

Uncharted Territories in Power Electronics

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Outline



- ▶ *Introduction*
- ▶ *Mastering the Deep*
- ▶ *Taking Actions for a Healthy Planet*
- ▶ *Unlocking the High Frontier*
- ▶ *Conclusions*

Acknowledgment

Florian Krismer
David Menzi

Mastering the Deep

*Deep-Sea E-HyDrones
Subsea Resident AUVs*



Blue Economy

- *Economic Sectors Related to Exploitation / Preservation / Regeneration of Marine Environment*
- *Established Sectors* — *Maritime Transp. | Ship Buildg | Fishing | Off-Shore Oil & Gas | Coastal Tourism | etc.*



Source: EU Science Hub

- *Emerging Activities* — *Floating Off-Shore Wind & Solar Energy | Wave & Tidal Energy | Sub-Sea Robotics etc.*
- *Important Role in the EU's Transition Towards a Carbon-Neutral / Circular / Biodiverse Economy*

Floating Off-Shore Wind Power Plants

- *80% of Off-Shore Wind Energy Available in Deep Waters*
- *Higher & More Consistent Wind Speeds / Lower Environmental Impact*



Source: Josh Bauer / NREL

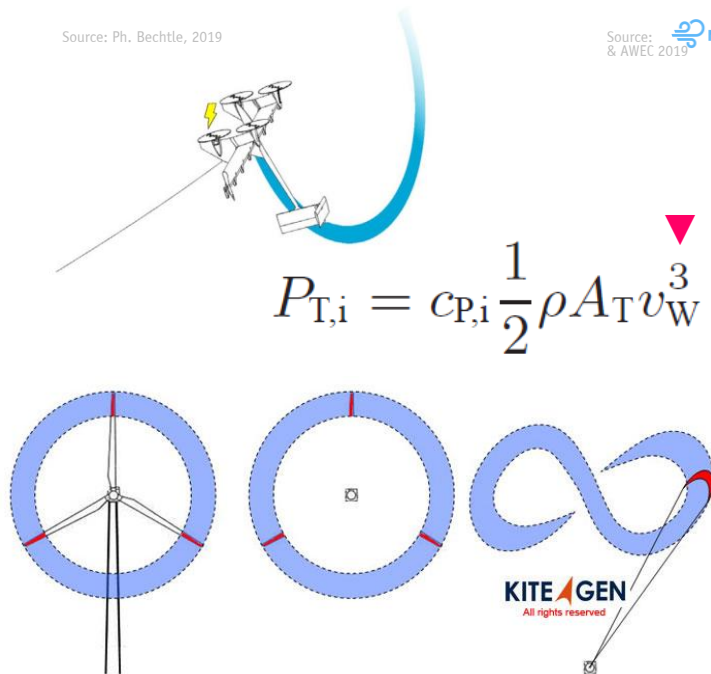
- *Floating Support Structures for Seabed Depths > 60m — Seabed Connection Through Mooring Cables*
- *3 Basic Types — Tower-Like Spar Buoy | Semi-Submersible | Tension Leg (Mooring Cables Under Tension)*

Remark Airborne Wind Turbines

- *“Pulling Power from the Sky” — Replace Conv. Windmills by Airborne Devices Suspended High Up in the Air*
- *Tether Cable Replaces Massive Steel Tower / Aerofoil Kite or Glider Replaces Long Rotating Turbine Blades*

Source: Ph. Bechtle, 2019

Source: MAKANI & AWECC 2019



- *High Crosswind Speed → Very Small Turbine Area / Higher & More Consistent Wind Speeds @ High Altitudes*
- *Floating Platform Anchored in Deep Water | On-Board Generators & Tether Conducting Electricity to Ground*

Floating Off-Shore Solar Plants

- **10x Growth of Solar Power to 5...10 TW Mandatory for Closing the Emission Gap**
- **Dense Population / Land Shortage → Utility-Scale Solar Projects on Inland Waters and in Oceans**
- **Potential Combination of Off-Shore Wind & Off-Shore Solar Infrastructures**



Source: www.rechargenews.com

- **Higher Sun Irradiance @ Sea & Lower Temperature → Higher Efficiency**
- **Destructive Wind & Wave Forces → Membrane-Type Flexible Circular Platforms w/ Buoyancy Rings**
- **Potentially Lower Cost of Off-Shore Solar Compared to Off-Shore Wind — 2x Higher GWh/km²**

Off-Shore Green-H₂ Production

- *Energy Transport via Molecules / Hydrogen Avoids High \$\$\$ of HVDC Cables / Systems*
- *Declining Oil & Gas Production → Repurposing of Offshore Assets / Platforms, Pipelines etc.*

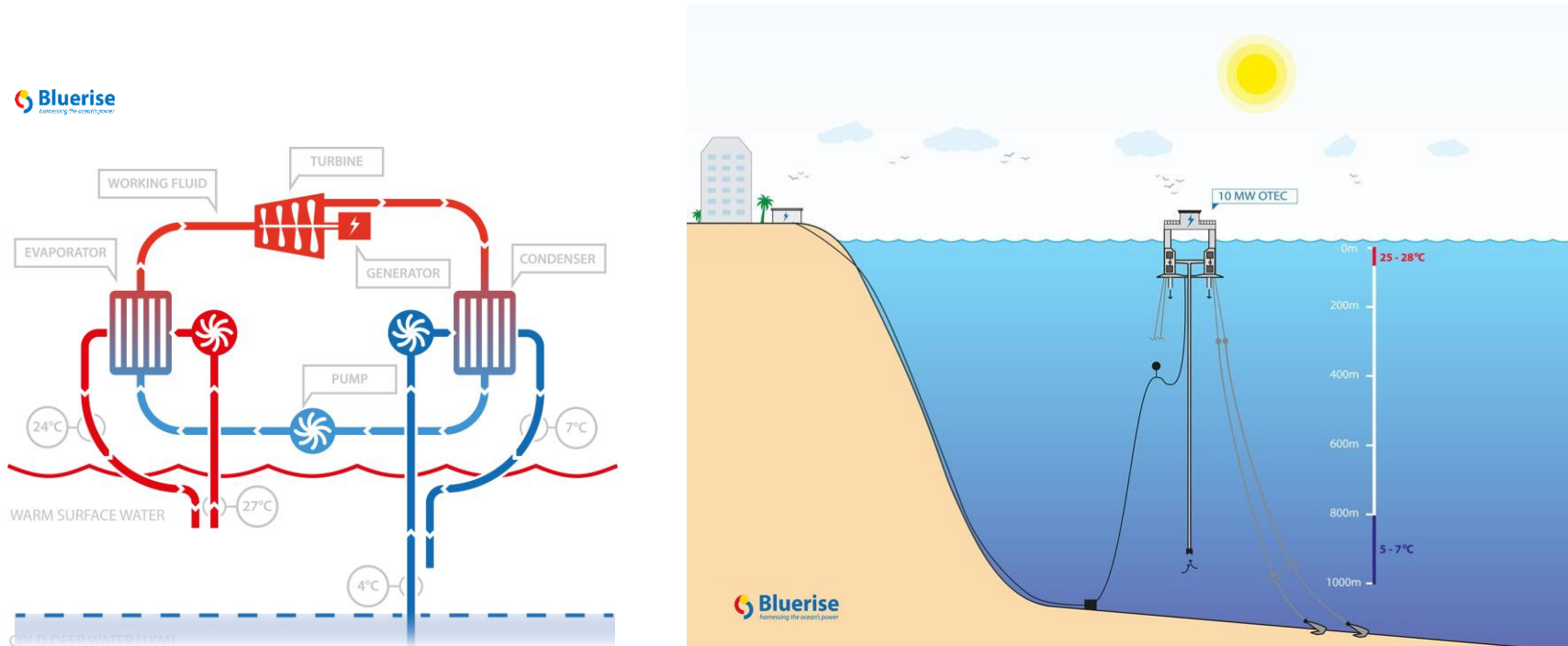


Source:
<https://tractebel-engie.com>

- *P2G → Desalinated H₂O Electrolyzers on Off-Shore Platforms Converting Wind Energy to “Green Hydrogen”*
- *60-80% Conversion Efficiency / Multi-GW Scale / Interconnection of Neighboring Countries*

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion

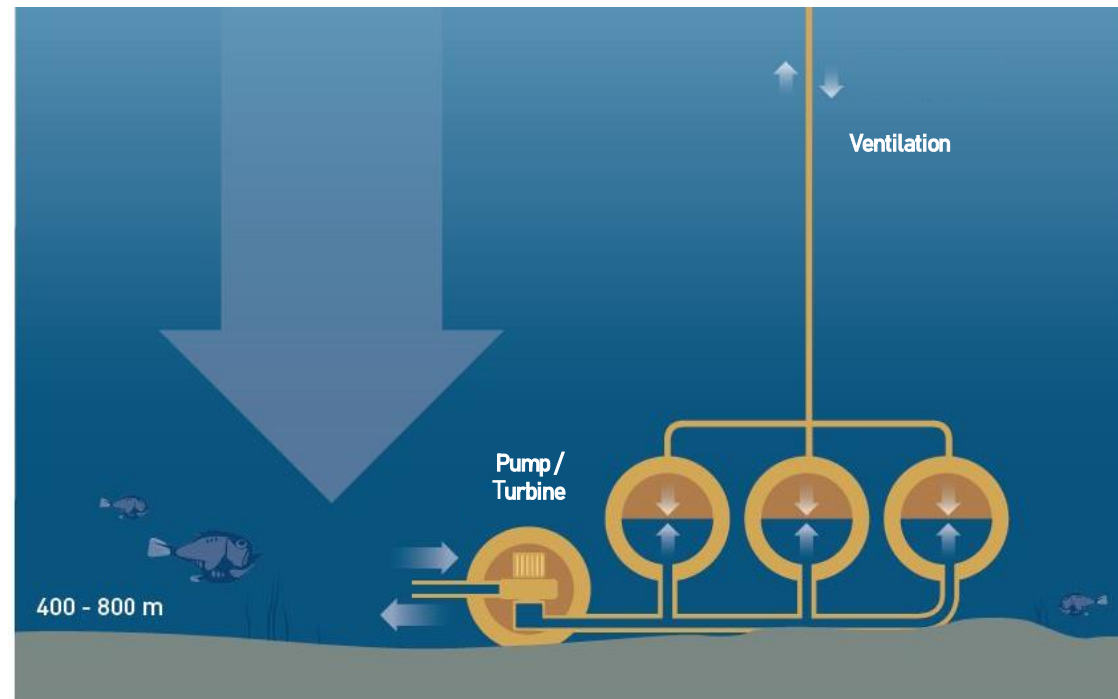
- **Temperature Difference in Oceans Utilized for 24/7 (!) Electricity Generation**
- **25°C Surface Water Vaporizes Low Boiling Point Ammonia – Expanding Vapor Drives Turbine**
- **Vapor @ Turbine Output Condensed by 5°C Seawater Pumped from -1000m**



- **10MW OTEC Pilot Planned in Southern China by Lockheed Martin & Reignwood Group**
- **Potential of ≈ 7TW Globally w/o Significant Effect on the Ocean Temperature Fields (30 TW Total Resource)**

Subsea Pumped Hydro Storage

- *GWh-Scale 10MWh-Modular / Scalable Storage @ Seabed Exploiting the High Deep-Sea Pressure*
- *Off-Shore Installation Near Wind Farms / Floating Solar Farms / Tidal & Wave Energy Systems etc.*

