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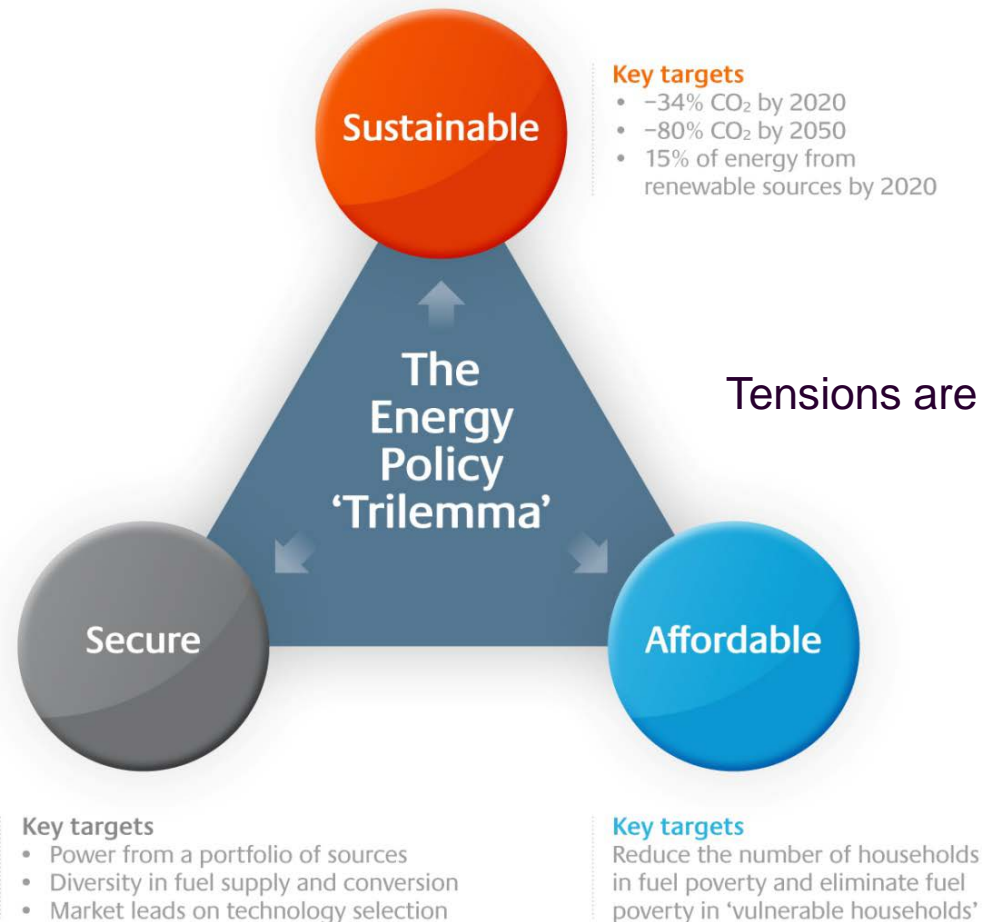
# Transitioning to a Low Carbon Energy System

Mike Colechin

**ETI10** | TEN YEARS  
OF INNOVATION  
2007 — 2017



## The UK energy challenge...





# Preparing for the Energy Transition: Context

- **Increasing demand to 2050**
  - Population: 65 to 77-79 million
  - Vehicles: 24 to 35-43 million cars
  - Housing: 24 to 38 million houses,  
(80% of current stock still in use in 2050)
- **Action to date**
  - Beginning to decarbonise power sector
  - Increasing energy efficiencies (especially in cars)
- **UK energy system is a unique and complex set of interlinked assets and infrastructure**
  - Ageing power plants need replacing
  - Significant wind (and marine) energy potential
  - Significant offshore CO2 storage potential
  - Significant opportunity for UK biomass
  - Reasonable public support for all low carbon options
  - But, poor housing stock and a very significant heating challenge





# Energy Technologies Institute (ETI)

The ETI is a public-private partnership between global energy and environment companies and the UK Government

Targeted development, demonstration and de-risking of new technologies for affordable and secure energy

Shared risk

## ETI members



**CATERPILLAR®**



 **Rolls-Royce**



  
Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**EPSRC**  
Pioneering research  
and skills

