

PHOTOVOLTAIC FACT SHEETS

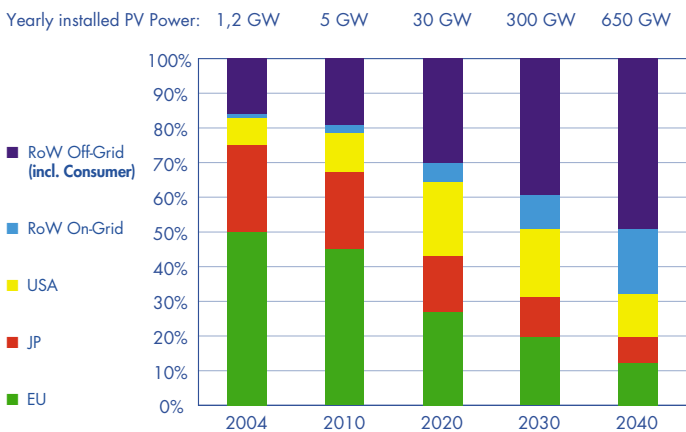
European Photovoltaic Technology Platform



You may have heard the statement
"Solar PV is not appropriate for rural
applications as only rich countries can afford it."

The fact is: As photovoltaic (PV) solar electricity started 25 years ago, off-grid applications were cost competitive first in remote rural areas. Off-grid solar PV systems for professional and domestic use were the first terrestrial applications.

Development of the Various Market Segments (relative)



Source: SCHOTT Solar (own estimates)

The figure indicates the trend to developing country markets as expected by the PV industry. One third of the world's population lives in rural areas without electricity and thus without access to clean water and modern life. Due to the decentralized and modular character of solar PV these people can be provided with clean electricity for development, education and communication.

"We wage wars for oil and water whereas a still growing part of the world population does not have access to clean water and electricity. We have to admit our responsibility"



Prof. em. Dr. Joachim Luther
Fraunhofer Institute for
Solar Energy Systems (ISE)
Becquerel Prize Laureate for
Outstanding Merits in Photovoltaics

Mass production and markets in developed countries such as Japan, USA and Germany allow for sinking production costs. In consequence the markets in developing countries will increasingly be able to afford PV Solar in near future.



Source: SCHOTT Solar

Therefore the correct statement is:
"In many developing countries,
solar PV electricity can provide least
cost options for basic rural energy needs."



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