

# Photovoltaic-Thermal (PV/T) Hybrid Systems

State-of-the-art technology, challenges  
and opportunities

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**University of Picardie Jules Vernes, Amiens**



# Content

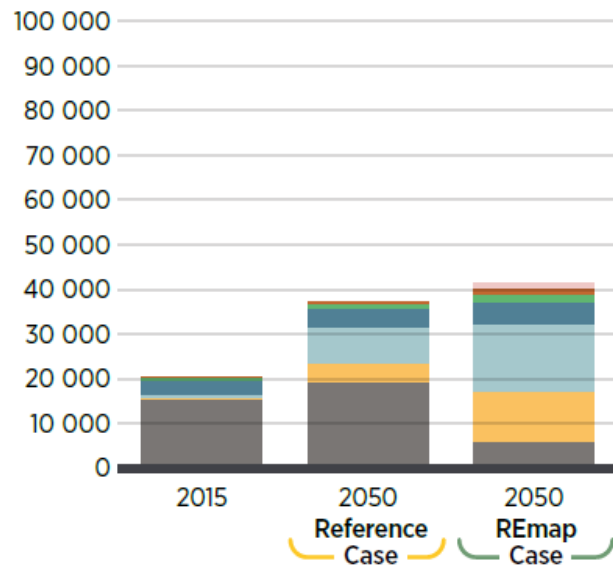
- PV/T in the energy context
- PV/T technology: state-of-the-art
- Typical PV/T applications
- Performance PV/T vs PV + T systems
- PV/T uptake: challenges and opportunities
- Future research on PV/T
- Conclusions

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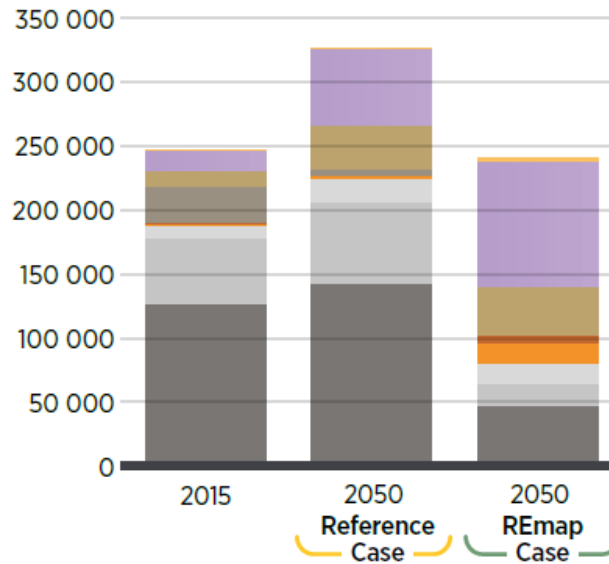
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# Global energy: a roadmap to 2050?

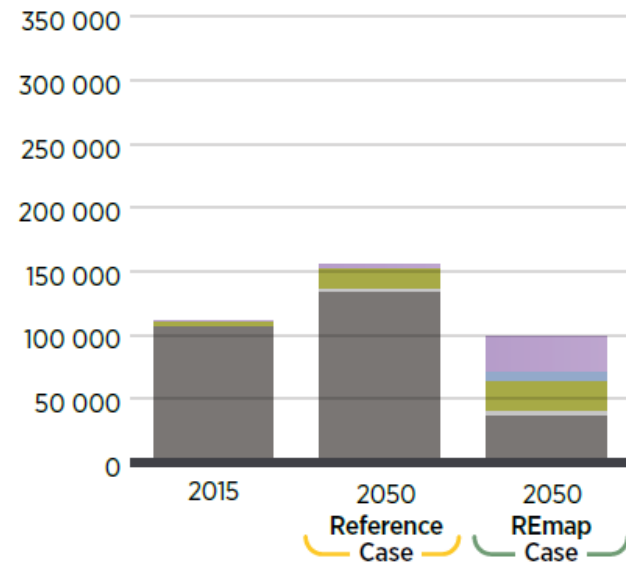
Electricity consumption (TWh)



Industry and buildings final energy consumption (PJ/yr)



Transport final energy consumption (PJ/yr)



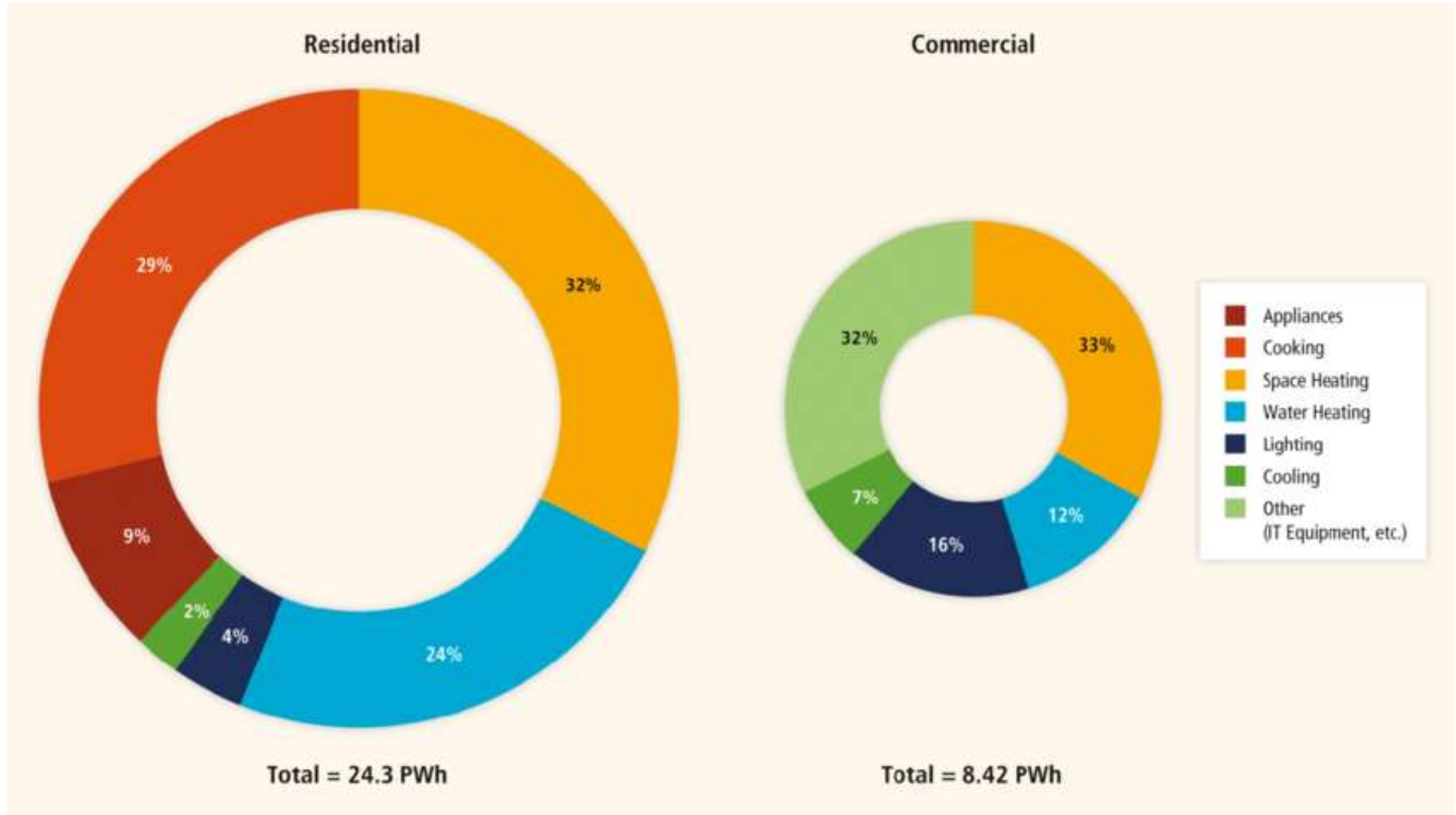
- Others (incl. marine and hybrid)
- Geothermal
- Bioenergy
- Hydro power
- Wind
- Solar PV (incl. CSP)
- Non-Renewables

- District heat: Renewables
- Electricity: Renewables
- Modern biomass
- Traditional biomass
- Geothermal heat
- Solar thermal

- Hydrogen
- Liquid biofuels/biogas
- Non-Renewables
- District heat: Non-Renewables
- Electricity: Non-Renewables

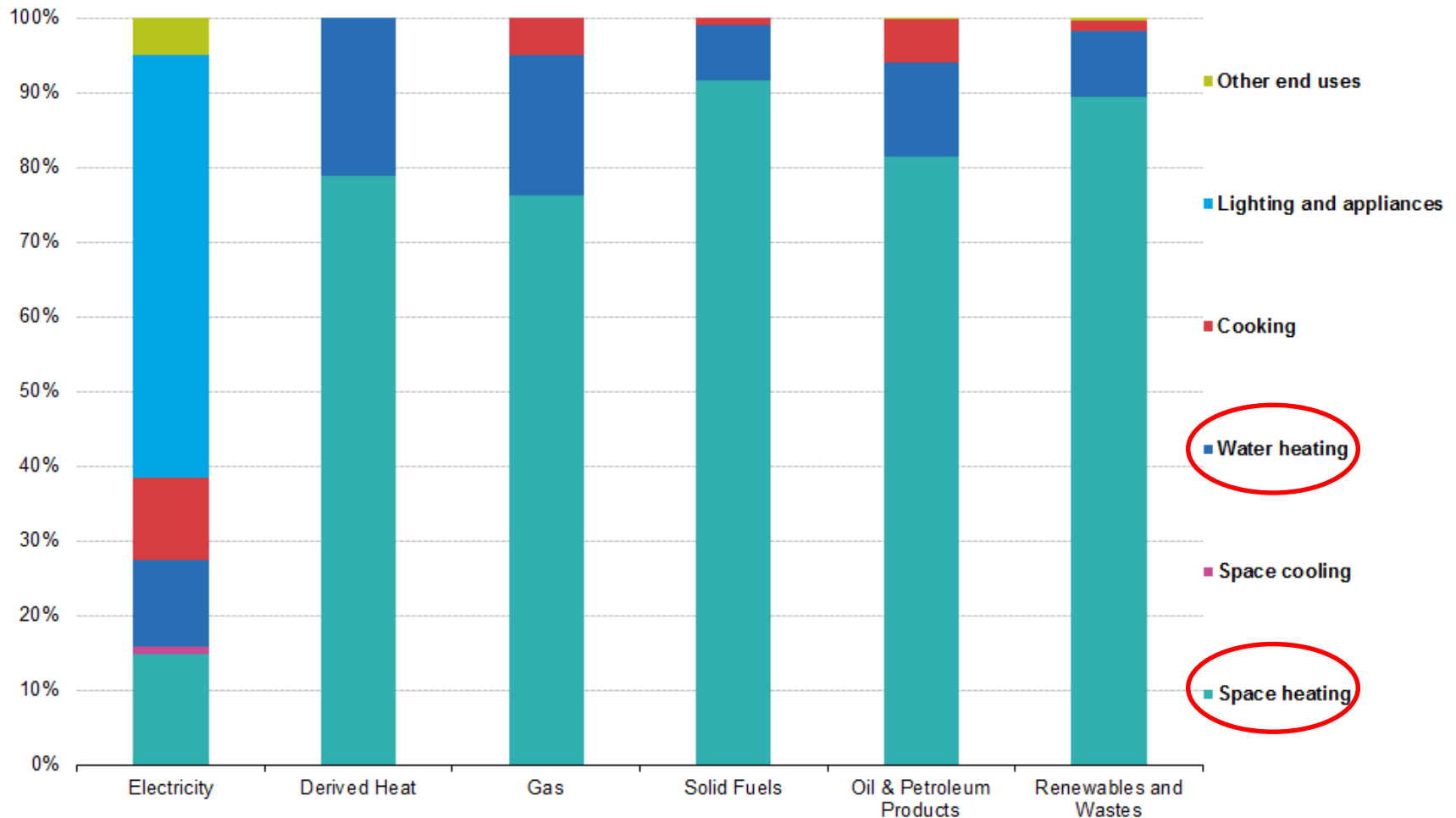
Source: IRENA 2018 'Global energy transformation: A roadmap to 2050'

