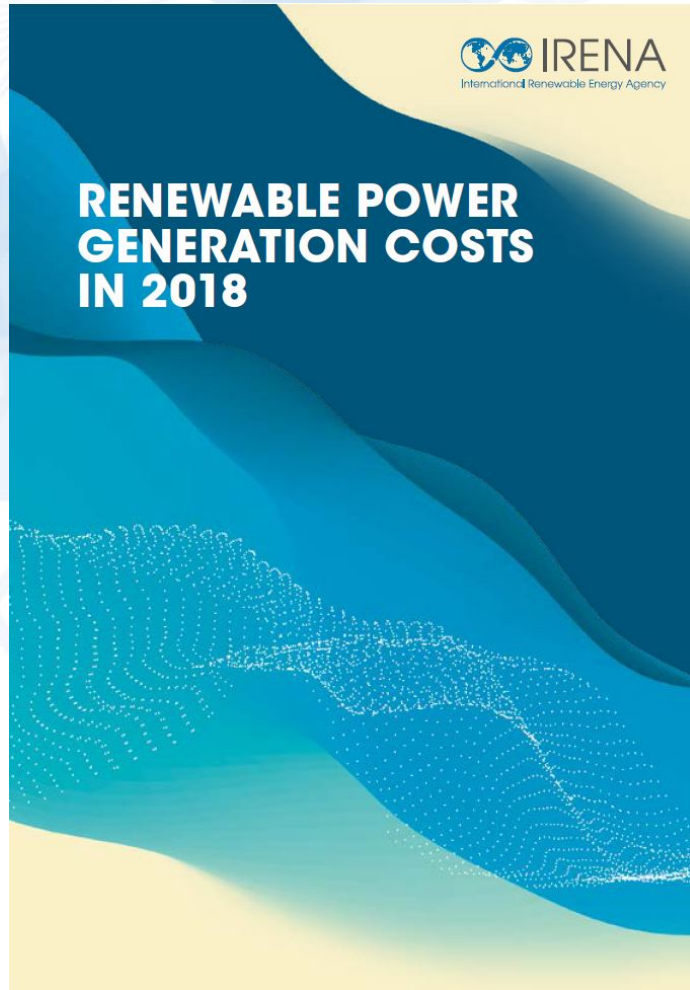


# CSP Cost Reduction Potential

Michael Taylor & Pablo Ralon  
IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre

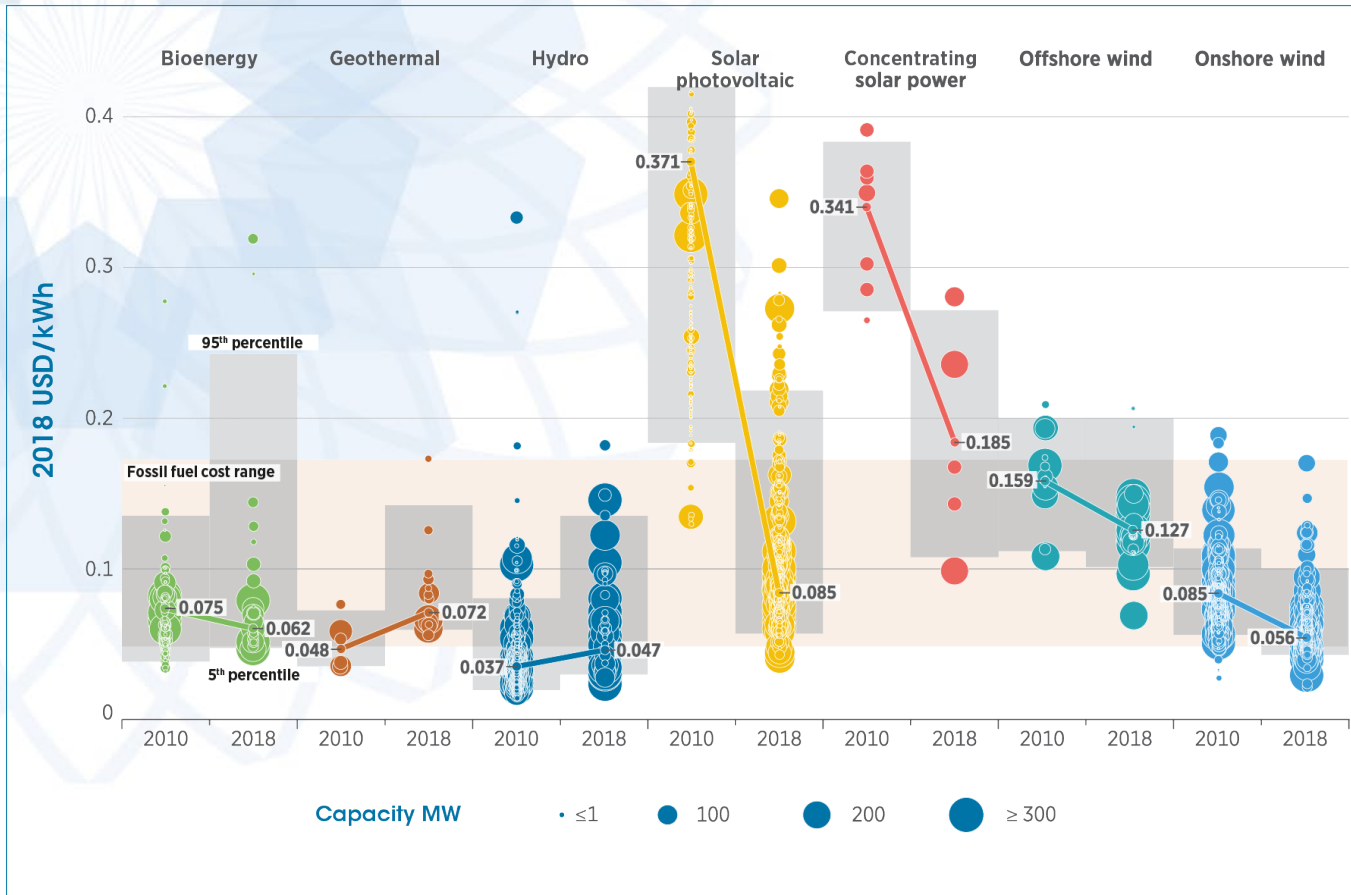
# Recent cost evolution



- Latest trends in the cost and performance of renewable power generation technologies
- Global results to 2018
- Detailed analysis of equipment costs and LCOE drivers
- Integration of project LCOE and Auction results to look at trends to 2020-22
- Simple analysis of new competitive metrics

2019 edition to be released in May 2020

# Recent cost evolution



- Average LCOE of all renewable power generation technologies, except CSP fall in fossil fuel cost range
- Bioenergy, geothermal, hydro and onshore wind all at lower end of fossil cost range
- Solar PV rapidly falling towards lower end.
- Offshore wind and CSP have much lower deployment. Data suggests costs will continue to fall.

