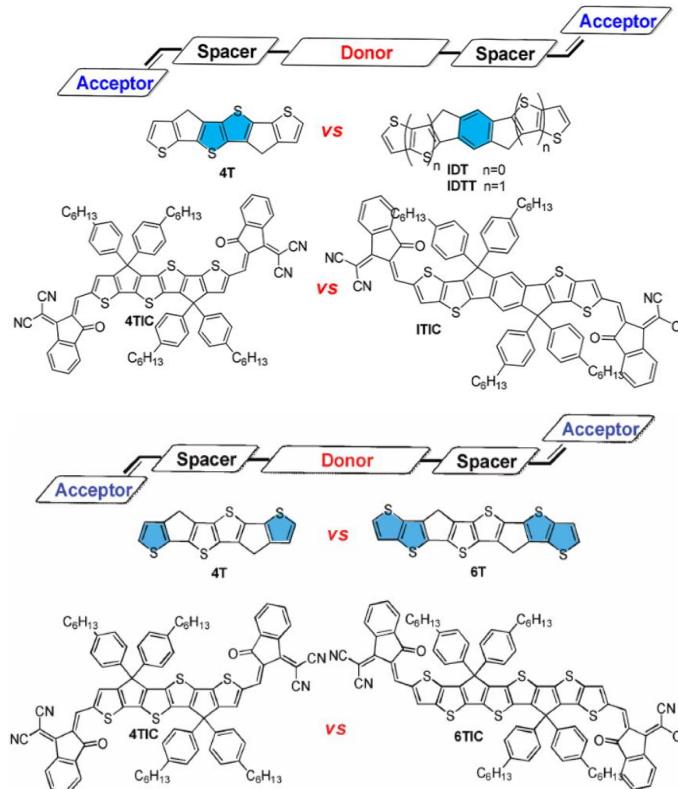
PCE: 9.19% Z. Zhang, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 13503.

PCE: 14.4% F. Huang, Nano Energy, 2020, 72, 104718.

PCE: 13.4% J. Min, Joule, 2020, 4, 1-17.

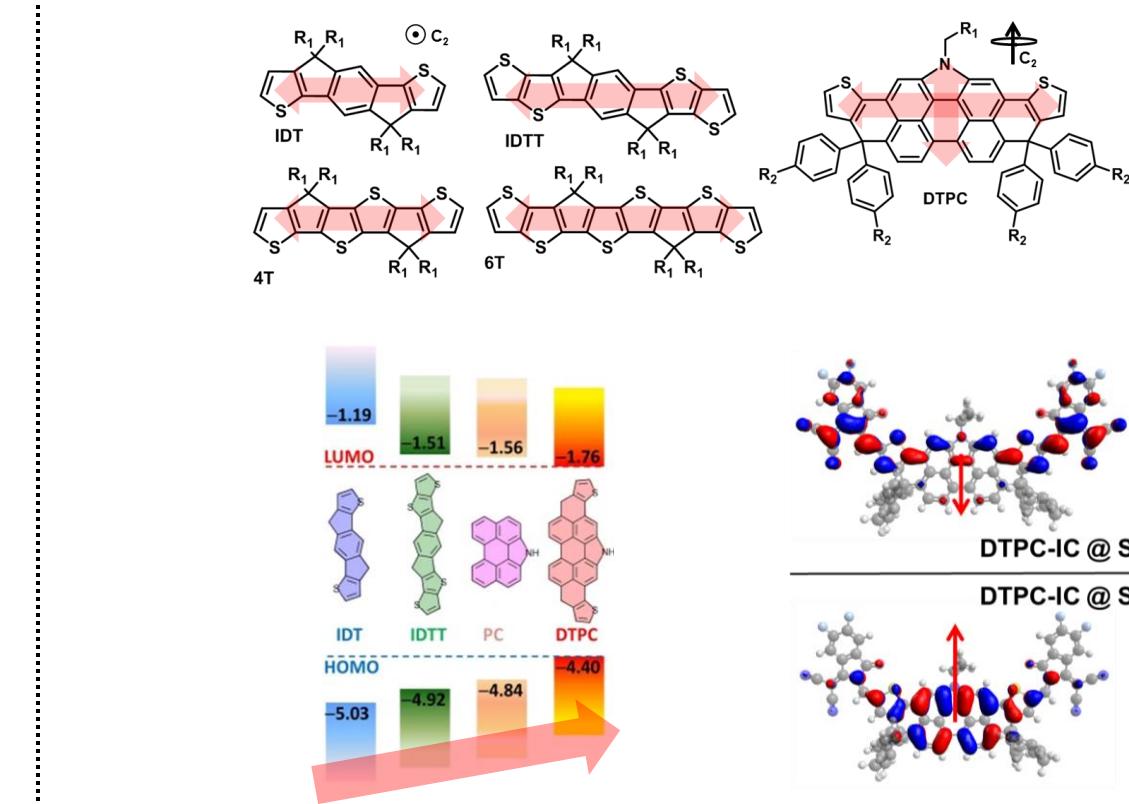
Ladder/Fused Aromatics for Small Molecule NF-Acceptors

Molecular Design: 1D Rigidified & Fused Central-Ring Extension to Pseudo-2D



Shi & Jen., *Chem. Mater.* 2017, 29, 8369.

Shi & Jen., *Adv. Energy Mater.* 2018, 8, 1702831.

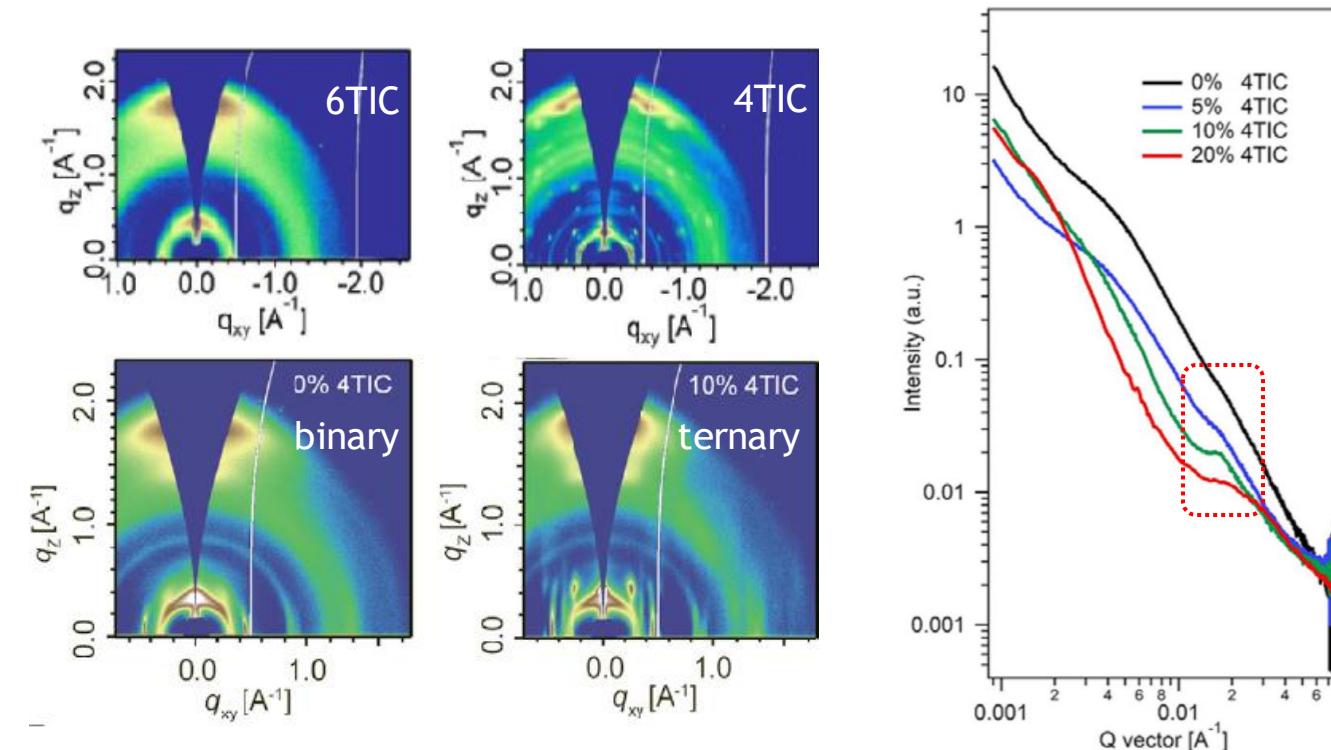
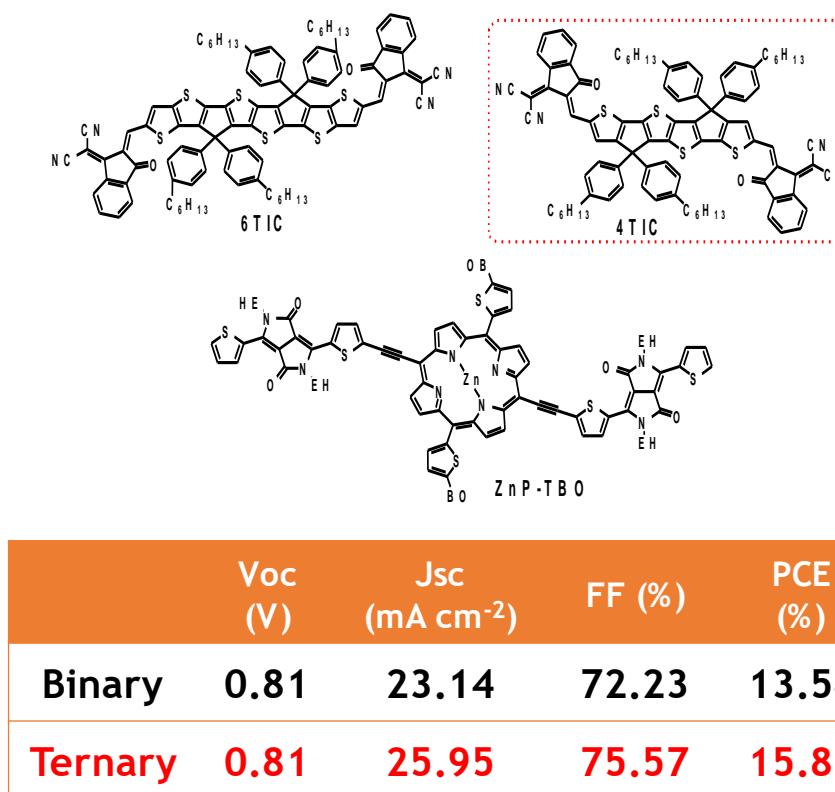


- 1D and 2D extension of D units for ICT
- 2D extension of the conjugation off the long-axis (A-D-A) could reduce the ICT without directly affecting the bandgaps

Yao & Jen, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2018, 140, 2054.
Nian, Gao & Jen, *Joule*, 2020, 4, 2223.

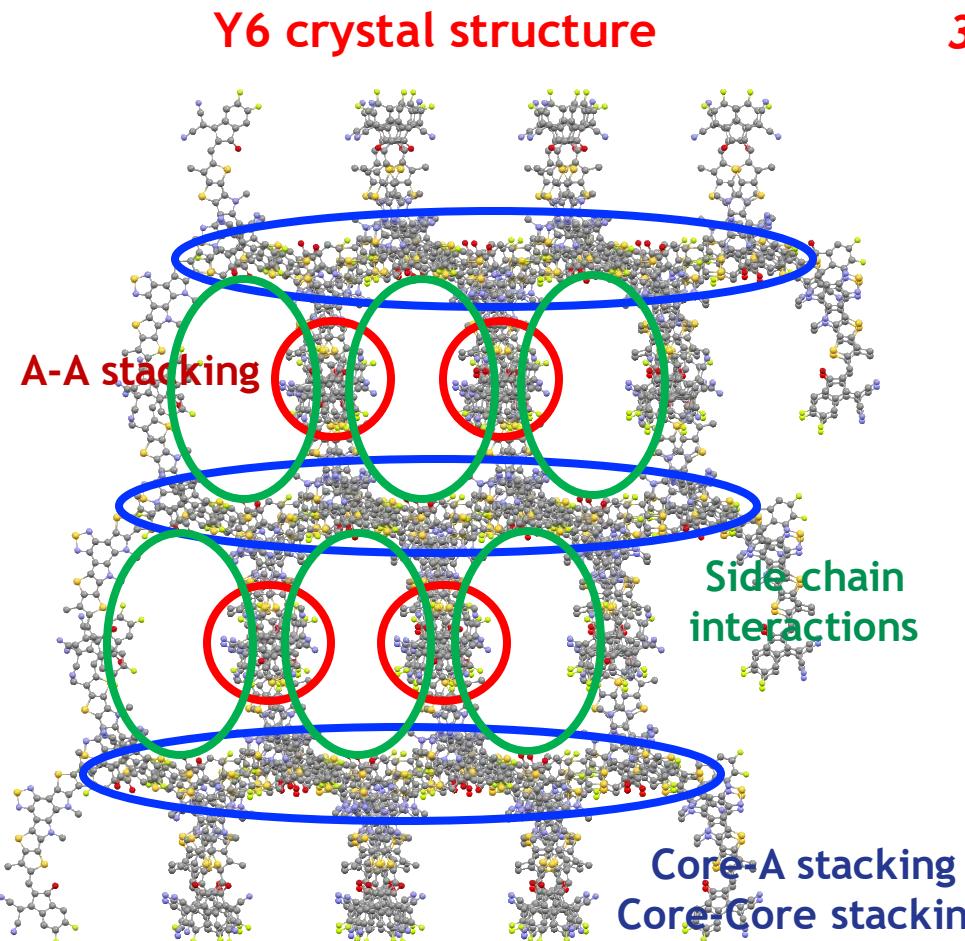
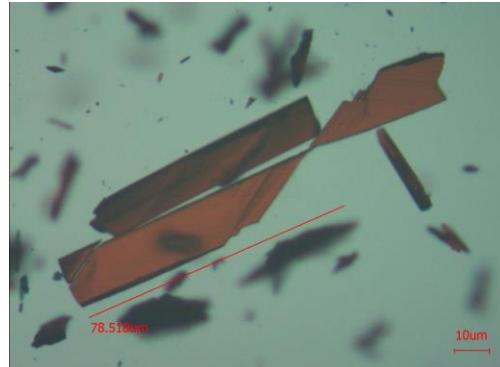
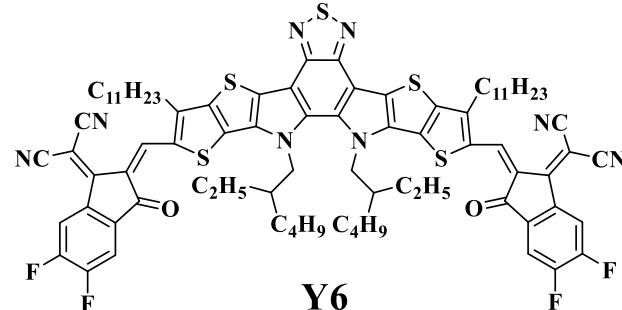
Achieved a Record-High ~16% PCE in All-SM Ternary OSCs

When 10% of the highly crystalline 4TIC is added to 6TIC as additive, it significantly enhances the crystallinity of the blend and maintains the face-on orientation in a proper multi-length scale morphology to improve both charge extraction and recombination in devices, resulting in ***a record-high PCE of 15.9% in all-SM OSCs.***



Nian, Gao & Jen, Joule, 2020, 4, 2223.