# Energy final use in buildings



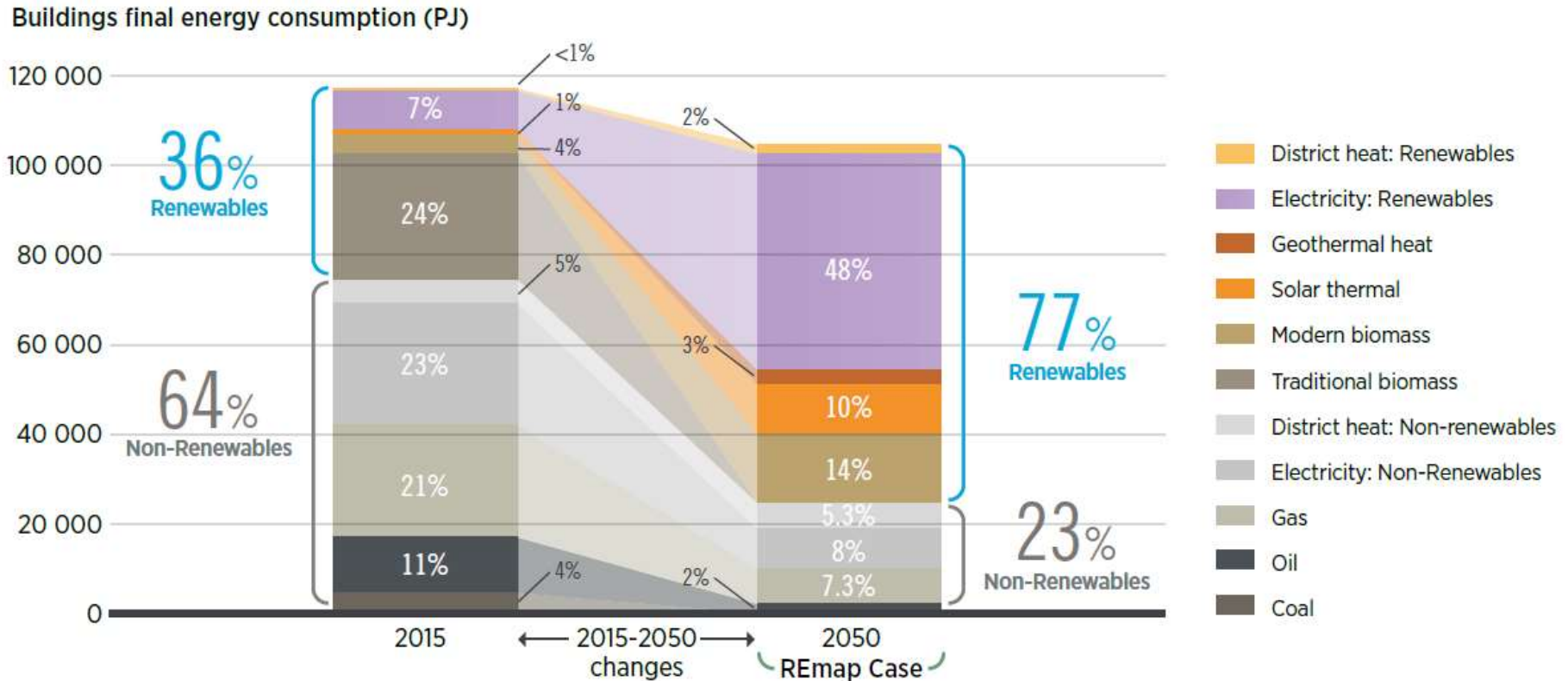
Source: World building final energy consumption by end-use in 2010, IEA (2013).

# Final energy consumption: EU-28, 2016



EUROSTAT: Final energy consumption in the residential sector by type of end-uses for the main energy products, EU-28, 2016

# The potential of solar thermal by 2050



Source: IRENA, Global Energy Transformation 2018

EU target of 1 m2 of solar-thermal installations per person

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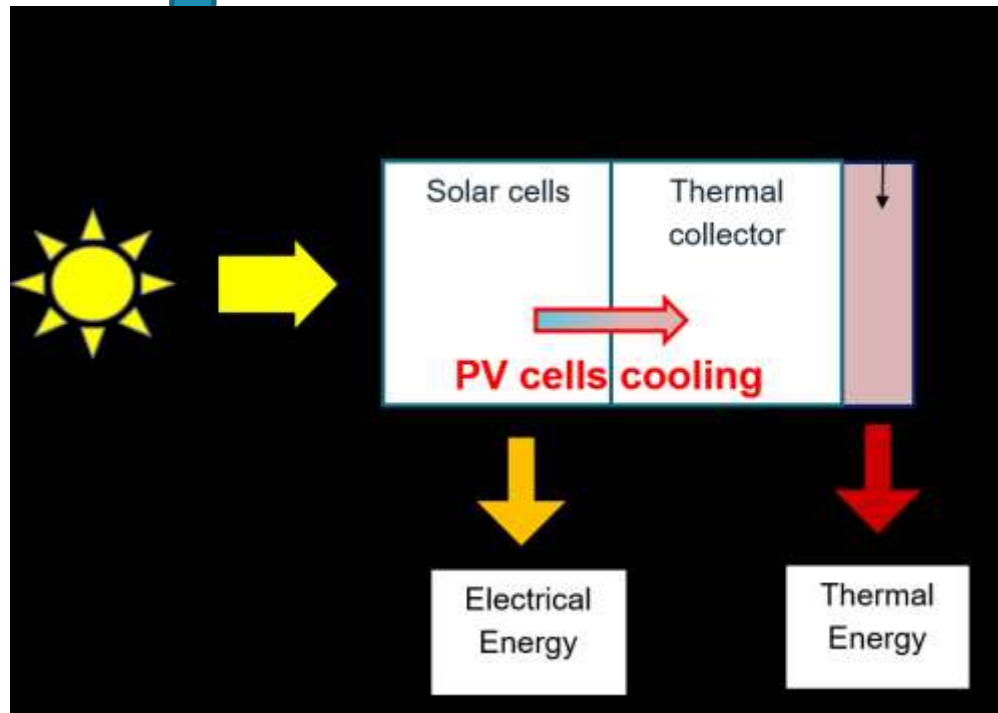


