

**Company and Technology Overview** 

**Hydrogen Technical Advisory Committee** 

14 October 2010

## Transforming the Global Energy Paradigm

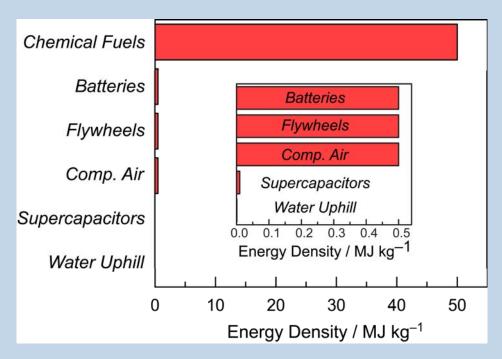
- Vision: Sunlight + Water = Affordable, Accessible Energy
  - Sunlight: Most Abundant Energy Source
  - Water: Most Abundant Liquid
  - Sun Catalytix Technology: Accessible and Inexpensive
- Impact
  - Affordable Energy Storage
  - Distributed Fuel Production
  - Every Home and Community Becomes an Energy Production Center
    - o Personalized energy paradigm consistent with prior shifts
      - Land lines to cell phones
      - Mainframes to personal computers

## Sunlight + Water: Near Limitless Energy Supply

- Global energy usage likely to double to ~30TW by 2050
- 1.2 x 10<sup>5</sup> TW of Solar at Earth's surface; 800 TW practical
- Other renewables limited in scale
  - Biomass: 5-7 TW gross (with all arable land not used for food)
  - Wind: 2-4 TW total extractable
  - Geothermal: 12 TW gross over land small fraction recoverable
- Volume of MIT pool  $\rightarrow$  H<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> per second = 43 TW

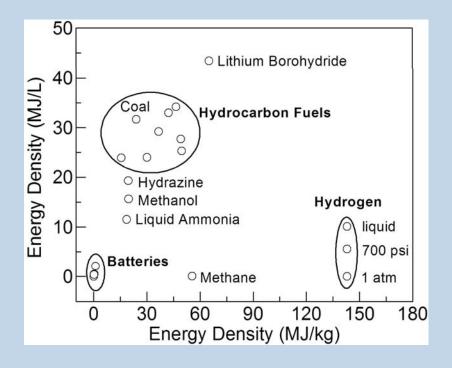


#### **Energy Storage in Chemical Fuels**



Hydrogen is the most energy dense fuel by mass

Chemical fuels possess energy densities unmatched by any other storage means



### **Target Applications**

#### On-site industrial hydrogen

 For various applications: semiconductor fabrication, metal annealing, generator cooling, etc.

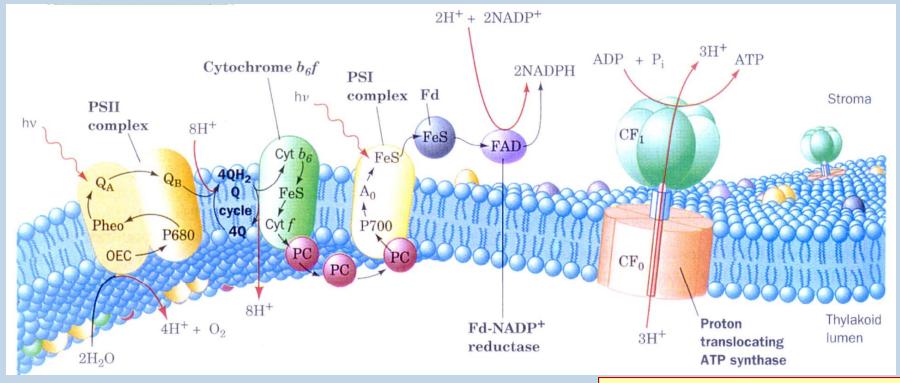
#### Energy storage

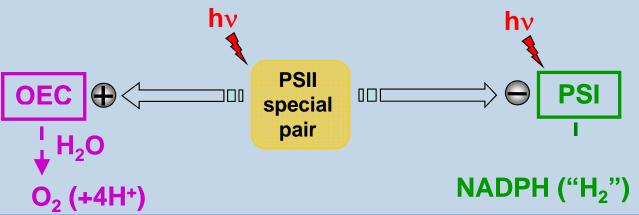
- o Off grid power
- o On-grid storage

#### Fuels

- Automotive traction
- O Hydrogen as a fuel precursor (e.g., renewable diesel)