Y6 Crystal Structure - Property Relationship



Extended 2D/3D crystal structure

3D ambipolar transport network

Efficient HOMO & LUMO delocalization facilitate ambipolar charge transport

- Electron coupling: max~ 81 meV
- Hole coupling: max~ 74 meV

Pure Y6 film mobilities:

$$\text{SCLC : } \mu_e \sim 1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$$

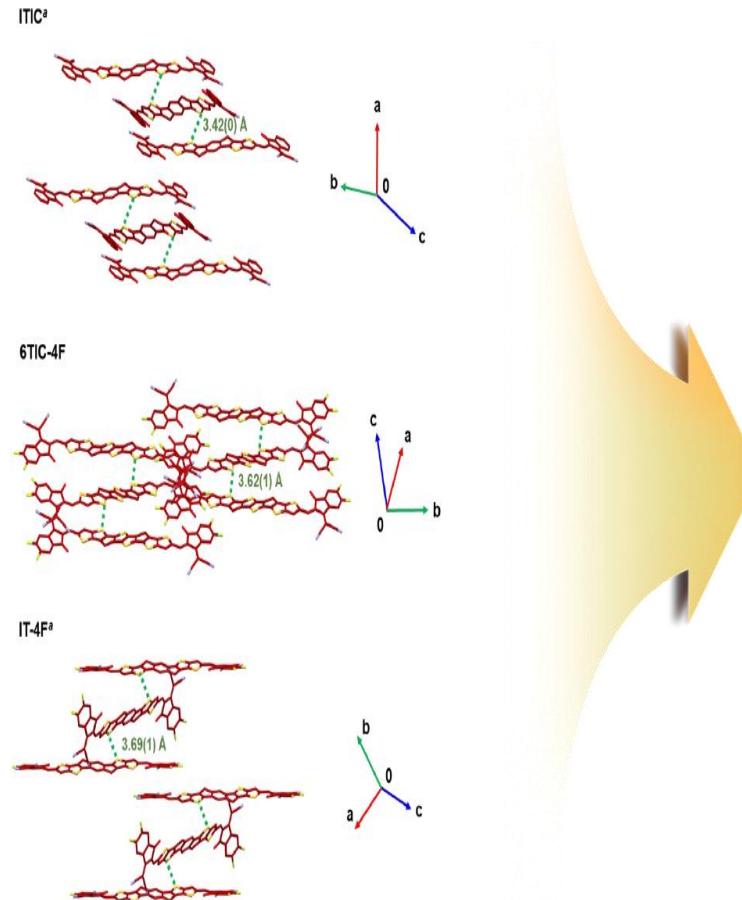
$$\mu_h \sim 6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$$

Delocalization of exciton enables long exciton lifetime.

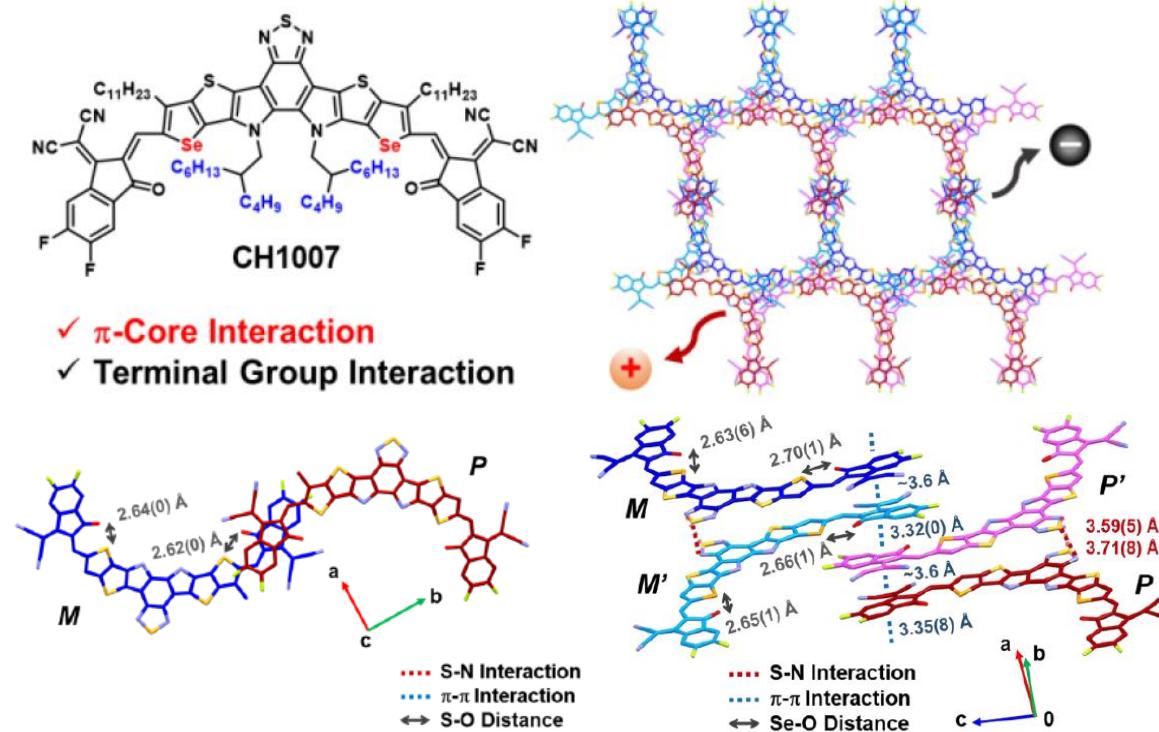
- *Reduced non-radiative loss which will enhance Voc*

Lead to 15.7% PCE

A Selenium-Substituted Y6 Analog Non-Fullerene Acceptor



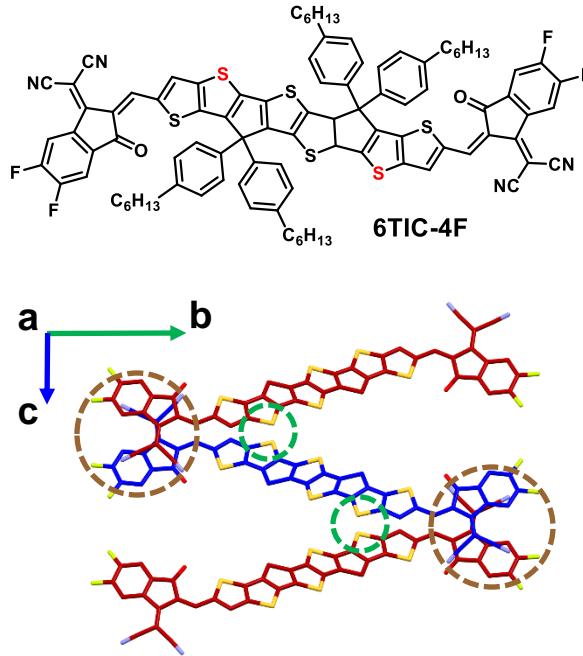
The crystallographic study of Y6 and CH1007



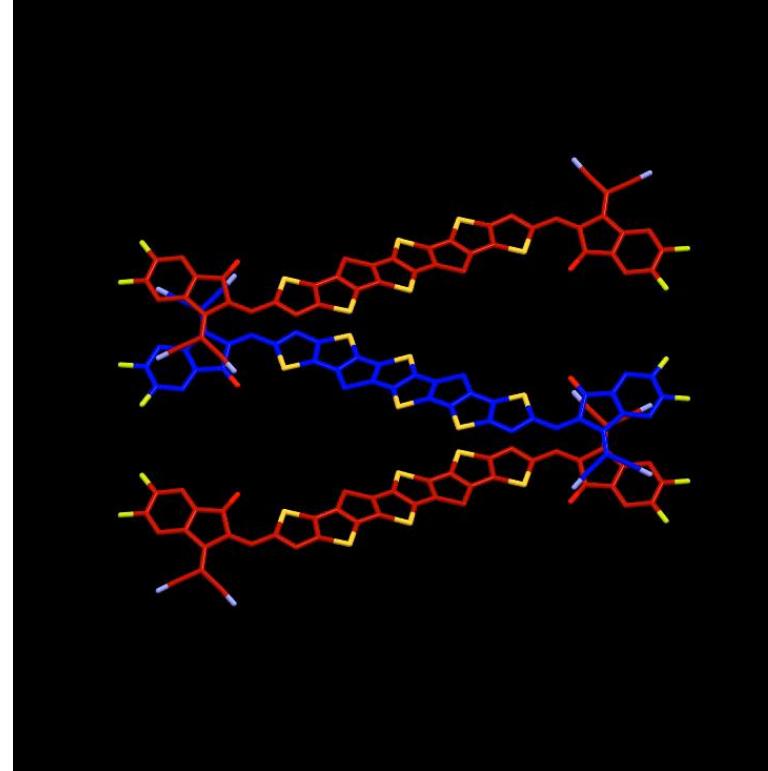
- Achieved **17.08% PCE** based on this narrow bandgap acceptor CH1007 (**1.3 eV**)
- Single crystals help reveal the packing behaviors of this family of acceptors (**compare to ITIC**)
- A 3D interpenetrated network (***π-π core interactions and terminal group interactions***)

Lesson Learned From Single Crystals of NFAs

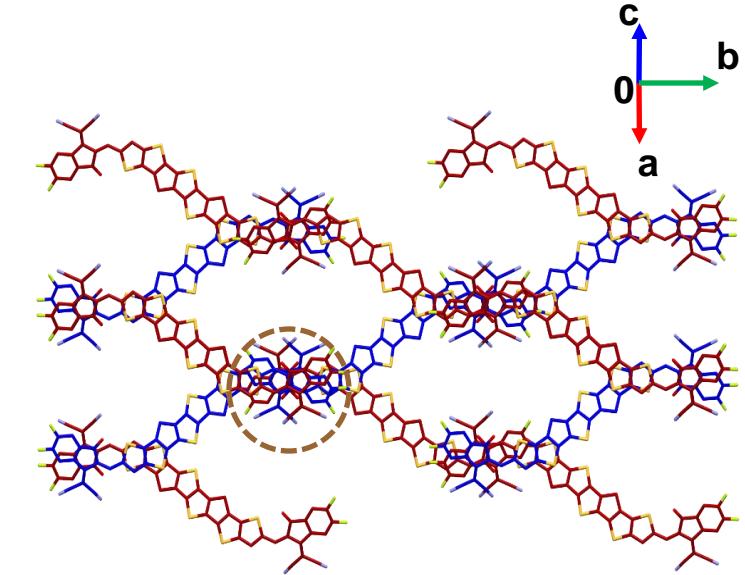
The A-D-A linear 6TIC-4F has only one molecular conformation in single crystal



- 3 6TIC-4F molecules self-assemble into a “Z-shape” unit.
- **S-S distance** of $3.62(1)$ Å between the interior thiophene rings.
- **$\pi-\pi$ distance** of ~ 3.52 Å between indanone terminal groups.



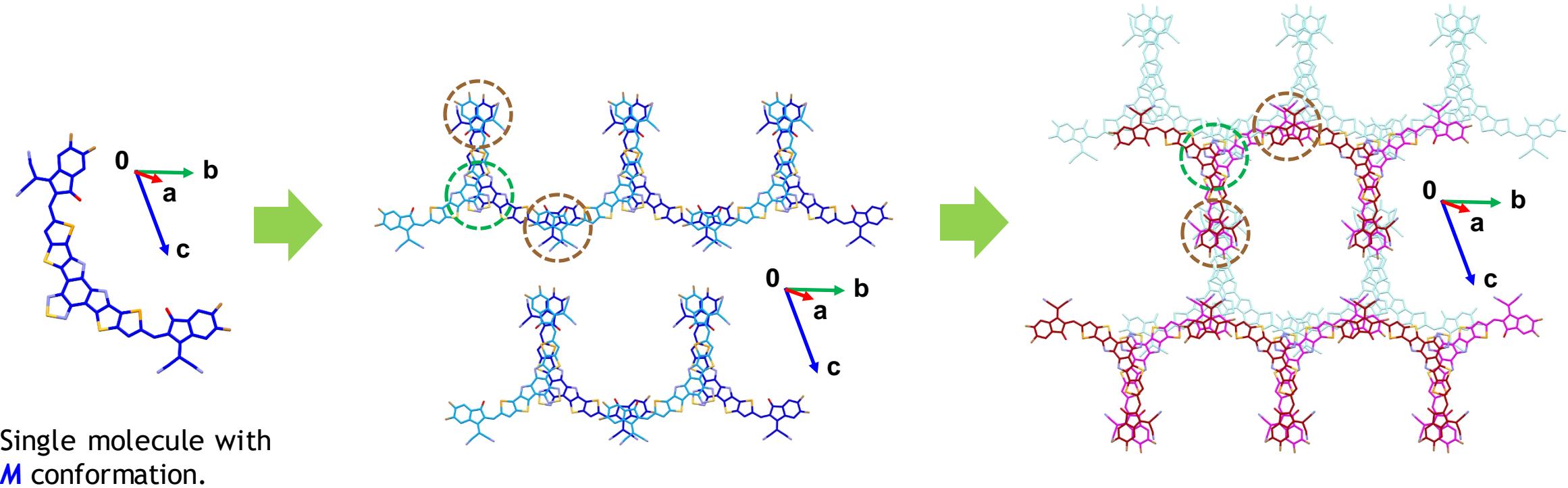
Shi & Jen *et al.*, *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 2018, 28, 1802324.
 Gao, Lin, Jen & Liu, *Nature Commun.*, 2021, submitted.



