

# ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ

## ειδικές μορφωτικές εκδηλώσεις



ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ  
National Hellenic Research Foundation

**Σχεδιάζοντας το αύριο:  
τα υλικά του μέλλοντος**

**Δρ. Βασίλης Γρηγορίου**

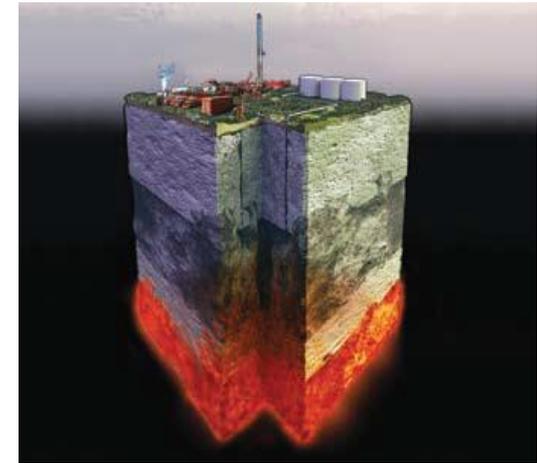
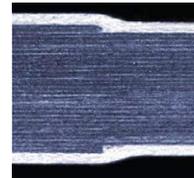
**10 Φεβρουαρίου 2015**

# Future materials trends

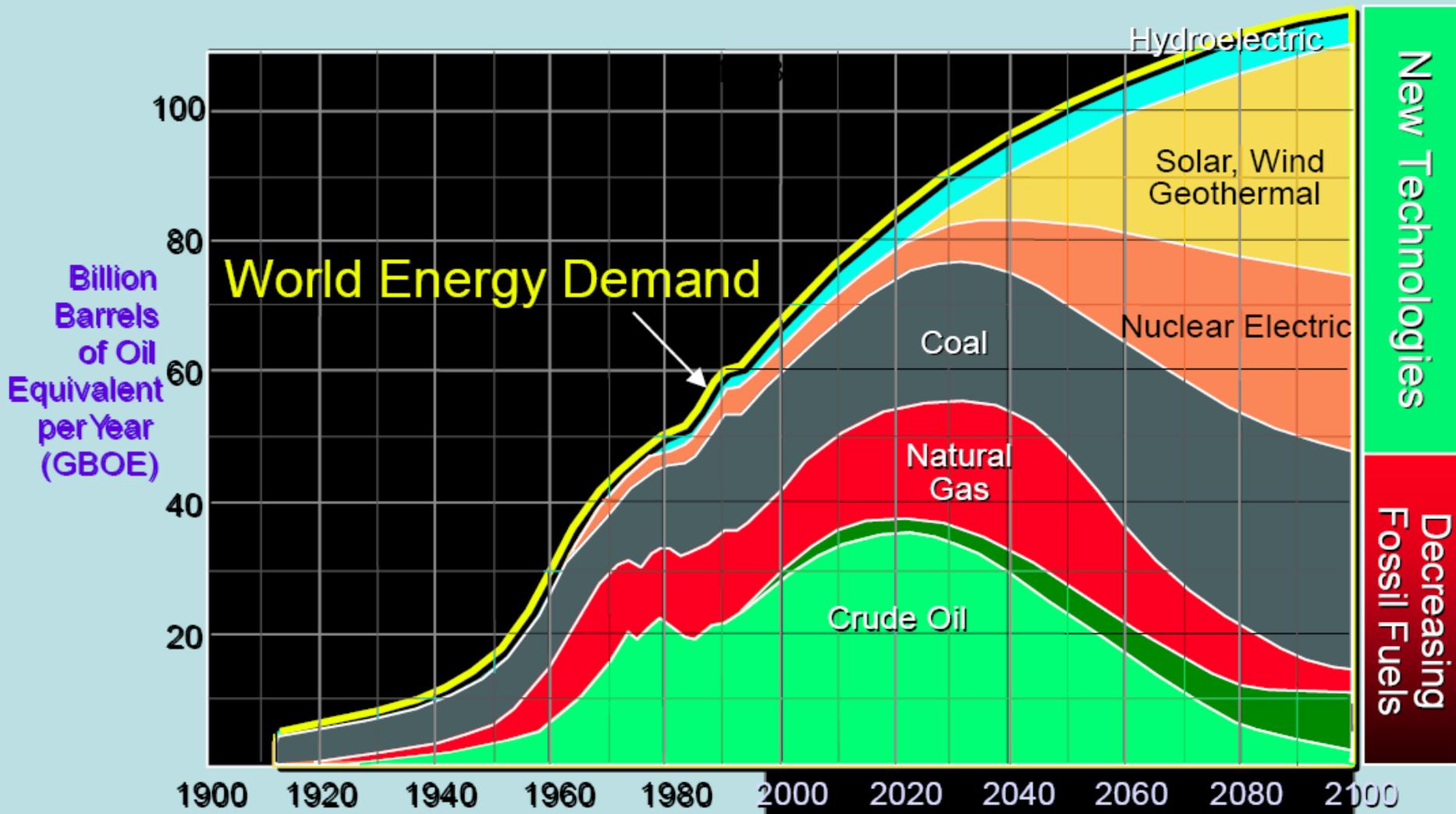
- It is impossible to predict future discoveries and inventions; what we can predict, however, are societal needs.
- The last 50 years a vast amount of resources went toward defense needs (Cold War era, post-Cold War era).
- The next 50 years we need to address significant problems that our society needs. These pertain to basic human needs such as energy, health, transportation, housing, packaging and distribution of food, recycling, etc.—all matters that affect quality of life on this planet.
- It is one thing to be the recipient of funds and to do work as directed by an agency; it is another to influence policy and to ensure that resources become available for critical global needs.

# Future Energy Issues

- Energy materials
  - Solar Power
  - Wind Power
  - Geothermal
  - Fossil Energy
  - Biofuels
  - Hydrogen
  - Energy storage and transmission



# World Energy Landscape

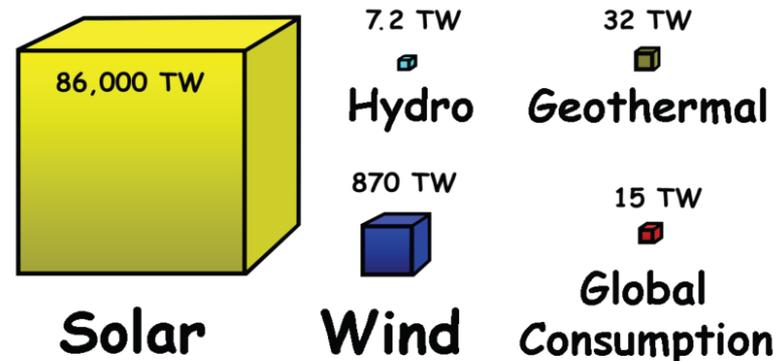


# European Union Energy Targets

**2020=20+20-20**

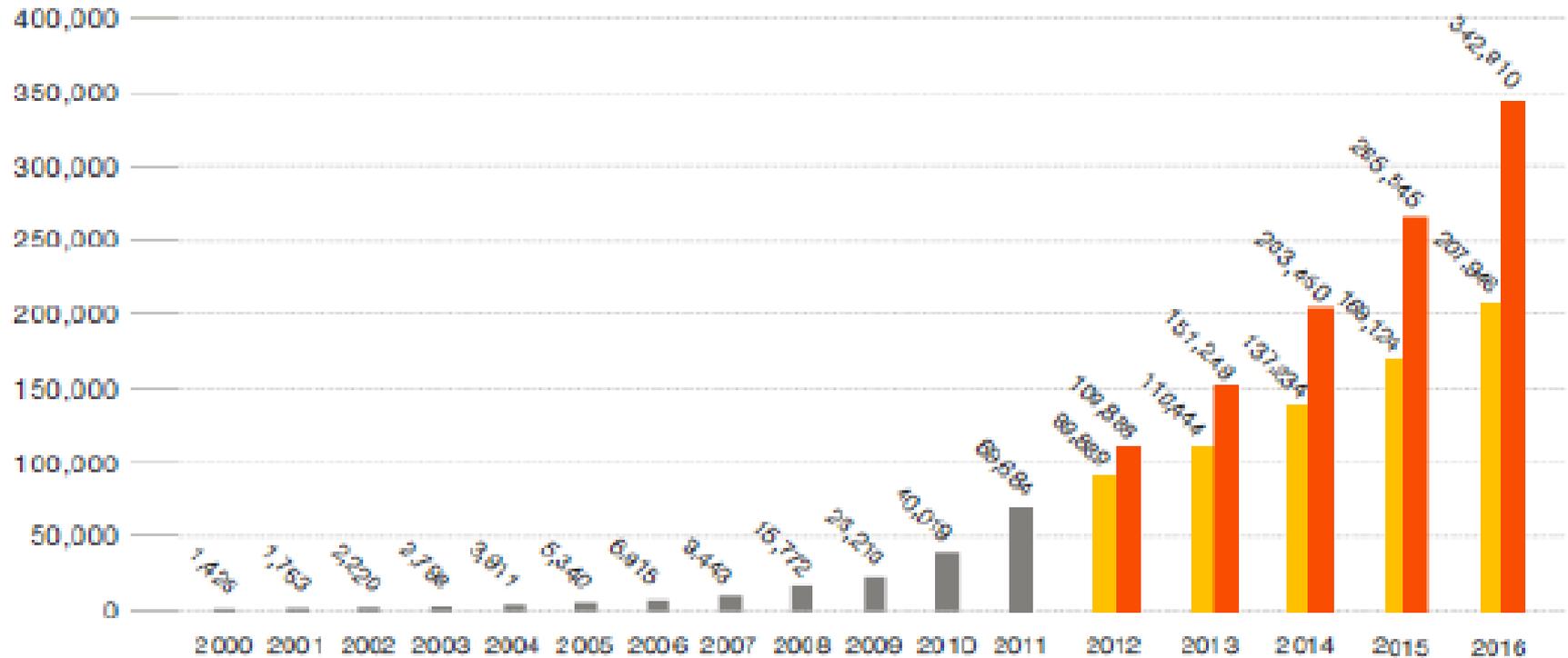
By the 2020:

- the 20% of the energy we use must come from renewable sources
- we must improve the energy efficiency of the 20%
- we must reduce the production of CO<sub>2</sub> of the 20



# Evolution of Photovoltaics

The motivation is not about where we are, but where



- EPIA Moderate
- EPIA Policy-Driven
- Historical data

Source: EPIA annual report 2012/2013

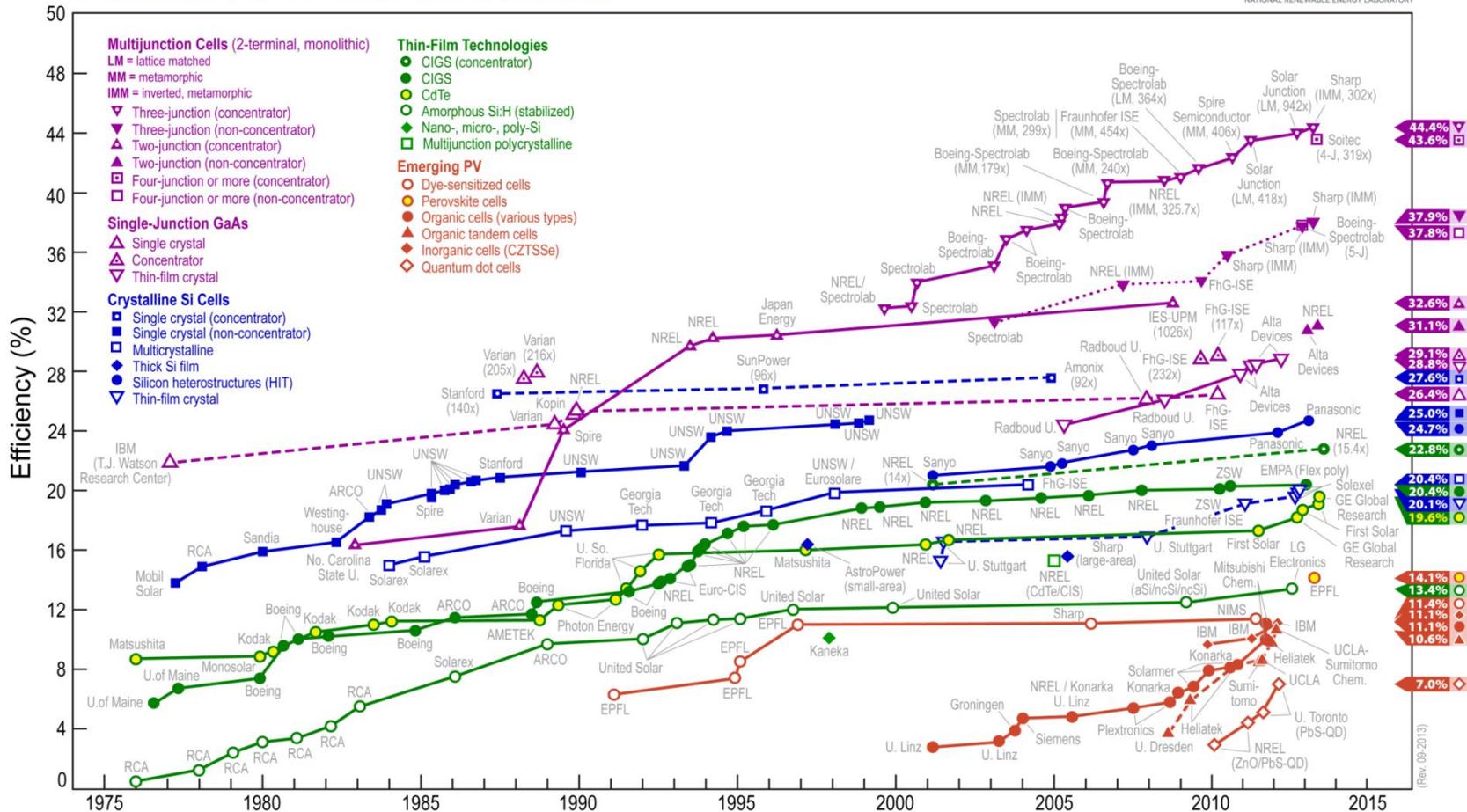
# PVs a GW Technology



# Solar Energy

- renewable energy source
- avg. light incident on earth's surface  $\sim 200 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$
- solar cells are photovoltaic devices
  - they convert light into electricity *without* applied bias

