# Webinar powered by

Maxeon Solar Technologies

#### **15 October 2020**

9 am - 10 am | CEST, Berlin 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm | IST, Delhi 3 pm - 4 pm | CST, Beijing 4 pm - 5 pm | AWDT, Perth



Marian Willuhn

Editor | pv magazine



# The bigger the module, the bigger the ROI? Let's crunch the numbers!



Robert Chew
Maxeon Solar
Technologies

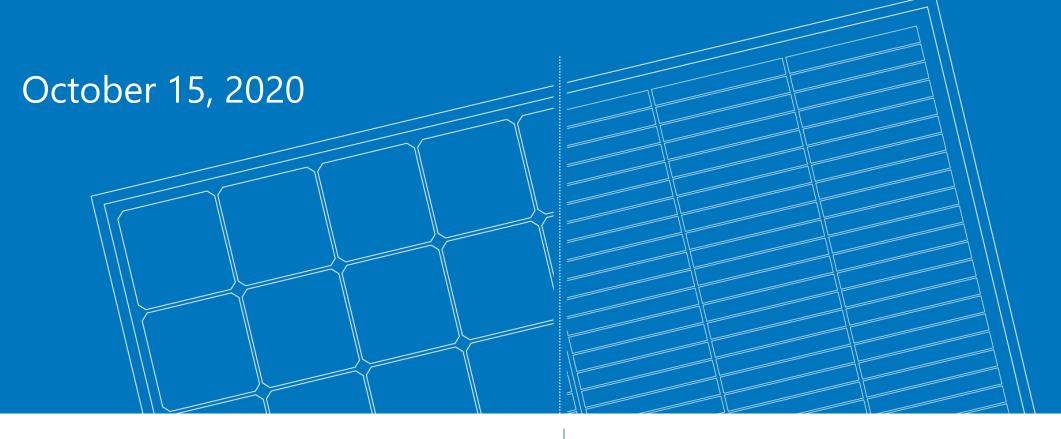


Sevi Gultes
Maxeon Solar
Technologies



Pierre Gousseland Terabase Energy

#### MAXIMISING RETURNS OF LARGE-SCALE SOLAR INSTALLATIONS



SUNPOWER

FROM MAXEON SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

#### **AGENDA**

- Introduction: Maxeon Solar Technologies
- Impacts of reliability and quality
- Impacts of larger, more powerful solar panels
- Let's crunch the numbers
- Conclusion





**Sevi Gultes**Application Engineer - Maxeon Solar Technologies

#### MAXEON SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

#### COMPANY OVERVIEW



**HQ** in Singapore NASDAQ (MAXN)



5,000 Employees In 14 Countries



\$1.2 Billion Net Revenue (2019)



2.75 GW Manuf. Capacity France, Mexico, China, Malaysia, Philippines



**SunPower brand** Outside of the USA



#1 Shareholder is Total S.A., a \$150 Billion energy company.<sup>1</sup>







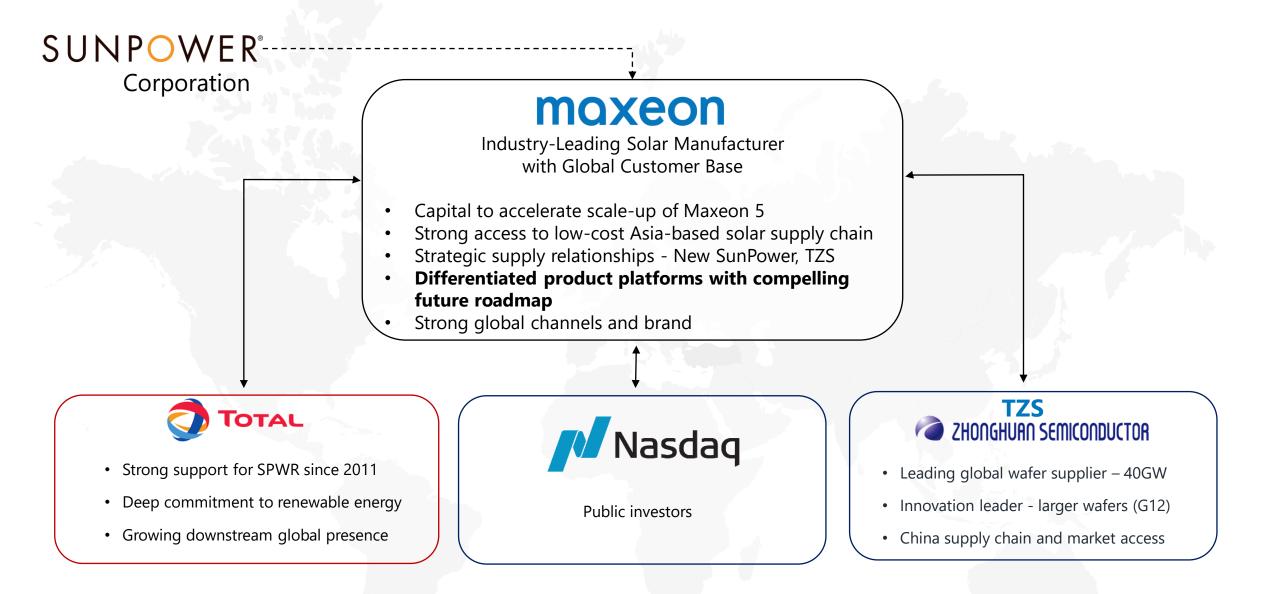
Commercial Solar



**Solar Power Plants** 

1 Source: Forbes, The World's Largest Oil & Gas Companies 2020. Forbes Global 2000. 2 Based on datasheet review of websites of top 20 manufacturers per IHS, as of Jan, 2020.

#### MAXEON BENEFITS FROM STRONG STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

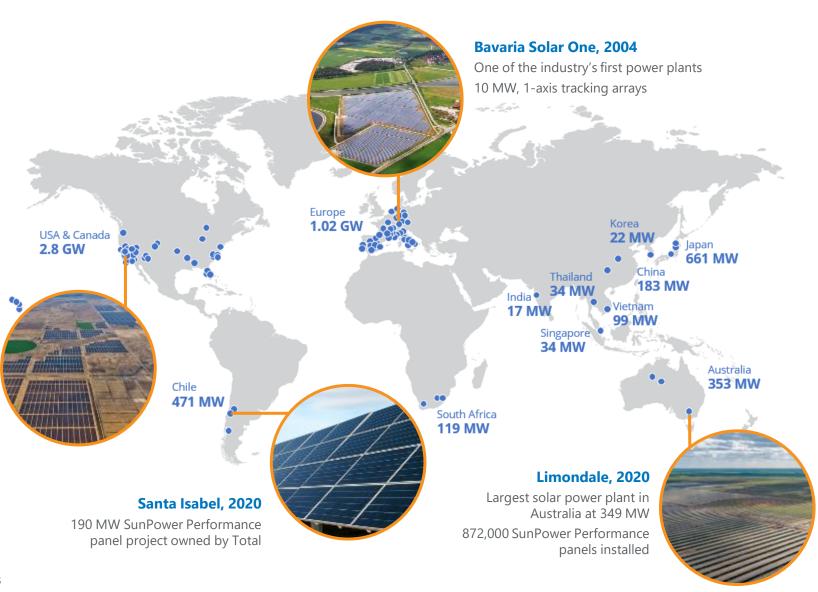


#### MAXEON HAS A DEEP GLOBAL POWER PLANT LEGACY

- Maxeon has extensive large-scale solar system domain experience
- More than 5GW of SunPower panels installed across 6 continents
- Deep understanding of value chain drivers — from EPCs and developers, to financiers, IPPs and investors
- Legacy downstream experience informs Maxeon product development & design