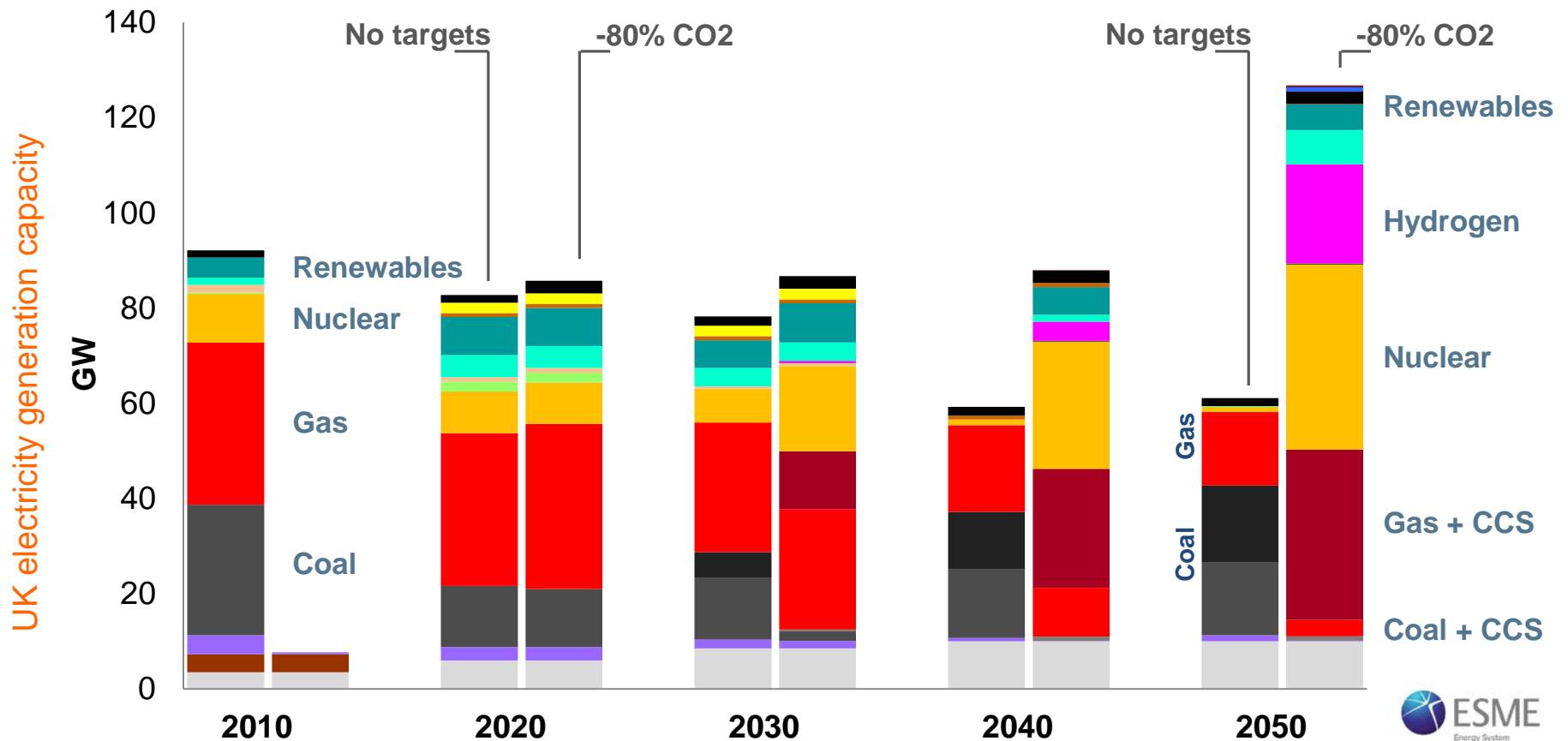
**Innovate UK**

## ETI programme associate

**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next

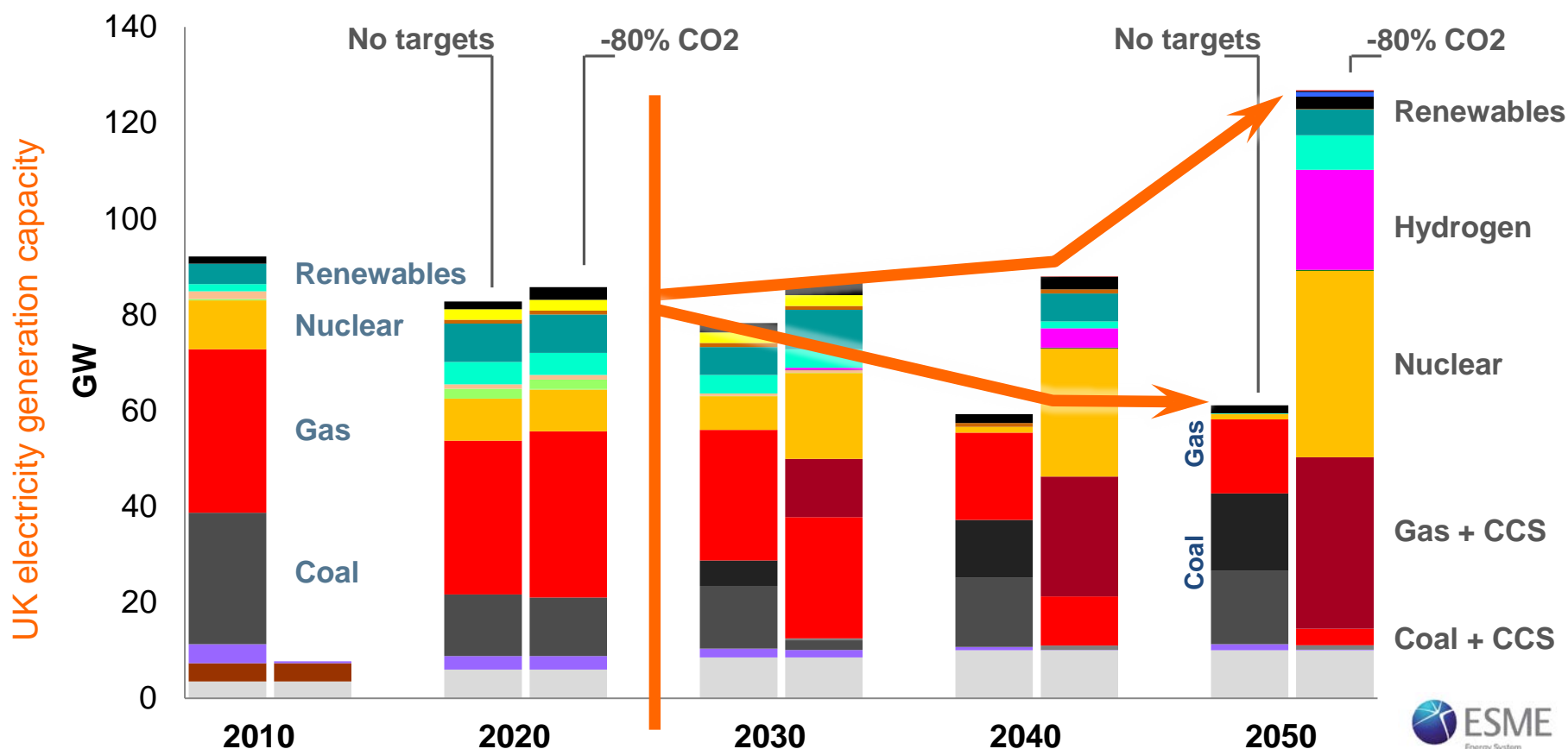


“No emissions targets” and “-80% CO<sub>2</sub> in 2050” are very different worlds...