## Best Research-Cell Efficiencies



# PV Technology Generations

## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation:

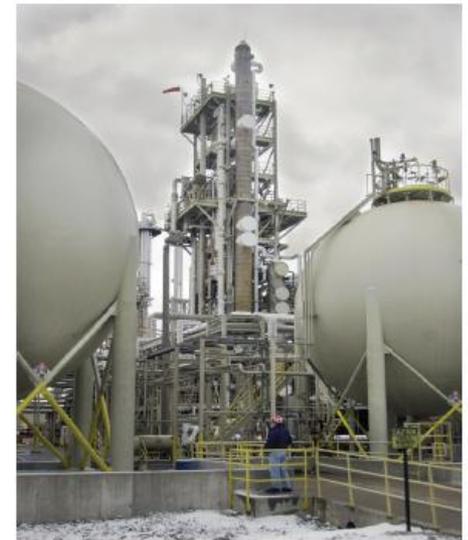
high-efficiency / high-cost

(single crystal, polycrystalline silicon, GaAs, III-V)



- ☺ Single junction for extracting energy from photons, approaching their theoretical efficiency maximum of 33%
- ☹ High cost manufacturing processes

→ *These cells may take years to pay for their purchasing costs. It is not thought that first generation cells will be able to provide energy more cost effective than **fossil** fuel sources.*



# PV Technology Generations

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation:

low-cost / low-efficiency

(thin film solar cells, copper indium gallium selenide (CIGS), cadmium telluride (CdTe), amorphous silicon)

- ☹️ 10-15% conversion efficiency
- 😊 Device design that allow the use of minimal materials and cheap manufacturing processes
- ☹️ Toxic materials, not environmental friendly

→ *These cells have the potential to be more cost effective than fossil fuel, though this may not occur until 2015 or later.*



# PV Technology Generations

3<sup>rd</sup> Generation:

**low-cost / high-efficiency**

- conjugated polymers/molecules
- dye sensitized solar cell
- multi-junction photovoltaic cells, tandem cells, nanostructured cells.

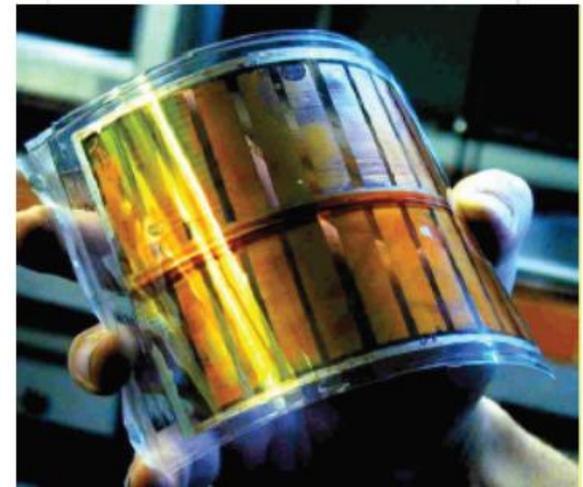


Excitonic solar cells



## **HOT RESEARCH TOPIC!**

*The goal of third generation solar cell research are low-cost, high efficiency cells; finding novel approaches to obtain efficiencies in the range of 30-60%. Some analysts predict that third generation cells could start to be commercialized sometime around 2020.*



# Conjugated Polymers: The Core Materials for Various Optoelectronic Applications



**Light Emitting Diodes  
(LEDs)**

for the discovery  
and development of

**Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2000**

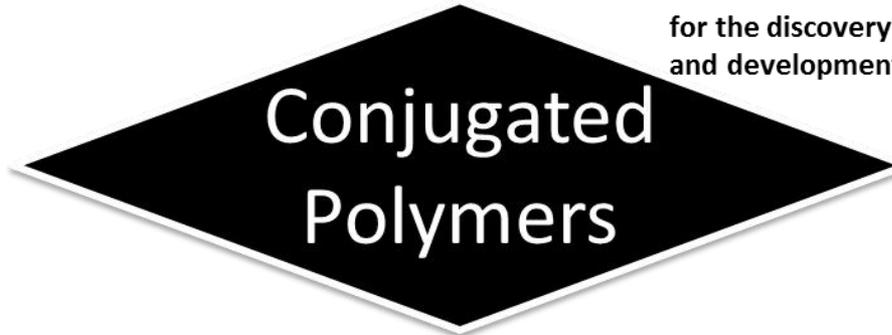
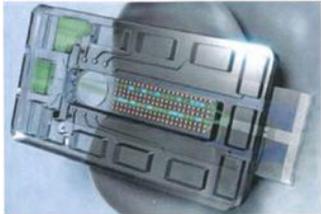


Alan G. MacDiarmid  
Professor at the University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, USA.

Hideki Shirakawa  
Professor Emeritus,  
University of Tsukuba, Japan.

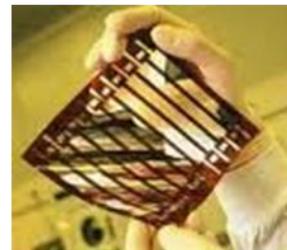
Alan J. Heeger  
Professor at the University of California  
at Santa Barbara, USA.

**Optical Sensors  
& Biosensors**



**Conjugated  
Polymers**

**Organic (Plastic) Solar Cells  
(OPVs)**



**Field Effects  
Transistors (FETs)**



# Comparing 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Technology

## The Technology...



### **‘Traditional’ p-n junctions PV**

- Complex and expensive processes (high temperatures, high vacuum technologies)
- Strong environmental footprint
- Very expensive plants installation.
- Limited basic materials
- Limited aesthetic options - black or blue only
- Extremely Fragile

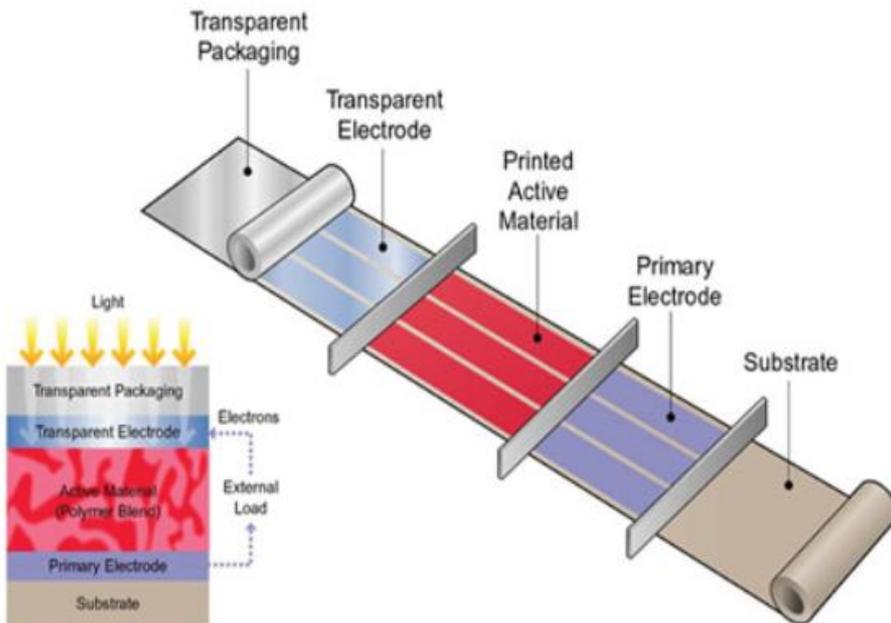
# Comparing 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Technology

## The Technology...



## Excitonic Solar Cells

- Low cost materials and processes
- Flexible and lightweight
- Amenable to continuous, "roll-to-roll" manufacture
- Semi-transparent
- Color tunable

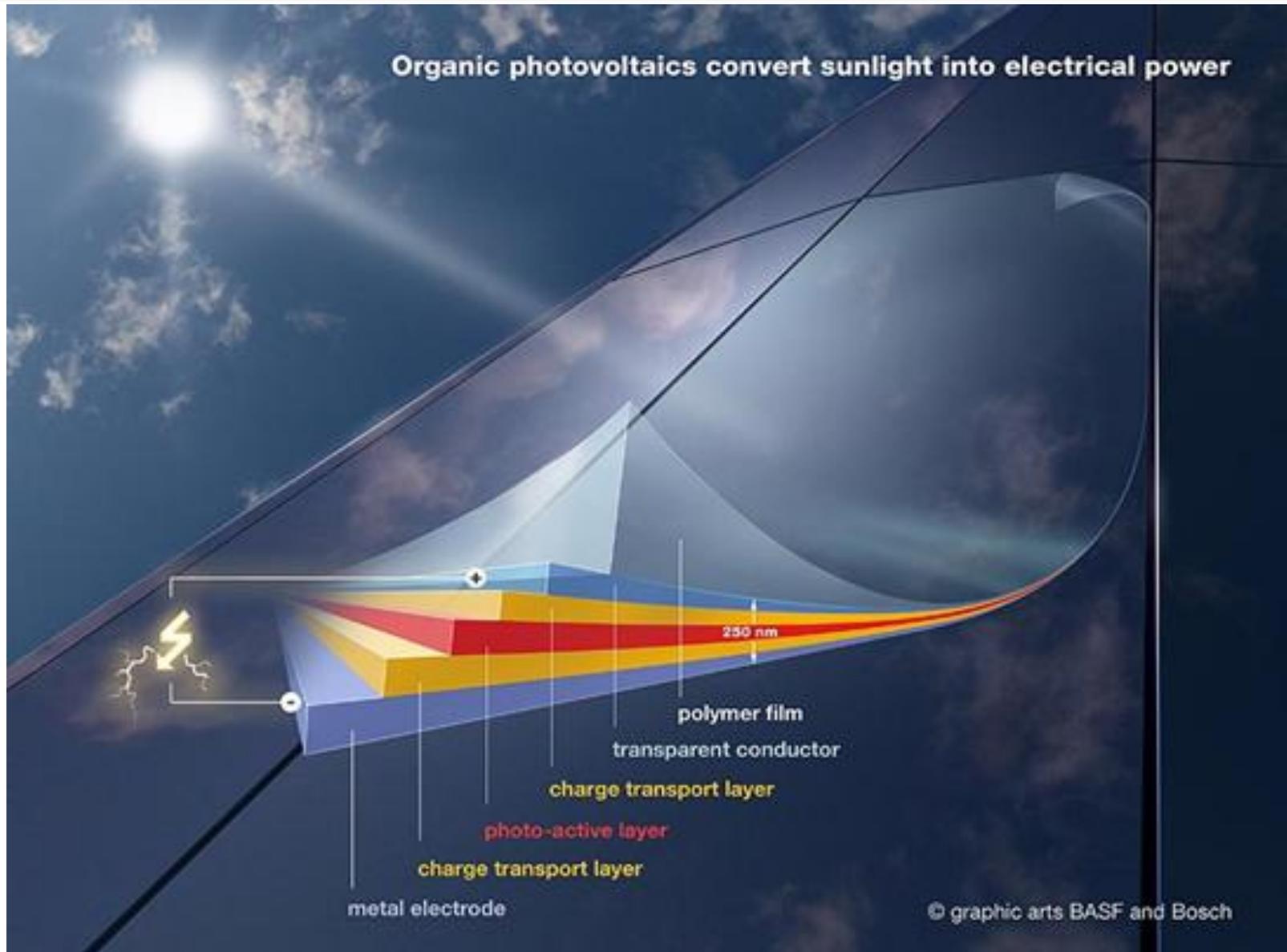


# Organic Photovoltaic Roadmap

## Which performance for which application?

Application	Mobile Electronics	Outside pillars for urban areas	Outdoor recreational remote	BIPV	Grid Connected
					