In bulk crystal, the Z-shape units stack through indanone terminal groups, with a **$\pi-\pi$ distance** of ~ 3.52 Å.

2D Packing of Molecular Engineered NFA

4 molecular conformations in single crystal (M , M' , P' , P)



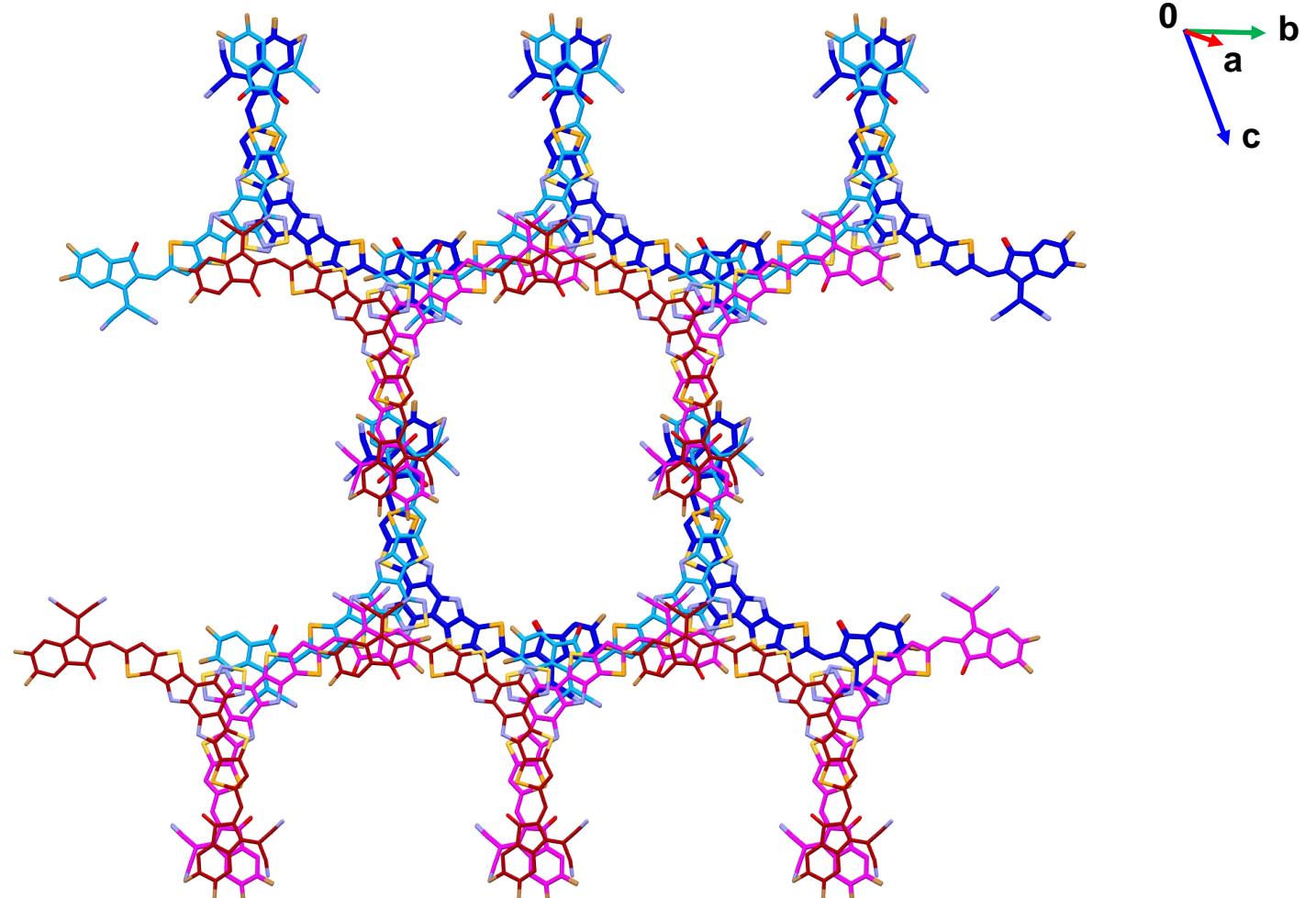
Single molecule with
 M conformation.

Molecules with M' conformation stack on top of those with M conformation to form **1D channels** through **terminal group stacking** and **π -core stacking**.

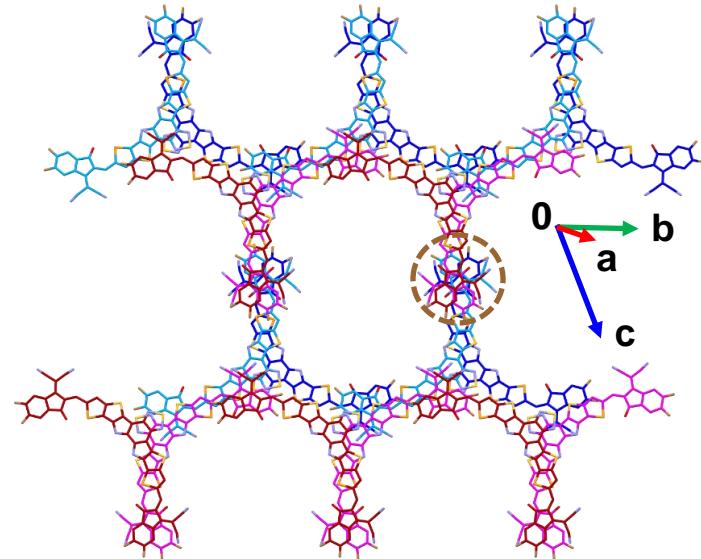
Stacking of molecules with P' and P conformations on top of those with M and M' conformations (faded for clearance), forming the **2D plane**.

Newly Molecular Engineered NFA

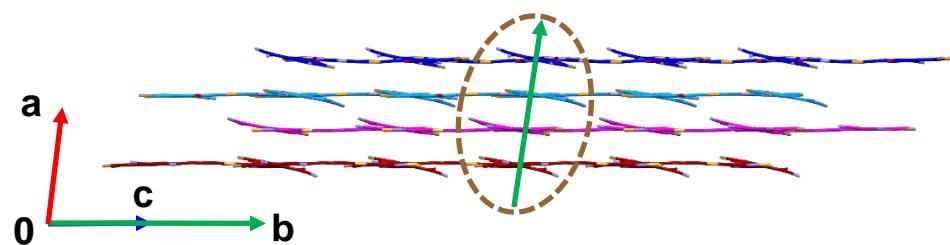
4 molecular conformations in single crystal (M , M' , P' , P)



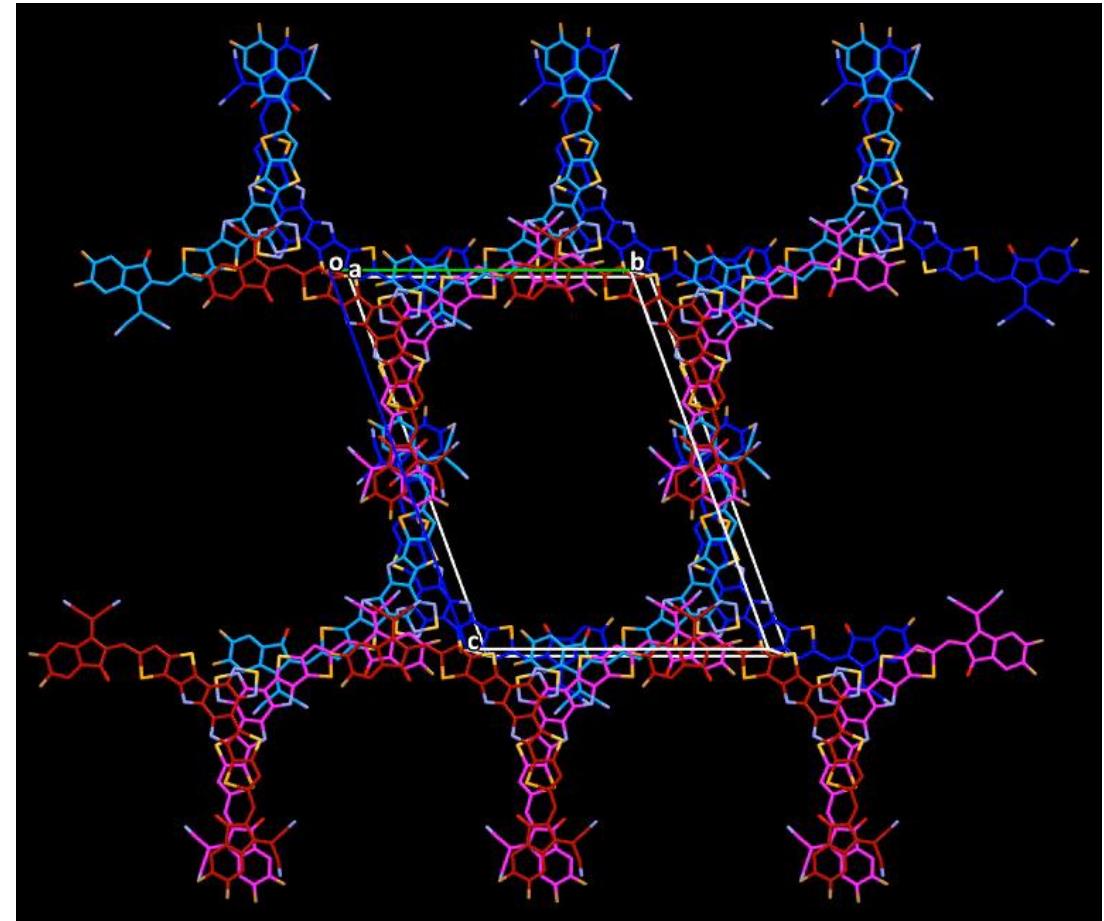
Newly Molecular Engineered NFA



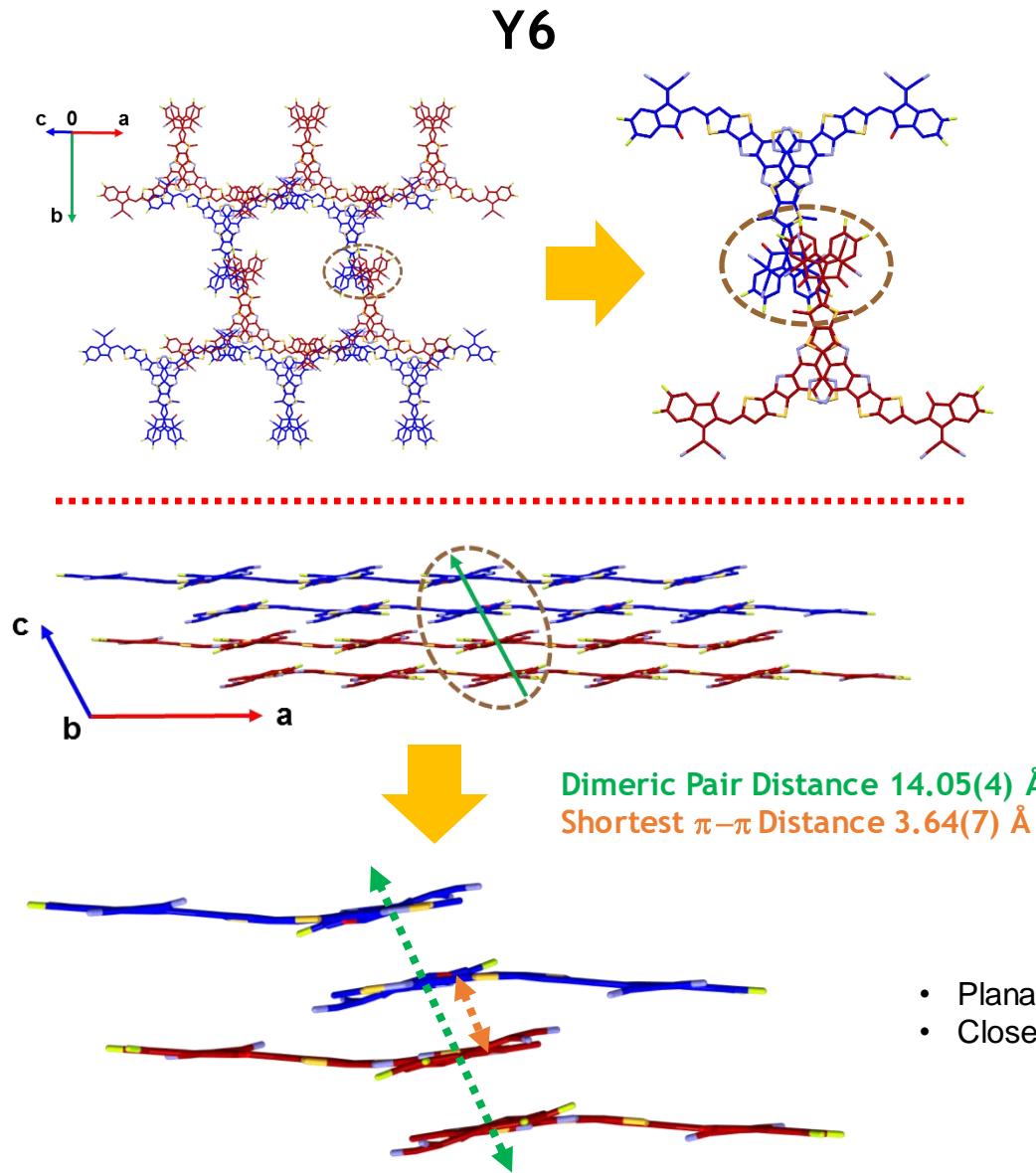
3D packing viewing from top, the **stacking of indanone terminal groups** forms an out-of-plane channel connecting molecules with different conformations.