#### Solar Star, 2015

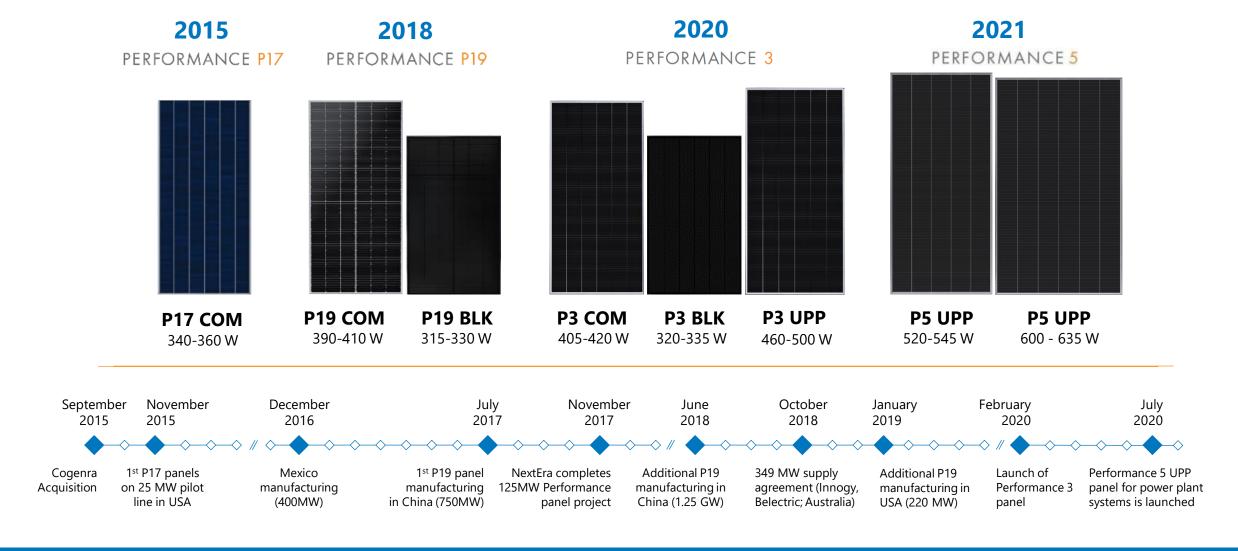
Largest solar project in the USA at 747 MW 1.7 million SunPower Maxeon panels installed



Note: Not an exhaustive illustration of SunPower PP projects

#### SUNPOWER PERFORMANCE PANELS

#### Proven in the field



SUNPOWER | PERFORMANCE

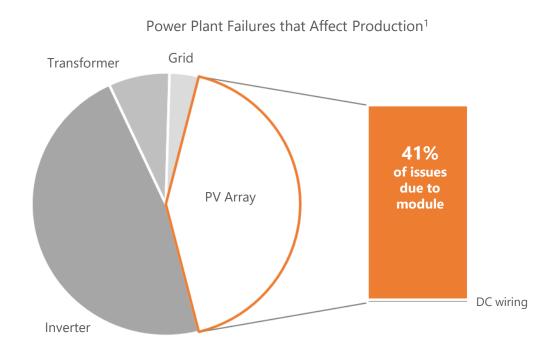
#### PANEL RELIABILITY IMPORTANCE IN LARGE SCALE SOLAR



#### RELIABILITY OF SOLAR POWER PLANTS

#### Panel reliability is an ongoing issue in the field

A recent study of EU powerplants found 41% of issues were caused by panels.1

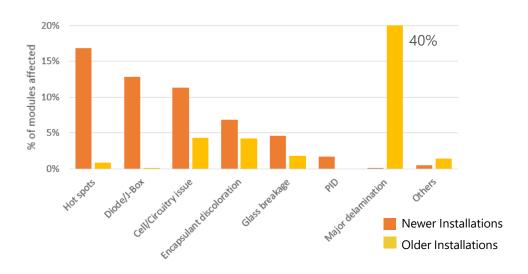


#### Newer panels show a higher occurrence of major panel issues like hotspots and diode failure.

The youngest group of panels, built during a period of intense cost pressure, shows:

- Increased hotspots
  - Increased diode and J-box issues
- Increased cell circuitry issues
- Increased encapsulant issues
- Increased PID

Change in Degradation Mode by Module Age<sup>1</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jordan, et. al. "Photovoltaic Failure and Degradation Modes." PiP, 2017



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lillo-Bravo, et. al. "Impact of Energy Losses Due to Failures on Photovoltaic Plant Energy Balance." Energies. 2018.

#### MAKING THE CONVENTIONAL, EXCEPTIONAL

Innovative shingled cell design uniquely engineered for the reliability and durability needs of power plant installations

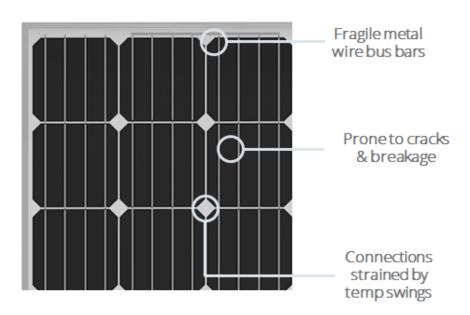
#### Conventional

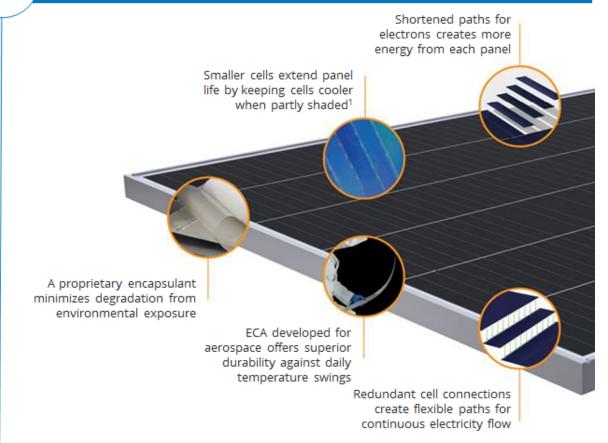
VS.

#### SUNPOWER\* | PERFORMANCE

#### **Vulnerable to Breakage & Corrosion**

2x the connections in half cell panels





1 SunPower Performance Series - Thermal Performance, Z.Campeau 2016.

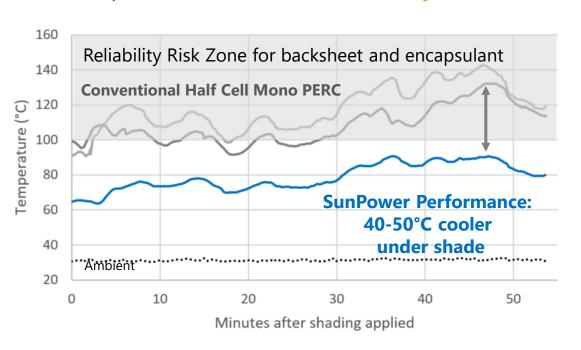


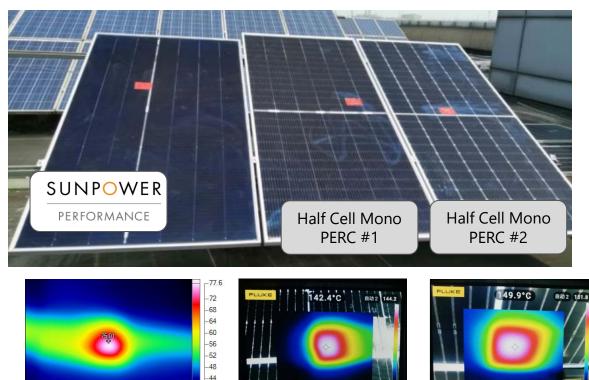
#### HOTSPOT PROTECTION THROUGH BETTER DESIGN

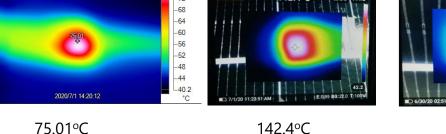
#### Performance panels reduce the risk of temperature-related failures through crack mitigation and unique circuitry

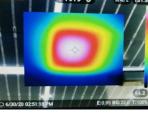


Under severe cell cracking or worst-case shading conditions, Performance panels operate at 40-50°C lower temperature.1