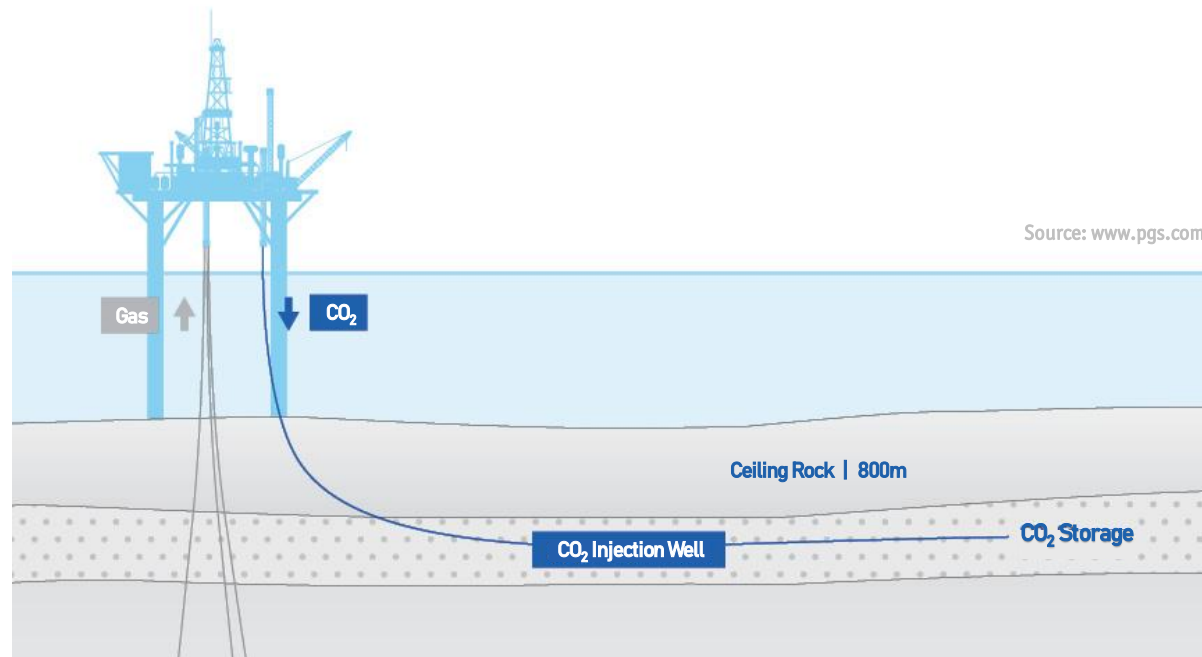


Source: SINTEF

- *Charging* → *Pumping Water from Low-Pressure Rigid Reservoir into High Pressure Environment*
- *Discharging* → *High Pressure Environment Pushes Water Into Reservoir / Drives Turbine*

Off-Shore CO₂ Storage

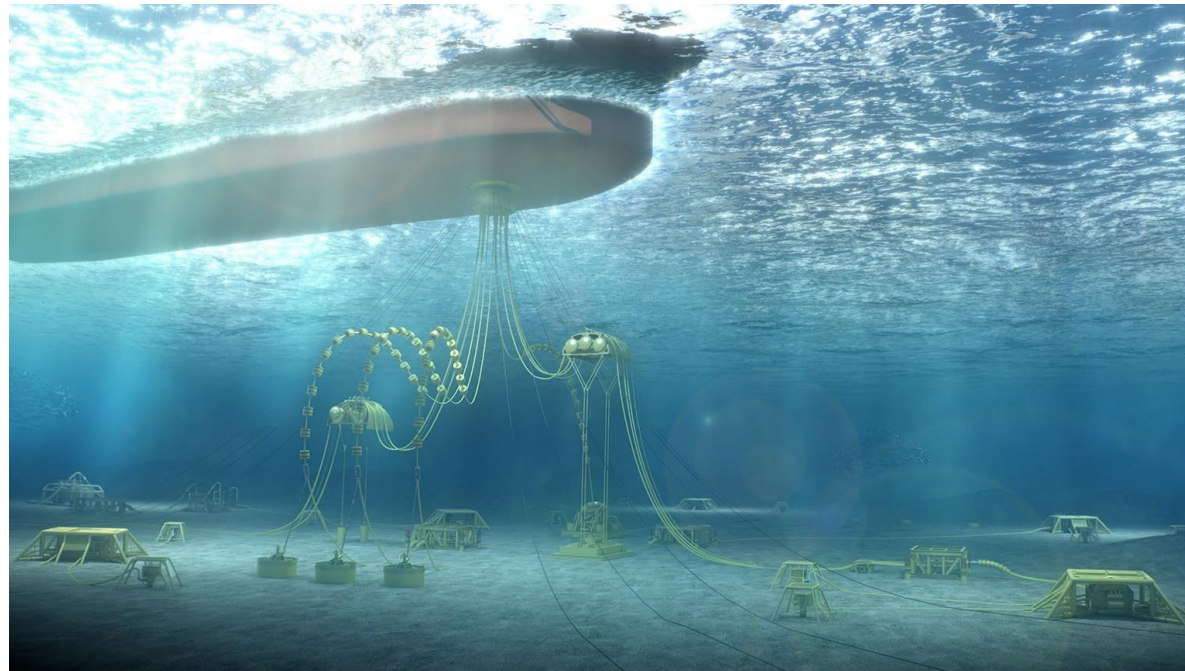
- *CO₂ Capture & Storage (CCS) → Main Element of the Energy Transition to a Low Carbon Future*
- *Future Industrial CCS Value Chain → CO₂ Transported by Ships & Stored in Off-Shore Formations*



- *World's 1st Off-Shore CCS Plant in Operation since 1996 in Sleipner Natural Gas Field (Equinor = Statoil)*
- *Norwegian CO₂ Tax Introduced 1991 → CO₂ Contained in Natural Gas Re-Injected Into Porous Sandstone*

Subsea Industry / Autonomous Factories

- *Deep-Sea Oil & Gas Extraction / Processing — No Platforms / Lower \$\$\$ | Deep-Sea Mining*
- *Lower Environmental Impact of Natural Gas Compared to Coal → “Golden Age of Gas”*



Source: www.ocean-5.com

- *Hydraulic Wells → High Eff. All-Electric Wells → No High Pressure Equipm. / No Pipe Leaking / Lower \$\$\$*
- *Long Distance DC Power Transmission (600km, 100MW, 3000m) → Pumps etc. Located @ Seabed*

Seabed Interventions – 1/2

- *Burial of Subsea Pipelines and Cables*
- *Jet Trenching ROVs | Ploughs | Mechanical Trenchers — x 1000m Operation Depth*



Source:
DEEPOCEAN

- *World's Most Powerful Trencher (T3200 / 2.4MW / DeepOcean)*

Seabed Interventions – 2/2

- *Burial of Subsea Pipelines and Cables*
- *Jet Trenching ROVs | Ploughs | Mechanical Trenchers — x 1000m Operation Depth*

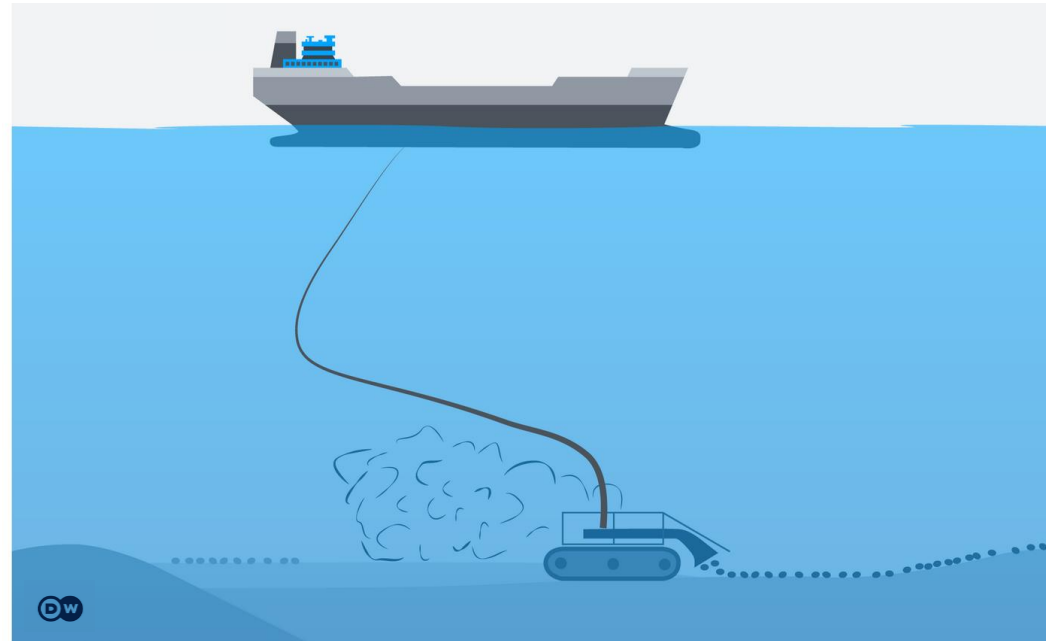


Source:
DEEPOCEAN

- *World's Most Powerful Trencher (T3200 / 2.4MW / DeepOcean)*

Deep-Sea Mining Vehicles – 1/2

- *Suction of Polymetallic Nodules (Mn, Co, Cu, etc.) @ Seabed (4000...6000m)*
- *Subsea Crushers & Pumps for Transportation of the Minerals to Supporting Vessel*



Source: www.hydrographica.org

- *Potential Serious Threat to Global Oceans (!)*

Deep-Sea Mining Vehicles – 2/2

- *Suction of Polymetallic Nodules (Mn, Co, Cu, etc.) @ Seabed (4000...6000m)*
- *Subsea Crushers & Pumps for Transportation of the Minerals to Supporting Vessel*



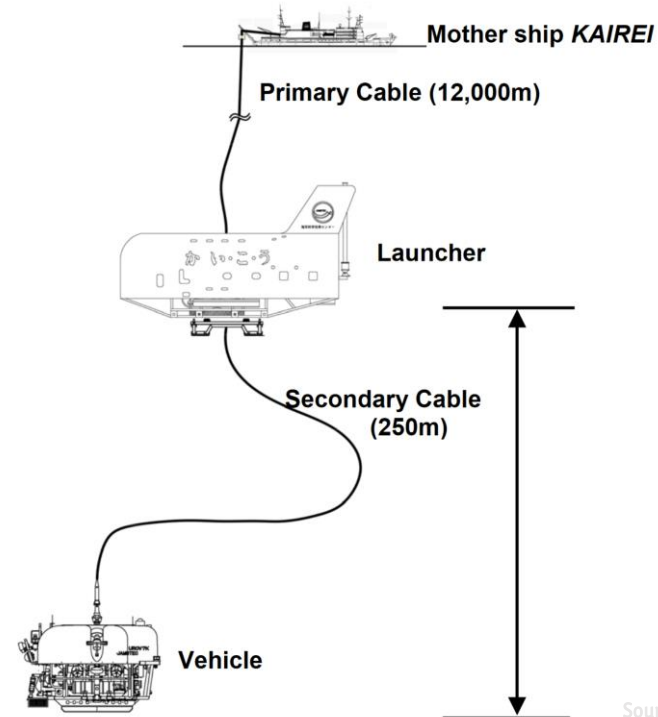
Source:  GSR

- *Patania II 25t Robot "Nodule Collector" (Tested @ 4500 m)*

Scientific Exploration of Ocean Depths



Source: 