**Note:** This data is for the year of commissioning. The diameter of the circle represents the size of the project, with its centre the value for the cost of each project on the Y axis. The thick lines are the global weighted-average LCOE value for plants commissioned in each year. Real weighted average cost of capital (WACC) is 7.5% for OECD countries and China and 10% for the rest of the world. The single band represents the fossil fuel-fired power generation cost range, while the bands for each technology and year represent the 5th and 95th percentile bands for renewable projects.

# Today's strong business case for renewable power: Levelised Cost of Electricity Declines

2017 to 2018

2010 to 2018

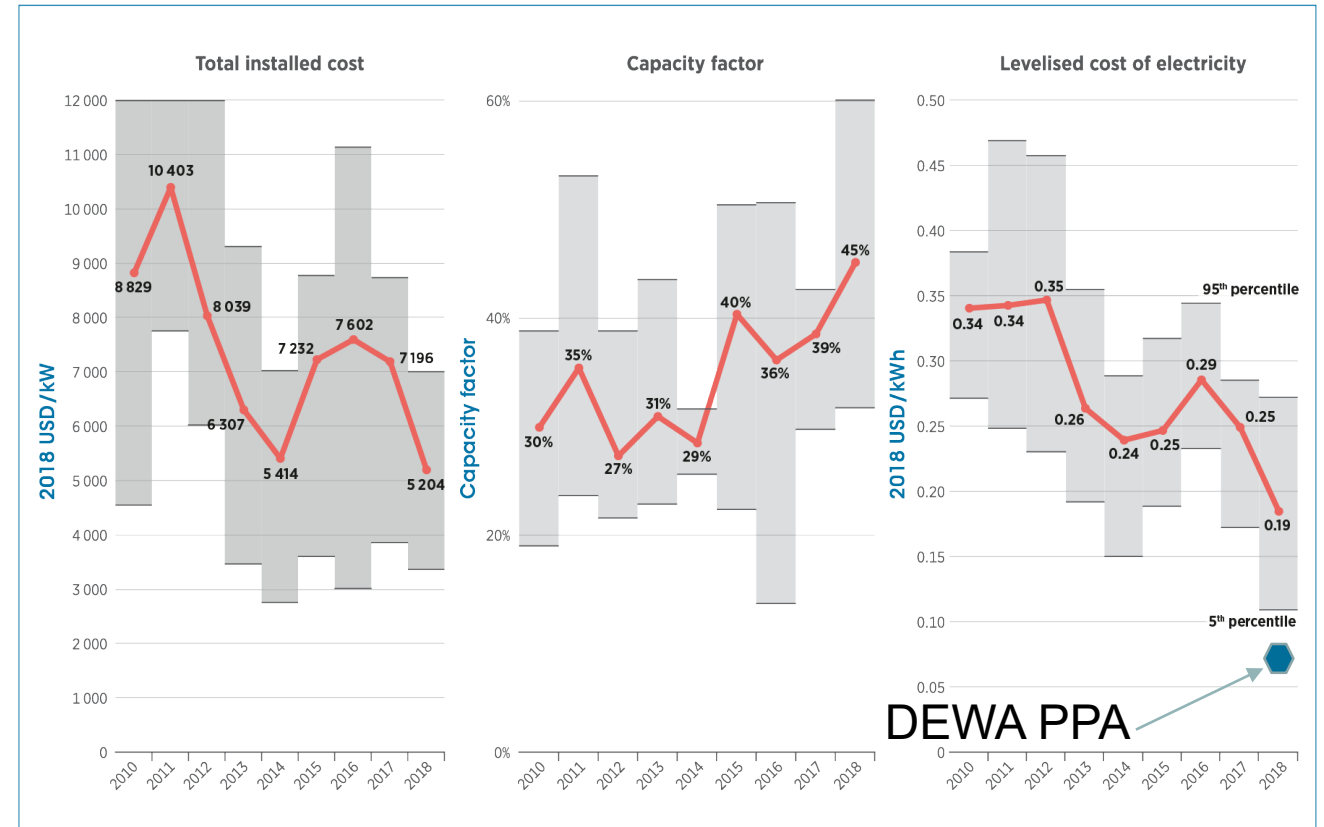
<b>Solar PV</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-77%</b>
<b>CSP</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-46%</b>
<b>Offshore wind</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-20%</b>
<b>Onshore wind</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-35%</b>