149.9°C

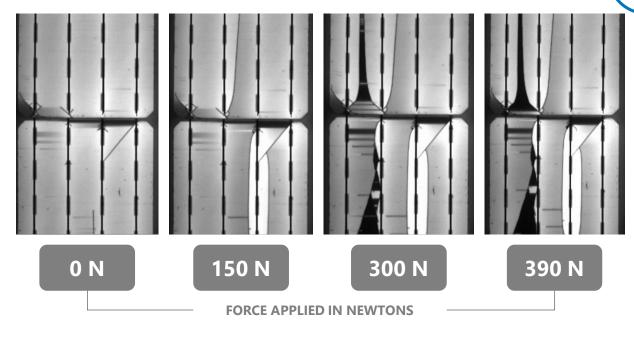
#### ENGINEERED TO STAND UP TO THE ELEMENTS

Minimising power loss from cell damage

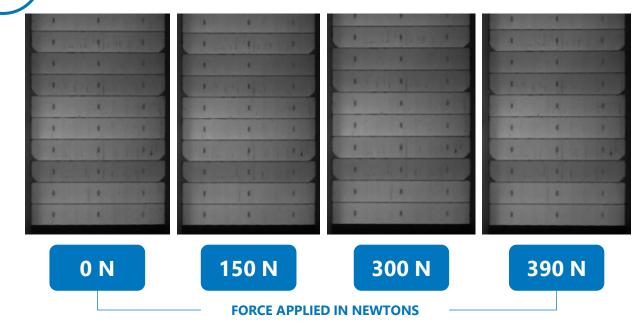
Conventional front-contact mono PERC

VS.

SUNPOWER | PERFORMANCE

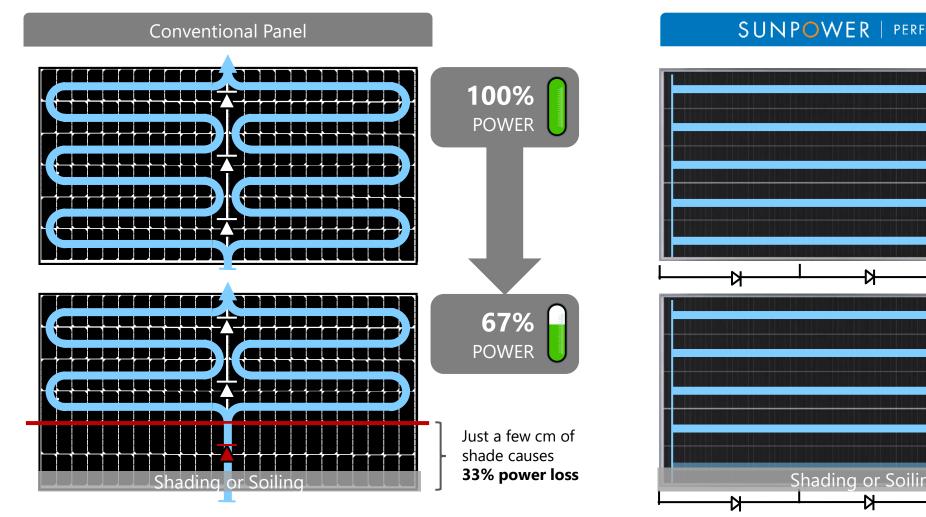


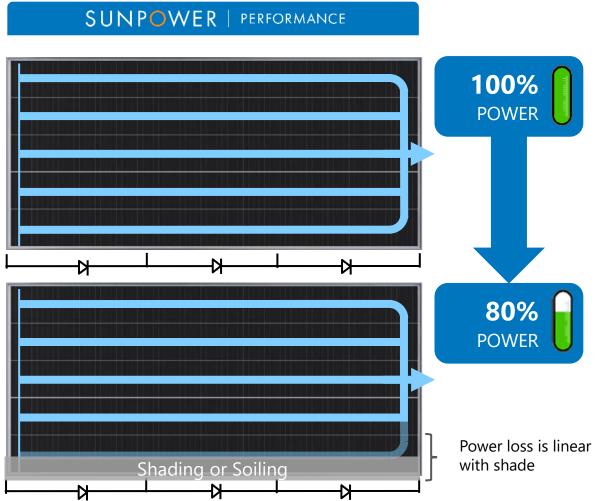
Demonstration shows brittleness of typical conventional cells



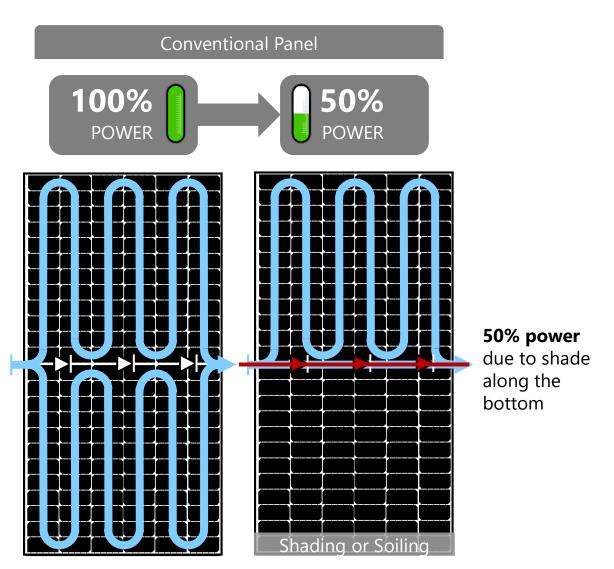
Smaller cells are less susceptible to breakage Confines cracks to a smaller portion of the panel

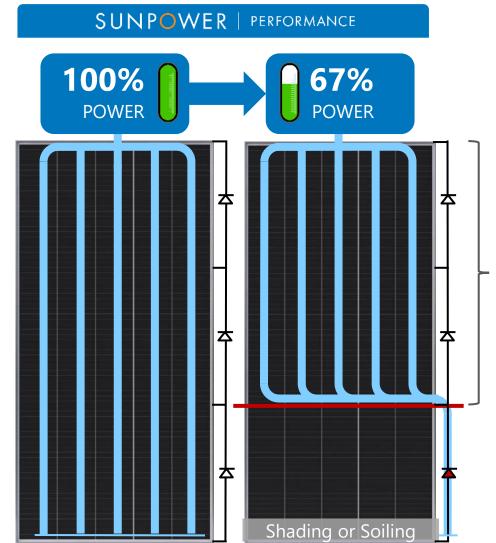
#### UNIQUE DESIGN MITIGATES INTER-ROW SHADING (LANDSCAPE)





#### UNIQUE DESIGN MINIMISES SHADING LOSS (PORTRAIT)





**Retains 67%** power with shade along the bottom

#### SUNPOWER PERFORMANCE PANEL LINE FEATURES

#### **Performance 5 UPP (Utility and Power Plant)**

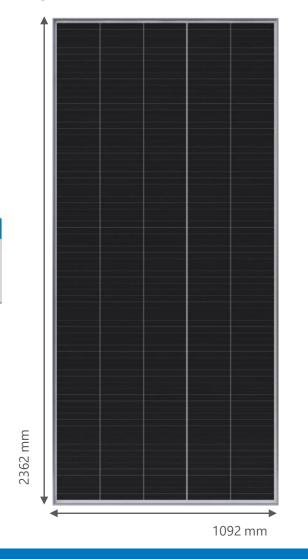
SUNPOWER | PERFORMANCE 5

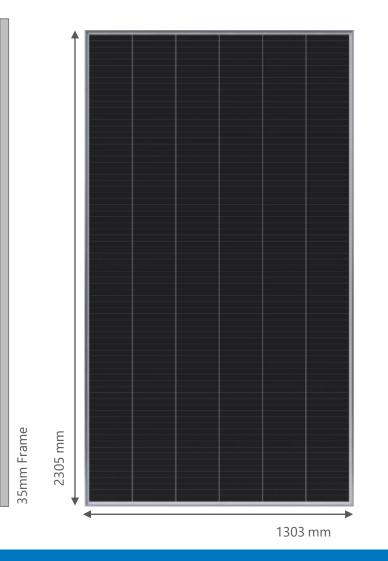
**NEW** Larger, full square G12 cells **NEW** Bifacial power generation **NEW** Framed glass/glass construction 3 Junction boxes, 3 Diodes (1 each)

