

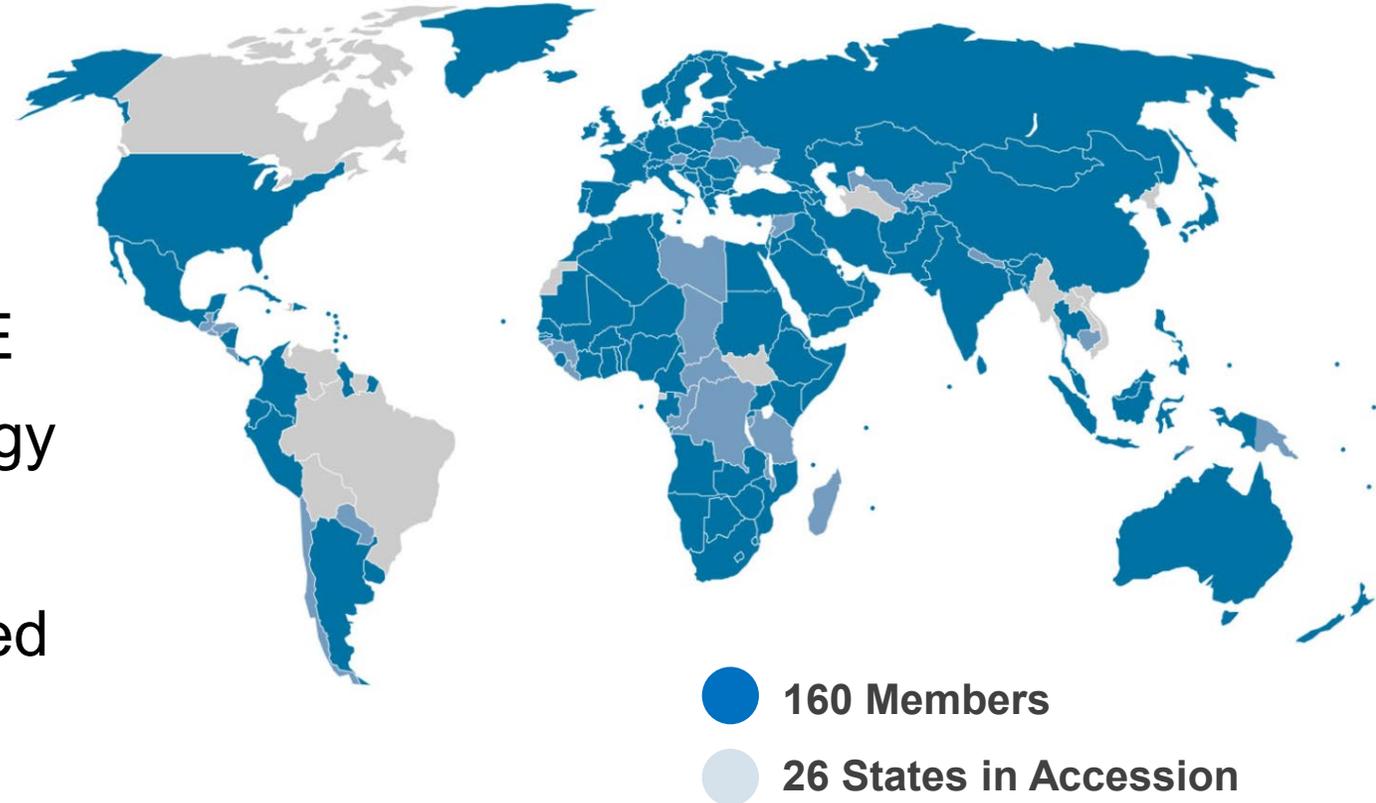


# Innovation Outlook and Trends in Renewable Energy

Dr. Roland Roesch – Deputy Director IRENA Innovation and Technology Center

III Semana de la Energía  
10. December 2018  
Montevideo, Uruguay

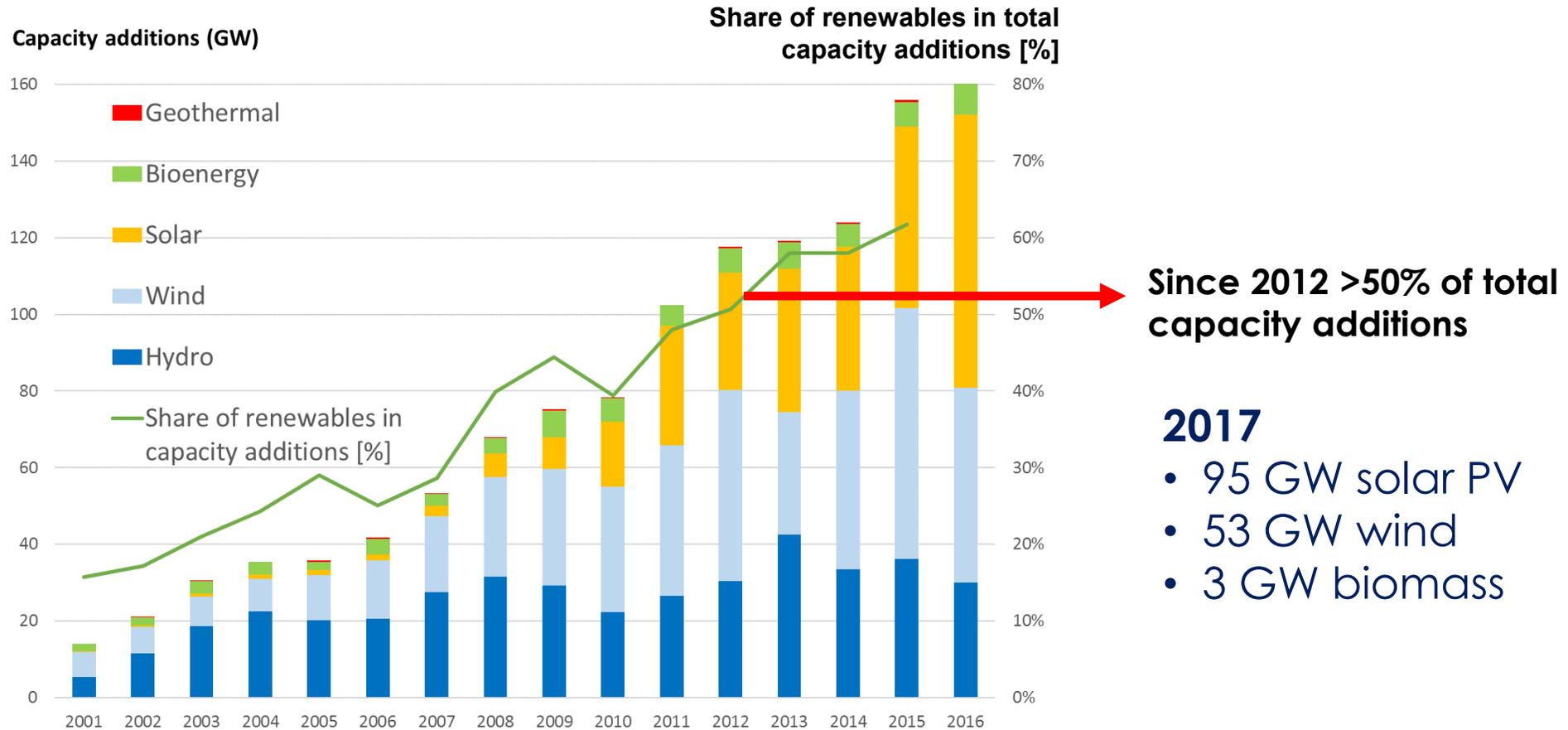
- Inter-governmental agency established in 2011
- Headquarters in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre – Bonn, Germany
- Permanent Observer to the United Nations – New York