As long as we prepare NOW, decisions on 2050 can wait... but not for long

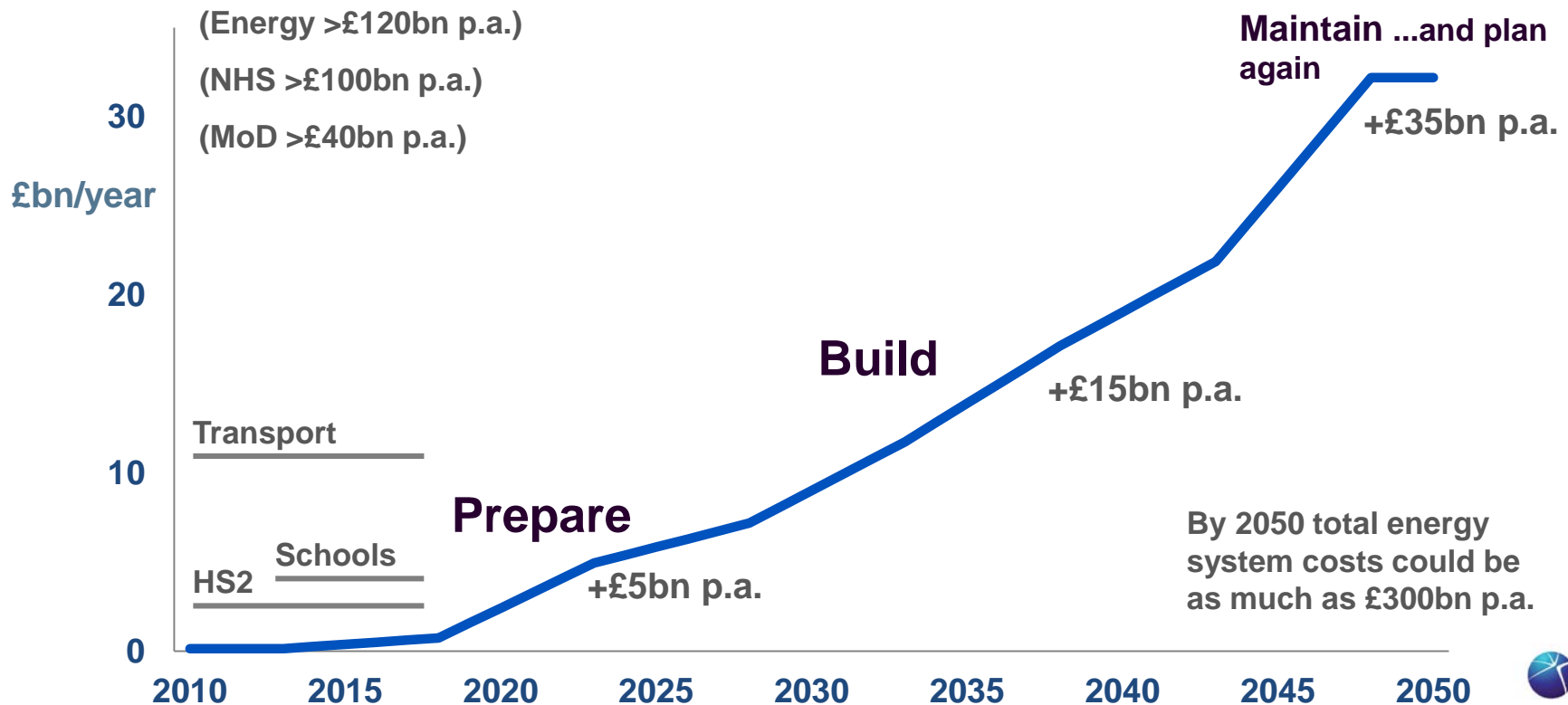




# Prepare over next 10 years

creating platform for infrastructure roll-out and growth

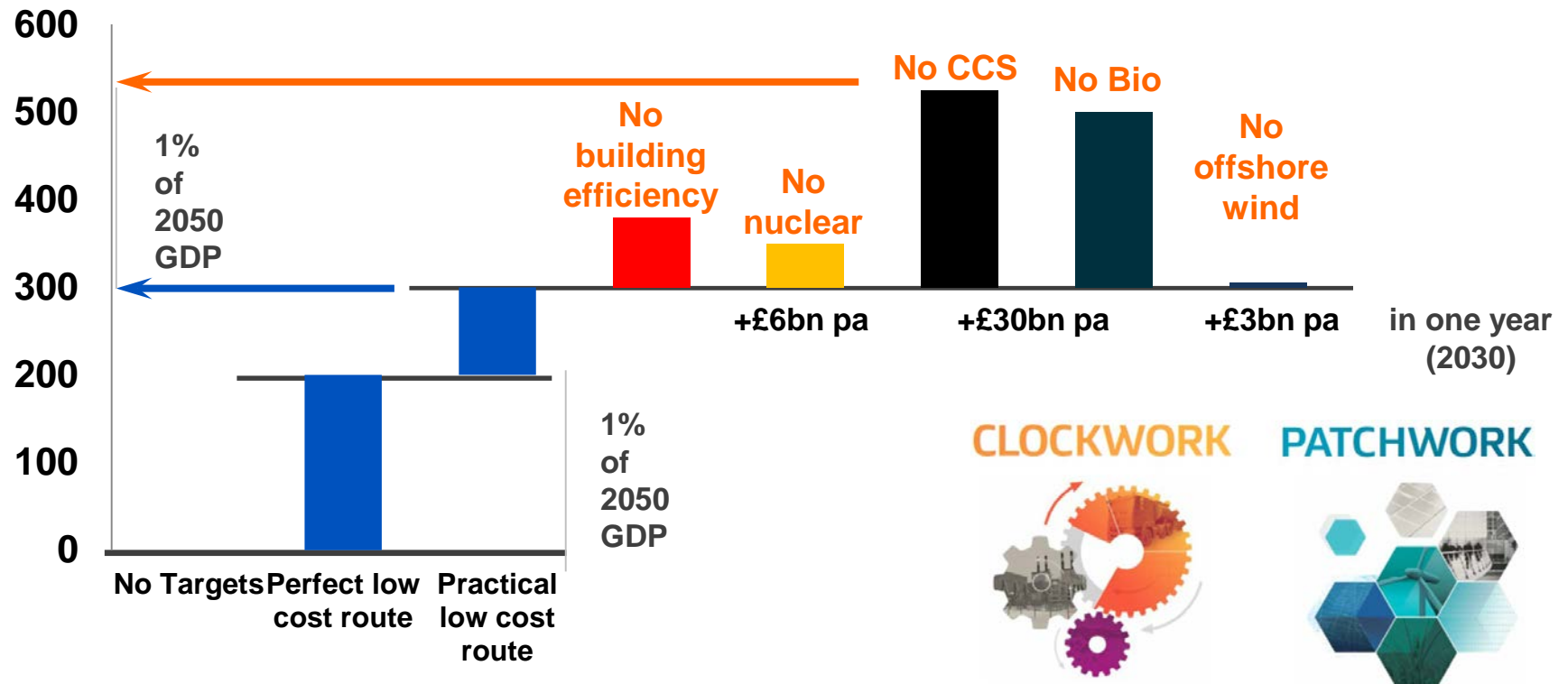
Incremental capital investment in a 'low-carbon' energy infrastructure