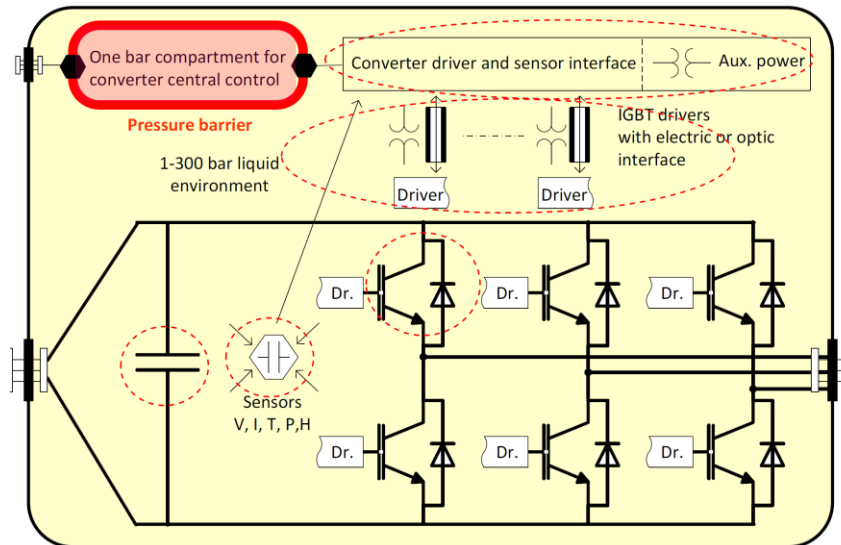


- Full Ocean Depth ROV Kaiko / JAMSTEC (Launcher & Vehicle) → 10'911m / Lost During a Typhoon
- New 11'000m-Class ROV (ABISMO — Automatic Bottom Inspection and Sampling Mobile)

Remark Electronics Pressure Housings

- **Air or Gas Filled Components** → **Would Implode in Large Depths (e.g. 6000m → 600bar)**
- **One-Atmosphere Housings** → **Maintain Constant Inside Pressure / Cylindrical or Spherical Shape**
- **Pressure Balanced Housings** → **Int. ≈ Ext. Pressure / Oil Filled – No Voids / Not Shape (Cooling) Restricted !**

Source: M. Hernes
SINTEF



Source: SAAB



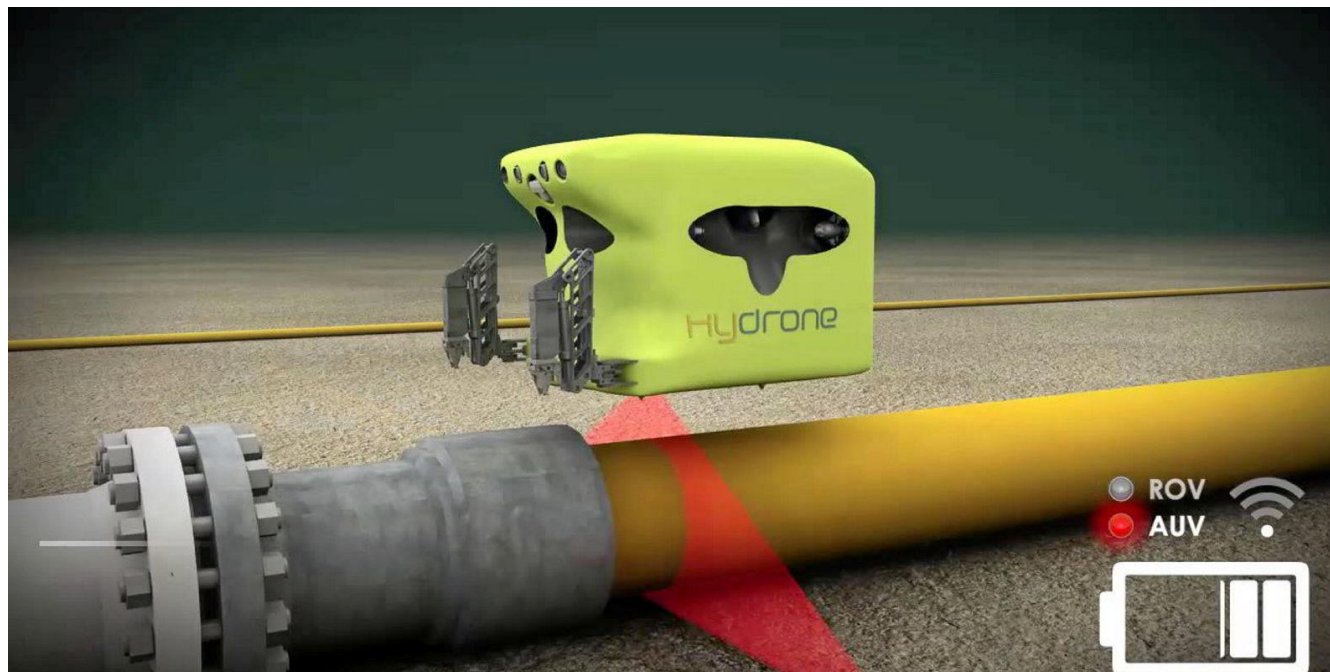
Electronics Compartment of Seeye Jaguar



- **Research on Pressure-Tolerant Power Electronic Components (300bar) @ SINTEF**
- **IGBTs** → **Sw. Behavior Unaffected / Chip Interface Needs to be Protected from Surrounding Liquid**
- **Pressure Affects BH-Curve of Magnetic Cores & Impairs Self-Healing of PP Film Cap. → Voltage Derating**

Autonomous Underwater Vehicles — AUV

- *Self-Powered & Self-Guided → No Tether or Line to Crewed or Uncrewed Surface Ship / Lower Mission \$\$\$ etc.*
- *Mission Range & Duration Limited by Onboard Battery Capacity*

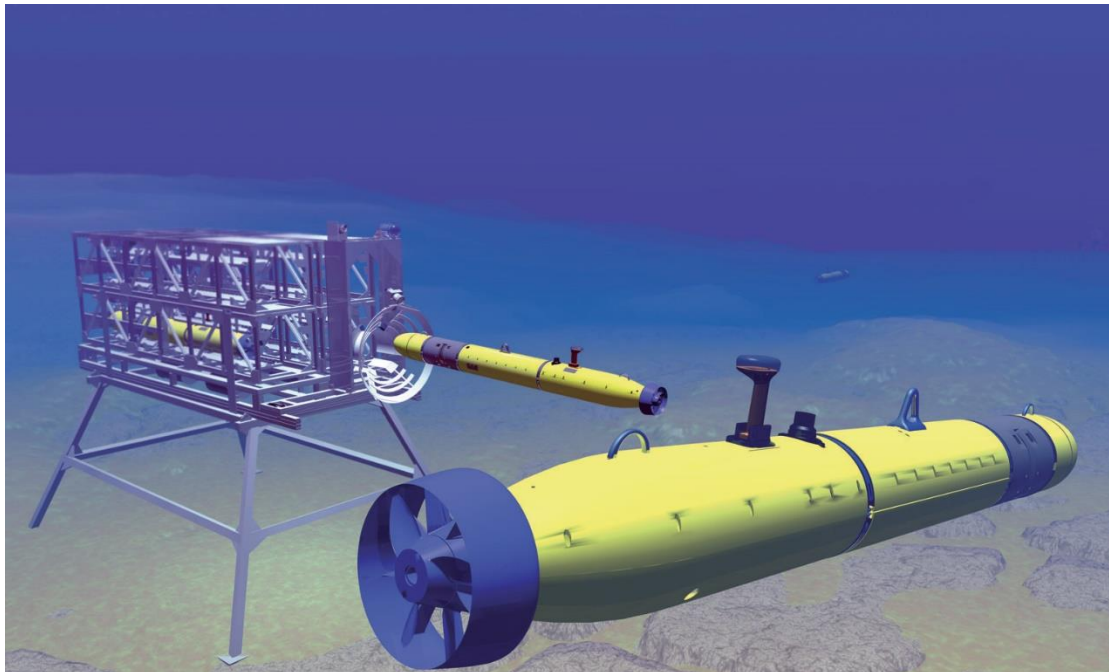


Source:  SAIPEM

- *Seabed Docking Station for Battery Recharge / Mission Download & Data Offload → Enables Subsea Residency*
- *Local Power Generation & Surface Communication | Unmanned Surface Vehicle for Launch & Recovery*

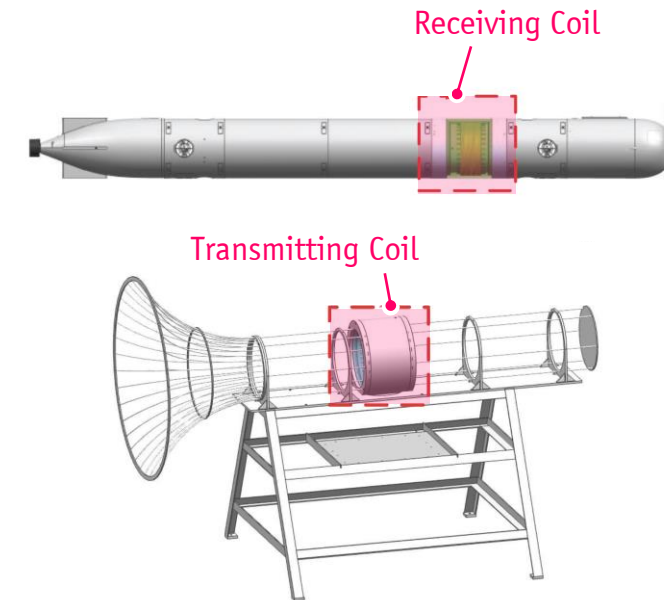
Wireless AUV Charging — Resonant IPT

- *Co-Axial Arrangement of High-Q Coils Operating in Resonance / Relatively Large Misalignment Tolerance*
- *Funnel-Shaped Recovery Cage — Entry Cone & Docking Tube*



Source: www.oedigital.com

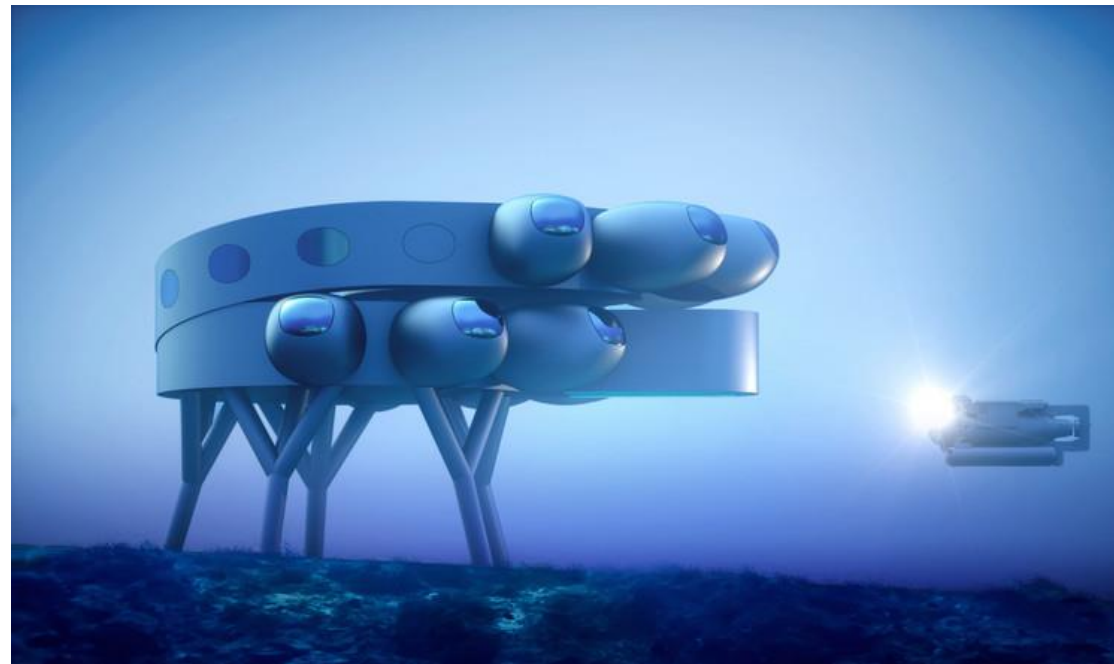
Source: Peizhou Liu et al., 2022



- *Ferrite Elements for Magn. Flux Shaping → Red. Field/EMI Inside the AUV & Red. Eddy Curr. in AUV Metal Hull*
- *Coil Geometry Adapted to Physical AUV Structure → Limited Interoperability*

