

# The Value of Durable Materials in Maximizing Your Investment in Solar Energy

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PV Magazine Webinar, November 2017

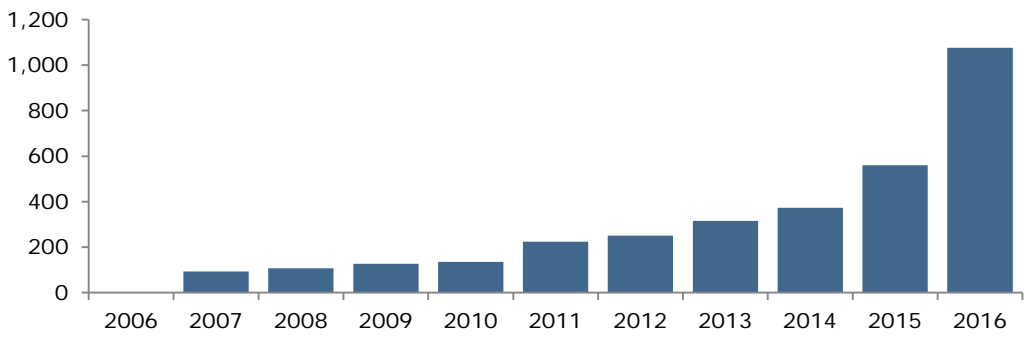
Together we'll go far



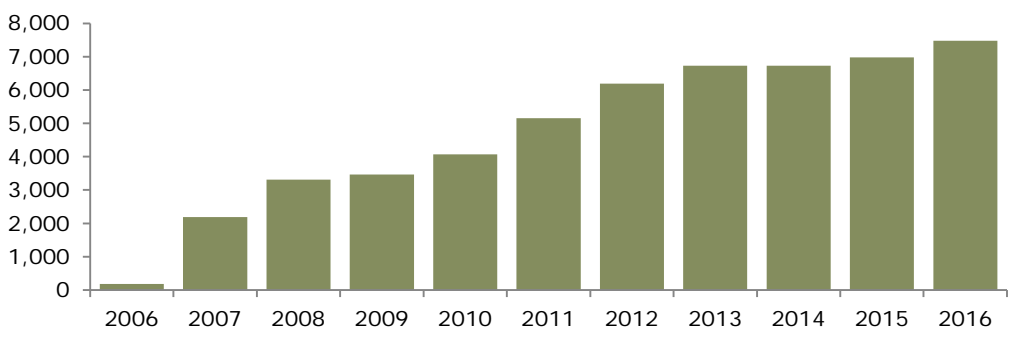
# Wells Fargo Renewable Energy & Environmental Finance (REEF)

- Established in 2006 to **provide tax equity capital for the renewable energy industry.**
- Today, the group has **28 professionals with decades of combined experience in renewable energy.**
- Collaboration with **Wells Fargo CleanTech Banking** which offers traditional banking services & relationship management.