## Natural Photosynthesis



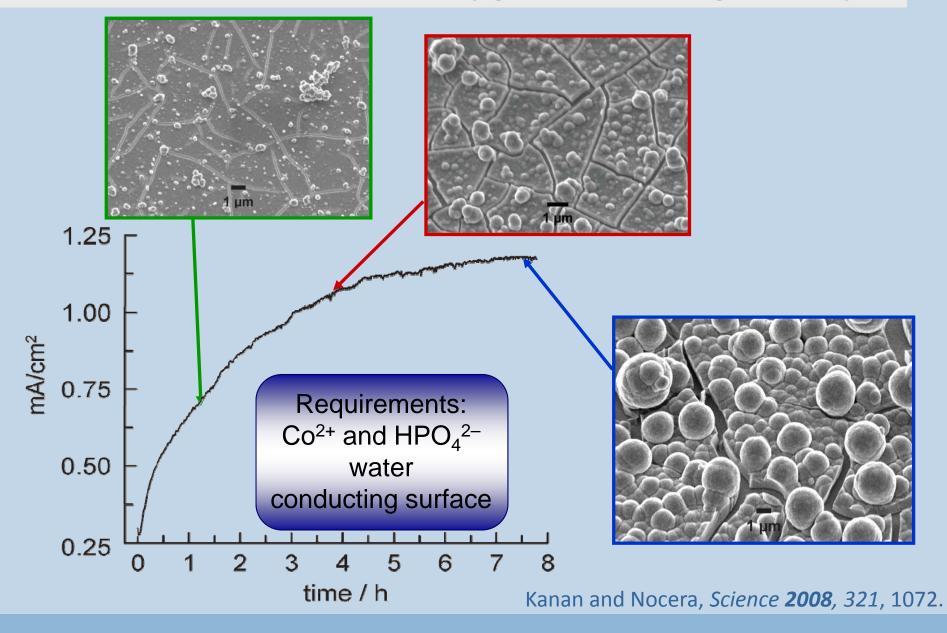


- (1) catalysis is performed under benign conditions at neutral pH
- (2) generation of OEC for water oxidation is key evolutionary step
- (3) photon sets up a (wireless) current within the leaf
- (4) separate light harvesting from energy storage

# Our Technology Mimics Nature's Processes

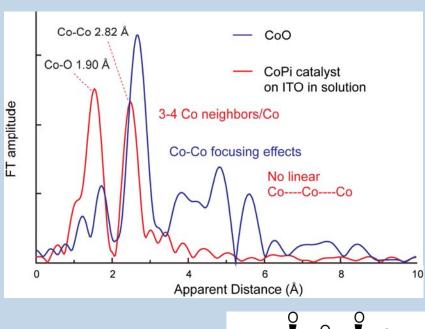
Design Criteria	Photo-system II	Cobalt-Phosphate
Conditions of operation	Neutral pH and STP Low over-potential	Neutral pH and STP Low over-potential
Repair	D1 protein	HPO <sub>4</sub> 2-/Co <sup>3+</sup> equilibrium
Water Supply	Fresh or Salt	Fresh or Salt
Stability	Regenerative	Regenerative
Abundant materials	Manganese	Cobalt
Structure	Mn3 Ca Mn2 Mn1	000000000000000000000000000000000000000

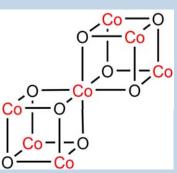
## In Situ Formation of an Oxygen-Evolving Catalyst

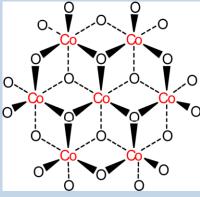


### Structural Insight from EXAFS

#### Not a typical Oxide material

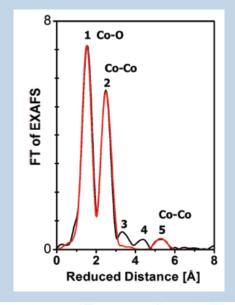


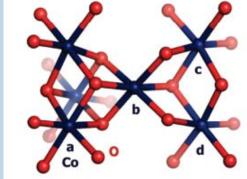




With Junko Yano and Vittal Yachandra at LBNL

#### Confirmed by a German group





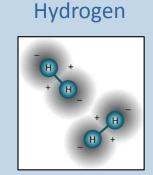
Dau and coworkers *JACS* **2009**, *131*, 6936