**Mandate: Assist countries to accelerate renewable energy deployment**

# 1 GLOBAL TRENDS

# On-going power sector transformation

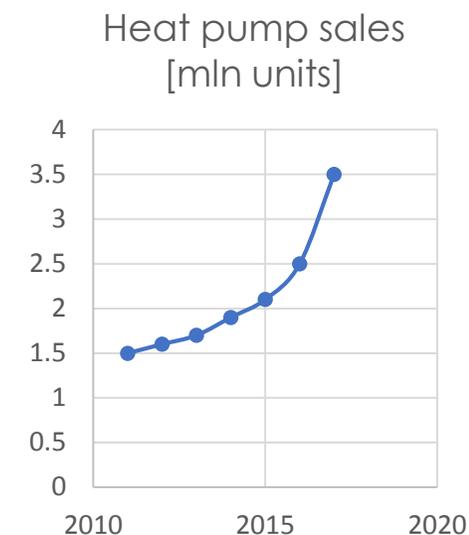
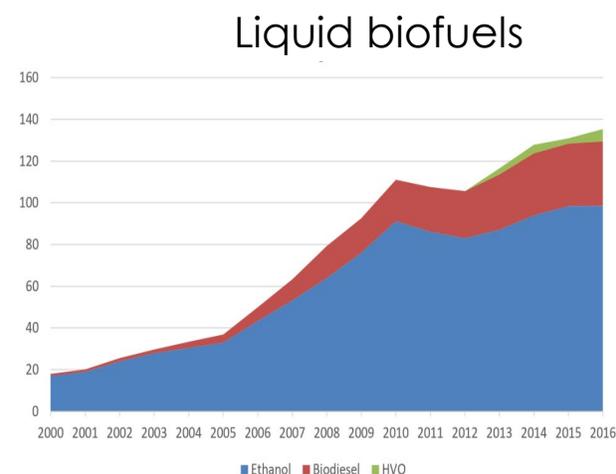
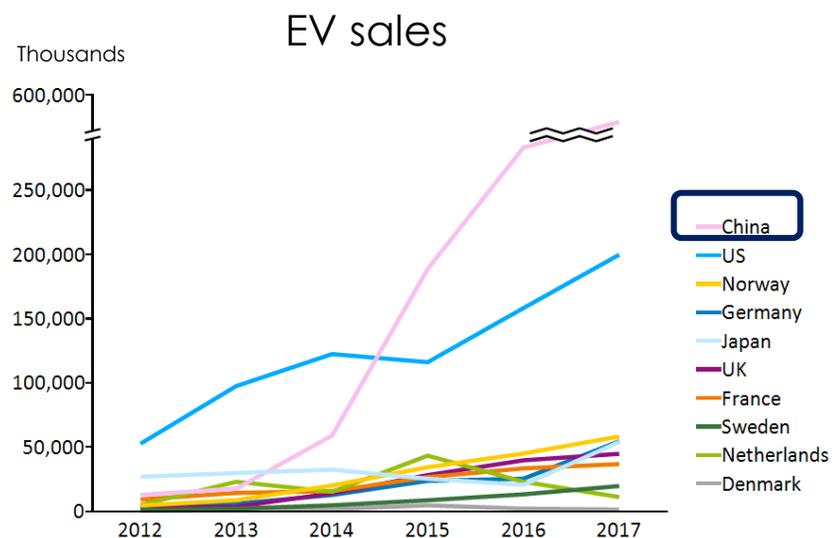


Source: IRENA statistics

- Around 25% renewable power generation share worldwide
- Growing by 0.7 percentage points per year

# Energy transition in the end use sectors

- Strong growth of electromobility – 1.2 million EVs sold in 2017
- Heat pump sales in the residential sector have been increasing
- New approaches to solar thermal (hybrid systems, storage)
- Corporate sourcing, maximized residential self-consumption
- Sector coupling and Power-to-X
- Continued growth for biogas



# 2 ECONOMICS

# Renewable power rapidly becoming competitive

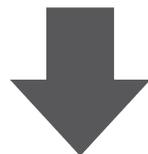
Cost reduction in the period  
2010 - 2017



**73%**  
Solar PV



**23%**  
Onshore  
Wind



Expected cost reduction in the period  
2015 - 2025



**54%**   **37%**  
Solar PV   CSP



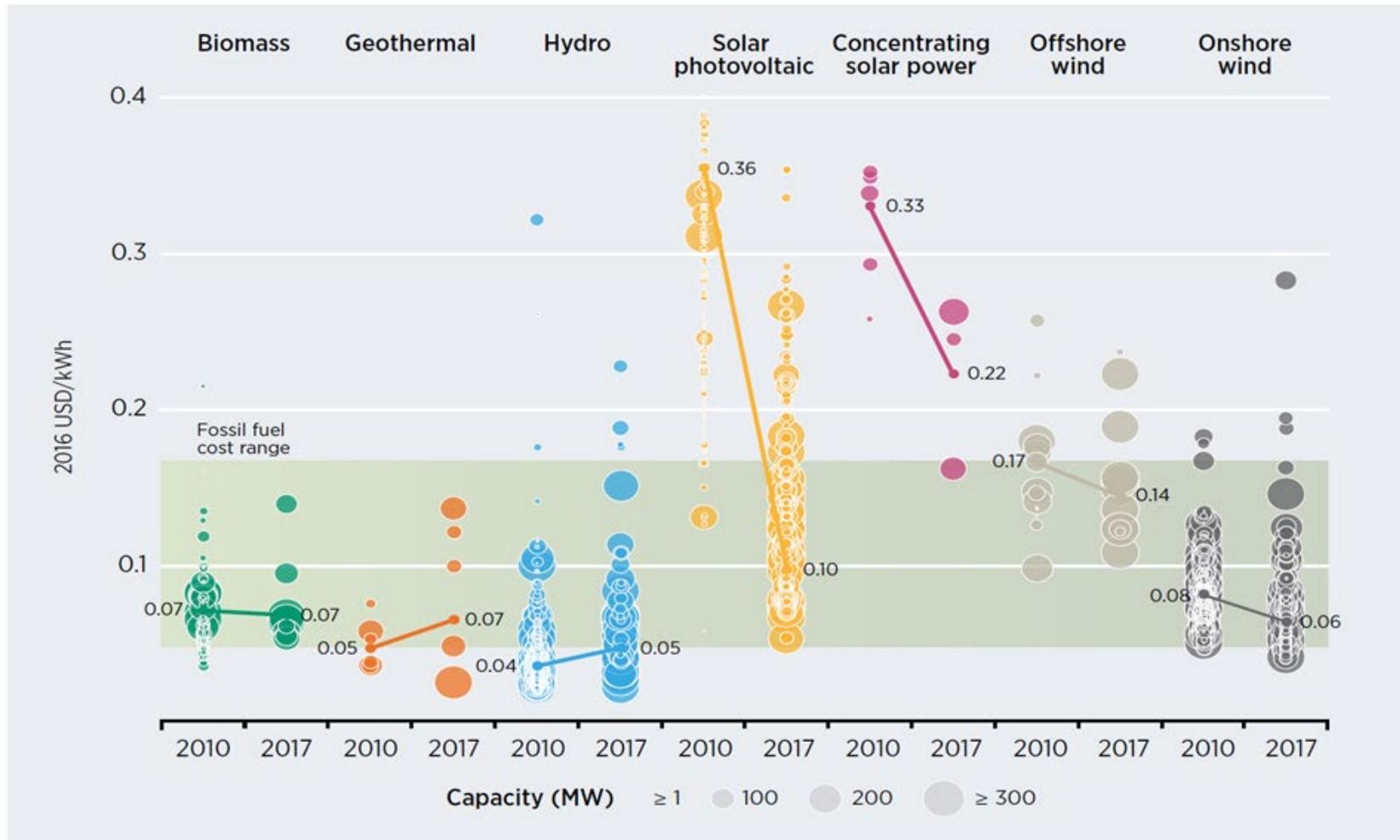
**15%**   **12%**  
Offshore  
Wind   Onshore  
Wind



- All renewable power options will compete with fossil fuels on price by 2020
- Wind and PV are abundant and available in most countries

# Today's strong business case for renewable power

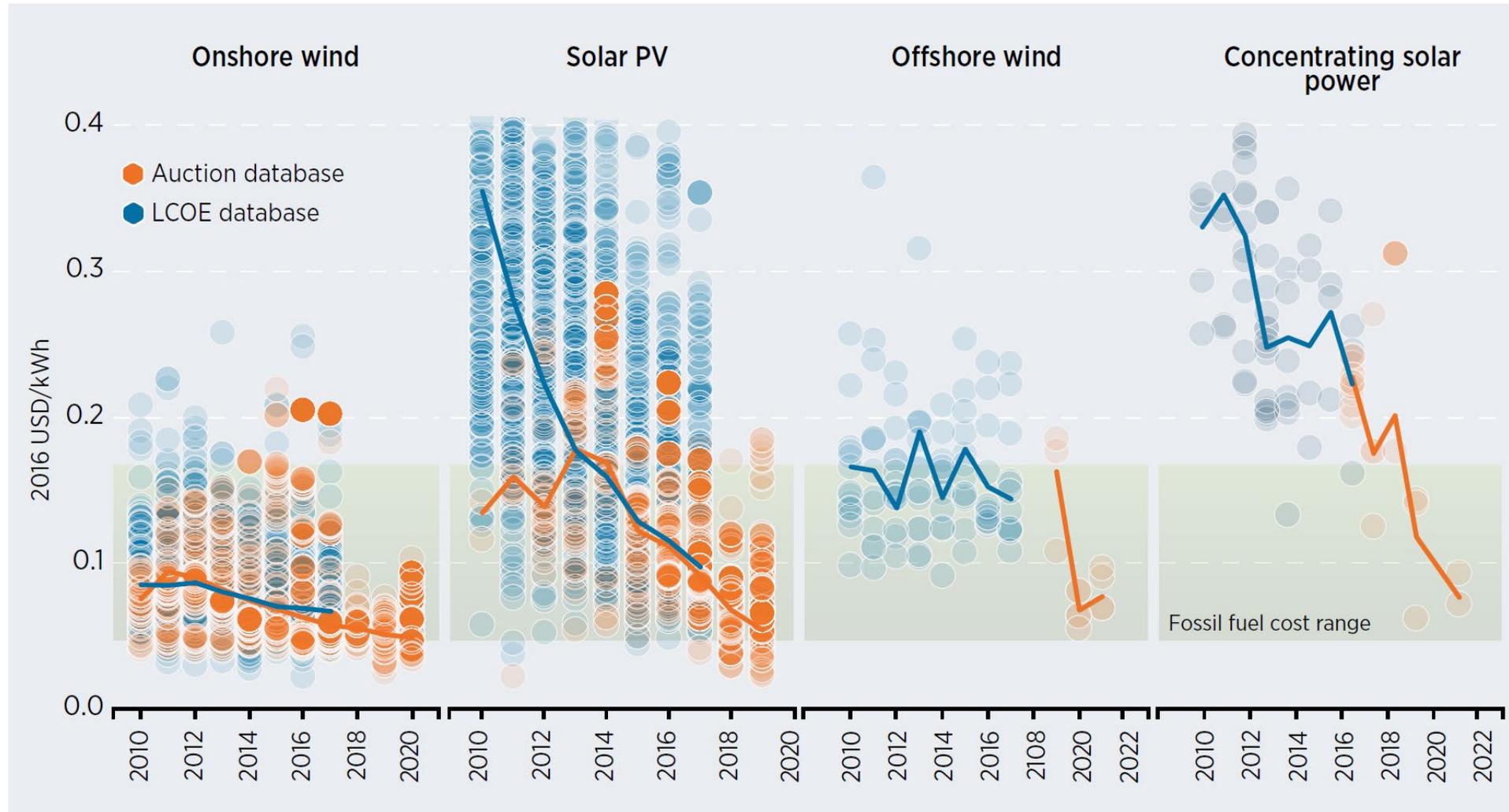
Levelised cost of electricity (LCOE) for renewable power between 2010 and 2016