Efficiency %	< 5%	5-8 %	5-8 %	5-12%	> 10%
Lifetime	>1 year	3-5 years	3-5 years	> 10 years	> 10 years
Cost	Competitive compared to flexible inorganic PV	Competitive compared to flexible inorganic PV	Competitive compared to flexible inorganic PV	100 €/m <sup>2</sup>	Grid parity 0.15€/kW

# Organic Photovoltaics



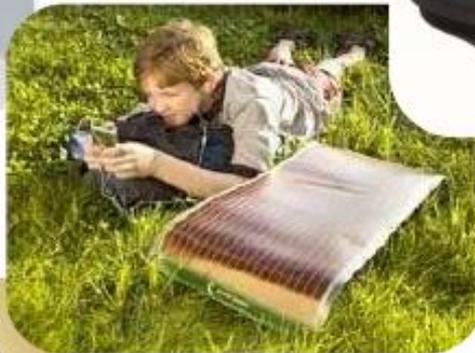
# Current applications of OPVs

## Niche markets

### Bags & Chargers

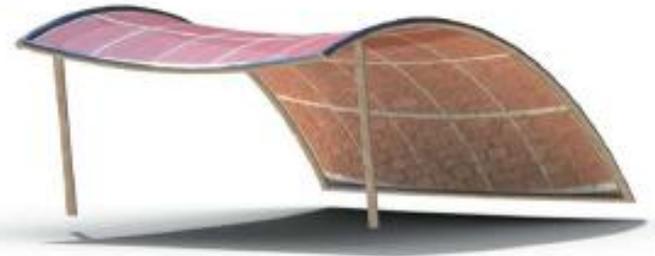


Big Bubble Bag  
(Italy)

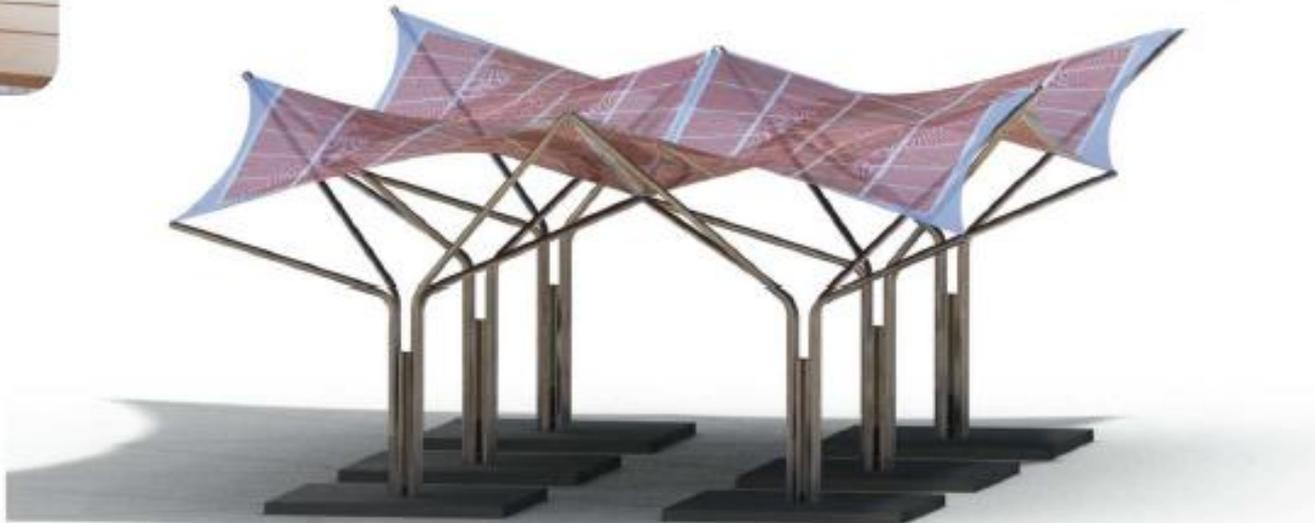


# Current applications of OPVs

## Shading Elements



• Under development



# Current applications of OPVs

## Carports

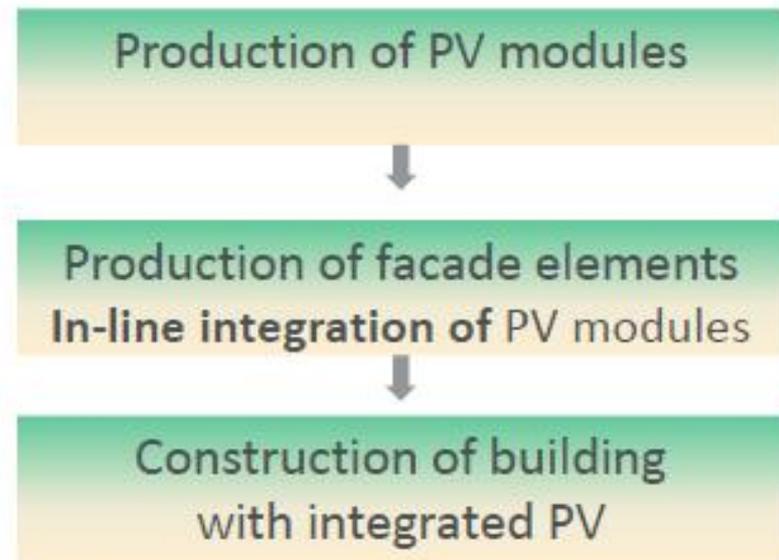
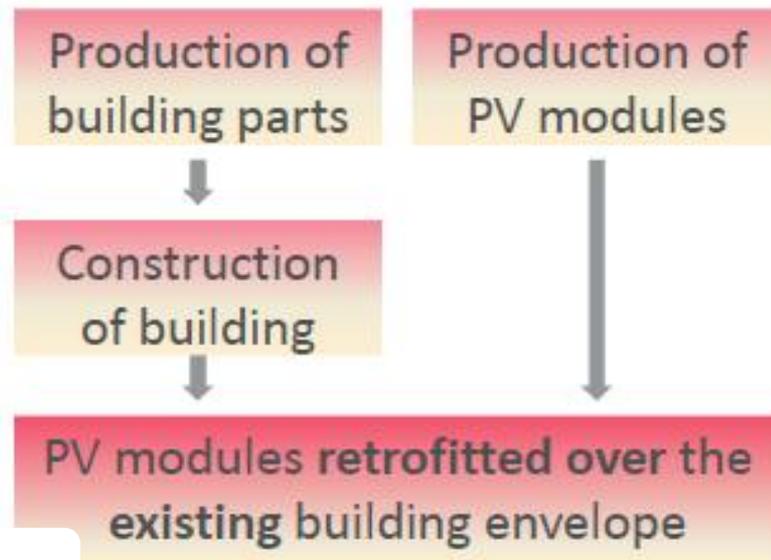


Florida,



# Integration: BAPV vs BIPV

Current technology BAPV Future technology BIPV

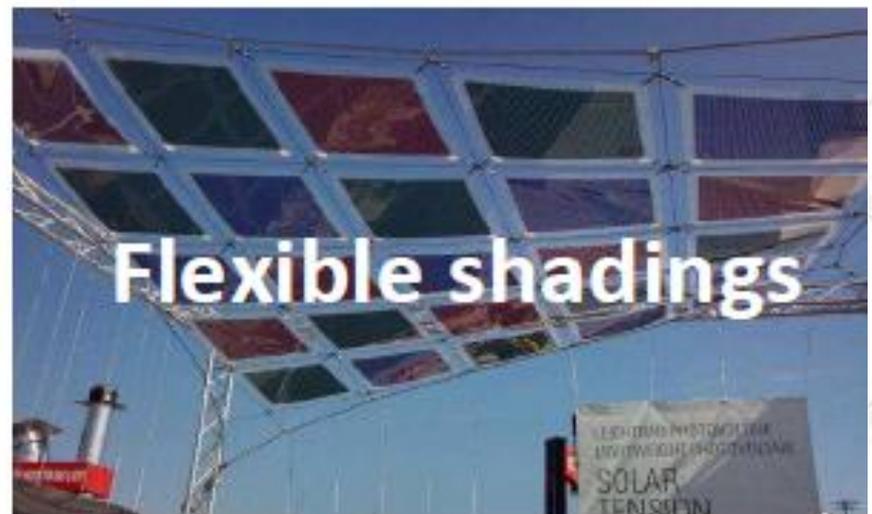


# Integration BIPV

## Beneficial features of OPV for production of BIPV:

- Requires no special care regarding breakage (unlike c-Si)
- No rigid supporting construction is needed
- Curved BIPV elements are possible
- Compatible with R2R production (*e.g.* onto continuous steel rolls)
- Module size can be matched exactly to BIPV element (not vice versa)

## Flexible OPV in BIPV elements:



# Economy of Scale

**Lab**



5 cm  
1kWatt

**Pilot**



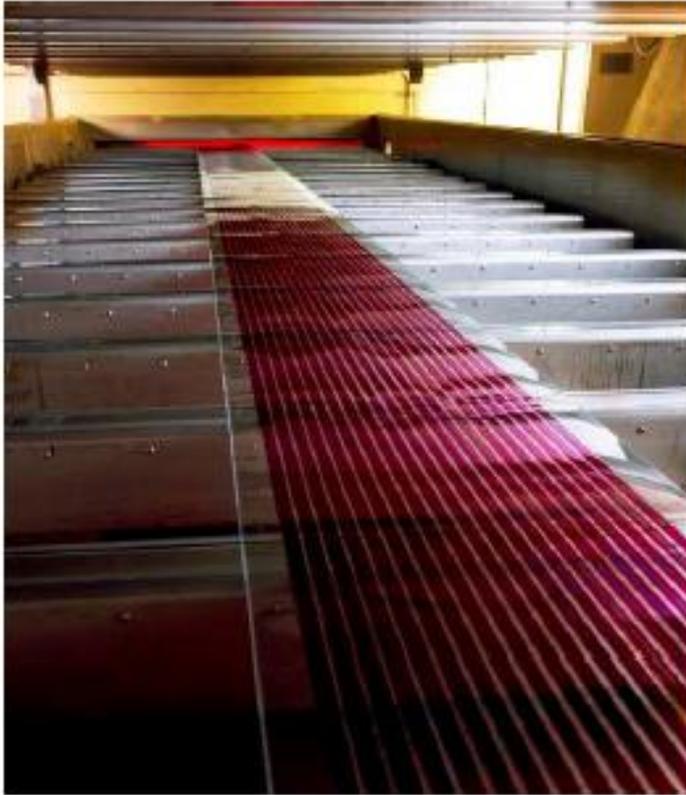
25 cm  
4 MWatt

**Production**



150 cm  
1GWatt

# Vision of OPV manufacturing



- Low Cost
  - Reduce energy consumption
  - Use abundant materials
- Continuous
  - Increased production efficiency
  - High throughput
- Scalable
  - Upscale to large area
- Transferable
  - Produce locally