## Two Modalities for Sun Catalytix Technology

#### 1. Electrolyzer Modality

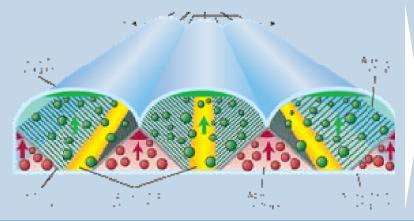


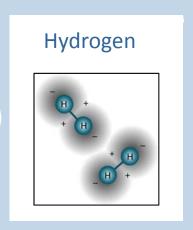
Sun Catalytix
Electrolyzer



2. Photoelectrochemical (PEC) Modality

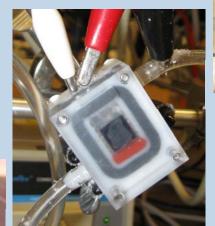




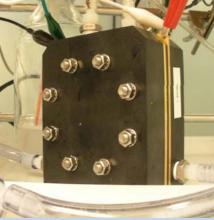


## **Electrolyzer Technology Status**

- Anode catalyst performance meets initial target
- Cathode catalyst performance meets initial target
- Membrane / separator criteria defined, initial materials selected
- •Integration of cell components, electrode design, performance enhancement underway







2010

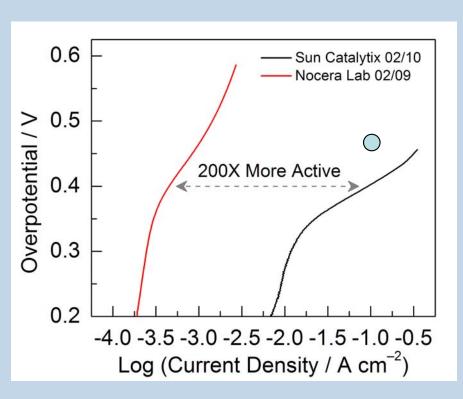


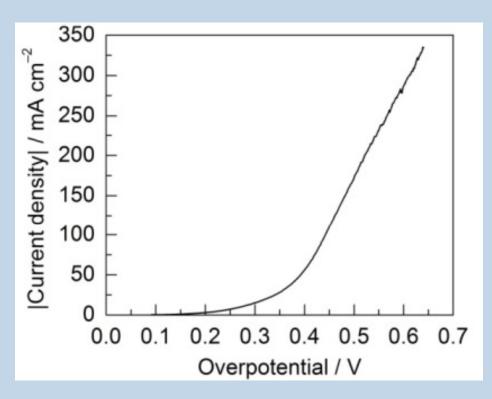
2008

## Electrolysis Performance Enhancement

Electrode design has enabled ~200x current enhancement relative to results published in Kanan and Nocera, *Science* **2008**, *321*, 1072.

#### **Anode Activity Enhancement**

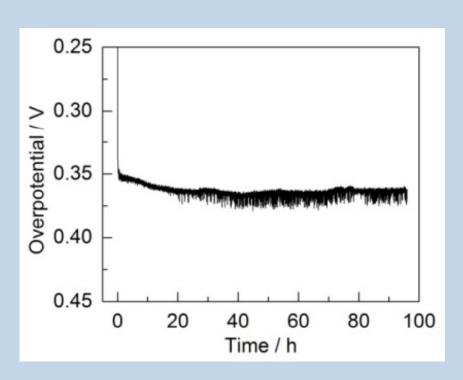




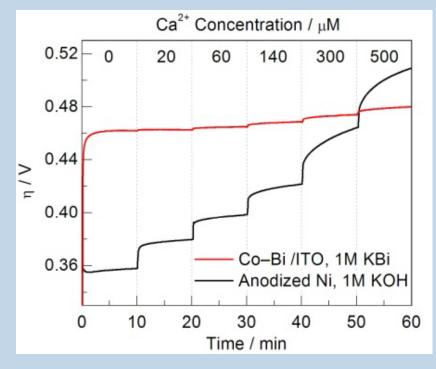
Esswein et. al., Submitted to Energy and Environmental Science

## **Anode Catalyst Capability**

#### **Anode Stability**



Engineered Co-OEC catalysts exhibits high stability in untreated river water

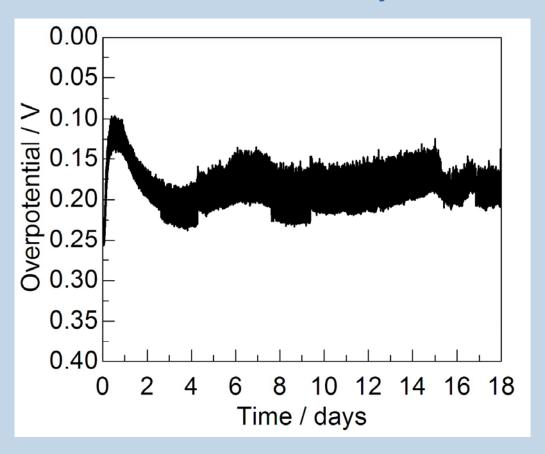


Engineered Co-OEC catalysts / conditions enable high resistance to poisoning

Esswein et. al., Submitted to Energy and Environmental Science

### Earth-Abundant Cathode Catalyst

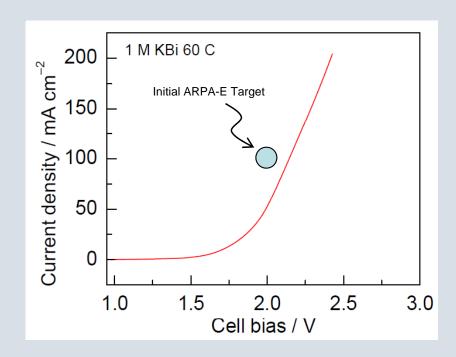
#### **Cathode Stability**



Sun Catalytix discovery -- cathode catalyst made of earth-abundant elements that exhibits stability in untreated river water

#### **Full Cell Performance**

- •Initial results show progress toward ARPA-E goals (2V, 100 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- •Cells constructed using earthabundant catalyst materials (anode is Co-OEC, cathode is proprietary)
- •Ongoing efforts to improve performance by component engineering efforts



#### Photo-Electrochemical Cells

- Benign conditions suitable for Sun
   Catalytix catalysts increase the
   number of PV cells that can be used
- Operational current densities are limited by collecting solar photons
- Excellent match of system
   requirements with Sun Catalytix
   materials characteristics
- Several alternative configurations being explored

#### Photoanode/PV

**Co-OEC Catalyst** 

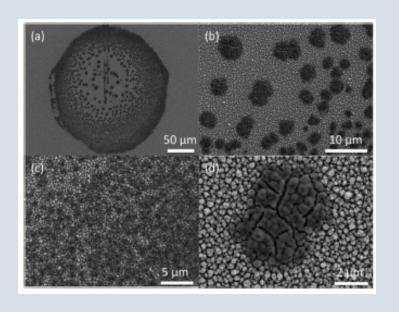
**Photoanode** 

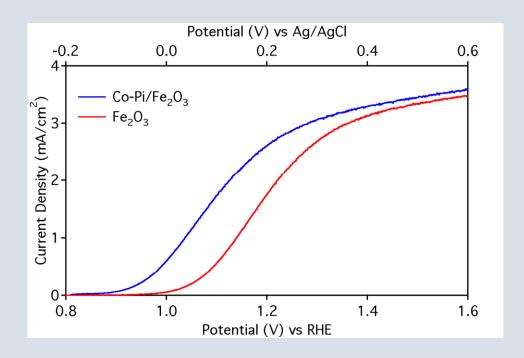
 $(Fe_2O_3, WO_3, etc)$ 

PV (Si, CIGS, etc)

H, Catalyst

#### Photo-Anode Enhancement with Co-OEC





- Sun Catalytix catalysts shown to enhance photo current for Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
- Demonstrates proof of concept of enhanced activity via Co-OEC

Gamelin, D. R. and coworkers, Univ. of Wash.

### Scientific and Strategic Leadership

Daniel Nocera
MIT
Founder



Art Goldstein
Ionics, Cabot, A123, MGH
Board Chairman

John Deutch MIT, DOD, DOE, CIA, DARPA SAB Chairman



Mark Wrighton
Washington U. – St Louis

SAB Member (Photo-catalytic chemistry)

Ken Smith
MIT

SAB Member
(Chemical Engineering)



George Whitesides
University Professor, Harvard

SAB Member
(Materials science / chemistry)

Henry White
University of Utah
SAB Member (Electrochemistry)

#### Management Team

Amir Nashat
Polaris Venture Partners, MIT

Chief Executive Officer





Tom Jarvi
United Technologies
Chief Technology Officer



Mark Barnett
CT Clean Energy Fund,
Foley Hoag Energy Technology

VP Business Development and
General Counsel

## **Company Backing**

Polaris Venture Partners

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oLeading VC firm; >$3B assets under management
oFounding investor; equity investments in series A and B rounds
```

Tata

```
oGlobal, visionary company and investor; $70B group revenue oEquity investment in B round
```

• ARPA-E

o\$4.1 M grant awarded in highly-competitive initial round



#### **Contact:**

Tom Jarvi Chief Technology Officer tjarvi@suncatalytix.com