# The UK can achieve an affordable transition (1-2% of GDP) - system optimisation is key

Additional cost of delivering -80% GHG energy system  
NPV £ bn 2010-2050





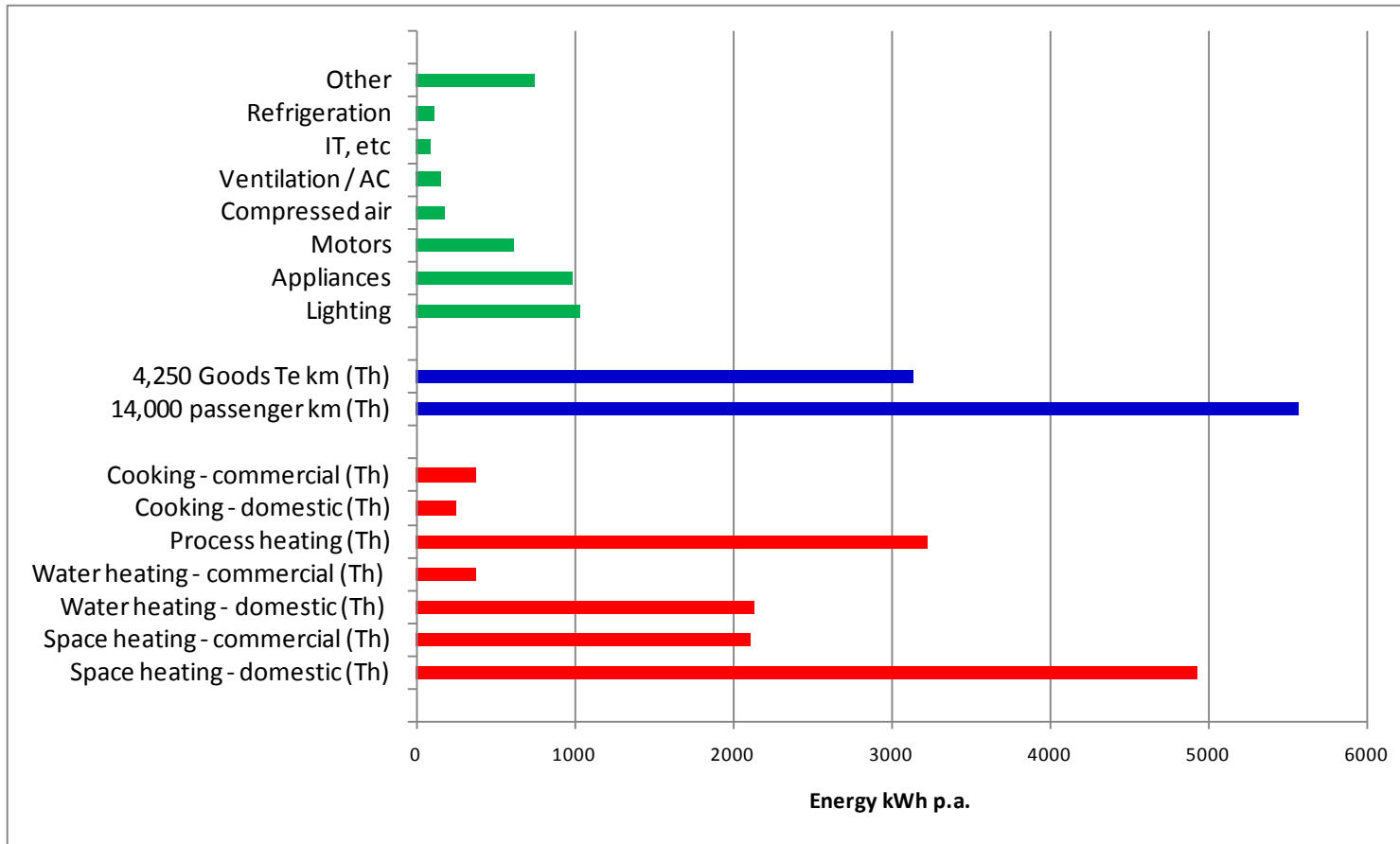
## ETI's Clockwork and Patchwork Scenarios



are representative of the challenges the UK faces in a move to low carbon – displaying the scale of the challenge



## Individual energy consumption in the UK\* ...

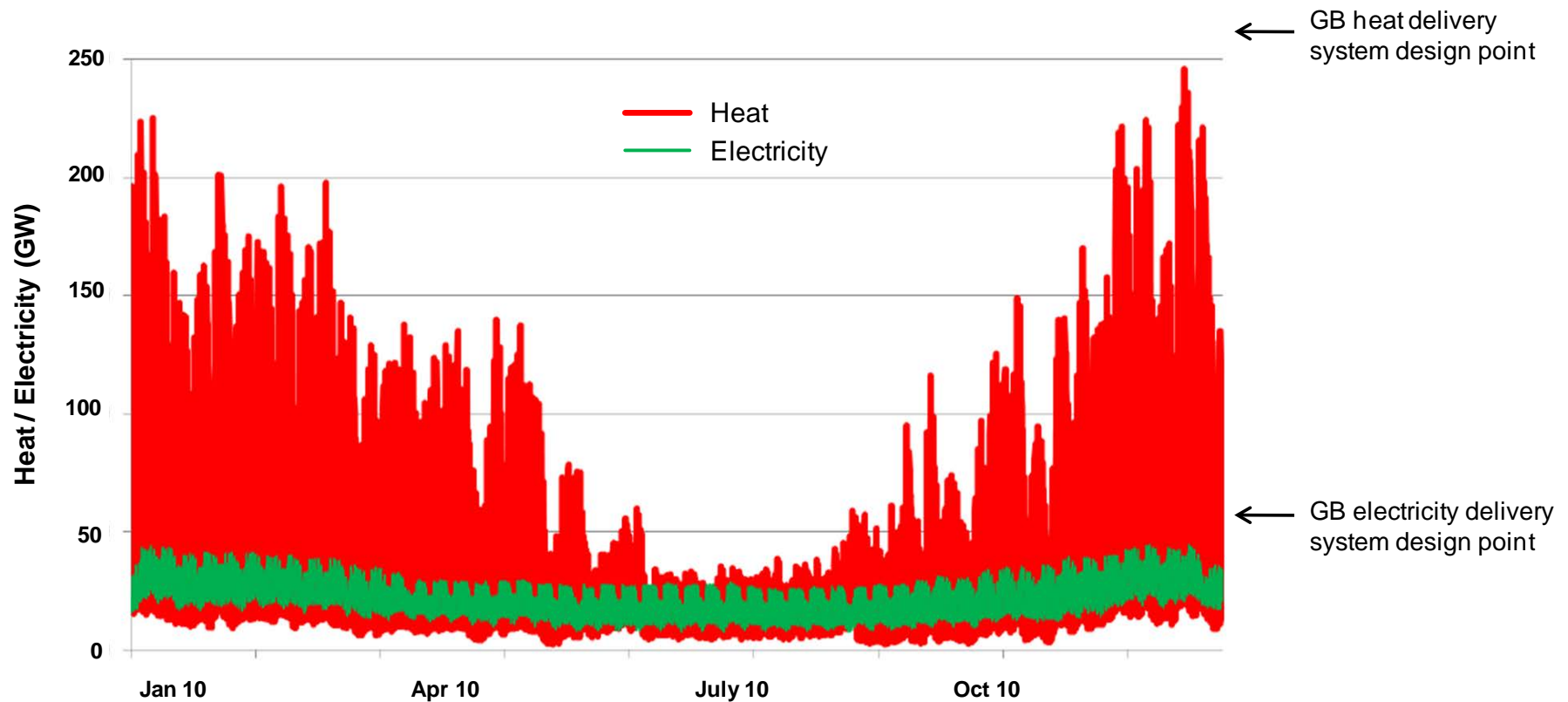


\* 2010 UK consumption divided by 60M  
(people in the UK)