Rapid cost reduction – PV: 80% reduction in the last 6 years

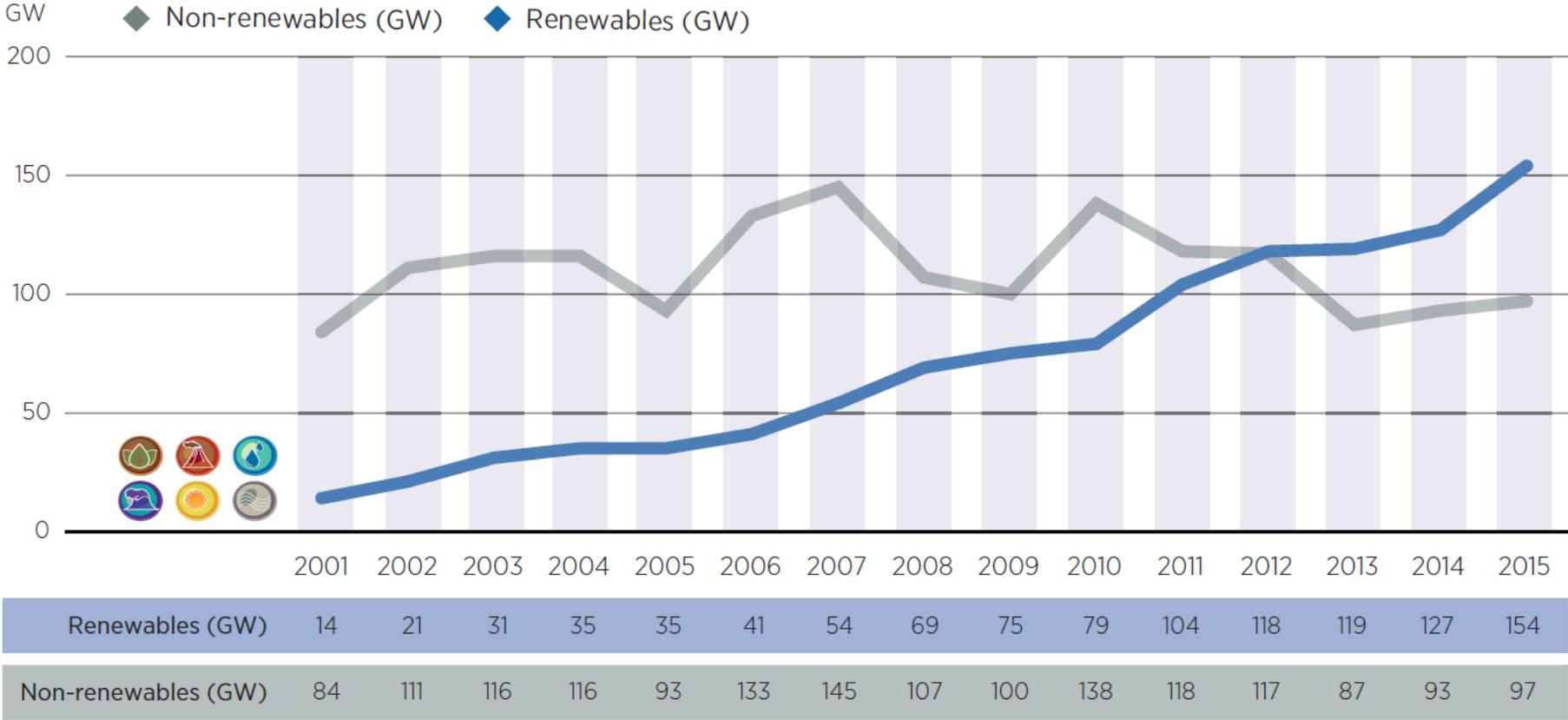
# Solar & Wind: LCOE/Auction Price Evolution Overview

## Continued rapid cost reduction in the coming years



# Investments in renewable power have surpassed the ones in fossil fuels

RE represents 60% of the total new capacity investments in the last two years

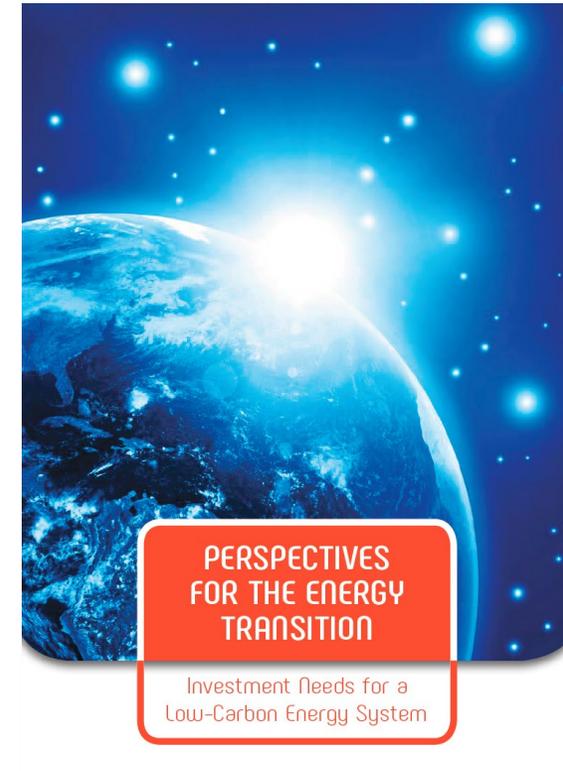


Source: IRENA (2017) Rethinking Energy

2016: **242 USD billion**. Solar PV and wind leading

# 3 ENERGY TRANSITION NEEDS

- At the request of the German G20 Presidency
- To inform decarbonization Action Plan discussion in G20
- Study prepared by IRENA in cooperation with IEA
- Publication released March 2017 during Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue

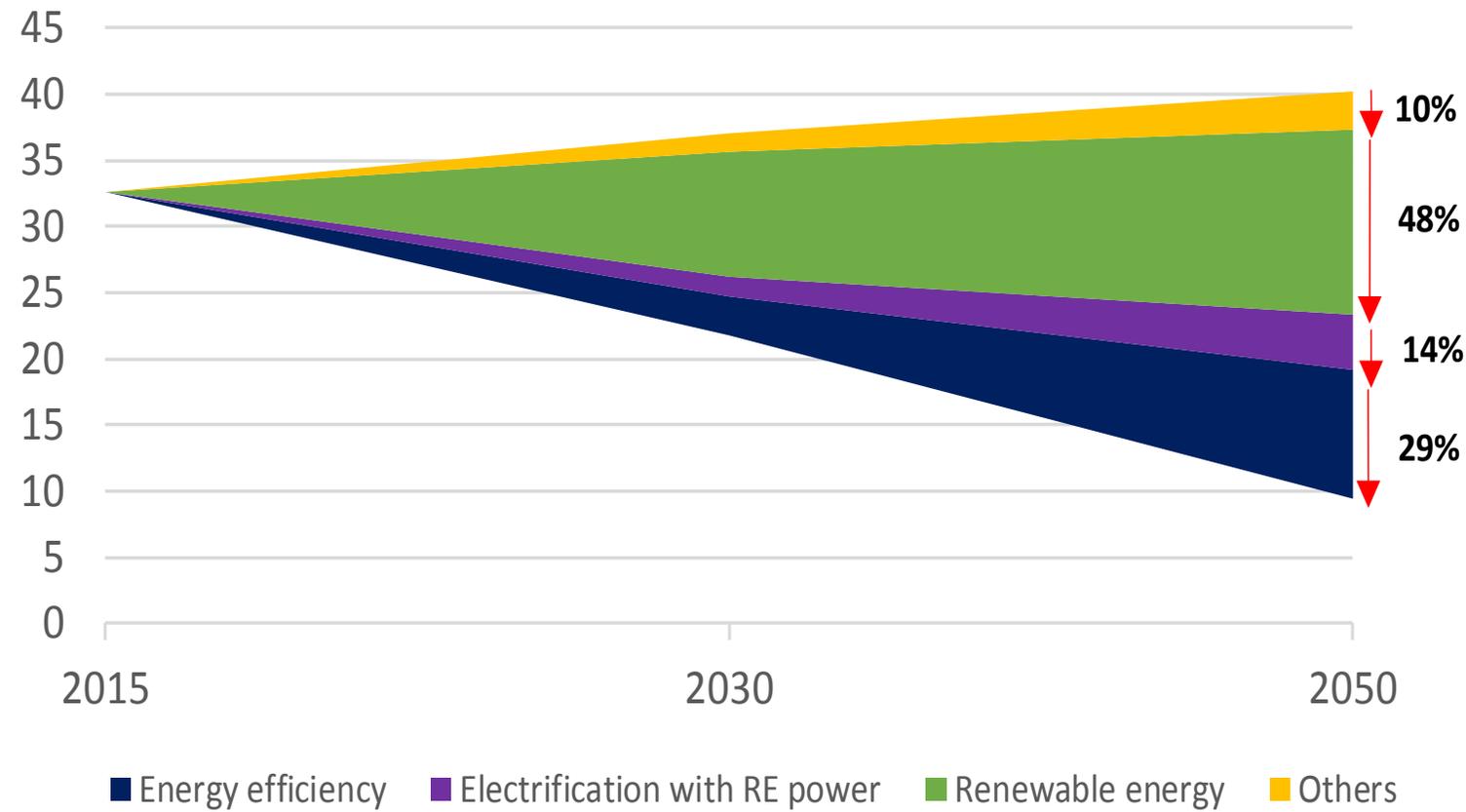


March 2017

# Energy accounts for two-thirds of total greenhouse gas emissions

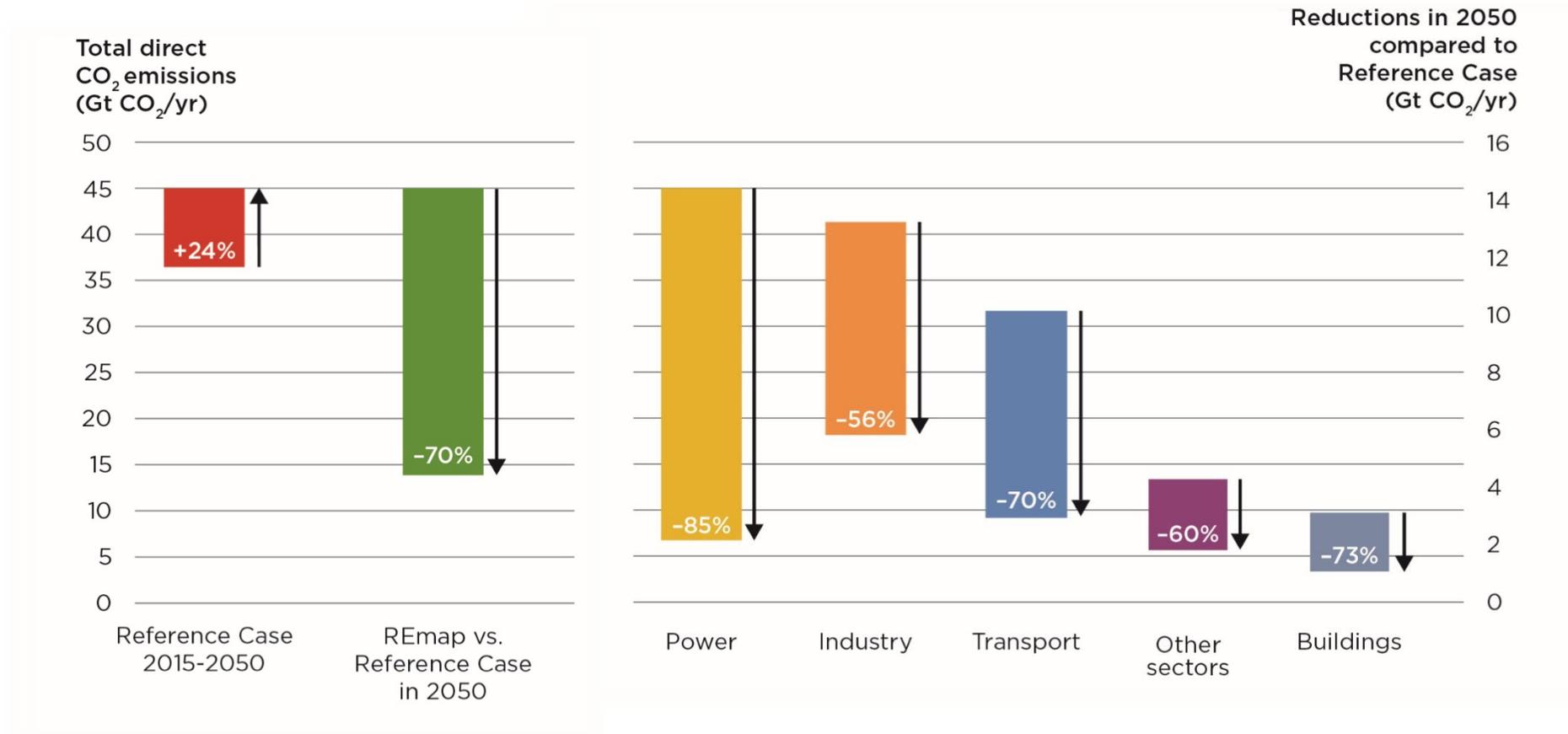
To meet 2°C climate target set at COP 21 in Paris 2015

## Total energy CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all sectors (Gt CO<sub>2</sub>/yr)



- Carbon Emissions of energy:
  - needs to fall by 85% in 2015-2050
- Energy-emission budget:
  - 790 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> from 2015 till 2100
  - *At current emissions rate, carbon budget would be consumed by 2040*
  - RE and EE can achieve 90% of emission reductions needed by 2050
  - The growth rate in terms of **renewable share per year will need to increase seven-fold** over past rates

# CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector: REmap relative to the Reference Case

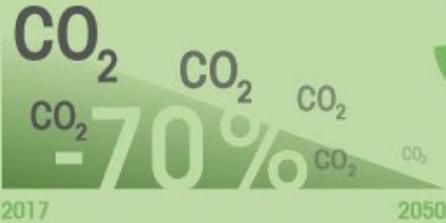


By 2050, total energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will need to decrease to below 10 Gt. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the power and buildings sectors will be almost eliminated.

Industry and transport would be the main sources of emissions in 2050.

# Innovation to Decarbonise the Energy Sector

## Goals



- Reduce energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by nearly 70% by 2050
- **Keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees**

## 1 Drive renewable energy cost reduction

- Innovation progress since 2010
  - **Solar photovoltaic (PV) module costs** – reduced by 80%
  - **Wind turbine costs** – reduced by 30–40%

## 2 Enhance technology performance

### • Today's renewable energy technologies:

- Need to grow renewable energy share 1.2% yearly to reach 2050 climate goals
- Could provide 2/3 of the world's primary energy supply

### • What about the remaining 1/3?

## 3 Integrate high shares of renewable energy in power systems



- **Enabling technologies**
- New ways to **operate** systems
- Innovative **business models** + **market designs**

## 4 Create new breakthroughs for end-use sectors

- **Find affordable, scalable solutions**
- **Develop low-carbon technologies for:**
  - aviation
  - heavy industry
  - road transport
  - shipping

## Action needed now:



- **Governments**
  - encourage private sector innovation
- **Developing new technologies**
  - requires decades
  - **R&D → demonstration → market**
- **Innovation goes beyond technology**
  - creating new businesses; system integration; wealth creation

# ...but materialising its potential require additional efforts in system integration

## The power sector

paradigm changes,  
creating challenges to  
integrate high share of  
variable renewable  
energy in the system