Warranty	P5 UPP
Power (years)	30
Start	98.0%
Deg rate	0.45%
	Power (years) Start

**Power** Up to 545 W

**Efficiency** Up to 21.1%





**Power** Up to 635 W

**Efficiency** Up to 21.2%



## Impacts of larger, more powerful solar panels



Pierre Gousseland
Co-Founder and VP for
Business Development & Partnerships
Terabase Energy

#### Terabase Energy

**Terabase Energy** is developing the digital & automated development and installation platform to achieve \$0.01/kWh solar power by 2025

#### Significant momentum & milestones since launch early 2019:

- 1. IP and team spin-out of a major public solar company
- 2. Seasoned team with deep solar industry experience
- 3. \$8M raised from leading cleantech investors
- 4. Platform Phase 1 released; 200+ companies registered in 25 countries
- 5. US DOE R&D grant awarded for construction automation
- 6. Headquartered in California with teams in EMEA and APAC

#### What we do:

- **1. Development platform** GIS & AI based design platform to assess technology/project fit and optimize projects
- 2. **Development phase services** evaluation of complex engineering, technology, and financial parameters with the full project lifecycle in mind
- **3. Engineering Services** from conceptual to IFC drawings
- **4. Procurement Services** from supplier qualification to EPC tenders
- **5. Deployment platform** Logistics, fulfillment, QC & automated installation



#### **Contact Info:**

Pierre Gousseland VP, Business Development & Partnerships, Co-Founder pgousseland@terabase.energy

#### The 72-cell form factor

- Utility solar dominated by the 72-cell form factor for ~10 years
- Mounting and electrical systems optimized around this form factor
- Commoditization of utility solar panels facilitated by standard 72cell design since:
  - Entire ecosystem from development to BOS to construction has been designed around it
  - Modules have been largely plug-compatible
- 72-cell module very rapidly becoming obsolete being replaced by half-cell or shingled bifacial panels in different form factors and increasing in size

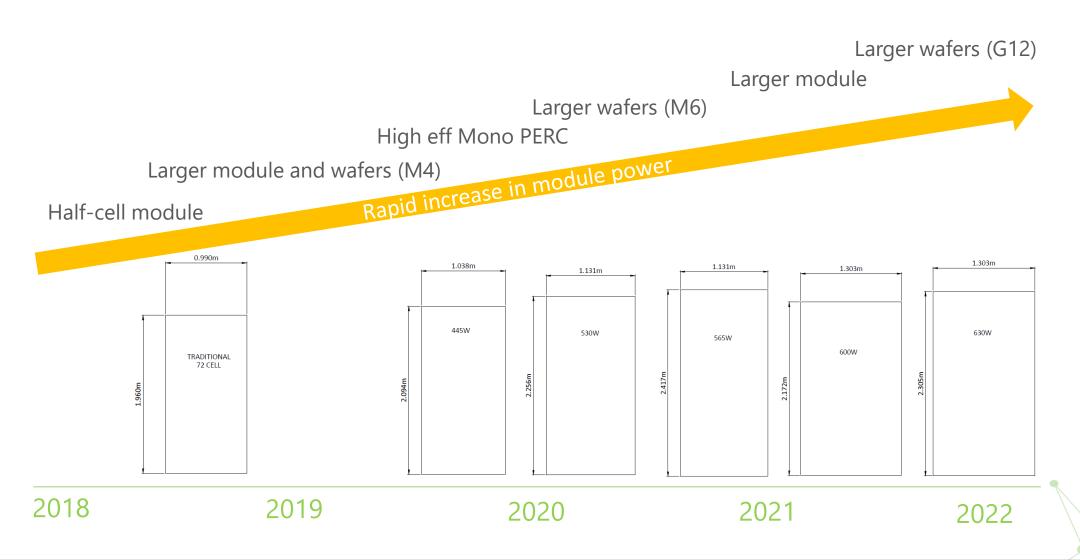


1956mm

72-cell panel

23kg

#### **Utility Module Competitive Trends**

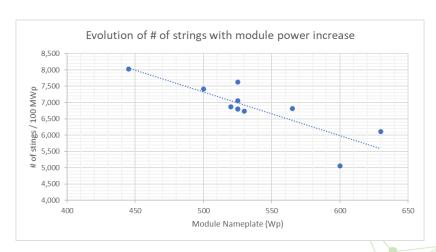




#### System Levels Benefits and Trade-Offs

- Module Installation
  - Installation unit cost increased (by 0% to 20% depending on size, weight and installer) due to productivity loss from bigger/heavier modules; BUT
  - Overall net positive due to lower module count
- Electrical BOS Impacts
  - Cost of DC hardware is subject to the length (m) of the string; BUT
  - Higher string power resulting in savings due to lower string count
  - Potentially some hardware optimization required by string inverter manufacturers for higher current
- Shipping Benefits
  - **Higher shipping density** in most cases but might vary based on form factor



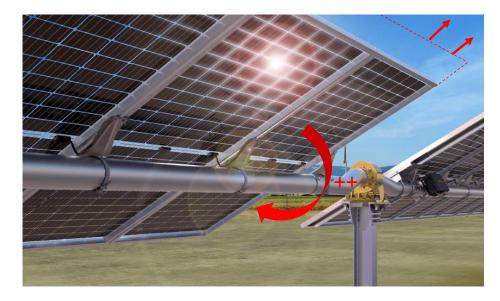


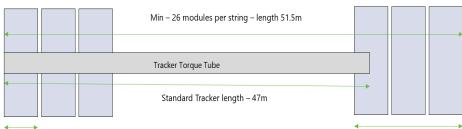
Note: String lengths calculated based on a Min Site Temp of -20C



#### Mechanical Impacts to be Considered

- Increased wind loads on racking due to bigger "sail area" and heavier modules:
  - May require more steel, increasing racking costs
  - May need to shorten tracker or reduce number of rows, decreasing total tracker power
  - For most trackers, increasing module width preferable as opposed to module length to reduce force on torque tube components
- Increased pile loading -> increase in pile length -> increase in material and potentially installation costs
- Published max tracker wind speed on datasheets based on traditional 72-cell modules. May be inadequate for larger form factors
- Optimal string length for wider modules may not exceed max allowable tracker length
- Strong coordination with racking vendors is needed and will address most of the above challenges



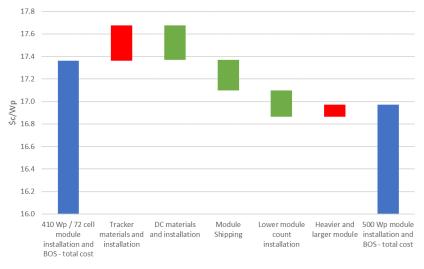




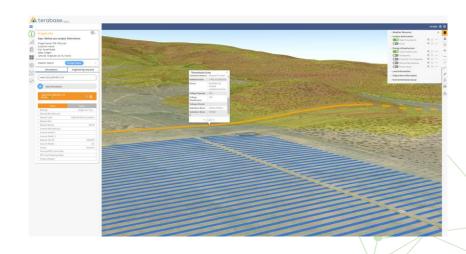
#### Impacts Summary

- Overall a net positive impact on project LCOE
- Benefit varying project by project. Need to **carefully assess the impact** on mechanical/electrical BOS and installation on a project specific basis
- Impacts to be further assessed and mitigated with racking suppliers and installers
- Some impacts to be further studied:
  - Do larger modules endure more stress during shipping, installation, operation causing PV modules reliability concerns? (e.g. microcracks)
  - Tracker wind tunnel test carried out with traditional 72-cell modules. Using larger form factor modules might lead to change in tracker natural frequency
- As the industry moves towards larger form factor modules, the careful qualification and selection of compatible, high performance, high reliability PV modules become more critical than ever.