Future Underwater Habitats

- *Underwater Version of the International Space Station*
- *Discovery of New Species of Marine Life / Aquacultures / Understanding Climate Change Effects*

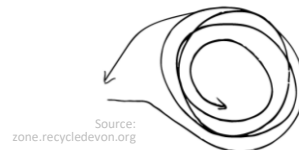


Source:
ArchDaily/
Protheus

- *PROTEUS — First in a Network of Future Underwater Habitats*

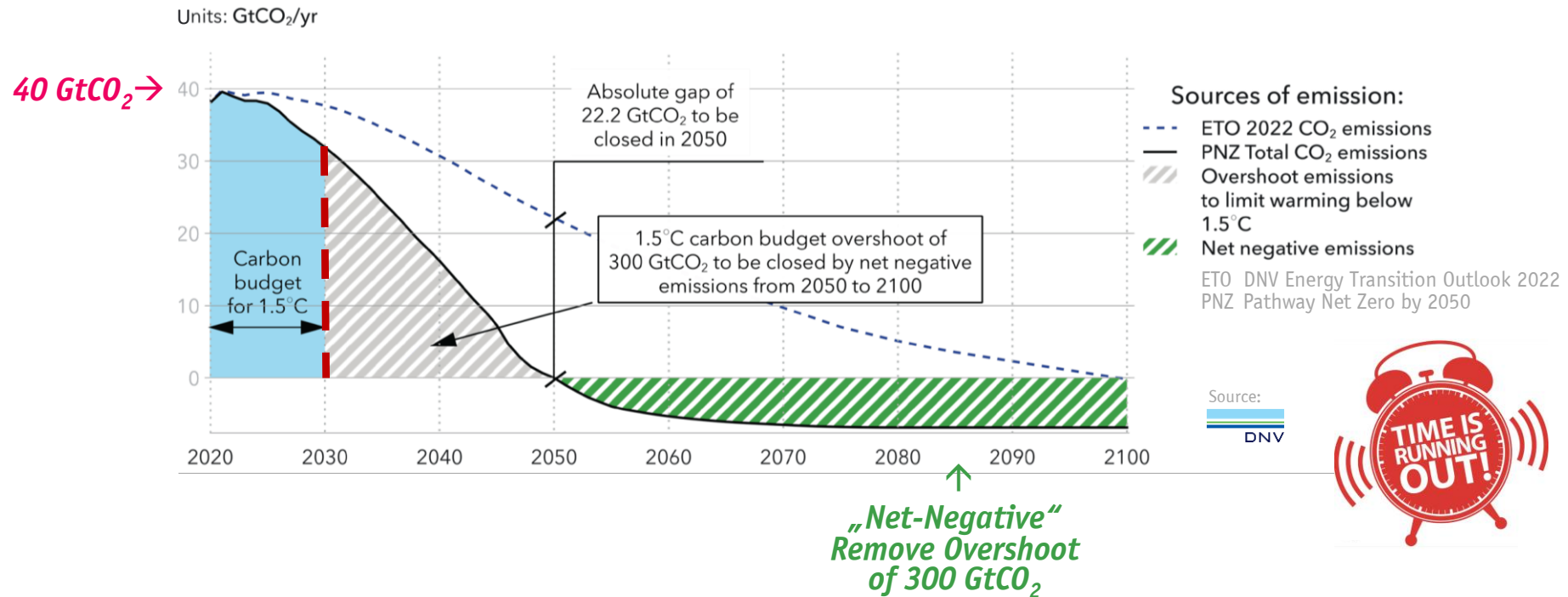
Taking Actions for a Healthy Planet

*Decarbonization
Circular Economy*



Decarbonization / Defossilization

- **“Net-Zero” Emissions by 2050 & Gap to be Closed**
- **50 GtCO_{2eq} Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions / Year → 280 GtCO₂ Budget Left for 1.5°C Limit**



- **Challenge of Stepping Back from Oil & Gas**
- **Human History — Transition from Lower to Higher Energy Density Fuel — Wood → Coal → Oil & Gas**

Remark Global Sea Levels by 2100

Rising Sea Levels Due to Global Warming

Source: [The Guardian](#)

How the dyke compares to other projects

300 miles

The proposed Scotland to Norway dyke



100 miles

Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge, China



50 miles

Panama Canal



20 miles

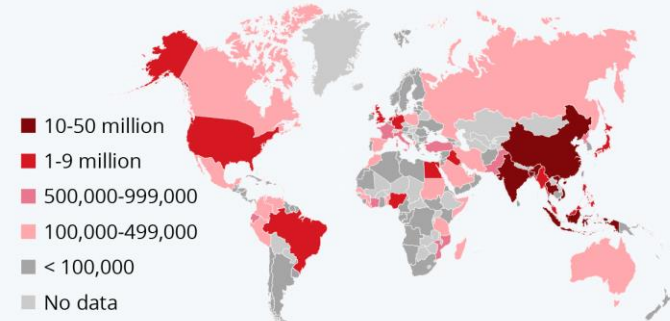
Saemangeum sea wall, South Korea



@ 2°C Temp. Increase

Where Most People Are Affected by Rising Sea Levels

Number of people per country living on land expected to be under sea level by 2100*



* assuming a rise in sea levels of 50-70 cm (2° C temperature increase/not taking into account ice sheet instability)
Source: Scott A. Kulp & Benjamin H. Strauss: New elevation data triple estimates of global vulnerability to sea-level rise and coastal flooding, Nature Communications

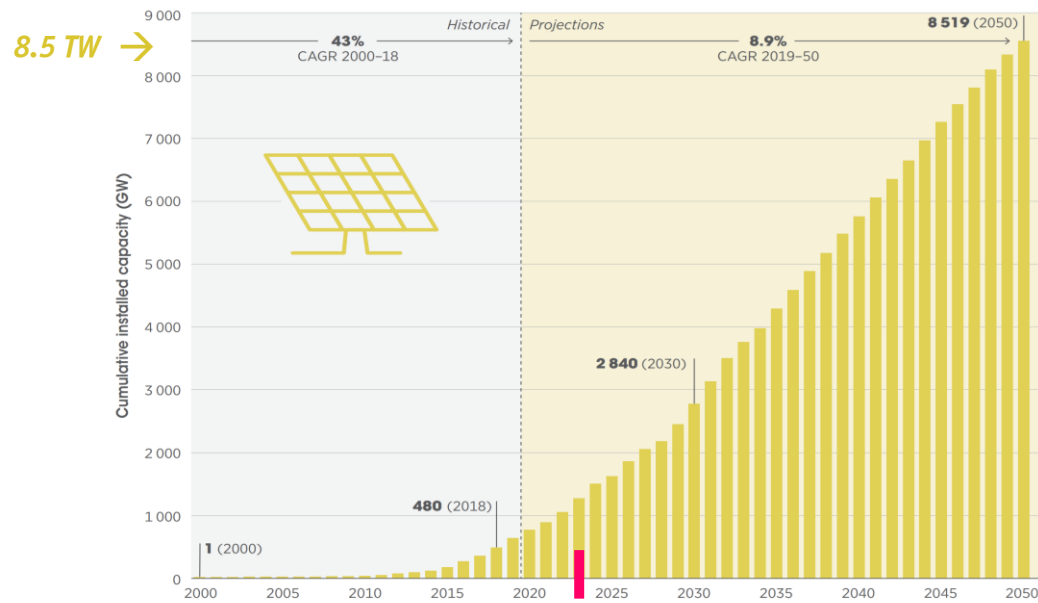


statista

North Sea Enclosure Dyke — Mammoth Dams Envisioned to Protect 25 Million Europeans — € 250bn ... 500bn

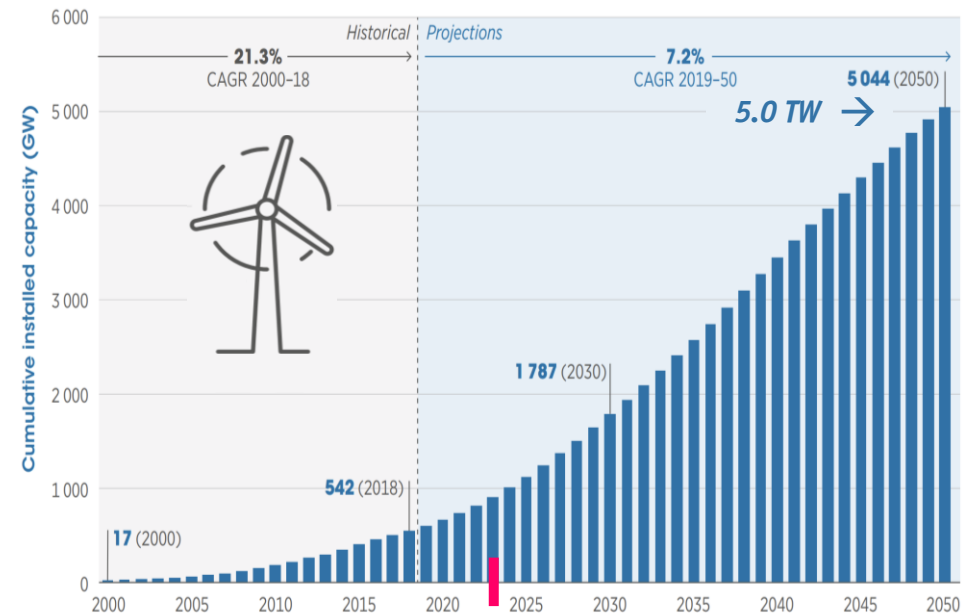
The Solution

- Outlook of Global Cumulative Installations Until 2050 / Add. 1000 GW Off-Shore Wind Power
- In 2050 Deployment of 370 GW/Year (PV) & 200 GW/Year (On-Shore Wind) incl. Replacements



Sources: Historical values based on IRENA's renewable energy statistics (IRENA, 2019c) and future projections based on IRENA's analysis (2019a).

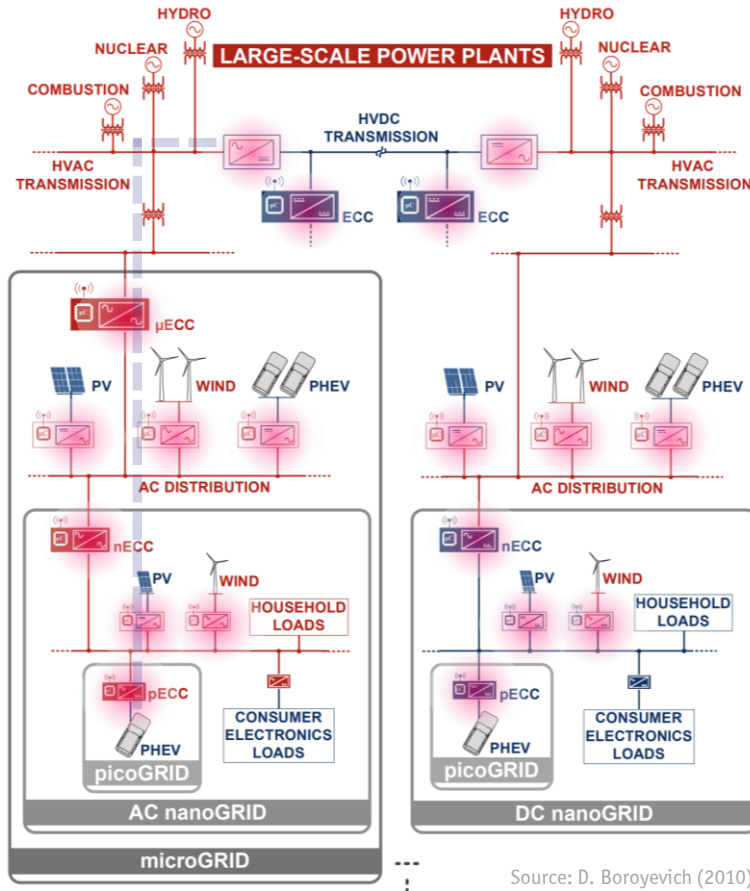
■ CAGR of $\approx 9\%$ up to 2050 \rightarrow 8500 GW




Source: Historical values based on IRENA's renewable capacity statistics (IRENA, 2019d) and future projections based on IRENA analysis (IRENA, 2019a).

