

# Printed Organic Solar Cells: Pathway and Challenges to Competitive LCOE

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# Company Overview

### **Key Facts:**

- > Founded in 2002
- ➤ Based in Pittsburgh, PA USA
- Approximately 70 employees
- ➤ 190+ individual and pending patents worldwide
- > Strategic Investors:





## **Business Model:**

Develop and manufacture highperformance inks and leading-edge materials for printed electronics

## **Core Capabilities:**

- Molecular design & synthesis
- Scaled polymer manufacturing
- High purity ink formulation
- Large-area processing expertise
- ➤ World class quality:



ISO 9001:2008 No. 43632

### **Target Markets:**

- ➤ OLED Lighting & Displays
- > Printed Solar Power

### **Product Lines:**

Plexcore® OC: Hole Injection Layer (HIL) ink for OLED lighting and displays

Plexcore® PV: Ink systems for OPV solar cells including matched Photoactive (p/n) ink and Hole Transport Layer (HTL) ink

Plexcore® OS: P3HT polymer powder for OPV and transistors





# Outline

- OPV and enabling low LCOE
- Commercial activities for OPV at Plextronics
  - Efficiency
  - Lifetime
- OPV and future LCOE prospects
- OPV Industry Commercialization Gaps (Breakthroughs to accelerate progress)



## OPV can achieve lowest LCOE

Pathway to lowest LCOE needs to focus on low cost materials for high-throughput processes

- Cost High throughput
   manufacturing lowers
   module cost
  - For R2R, materials costs dominate

# **LCOE**

\$/kWh

# Efficiency

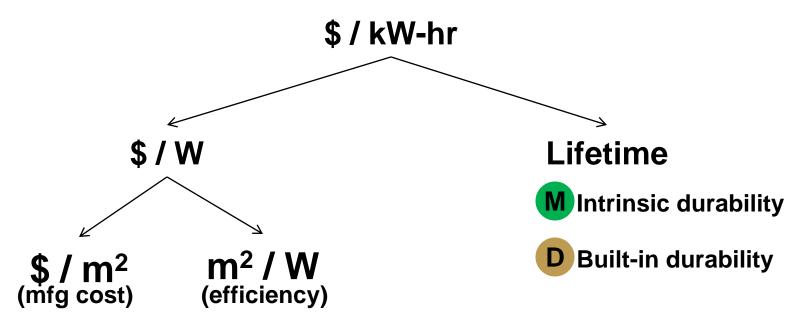
Higher efficiency = more kW's per module

## Lifetime

Longer lifetime = more kWh's per module

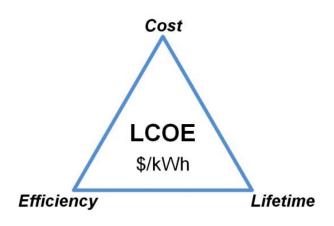


# **OPV** Technology Challenges



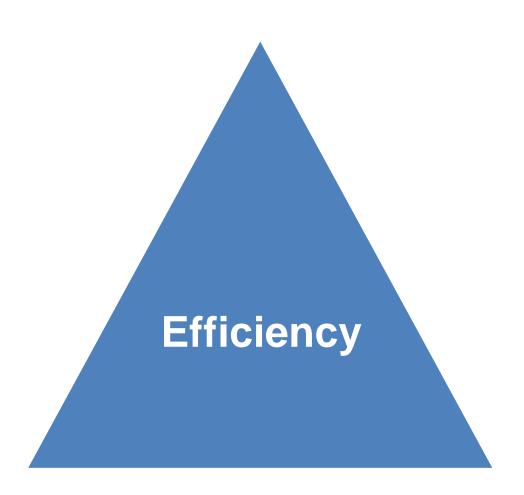
- M >50% of COGS M Key lever
- D Simple is better D Simple is better
- P High throughput

Need to focus on development of low cost, high efficiency materials compatible with high-throughput mfg. processes





# Keys to OPV Commercialization





# Plexcore® PV Ink System for Organic Photovoltaics



## Plexcore® PV 1000 Series

Standard Ink System for OPV Applications
Typical Performance\*: 3.0% - 4.0% Efficiency

## Plexcore® PV 2000 Series

High-Performance Ink System for OPV Applications
Typical Performance\*: 4.5% - 5.5% Efficiency

Various inks
available for
different
commercial coating
processes

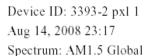
## Ready-to-Use Ink System commonly used for:

- Process development and scaling
- Novel architecture discovery
- Achieving world-leading performance

<sup>\*</sup> Performance achieved in Plextronics' lab-based single junction OPV cells and provided for informational purposes only.