## Cumulative Solar Projects Financed by Wells Fargo (MWDC)

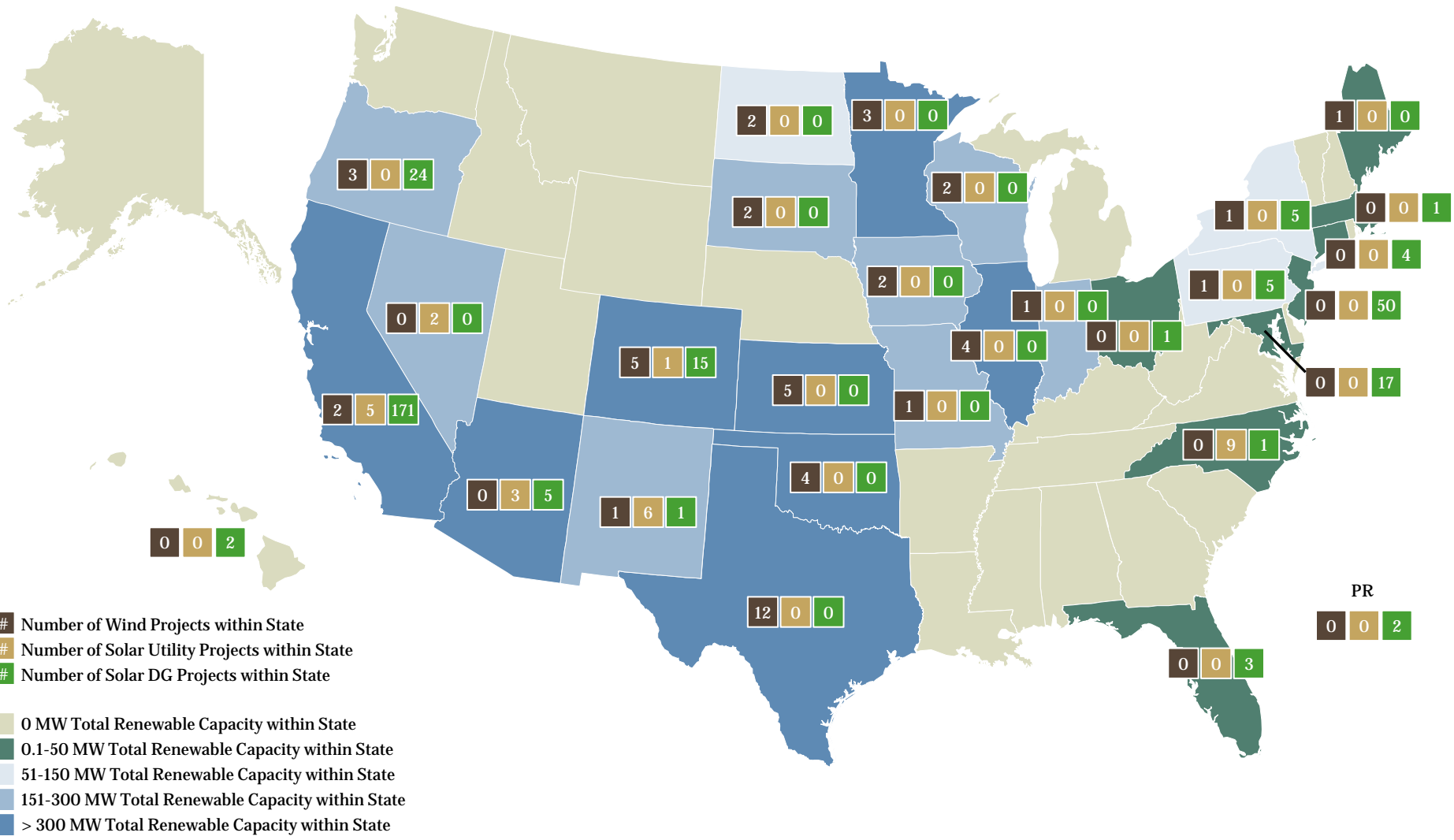


## Cumulative Wind Projects Financed by Wells Fargo (MWAC)

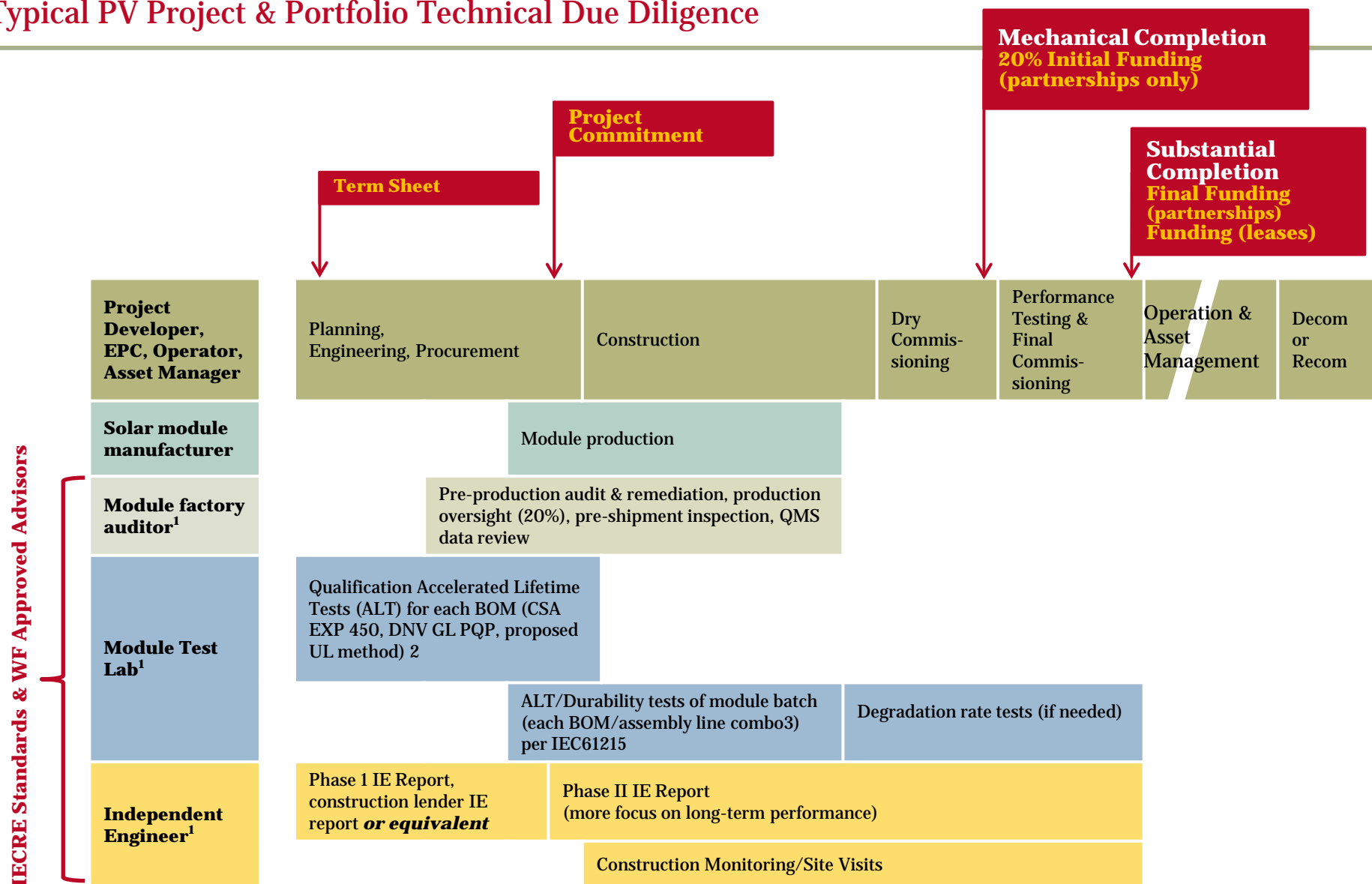


# Wells Fargo Renewable Energy & Environmental Finance (REEF)

**8+GW portfolio comprised of 50+ Wind projects and 300+ Solar projects**



# Typical PV Project & Portfolio Technical Due Diligence



<sup>1</sup> Sampling techniques and expert judgement based on record can be used to reduce cost

<sup>2</sup> Ideally done in advance of module production, but could be done at start of production

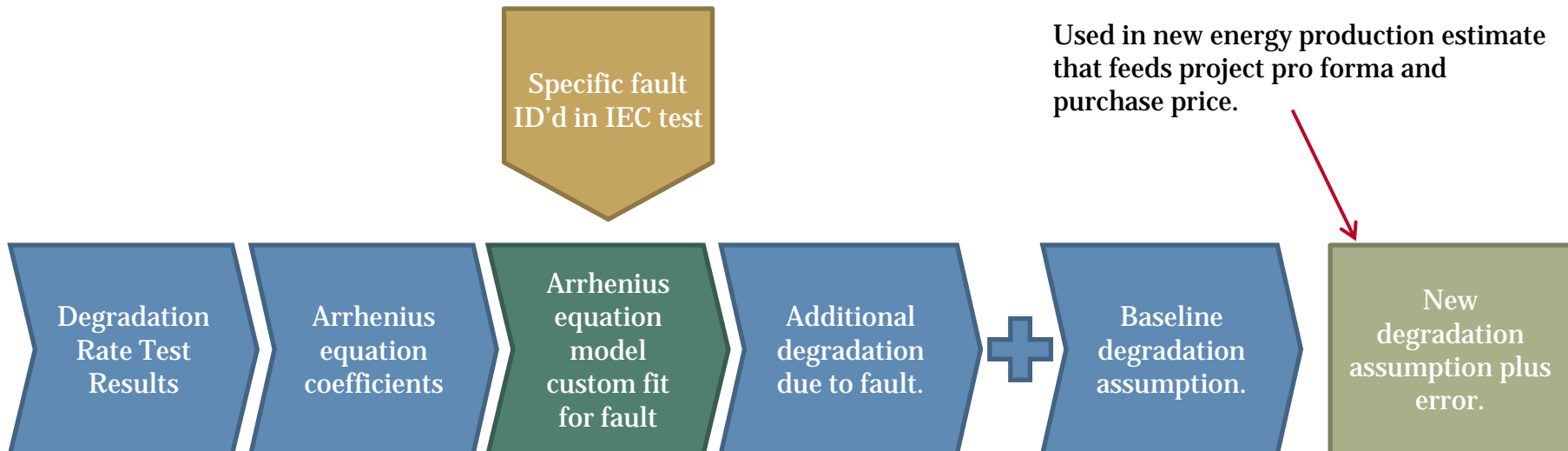
<sup>3</sup> Unless factory auditor confirms consistency between assembly lines

# Example of PV Module Accelerated Lifetime Testing (ALT) Scope of Work

	Standard or Source	Test Module Count or Component Sample Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Weeks:</b>			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Days at Lab:</b>				7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84	91	98
<b>Air Shipment</b>			x														
<b>Sample prep, outdoor preconditioning (Clause 5 61215)</b>				x													
Visual, EL, IV, Flash Test, Wet Leakage (when required)				x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x			x
<b>Module Qualification Tests (IEC and Extended Testing)</b>																	
TC (Thermal Cycling)	NREL Qualification Plus	varies				200		500		800							
DH (Damp Heat)	NREL Qualification Plus						500				1000						2000
DML/TC50/HF30	NREL Qualification Plus					x											
PID (Potential Induced Degradation)	NREL Qualification Plus					192											
<b>Statistical Module Batch Tests (each BOM/factory combo)</b>																	
TC (Thermal Cycling)	IEC 61215	30 (6 per test) for 95% confidence level that 90% of modules will be defect free				200											
DH (Damp Heat)	IEC 61215						500				1000						2000
TC50/HF10 (Thermal Cycling/Humidity Freeze)	IEC 61215				x												
PID (Potential Induced Degradation)	IEC 61215				96												
DML (Dynamic Mechanical Load)	IEC 61215								x								
LID (Light Induced Degradation)	IEC 61215	20 of existing sample set						x									
PAN file validation/creation (for PVSyst)	IEC 61853-1	3 of existing sample set						x									
IAM (Incident Angle Modifier) loss validation	IEC 61853-2			x													
Bypass Diode Test	IEC 61215	All of sample set		x													
<b>Degradation Rate Characterization Tests*</b>																	
75°C/20%RH	NREL special for Wells Fargo	6 (1 with defect + 1 control with no defect per test)						500			1000			1500			2000
85°C/20%RH	NREL special for Wells Fargo							500			1000			1500			2000
95°C/20%RH	NREL special for Wells Fargo							500			1000			1500			2000
<b>Other tests**</b>																	
<b>Modules:</b>																	
Hot Spot Test	NREL Qualification Plus/ASTM E2481-06	5			x												
<b>Components:</b>																	
UV Exposure of Junction Box	NREL Qualification Plus	5						500									
Bypass Diode and Junction Box Thermal Test	NREL Qualification Plus	5			96												
UV Exposure for Encapsulants	NREL Qualification Plus	5															~4000 hours>>
UV Exposure for Backsheets	NREL Qualification Plus	12															~4000 hours>>
UV Exposure for Cables and Connectors	NREL Qualification Plus	3															~4000 hours>>
<b>Result checks/Reports</b>				Initial Check	Check 1	Check 2		Check 3	Check 4	Check 5	IEC 61215 Report, Stop deg rate char tests if no fault found						Extended Test Report, Degradation Rate Characterization (if needed)

\*Initiated for each BOM/factory combo, but stopped if no fault found in IEC baseline  
 \*\*Performed if there is a reason for concern, e.g. historical defect, known issue, significantly new component, material or design, etc.

# PV Module Degradation Rate Characterization Analysis Method



Degradation Rate Characterization Tests

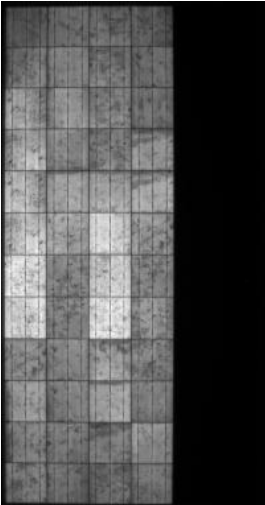
- 75°C/20%RH
- 85°C/20%RH
- 95°C/20%RH

Typical Met Year (TMY) data for project location

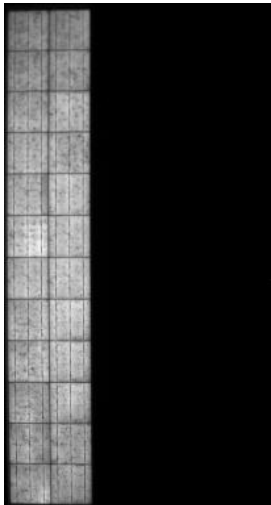
NREL study ("Photovoltaic Degradation Rates – An Analytical Review", Jordan, Kurtz).

Built upon work by Kent Whitfield and NREL's Mike Kempe, Sarah Kurtz, Dirk Jordan, and John Wohlgemuth.

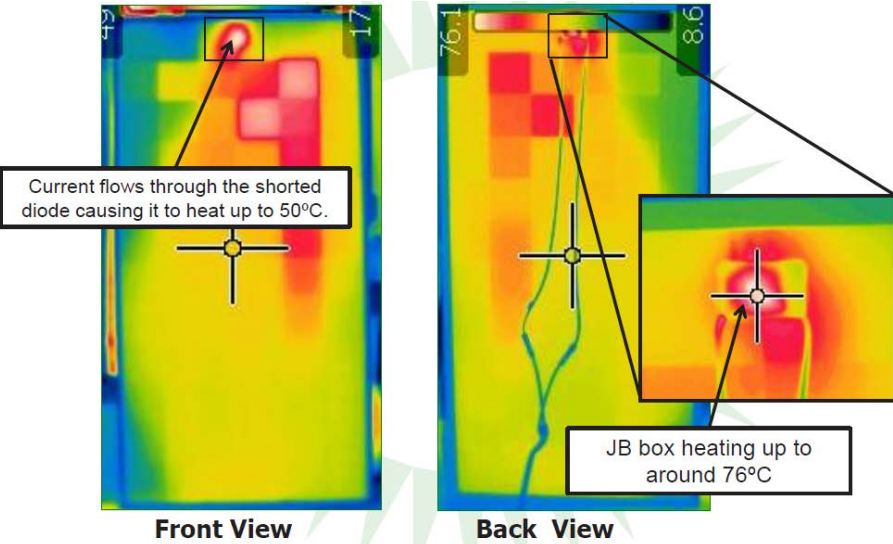
# Bypass diode failures



Diode failure at TC400



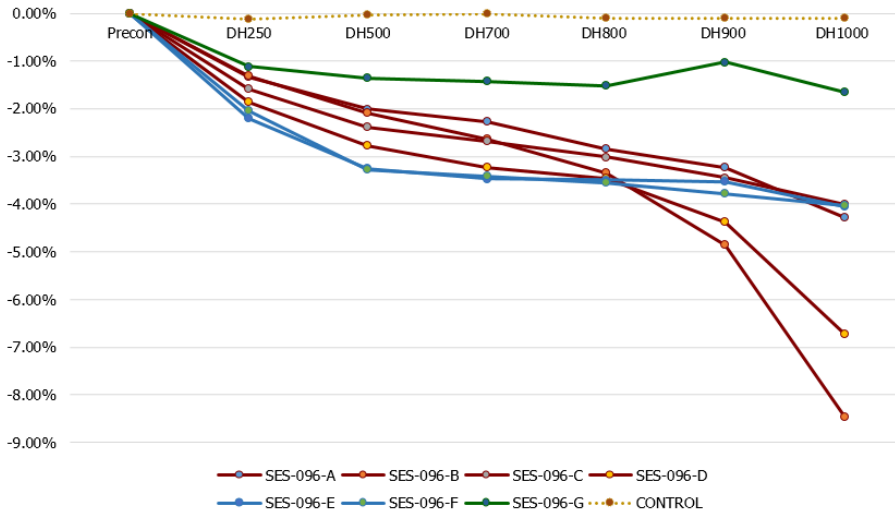
2-diodes fail at TC600



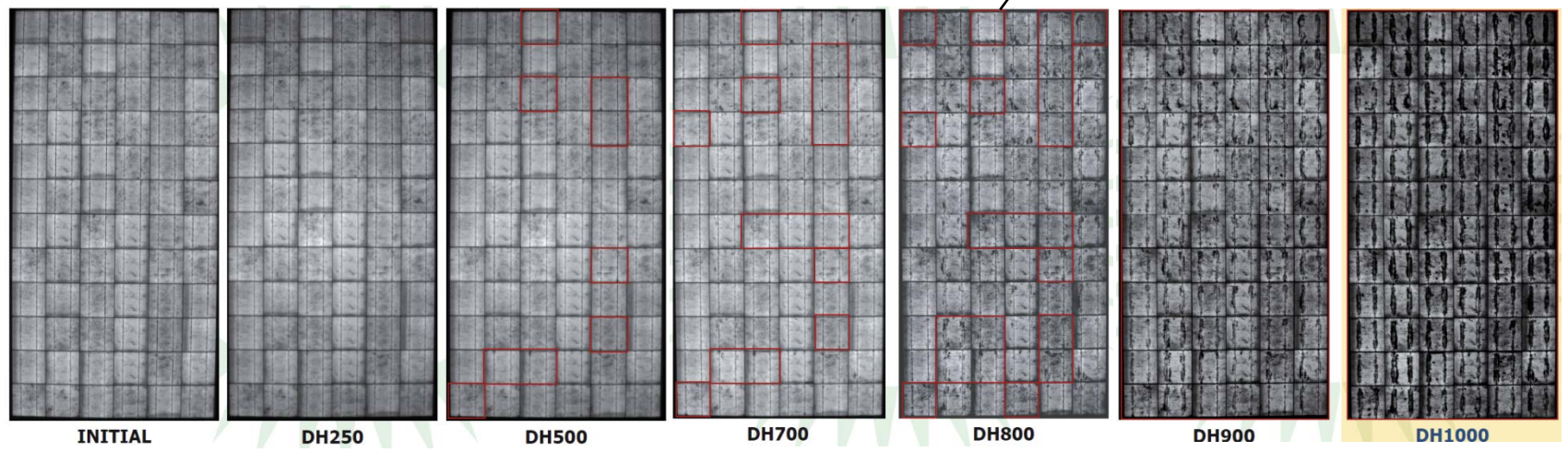
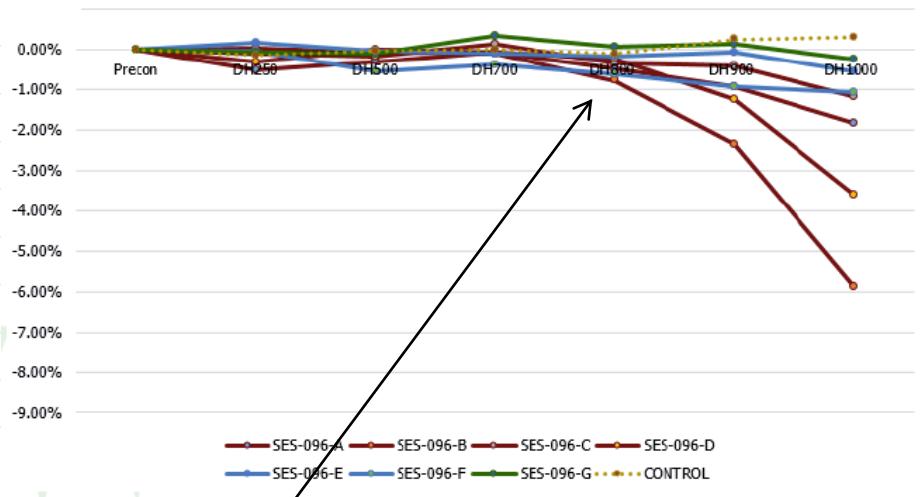
Outdoor failure signature

# Accelerated cell corrosion

**Pmax Precon vs. Damp Heat Pmax Degradation**  
Project #1: 85C, 85%RH



**Pmax Precon vs. Damp Heat FF% Degradation**  
Project #1: 85C, 85%RH





# Junction box lid failures



Lifted lid at one corner.  
The lid still tightly held flat at the other 3-corner pins.



Resulting corrosion after 3 years near coast

Lid Type	Stress	Amount	N	Failure Rate
1	DH	1000	23	52%
2	DH	1000	145	2%
2	DH	2000	23	4%
2	HF	20/40	12	0%
2	HF	60	12	8%
2	HF	80	12	17%
2	HF	100	12	25%
2	TC / HF	50 / 20	20	10%
2	TC / HF	100 / 40	10	0%
4	DH	1000	24	0%
4	DH	2000	22	0%
4	HF	20/40/60/80	36	0%
4	HF	100	10	0%
4	TC / HF	50 / 20	34	0%
4	TC / HF	100 / 40	30	0%

2014 testing  
2014 testing  
2014 testing  
RETC  
RETC  
RETC  
RETC  
2014 + RETC  
RETC  
RETC

# Thank you!

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