■ CAGR of $\approx 7\%$ up to 2050 \rightarrow 5000 GW

The in the Room



Source: D. Boroyevich (2010)

- Global Population by 2050 — 10bn  2.5 kW/Capita
- 25'000 GW Installed Ren. Generation in 2050
- 4x Power Electr. Conversion btw Generation & Load
- 100'000 GW of Installed Converter Power
- 20 Years of Useful Life

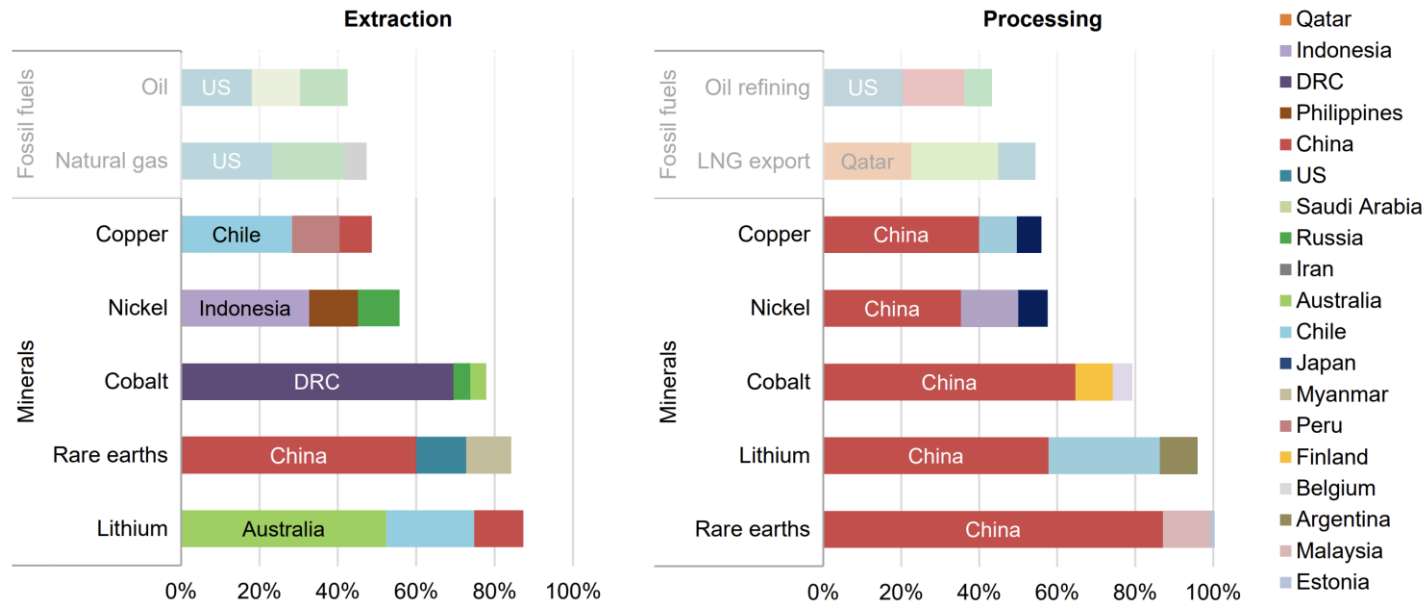


Source: www.e-waste-recyclers.co.in

- 5'000 GW_{eq} = 5'000'000'000 kW_{eq} of E-Waste / Year (!)
- 10'000'000'000 \$ of Potential Value

Critical Minerals

■ Production of Selected Minerals Critical for the Clean Energy Transition



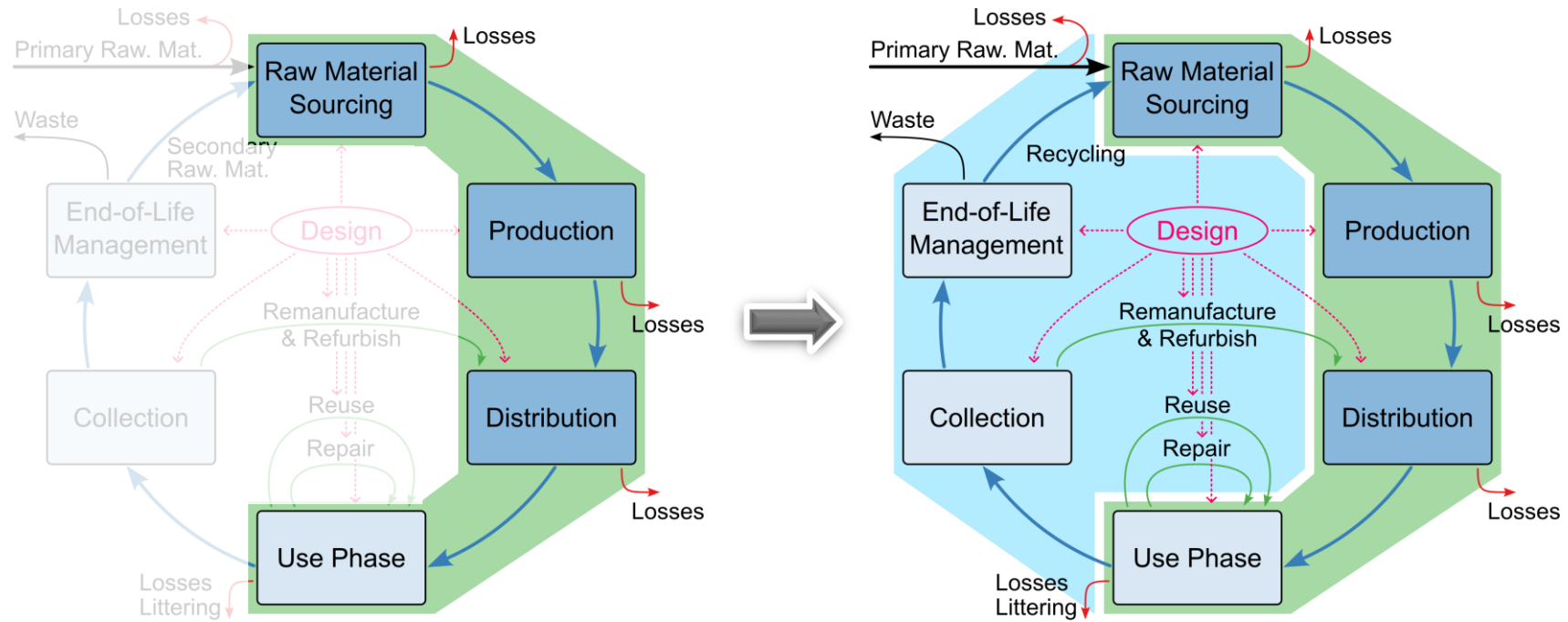
Source: IEA / The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions (2021)

Shares of top three producing countries, 2019

■ Extraction & Processing More Geographically Concentrated than for Oil & Nat. Gas (!)

“Closing the Loop”

- “4R” Included Into the Design Process — Repair | Reuse | Refurbish | Recycle

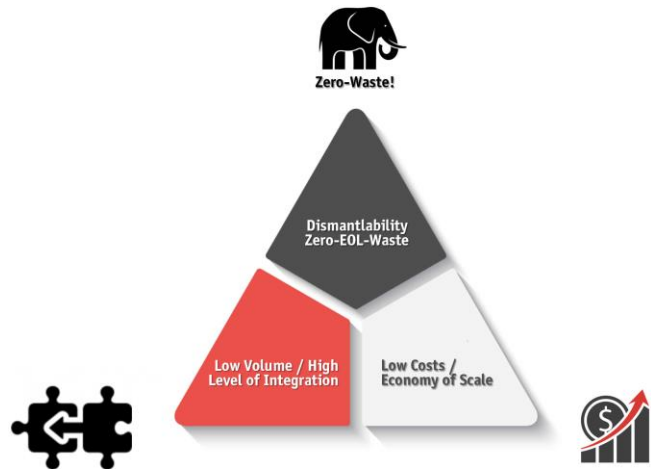


- *Life-Cycle Cost Perspective Potentially Advantageous for Suppliers & Customers*
- *Quantification of Repairability / Reusability / etc. Still to be Clarified*

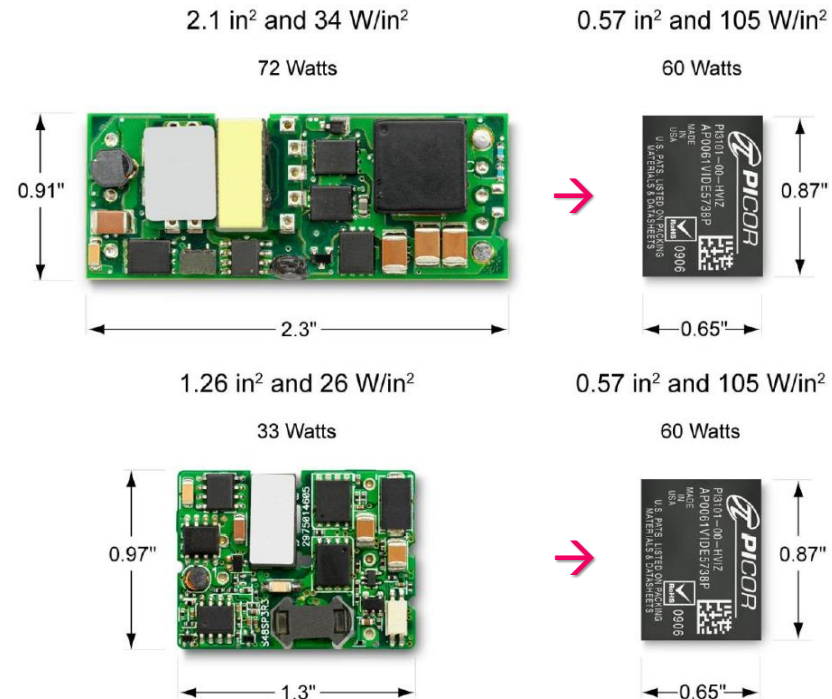
Remark "Integration" vs. Circular Economy

- **System in Package (SiP) Approach** — Isolated & Non-Isolated DC/DC Converters, PFC Rectifiers, etc.
- **Minim. of Parasitic Inductances / EMI Shielding / Integrated Thermal Management**

Source: 

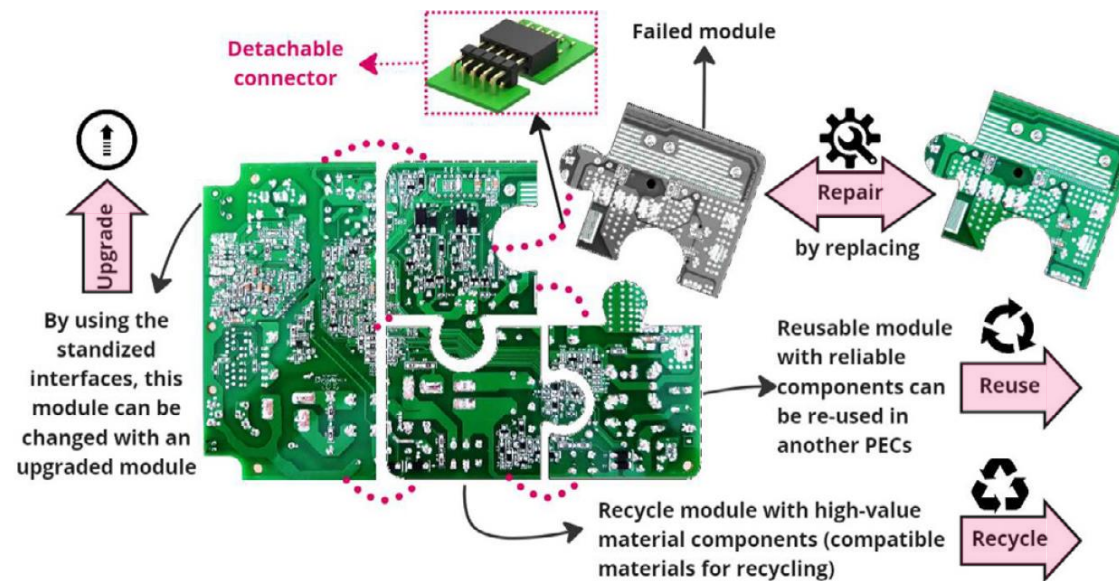


- **Extreme Power Density / Dismantlability (?)**
- **Specific Functionality / Economy of Scale (?)**



Modularity — Facilitating Upgrade | Reuse | Repair

- *Modular Design Considering Ease of Disassembly | Maintainability | Upgradability | Reusability | etc.*
- *Grouping of Components Determined by Reliability Level & Expected Lifetime / Level of Reusability or Recyclability*

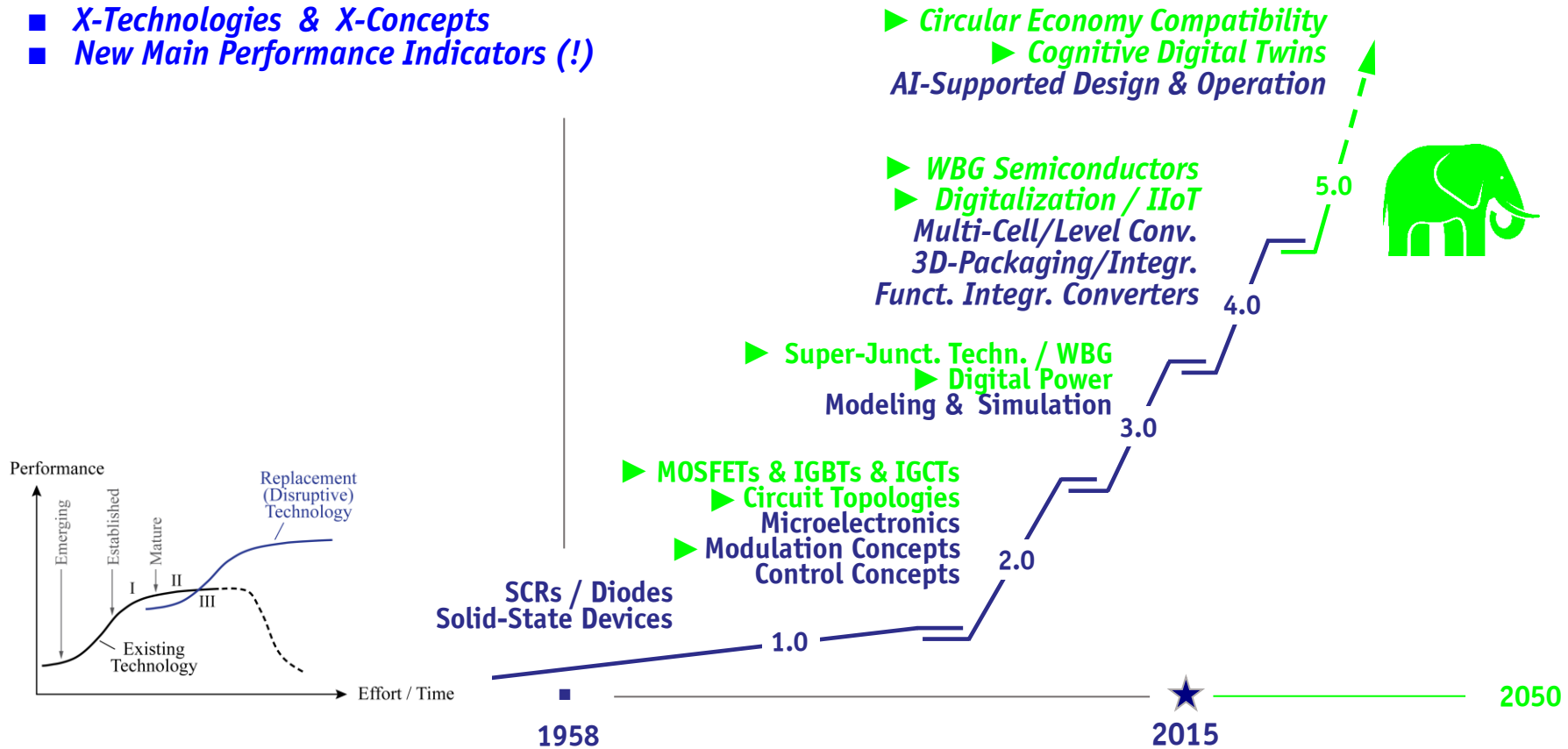


université BORDEAUX
GRENOBLE INP

- **FAIRPHONE** — *Modular | Manually Replaceable Parts | 100% Recycl. of Sold Products | Fairtrade Materials*
- *Standardized Interfaces / Mechanically Separable Connections*
- *Leveraging Economies of Scale to Compensate Interface Costs*

Power Electronics 5.0

- Power Electronics 1.0 → Power Electronics 5.0
- X-Technologies & X-Concepts
- New Main Performance Indicators (!)



Unlocking the High Frontier

*Launch Systems
Space Colonies*



Space — An “Unexplored Ocean” to be Navigated

- *Global Space Race — Demonstration of Technology Leadership | Military Interests | Resources*
- *Mining the Moon — Helium-3 | Rare Earth Elements | Platinum | etc. & Ice (Life Support & Propellant)*
- *Satellite Network — Communication | Navigation | Military Operations*

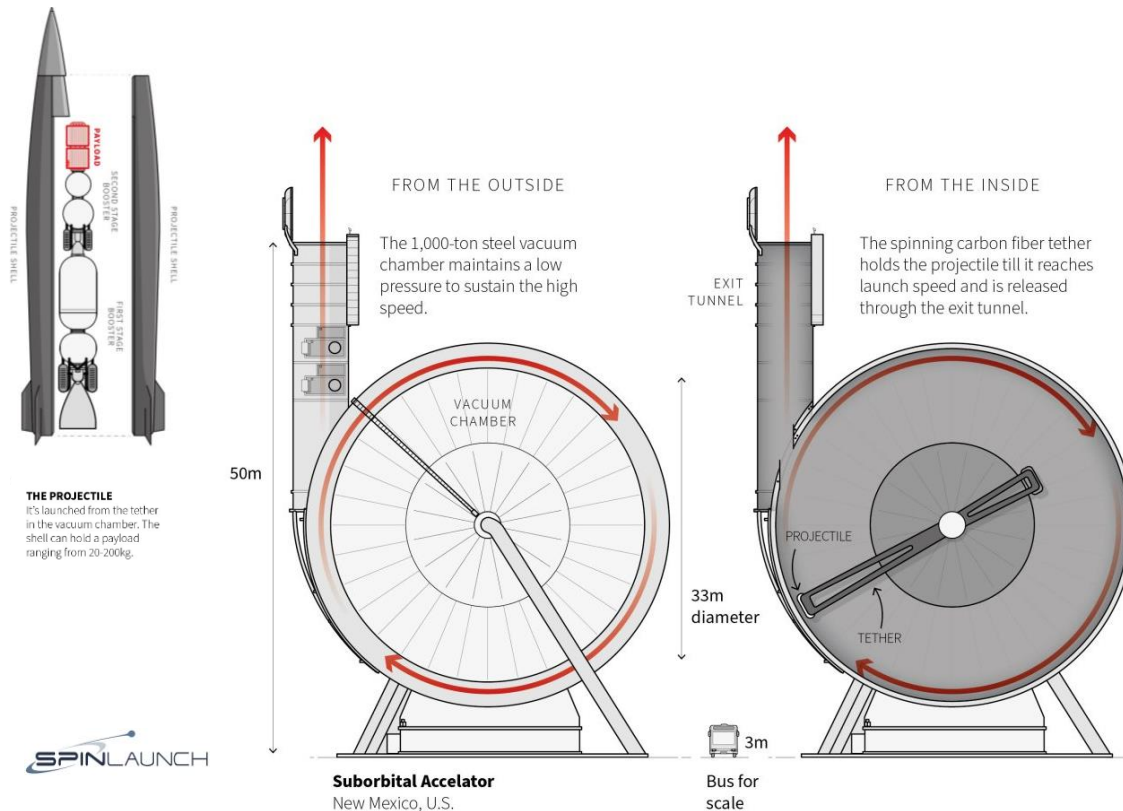


Source: 

- *NASA — Artemis Program — Land Humans @ Lunar South Pole by 2026*
- *ESA — Planning to Send a Lunar Lander to the Moon's South Pole / Construct “Lunarville”*
- *CNSA — China | Crewed Moon Landing by 2030*

Launching Satellites w/o Rockets

- **Traditional Fuel-Based Rocket Launching — Up to \$ 100'000/Pound (\$ 2000/Pound w/ SpaceX)**
- **SpinLaunch Uses Electrical Slingshot to Catapult a Spacecraft into Orbit**

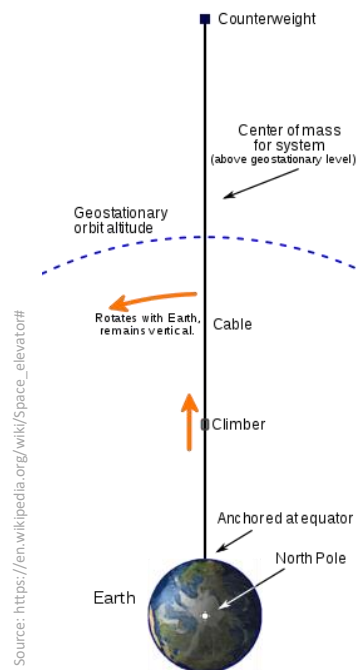


- **Payload (up to 200kg) in Reusable Launch Vehicle | 1.5h Acceleration in Vacuum Centrifuge up to 8000km/h**
- **Released Through Hypersonic Header | 10'000g Take-Off | Ignition of Small Rocket Engine in 60km Altitude**

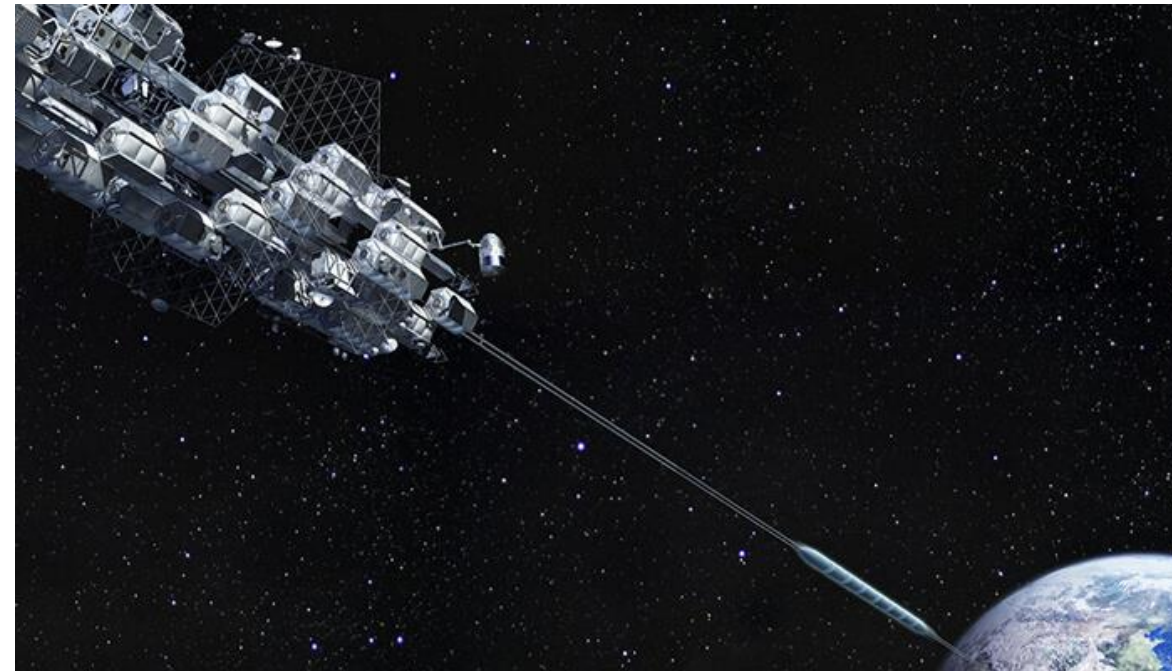
Space Elevator

- *“Cosmic Railway”/ Space Elevator Envisioned by to Y. Artsutanov as Alternative to Rockets in 1960*
- *By 2050 — 100t Electric Climber | 96'000km Carbon Nanotube Tether | 400m Diameter Floating Earth Port*

Space Elevator



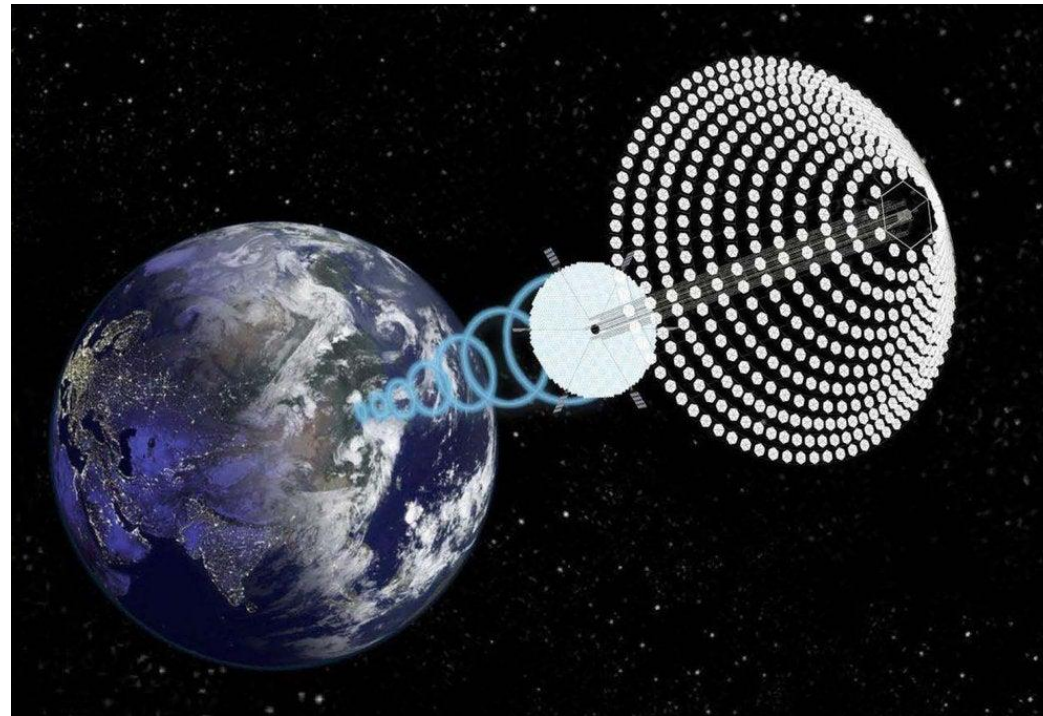
Source: Obayashi Corporation



- *Upward Centrifugal Force on 12'500t Counter-Weight & Gravity Acting on Lower End Keep Tether Under Tension*
- *Balanced Forces at Geostationary Equatorial Orbit (GEO) — Orbit Station @ Height of 36'000km*

Beaming Solar Power from Space

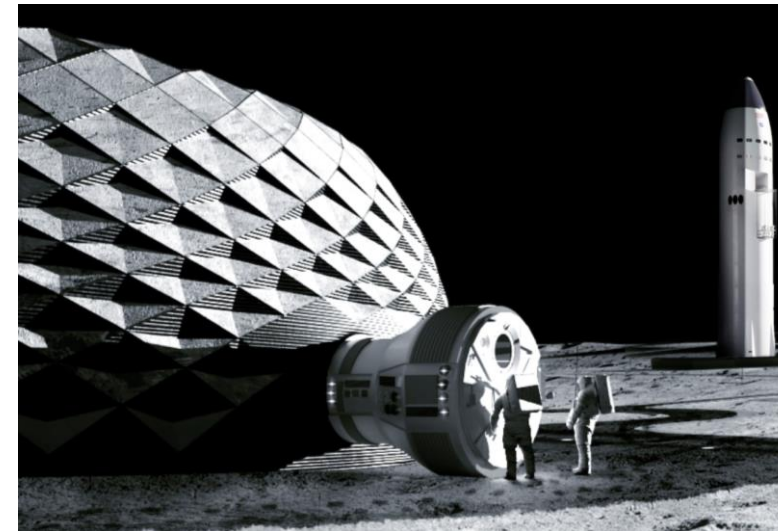
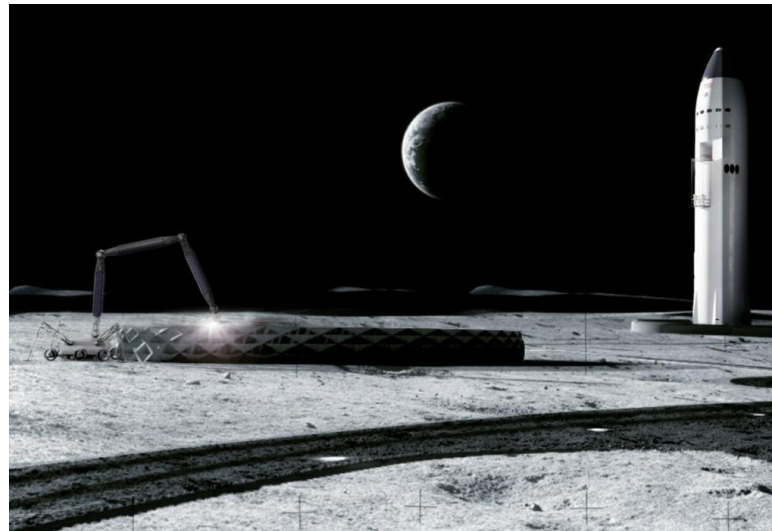
- *Solar Power Harvested in Space | Converted to Microwaves | Sent to Earth-Based Receiving Stations*
- *Advantage of Permanent Availability of Energy Regardless of Weather or Time of Day – No Storage (!)*



- *Several International Programs (ESA, JAXA, NASA, CNSA, etc.)*
- *Caltech — Space Solar Power Prototype Launched into Orbit in 2023*
- *Demonstration of Ability to Beam Detectable Power to Earth*

3D-Printing of Lunar Habitats

- *Lunar Regolith Processed Into Building Material — Local 3D-Printing of Habitats*
- *Extreme Temp. Swings of 120° C ... -220° C & Frequent Strikes by Micrometeorites*
- *No Protective Magnetic Shield / Ionizing Radiation from Sun & Deep Space*

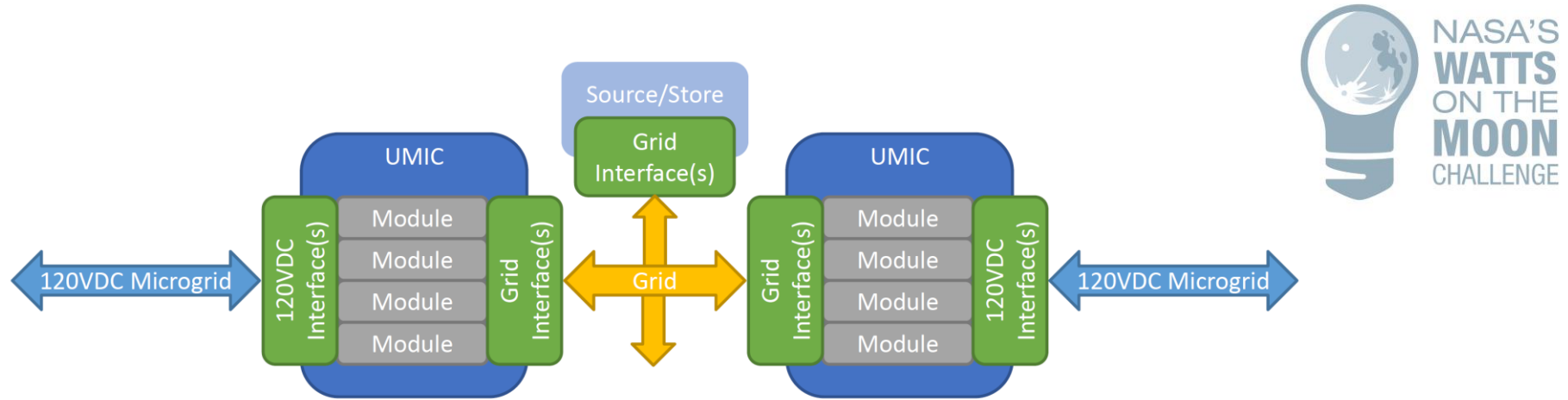


Source: **ikon**

- *Regenerative Closed-Loop Life Support Systems | Wireless Connections to El. Power System*
- *NASA "LunaGrid"— km-Range MV Transmission btw μ -Grids w/ Solar Power Gen. & Storage & Loads*

Lunar Power Distribution

- 28 Days Rot. / 2 Weeks of Darkness — Lunar Base Placed @ South Pole for Continuous Sunlight
- Tether-Based MV Grid for Connecting Islanded Microgrids Comprising Generation-Storage-Loads
- Power Beaming for Robotic Exploration of Craters & WPT Rover Charging Outposts



- Example of Univ. Modular Microgrid Definition & Interface Conv. for Planetary Surfaces – UMIC/UMIPS
- Bidir. Converter Interface btw Transmission Voltage (typ. 1.5 kV_{DC}) & Prim. Distribution Voltage (120V_{DC})
- Power Levels btw. 100+ kW for In-Situ Resource Utiliz. / Mining - 50...100 kW / Habitat - 1...5 kW / Rover

Lunar Cruiser

- *Contribution of JAXA (Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency) & Toyota to NASA Artemis Program*
- *Pressurized Vehicle | 13 m³ Living Space for 2 ... 4 Astronauts | 10'000 km Range*

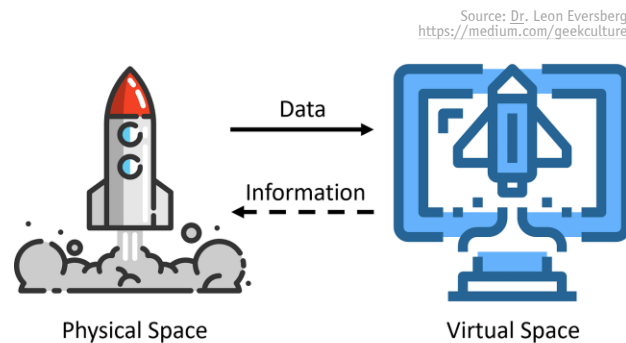


- *10 Tons | 6 m x 5.2 m x 3.8 m | Metal Tires*
- *Fuel-Cell EV Technologies (Lunar Nights) | H₂O Electrolysis System (Mitsubishi) for H₂ Production*



The Future of Education & Engineering

- **Digital Twin (DT)** — *Virtual Representation of Physical Syst. Updated w/ Real-Time Data — IIoT / Industry 4.0*
- **Cognitive DT (CDT)** — *Cognitive Capabilities / Autonomy / Continuous Evolvement / Full Lifecycle Coverage*

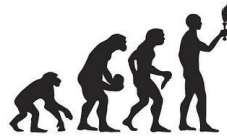
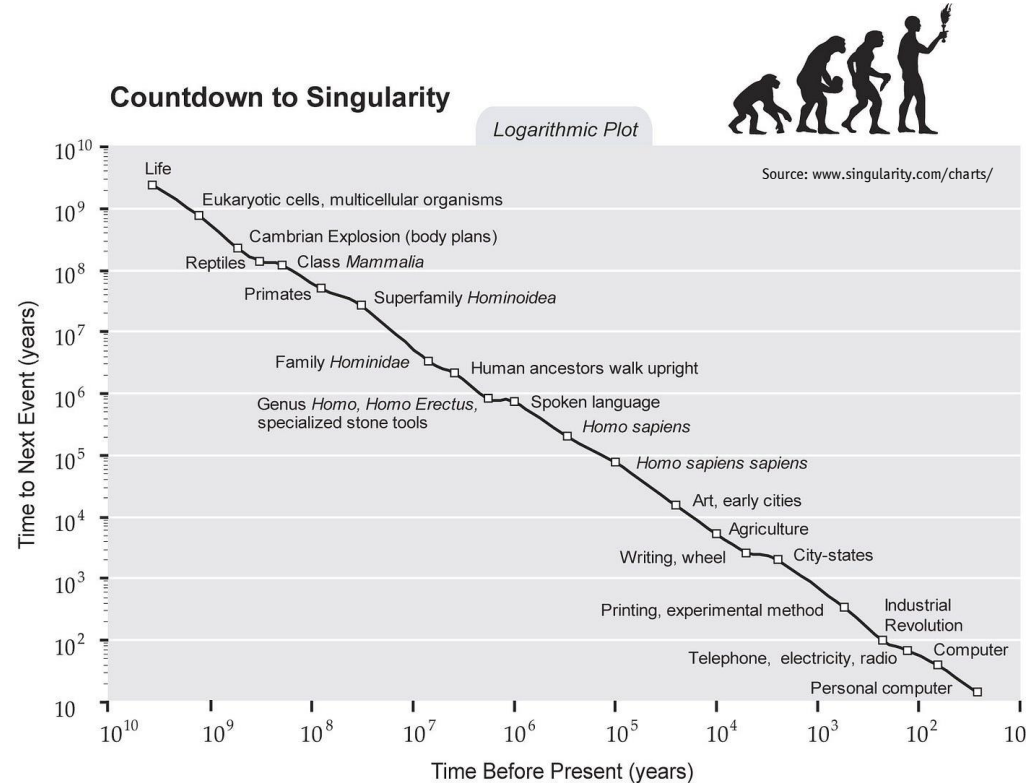


Source: www.twi-global.com

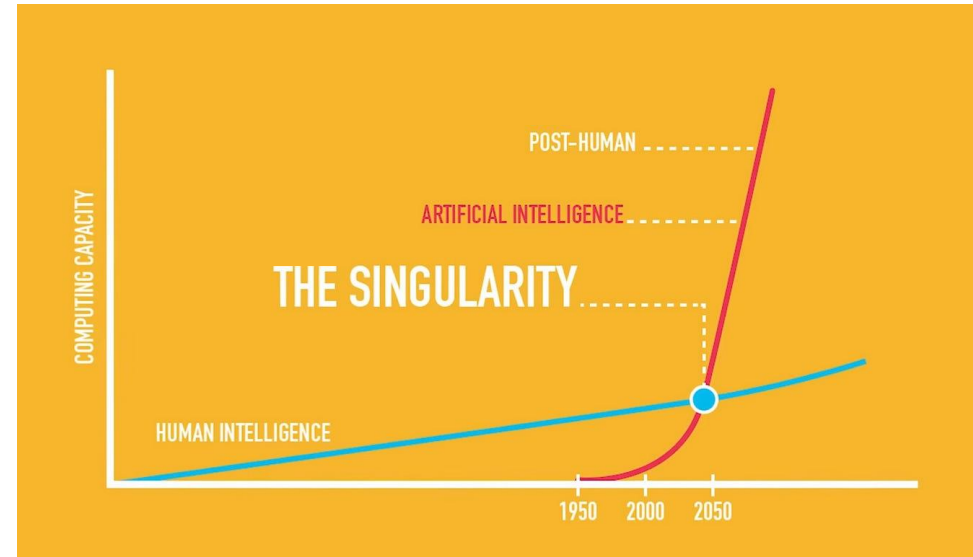
- **Students Grow Their (!) CDT Throughout College & Academia**
- **CDT Retains Record of Learned & Add. Acquired Knowledge / Knows Anything-Anytime-Anywhere / Is Immortal (!)**
- **Personalized Generative AI Assistance** — *Potentially Disrupting Engineering & Education on All Levels*

Countdown to Technological Singularity (?)

- **Each Generation Builds on Previously Achieved Results — Accelerating Exponential Growth of Technologies**
- **Documented by Biological & Technological Evolution Milestones — «The Singularity is Near», Ray Kurzweil, 2005**



Source: <https://getgetner.com/uploads/futurist.jpg>

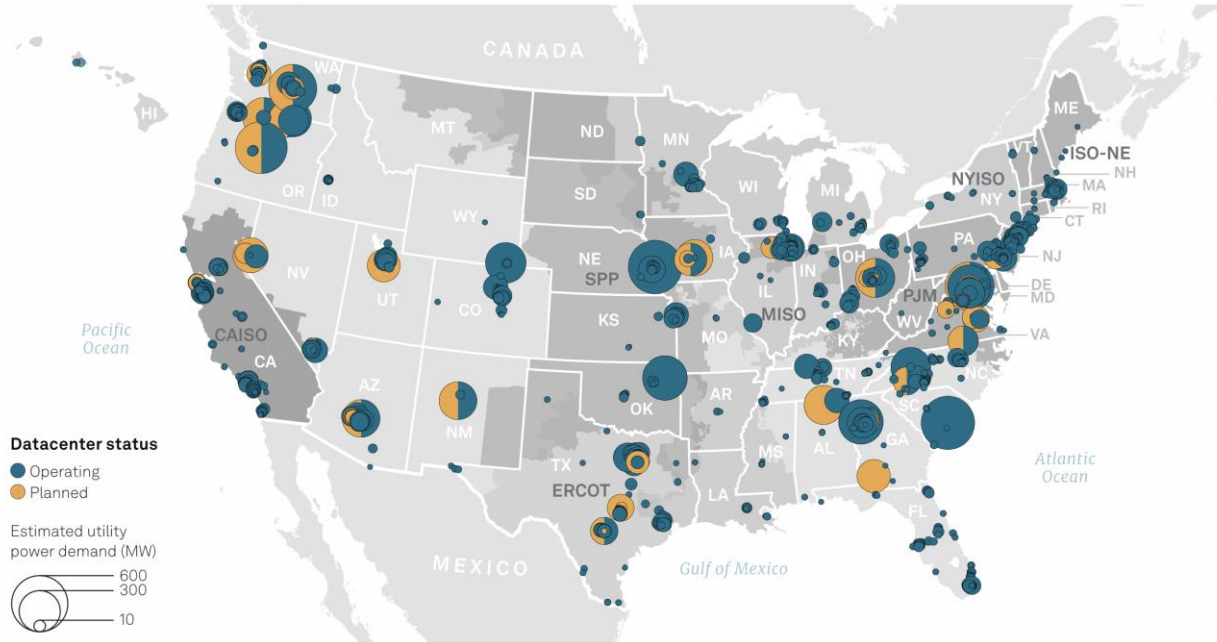


- **Singularity (2045) — AI-Based Creation of a Self-Aware Machine Intelligence Capable of Recursive Self-Improvement**
- **Uncontrollable / Irreversible Technological Growth — Potential Massive Social & Geo-Political Consequences (!)**

Remark Future Gigawatt-Scale Datacenters

- **Explosion of AI — « Hyperscale » Datacenters Evolving into « Exascale »**
- **Gigawatt Power Levels Despite High Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE)**

AI is expected to drive more power demand from datacenters



Sources: S&P Global Market Intelligence; 451 Research; S&P Global Commodity Insights

- **Plans for 2.5 ... 6 Gigawatt Campuses Co-Located w/ Nuclear Power Facilities —**  **BALANCING ENERGY**
- **Collaboration w/ Utilities — Datacenters as Responsive Loads for Balancing Solar & Wind Power**

GREAT Challenges Require GREAT Answers (!)

- *Shut Down Skepticism / Don't Catastrophize — We Need Visions & Utopian Dreams*

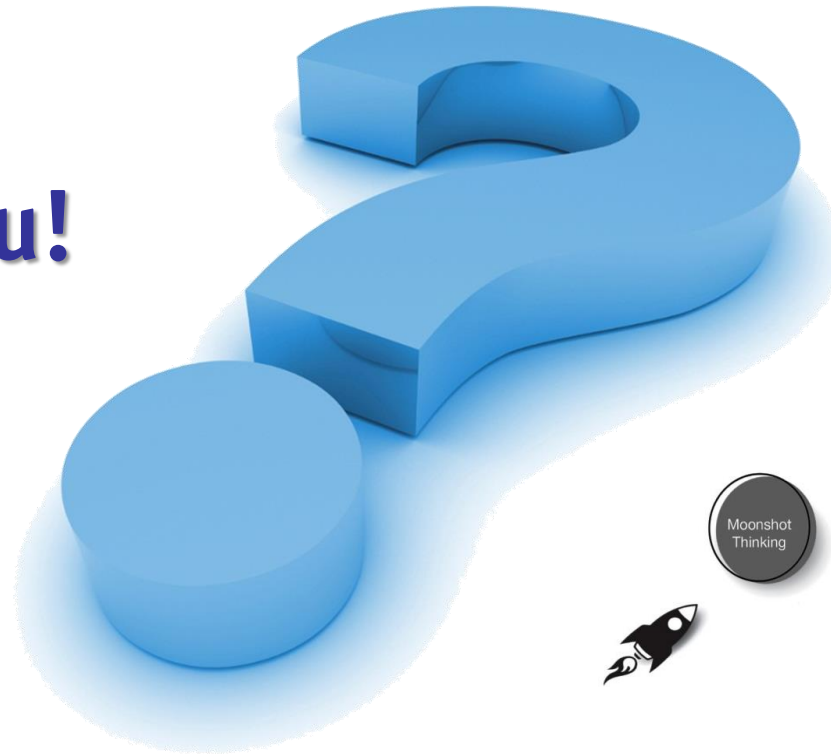


Shoot for the
* * * * *
* * **MOON** * * * * *
* * * * *
EVEN IF YOU MISS
* * * * *
* * you'll still land
* * * * *
AMONG THE * * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * * **STARS** * * * * *

Source: www.redbubble.com

- *The Dream of Yesterday is the Hope of Today and the Reality of Tomorrow (R. Goddard)*

Thank you!



Source:
www.terencemaui.com