# PV/T: working principle

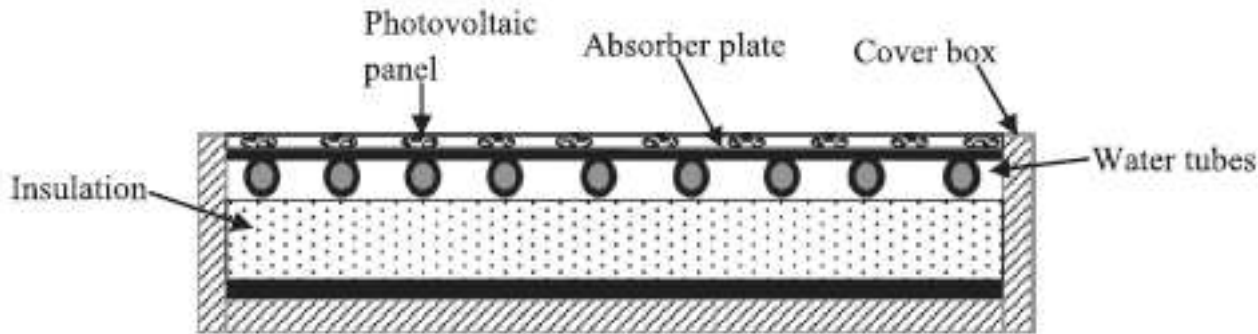
PV-array



Solar thermal collectors

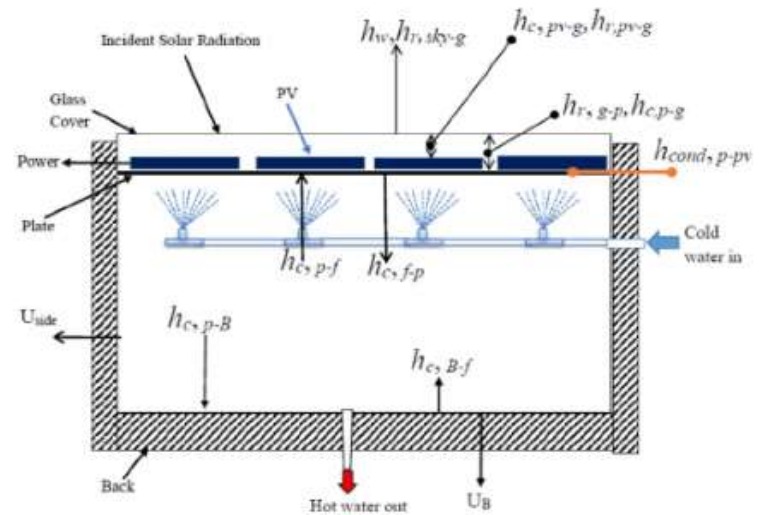


# Water-based PV/T systems



Flat-plate water collector

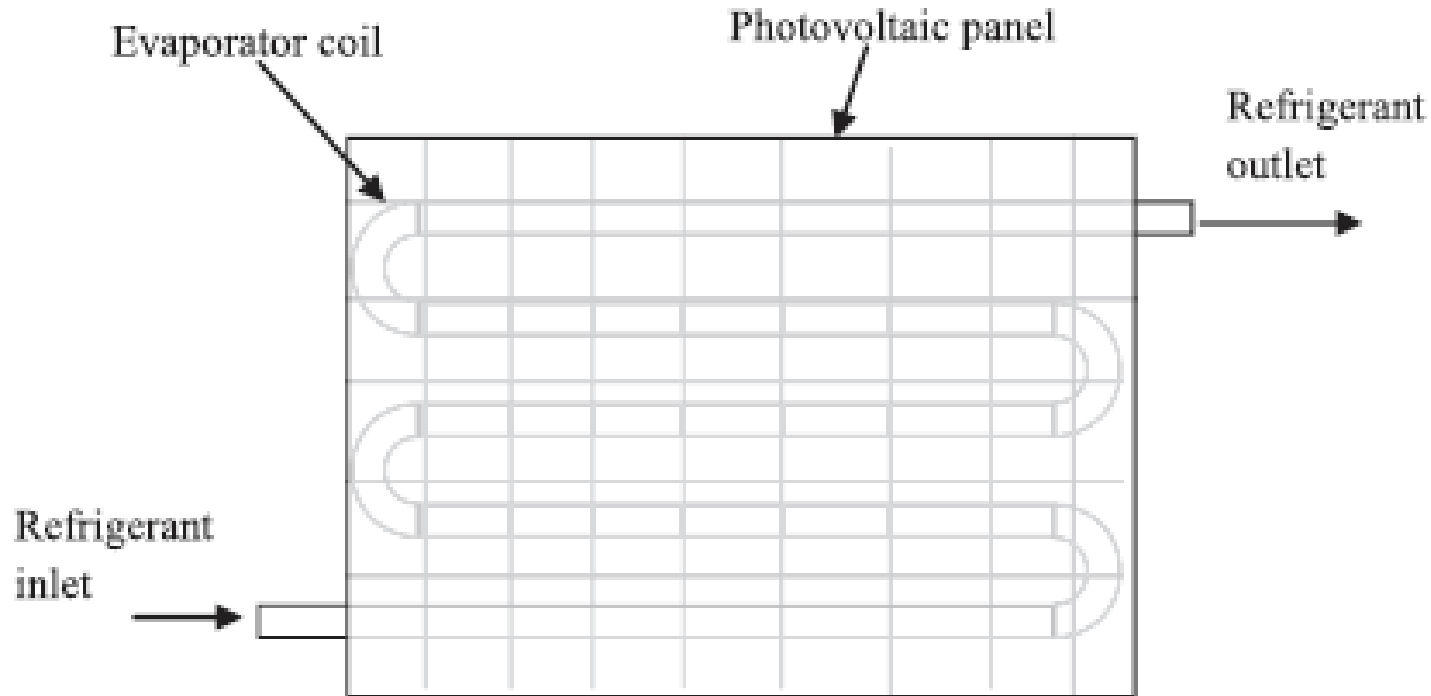
Source: Abdelrazik et.al, 2017



Water collector with a jet collision system

Source: H.A. Hasan et.al, 2018

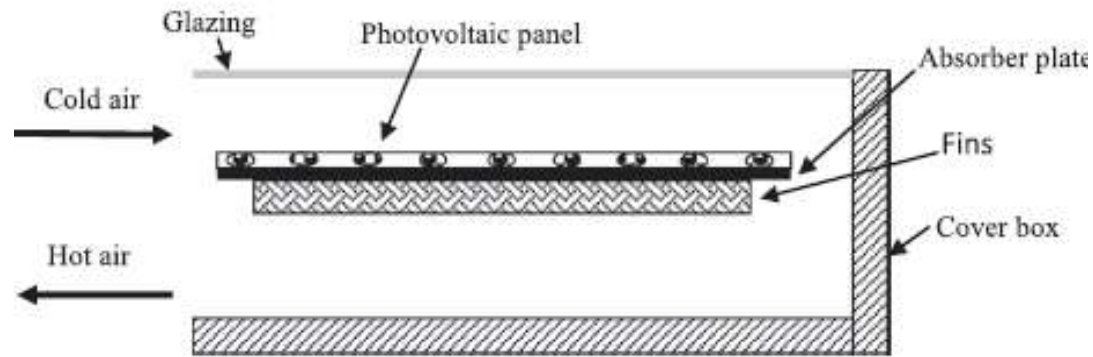
# Refrigerant-based PV/T systems



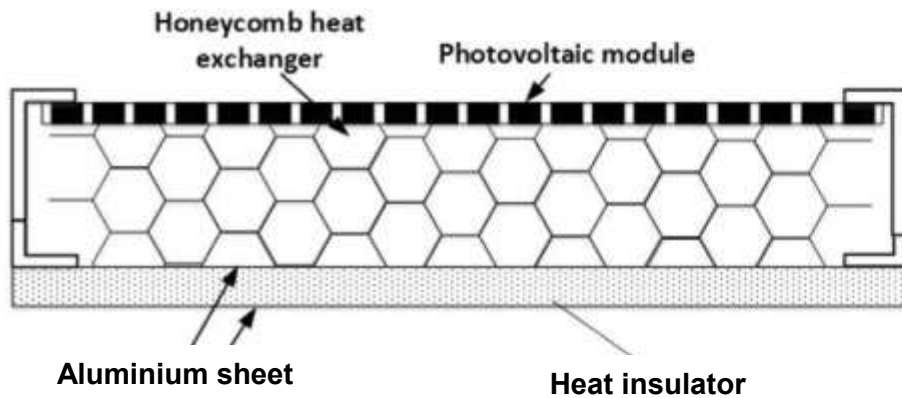
Refrigerant based PV/T system

Source: Abdelrazik et.al, 2017

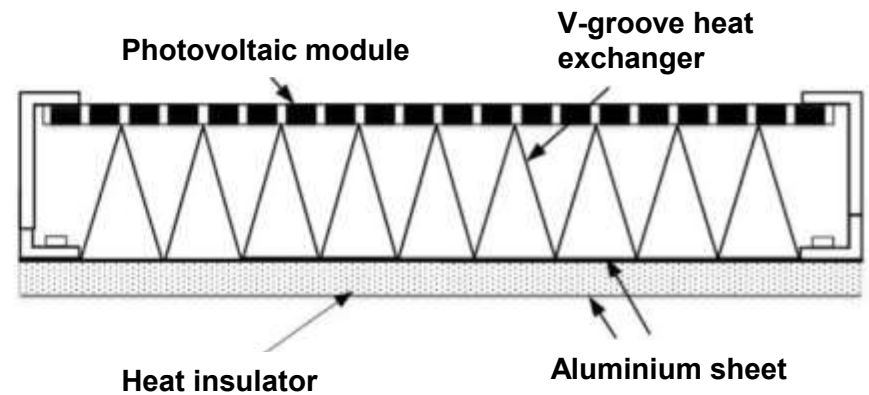
# Air-based PV/T systems



Two-passes heat exchanger with fins



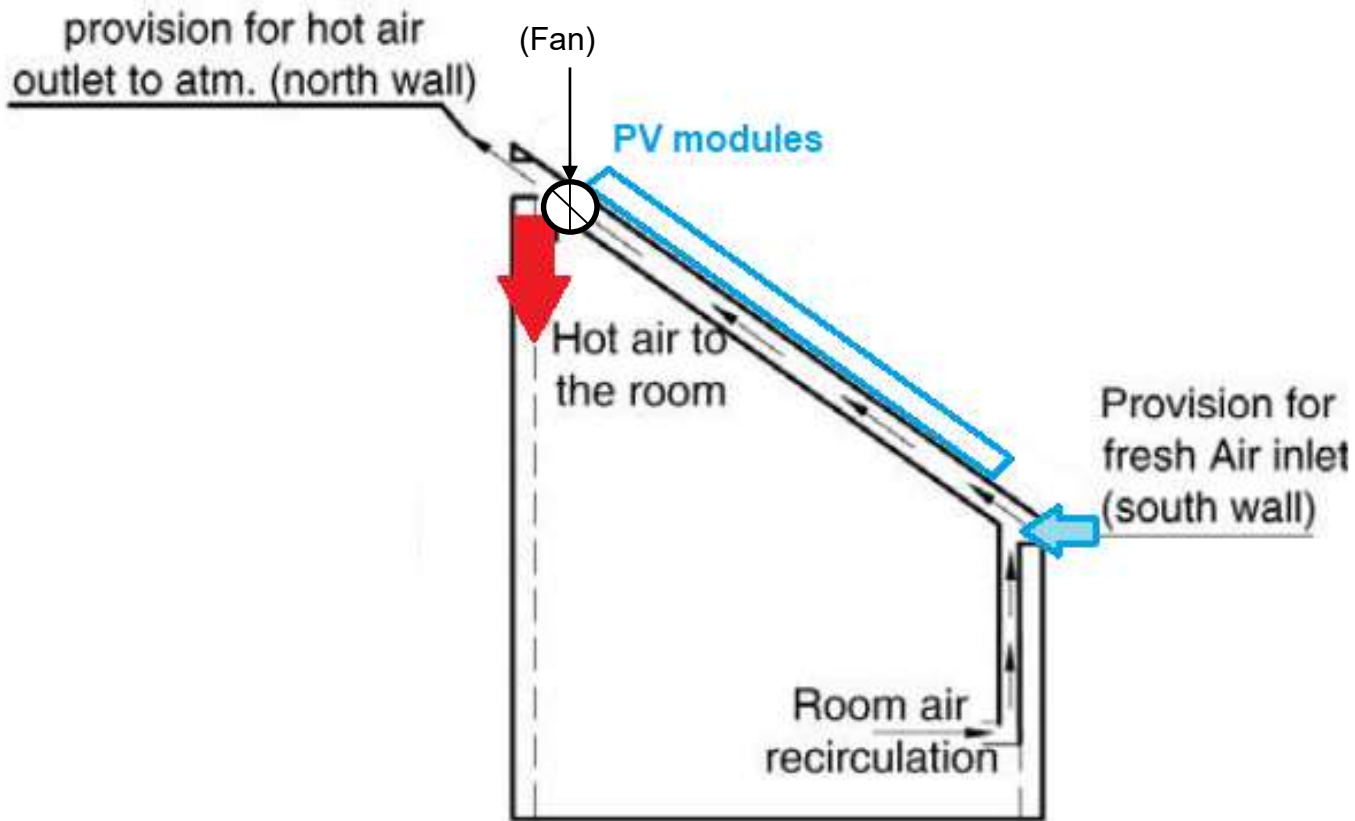
Honeycomb heat exchanger



V-groove heat exchanger

Source: Abdelrazik et.al, 2017

# Air-based PV(T) system for space heating

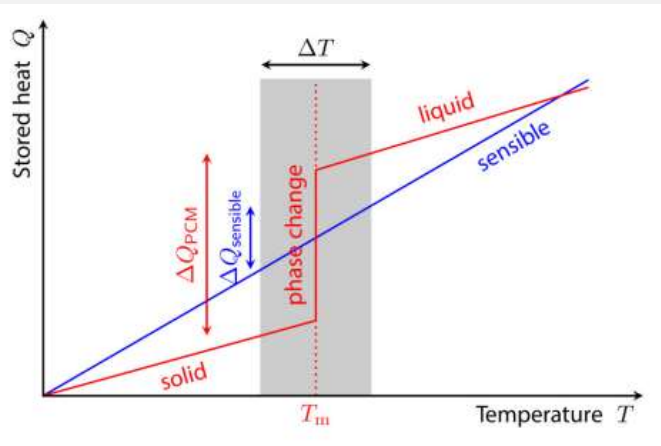


Building Integrated PV/T system (BIPVT) for space heating

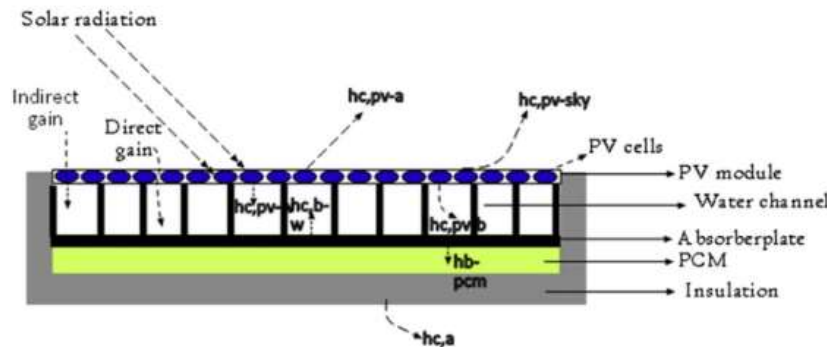
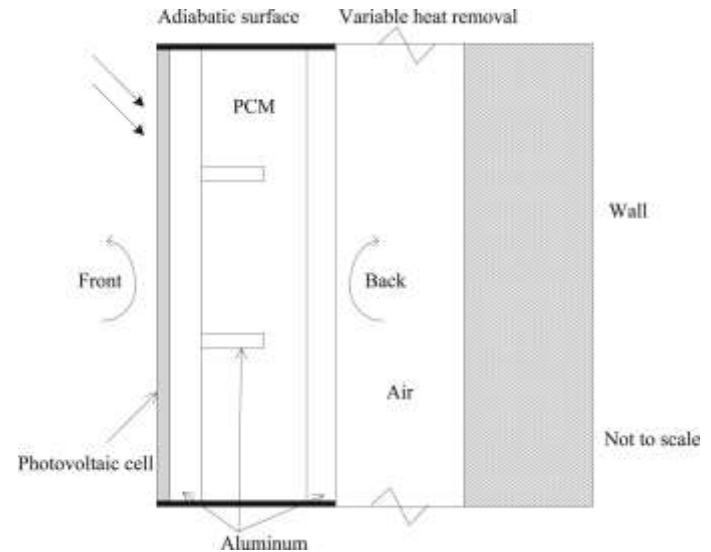
Source : Agrawal et. al, 2010

# Phase Change Materials (PCM) PV/T

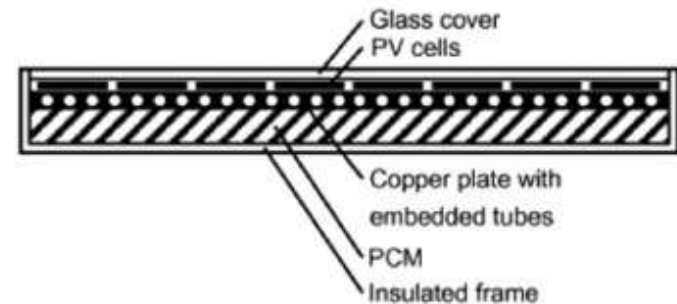
PCM can store large amounts of energy at a constant temperature :



Different topologies of PV-PCM panels :