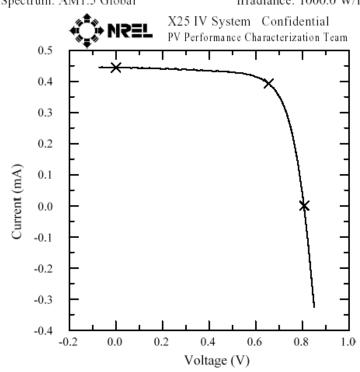


# Plexcore PV 2000 NREL Certified at 5.98%



Device Temperature: 25.0 ± 1.0 °C

Device Area: 0.043 cm<sup>2</sup> Irradiance: 1000.0 W/m<sup>2</sup>



Polymer-based OPV Solar Cell

Single Photoactive Layer OPV Cell

NREL Certified at 5.98%

Aperture = 0.043 cm<sup>2</sup> Cell Size ~ 0.1 cm<sup>2</sup>

$$V_{oc} = 0.8079 \text{ V}$$

$$I_{\text{max}} = 0.39258 \text{ mA}$$

$$I_{sc} = 0.44438 \text{ mA}$$

$$V_{max} = 0.6553 \text{ V}$$

$$J_{sc} = 10.321 \text{ mA/cm}^2$$

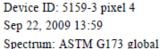
$$P_{\text{max}} = 0.25724 \text{ mW}$$

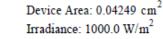


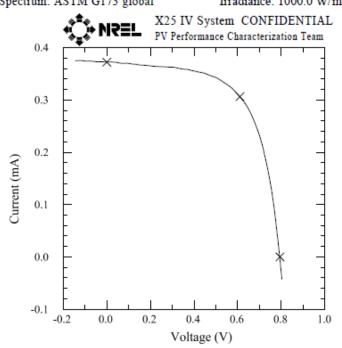
X25 IV System
PV Performance Characterization Team

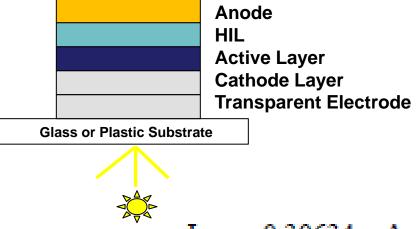


# Plexcore PV 2000 Ink System in Inverted OPV Architecture (R2R-Friendly)









$$V_{oc} = 0.7942 \text{ V}$$
  
 $I_{sc} = 0.37227 \text{ mA}$   
 $J_{sc} = 8.7614 \text{ mA/cm}^2$   
Fill Factor = 63.27 %

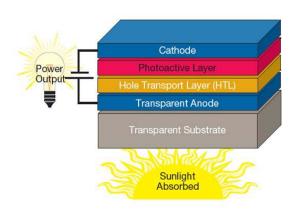
$$I_{max} = 0.30634 \text{ mA}$$
 $V_{max} = 0.6107 \text{ V}$ 
 $P_{max} = 0.18707 \text{ mW}$ 
Efficiency = 4.40 %

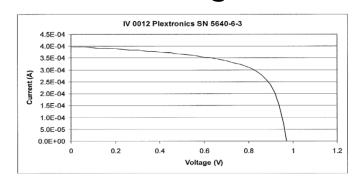
## Plexcore PV 2000 achieves 4.4% efficiency

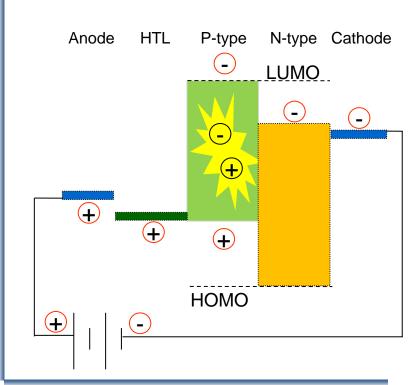
- Inverted ZnO-based device with vapor deposited silver anode
- Voltage significantly improved over P3HT/PCBM
- Plexcore HIL utilized for spin coat on active layer



# Beyond PV 2000, Low Band-Gap Systems with Matched HIL Enable High Performance







$I_{x}$	393 ± 8 μA
$V_{oc}$	0.97 ± 0.02 V
Area	$0.0396 \pm 0.0001 \text{ cm}^2$
Efficiency	(6.2 ± 0.2)%