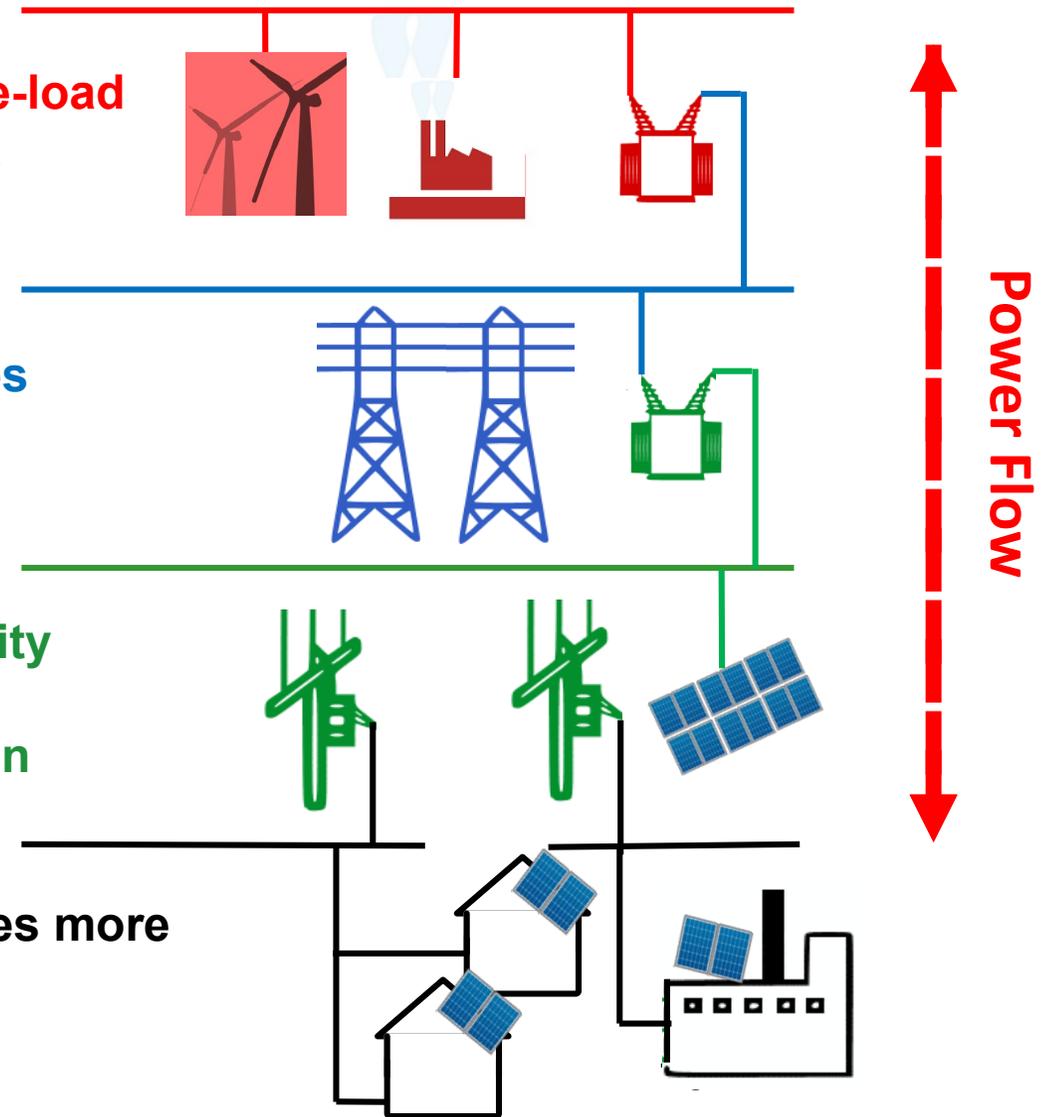
System operation regime  
is changing

The traditional base-load  
generation concept  
disappears

The system requires  
flexibility

The flow of electricity  
becomes bi-  
directional at certain  
moments in time

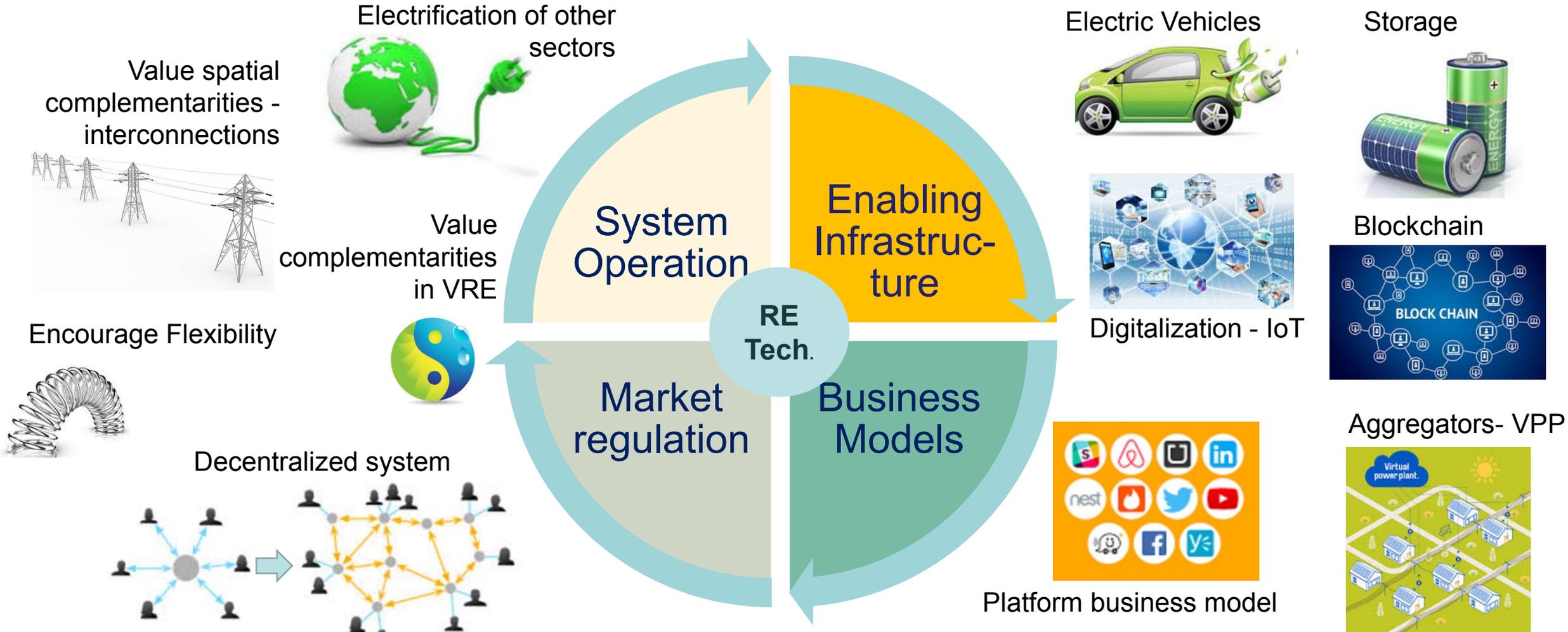
Generation becomes more  
decentralized



# **4 THE ENERGY INNOVATION PANORAMA**

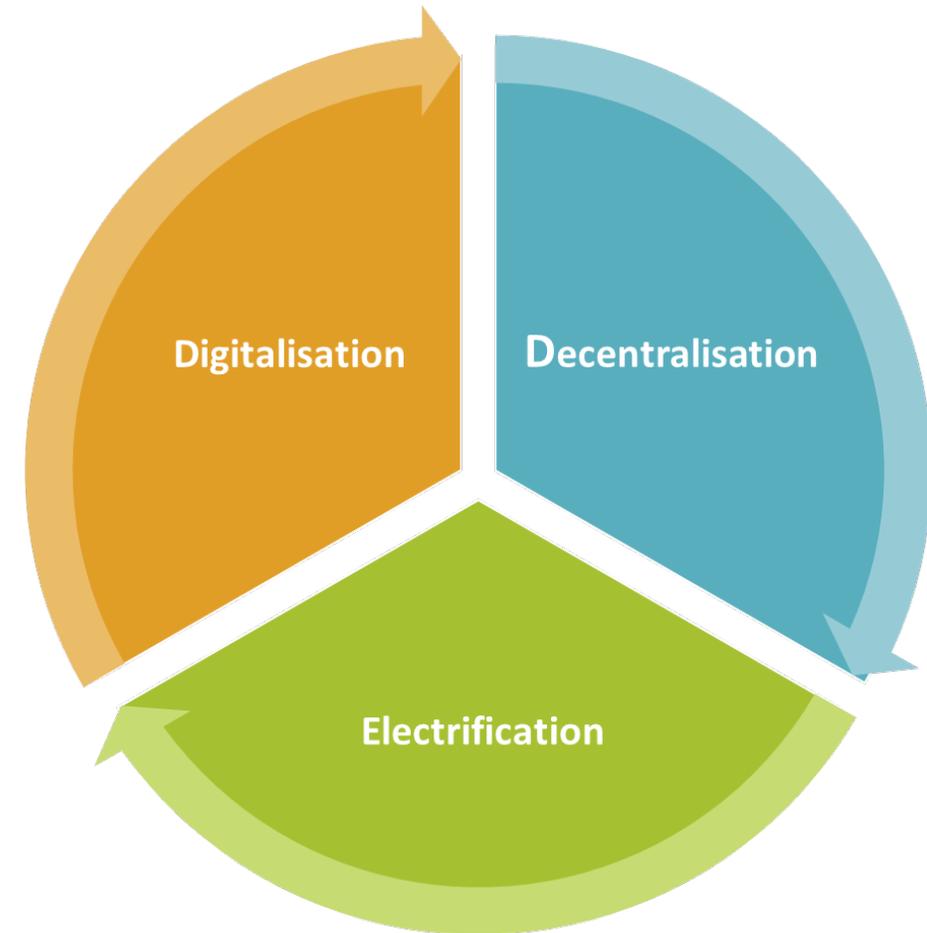
# Vision for the Power Sector Transformation

We need to map and understand the implications of these innovations for the power sector