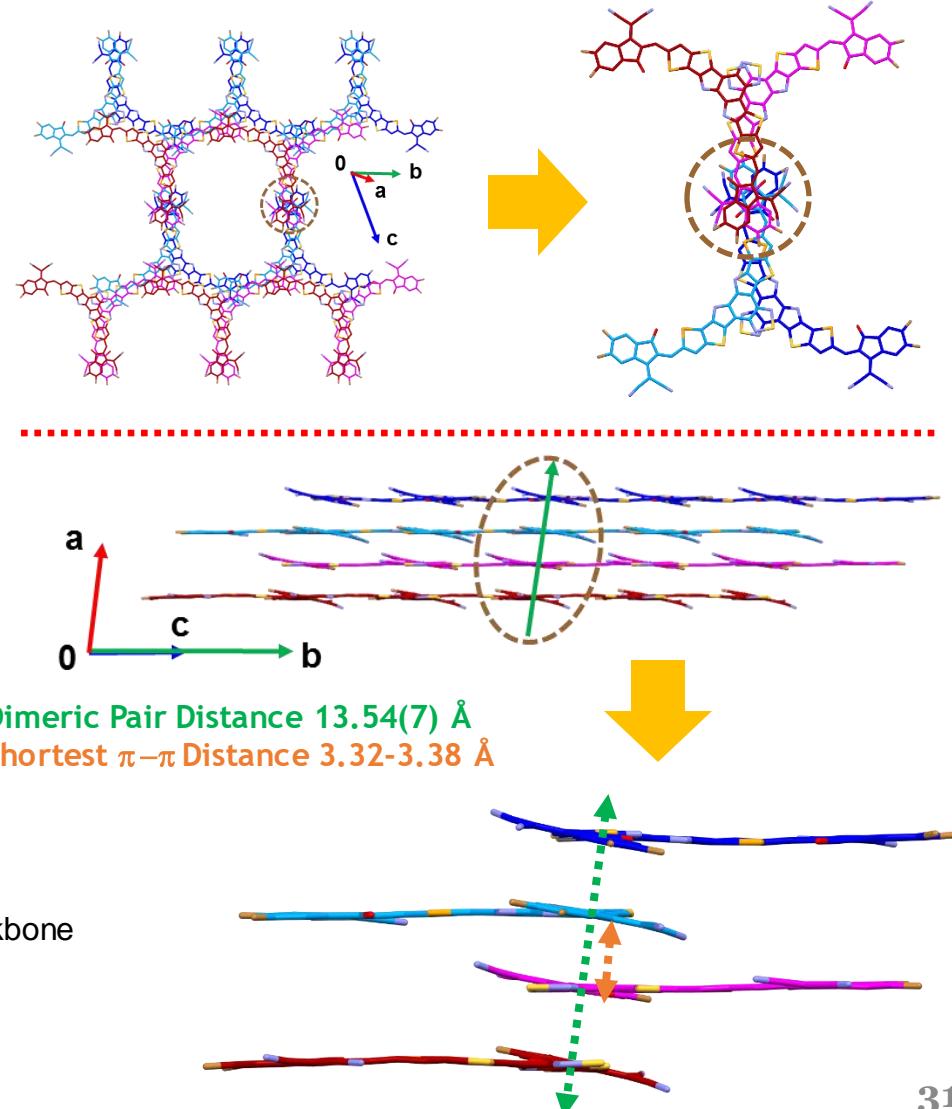
3D packing viewing from side, the **stacking of indanone terminal groups** is **less tilted** toward the molecular plane.



Better Molecular Packing Improves Charge Transport



Newly Designed Structure



Approaching Theoretical Voltage Limits in OPV & PVSC

With the design of new NFAs, we have successfully reduced non-ideal losses without sacrificing photocurrent generation (>70% EQE_{Max}, >10% PCE)

Type of Solar Cell	Bandgap	qVoc	ΔE _{total}	qΔV _{oc,SQ} (SQ-limit)	qΔV _{oc} (Non-ideal)	qΔV _{oc,rad} (non-ideal radiative)	qΔV _{oc,non-rad} (non-radiative)
GaAs ¹	1.42	1.11	0.31	0.27	0.04	<0.01	0.04
Perovskite ³	1.34	0.95	0.39	0.27	0.12	-	-
CIGS ¹	1.18	0.74	0.44	0.22	0.22	<0.01	0.21
c-Si ¹	1.12	0.68	0.44	0.25	0.18	<0.01	0.18
→ PCE10:DTPC-DFIC ⁷	1.26	0.77	0.49	0.26	0.22	0.03	0.19
Perovskite ²	1.82	1.32	0.50	0.3	0.2	0.08	0.12
Perovskite ³	1.61	1.08	0.53	0.28	0.25	0.01	0.25
→ Perovskite ⁸	1.50	1.17	0.33	0.27	0.06	<0.01	0.06
PDCBT-2F:IT-M ⁴	1.67	1.13	0.54	0.29	0.25	0.04	0.21
PBDB-T:Y1 ⁵	1.44	0.87	0.57	0.27	0.3	0.05	0.25
PCE10:FIDTT-2PDI ⁶	1.65	1.06	0.59	0.29	0.30	0.06	0.30
PBDB-T : mixed ITIC/4TIC	1.52	0.90	0.62	0.29	0.33	0.05	0.28
PM6 : mixed ITIC-4F/6TIC-4F ⁹	1.36	0.81	0.55	0.28	0.27	0.02	0.25
PM6 : mixed ITIC/6TIC-4F ⁹	1.38	0.86	0.52	0.27	0.25	0.04	0.21
★ PM6:Y11 (150 °C, Champion) ¹⁰	1.32	0.83	0.49	0.26	0.23	0.03	0.20
PM6 : mixed ITIC/Y6 ⁹	1.47	0.93	0.54	0.28	0.27	0.03	0.22
→ Certified System AJ1	1.42	0.87	0.55	0.26	0.29	0.10	0.18
→ Certified System AJ2	1.39	0.85	0.56	0.26	0.30	0.09	0.21
PCE10:PCBM	1.63	0.81	0.82	0.29	0.53	0.12	0.39

¹J. Nelson and coworkers, *Phys. Rev. Appl.* 2015, 4, 014020

²A. Jen and coworkers, *Nano Lett.* 2018, 18, 3985

³A. Jen and coworkers, *Adv. Mater.* 2018, 30, 1800455

⁴F. Gao and coworkers, *Nat. Mater.* 2018, 17, 703

⁵Y. Yang and coworkers, *Nat. Commun.* 2019, 10, 570

⁶D. Ginger & A. Jen and coworkers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2018, 140, 9996

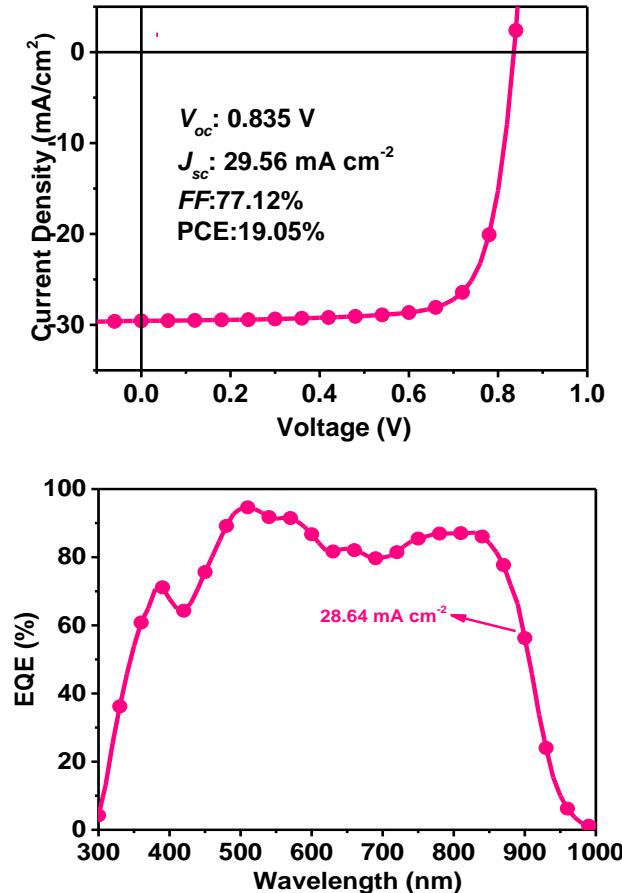
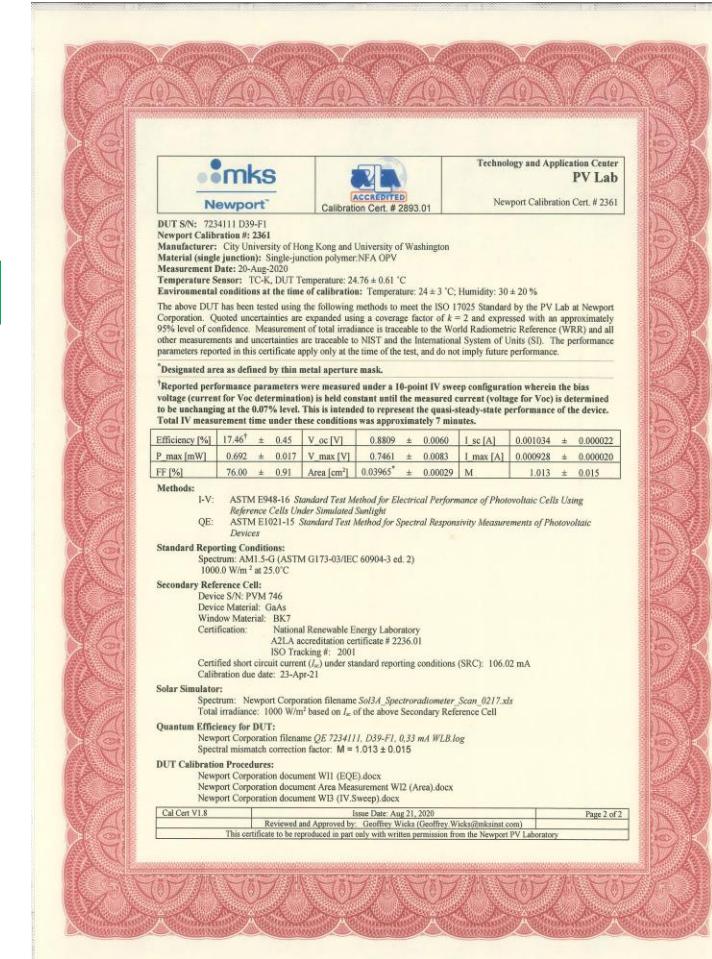
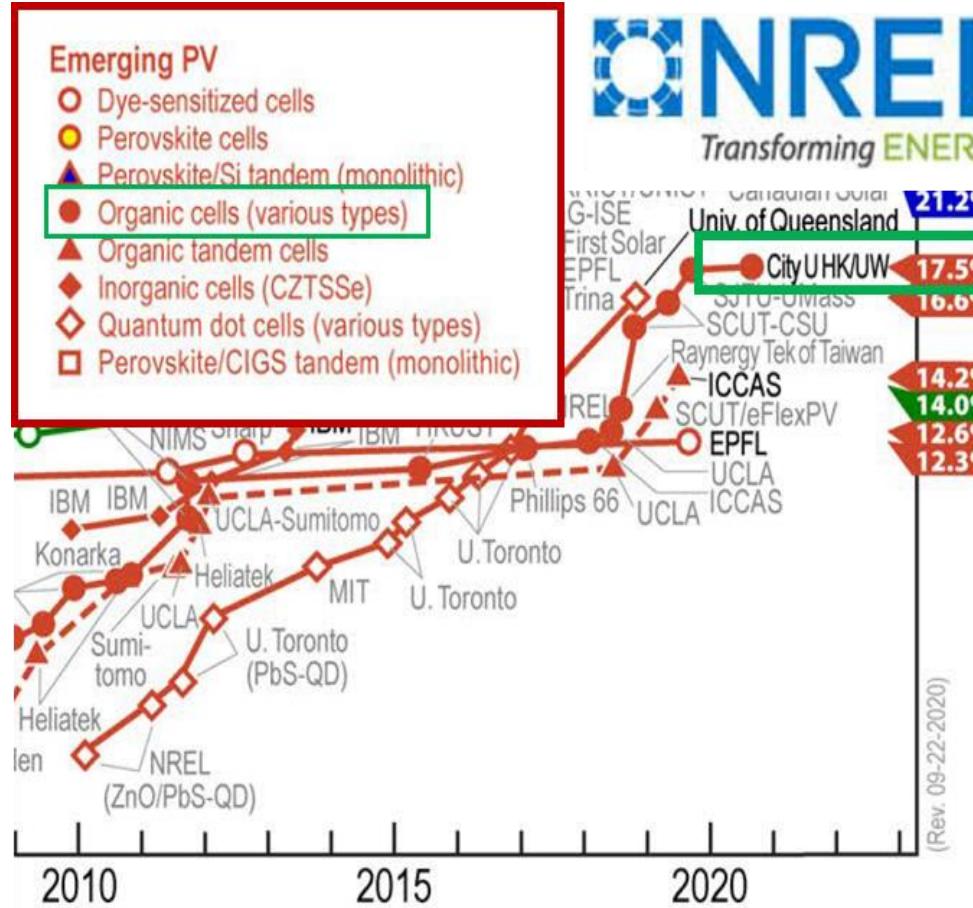
⁷Yao & Jen and coworkers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2018, 140, 2054.

⁸Li & Jen and coworkers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2020, DOI: 10.1021/jacs.0c09845.

⁹Zuo, Jo & Jen, submitted.

¹⁰Wu, *Nat. Photon.* 2020, 13, 300.

Achieved NREL Certified World Record PCE for OPV



Jiang, Lin, Zhu & Jen,
Nature Commun, 2021, 12, 468.