Notes: 1. Passenger transport figure excludes international air travel  
2. Data excludes heavy industry



## GB heat and electricity demand variability (commercial & domestic - 2010)



Source: UKERC (2011)



90%

of the UK's housing stock  
will still be in use in 2050



20%

contribution of household  
heating to national carbon  
emissions



Today fewer than

4%



have low carbon heating

and

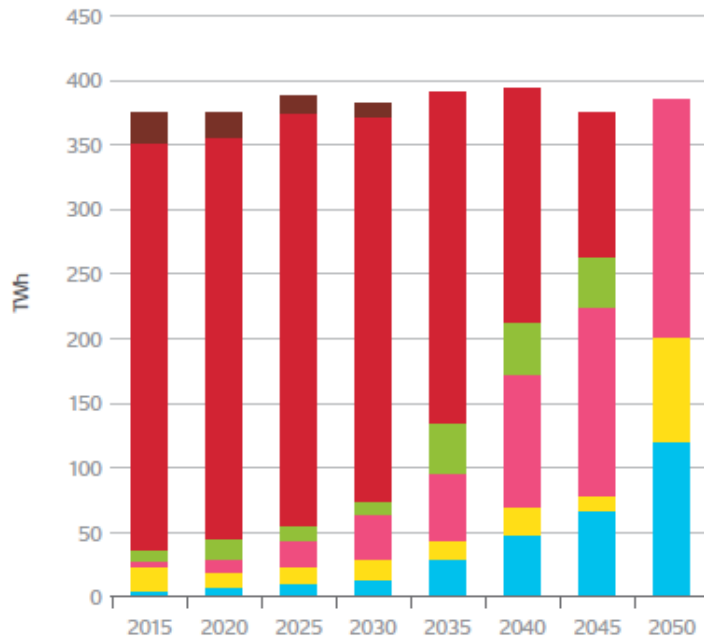
90%



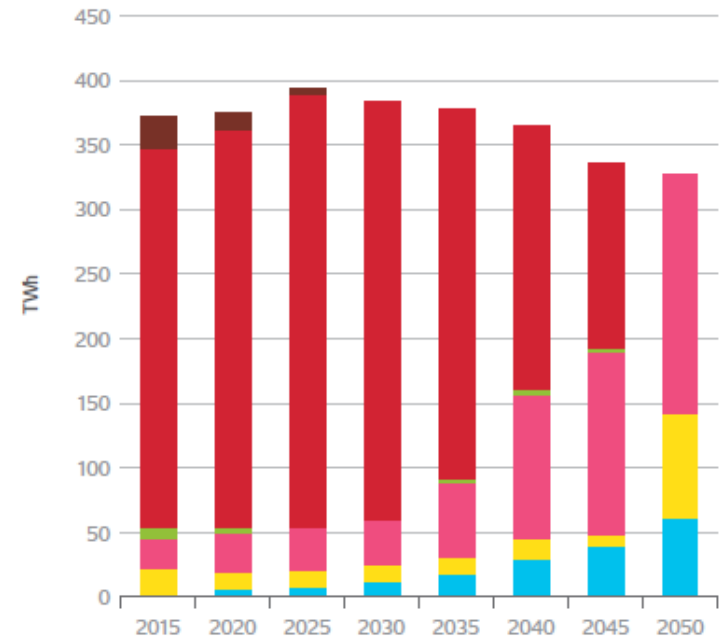
prefer gas central heating  
given the choice



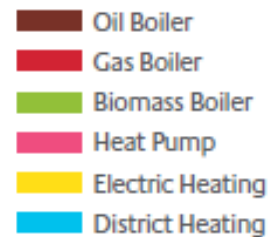
# Space Heat Generation



Clockwork

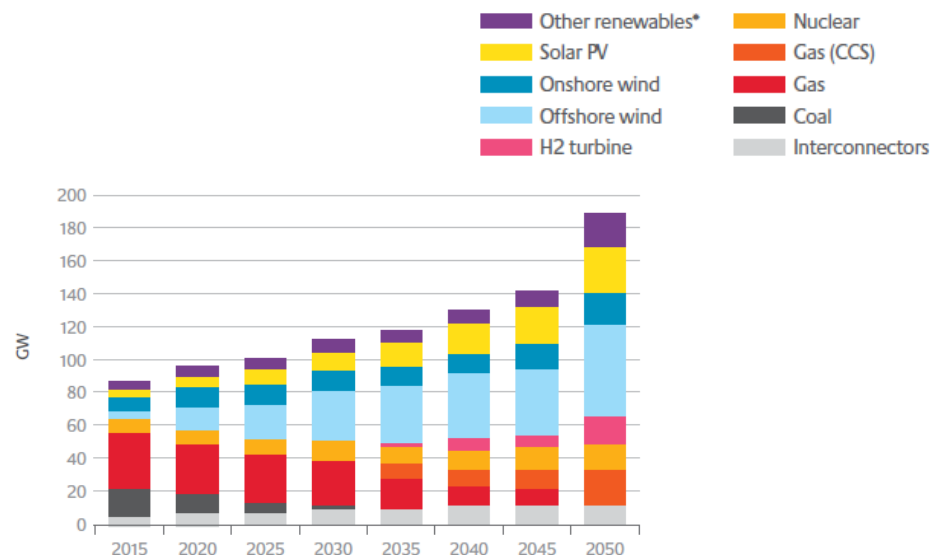
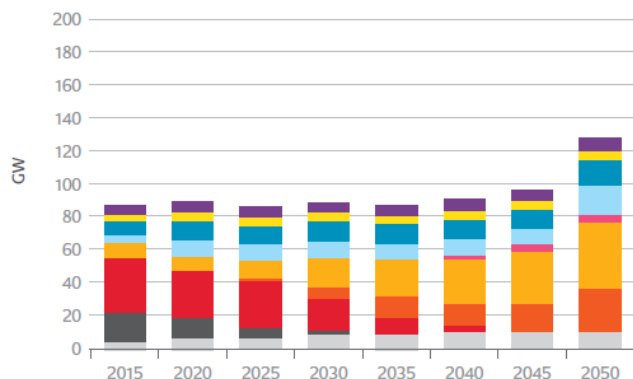


