

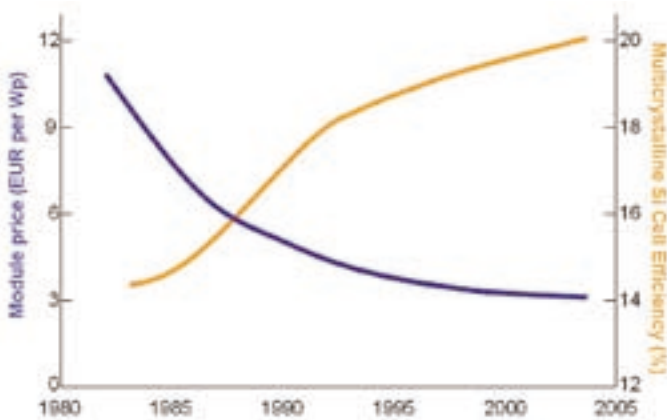
PHOTOVOLTAIC FACT SHEETS

European Photovoltaic Technology Platform



Some people argue that "PV should remain in the research laboratory and work for a breakthrough in technology."

The fact is: Photovoltaic (PV) technology steadily progresses thanks to both research efforts in the laboratory and experience from the market place. The past 25 years of research in photovoltaics have demonstrated that there is no sudden overall technological breakthrough. Like in most areas, technology development is a continuous process over time.



Source: NET based on data from W. Warmuth/PSE and T. Surek/NREL

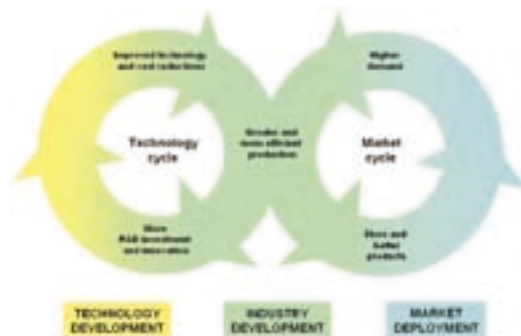
The progress in solar PV technology can best be achieved by a balanced approach between technology push and market pull. The interaction between these two cycles yields the necessary feedback for an optimised technology learning process.

"Photovoltaic technology development occurs evolutionary, not revolutionary and is a result of sustained R&D efforts and implementation"

Dr. Jef Poortmans
Programme Director
of the Strategic Programme
SOLAR+ at IMEC, Belgium



The rate of advancement in PV module technology since the 1980's has been increasingly rapid, both in the development of cell and materials technology, in improved manufacturing methods as well as through mass deployment on industrial scale. This has resulted in a dual trend of rising efficiencies and falling prices.



Therefore the correct statement is:
"Successful deployment of solar PV technology can best be achieved by linking R&D and industry strategies."



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