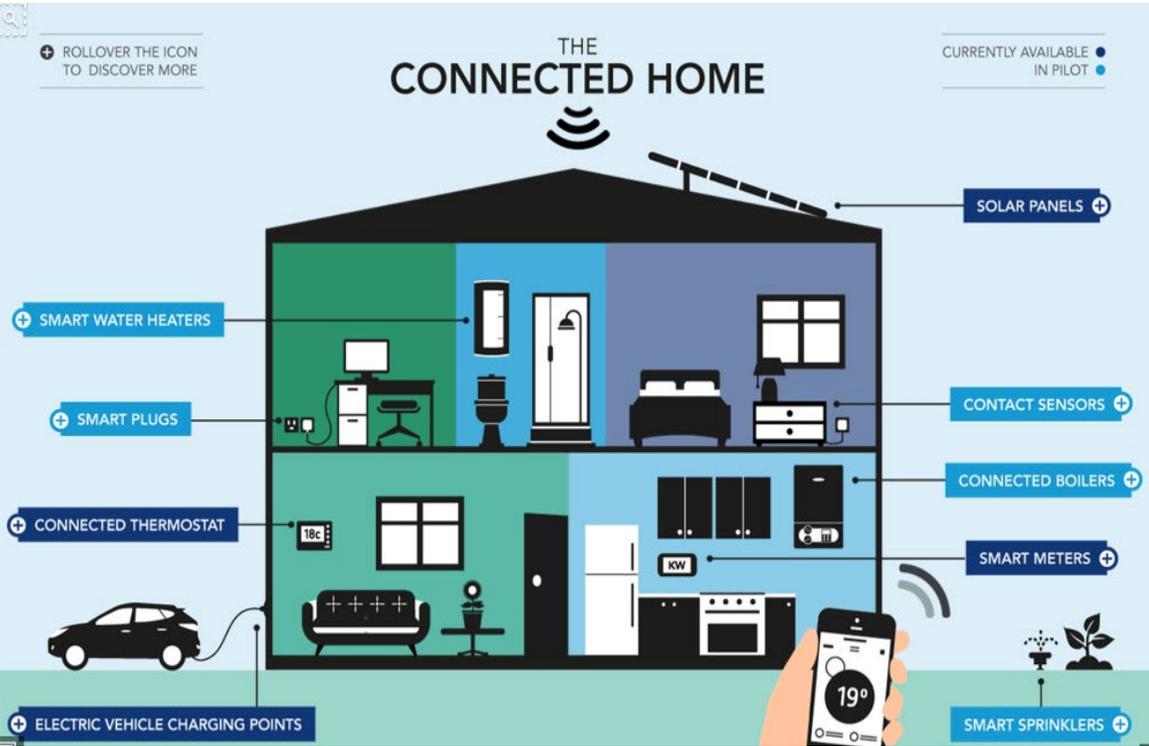


# Innovative solutions to increase power systems flexibility propelled by three trends

- **Decentralisation.** Wind and PV is largely centralized today but distributed generation - notably rooftop PV, ~ 1% of all electricity generation today – is growing bringing new flexibility opportunities at demand side
- **Digitalisation.** Key enabler to amplify the energy transformation by managing large amounts of data and optimizing systems with many small generation units
- **Electrification.** It plays in two ways, may decarbonize end-use sectors through renewable electricity and, if done in a smart way, become a flexibility source to integrate more renewables in power systems

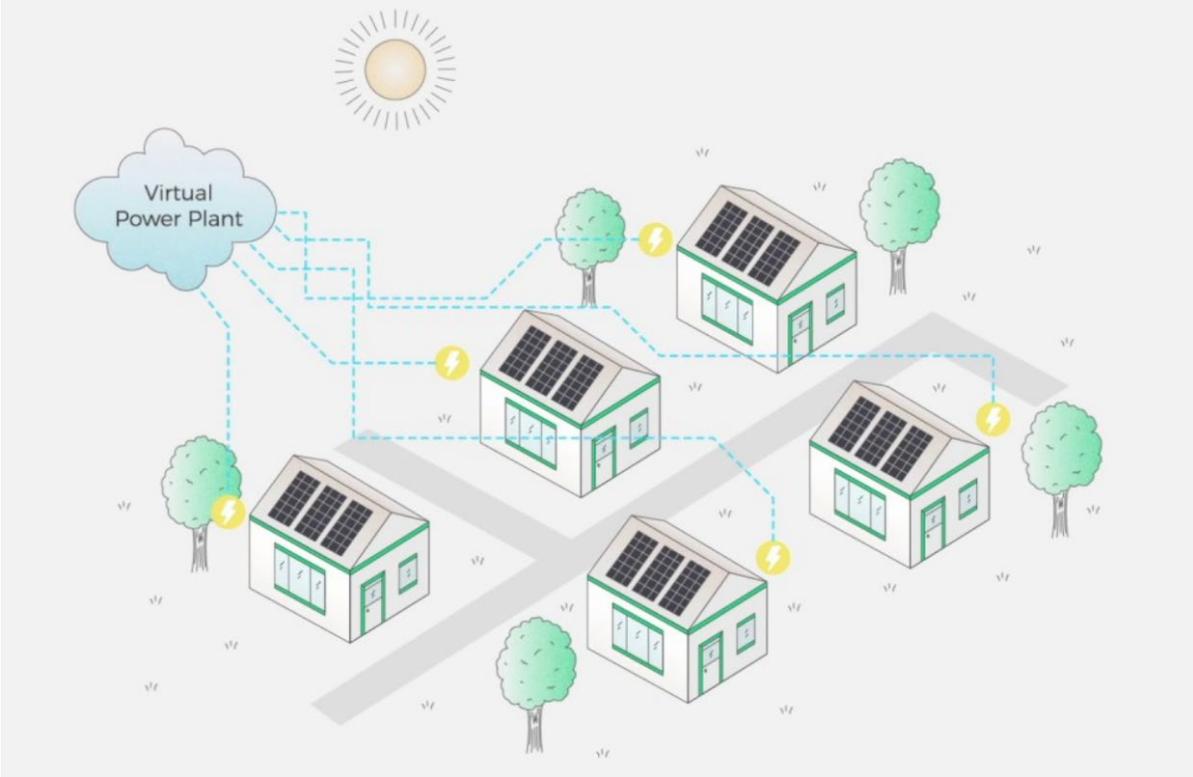


## Smart Houses : IoT and Artificial Intelligence



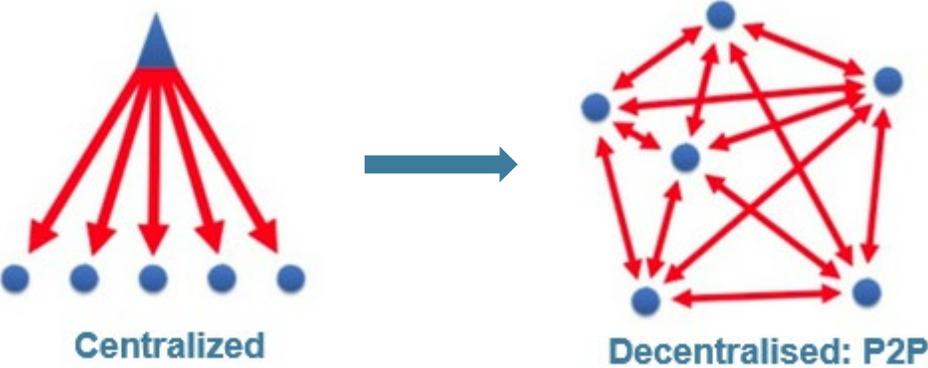
IoT and AI enable demand side management, decreasing consumers' costs by improving energy efficiency and preventing energy waste

## RE aggregator: Virtual Power Plant (VPP)



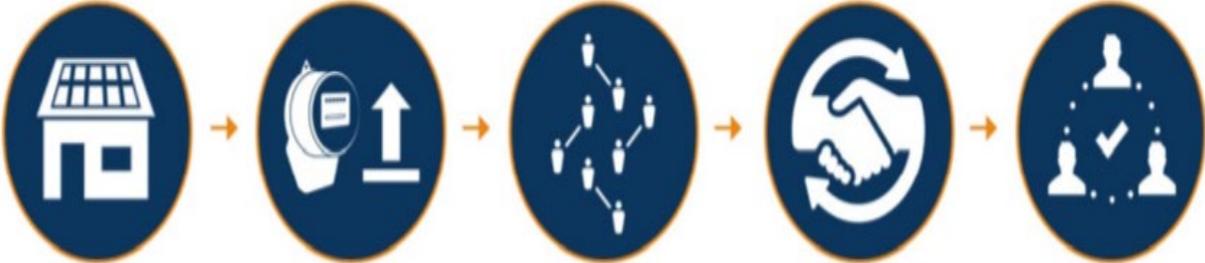
Aggregators enable distributed technologies (RE plants, storage) to participate in the energy market

## Peer to peer trading



Platform based model promote Peer to Peer trading, offering a market place for distributed generation

## Blockchain



Prosumers generate power beyond their needs and feed it into the grid through a blockchain-enabled e meter

The flow of electricity is automatically encoded in the blockchain

Algorithms match buyers and sellers in real time based on preferences and encode smart contracts into blockchain

Smart contracts execute when electricity is delivered, transferring payment in cryptocurrency from buyer to seller

Other nodes in the network verify the transactions

By promoting P2P trading and though emerging cryptocurrencies, blockchain incentivizes growth in decentralized generation

# **IRENA INNOVATION WEEK 2018**

3 days of  
discussions

18 sessions  
in 3 tracks

Over 80 expert  
speakers

Over 350  
participants

Over 70  
countries

Bonn, Germany, 4 to 7  
Sept. 2018.

Aim was to: **inspire &  
inform** decision makers;  
**showcasing solutions**

from around the world

Sessions were informed  
by past and ongoing  
IRENA analysis.

Discussed latest developments in **enabling technologies**, **business models**, **system operation** and **market design** that are:

- Enabling the much higher deployment of variable renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind;
- Increasing the flexibility of power systems to integrate variable renewable generation at lower costs than present options;
- Supporting the increased electrification of the end-use sectors of transport, industry and buildings, powered by renewable electricity.