Note: same efficiency for 410 and 500 Wp modules, based on project in Spain, based on 1P unganged tracker







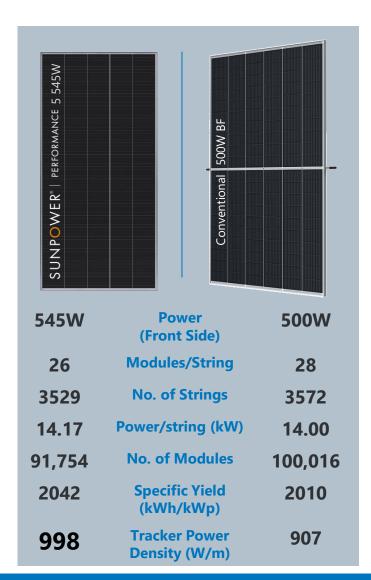
**Robert Chew**Application Engineer - Maxeon Solar Technologies

#### IS BIGGER ALWAYS BETTER? LET'S CRUNCH THE NUMBERS

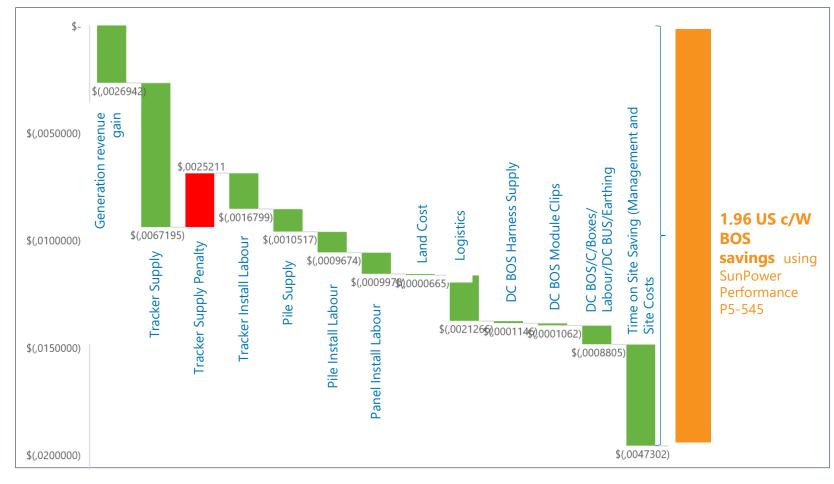


#### CASE STUDY 1: 50MW 2P TRACKER | VIETNAM



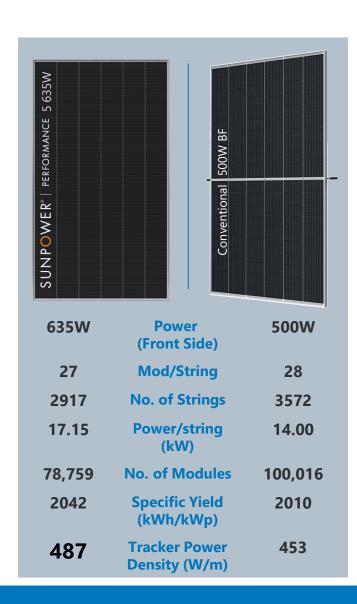


#### **Understanding the balance of system reductions**

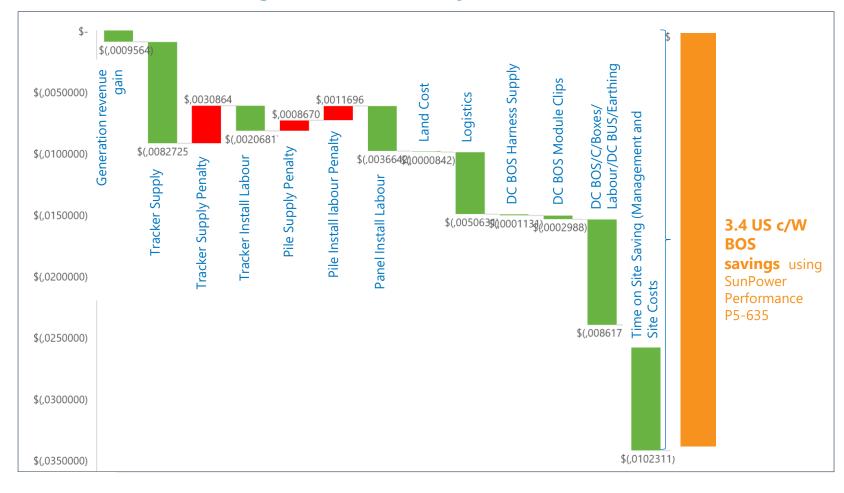


#### CASE STUDY 2: 50MW 1P TRACKER | AUSTRALIA



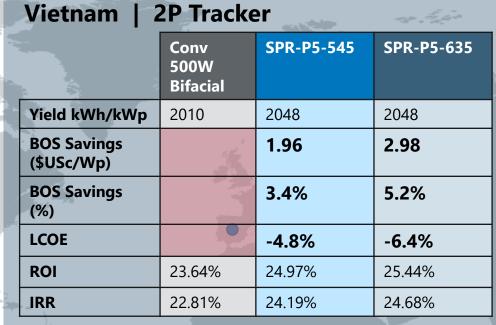


#### **Understanding the balance of system reductions**



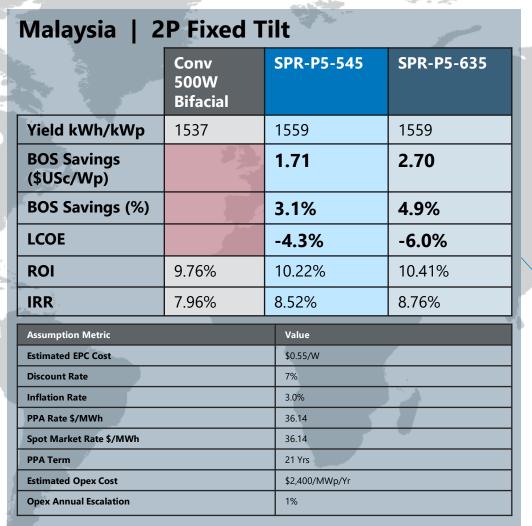
Spain   2P Tracker				
	Conv 500W Bifacial	SPR-P5-545	SPR-P5-635	
Yield kWh/kWp	2234	2256	2256	
BOS Savings (€c/Wp)		1.56	2.46	
BOS Savings (%)		3.1%	4.9%	
LCOE		-3.7%	-5.3%	
ROI	14.62%	15.24%	15.53%	
IRR	13.52%	14.20%	14.51%	
Assumation Matrix			200	
Estimated EPC Cost	Assumption Metric		Value €0.50/W	
Discount Rate			6%	
Inflation Rate		1%		
PPA Rate €/MWh	PPA Rate €/MWh		35.07	
Spot Market Rate €/MWh	Spot Market Rate €/MWh		35.07	
PPA Term		12 Yrs		
Estimated Opex Cost		€4,250/MWp/Yr		
Opex Annual Escalation		1%		

\* 1 EUR = 0.85 USD



Assumption Metric	Value
Estimated EPC Cost	\$0.57/W
Discount Rate	10%
Inflation Rate	1.5%
PPA Rate \$/MWh	70.90
Spot Market Rate \$/MWh	25.00
PPA Term	20 Yrs
Estimated Opex Cost	\$7,000/MWp/Yr
Opex Annual Escalation	1%