# CSP costs and performance

Market is thin, so significant volatility, but downward trend in LCOE is clear

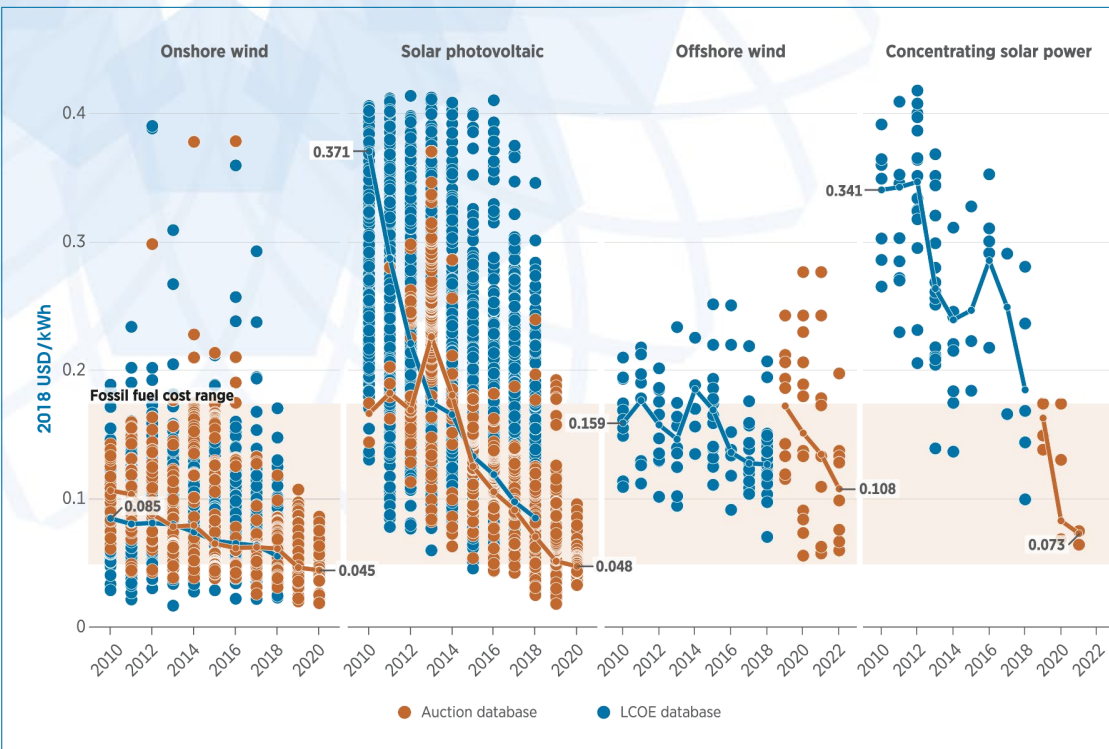
Future cost reductions are coming

**Figure S.7** Global weighted average total installed costs, capacity factors and LCOE for CSP, 2010–2018



# Global levelised cost of electricity by project and global weighted-average

2010 to 2020/22



**Solar PV**

**-87%**

**CSP**

**-79%**

**Offshore wind**

**-47%**

**Onshore wind**

**-32%**

# What's going on?

## Trends in CSP projects

**Shift to better resource  
quality locations from 2012**

**Lower cost of capital**

**Experienced project  
developers**

**Competitive procurement**

**More competitive supply  
chains**

**Technology improvements**

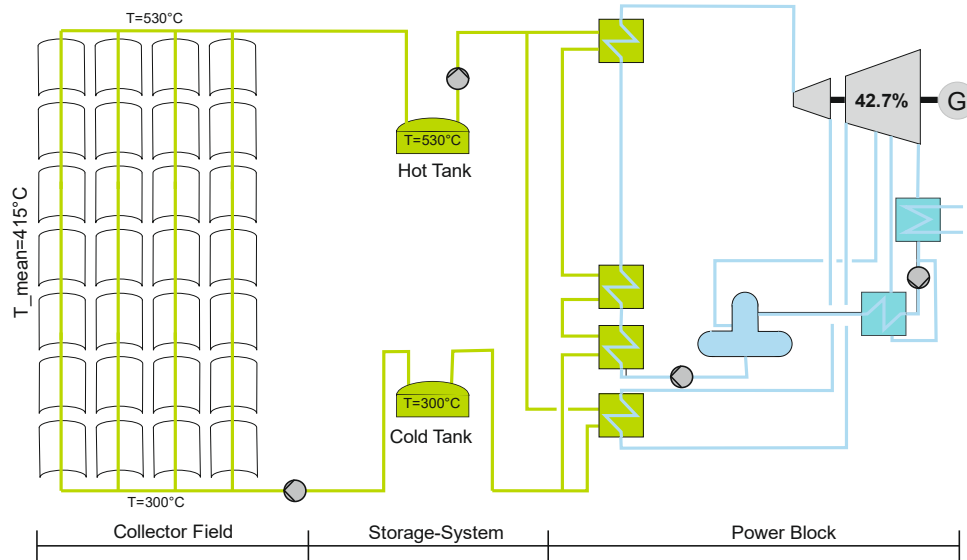
# **CSP COST REDUCTION POTENTIAL TO 2030**



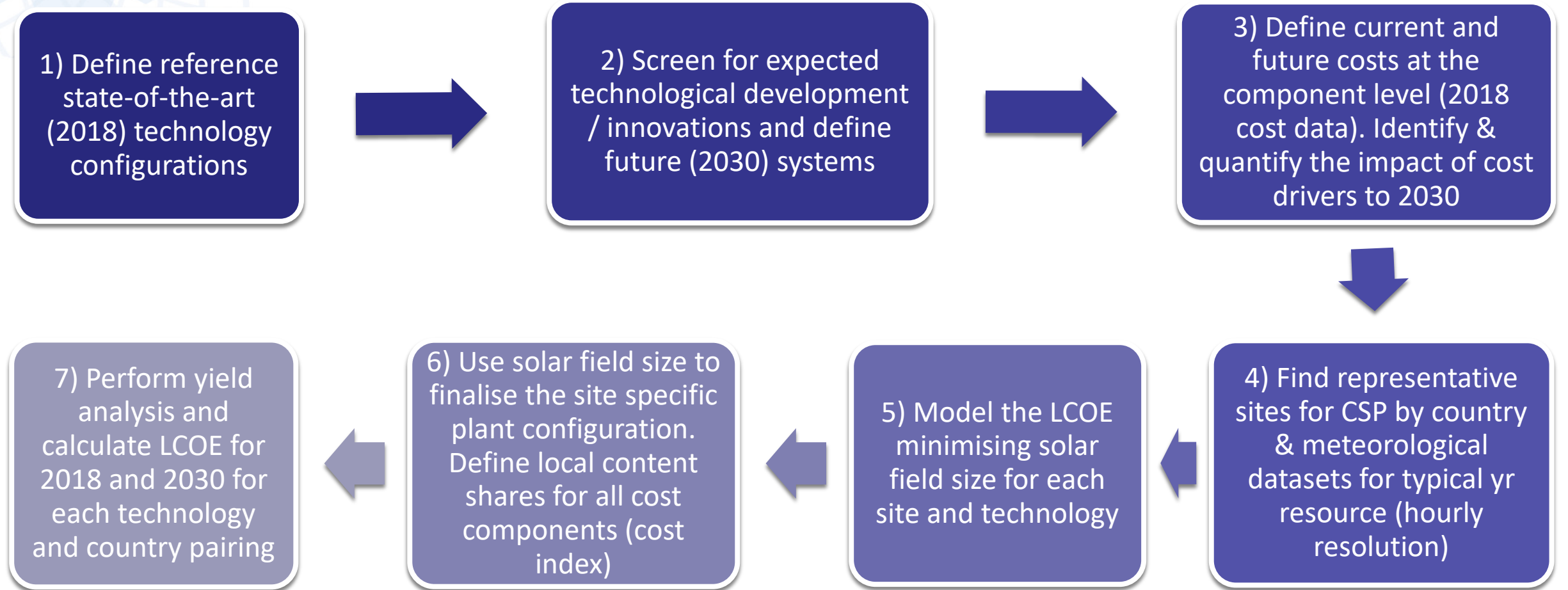
# Upcoming work on CSP

Update of “Power to Change” report, expanded to:

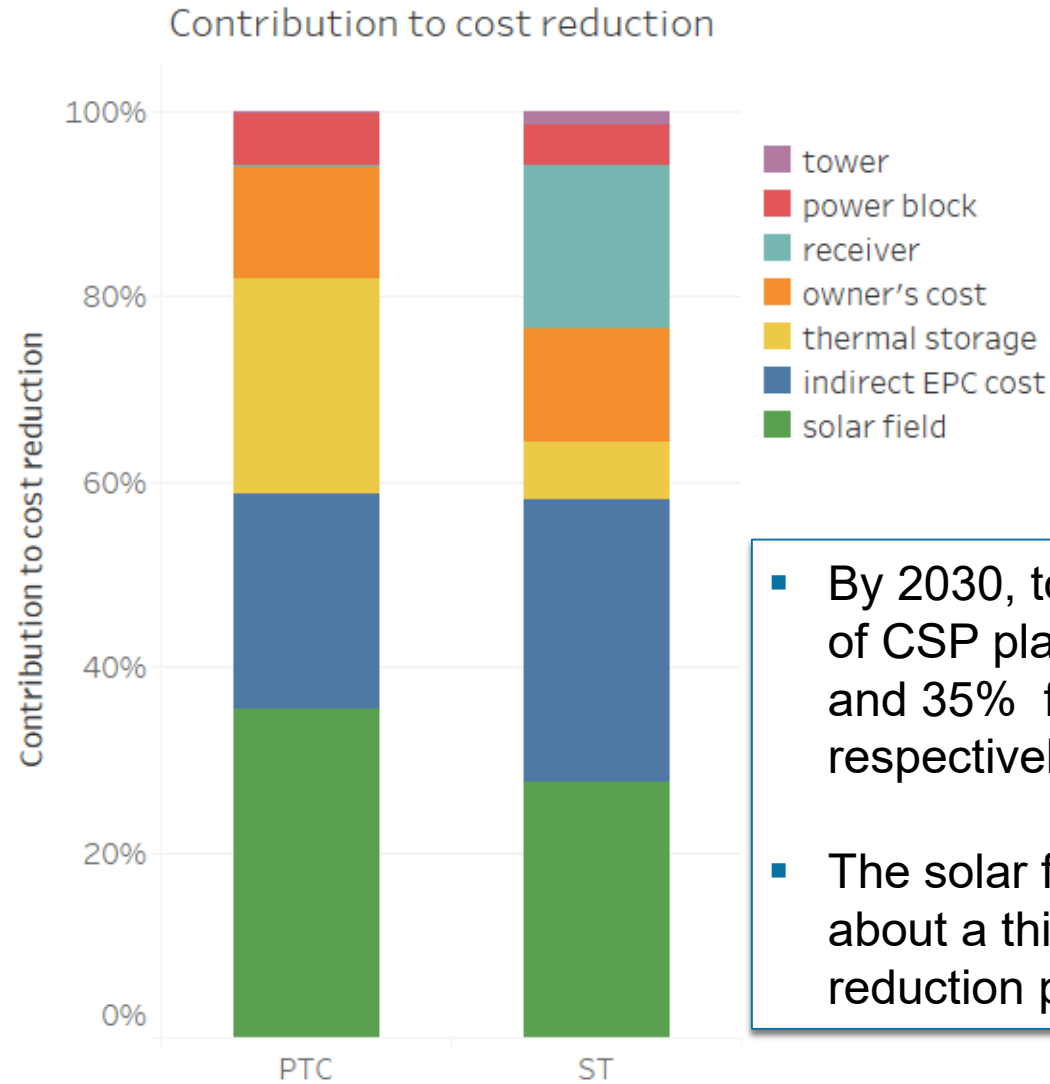
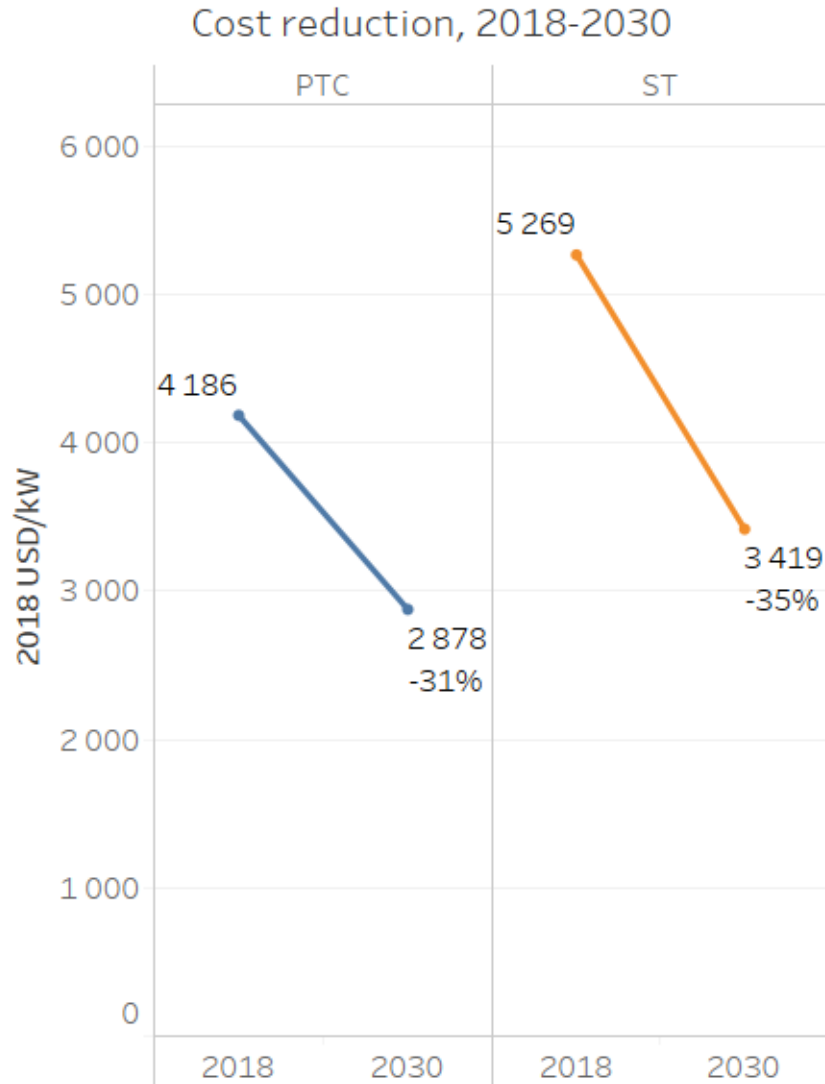
- G20 countries
- Mix of techno-economical analysis and learning curves
- More country level insights



# Cost reduction methodology



### 3) CSP total investment cost for the reference plant

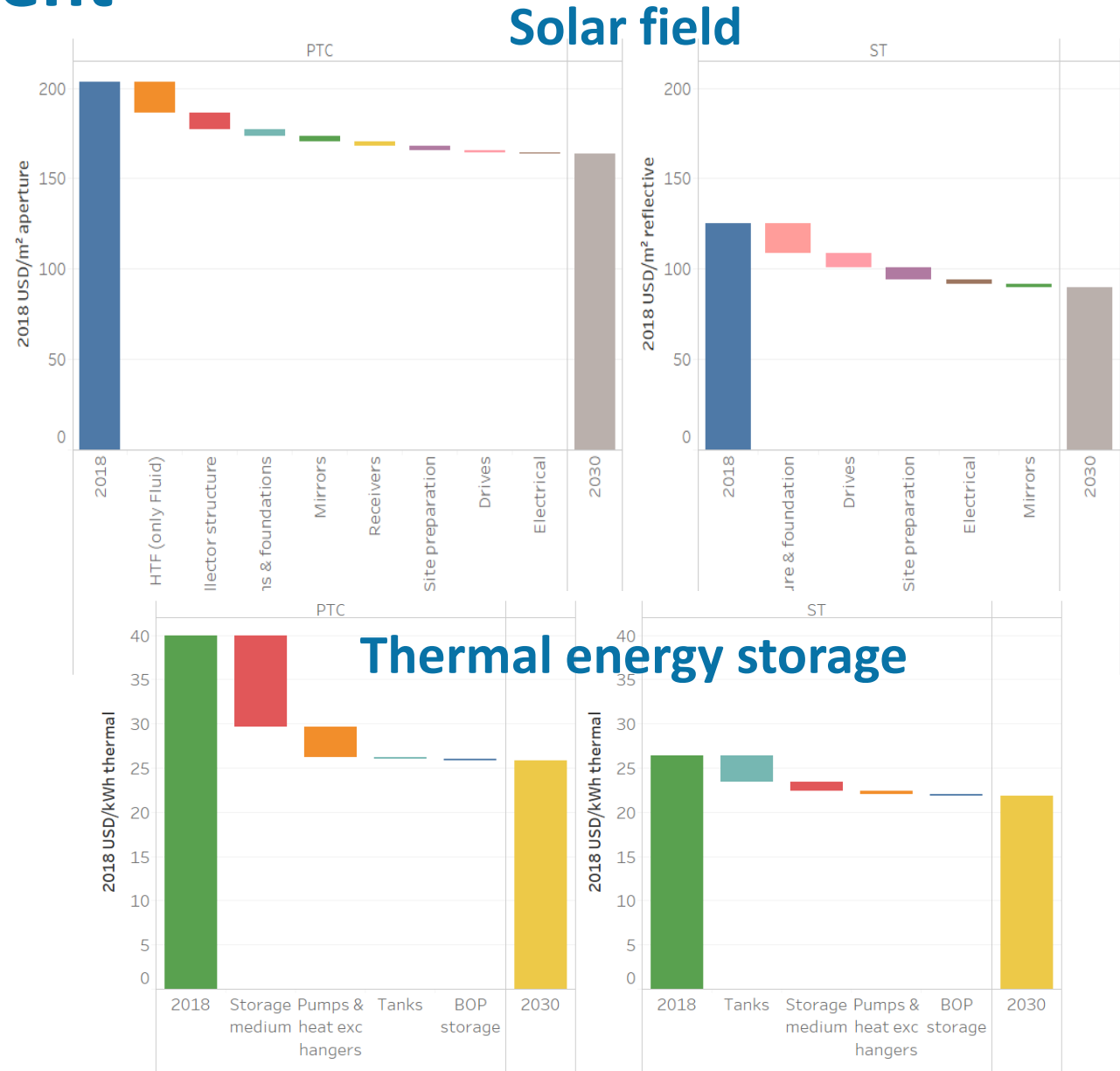


- By 2030, total investment costs of CSP plants to decrease 31% and 35% for PTC and ST respectively.
- The solar field to contribute about a third of the cost reduction potential.

### 3) CSP costs reduction potential to 2030: Installed cost by component

Generic plant configuration for PTC and solar towers to establish cost benchmark

Detailed component level analysis to 2030



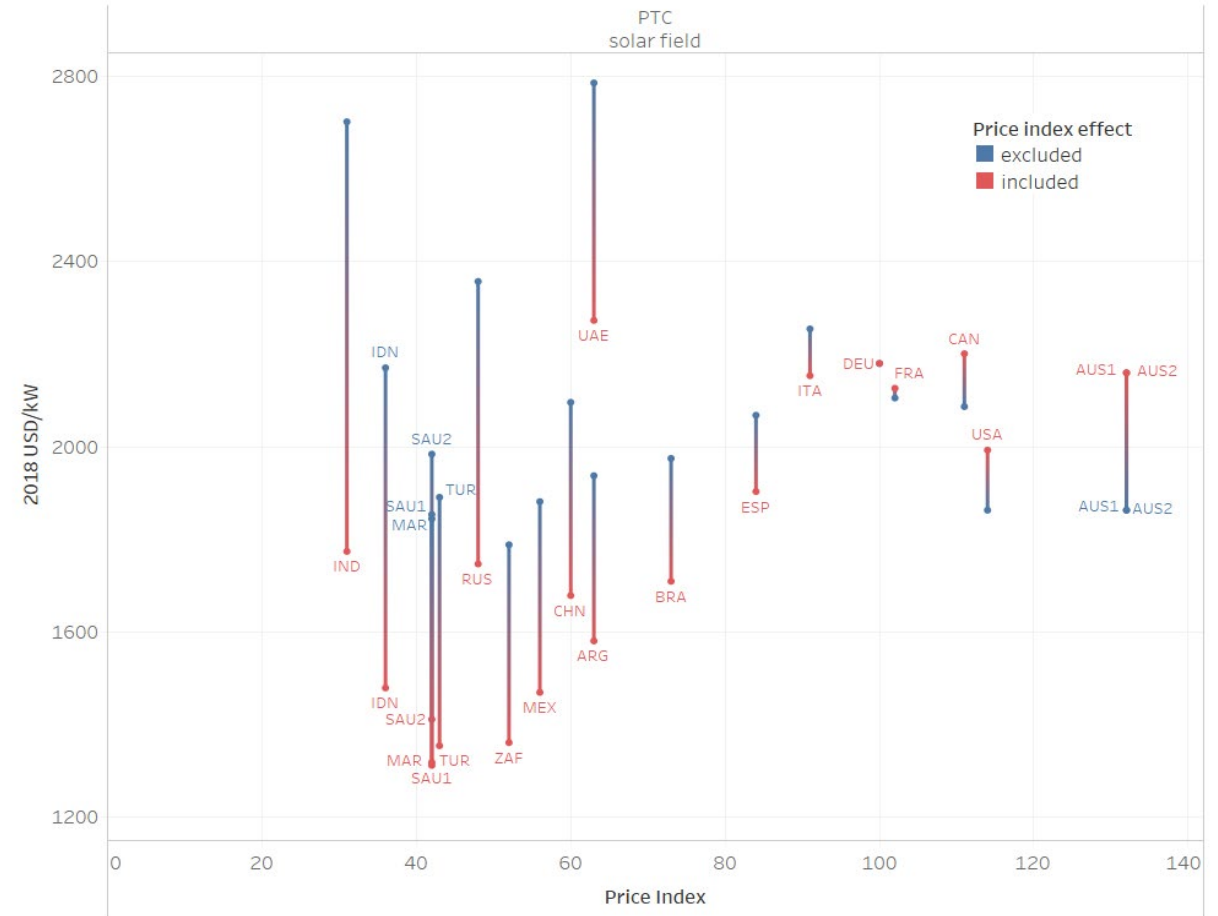
# 5 & 6)

## Determine site specific solar field and costs

Based on locations and storage size, optimal solar field size is simulated

This sets reference plant configuration costs

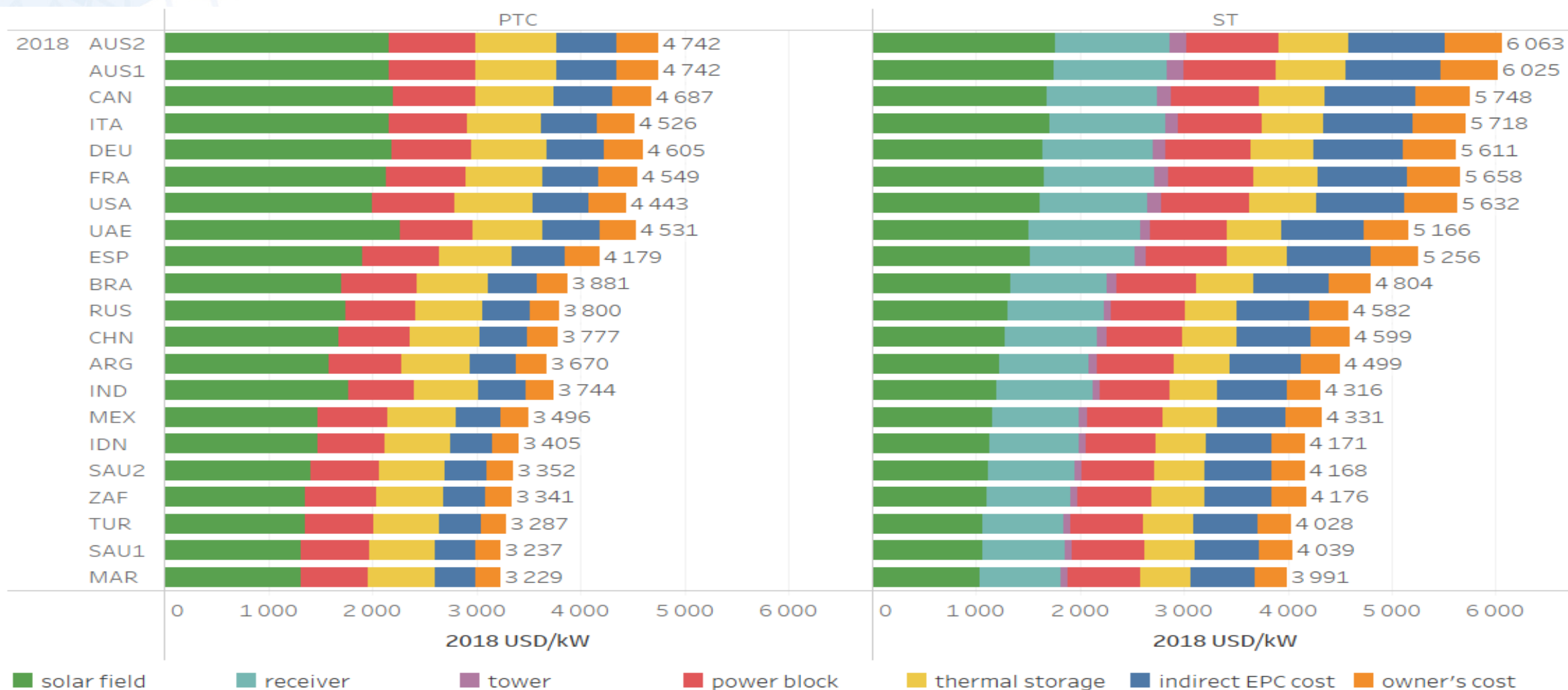
Local content shares and impact then shifts costs up or down relative to benchmark



2018 PTC solar field costs

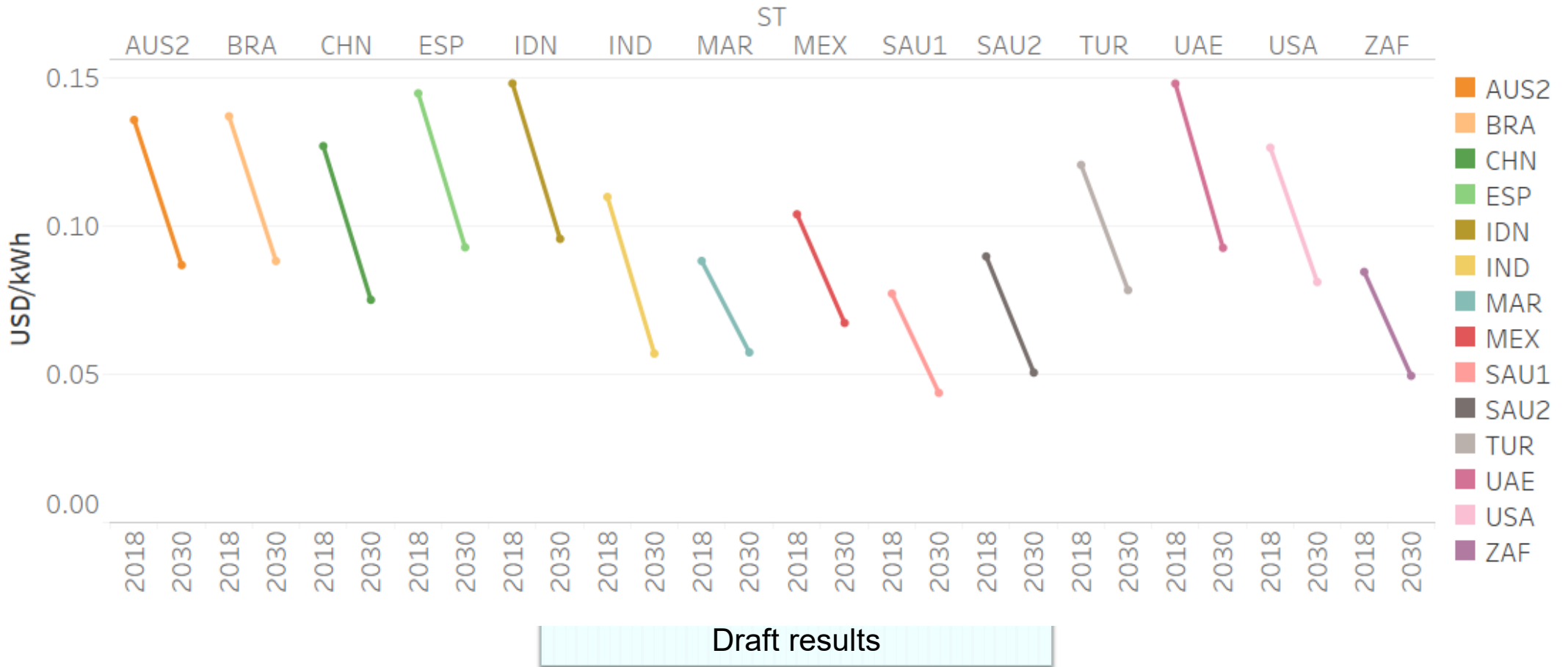
# 6) Results in significant variation in installed costs

Total installed cost breakdown of country-specific PTC and ST plants, 2018



# CSP costs reduction potential to 2030:

## 7) Levelised cost of electricity



Highly competitive dispatchable power by 2030 in high DNI locations

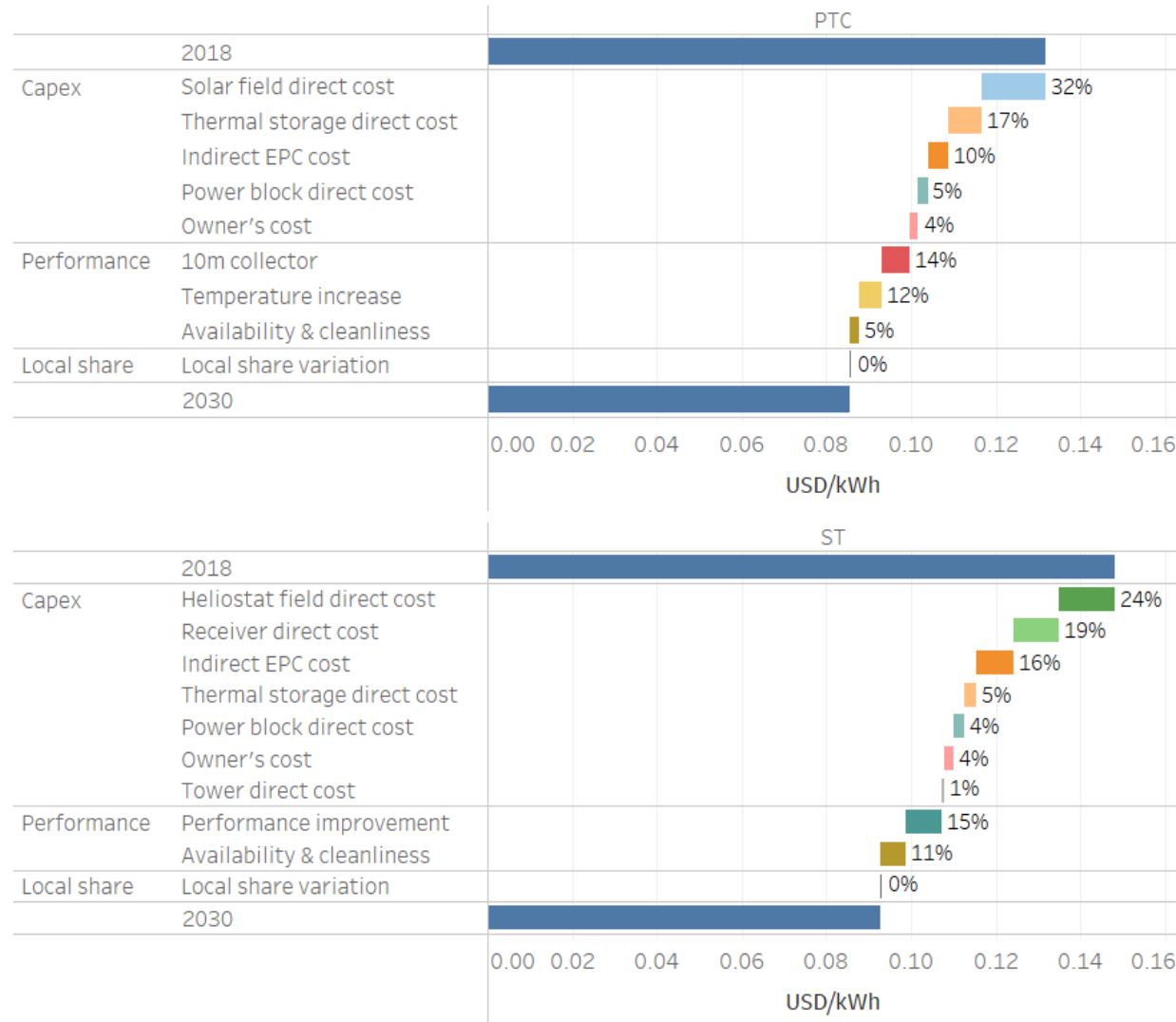
# CSP costs reduction potential to 2030:

## 7) Cost reduction drivers

**Both technologies benefit from**

- increased competition in supply chain
- technology improvement that reduce costs & improve performance

**But some specific differences in both tech drivers and magnitude of contribution to cost reduction**





# Renewables are increasingly competitive



**The winners are customers, the environment and our future**

[www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org)  
[mtaylor@irena.org](mailto:mtaylor@irena.org)

### 3. Upcoming work: CSP

#### Reference plant key design parameters summary

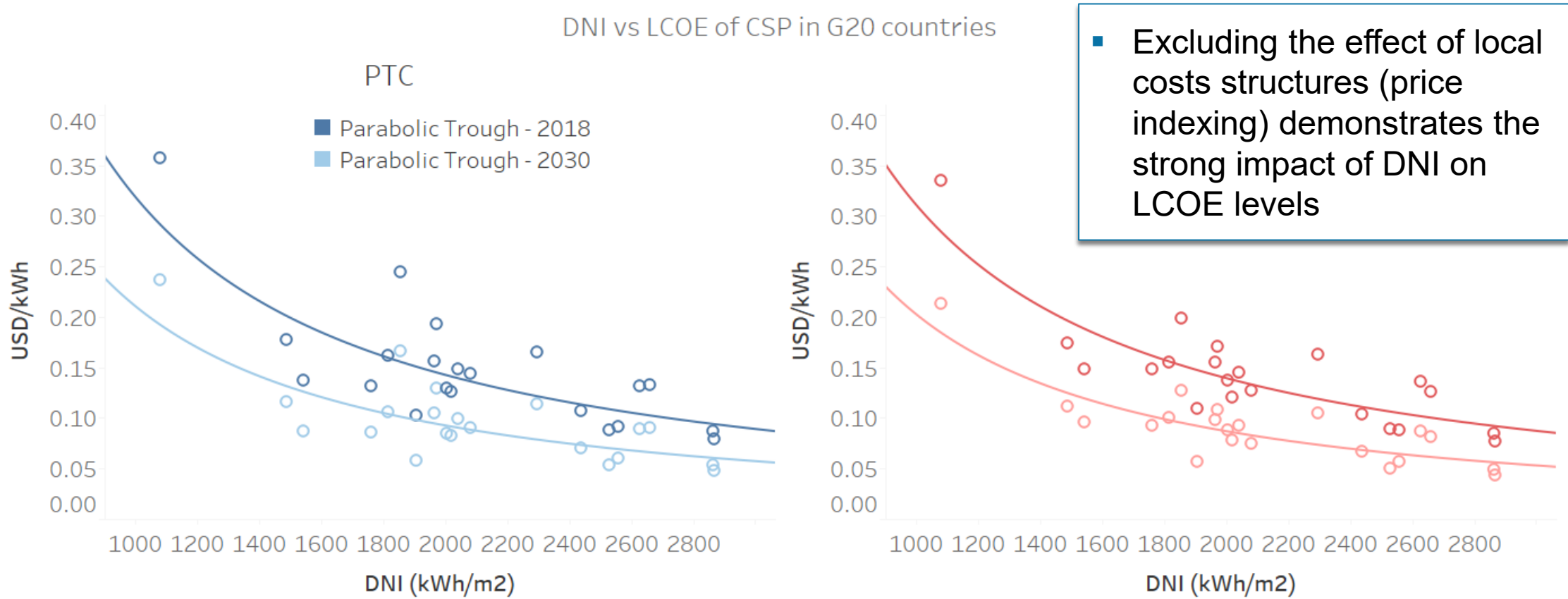
Design Parameters	Unit	Parabolic Trough		Solar Tower	
		2018	2030	2018	2030
Solar collector / heliostat		Ultimate Trough®	10m Future Trough	Heliostat based on the Sanlucar 120 type of Abengoa	Future Heliostat
Heat transfer fluid (HTF)		BP/DPO	Ternary Salt <sup>[1]</sup>	Solar Salt	Solar Salt
Storage medium		Solar Salt <sup>[2]</sup>	Ternary Salt	Solar Salt	Solar Salt
Maximum HTF temperature	[°C]	393	530	565	600
Thermal energy storage capacity (full load hours)	[h]	7	7	10	10
Gross electrical output	[MW]	150	150	150	150

<sup>[1]</sup> Ternary salt mixtures offer the advantage of reduced solidification temperature. They are composed of three chemical components. One commercial example is Hitec, composed of 7 mol% sodium nitrate (NaNO<sub>3</sub>), 49 mol% sodium nitrite (NaNO<sub>2</sub>) and 44 mol% potassium nitrate (KNO<sub>3</sub>).

<sup>[2]</sup> Solar Salt: 60wt% sodium nitrate (NaNO<sub>3</sub>) and 40wt% potassium nitrate (KNO<sub>3</sub>)

# Cost reduction potential... CSP

## Solar resource availability largely determines LCOE limits

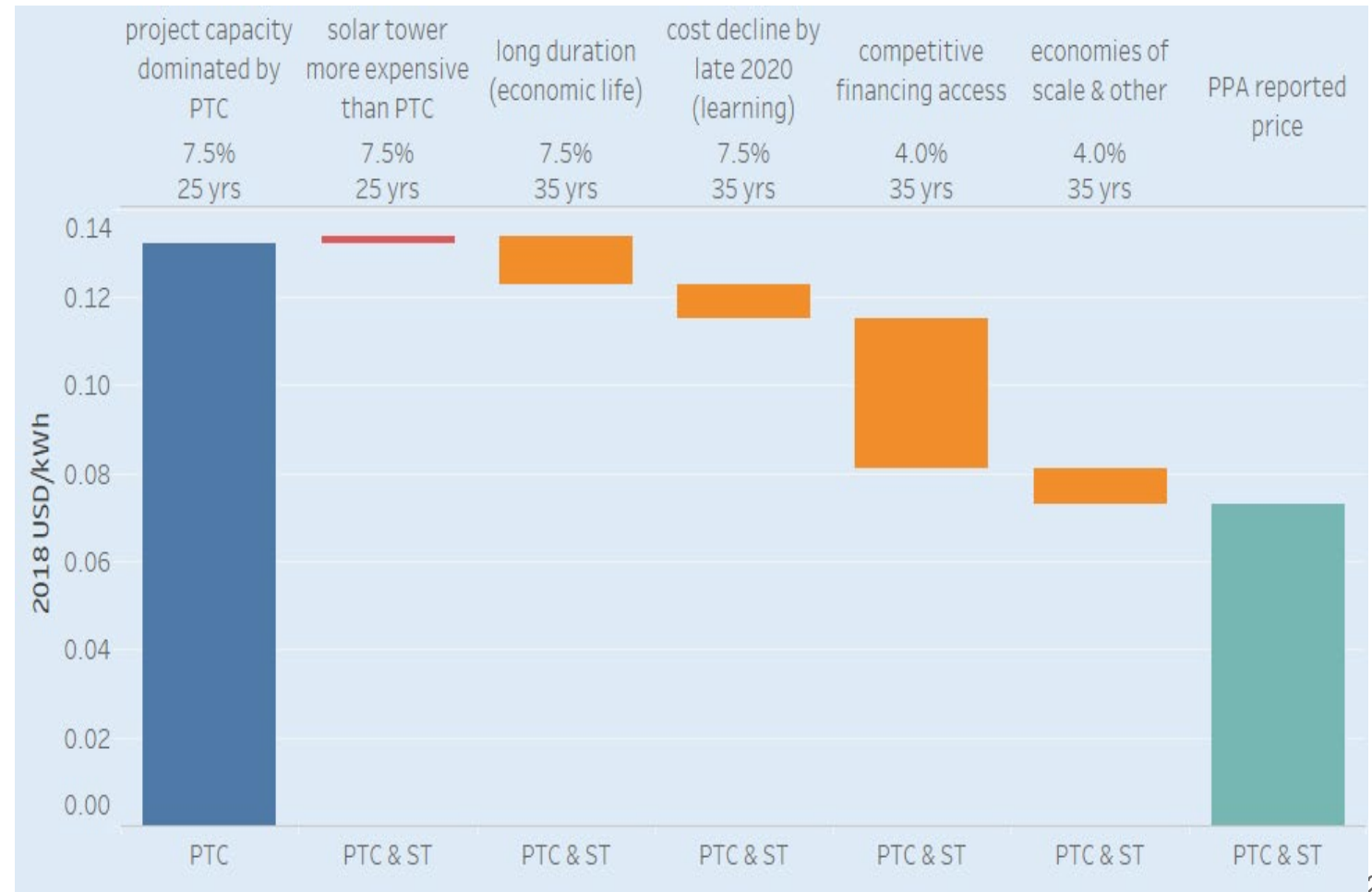


# Our data vs DEWA PPA

## Complicated analysis given blended project

### Key drivers of low cost:

- **Financing**
- **Long-term PPA**
- **Economies of scale**
- **Ongoing cost reductions**



# Cost reduction potential... CSP

CSP already very attractive in several countries with high solar resources

- Both analyzed CSP technologies (PTC and ST) expected to decline further increasing competitiveness in even more markets