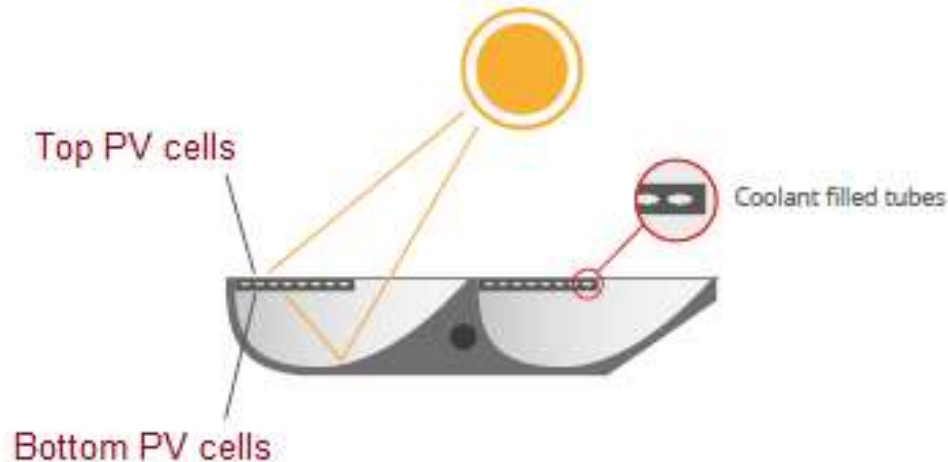


Source: Joshi et. al, 2018



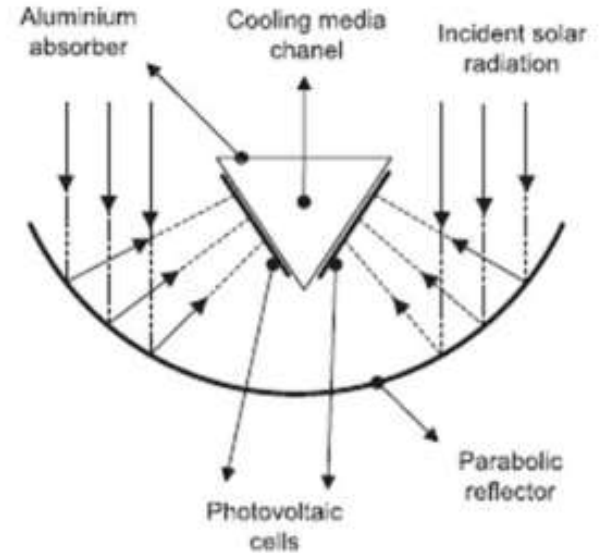
Source: Maria C. Browne et. al, 2015

# Concentrated (C) PV/T



CPVT with parabolic trough and bifacial PV

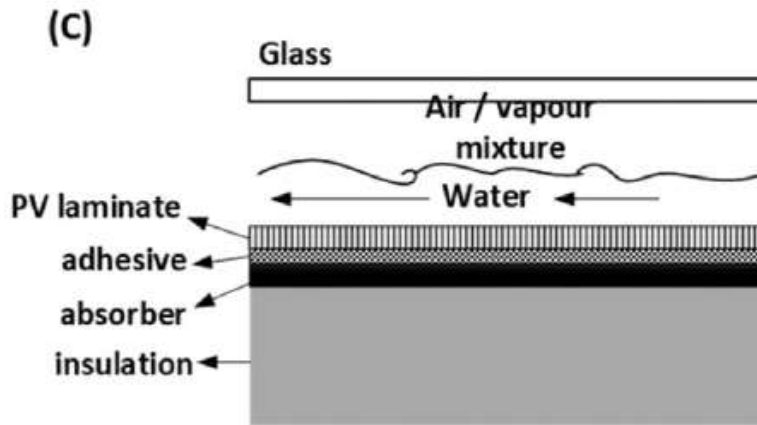
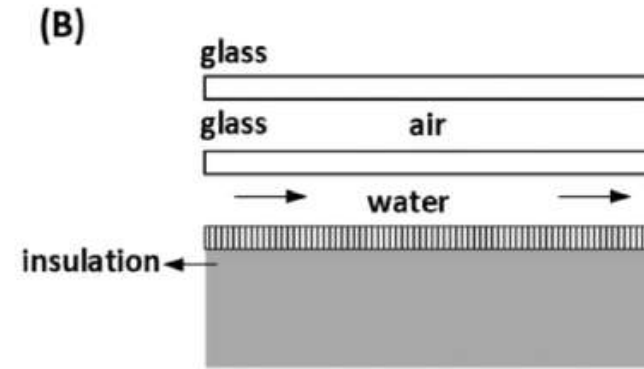
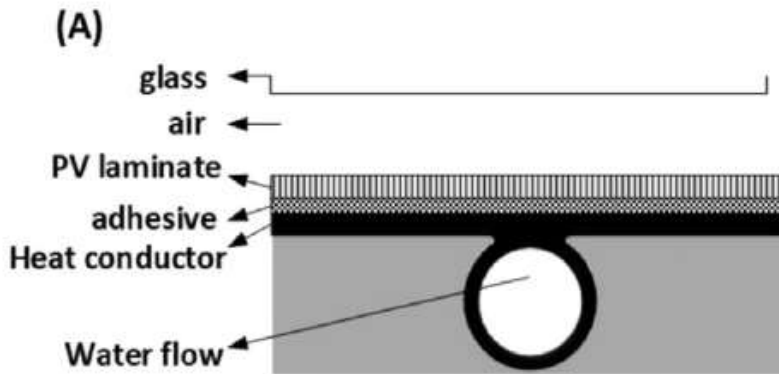
Source: Solarus product datasheet



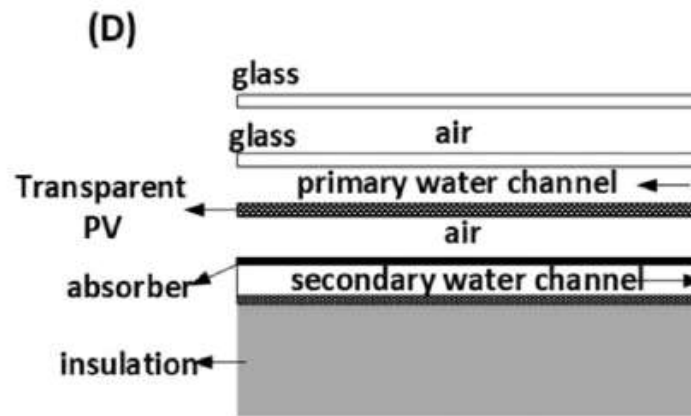
CPVT with compound parabolic concentrators and triangular channel receiver

Source: Joshi et. al, 2018

# Types of glazing systems on PV/T



Single-layer glazing



multi-layer glazing

Source: Abdelrazik et.al, 2017



# Glazing systems

## YES because

- Allows a cooling channel above the PV cells
- Allows a spectral filtering before solar radiation hits the PV cells
- Enhances the thermal performance
- Protects the PV cells from environmental influences

## NO because

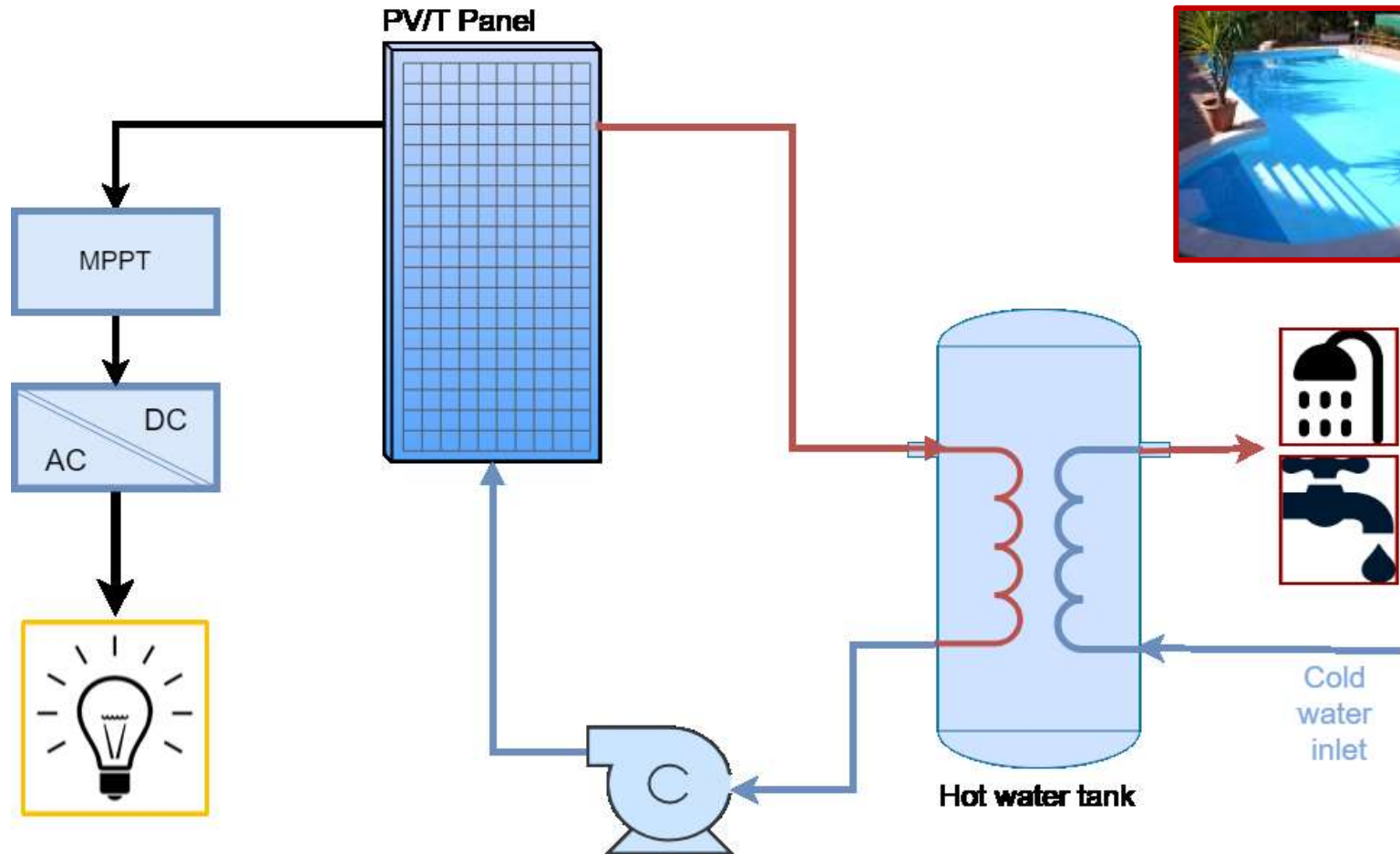
- Of optical absorption in the glazing glass layers
- Results in more expensive panels due to the glazing materials

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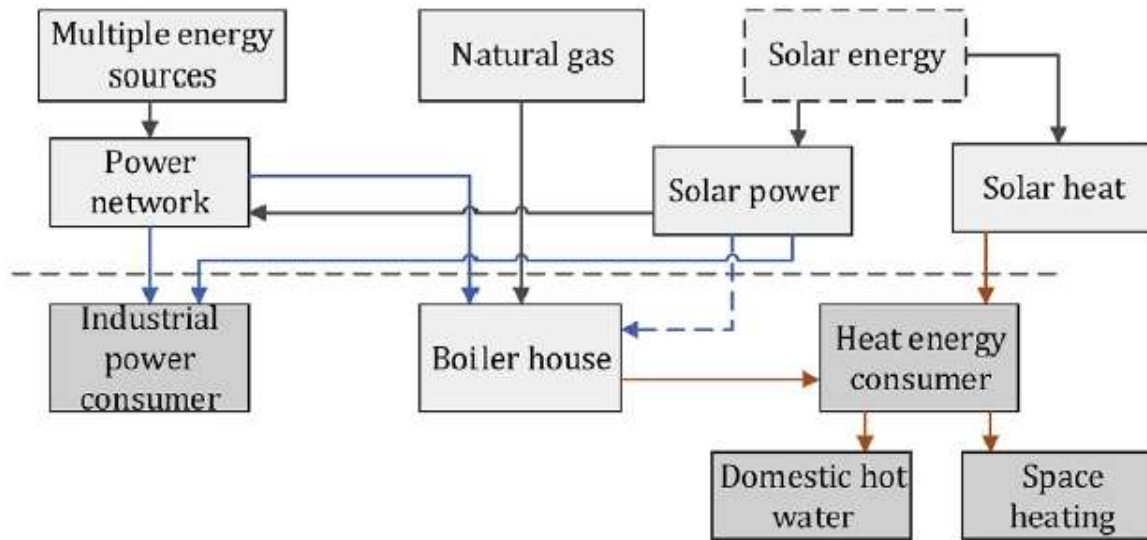
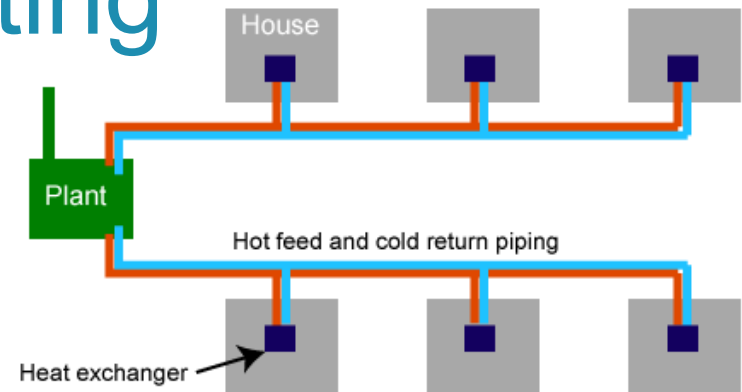
# Water-based PV/T for domestic use

Target water temperature range: 40 to 65 °C



# Water-based PV/T for district/industrial heating

Target water temperature range: 40 to 115 °C



Source: Pakere et.al. 2018

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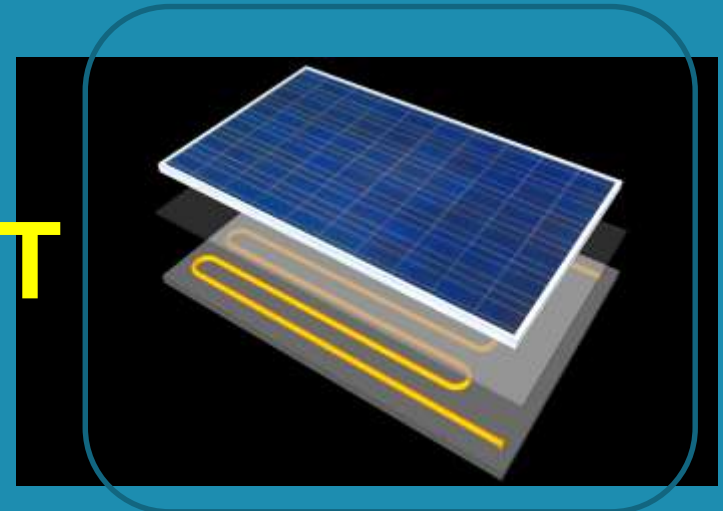
+