Patchwork





# ELECTRICITY CAPACITY



## CLOCKWORK

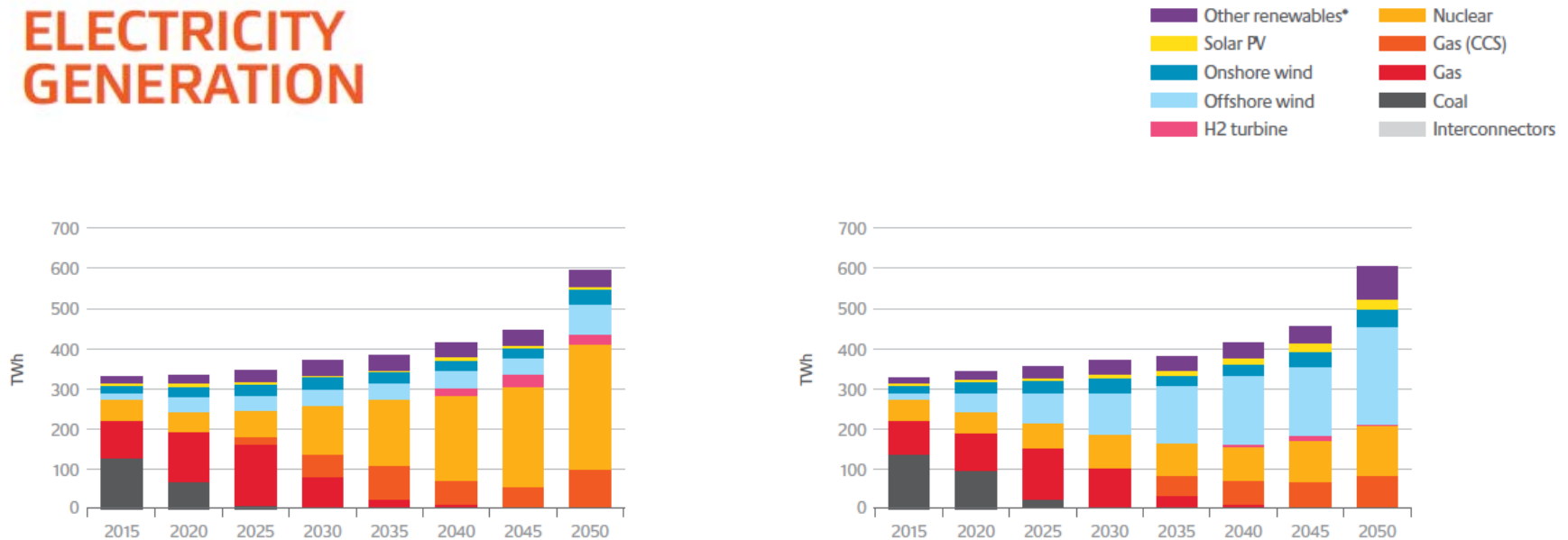
- » Nuclear provides 40GW of capacity by 2050
- » Existing pipeline of renewables built out to 2020, then maintained, with some further uptake of wind in 2040s
- » Gas plants retrofitted/replaced with CCS from 2020s
- » Hydrogen takes over from gas for peaking capacity from 2030s
- » Total capacity of ~130GW by 2050. Balance between nuclear, CCS and renewables

## PATCHWORK

- » Nuclear replacement of existing capacity only (16GW)
- » CCS delayed until 2030s before replacing unabated gas plants
- » Wind power capacity reaches 75GW by 2050, mostly from offshore
- » Significant capacity of hydrogen turbines (17GW) required to balance intermittent supply
- » Solar provides 28GW, Tidal 10GW and Wave 4GW of capacity by 2050
- » Total capacity of ~190GW by 2050, dominated by renewables



# ELECTRICITY GENERATION



## CLOCKWORK

- » Nuclear has the highest load factor of all supply technologies, making the largest contribution to total generation by 2050
- » Gas with CCS has a seasonal role, providing baseload through winter and more backup through summer
- » Improvements to technology means new offshore wind turbines have a load factor of 50% by 2050, meaning a larger share of generation compared to onshore

## PATCHWORK

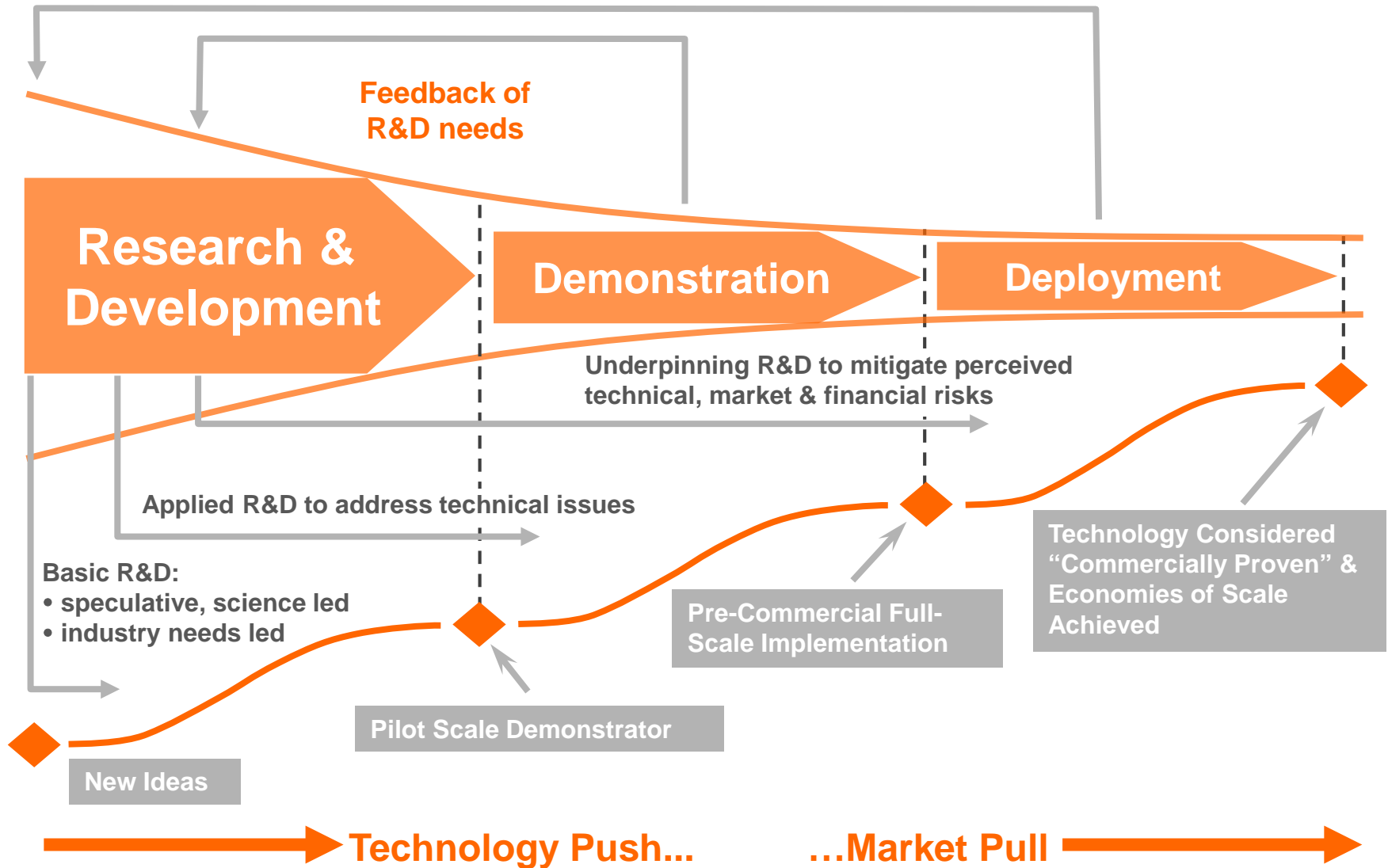
- » Despite its limited capacity, the high load factor of nuclear means it contributes ~20% of electricity generation in 2050
- » Of the renewables, offshore wind makes the largest contribution of all technologies, while generation from solar is very modest, given its low load factor of 11% in the UK