#### Voc

- Driven by HOMO-LUMO and HTL WF
- Very Low Loss system, Eg = 1.75, Voc = 1.0 V

#### <u>Isc</u>

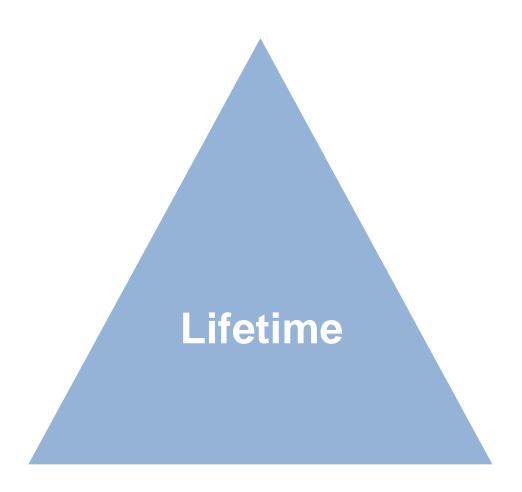
- Driven by polymer absorption character
- EQE > 60%, absorption edge ~ 710 nm

#### Efficiency

- 6.2% verified; Newer results to be reported
- Leverages Plexcore OC HTL for high Voc
- Plextronics is developing several scalable, high efficiency platform materials



# Commercializing OPV





## ISOS 2010 @ Roskilde, Denmark October 25-27 2010

https://conferences.dtu.dk/conferenceDisplay.py?confld=35





April 19 - 23, 2010 • Roskilde, Denmark





















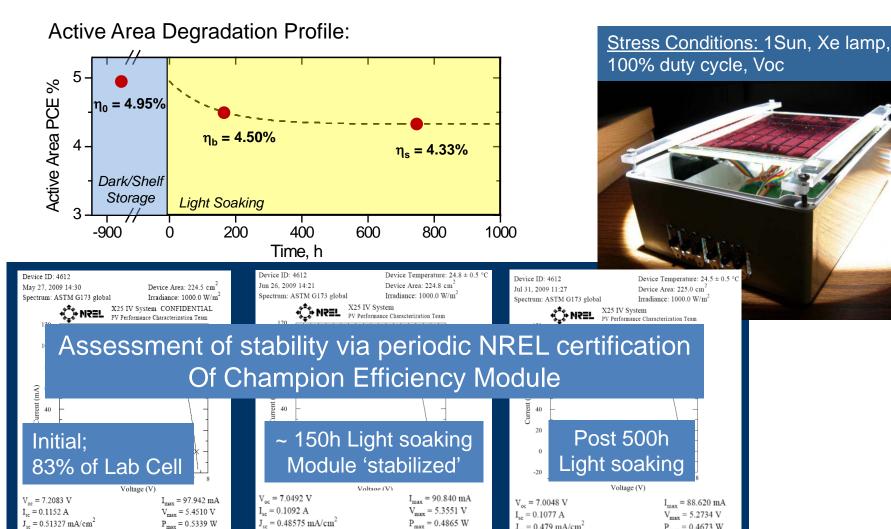


# NREL-Verified OPV Module Lifetime (~'1yr')

(Plexcore PV2000 ink system)