**PV + T(hermal)**

**Evaluation vs**

**PV/T**



# Theoretical evaluation of performance: PV+T vs PV/T

From the values of datasheets

With

$$P = \frac{\text{Total power output of the collector}}{\text{Collector gross area}}$$

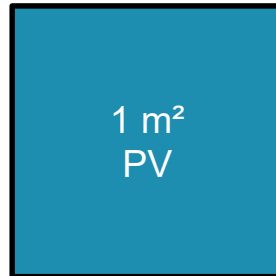
$$C = \frac{\text{Collector price}}{\text{Total power output of the collector}}$$

@ STC conditions

$$G = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$$

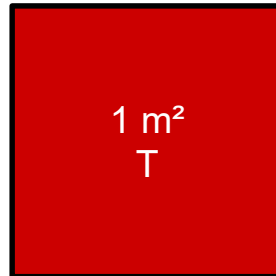
$$T \text{ cells} = 25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$$

AM1.5 spectrum



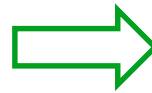
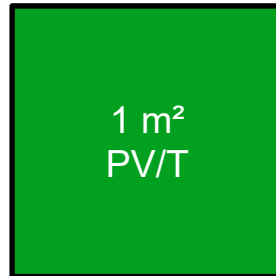
$$P_{PV} = 190 \text{ Wp/m}^2$$

$$C_{PV} = 1.22 \text{ €/Wp}$$



$$P_T = 856 \text{ W/m}^2$$

$$C_T = 0.47 \text{ €/W}$$



$$P_{PV/T} = P_{\text{therm}} + P_{\text{elec}} = 591 \text{ W/m}^2$$

$$C_{PV/T} = 0.93 \text{ €/W}$$

# PV/T: installed power and installation costs

$$P_{PV} = 190 \text{ Wp/m}^2$$
$$C_{PV} = 1.22 \text{ €/Wp}$$

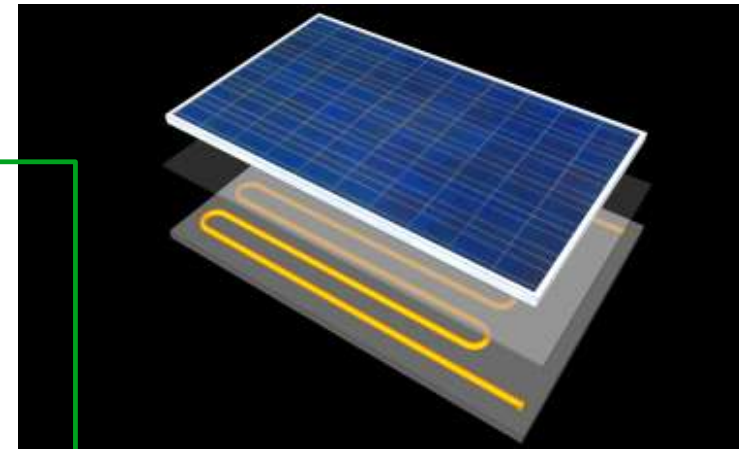
$$P_{PV/T} = 591 \text{ Wp/m}^2$$
$$C_{PV/T} = 0.93 \text{ €/W}$$

$$P_T = 856 \text{ W/m}^2$$
$$C_T = 0.47 \text{ €/W}$$

PV and T collectors cannot be stacked on the same surface

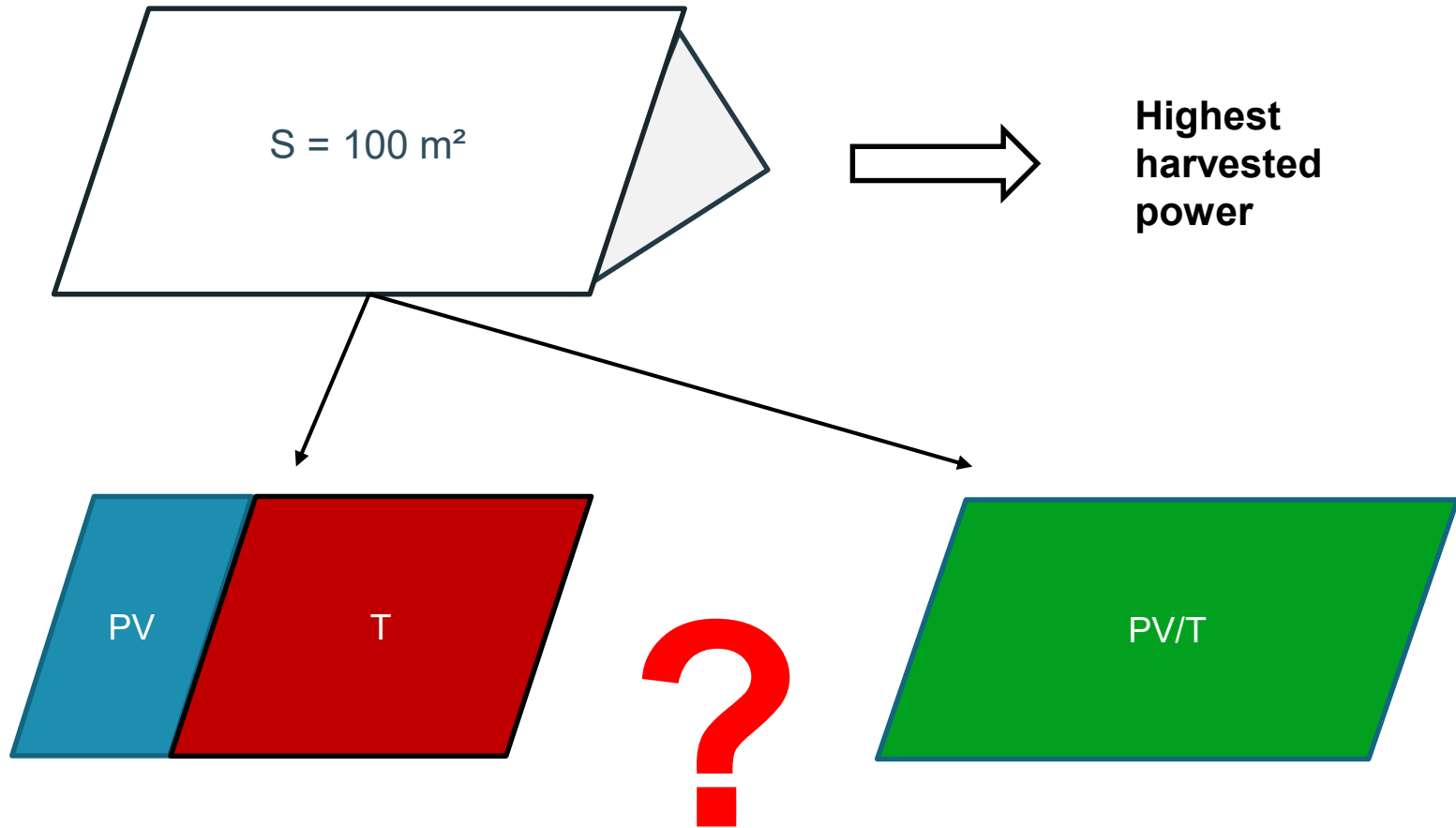


- Roof surface optimization
- Simultaneous electrical and thermal power production