<https://www.nrel.gov/pv/assets/pdfs/best-research-cell-efficiencies.20200925.pdf>

Jiang, Lin & Jen,
(manuscript in preparation)

Printing solar cells like printing newspapers (fast & cheap)

Organic Solar Cells

by



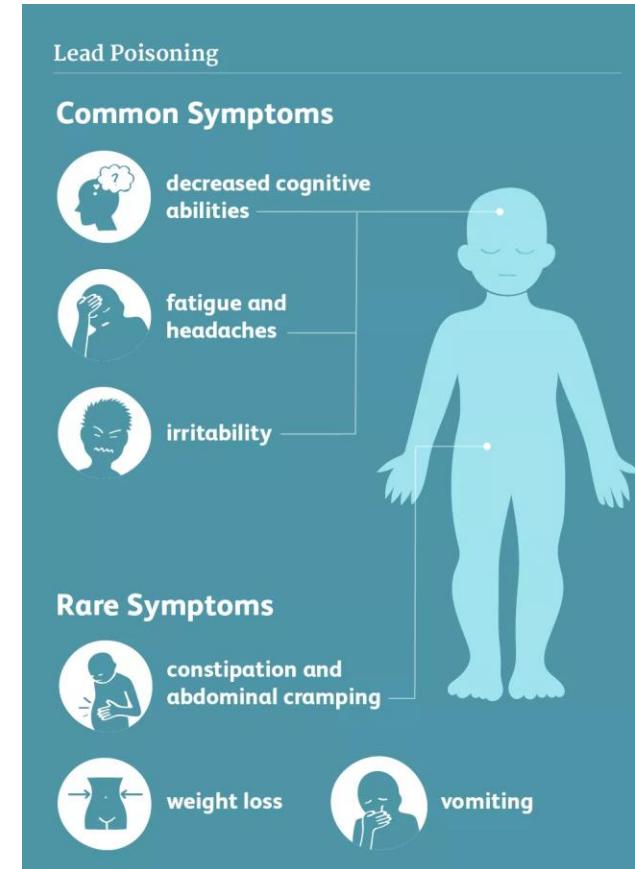
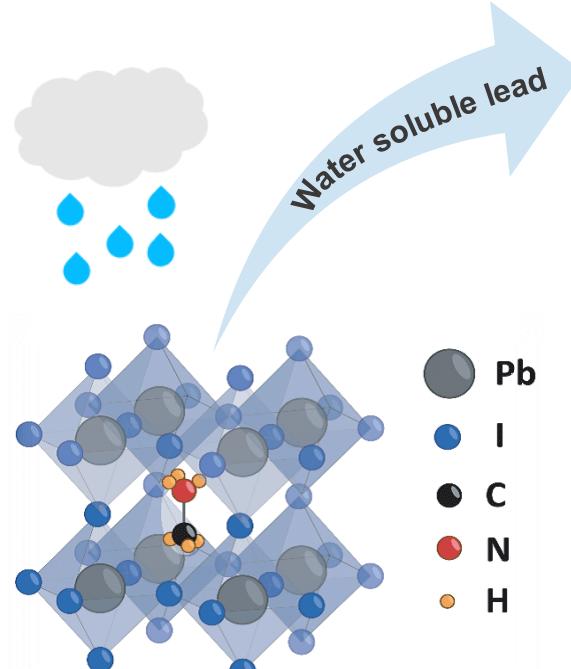
Fast roll-to-roll (R2R) fabrication
with printing and coating methods.

no vacuum - no evaporation - no cleanroom

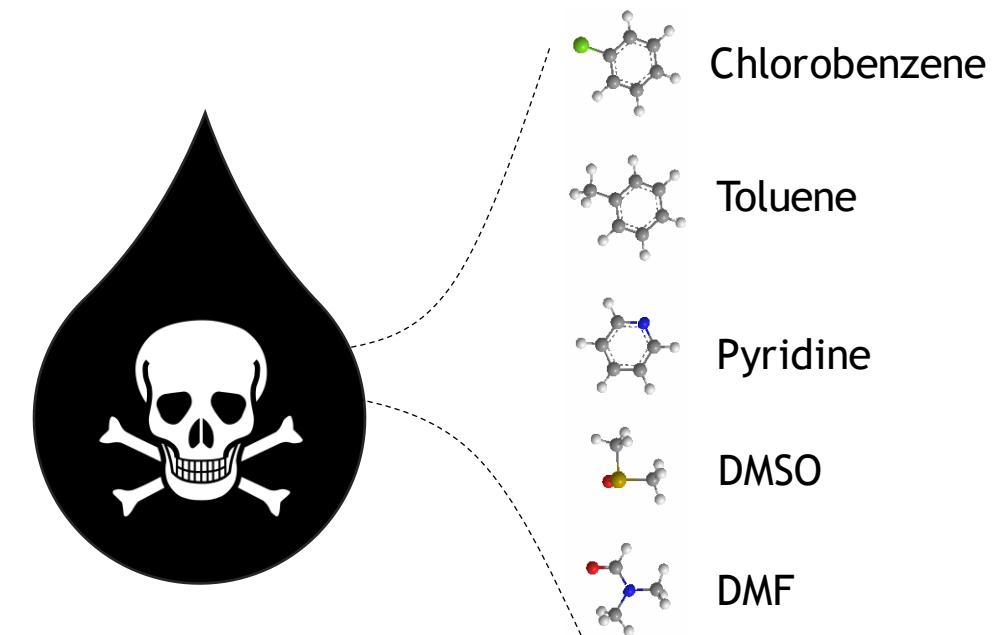
infinityPV.com

Environmental Concerns for Perovskite Solar Cells: Lead Leakage and Solvent Toxicity

- Lead Poisoning in PVSCs

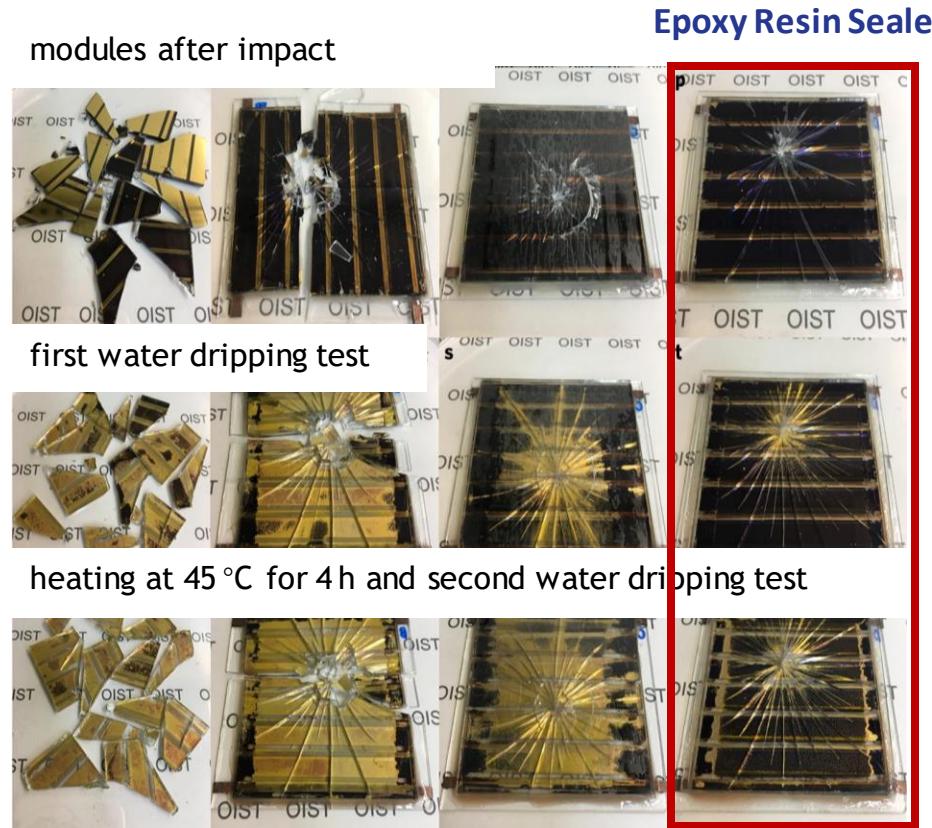


- Solvent Toxicity

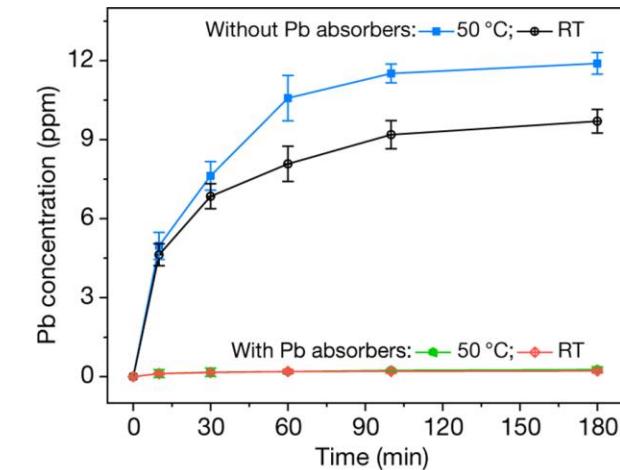
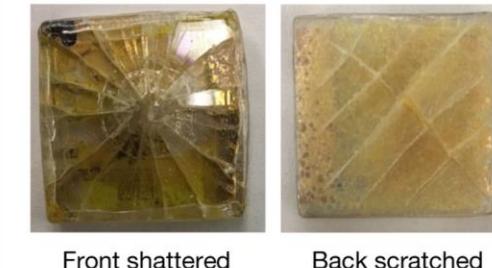
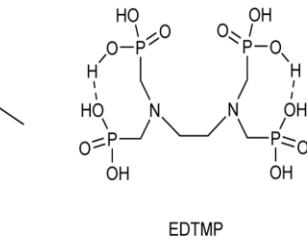
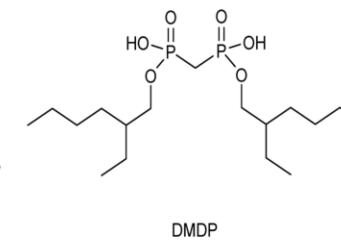
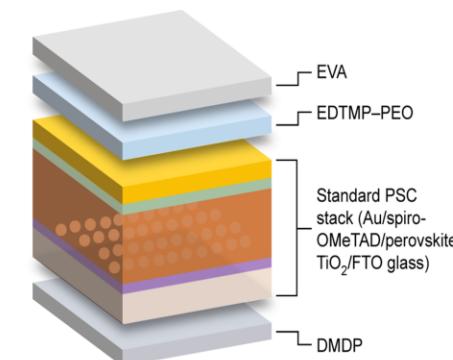


Reduce Lead Leakage through Innovative Encapsulation

Reduce lead leakage with *self-healing polymer*-based encapsulation



Coat *lead-absorbing material* on both sides of the device stack for preventing Pb ions leakage due to severe device damage

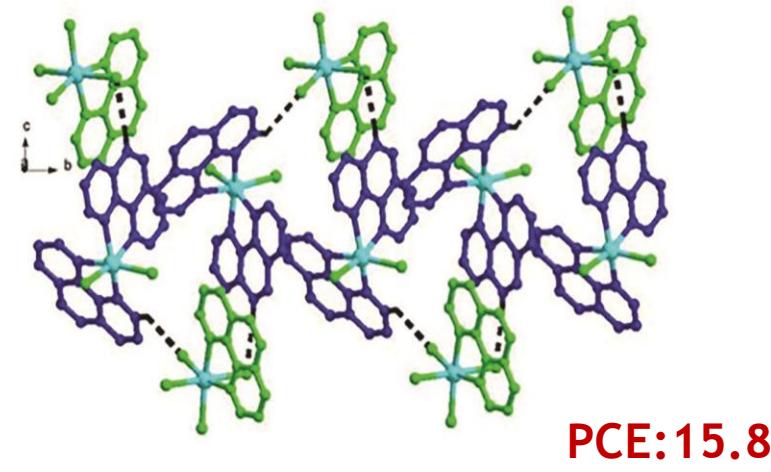


Jiang & Qi, *Nat. Energy* 2019, 4, 585.

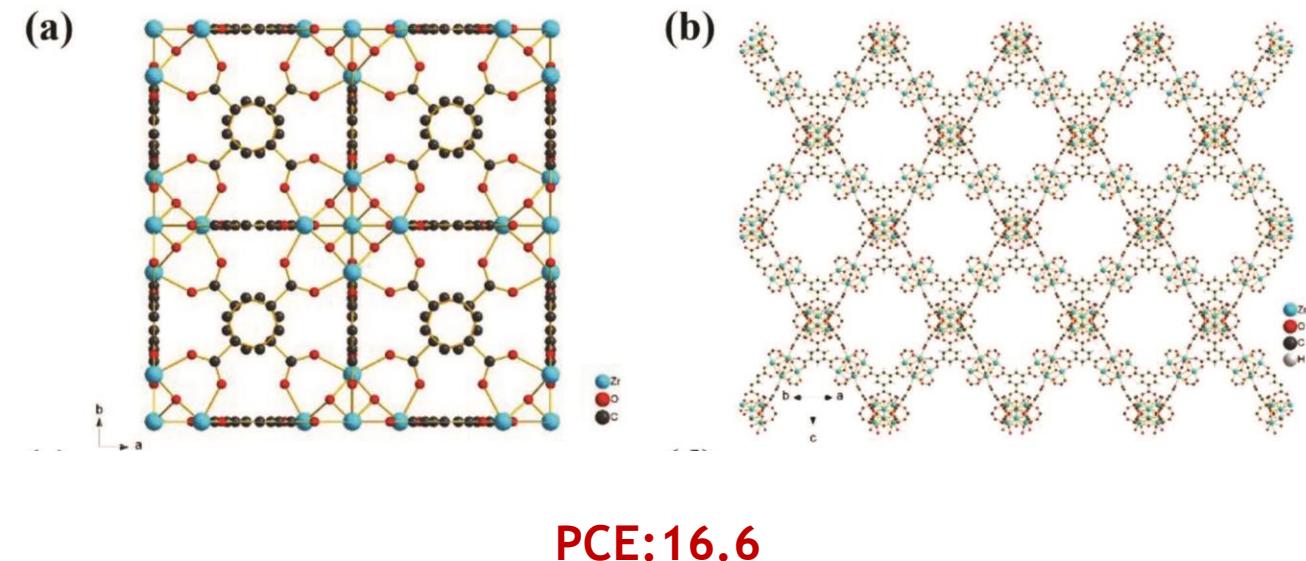
Li , Zhu & Xu, *Nature* 2020, 578, 555.

Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOF) for Perovskite Solar Cells

- MOFs are 3D porous crystalline materials consisting of multipodal organic linkers, like terephthalic acid and trimesic acid, and secondary building units (SBUs) based on high-valent ions/clusters
- MOF porous scaffolds can be used to facilitate perovskite growth
- **3D MOFs** usually possess good moisture and chemical stabilities, but they have relatively poor charge transporting properties due to charge localization. **Need to be doped.**



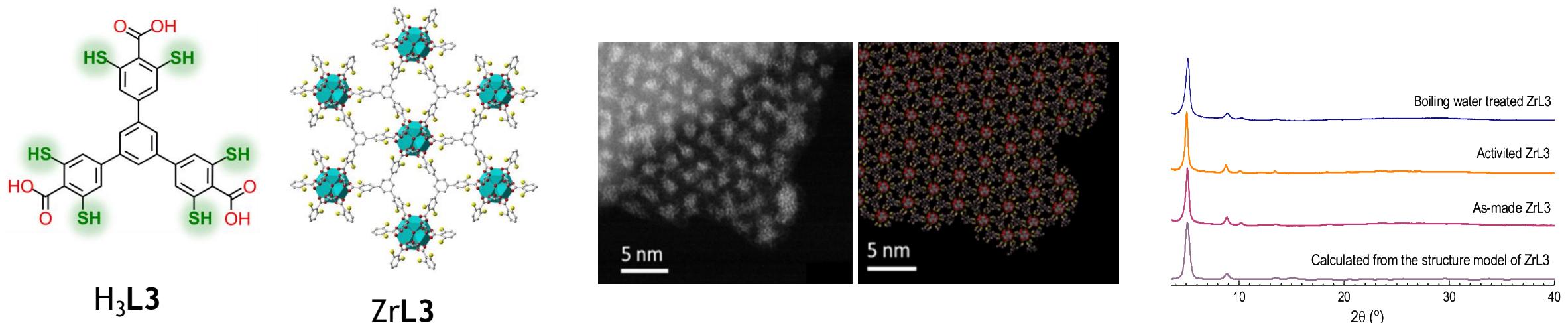
3D structure of In_2



PCE:16.6

2D-MOF for Enhancing Device Stability and Lead Capturing

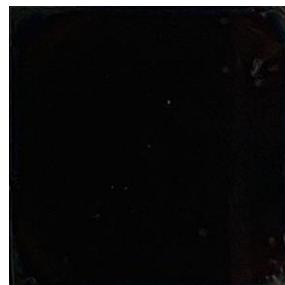
- Excellent thermal stability which can maintain structural integrity in ***boiling-water for 24h.***
- Thiol groups on MOF can form **Ag-S** bonds at the MOF-electrode interface to ***improve contact*** and resist detrimental stimuli under ambient atmosphere and light irradiation.
- Thiol groups*** can also ***capture the leaked Pb²⁺ ions*** from degraded perovskites to prevent contamination of the environment through forming ***insoluble Pb-MOF products***.



Wu, Xu, Zhu & Jen, *Nature Nanotech.* 2020, 15, 934.

MOF Covered Perovskites Show Excellent Ambient Stability

1 days



Perovskite
with MOF

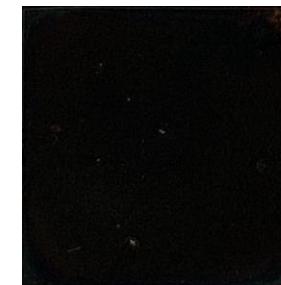
3 days



5 days



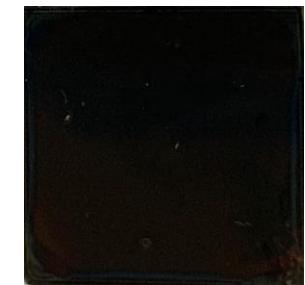
7 days



9 days

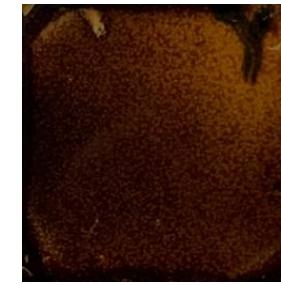
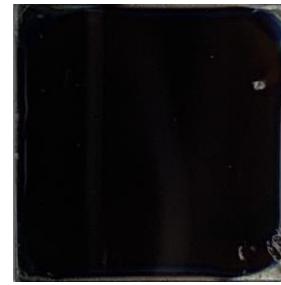
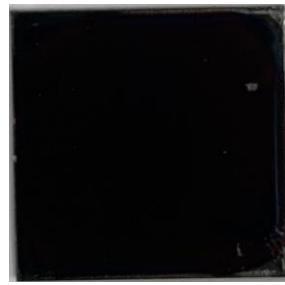


16 days



REF

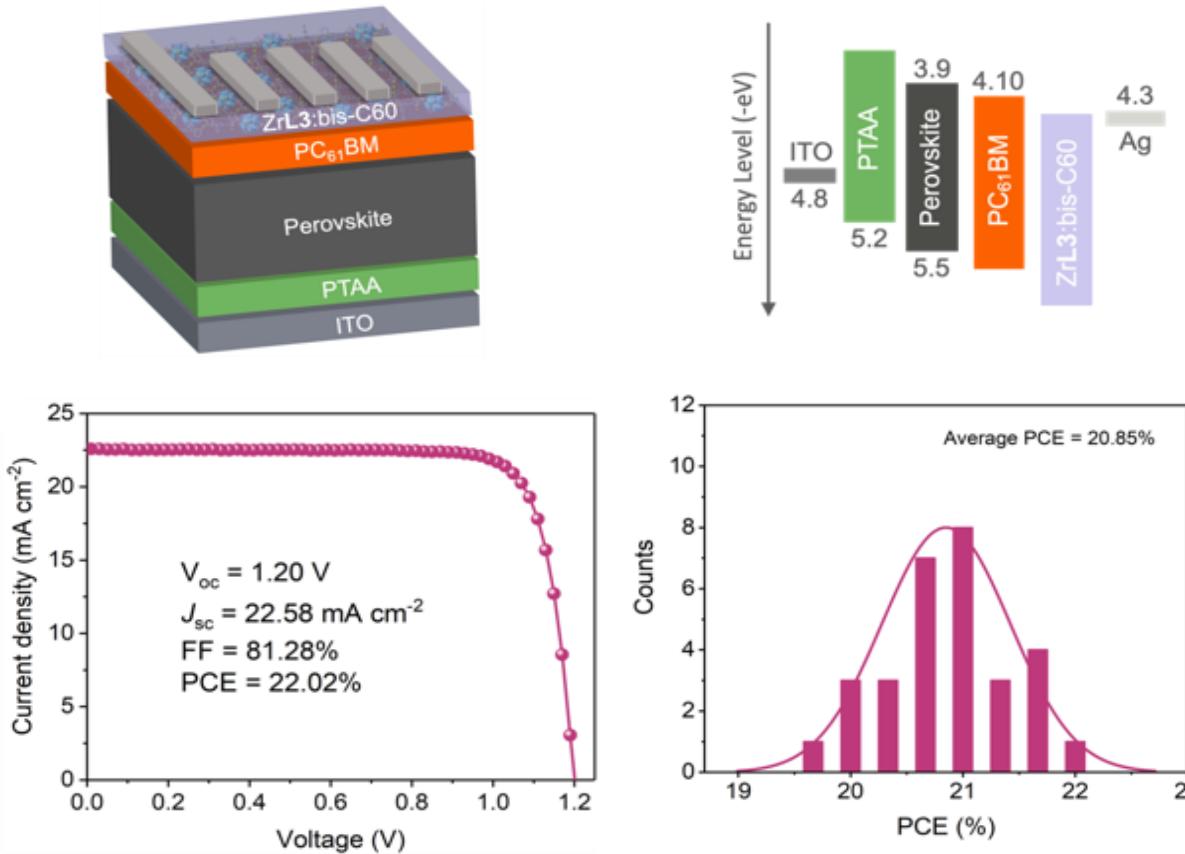
Perovskite



Stored in ambient with RH of 75-80% @ RT

Wu, Xu, Zhu & Jen, *Nature Nanotech.* 2020, 15, 934.

Device Performance of 2D-MOF EEL-Based PVSCs

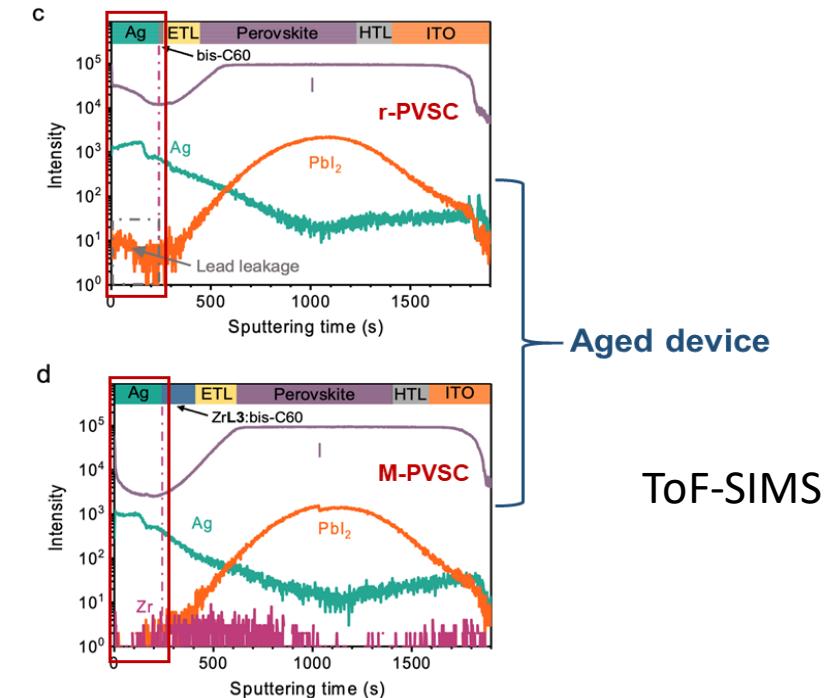
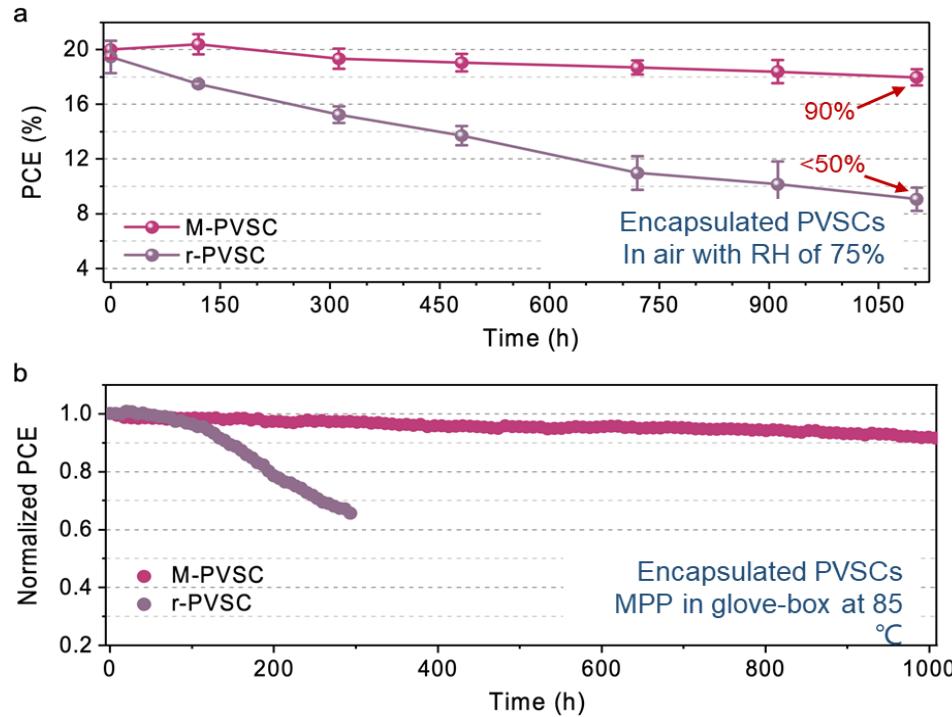


High PCE of **22.02%** can be achieved with 2D MOF interlayer at perovskite/cathode interface, which is among the highest values for the inverted PVSCs.

Wu, Xu, Zhu & Jen, *Nature Nanotech.* 2020, 15, 934.