## Digitalisation and Decentralisation

Digital applications for energy transitions: Blockchain

Digital applications for energy transitions: AI & big data

The new consumer in the digital world

Broadening energy access through innovation

## Electrification

Electrification of heat

Electrification of transport

Electricity storage

Electrification of fuels: hydrogen

## Markets & Citizens

Market design for an integrated RE based energy system

Empowering Citizens: value, challenges and implications

## Plenary Discussion

Future grids: getting bigger and smaller

Perspectives on the transformative impacts of innovation

A short and longer form overview of the event, together with summaries and video of each session plus the slides used can be found at <http://innovationweek.irena.org>.

Coming in 2019: The “*Landscape Report*” - **Solutions for a Renewable Powered Future: The innovation landscape for the integration of variable renewable power.**

The report and online resources will.

- provide decision makers with an **accessible** but comprehensive **overview** of the diversity of innovations in use or development
- explain how those innovations are being **combined to create solutions** suitable for wide range of power-systems
- provide guidance to help decision makers make judgments on **what to explore further** for their energy systems.

## Enabling Technologies

### Battery storage

- *Utility-scale battery*
- *Small-scale battery*

### Electrification

- *EV smart charging*
- *Power-to-heat*
- *Power-to-hydrogen*

### Digitalisation

- *Internet of Things (IoT)*
- *Artificial intelligence and big data*
- *Blockchain*

### New grids

- *Supergrids*
- *Renewable-based mini-grids*

## Business Models

### Empowering consumers

- *Virtual power plants (VPPs)/ Aggregators*
- *Peer-to-peer trading*
- *Energy as a service*

### Enabling renewable energy supply

- *Community-shared ownership*
- *Pay-as-you-go plans*

## Market Design

### Wholesale markets

- *Increase time and space granularity in energy markets*
- *Redefine balancing market products*
- *Innovations in capacity markets*
- *Regional markets*

### Retail markets

- *Allow distributed energy resources to participate in markets*
- *Price-based demand-response programmes*
- *Net billing schemes for self-consumption*

## System Operation

### Accommodating uncertainty

- *Advanced renewable energy generation forecasting*
- *Innovative operation of hydro plants*

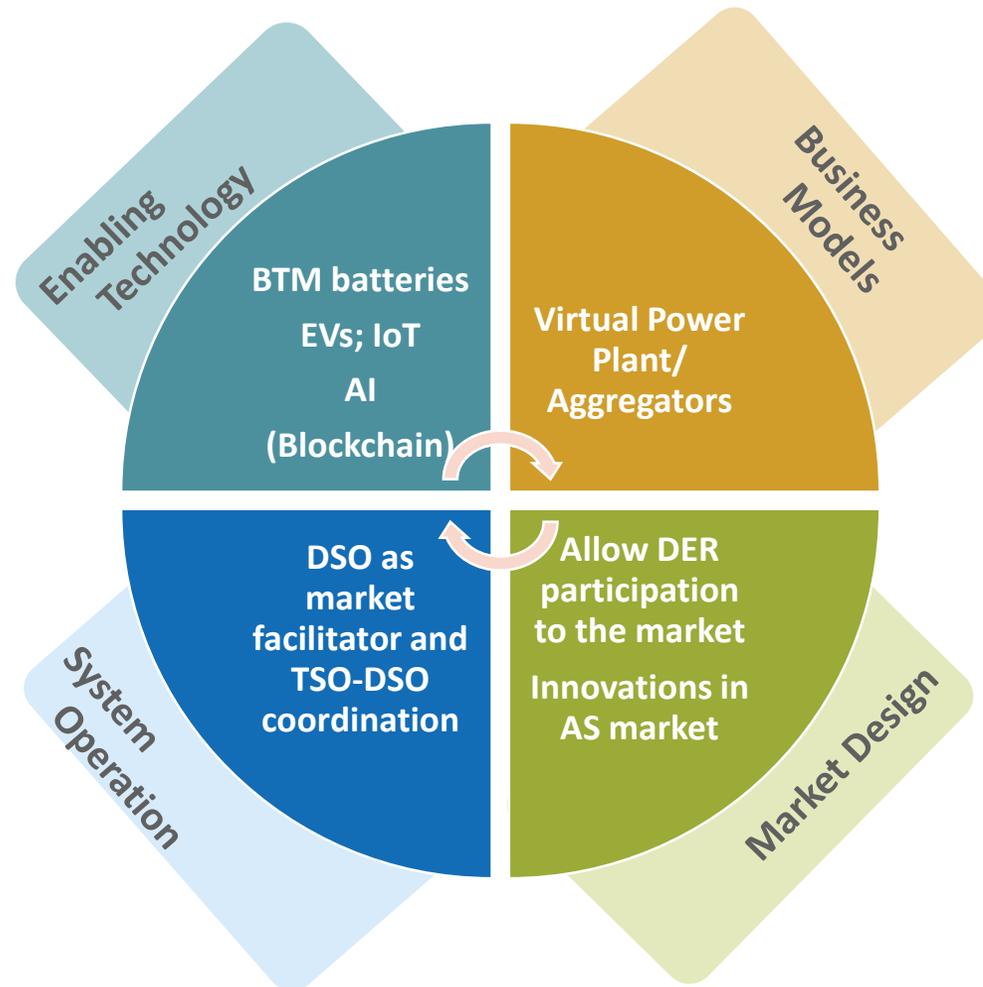
### Innovative DER operation

- *Expanded role of DSOs in operating distribution systems*
- *DSO as market facilitators and DSO-TSO co-ordination*
- *Virtual power lines*

# Solutions come from interactions between different innovations

**Innovations do not emerge in isolation.**

**Synergies between innovations create combined solutions that have real-world impact.**



**An example of a solution requiring multiple innovations:**

**Distributed energy resources (DERs) providing services to the grid**



# Thank you

**We invite you to engage!**

Roland Roesch: [rroesch@irena.org](mailto:rroesch@irena.org)

Francisco Boshell: [fboshell@irena.org](mailto:fboshell@irena.org)

Arina Anisie: [aanisie@irena.org](mailto:aanisie@irena.org)



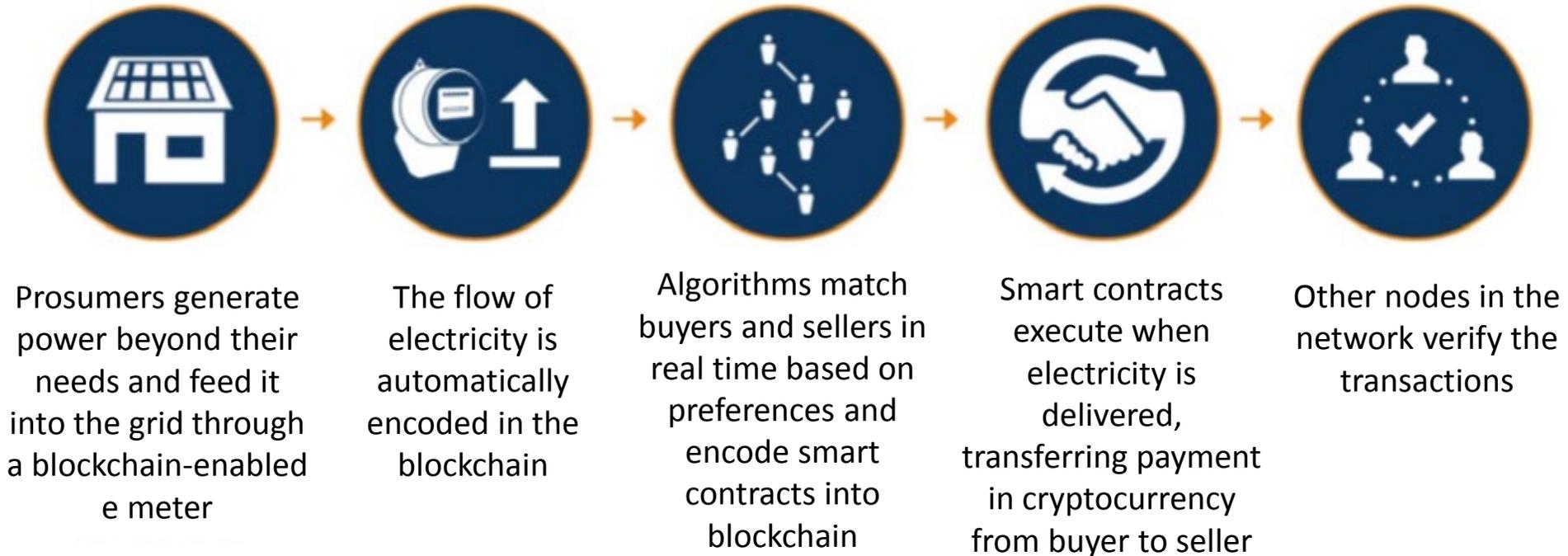
[www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org)

# One more innovation

## Blockchain: No middleman

By promoting P2P trading and through emerging cryptocurrencies, blockchain incentivizes growth in decentralized generation

Through smart contracts, blockchain makes distributed grid management easier



Applied to larger interconnected grids, might lead to:

- **No need for retailers**
- **No need for system operators** - If smart contracts secure frequency and voltage control as well as balancing the grid system as a whole