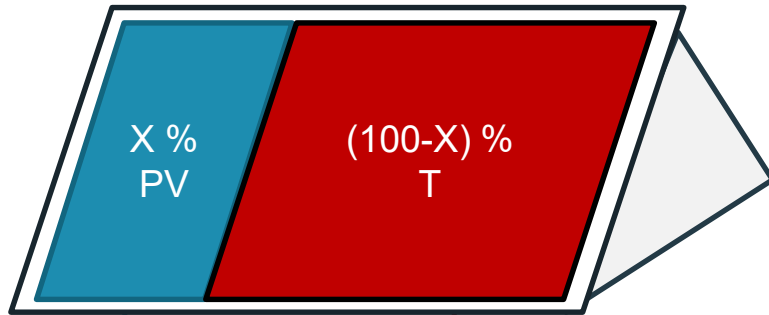




# Can PV/T power production be higher than power production of a PV+T combination?

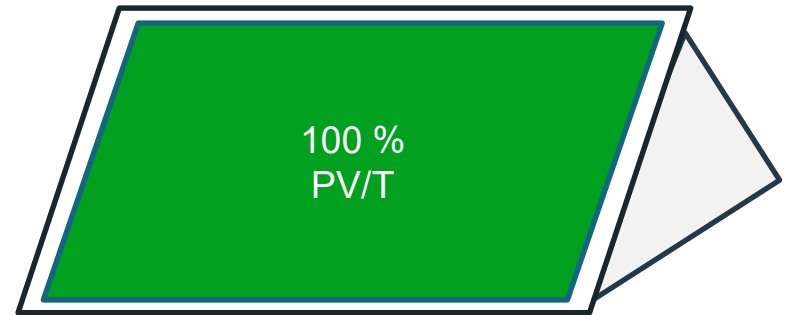


# Can PV/T power production be higher than power production of a PV+T combination?



$$X * S * P_{PV} + (1-X) * S * P_T$$

$$P_{PV+T;tot}$$



$$S * P_{PV/T}$$

$$P_{PV/T;tot}$$

<  
↓

**YES, if  $X > 40\%$**

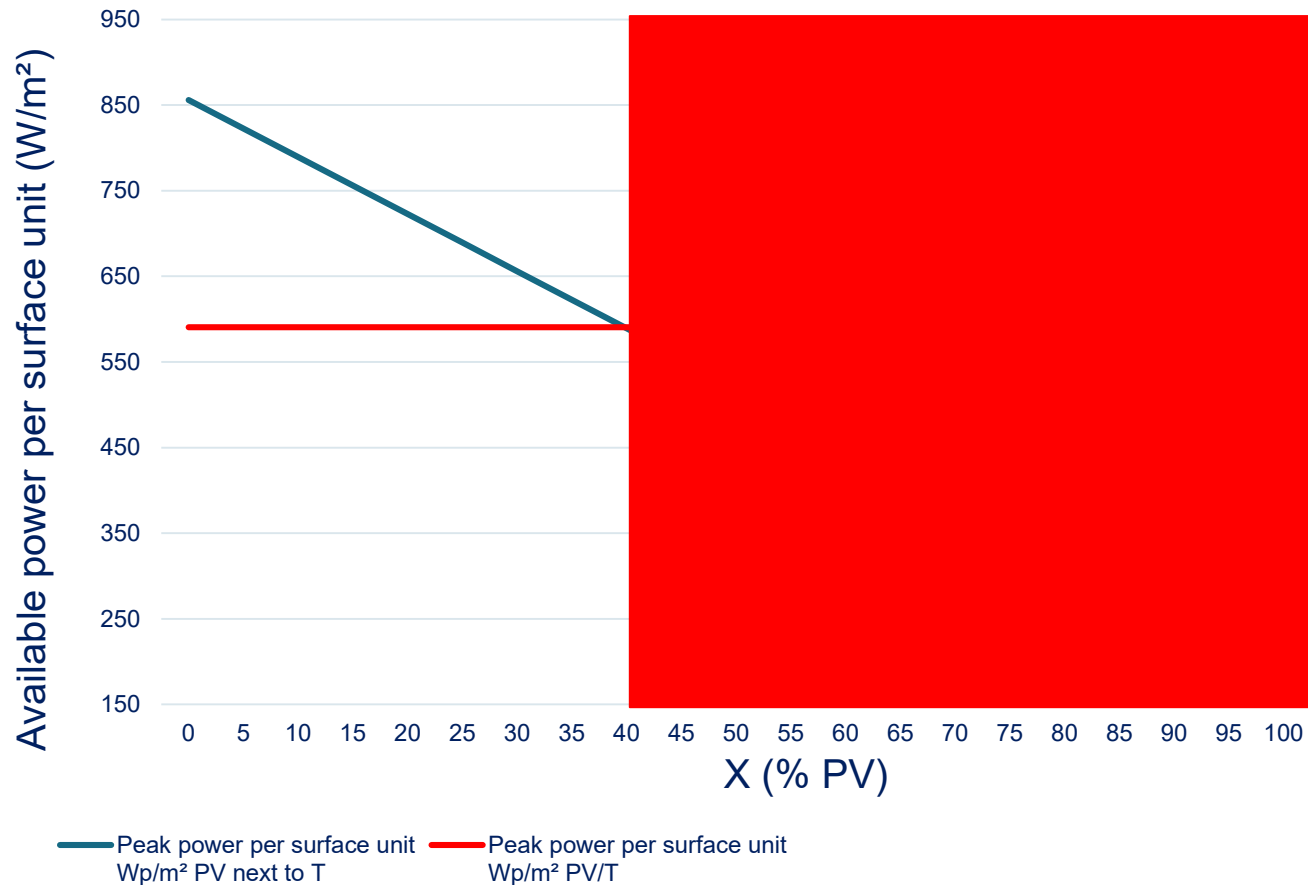
$$P_{PV} = 190 \text{ Wp/m}^2$$

$$P_T = 856 \text{ W/m}^2$$

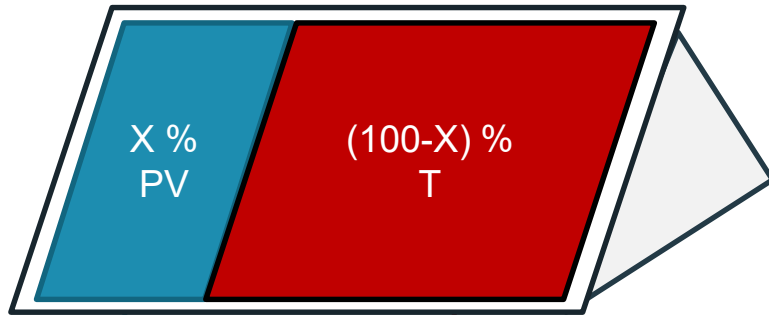
$$P_{PV/T} = 591 \text{ Wp/m}^2$$

# Power yield: PV+T vs PV/T

## Power performance of PV+T vs. PV/T



# Costs PV/T lower than PV+T ?

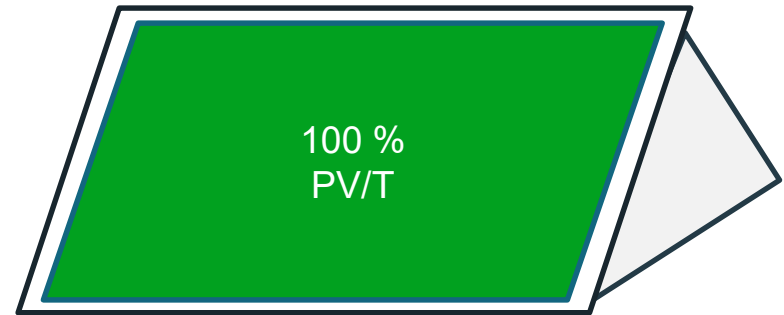


$$X * C_{PV} + (1-X) * C_T$$

$$C_{PV+T \text{ tot}}$$

$$C_{PV} = 1.22 \text{ €/Wp}$$

$$C_T = 0.47 \text{ €/W}$$



$$C_{PV/T}$$

$$C_{PV/T \text{ tot}}$$

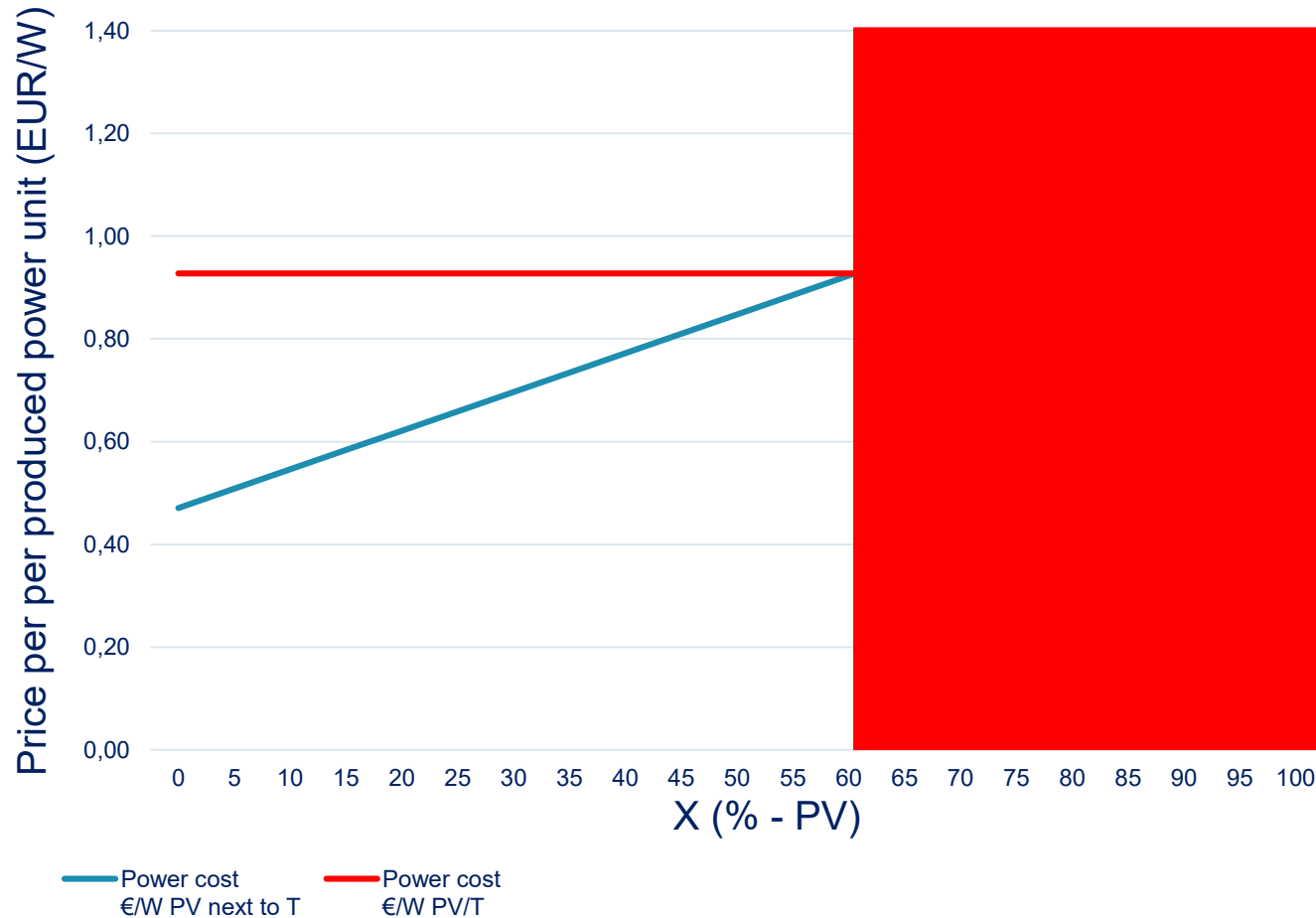
$$C_{PV/T} = 0.93 \text{ €/W}$$

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↓

**YES, if  $X > 60 \%$**

# Costs PV/T lower than PV+T ?

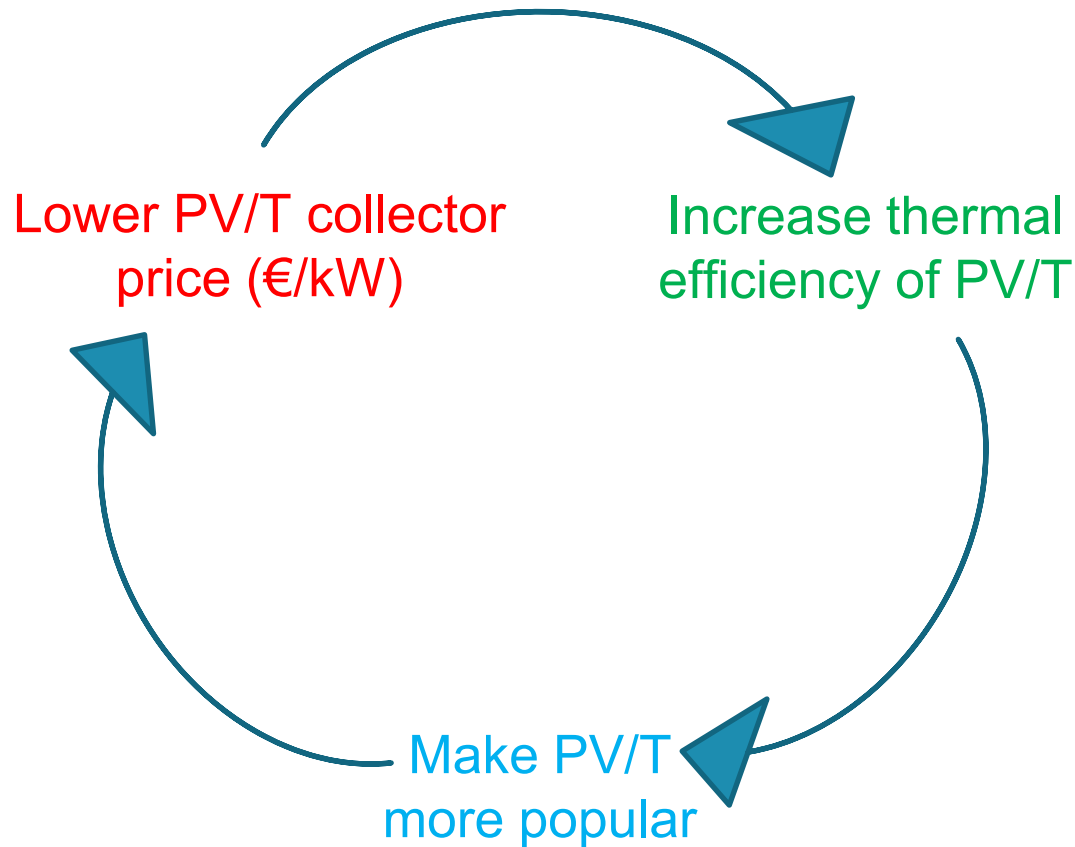
## Collector costs PV+T vs. PV/T



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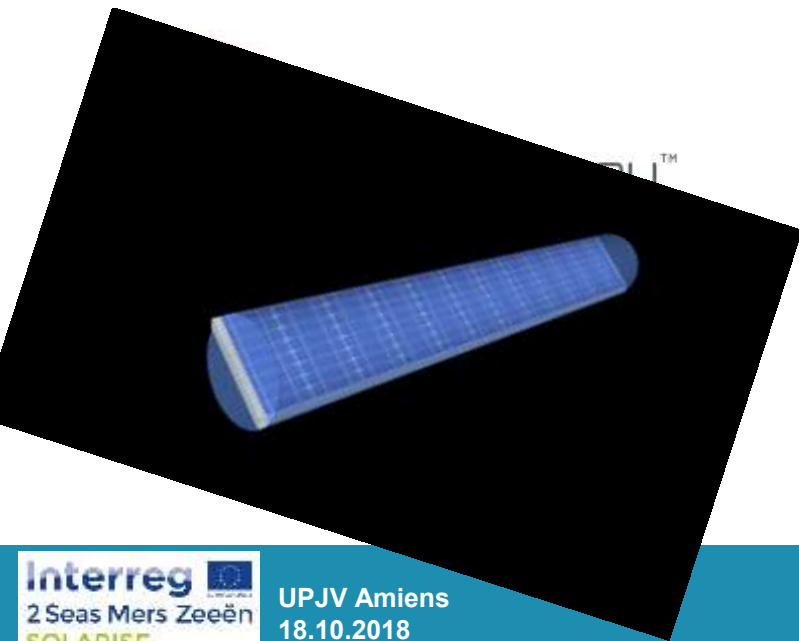
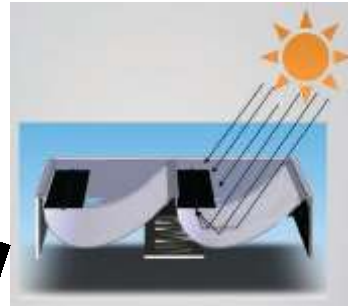
# PV/T uptake: challenges



Are these actually **opportunities** not challenges?

# Challenge 1: how to make PV/T cheaper (affordable)?

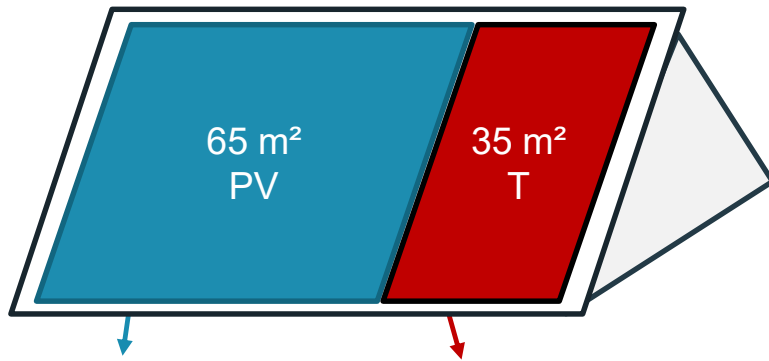
More companies on the market?





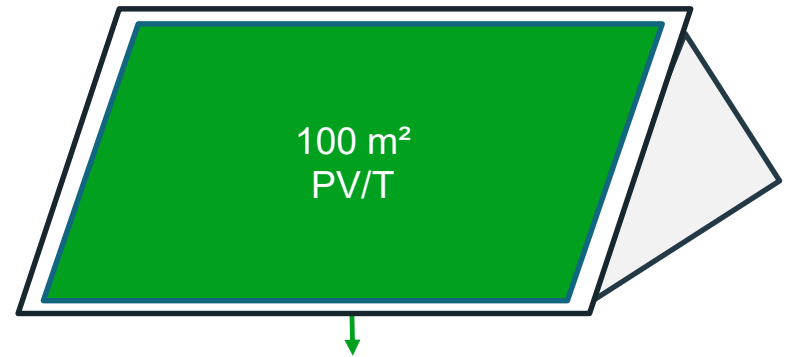
# Challenge 2: how to increase thermal (and overall) efficiency of PV/T?

$P_{\text{ther}} / P_{\text{elec}}$  ratio if  $X=65\%$  PV



$$P_{\text{elec}} = 12.3 \text{ kW} \quad P_{\text{ther}} = 30.0 \text{ kW}$$

$$P_{\text{ther}} / P_{\text{elec}} = 2.43$$



$$P_{\text{elec}} = 19 \text{ kW} \quad P_{\text{ther}} = 85.6 \text{ kW}$$

$$P_{\text{ther}} / P_{\text{elec}} = 4.5.$$

This ratio is not adaptable, and may not suit the power needs.


# Challenge 3: how to make PV/T more popular?

- Demonstration projects (SOLARISE, ...)
- Instruct (hands-on trainings) the local installers
- Show PV/T state-of-the-art and state-of-the-practice solutions to general public, students, etc.

# Other challenges for the PV/T uptake

How to enhance the reliability of PV/T-systems?

- Early detection of possible PV/T failures
- Increasing PV/T-panels lifetime by better materials/design

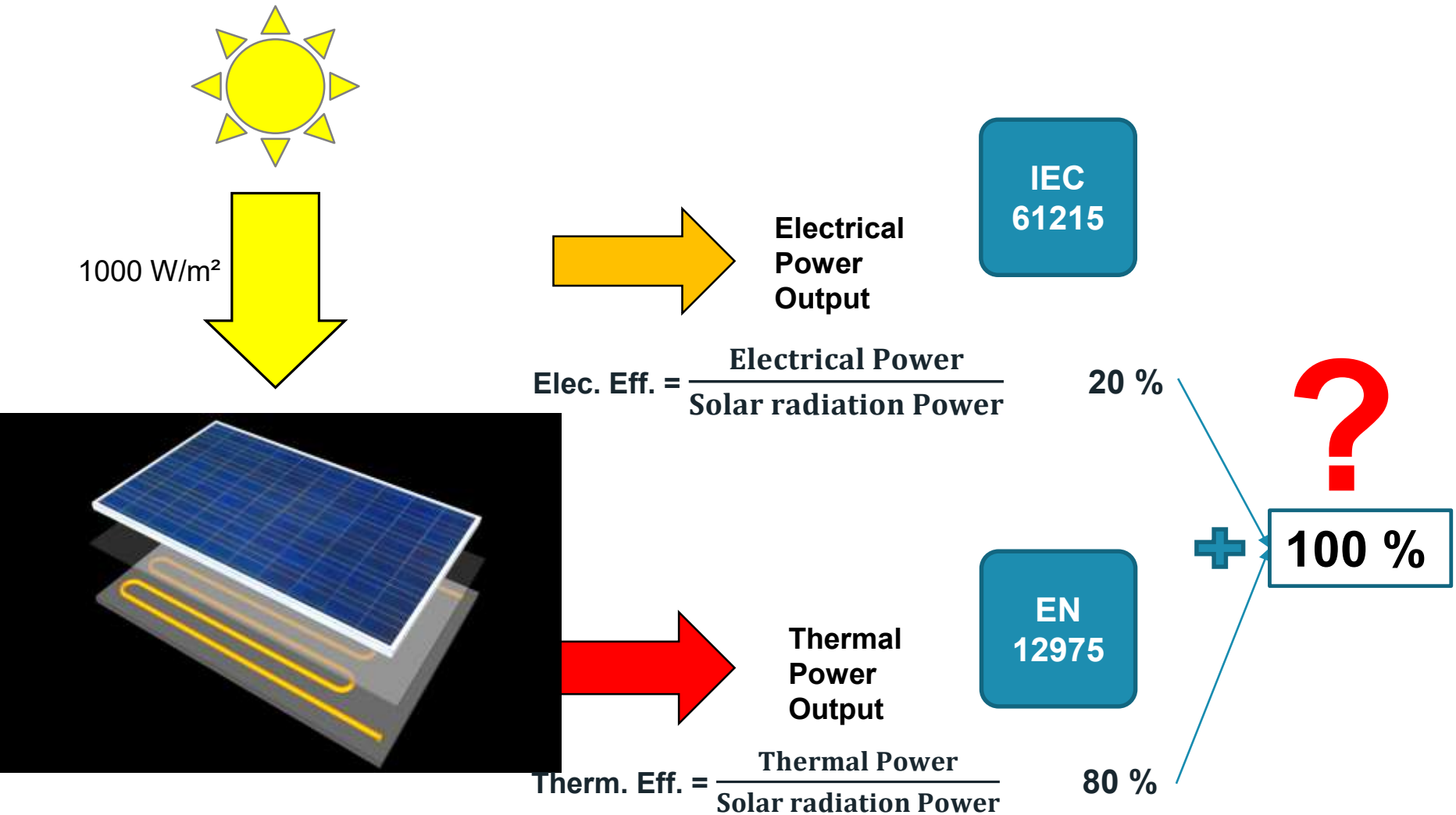
<b>PV panels</b>	25-year performance warranty	
<b>T panels</b>	10-year product warranty	 <b>Limit</b>
<b>PV/T panels</b>	25-year PV performance warranty 10-year product warranty	

*Best warranty durations on the market*

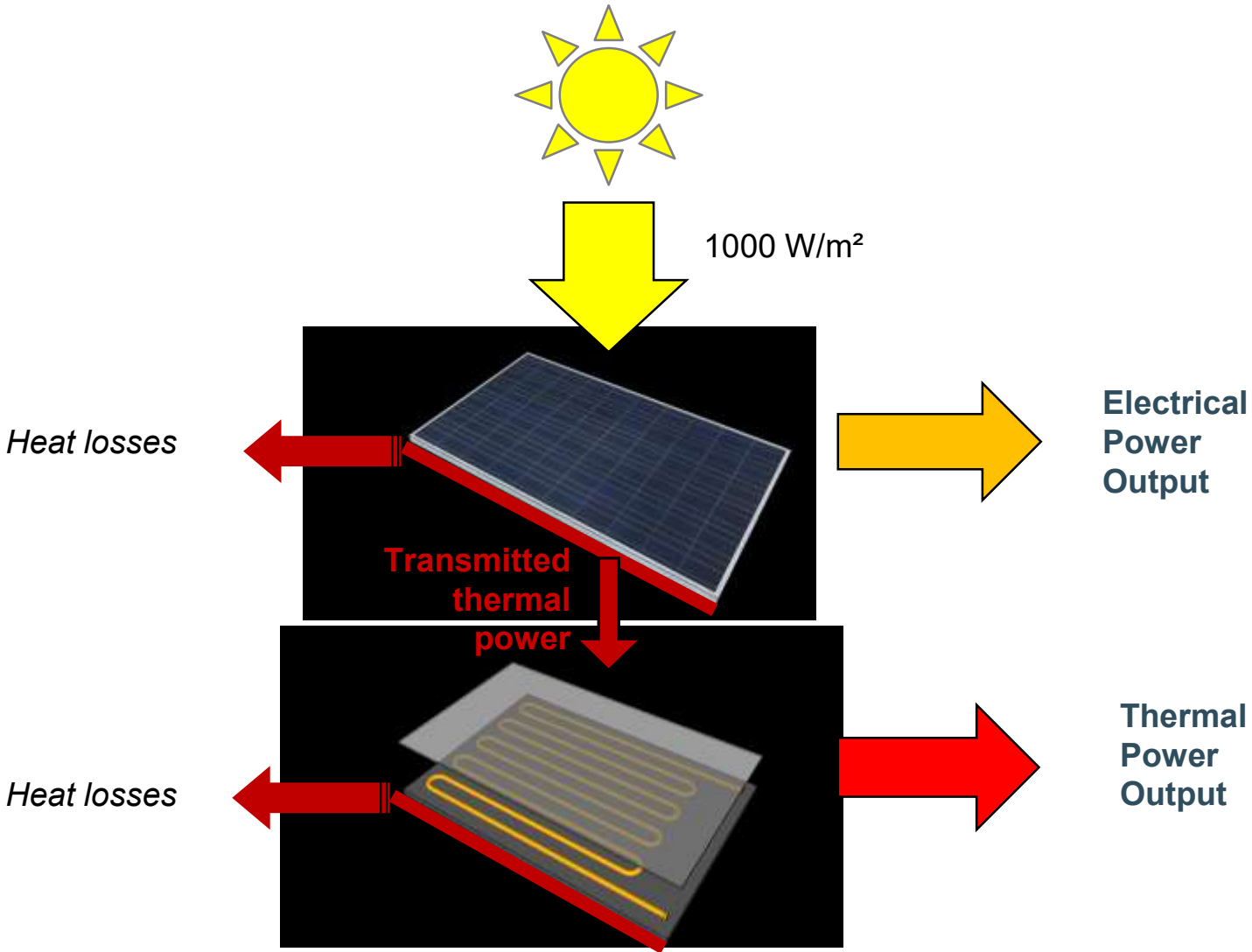
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# Definition of the yield of PV/T panels



# Energy flow in a water-based PV/T panel



# Future research on PV/T: yield

## Research questions related to the yield of PV/T panels :

- How to define the overall efficiency of a PV/T panel?
- A standard unified norm for PV/T performance assessment is needed: currently the PV and T parts are tested separately in accordance to two norms (PV and T-collectors)

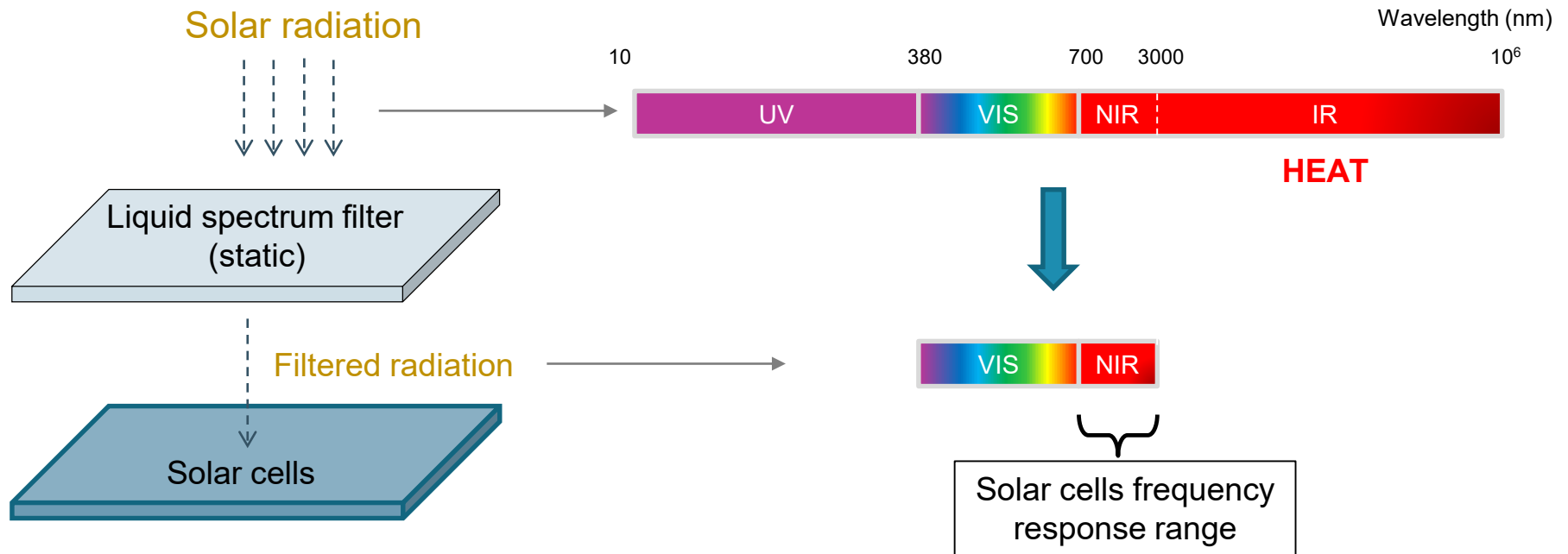
# Future research on PV/T: metrology enhanced modeling