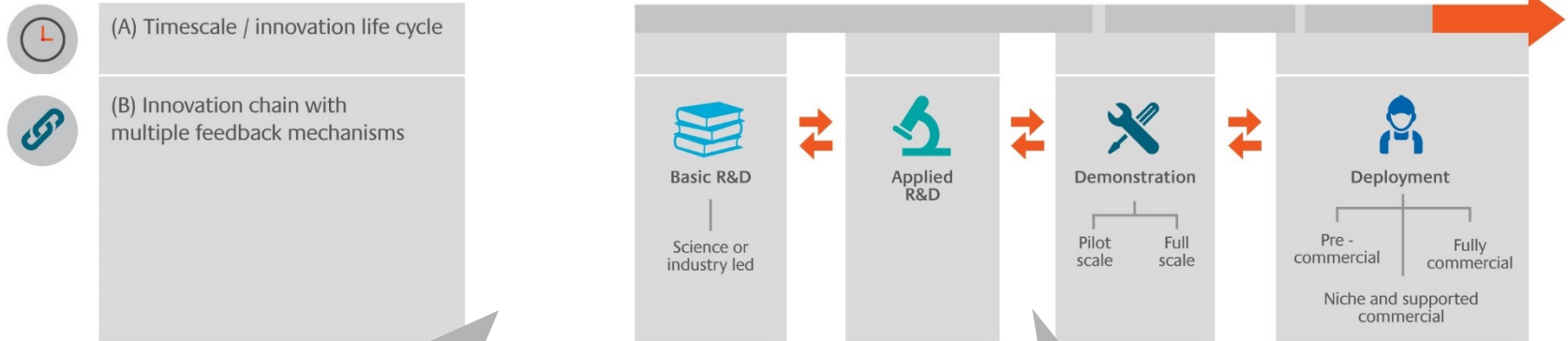


## The UK needs innovation to help it meet its carbon targets



Successful innovation has several critical components: market confidence, finance, public policy and the capability to innovate

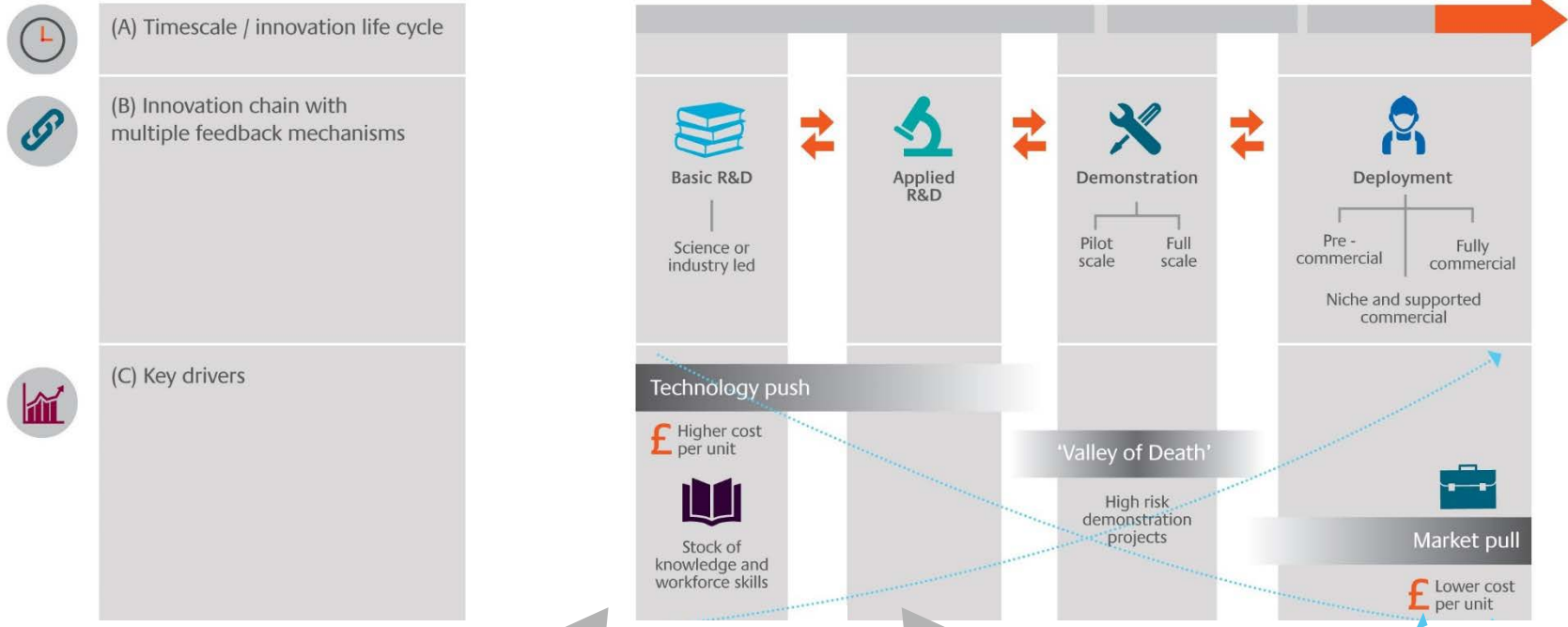




It takes time for innovation systems, networks, relationships and expectations to form, evolve and mature.

Weak or immature innovation systems may delay progress and decrease the likelihood of success.

A new technology will pass through distinct stages in its evolution but the process is seldom linear.



Innovations may be idea-led and/or demand-led. The forces of technology-push and market-pull combine to provide continuous challenge to develop cost-effective technologies.