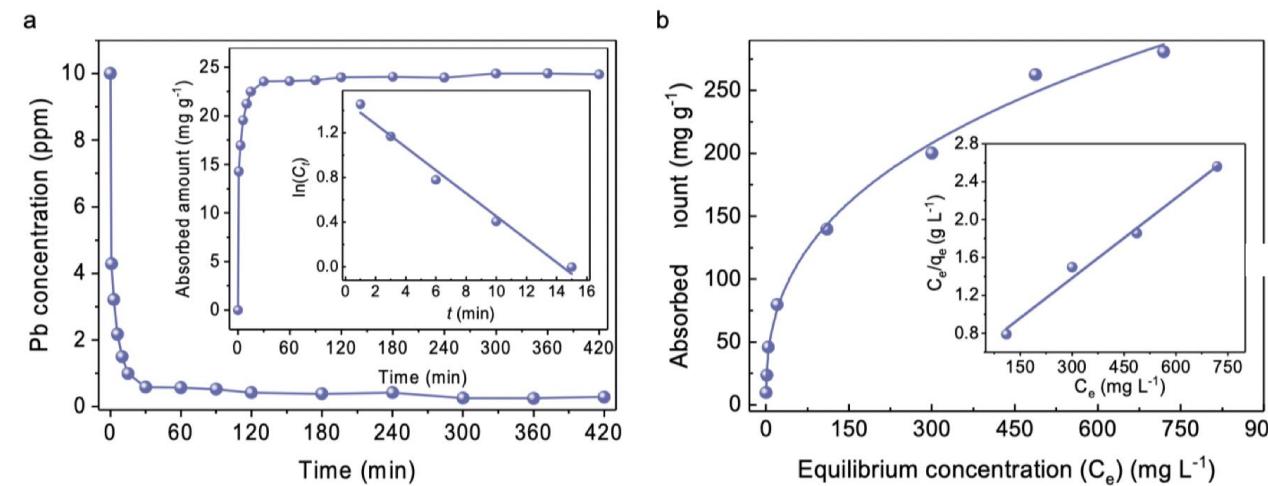
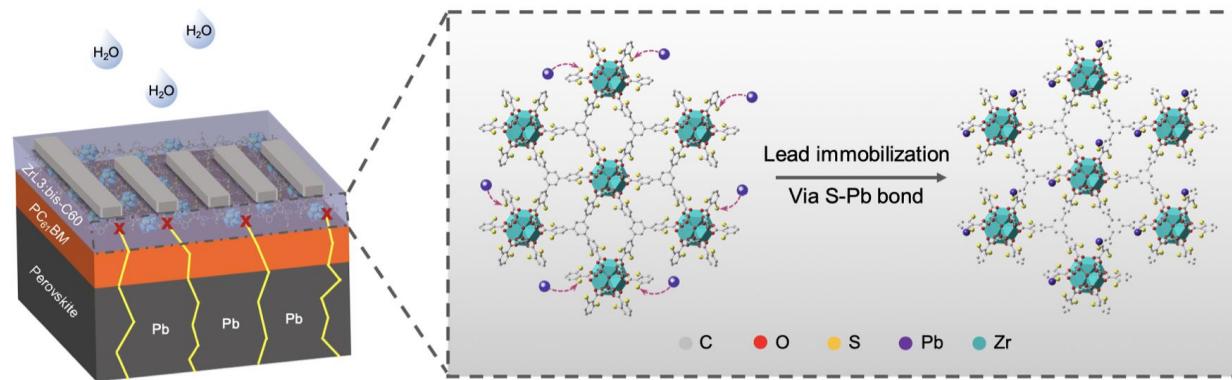
2D-MOF Enhanced Device Stability and Lead Capturing

- The encapsulated M-PVSC exhibited *superior shelf stability and long-term operational stability*.
- The leaked Pb ions from the degraded PVSC can be “*trapped*” by the ZrL3:bis-C₆₀ EEL due to the dense thiol and disulfide groups in ZrL3, which can strongly interact with Pb²⁺ by *S-Pb bond*.



Wu, Xu, Zhu & Jen, *Nature Nanotech.* 2020, 15, 934.

Ability of 2D-MOF in Adsorbing Lead Ions

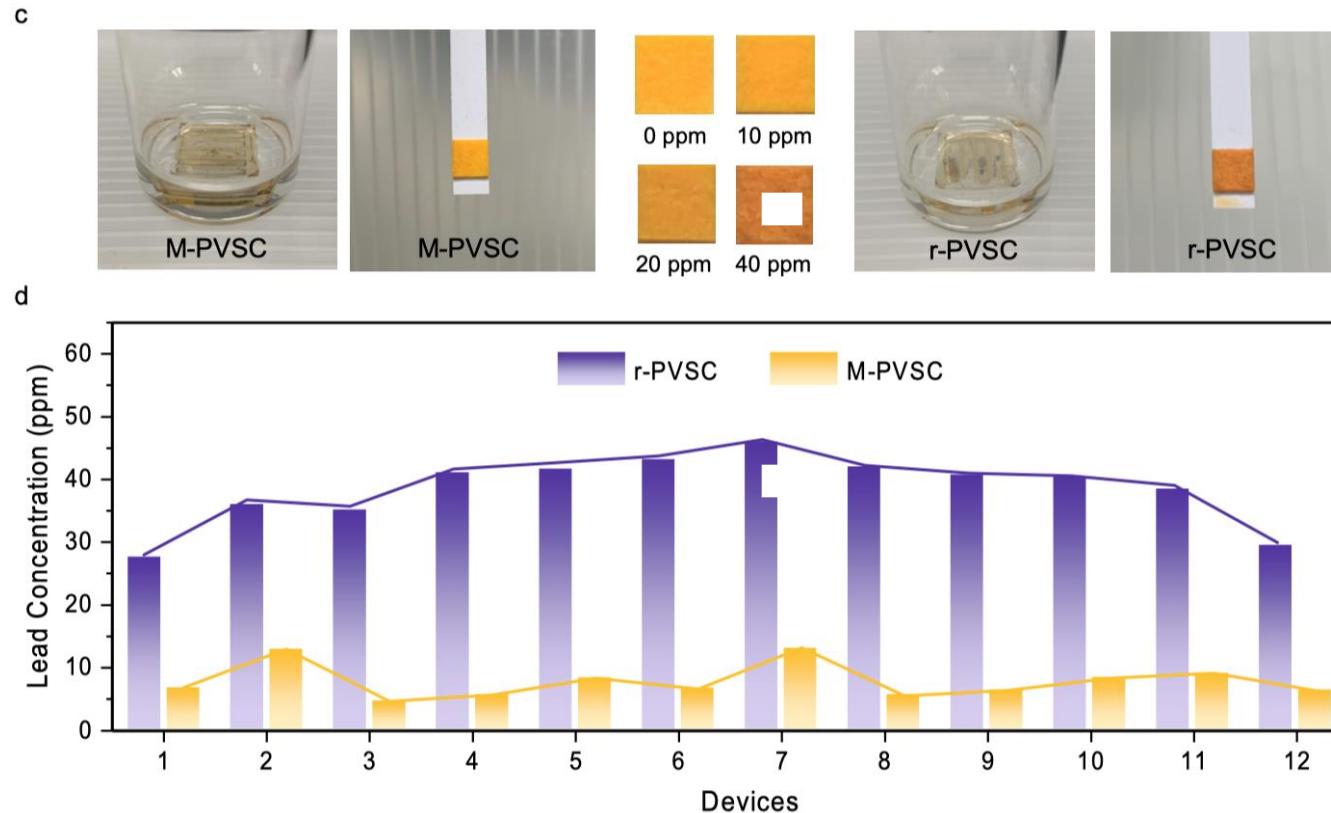


A distribution coefficient K_d of around 105 ml g^{-1} and the substantial value of 355 mg g^{-1} for the Pb adsorption capacity strongly support that ZrL₃ EEL can effectively adsorb Pb²⁺.

Wu, Xu, Zhu & Jen, *Nature Nanotech.* 2020, 15, 934.

2D MOF Interlayer for Capturing Lead Products

Lead adsorption capability of ZrL3 interlayer



Tested in acidic water (pH:5.6)
to simulate acid rain

ICP-OES: Inductively coupled plasma-mass spectroscopy

Pb^{2+} concentration decreased to 7.6 ppm for M-PVSCs and 38.4 ppm for r-PVSCs, which means 80% of the leaked Pb^{2+} ions from the degraded perovskite could be captured by ZrL3.

Wu, Xu, Zhu & Jen, *Nature Nanotech.* 2020, 15, 934.

Press Coverage



News Release 21-Sep-2020

Highly efficient perovskite solar cells with enhanced stability and minimised lead leakage

City University of Hong Kong



https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-09/cuoh-hep092120.php

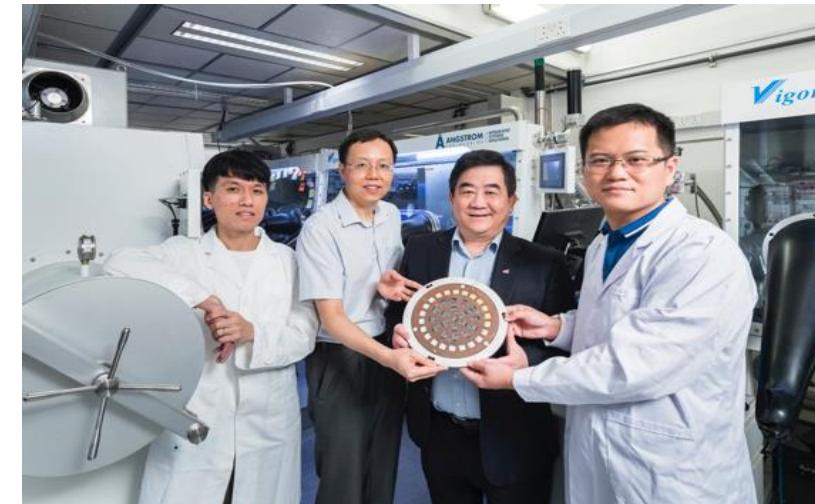
<https://opengovasia.com/cityu-scientists-make-breakthrough-in-solar-tech/>

https://www.osa-opn.org/home/newsroom/2020/october/perovskite_photovoltaics_advanced_by_2d_mof/
<https://kknews.cc/zh-hk/science/qxlbgpo.html>



Perovskite solar cell based on metal-organic framework with 22.02% efficiency

Scientists in Hong Kong have developed a cell they say retains more than 90% of its initial efficiency under accelerated testing conditions. The device is based on two-dimensional metal-organic frameworks. September 22, 2020 [Emiliano Bellini](#)



<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/09/22/perovskite-solar-cell-based-on-metal-organic-framework-with-22-02-efficiency/>

<https://www.am730.com.hk/news/新聞/【再生能源】城大研更高效環保太陽能電池框架-238084>

<https://std.sheadline.com/daily/article/2290738>

PV Challenge in HK: Dense Urban City, Limited Land Space

Just like “location” is very important for real estate, “efficiency” and “flexibility of use” are critical for the successful deployment of solar technology



- Needs to develop innovative PV solutions to fully utilize existing surface areas like roofs, windows, curtains, walls, and cars for generating electricity
- Develop a low-cost and scalable PV technology with very high efficiency and new form factors that allow to be better integrated with buildings

Perovskites can increase Si Solar Cell Efficiency by ~40% !

Tandem PV Concept Towards 30% PCE



Power Plants Features Industry Updates Market Research Events

NEWS

Oxford PV pushes tandem SHJ/perovskite cell conversion efficiency to record **29.52%**

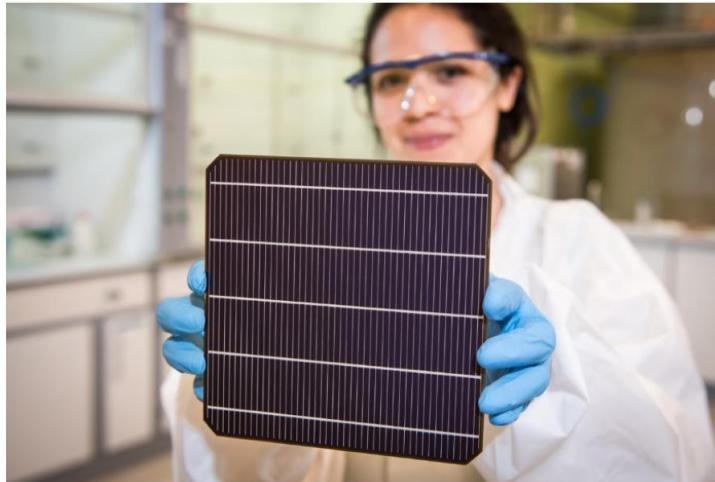
By [Mark Osborne](#)

December 21, 2020

[Cell Processing, Manufacturing, Materials](#)

[Europe](#)

LATEST



Hamburg operator Blue Elephant enters 'promising' Greek solar market [NEWS](#)

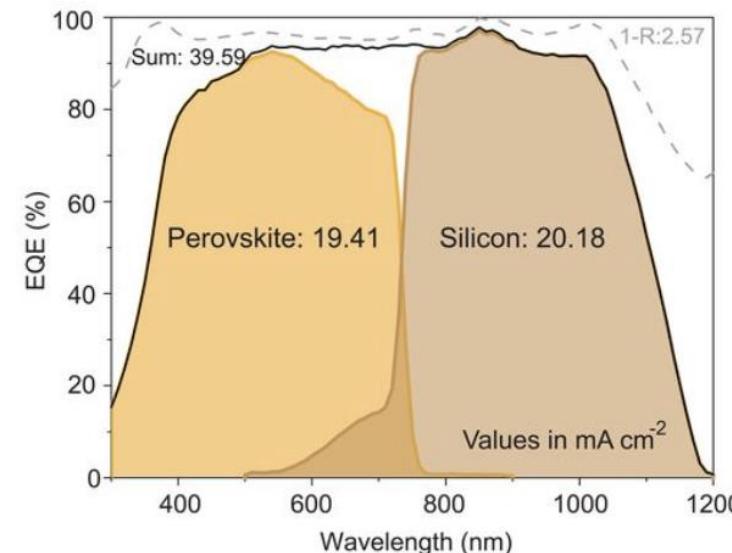
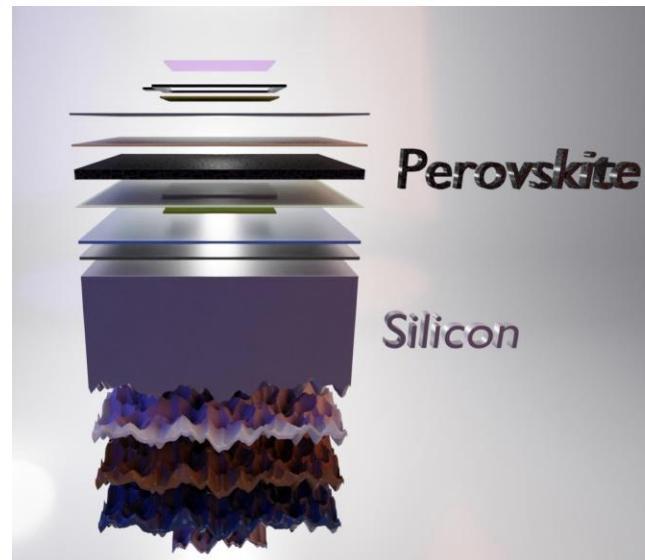
Tech giants dominate as REBA unveils Top 10 US corporate renewables buyers [NEWS](#)

First Solar continues US asset sell-off as Arizona portfolio changes hands [NEWS](#)

European initiative aims for 95GW of solar for green hydrogen production [NEWS](#)

South Africa lines up 2.6GW renewable energy procurement round [NEWS](#)

Perovskite solar cell developer Oxford Photovoltaics (PV) has smashed its previous industry cell efficiency record for a tandem silicon heterojunction/perovskite 2T (Terminal) solar cell, which has been certified by the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) at 29.52%.



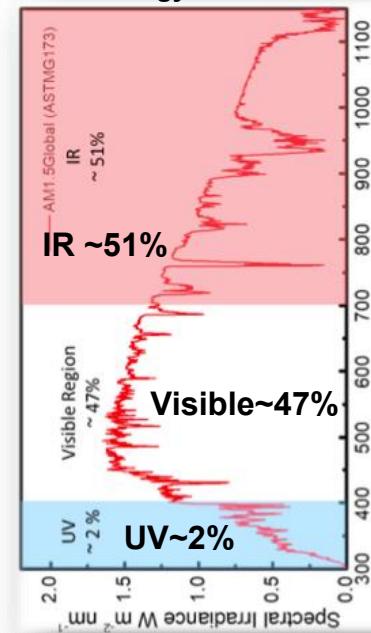
Albrecht *et al*, Science 2020, 370, 1300

With Innovation, Solar Can Be Everywhere!

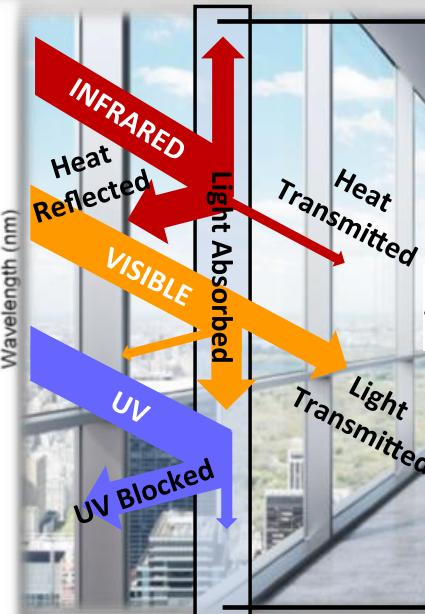
Limited space for direct sunlight irradiation in HK.



Solar Energy Distribution



ST-OPV Window for Both Power Generation and Saving



Properties:

- Semitransparent
- Solar Electricity
- Indoor Heat Control



Window Applications:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Automotive



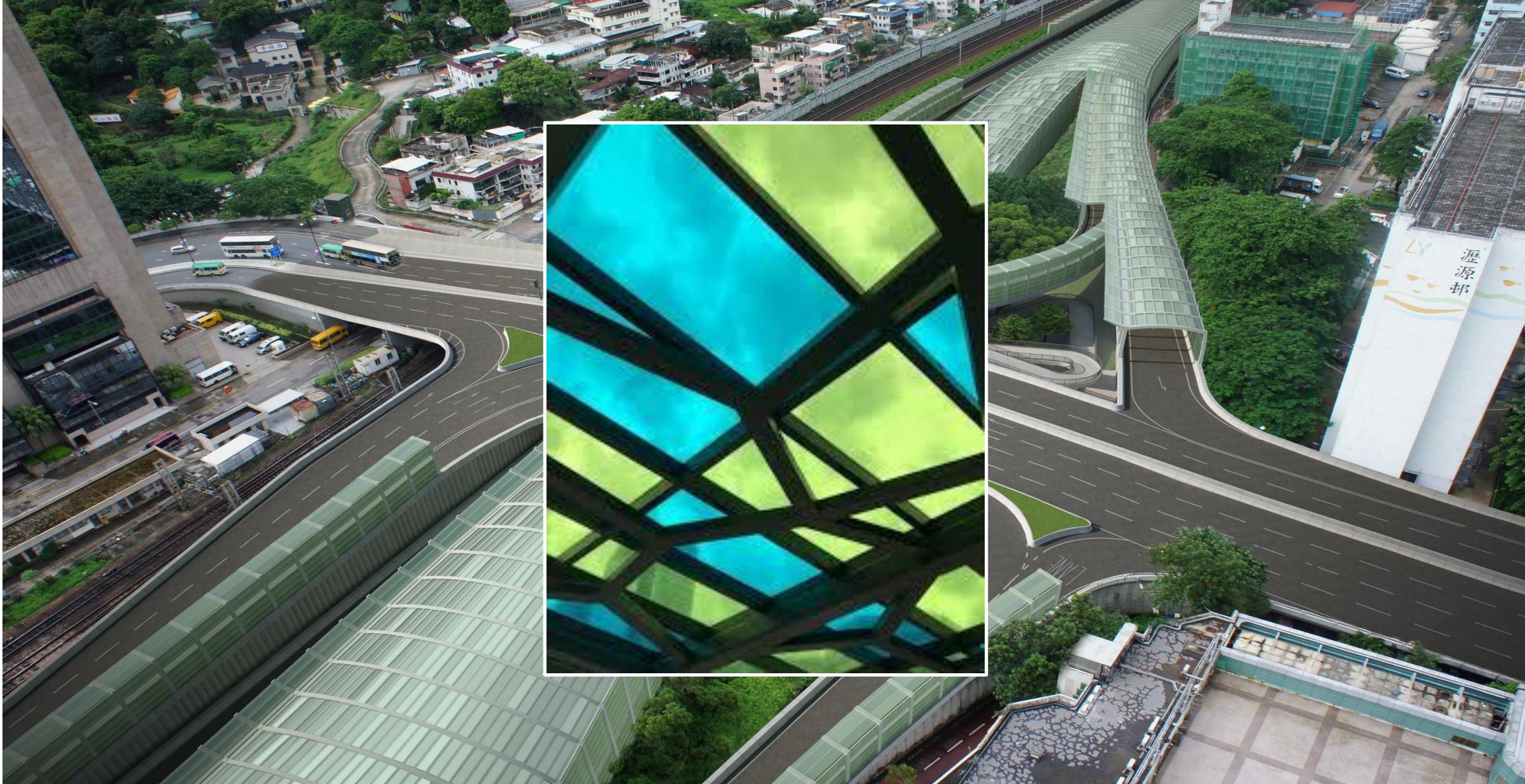
Will be working with:



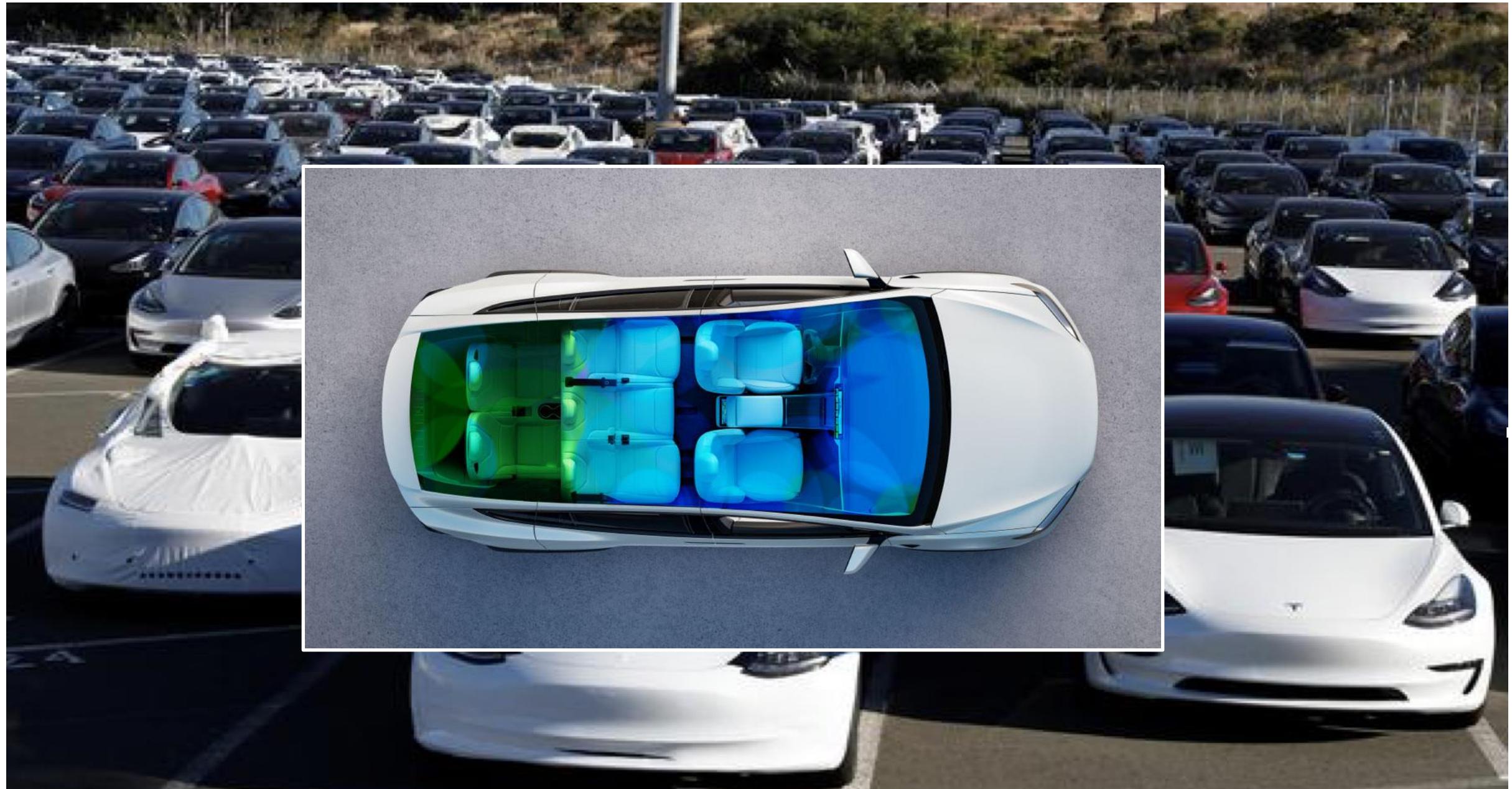
With Innovation, Solar Can Be Everywhere!



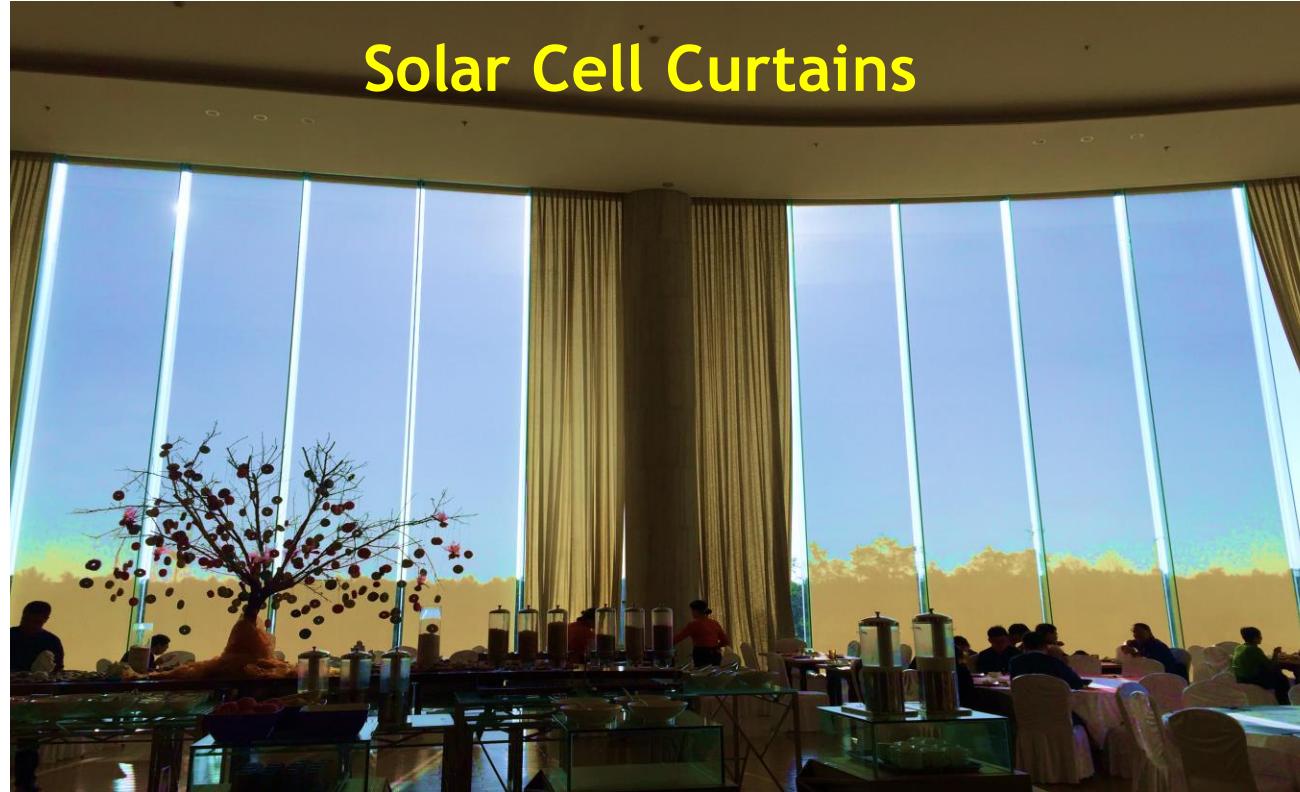
With Innovation, Solar Can Be Everywhere!



With Innovation, Solar Can Be Everywhere!



With Innovation, Solar Can Be Everywhere !



*Indoor (IoT), AI, Wearable,
Portable Power Source*



With Innovation, Solar Can be Everywhere !



Alex Jen
interviewed by TVB
2/2021



Last 4 years at CityU is a very productive time in my career

Nature Commun., 2021, 12, 332.
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Adv. Funct. Mater., 2018, 28, 1704836.

Alex Jen was selected as one of the top 10 researchers in perovskite solar cell field by the Times Higher Education (THE)



PROFESSIONAL JOBS SUMMITS RANKINGS STU

Top universities and researchers in perovskite solar cell research

In the first of a regular series looking at who is producing highly cited research in different areas, *THE* explores a subject currently deemed the 'most prominent' by Elsevier metrics



The Jen Group @ City University of Hong Kong