Measure and model state-of-the-art PV/T technology:

- Beam-splitting PV/T
- Evacuated tubes PV/T
- Use of Fully-Graded Materials heat absorbers

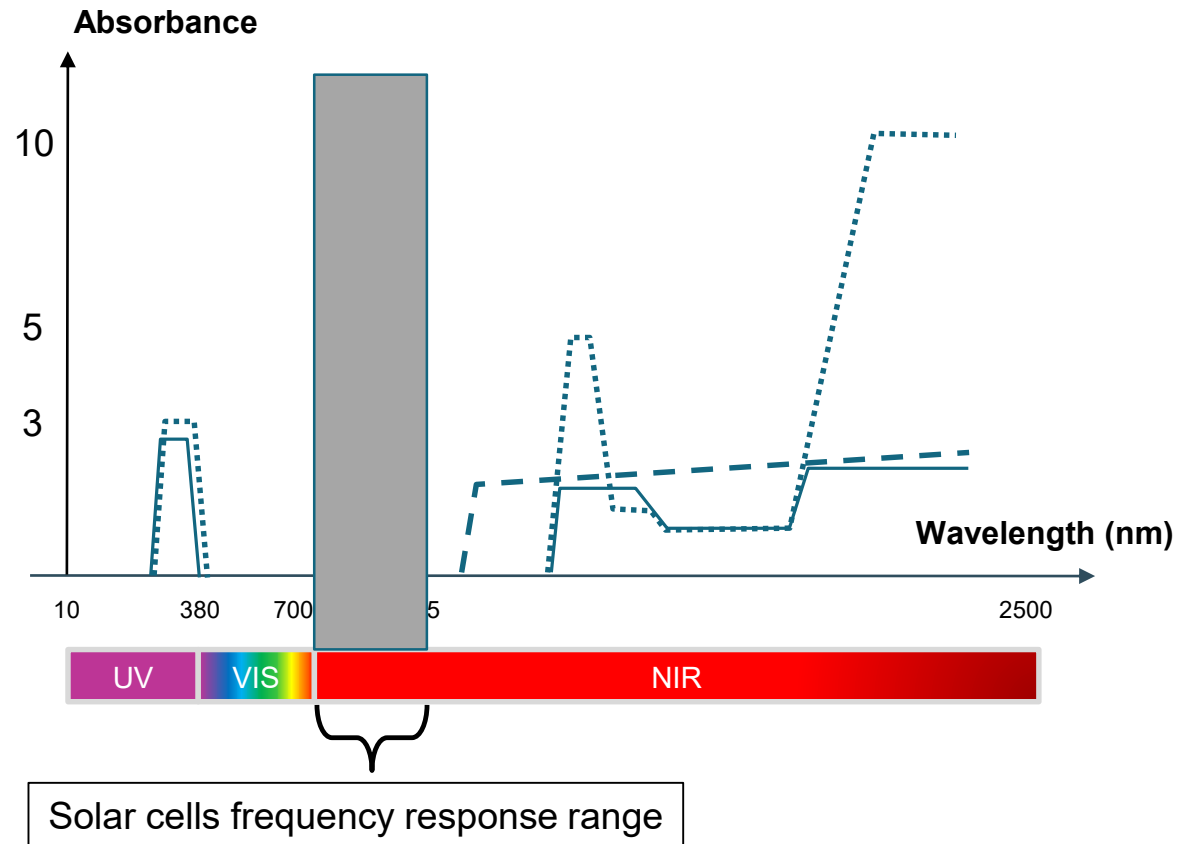
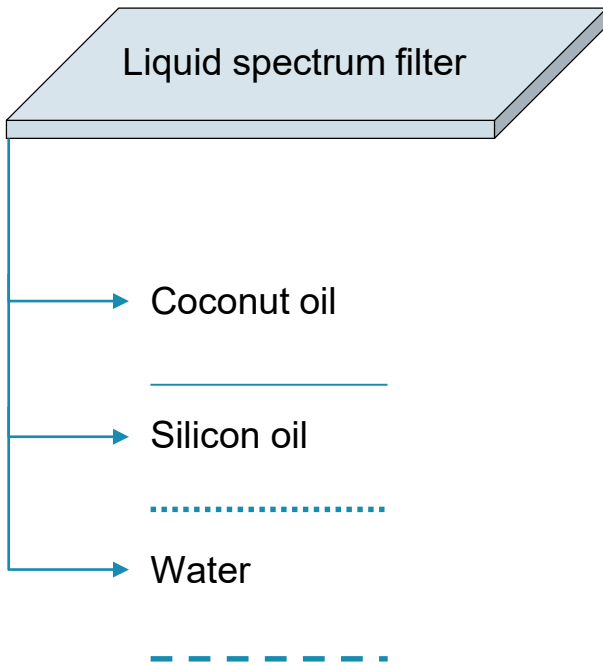


# Beam-splitting PV/T (BSPVT)

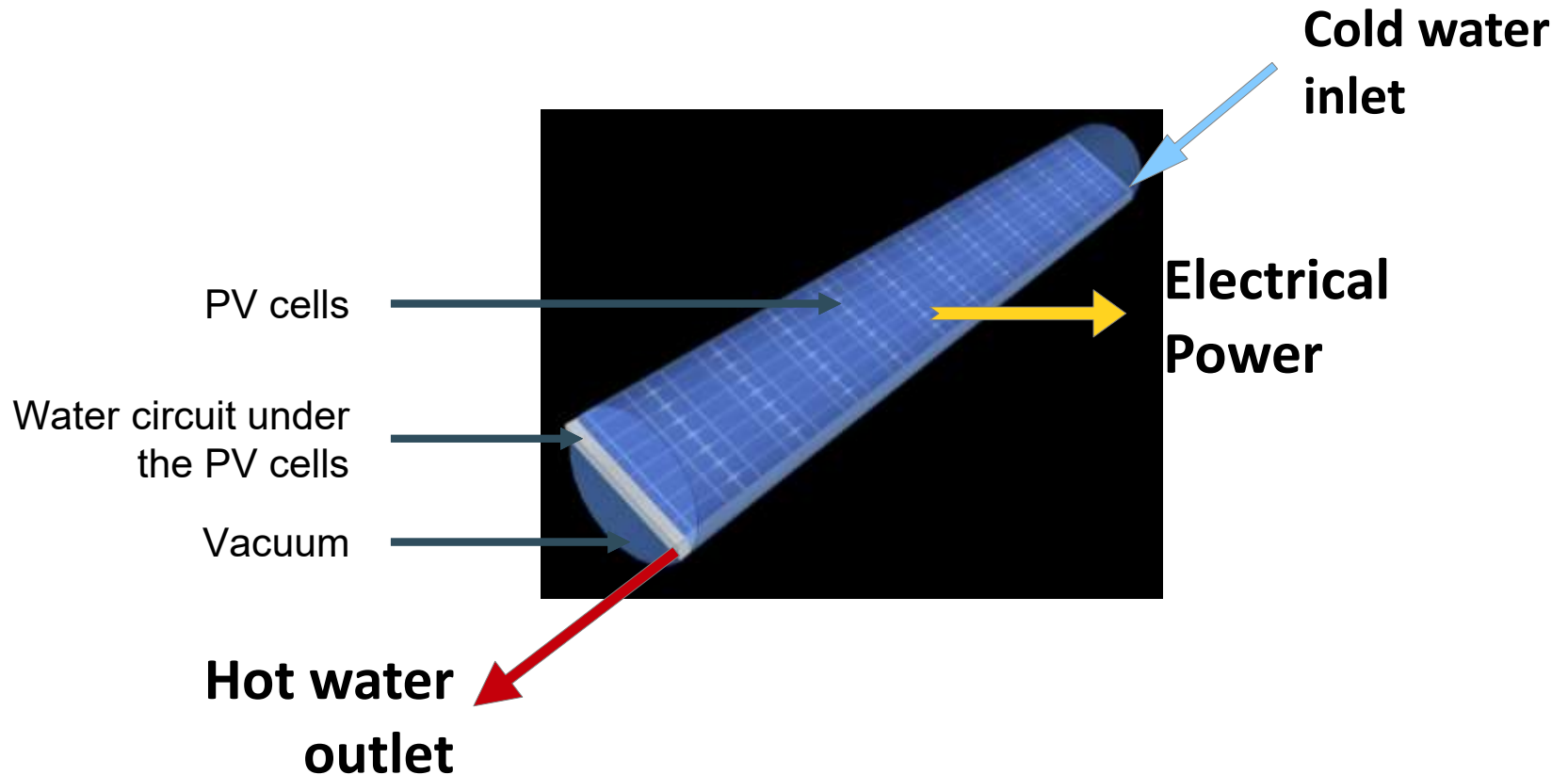


*Possible liquids: silicon oil, therminol, nanofluids, ...*

# Beam-splitting PV/T (BSPVT)

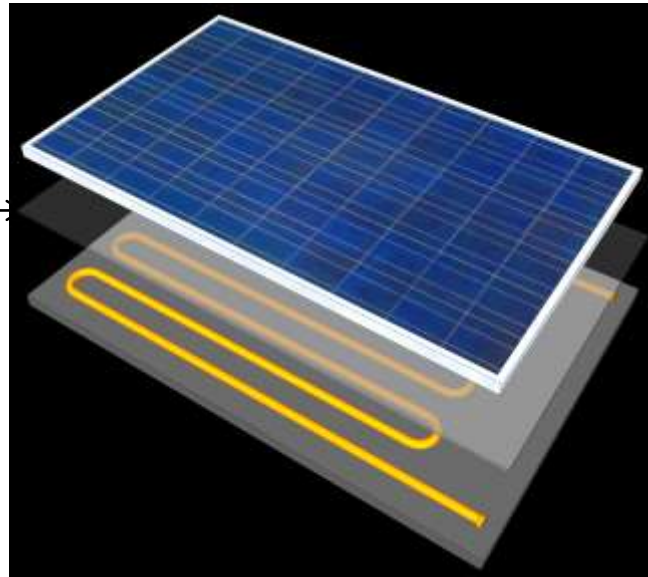


# Evacuated tubes PV/T collectors

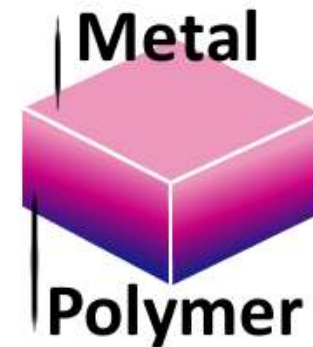


# Fully-Graded Materials (FGM) for absorbers

Heat absorber



- Higher thermal conductivity
- Light-weight
- But longer production process

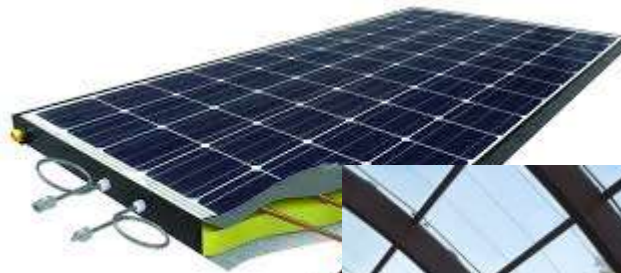


**Metal**

**Polymer**

# Conclusion:

## Why PV/T?



### Strengths

- Simultaneous, direct thermal and electrical power
- Better PV performance due to fluid cooling
- Suitable for users with increased thermal needs

### Opportunities

- New state-of-the-art technologies
- EU 1 m<sup>2</sup> solar thermal per capita to be reached
- Consumers are more interested to directly use thermal energy (easy to store as warm water)



# Thank you for your attention

## Questions?



Photovoltaic-Thermal (PV/T) Hybrid Systems  
State-of-the-art technology, challenges and opportunities

For more information

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PhD res. Baptist Vermeulen [Baptist.Vermeulen@kuleuven.be](mailto:Baptist.Vermeulen@kuleuven.be)