Promising technologies may fail to attract sufficient risk capital and/or the resources needed to support demonstration due to significant market uncertainty.



(A) Timescale / innovation life cycle



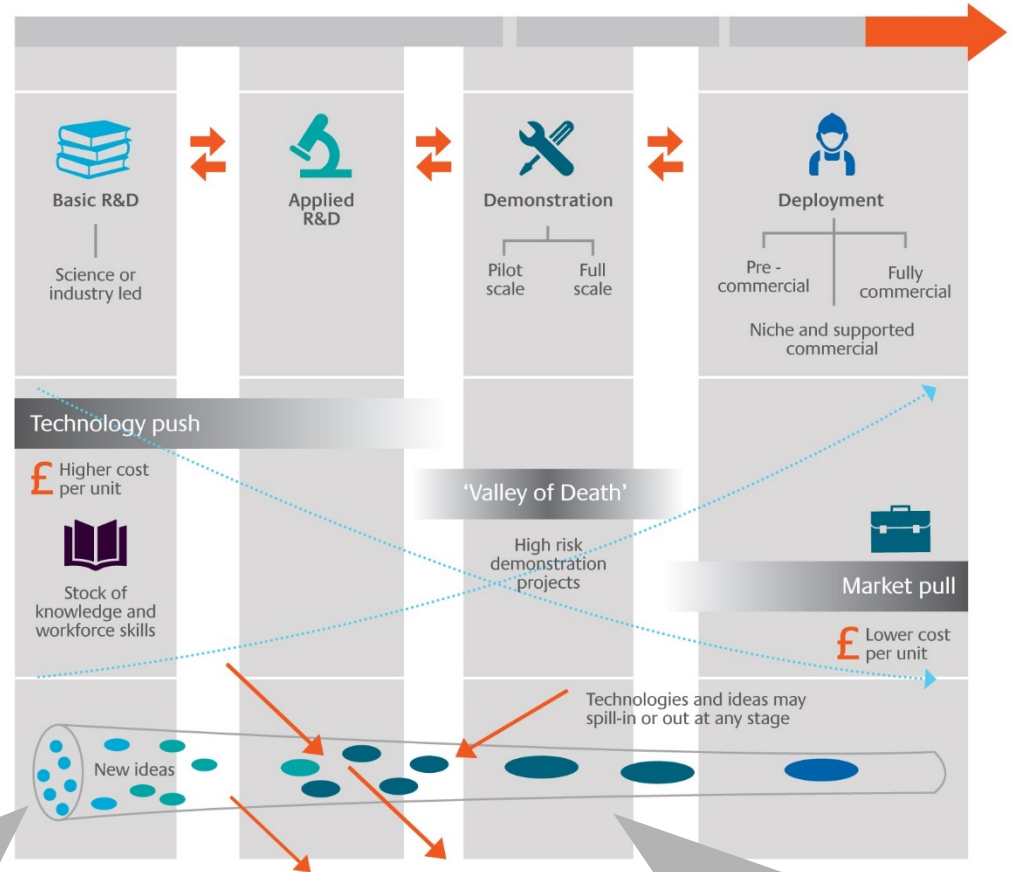
(B) Innovation chain with multiple feedback mechanisms



(C) Key drivers



(D) An open, iterative innovation process to identify, develop, assess, select and refine the most promising technologies



Useful technologies and ideas are exchanged and may be spun in or out at any stage

Organisations pursue multiple pathways to advance their ideas



(A) Timescale / innovation life cycle

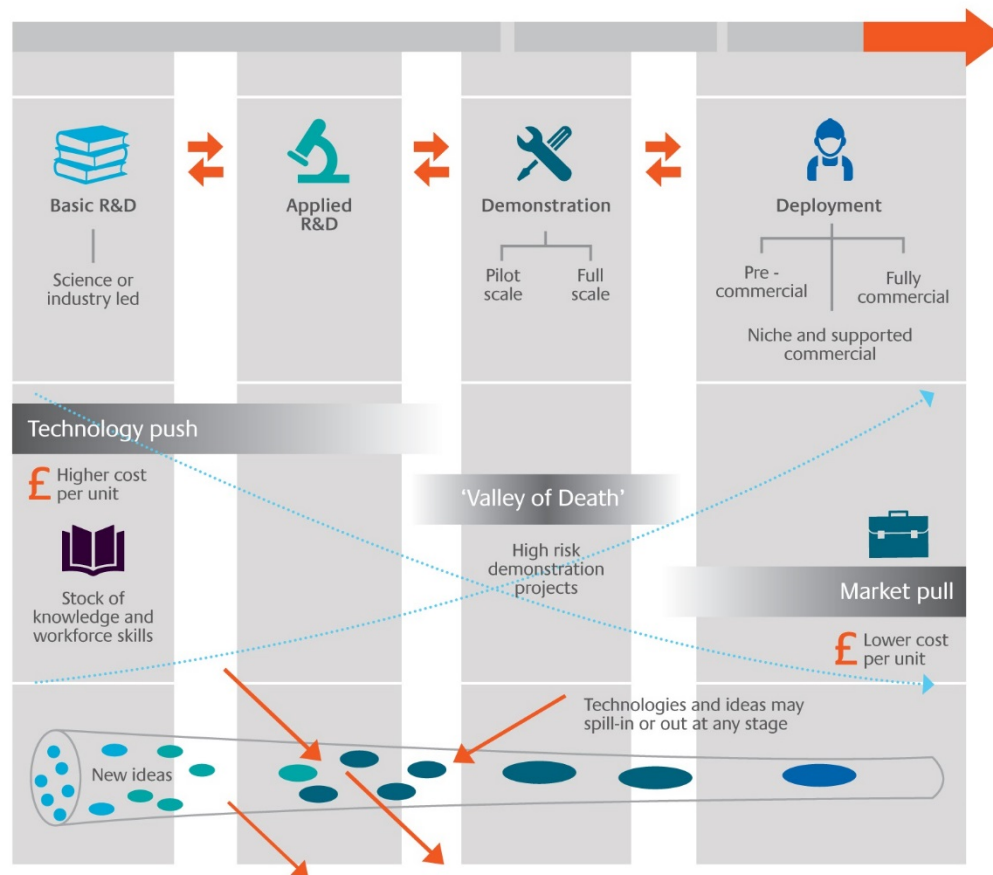


(B) Innovation chain with multiple feedback mechanisms

The 'critical components': sustainable innovation requires routes to market, access to finance, a supportive policy environment, and widespread innovation capabilities within companies and 'the system'



(E) Critical components and challenges



Market confidence and expansion

- Missing markets in carbon etc
- Technological lock-in
- Novel low carbon technologies
- Multiple risk factors
- Need for demonstrators
- Consumer acceptance

Sources of finance

- