# **Opportunity Recognition**

Dr Shai Vyakarnam



#### What is opportunity recognition?

# Kirzner

# Schumpeter

#### We know about the successes...



Easyjet

Beatles

Taj Mahal and the other Wonders of the World

Penicillin

Religious ideas!

Chocolate

Coffee

Fashion

Mobile phones

**Bond Movies** 

# Ones that got away!





# In reality what we see.. Opportunity co-creation (Effie's work)



- Shape and co-create the opportunity –
- Business models value chains
- Technology from lab to product
- Create products and services people will pay for
- Make bets

#### What boxes should it tick?

#### **Emotional**

- Excite the founder to commit
- Belief

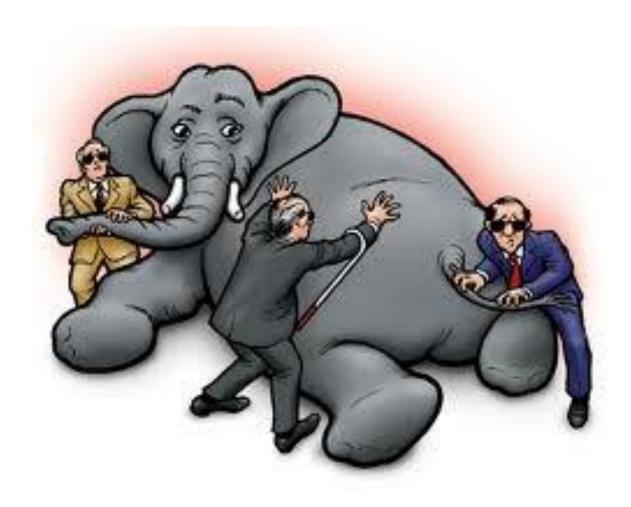
#### Intellectual

Understand it – deeply

#### **Rational**

- Early evidence of markets and customer need
- Affordable loss (risk)

# Three perspectives of opportunity



# Recognising Opportunities

Prof Sir Richard Friend FRSCavendish Professor at the University of Cambridge

**Dr Simon Bransfield Garth** CEO, Azuri and Eigh19

**Dr Seena Rejal**Chairman, Cambridge Policy Associates







# Plastic Electronics: the technology landscape

Richard Friend

Cavendish Laboratory

University of Cambridge

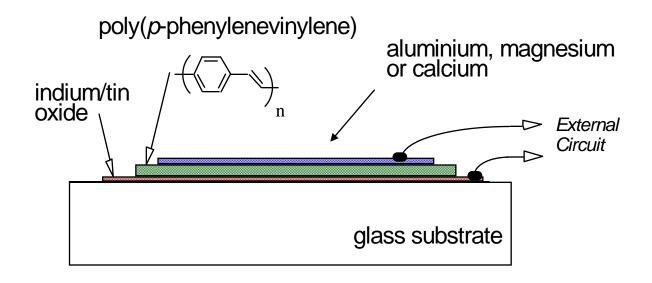
PPV: the prototypical fluorescent semiconducting polymer:

Delocalised  $\pi$ electrons provide
both conduction
and valence bands



Solutions of a range of semiconducting polymers:

#### Polymer Light-Emitting Diodes



Jeremy Burroughes, Donal Bradley et al.

Nature, **347**, 539 (1990), US patent 5,247,190

1992 - foundation of Cambridge Display Technology, CDT

#### Organic LED technology:

Engineering: chemical synthesis

[CDT partnership with/acquisition by Sumitomo Chemical Company]

'semiconductor' purity levels achieved, detailed chemical modifications made to improve efficiency and lifetime.

LED lifetimes: 1990 - few minutes

1996 - 1000 hours

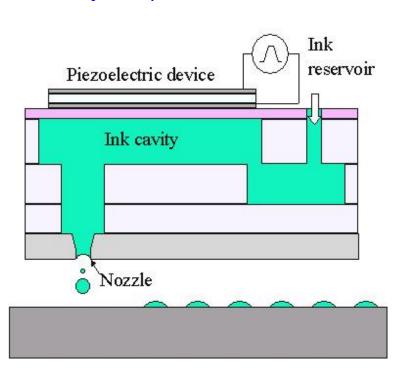
2010 > 100,000 hours (projected)

#### OLED technology: printing

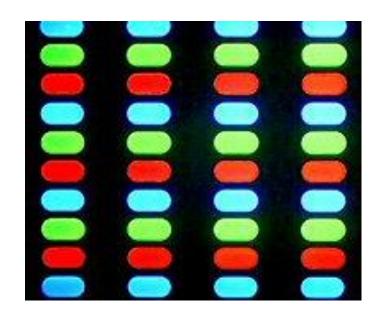
[CDT partnership in 1996 with Seiko-Epson Base Technology Research Center Tatsuya Shimoda, Takeo Kawase et al]

How to pattern the red, green and blue pixels? direct printing

#### **Inkjet Deposition Process:**



 Polymer deposition by ink-jet printing



Printed Polymer in Bank Holes

#### **Organic electronics – Status**

#### **Existing markets**

Phones (45M units in 2010) MP3, camera

**OLED** 



#### **Emerging applications**

**Advanced prototypes** 



Source: Sumitomo-CDT

#### **Next generation applications**

Demonstrators, but technology challenges



Lighting, wall-side TV

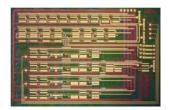
**OTFT** 

-



Paper-like flexible displays

Source: Plastic Logic



Source: PolyIC

All-polymer & next gen. displays; RFID circuits sensors

**OPV Solar Cells** 



Mobile Power; building Integrated PV

#### **Organic Solar Cells?**

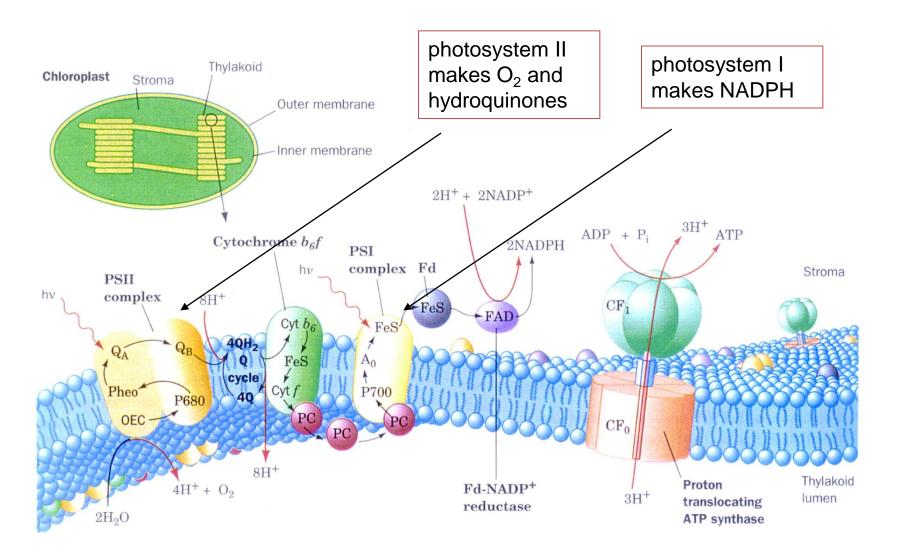
π-conjugated molecules used in nature for photosynthesis, but:

 green plants construct a very complex multiple 'heterojunction' structure to separate electron and hole

#### Current research and development:

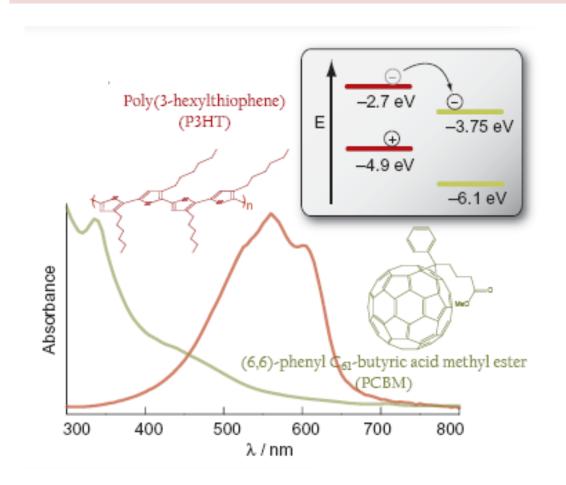
 'crude' single heterojunction devices work much better than they should....

#### Green plant photosynthesis:



#### Organic solar cells: simple recipe!

mix two semiconductors together so that there is a lot of interface between the "electron donor" and the "electron acceptor" materials

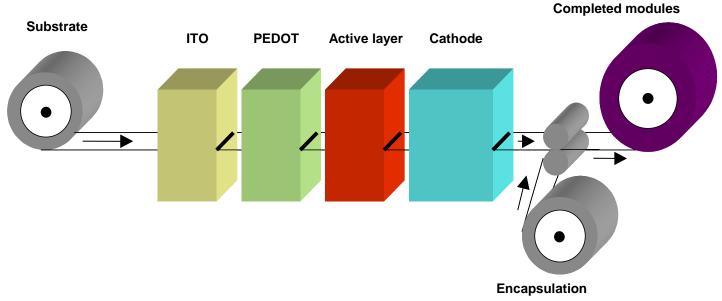


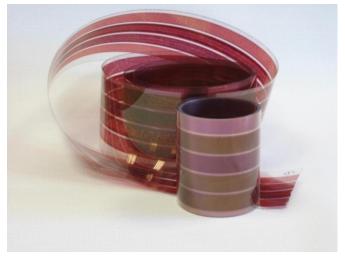
Poly(3-hexyl thiophene) – hole acceptor

Fullerene – electron acceptor

Solar energy conversion efficiencies now up to 10% with red-shifted polymers (2012)

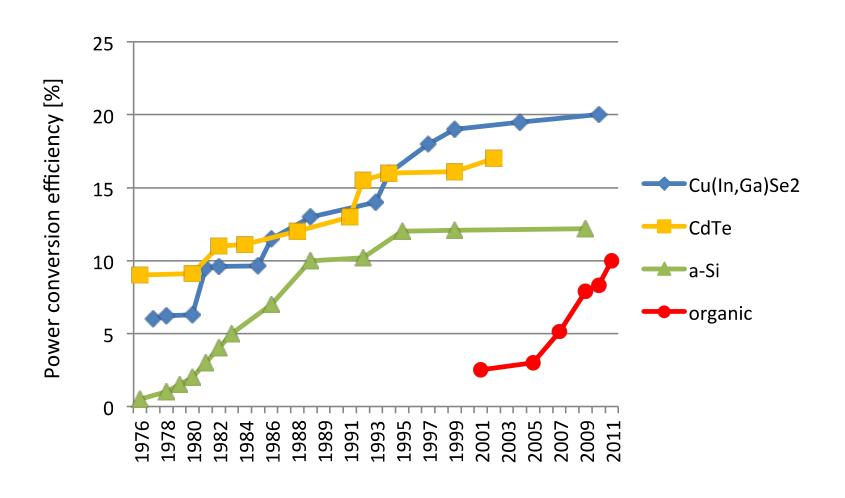
#### Eight19 Ltd (2010): roll-to-roll solar cells:





Manufacture of organic PV modules made on a flexible substrate using roll-to-roll methods

#### Progress with organic solar cells:



# Eight19: printed polymer solar cells

#### Technology Push:

- potential for lowest cost (materials and manufacture)
- potential to reduce full systems costs (low weight, robust, unbreakable)

Falls short of a 'market pull'.....





# **Indigo Case History**

**Enterprise Tuesday** 

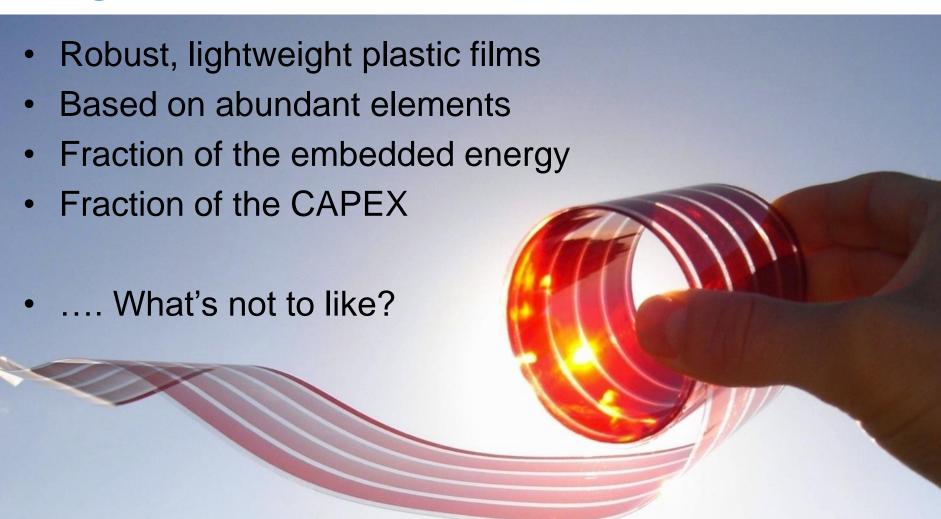
November 2012

# **Solar panels**





# Organic solar is a bit different





# **Challenges**

- Organic technology is still a research project
- It has a product lifetime of 5 years or less
- The existing solar market is commoditised and barely profitable
- Investors have been burned in recent years
- You need scale to compete
- ...But you can't get scale until you are competitive
- So what do you do?



# Finding a viable market

New Product, Existing Market	New Product, New Market
Existing Product, Existing Market	Existing Product, New Market

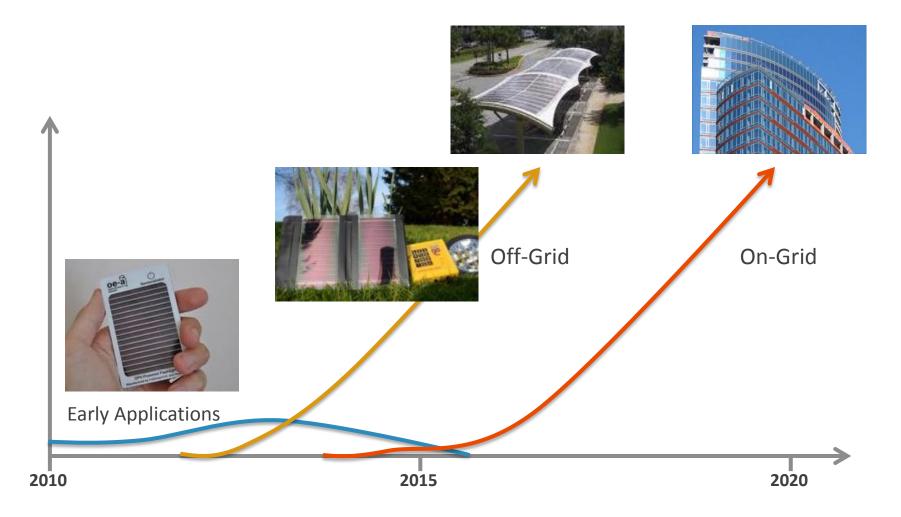
Building integrated solar

Consumer devices

**Emerging markets** 



# Small companies only survive if they move fast





# **Huge Off-Grid Solar Market Opportunity**



- 1.3Bn people without electricity
- 600M people spend \$15-35/yr to charge phones
- \$38Bn / year spent on kerosene lighting

## **TOTAL MARKET ~ \$50Bn/yr**



#### **Market Needs a New Business Model**



Power is a pay-as-you-go Service....





But Solar is all UP FRONT + Maintenance/Repair





# Disruptive Innovation: Combine Mobile and Solar





# Change the game

#### **Currently (Kenya)**

- 900 KSh/mth for Kerosene (\$10)
- 20 KSh/charge for mobile

**Total: ~\$13/mth** 

#### Indigo

- 900 KSh install (\$10)
- 120 KSh/wk (\$1.40)

Total: ~\$6/mth

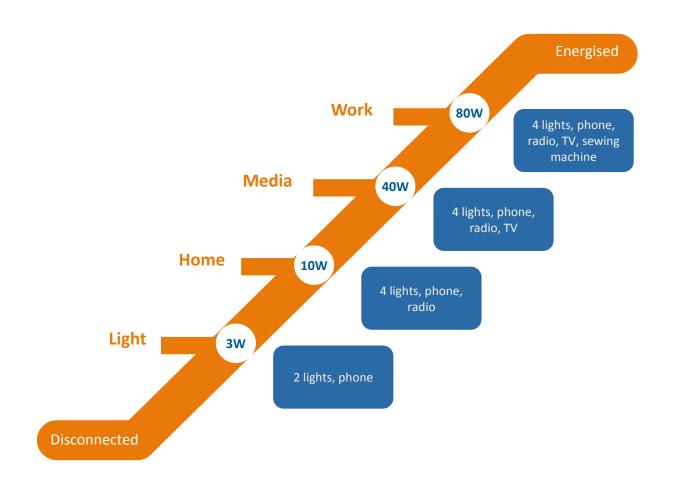
Customer cuts weekly energy spend by 50% or more

#### **AND**

has 8 hours of light for 2 rooms + mobile phone charging too



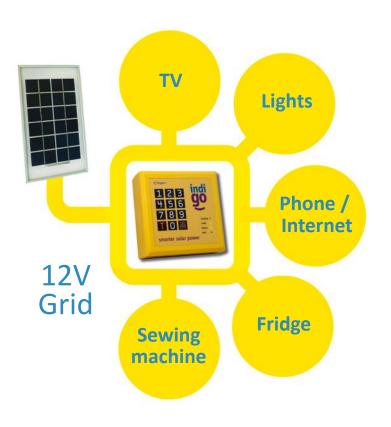
# Go beyond the obvious





# **Build a vision (emergent strategy)**

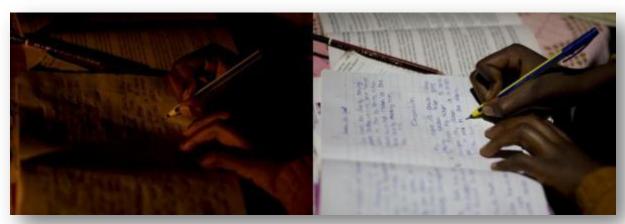
#### Energised home



- Grid connection ~\$400-800
- Bottom-up view of power
  - Solar and battery cost is almost linear i.e. little economy of scale
  - Losses in distribution
  - Centralised purchasing
- Un-Grid delivers power now
  - Appropriate solutions that build with users needs
  - New generation of low power, low voltage appliances
  - Vision of future power usage
  - Just as mobile replaced the landline



# **Indigo in Action**



Studying with Kerosene lamp



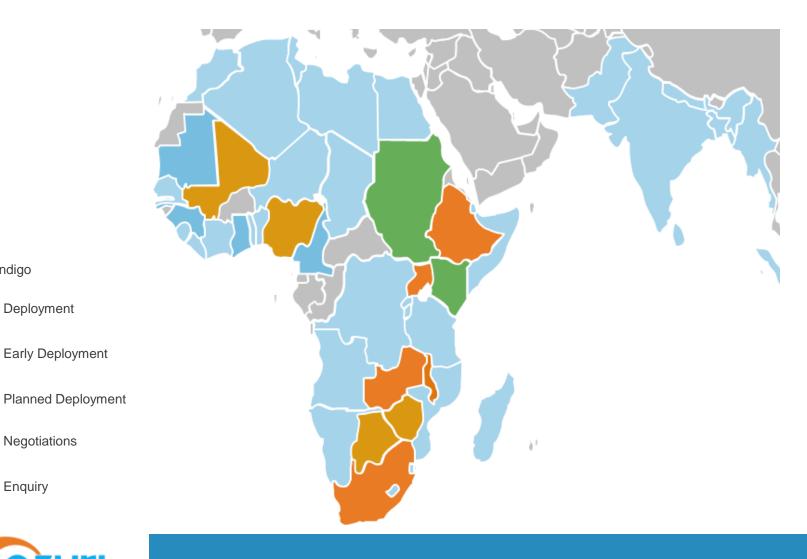
Studying with Indigo solar







# **Geographical Deployment**





Key: Indigo

Deployment

Negotiations

Enquiry

# Why we do it

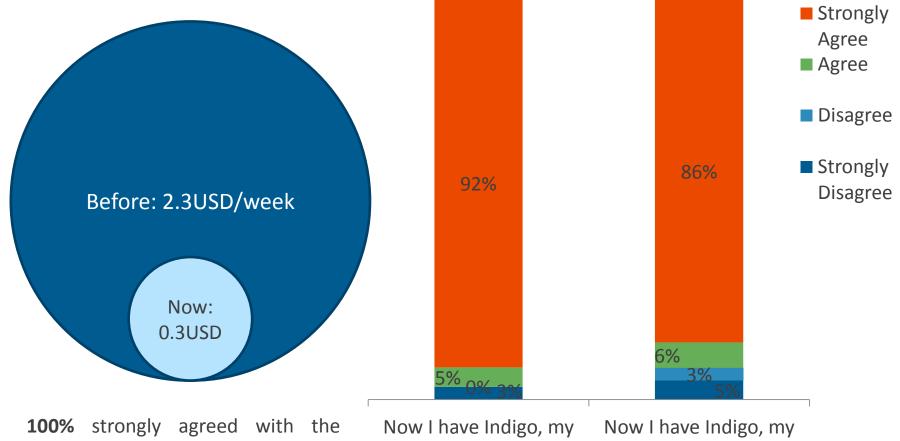


## No simple answer

- Joy of creating something new
- Exploring the unknown
- Potential for wealth
- Learning
- Recognition
- Impact
- Solving a puzzle



#### Success helps



• 100% strongly agreed with the statement "Now I have Indigo, I am using less kerosene"

Now I have Indigo, my household and I are saving time

Now I have Indigo, my household's expenditure on lighting and phone charging has decreased



#### Particularly when it is demonstratively beneficial

On average each student is studying an extra **2.5** hours per day

"I do better at school now because I can complete my homework every night" Indigo User, Female, Class 8 Student



On average families are productive for an extra 3.2 hours per day

"I can open my shop for an extra 3.5hrs per day, instead of shutting at 6.30pm I stay open until 10pm" Indigo user, male



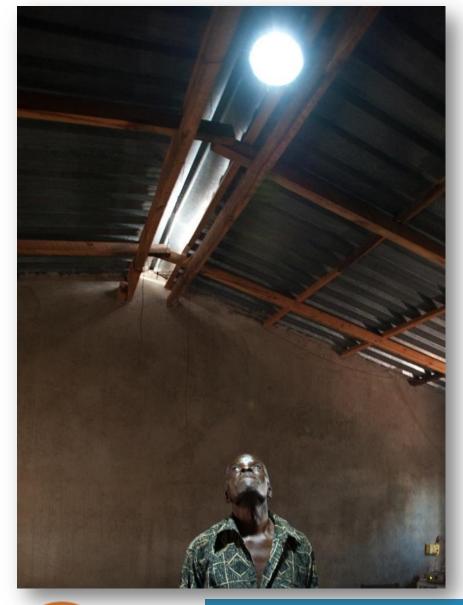
# Summary



#### Lessons

- We started in one place and finished somewhere quite different
- Move fast and focus on the achievable
- Face reality: If it doesn't work / can't work change!
- Be prepared to think outside the box
- Capture a vision
- Inspire others
- Keep innovating





"Today I live in the city"

- Mr Chabalala, Zambia



### **Thank You!**

info@azuri-technologies.com



### Dr Seena Rejal

Chairman, Cambridge Policy Associates

Former Business Development & Financing, Eight19

#### Overview

What drives me

How it all started (... in Cambridge)

Before Eight19

The ride with Eight19

Next...

### **Personal Drivers**



### Cambridge Roots

- Entrepreneurship & Sustainability
  - key themes!



Institute for Manufacturing



CU Entrepreneurs



Spin Offs / Startups



### Clinton Climate Initiative



- Leveraging markets to "Move the Needle"
- High-impact, near-term, scalable solutions
- Overcoming market failures
- Intersection of policy, business, finance & tech
- Entrepreneurial business-oriented team
- Significant resources
- Cross-tech (across CCS & Solar)



### Disruptive Startups - GT



- Negative Emissions Tech / CO<sub>2</sub> Air Capture
- High calibre team
  - Kyoto Protocol authors
  - Princeton & Bell Labs physics
- Billionaire backers
- Using power of markets
- VEC Finalists
- Business Development & Strategy

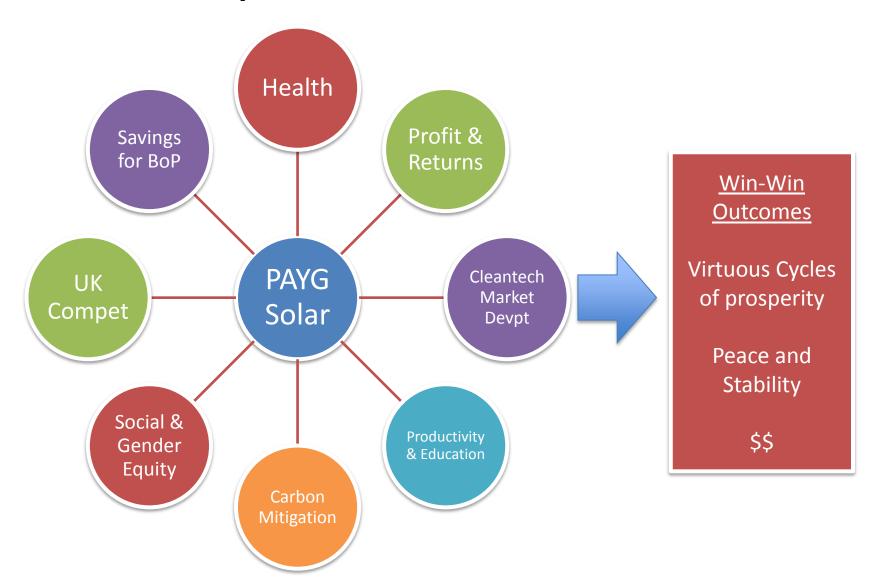




# Eight19 Passed the Test!



### Impact of PAYG Solar

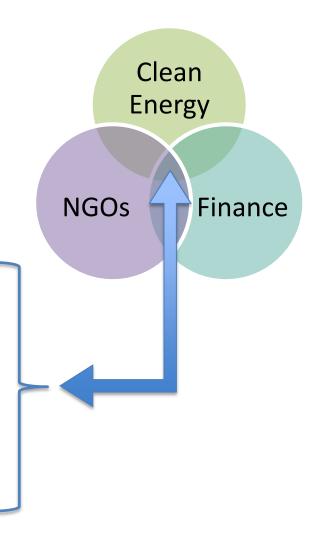


### **Brief & Fit**

- Fledgling concept
- Execution play



- Build brand internationally
- Educate market on PAYG solar
- Find partners and customers
- Raise finance needed to scale



Challenge was exciting; change it could affect, real.

### **Finance**

- Project Finance vs. Equity
- Different investor types tailoring needed!
  - Impact investors, philanthropists, other patient cap
  - VCs and other angels
- Innovative project finance mechanisms
  - Revolving funds ('Kickstart')
  - EIS Mechanisms in the UK
  - CSR funds
- Lobbying of WB / IFC challenge of 'bankability'

# **Network Effect & Tipping Points**



































#### Next...

- Tackling the 'bankability' market failure
- Cross-industry team
- Mobilising the masses
- You can be involved directly
- Stay tuned...

# Thank you

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