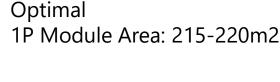


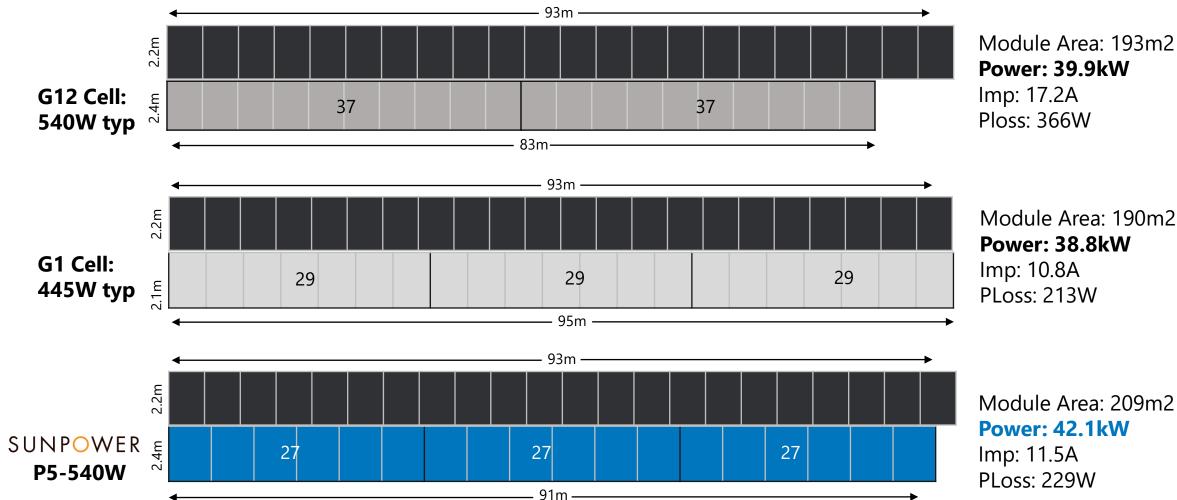
Australia	1P Tracker			
	Conv 500W Bifacial	SPR-P5-545	SPR-P5-635	
Yield kWh/kWp	2065	2089	2089	
BOS Savings (\$USc/Wp)		2.17	3.42	
BOS Savings (%)	).	3.1%	4.9%	
LCOE		-3.8%	-5.4%	
ROI	10.72%	11.21%	11.42%	
IRR	9.03%	9.60%	9.85%	

Assumption Metric	Value
Estimated EPC Cost	\$0.70/W
Discount Rate	8%
Inflation Rate	3.0%
PPA Rate \$/MWh	39.85
Spot Market Rate \$/MWh	39.85
PPA Term	12 Yrs
Estimated Opex Cost	\$8,000/MWp/Yr
Opex Annual Escalation	1%

#### TRACKER COMPATIBILITY

#### The keys to ensuring a high installed capacity per tracker





Module Area: 209m2

#### SUNPOWER | PERFORMANCE

#### CONCLUSION

#### THE BIGGER THE BETTER, DEPENDS ON DETAILED ASSESSMENT

#### Conclusion

#### Large form factor modules drive the balance of system costs down by:

- More power per module (We physically install modules not watts) Less overall DC Strings.
- Reduced Tracker quantities and piles in most cases
- **Reduced Logistical movements**
- Reduced time on site (Less modules & trackers to install)

#### However, the level of BOS savings depends on:

- Individual assessment of each project site
- Tracker, BOS & Inverter full compatibility check
- Assessment of electrical losses
- OH&S

#### **Reliability & Durability is Key:**

Large modules mean more force and movement. Maxeon Solar Technologies has engineered durability and reliability into their modules designs.

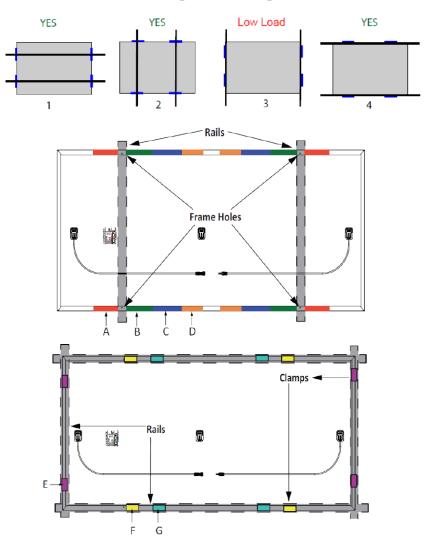
### SUNPOWER

FROM MAXEON SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

Thank You

#### MODULE LOADING & CLAMPING INFORMATION

#### Flexible mounting configurations



#### **Allowable mounting configurations**

Applicable Products	Mounting Zone	Distance from corner (mm)	Wind (up & down) / Snow(down) (units in Pa) <sup>3</sup>	Mounting Method
	Α	183-283	1600/2400	
	В	466-566	1600/3600 <sup>4</sup>	Claman
P3 UPP	D	783-833	1600/1600	Clamp
	E	300-400	1600/1600	
(2066 x 1160 x	F	465-565	1600/2400	
35mm)		303	1600/3600	Bolt
	Frame	504		
	Holes <sup>2</sup>	603		
		803		
P5 UPP	С	F 40, C 40	1600/2600	Classes
(2362 x 1092 x 35mm)	G	540-640	1600/3600	Clamp

The table represents design loads at 1.5 Factor of Safety

## SUNPOWER® | IBC Panels

Fundamentally different, and better.



in the market, fitting more energy in less space



**#1 Lowest Degradation Rate** 

in the solar industry<sup>2</sup>



**Leading Durability<sup>2</sup>** with a 40-year useful life<sup>3</sup>



Ultra-pure silicon on a patented copper foundation



# SUNPOWER® | Shingled Panels

Making the conventional, exceptional



**Enhanced Energy Yield** Less soiling/shading loss (row spacing), bifacial, greater power density

**Reliability Advantages in Harsh Environments** Comprehensive warranty, top module reliability performer



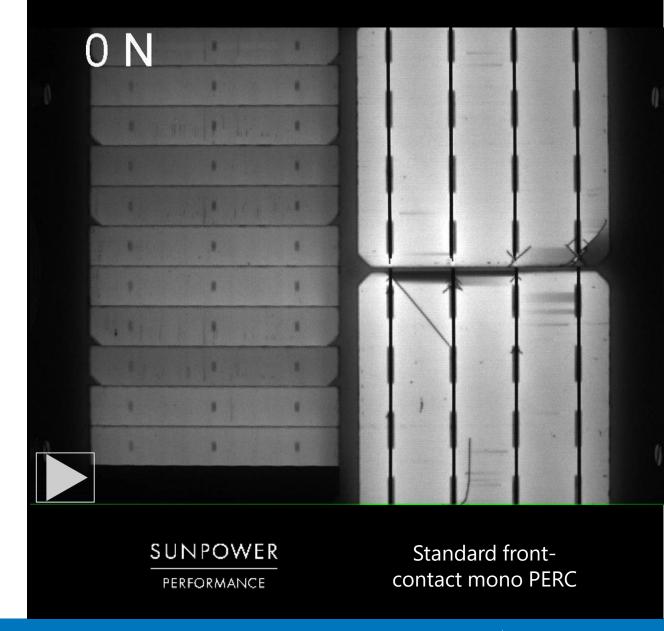
Patented unique mono PERC shingled cell panel design

modulereliability-scorecard-117982

as of January 2019

### MINIMISING POWER LOSS FROM CELL DAMAGE

- Smaller cells are less susceptible to breakage and confine cell cracks to a smaller portion of the panel, maximizing energy generation
- These EL scans from a 4-point bend test at a mechanical load of nearly 400 N show no cracking in the Performance hypercell

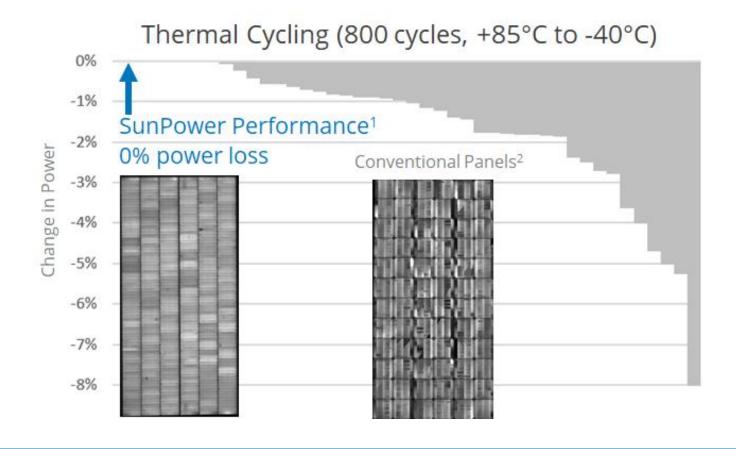


EL scans collected from internal SunPower laboratory testing of conventional front contact mono PERC cell stringing vs SunPower Performance panels; September, 2017.

#### STABLE CELL INTERCONNECTIONS UNDER THERMAL CYCLING

### **Third party validation**

- •Ribbon failure due to regular thermal cycles is a leading failure mode for Conventional Panels
- •Performance Series uses a robust non-ribbon cell-to-cell connection to design this weak link out of the panel



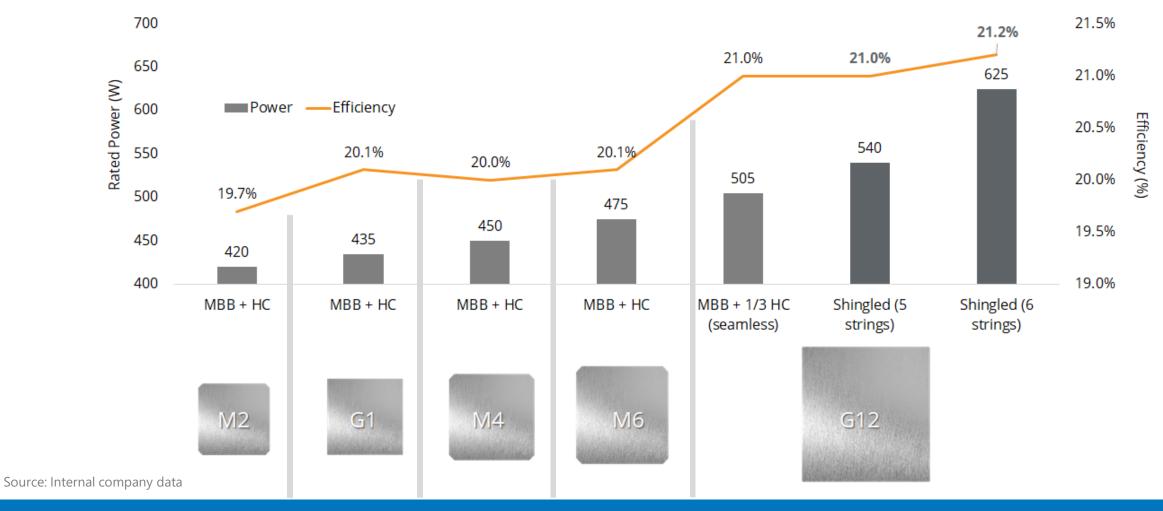


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DNV report R10051033J-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> PVEL Module Reliability Scorecard, 2019

#### G12 SHINGLED PANELS ENABLE HIGHER EFFICIENCY AND LOWER LCOE

G12 Shingled Panels vs Multi-Busbar (MBB) Cut Cell Panels (assuming equivalent efficiency mono-PERC cells)

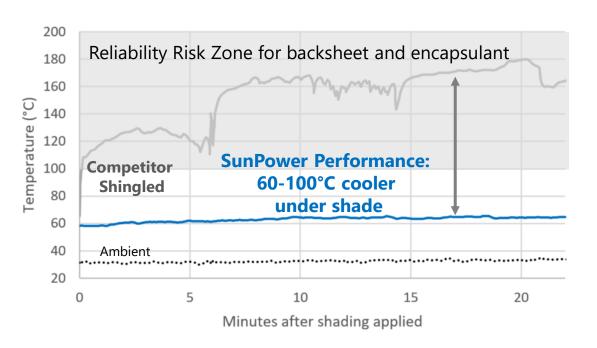


#### HOTSPOT PROTECTION THROUGH BETTER DESIGN

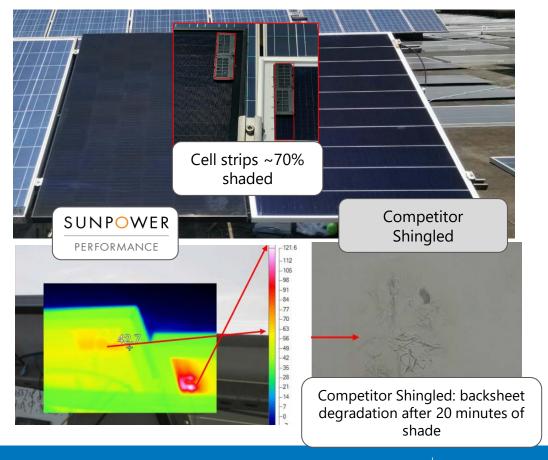
Performance panels reduce the risk of temperature-related failures through crack mitigation and unique circuitry.



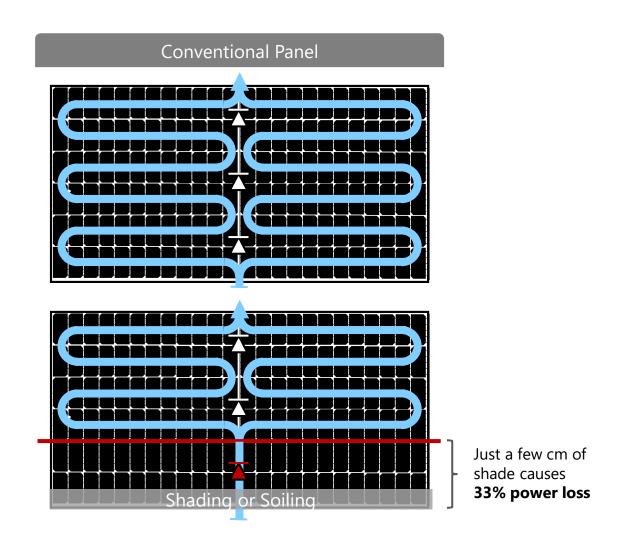
Under severe cell cracking or worst-case shading conditions, Performance panels operate at 60-100°C lower temperature.1