**Target:** large area, high volume, low cost production



# Organic Photovoltaic Architectures

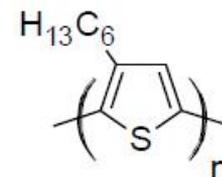
“Lab” device



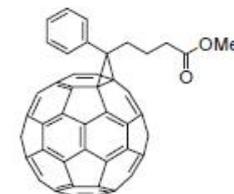
Commercial device



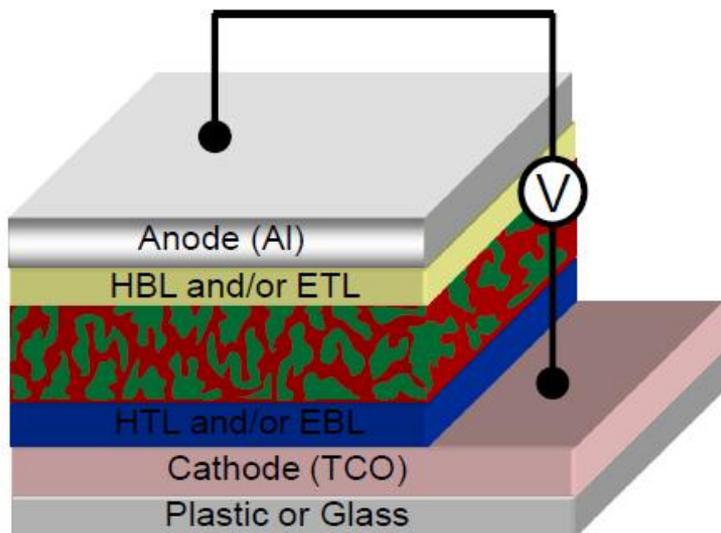
Active Layer



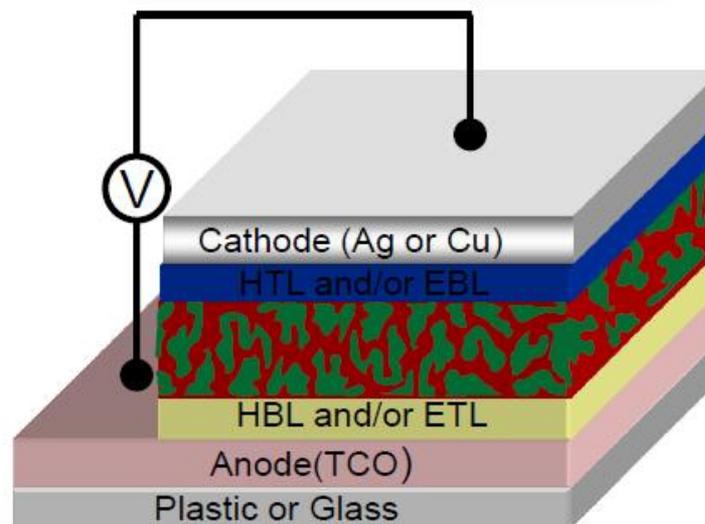
Polymer



Fullerene



Normal stack

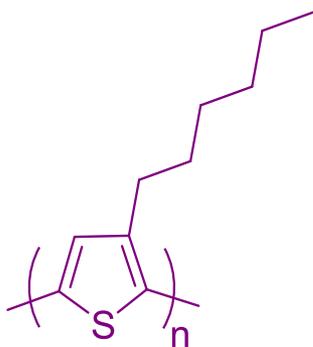


Inverted stack

Development of the correct BHJ-morphology with processes (blade coating, temperature ramps ...) as close as possible to mass production tools

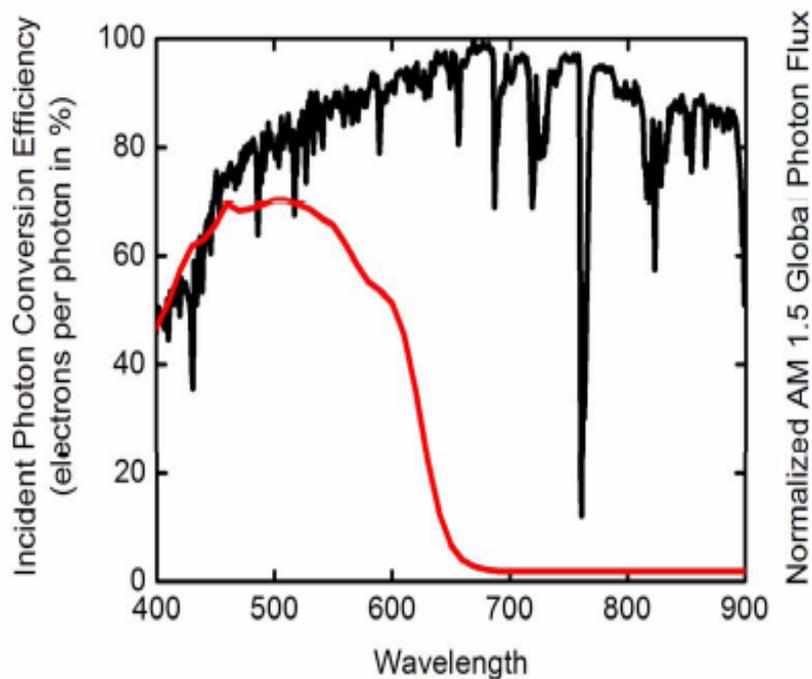
# State-of-the-art P3HT:PCBM Solar Cells

## Electron Donor

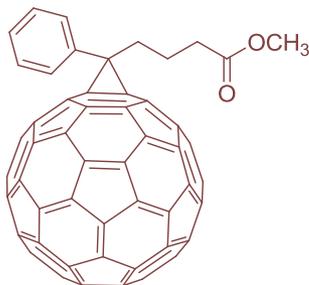


P3HT

Band gap too large ---Missing more than half the solar spectrum



## Electron Acceptor



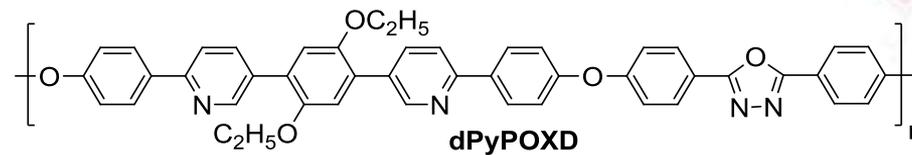
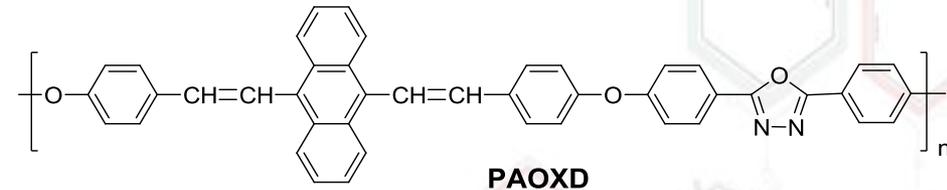
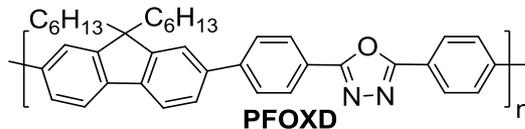
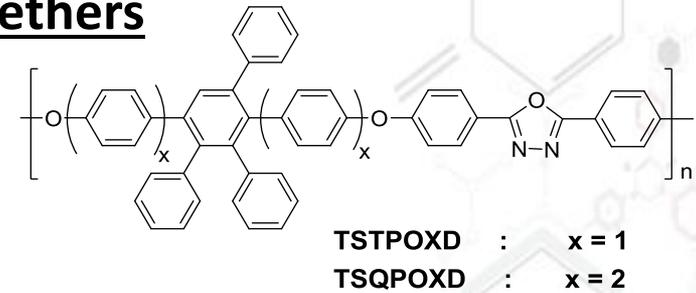
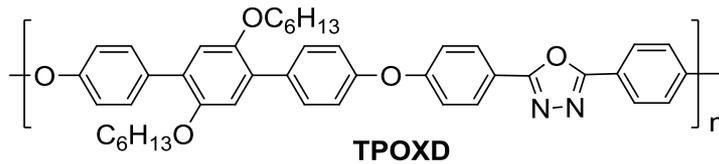
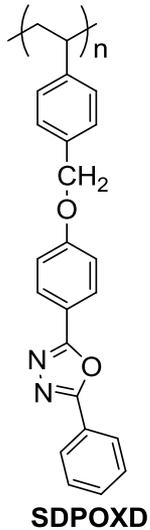
PCBM

Opportunity: Potential for > 50% improvement using polymer with smaller band gap.

**Power Conversion Efficiency: 4 – 4.5 %**

# N-Type Copolymers as electron acceptors in solar cells

## Oxadiazole based Copolyarylethers



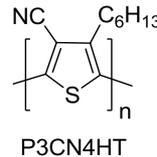
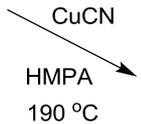
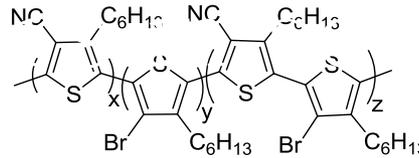
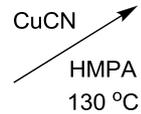
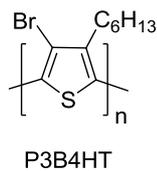
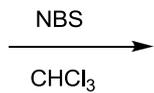
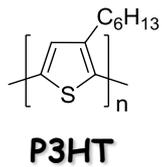
Active layer	Open-circuit voltage (V)	Fill factor (FF)	Power conversion efficiency ( $\times 10^{-3}\%$ )
P3HT/TSTPOXD (1/2 w/w)	0.65	0.17	0.31
P3HT/PFOXD (1/2 w/w)	0.46	0.24	0.48

Chochos, C. L.; Govaris, G. K.; Kakali, F.; Yiannoulis, P.; Kallitsis, J. K.; Gregoriou, V. G. *Polymer* **2005**, *46*, 4654.

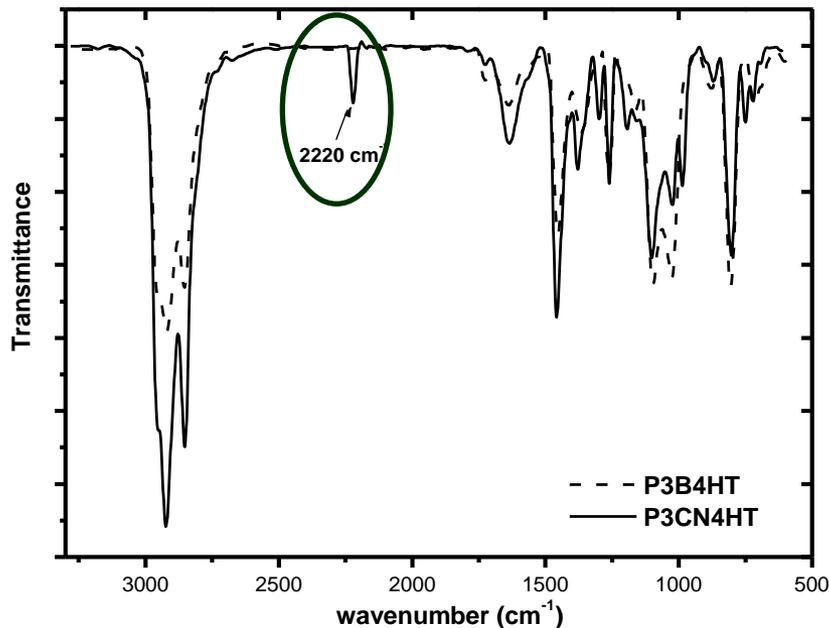
**Collaboration with Konarka Technologies**

# N-Type Copolymers as electron acceptors in solar cells

## Cyano-substituted polythiophene copolymers (P3CN4HT)

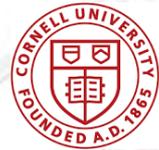
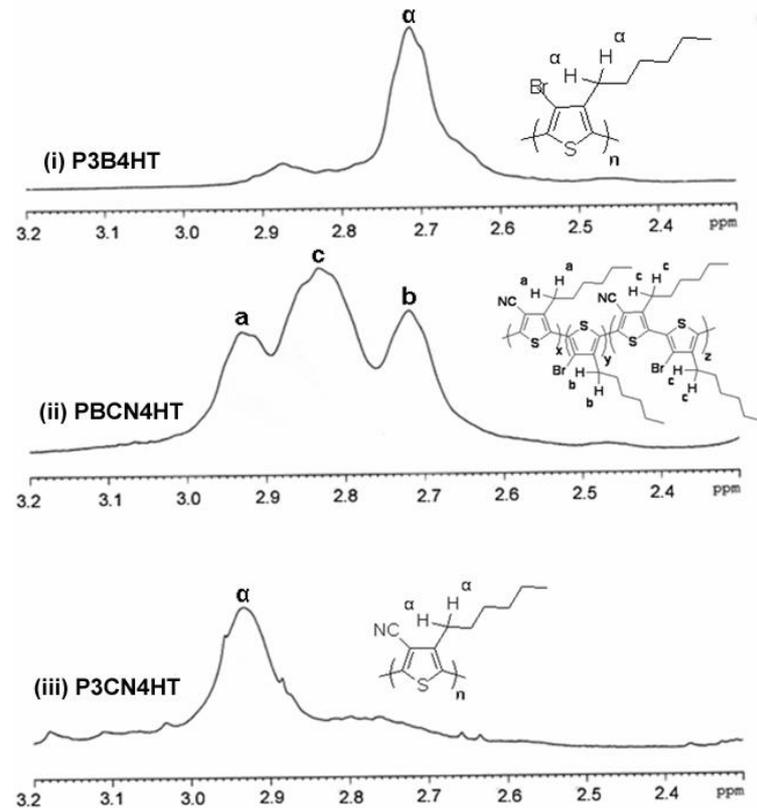


