

# Commercializing Renewable Energy Technology

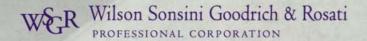
# LSI Renewable Energy in the Pacific Northwest Conference

August 8, 2008

Peter D. Mostow, J.D.

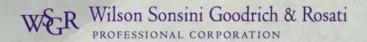
Partner, Clean Technology and Renewable Energy Practice

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C.

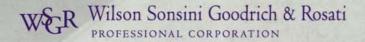


### Agenda

- Overview and Investment Trends
- Commercializing Large-Scale Renewable Energy Technology
- Commercializing Distributed Generation Technology

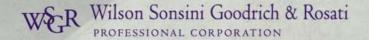


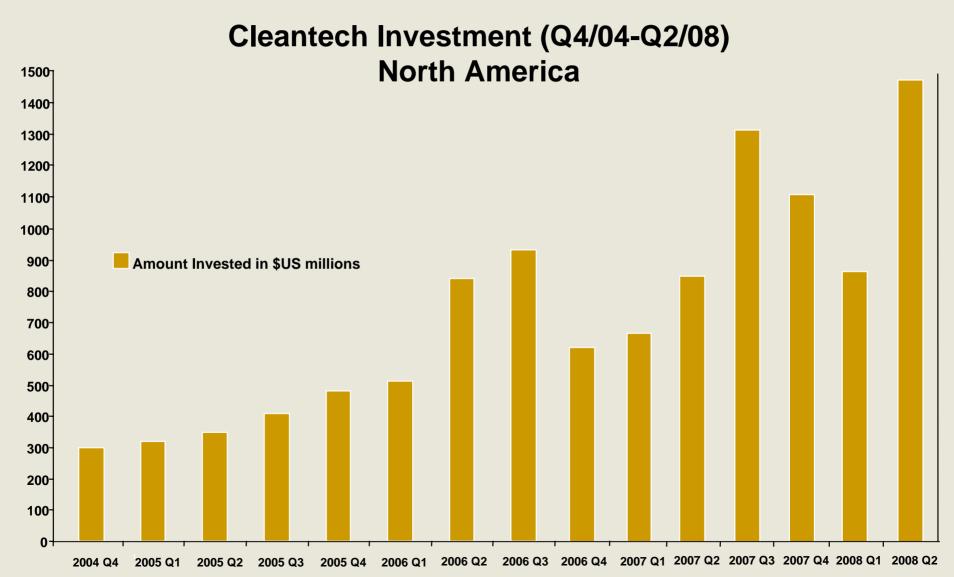
### **OVERVIEW AND INVESTMENT TRENDS**

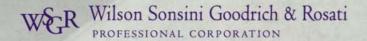


### **Perspective**

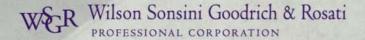
- What is the goal?
  - Manage climate change and energy security
- Are we there yet?
- How do we get there?
  - Revolution in the way we produce and consume energy.
- What is required for the producer-side revolution?
  - New technologies and new business models





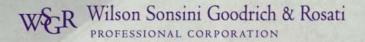


# COMMERCIALIZING LARGE-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY



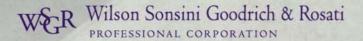
## **Commercialization Challenges**

- Different from software, Internet companies
- Long, expensive, and risky process of:
  - Technology refinement and IP protection
  - Engineering and proof of concept
  - Scale-up
  - Commercial development
  - Project development
- Uncertain policy support



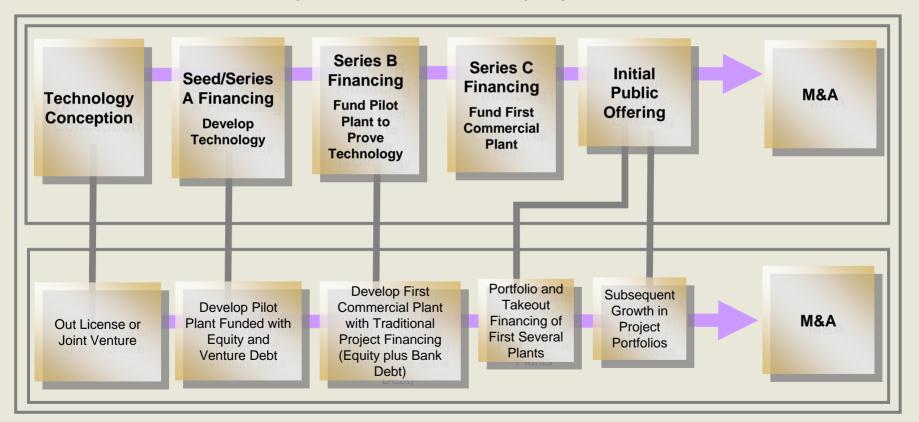
## **Representative Sectors**

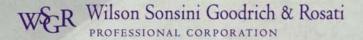
- Solar Thermal
- Thin Film Solar
- Biofuels



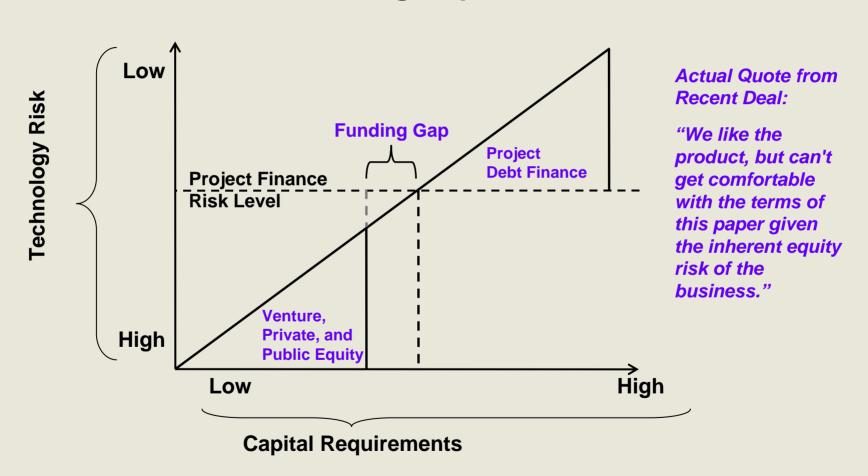
### The Financing Life Cycle Is Fundamentally Different

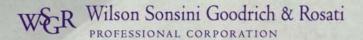
Project-focused clean tech companies require a combination of traditional corporate finance and project finance





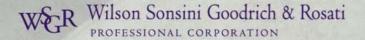
#### **The Funding Gap Problem**





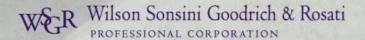
## **Funding Solutions: Private**

- Extended and Syndicated Venture Rounds
- VC-Equity Fund Affiliation
- Venture and other Higher-Risk Debt
- Strategic Partnerships



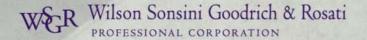
# DOE EPAct Title XVII Loan Guarantees

- \$38.5B appropriated in FY08 for loan guarantees
- \$10B made available for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects
- Applications due 12/31/2008
- "New or Significantly Improved Technologies"



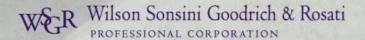
# DOE EPAct Title XVII Current Pipeline

- 143 pre-applications submitted in response to 2006 DOE solicitation
- 16 projects invited to submit full applications
- 4 projects have submitted applications
- No loan guarantees have been issued



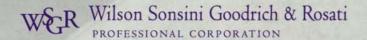
# DOE EPAct Title XVII Current Pipeline

- Solar (2 projects selected to apply)
  - Solyndra Thin-film solar modules
  - Luz II Concentrating solar-thermal
- Biomass (6 projects selected to apply)
  - Alico Commercial cellulosic ethanol
  - Endicott Biofuels 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biodiesel
  - Choren USA Biomass gasification facility



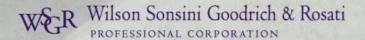
### 2007 DOE Commercial Biorefinery Grants

- 6 Projects selected in 2006 for negotiations with DOE for \$385M in grants from 2007-2011.
- Under construction
  - Range Fuels Inc. \$76M received from DOE
- Granted Phase One awards
  - BlueFire Ethanol Fuels
  - POET Energy
  - Abengoa
- Cancelled/Suspended
  - logen
  - Alico



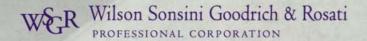
#### DOE Solar America Initiative

- PV Incubator Program
  - VC Level Funding
  - Administered by NREL
  - 2007 Funding: \$10.1M provided to 10 businesses
- Technology Pathway Partnerships (TPP)
  - Systems Development
  - Administered by Golden Field Office
  - 2007 Funding: \$34.1M provided to 11 projects
- Future Funding
  - \$170M total FY08 appropriation for solar
  - \$156M total FY09 requested
  - \$229M recommended by Senate Appropriations Committee
  - \$220M recommended by House Appropriations Committee

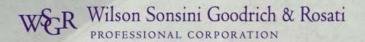


# DARPA Algae-to-JP8 Program

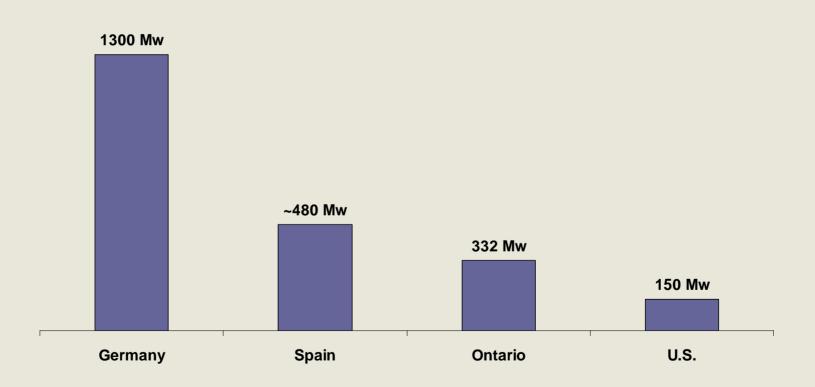
- Goal Spur development of low-cost algal oil production and conversion to JP8 (military-grade fuel)
- Cost Targets
  - Phase 1 cost of <\$2 gallon for triglycerides (TAG)</li>
  - Phase 2 cost of <\$1 gallon for TAG (or <\$3 gallon finished cost at 50mmgy)
  - Contemplates construction of a facility (or multiple facilities) to produce 50mmgy of JP-8.
- Teams and Selectees
  - ~1/2 dozen teams submitted proposals Feb 2008. (large defense contractors, start-ups, universities)
  - SAIC and General Atomics
  - Selection process currently under protest

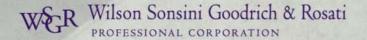


# COMMERCIALIZING DISTRIBUTED GENERATION TECHNOLOGY



## **Solar PV Capacity Installed in 2007**

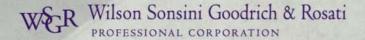




## **Overall Legal Challenges of TPO Business**



- DG: Smooth and Simple at Point of Delivery
- Massive Efforts
   Back at Mission
   Control
- NASA-like Costs



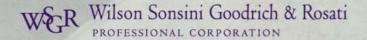
## **Third-Party Ownership Goals and Challenges**

#### Goals

- Improve customer status quo: cheaper, cleaner power
- Minimize customer risks
- Make money

### Challenges

- Intermediation between customer, regulatory regime and financing parties
- Address a wide variety of risks over a long term
- Make money



### Legal Drivers for U.S. TPO Business

Part I: Financial

#### Investment Tax Credit

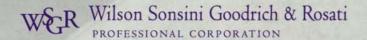
- 30% tax credit when system placed in service
- 50% "bonus" depreciation in first year
- Use of 5-year MACRS for remaining 50%

#### State Incentives

- California Solar Initiative: Rebates/Production Incentives for eligible systems
- New Jersey, Colorado: Solar Set-asides in RPS

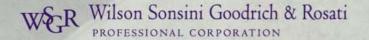
#### Environmental Attributes

- RECs and Carbon Credits
- Voluntary and Compliance Markets

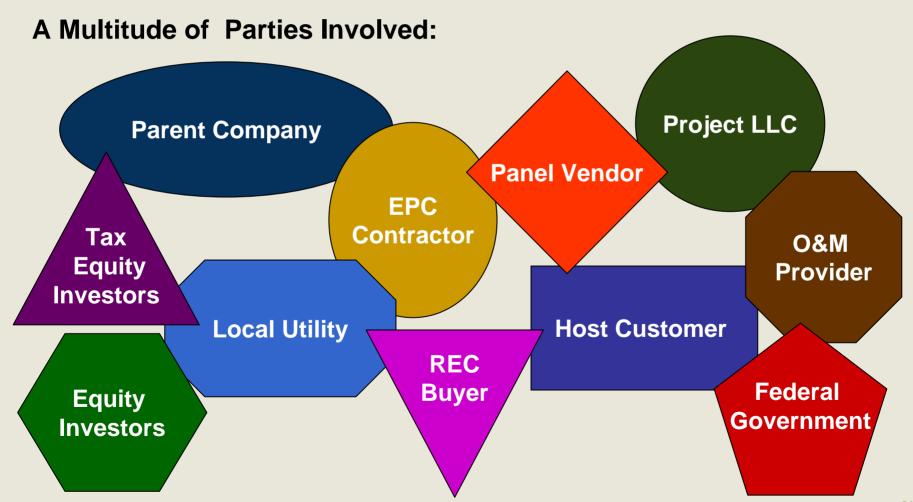


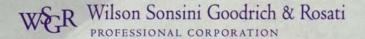
# Legal Drivers and Barriers for TPO Business Part II: Regulatory

- Interconnection/Net Metering Rules
  - Electrical interconnection issues/concerns
  - Safety concerns (e.g., pending CA fire safety guidance)
  - Net metering issues (system size cap; statewide cap; pricing regime, aggregation, etc.)
- Utility Regulations Impacting Business Models
  - Third-Party Ownership
    - ▶ States with ambiguity in definition of "public utility"
    - States with direct prohibitions of 3rd party ownership
  - Multi-Customer Service
    - Issue with public utility definition
    - States with relevant pending legislation

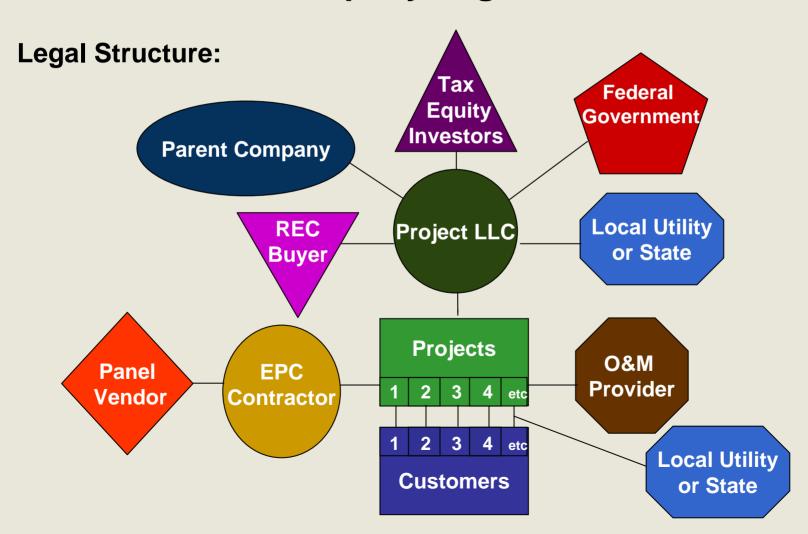


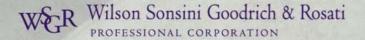
### **PPA Company Legal Structure**





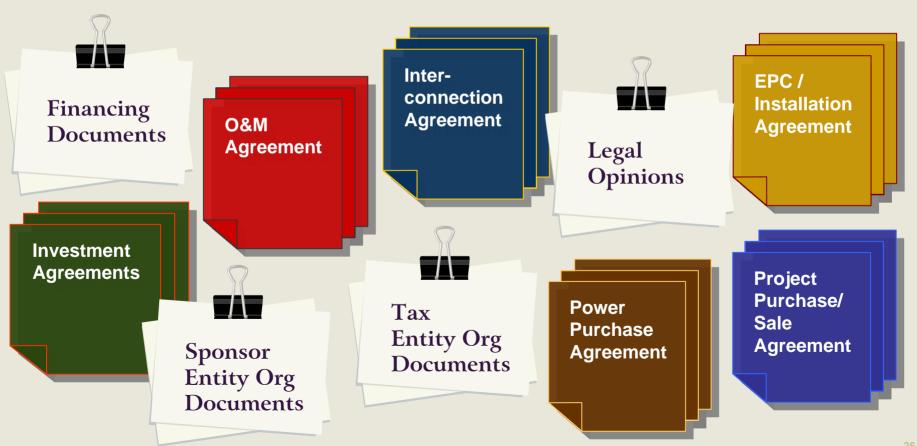
### **PPA Company Legal Structure**

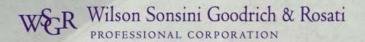




#### **PPA Business Documentation**

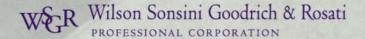
#### **Representative PPA Business Contracts and Documents**





#### **Tax Structures**

- Flip structure
  - T1: Tax investor has almost all ownership; sponsor has remainder
  - T2: Flip
    - ▶ Tax credits used; recapture period expired
    - ▶ Tax investor reaches targeted return
    - ▶ Flips to minority ownership
  - T3: Tax investor sells remaining interest
- Lease structure
  - Structure
  - Rationale



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