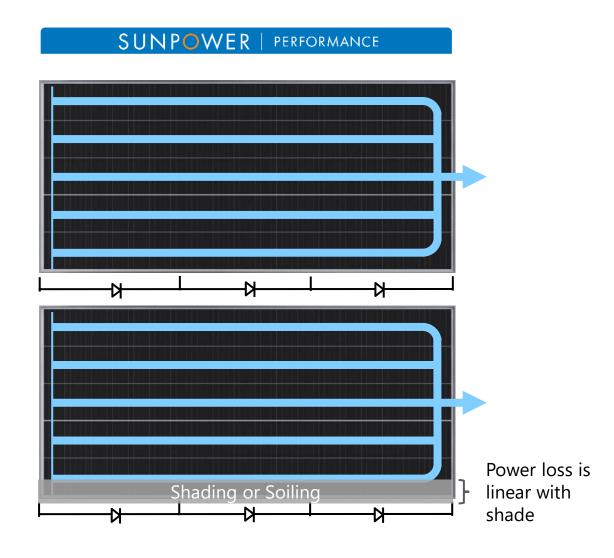


**Test #2** 

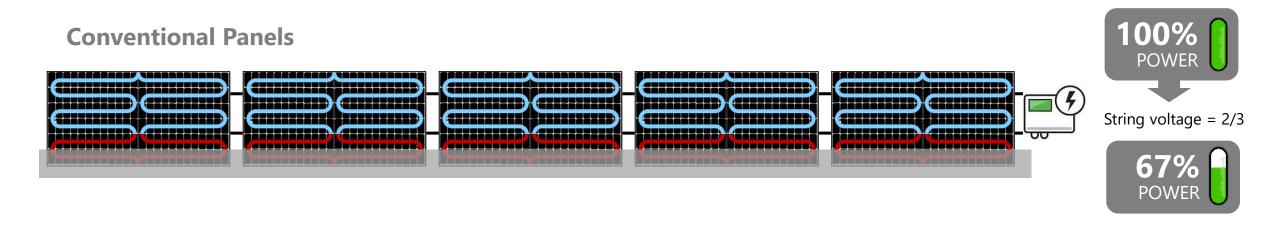


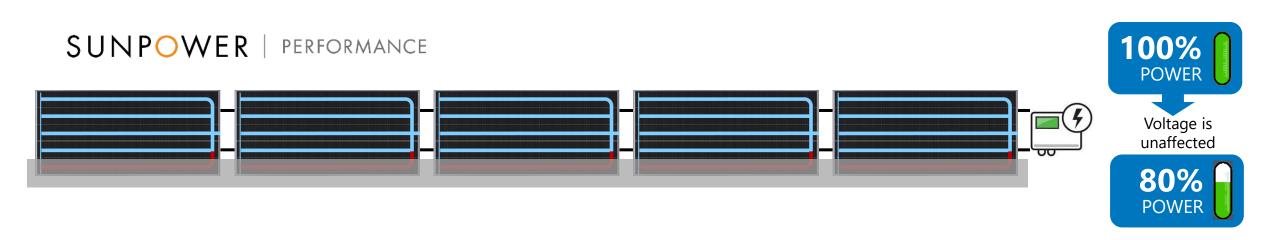
### UNIQUE DESIGN MITIGATES INTER-ROW SHADING





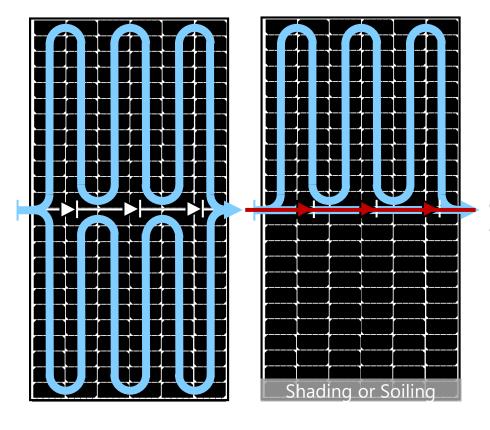
### SHADING IMPACT ON SYSTEM VOLTAGE (IN LANDSCAPE)



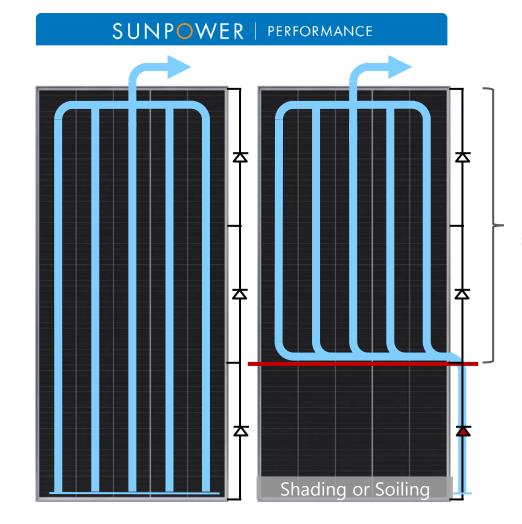


### INTER-ROW SHADING IN PORTRAIT ORIENTATION

#### Conventional Panel

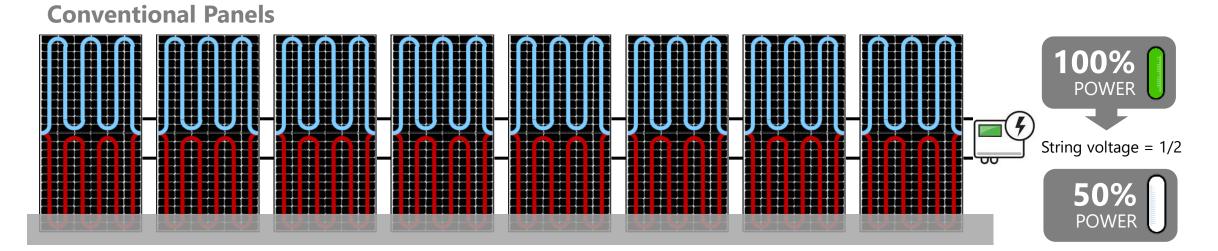


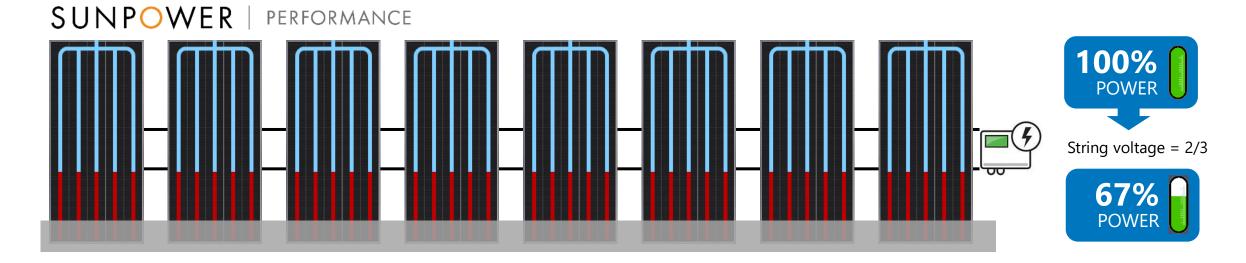
**50% power** due to shade along the bottom



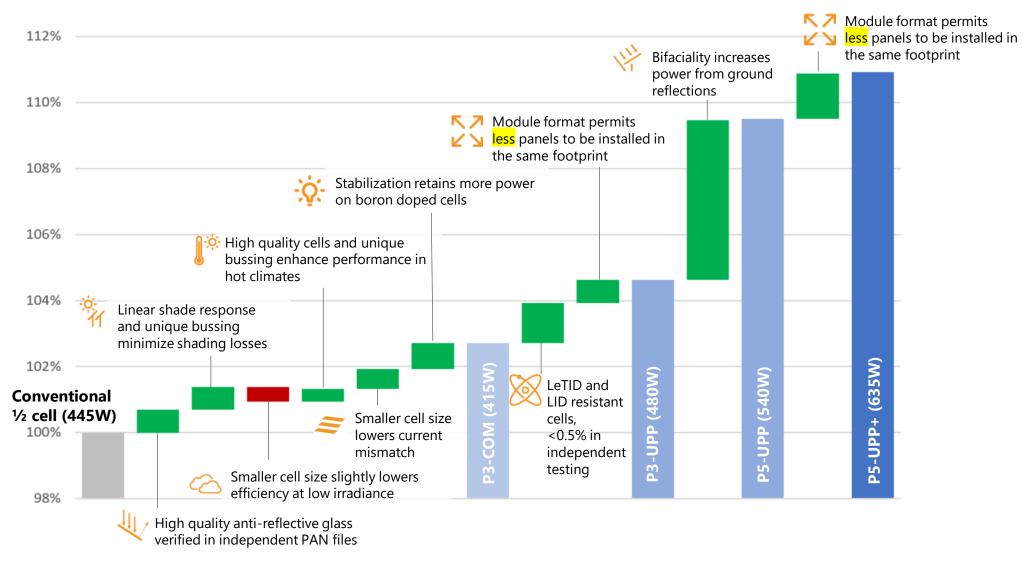
Retains 66% power with shade along the bottom

## SHADING IMPACT ON SYSTEM VOLTAGE (IN PORTRAIT)





### DESIGNED WITH ENERGY YIELD IN MIND



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Compared to a Conventional ½ cell mono-PERC 445 panel using PVSyst model of a 50MW 2P tracker site with 0.4 GCR and 0.2 albedo in Vietnam. Other locations, including EMEA and APAC indicate a range of 2-12%.

#### **DESIGN INFORMATION**

### **Tracker compatibility**

Tracker	P3-UPP	P5-UPP
Arctech 1P	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
Arctech 2P	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
ATI 1P	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
FTC Solar Voyager	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Gamechange 1P	✓	<b>√</b>
Gamechange 2P	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Ideematec H4	✓	✓
NXT Gemini 2P	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
PV Hardware 1P	✓	✓
PV Hardware 2P	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Soltec SF7 2P	✓	✓

Compatibility subject to final review by EPC/tracker OEM.

SunPower is actively engaged with suppliers to provide compatibility for P5-UPP+ (600W+).

### OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT A Leader in Global Solar Innovation

We design and build industry-leading<sup>1</sup> **SunPower** solar cells and panels.



Global Development & Manufacturing Locations

<sup>1</sup> SunPower Maxeon line solar panels have the #1 efficiency among commercialized solar panels. Based on datasheet review of websites of top 20 manufacturers per IHS, as of Jan. 2020.