 $J_{sc} = 0.479 \text{ mA/cm}^2$ 

Fill Factor = 61.96 %



Efficiency = 2.16 %



 $J_{sc} = 0.51327 \text{ mA/cm}^2$ 

Fill Factor = 64.27 %

X25 IV System

Efficiency = 2.38 %

PV Performance Characterization Team

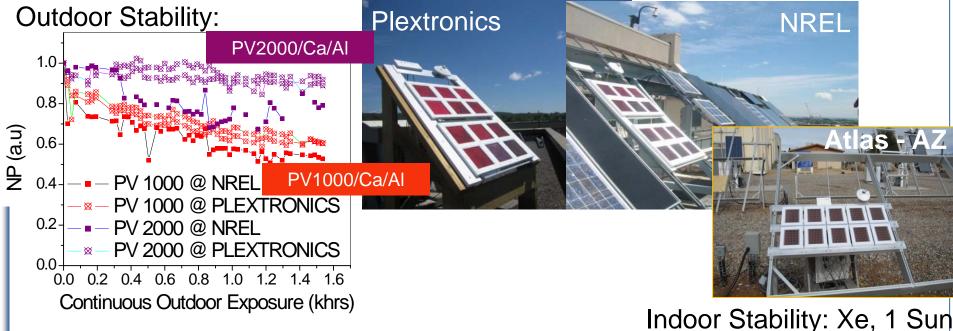
Fill Factor = 63.21 %

 $P_{max} = 0.4673 \text{ W}$ 

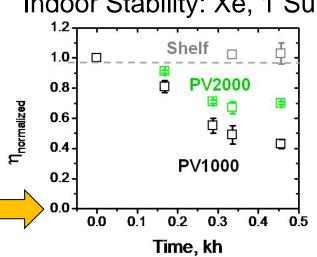
Efficiency = 2.08 %



# Fullerene Dependent Stability of OPV Cells: P3HT:PCBM vs. P3HT:bis-indene[c60]

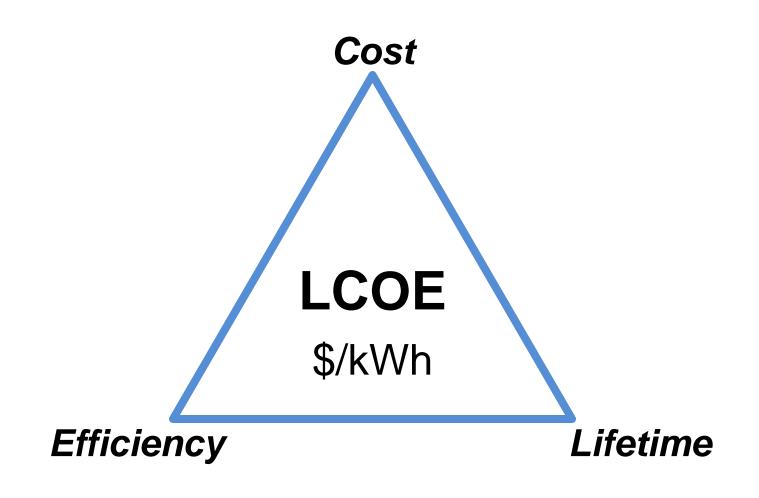


- PV2000 exhibits improved stability over PV1000
- Plex degradation slower than @ NREL
  - Higher Irradiance is initial primary suspect
  - 35% higher irradiance in CO vs. PA
- Consistent with indoor testing





## OPV can achieve lowest LCOE





Sub \$0.50/W is a Key Target

\$ / kW-hr

me		<i>y</i>	$\rightarrow$	
mprovements over time	Module Efficiency	Lifetime	Module Cost	LCOE
ents (	5%	5 year	\$1.25 / W	n/a
vem	5%	10 year	\$1.00 / W	\$.35 / kWh
mpro	7%	15 year	\$.75 / W	\$.17 / kWh
	10%	20 year	\$.50 / W	\$.10 / kWh

**OPV** performance improvements drive lower LCOE.



Sub \$0.50/W is a Key Target

**\$ / kW-hr** 

Module Efficiency	Lifetime	Module Cost	LCOE
5%	5 year	\$1.25 / W	n/a
5%	10 year	\$1.00 / W	\$.35 / kWh
7%	15 year	\$.75 / W	\$.17 / kWh
10%	20 year	\$.50 / W	\$.10 / kWh

Initial offerings meets requirements for off-grid markets.



Sub \$0.50/W is a Key Target

**\$ / kW-hr** 

Module Efficiency	Lifetime	Module Cost	LCOE
5%	5 year	¢1 25 / \\\	n/a
5%	10 year	\$1.00 / W	\$.35 / kWh
7%	15 year	\$.75 / W	\$.17 / kWh
10%	20 year	\$.50 / W	\$.10 / kWh

Performance increases drive BIPV applications and on-grid projects (in higher cost markets).



Sub \$0.50/W is a Key Target

## **\$ / kW-hr**

rate /		***	<b>———</b>	
to Accelerate < \$0.50/W	Module Efficiency	Lifetime	Module Cost	LCOE
hs to , to < \$	5%	5 year	\$1.25 / W	n/a
Breakthroughs Progress to	5%	10 year	\$1.00 / W	\$.35 / kWh
reaktl Pro	7%	15 year	\$ 75 / \N/	\$.17 / kWh
m	10%	20 year	\$.50 / W	\$.10 / kWh

Ultimately, OPV provides a cost structure which is better than grid competitive



# OPV Industry Commercialization Gaps Funding Opportunities for Acceleration

### **Need to drive:**

High module efficiency (>5% at production)

- >10% lab cells (8% current SOA)
- R2R-Friendly high performance device stacks
- Translate performance from lab to R2R processes
- Large-area module design (low electrical losses, aperture ratio, etc)

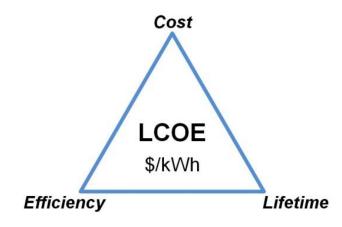
## <u>And</u>

- > 10 years device stability
  - Understand fundamentals of metal/organic contact interactions
  - Reduce device sensitivity to water/oxygen
  - Elucidate & Mitigate photochemical-related degradation processes

## <u>And</u>

### Low materials cost

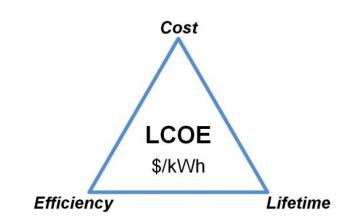
- Scale materials to multi-kilogram production
- Utilize production processes with
  - High throughput
  - High materials utilization



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## Thank You

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