FT-IR



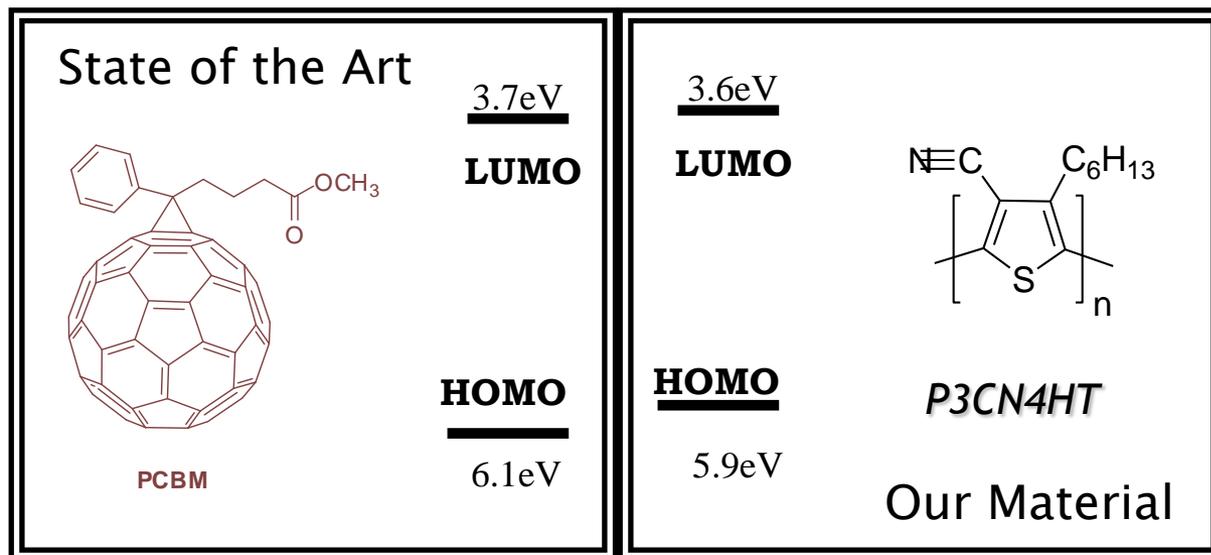
Collaboration with Konarka Technologies

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR



# N-Type Copolymers as electron acceptors in solar cells

*Comparable energy levels with the state of the art PCBM*



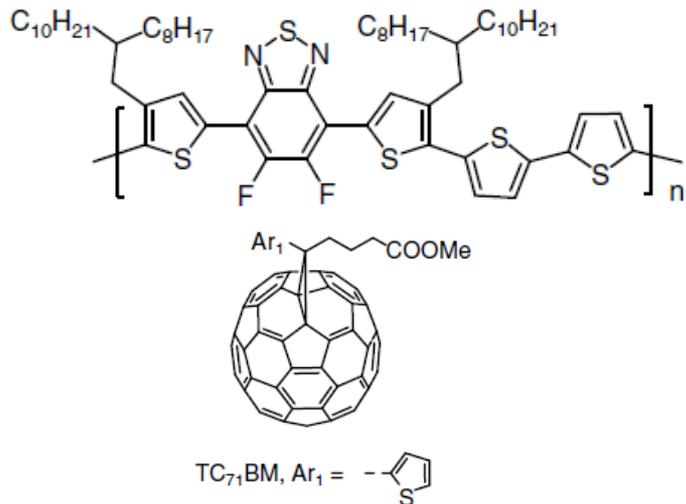
Chochos, C. L.; Economopoulos, S. P.; Deimede, V.; Gregoriou, V. G.; Lloyd, M. T.; Malliaras, G. G.; Kallitsis, J. K. *J. Phys. Chem. C* 2007, 111, 10732.

Collaboration with Konarka Technologies

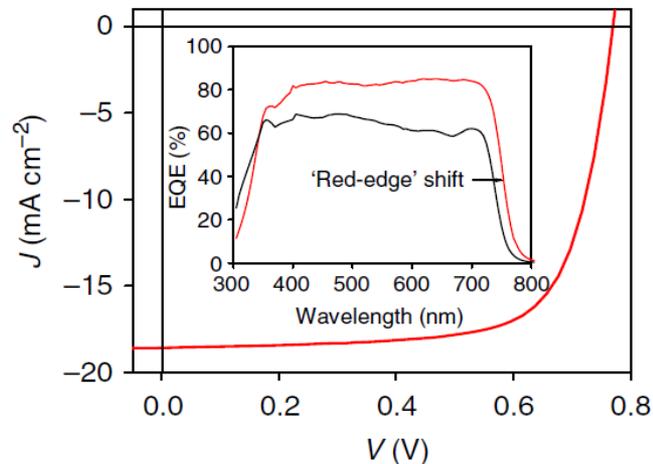


# State of the art in organic solar cells

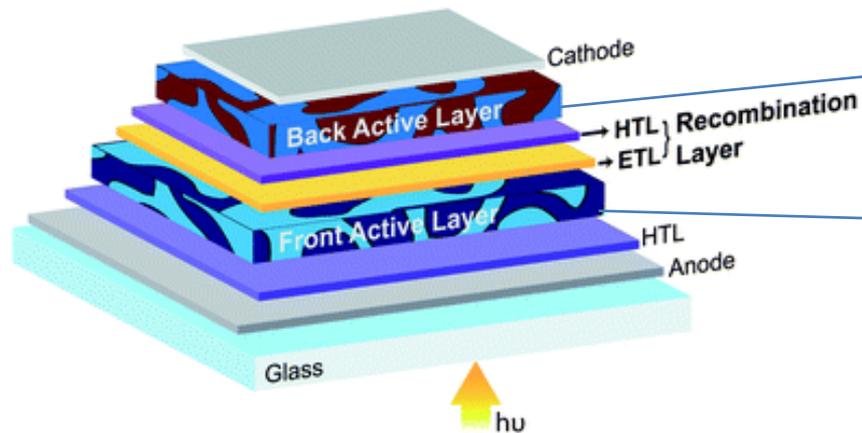
## Single Solar Cells: Maximum PCE of 10.8%



Y. Liu, J. Zhao, Z. Li, C. Mu, W. Ma, H. Hu, K. Jiang, H. Lin, H. Ade, H. Yan, *Nature Communication* **2014**, DOI: 10.1038/ncomms6293



## Tandem solar cell : Maximum PCE of 11.3%



Low Band Gap polymer

High Band Gap polymer

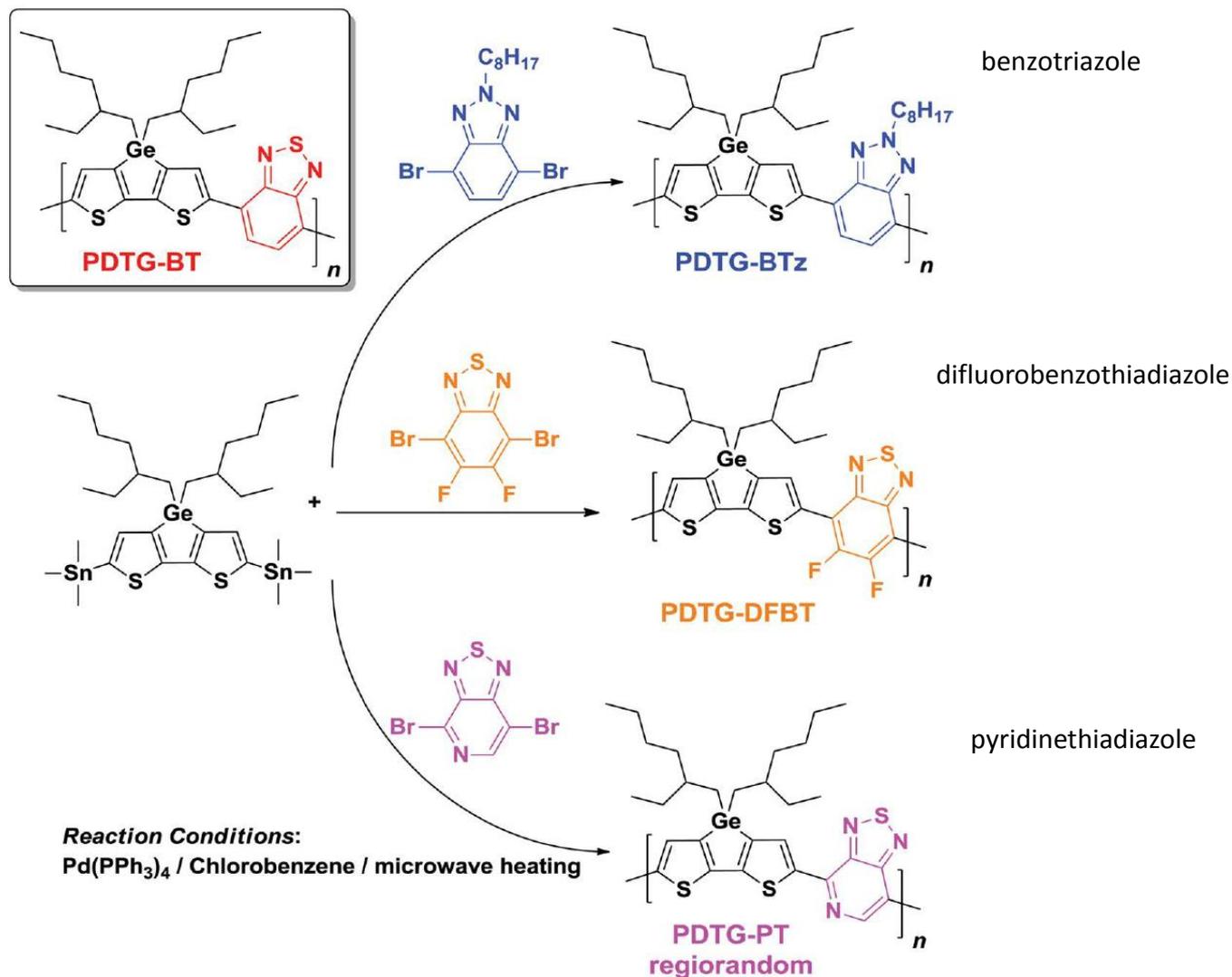
H. Zhou, Y. Zhang, C.-K. Mai, S. D. Collins, G. C. Bazan, T.-Q. Nguyen, A. J. Heeger, *Adv. Mater.* **2015**, DOI: 10.1002/adma.201404220

# High Performance Low Band Gap Polymer Materials in Advent

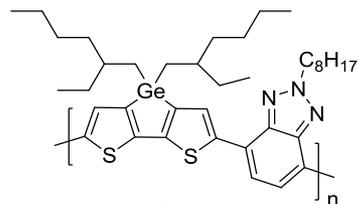
The case of  
Dithienogermole  
copolymers

Imperial College  
London

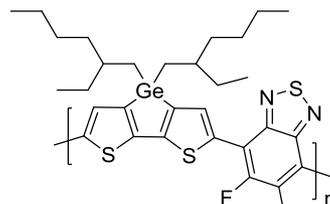
Advent



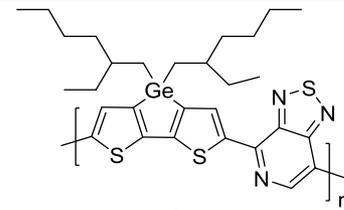
# Photophysical Properties



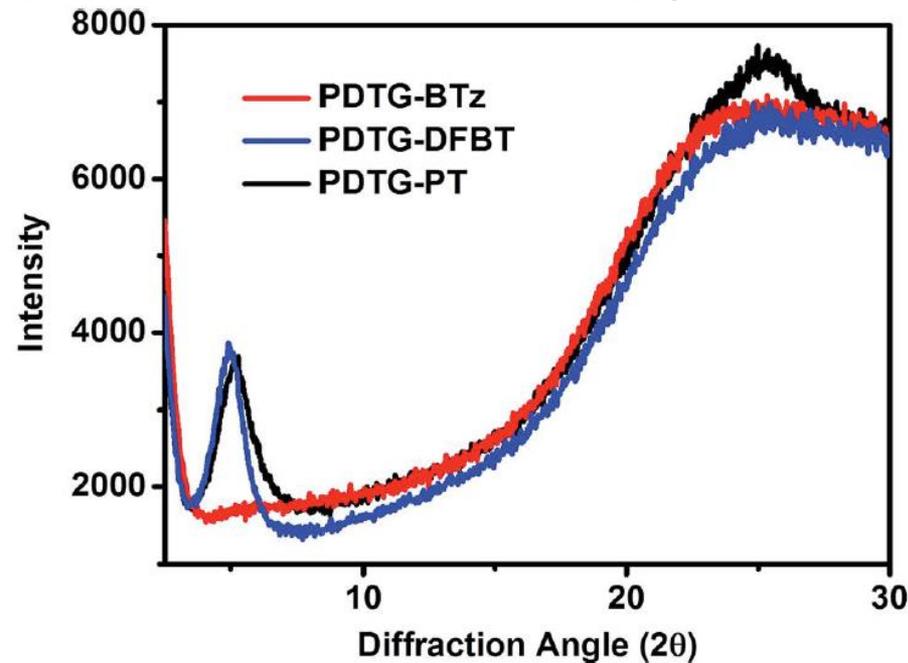
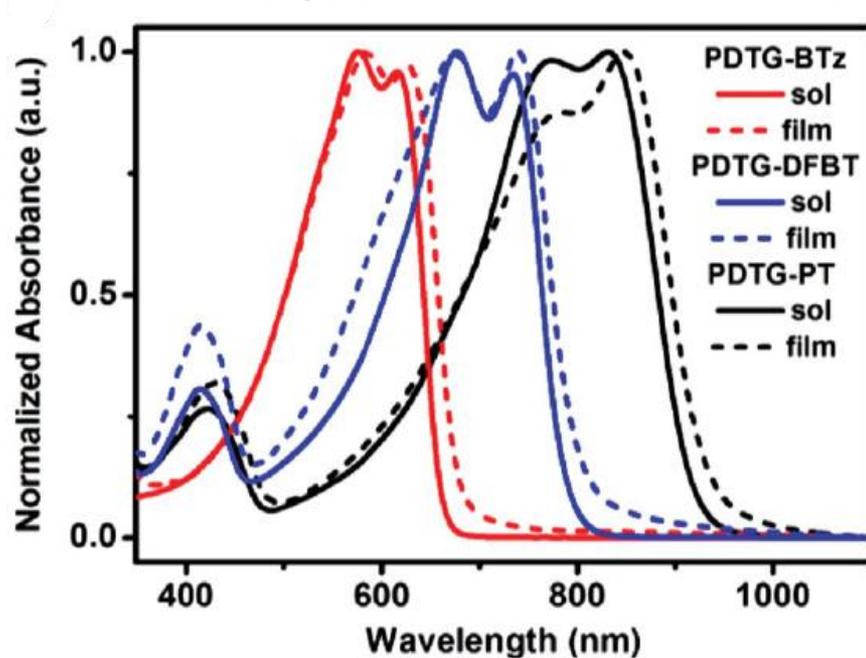
PDTG-BTz



PDTG-DFBT



PDTG-PT

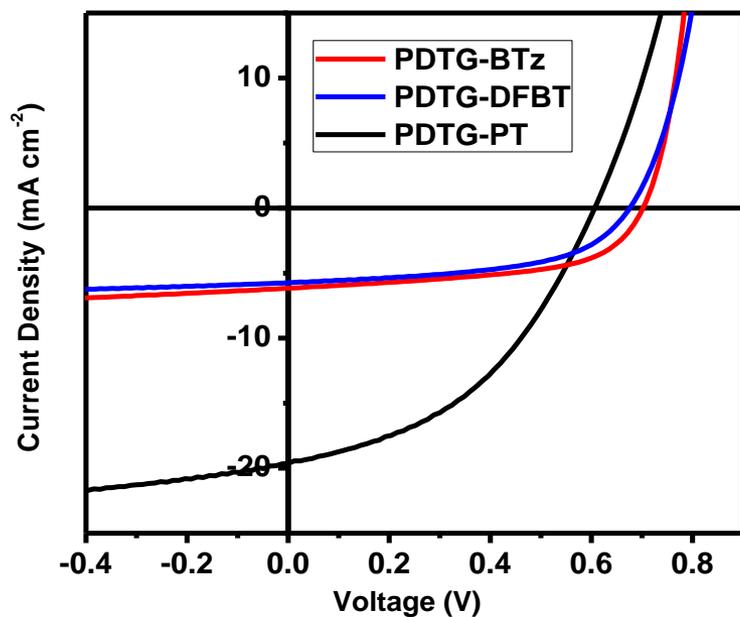
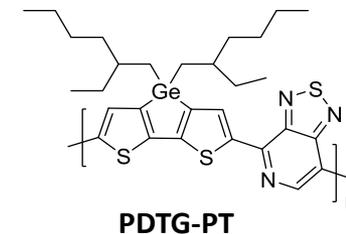
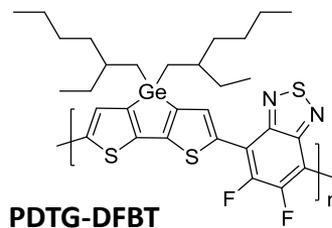
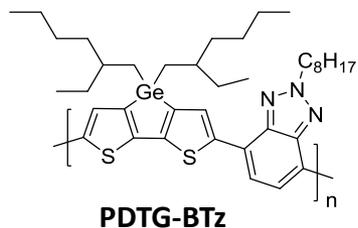


	HOMO [eV] <sup>a)</sup>	LUMO [eV] <sup>b)</sup>	Optical $E_g$ [eV] <sup>c)</sup>	Calc. HOMO [eV]	Calc. LUMO [eV]	Calc. $E_g$ [eV]
PDTG-BTz	$-4.75 \pm 0.05$	$-2.95 \pm 0.05$	1.82	-4.50	-2.62	1.88
PDTG-DFBT	$-5.00 \pm 0.05$	$-3.6 \pm 0.05$	1.53	-4.80	-3.20	1.60
PDTG-PT	$-4.90 \pm 0.05$	$-3.6 \pm 0.05$	1.32	-4.79	-3.33	1.46

<sup>a)</sup>Determined as a thin film by UV-PESA; <sup>b)</sup>Estimated by the subtraction of the optical band gap from the HOMO; <sup>c)</sup> Determined by onset of optical absorption.

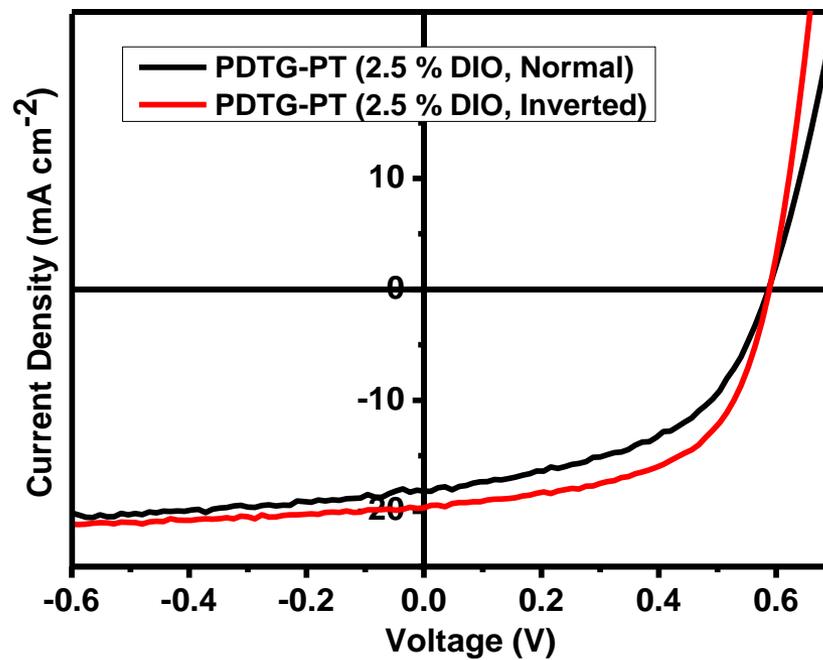
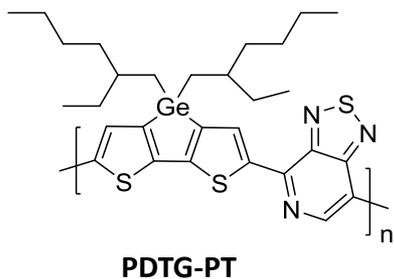


# Photovoltaic Performance



Polymer:PC <sub>70</sub> BM (1:2) in oDCB	J <sub>SC</sub> (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	V <sub>oc</sub> (V)	FF	PCE (%)
PDTG-BTz	6.17	0.70	0.56	2.4
PDTG-DFBT	5.74	0.67	0.54	2.1
PDTG-PT	17.7	0.61	0.43	4.6
PDTG-PT + 5 vol% DMF	17.5	0.60	0.44	4.6
PDTG-PT + 3 vol% CN	18.7	0.61	0.43	4.9
PDTG-PT + 2.5 vol% DIO	17.6	0.59	0.50	5.2

# Photovoltaic Performance

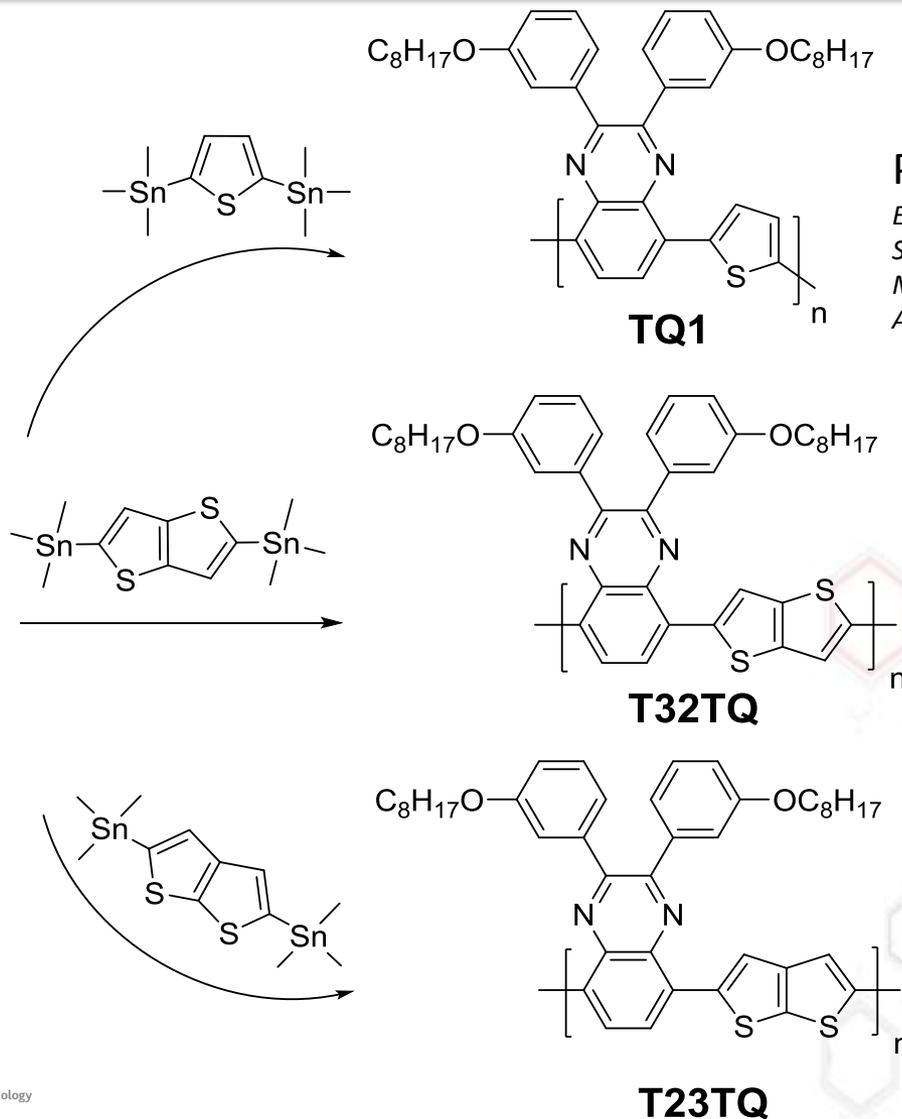
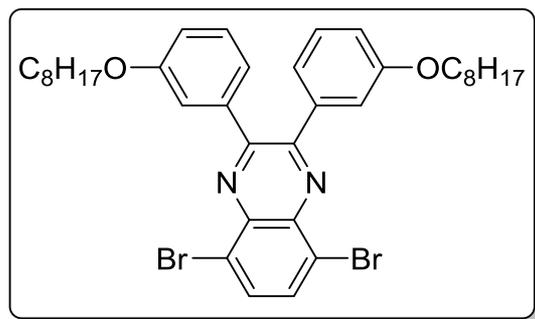


4<sup>th</sup> Highest Efficiency  
Worldwide for Conjugated  
Polymers with Band Gap  
below 1.4 eV

PDTG-PT:PC <sub>70</sub> BM (1:2) 2.5 vol% DIO	$J_{\text{SC}}$ ( $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$ )	$V_{\text{oc}}$ (V)	FF	PCE (%)
Normal	17.6	0.59	0.50	5.2
Inverted	19.6	0.59	0.57	<b>6.6</b>

# New High Performance High Band Gap Copolymers as Electron Donors

**Influence of thienothiophene isomeric structure on quinoxaline copolymers**



**PCE of 6%**

*E. Wang, L. Hou, Z. Wang,  
S. Hellström, F. Zhang, O. Inganäs,  
M. R. Andersson  
Adv. Mater. 2010, 22, 5240*



ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ  
National Hellenic Research Foundation



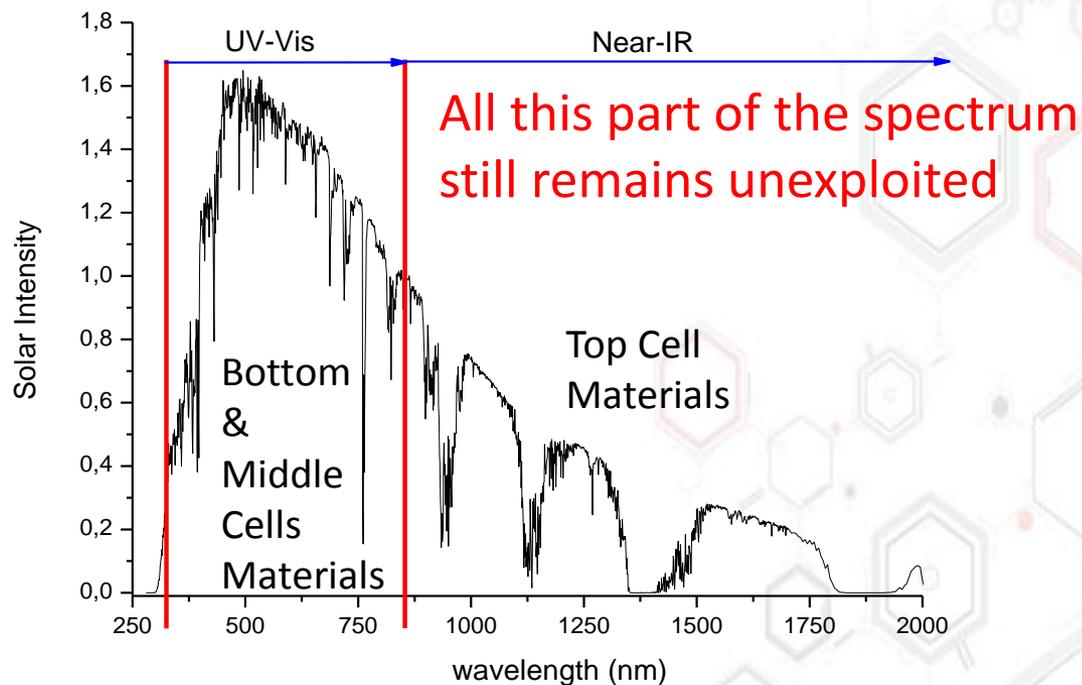
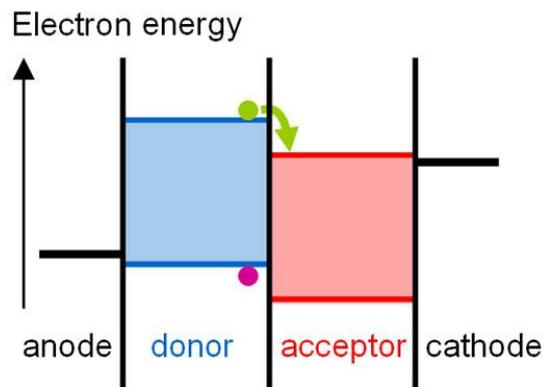
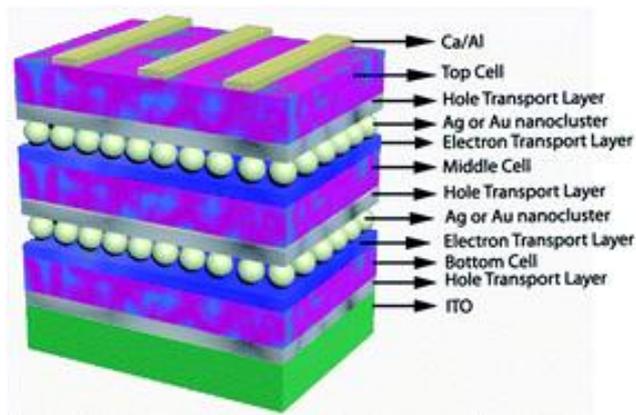
Imperial College  
London



Center for Nano Science and Technology

# Emerging need for Near Infrared (NIR) Organic Materials

Triple Junction Solar Cells are considered the final optimization step towards higher efficiencies



- New conjugated polymers absorbing in the NIR region
- New Electron accepting materials with higher efficiencies than fullerenes

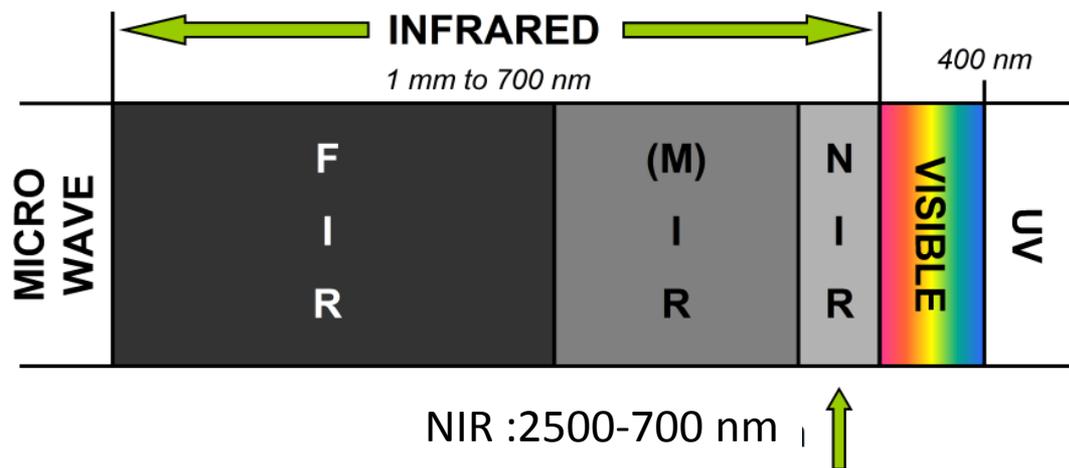
# Near Infrared (NIR) Materials

Near-infrared materials are defined as the substances that interact with NIR light, such as absorption and reflection, and emit NIR light under external stimulation such as photoexcitation, electric field, and chemical reaction.

The near-infrared (NIR) fall in the region of spectrum between 700 and 2500 nm.

NIR materials find application in:

- Energy
- Communication
- Bio-imaging
- Sensing
- Advanced optoelectronics



# Near Infrared (NIR) Inorganic Materials

The inorganic materials are the most common materials for NIR applications, especially in lasers and photodiodes.

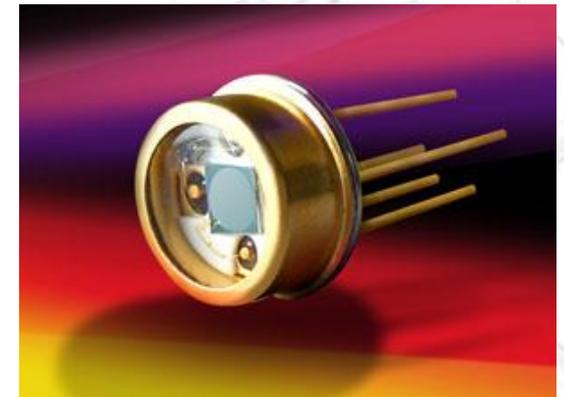
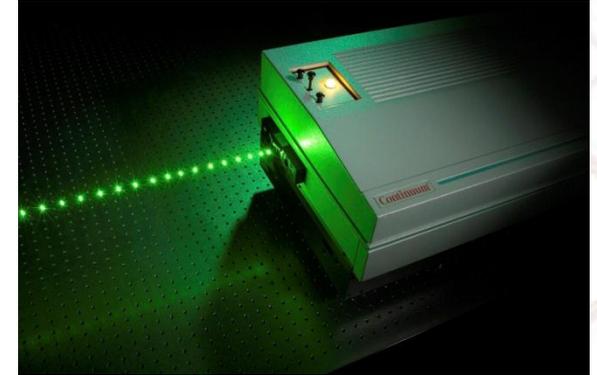
The commonly used materials as active components are:

- YLF ( $\text{YLiF}_4$ ),
- YAG ( $\text{Y}_3\text{Al}_5\text{O}_{12}$ ),
- LISAF ( $\text{LiSrAlF}_6$ ),
- LICAF ( $\text{LiCaAlF}_6$ ),

glasses from silicate ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) and phosphate ( $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ ) doped with transition metals and rare earth elements like:

- Neodymium [Nd:YAG] (emitting@ 1064 nm)
- Erbium [Er:YAG] (emitting@ 1640 or 2940 nm)
- Ytterbium [Yb:Er:YAG] (emitting@ 1540 nm)

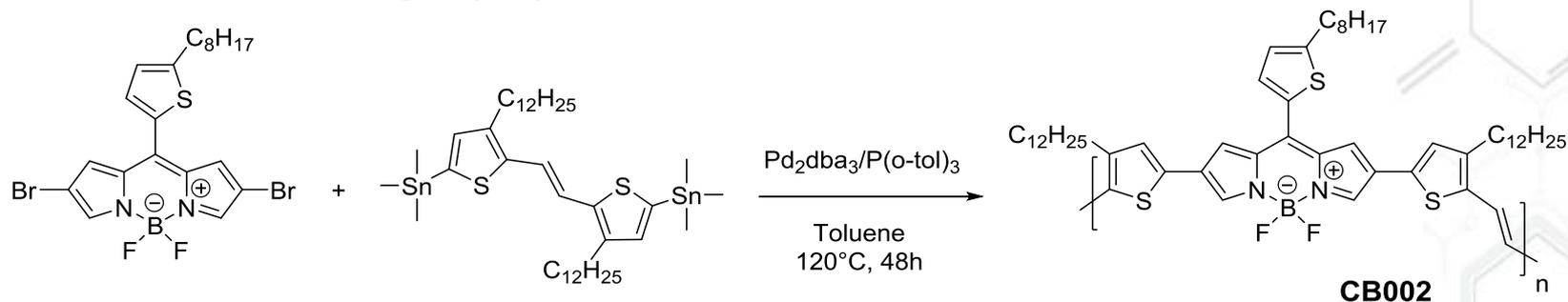
As regard absorber NIR, the most used in photodiodes and similar device are compounds of III-V elements (Al, Ga, In ... – N, P, As, Sb ...), like InGaAs.



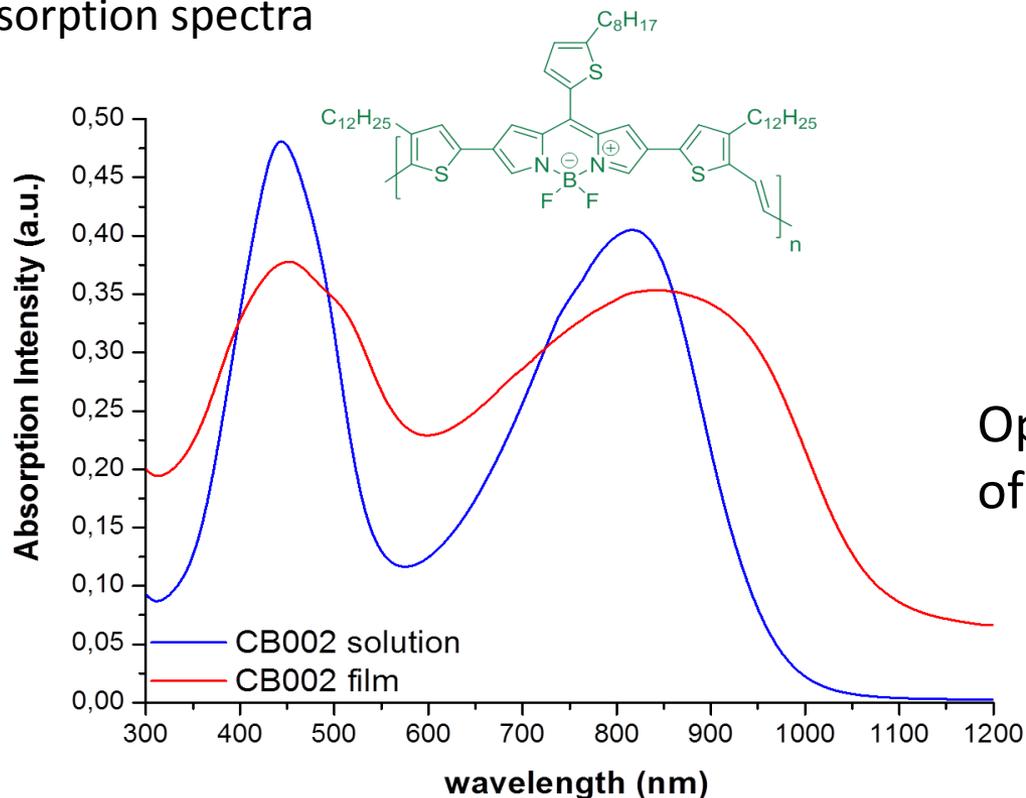


# New conjugated polymer for NIR absorption

## Synthesis of NIR absorbing copolymer

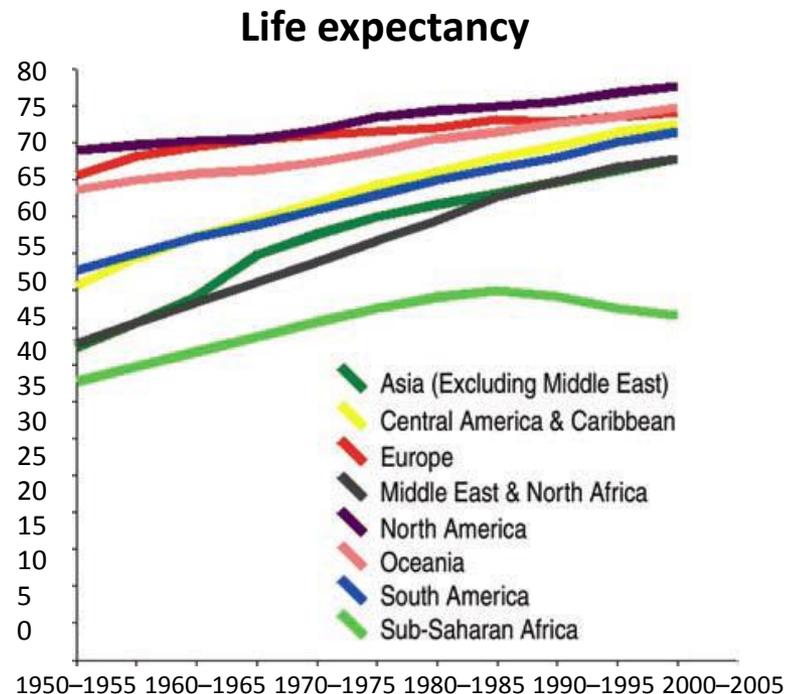


## Absorption spectra



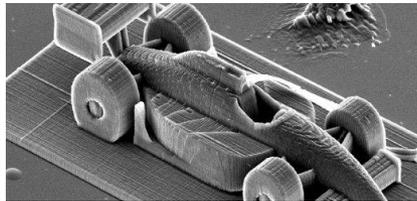
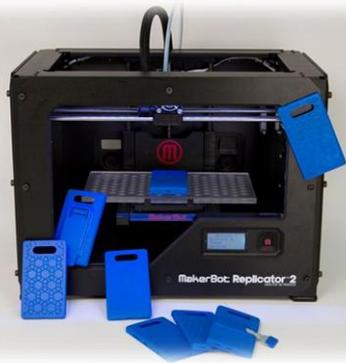
# Future Biomaterials trends

- Life expectancy over the years has increased significantly. During the last five decades, life expectancy has risen by 15% (from 69 to 80 years). More importantly, not only are we living longer but our quality of life has dramatically improved thanks to the many advances in medicine, biology, and materials.
- Recent advances and developments include: cornea tissue regeneration, artificial skin, artificial heart valves (e.g., mitral valve), coronary stents, drug eluting stents, hip joints, artificial knees, spinal cord fusion devices etc
- The difficult issues we will face in the future are not technological ones, but rather ethical and societal:
  - -health care
  - inequalities across the globe?
  - a person's propensity for disease a-priori?



# 3D Printing Technology

From small



To Large



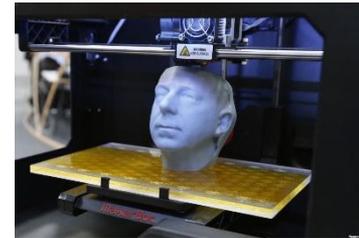
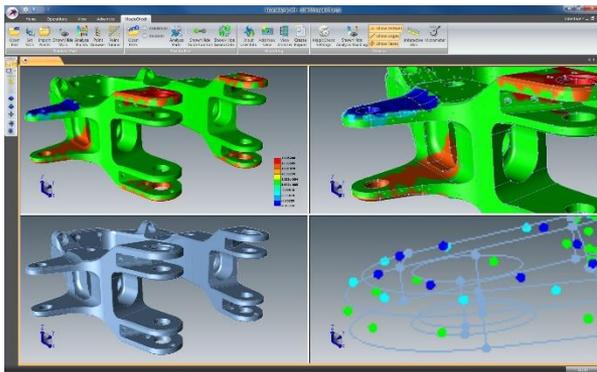
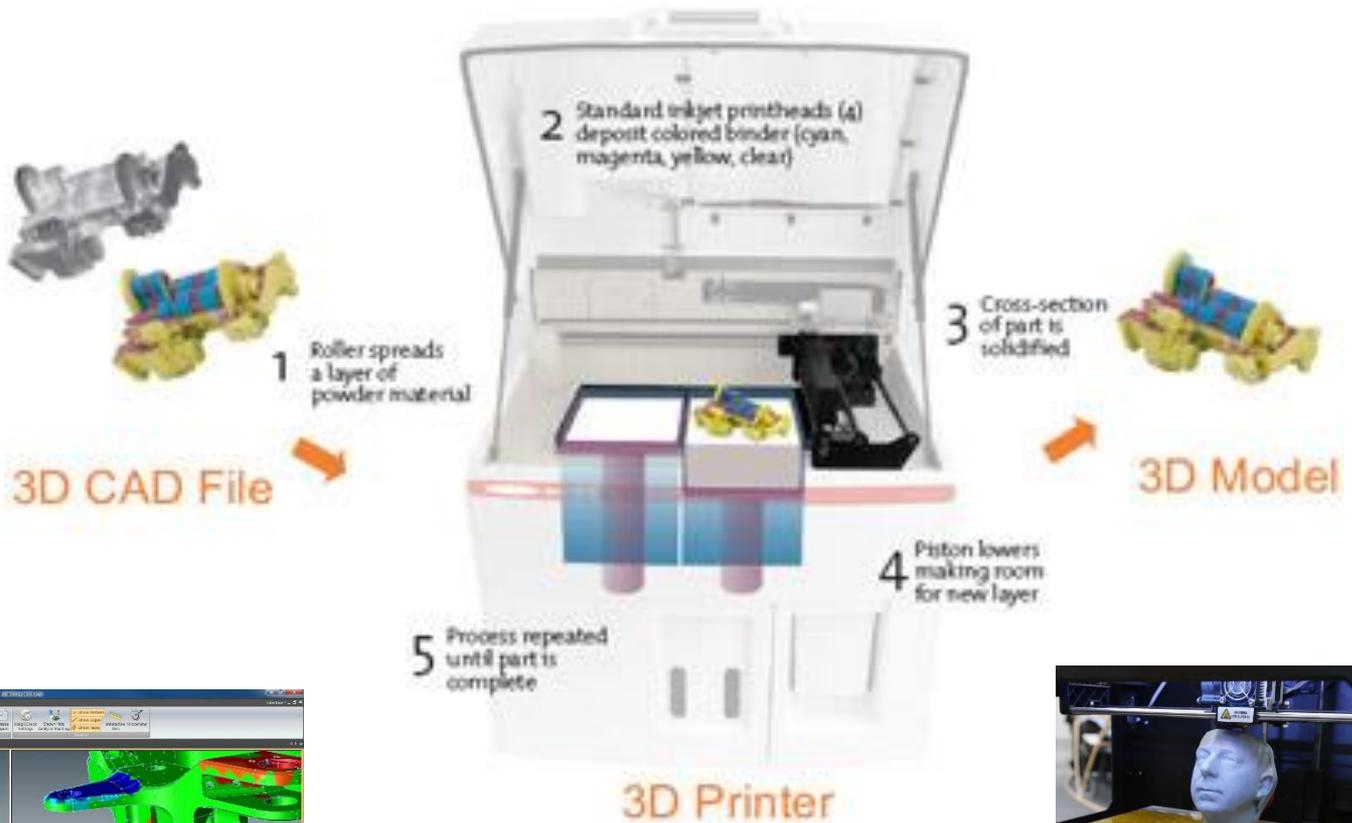
From Fashion



To Medicine

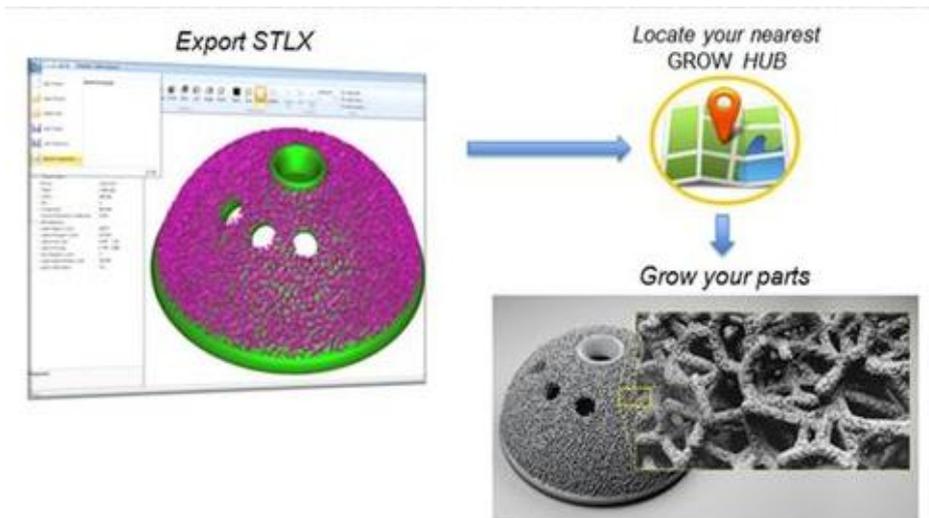


# How 3D Printing Works ?

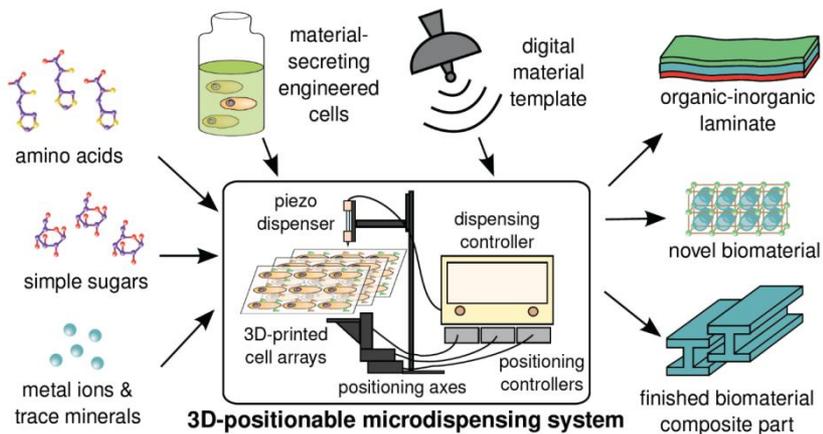


# Bioimplants using 3D printing

## Personalized medicine



## Plastic surgery



## Dental implants

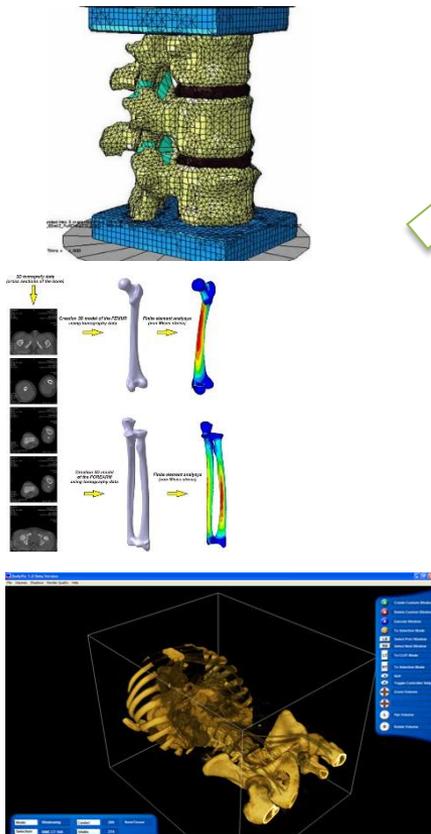


## Orthopedic implants



# 3D Printing Technology

From Medical  
C-Scan  
and MRI 3D files

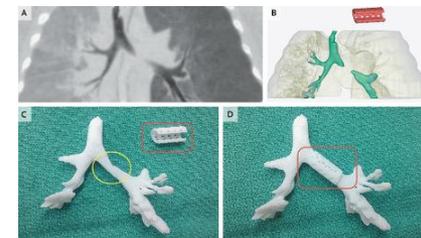


Addition to matrix polymer of  
Angiomatic agents and special proteins  
e.g. bone growth (BMP) proteins  
And/or cell cultures



Bio-3d Printer

To ready-for use  
Personalized Implants



# Final thoughts

- We live in a society that is market driven and therefore coupled to the realities of capital markets.
- Material developments take far too long and in the eyes of capital markets and the return on the investment is difficult to justify in the early stages.
- Future material science developments will need to happen in an accelerated fashion to attract investments of capital and resources. For the adoption of a new material class, 20 years are needed.
- A culture change should occur that fosters innovation, rapid development, and accelerated technology transition with the help on agency funding.

As Antoine de Saint-Exupery said:

**“When it comes to the future, our task is not to foresee it, but rather to enable it to happen.”**

# Acknowledgment – Collaborators

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Organic Semiconductors  
for NIR Optoelectronics

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**MATHERO**

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