# Multiple drivers of electricity storage <sup>2050</sup>

Off-grid, mini-grids & islands

1.2 billion  
without  
electricity

High shares of VRE

4800 GW  
Wind

6350 GW  
Solar PV

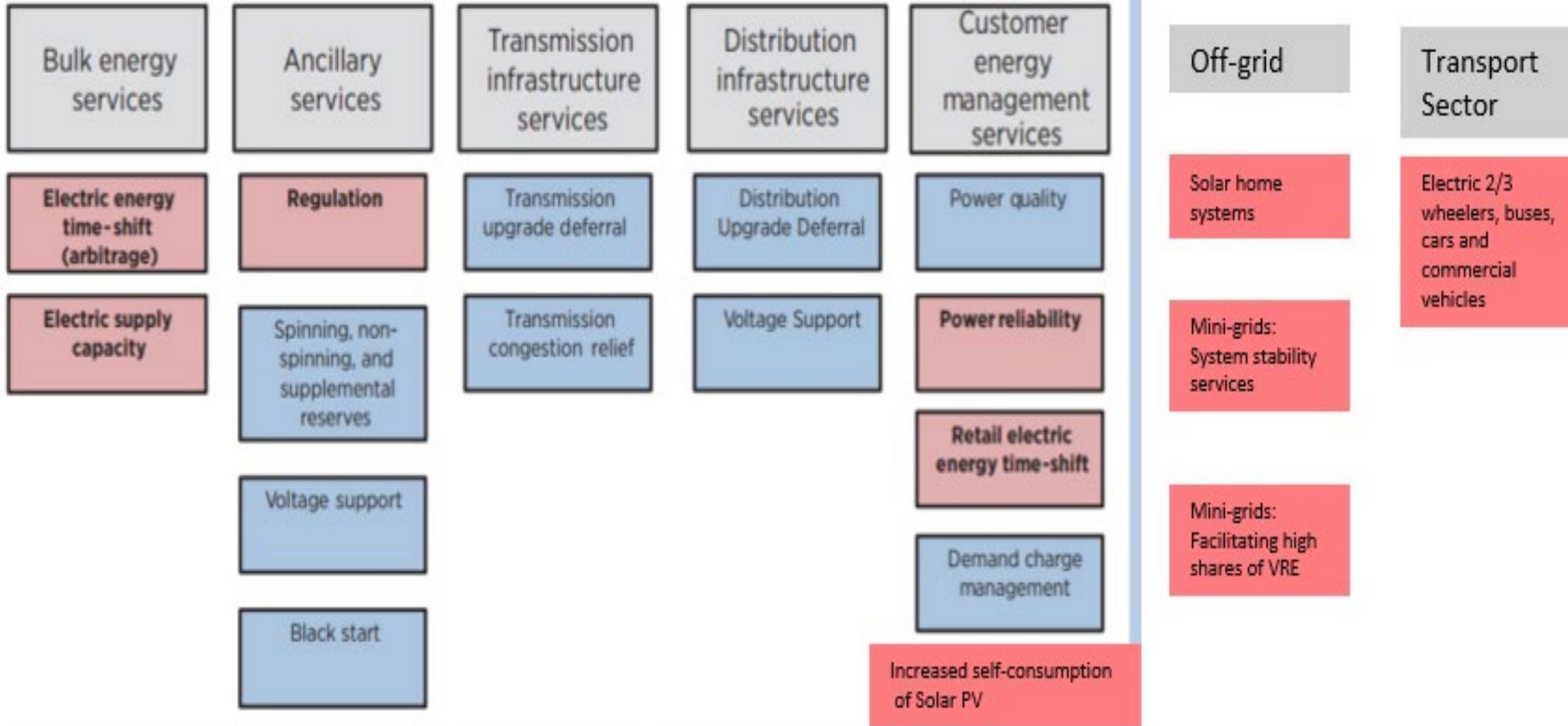
Electromobility

830 million  
Electric  
vehicles

22 million  
Electric  
Buses

1940 million  
electric 2/3  
wheelers

# Electricity storage can deliver multiple services and benefits



Boxes in red: Energy storage services directly supporting the integration of variable renewable energy

## Smart houses – how to implement?

### Hardware

- Smart meters
- Sensors
- Supercomputers
- Other digital technology to convert the electricity grid from servo mechanical to digital connectivity to manage multiple sources of energy flowing to the grid from local generators

### Software

- Optimization tools

### Communication protocol:

- Agree and develop common interoperable standards (both at physical and ICT layers)



Regulation is key for demand-side management

### Retail market

- Efficient, real-time price signals that reflect the cost of the participation of each agent to the electricity market

### Distribution

- Incentivise distribution system operators to invest in smart grids and other digital solutions

### Other policies

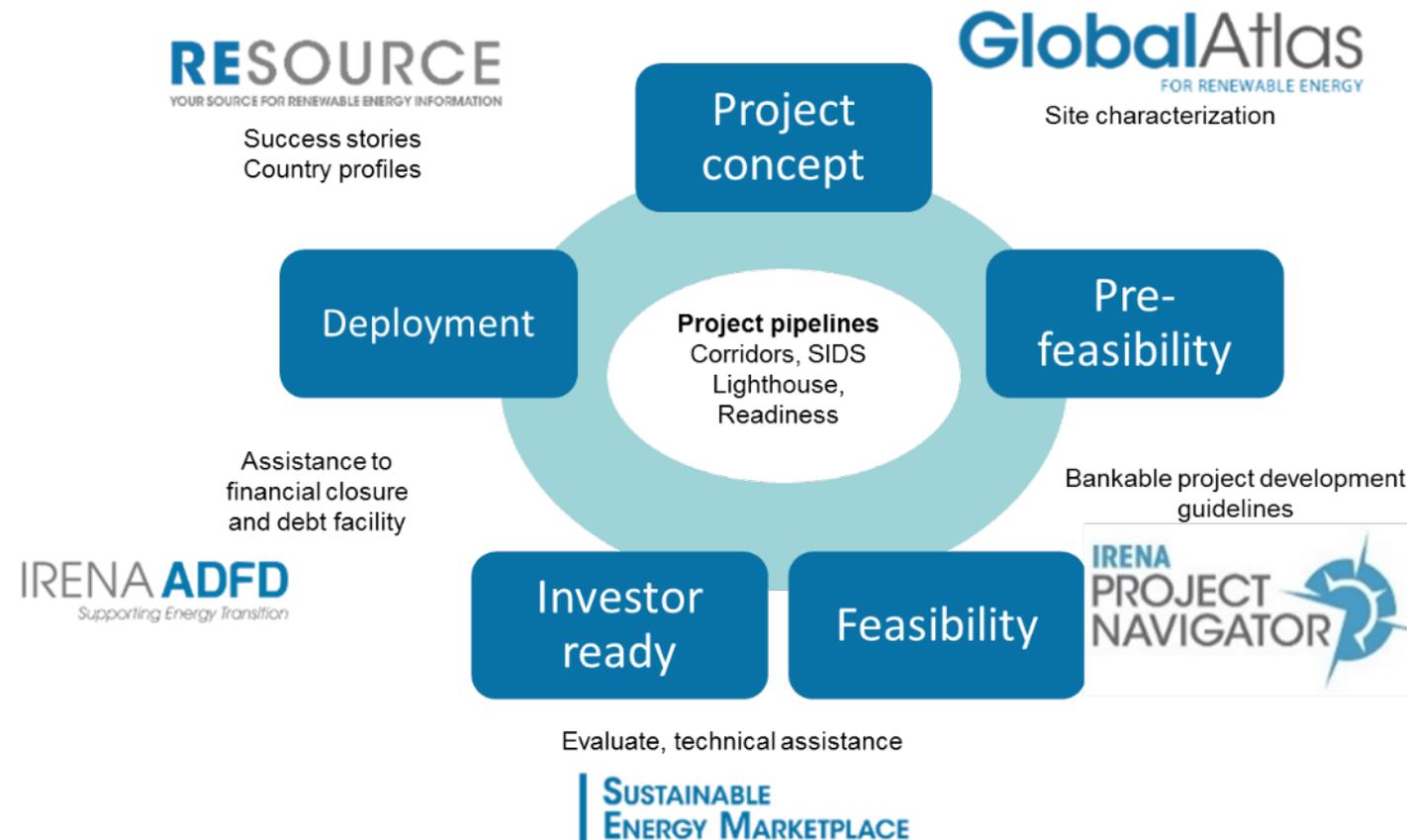
- To ensure cybersecurity, data security, avoid misuse of data

# Some take aways

Technological innovations push towards a decentralisation and democratisation of energy, while market designs need to adapt and enable innovative business models emerge

Consumers' role is increasing: their behaviour is key!







## Access the Project Navigator!



**IRENA  
PROJECT NAVIGATOR**

Access practical information, tools and guidance for the development of bankable renewable energy projects

- ↻ A **learning section** with easy-to-access knowledge materials
- ↻ An **interactive workspace** to develop projects and track progress
- ↻ An **online search engine** to find renewable energy funding sources

**NEW** Obtain project development guidance with 50+ tools for:

- Utility-scale Solar PV
- Onshore Wind
- Woody Biomass
- Mini/ Microgrids
- Geothermal Power
- Solar Home Systems
- Small Hydropower

[www.irena.org/navigator](http://www.irena.org/navigator)

# The increasing role of consumer

The new consumer is also producing, storing, trading energy and managing own load



Distributed generation



Behind the meter storage



Electric vehicles



Smart meters



Digitalisation - Internet of things



Artificial intelligence

Electricity becomes more Decentralised and Democratised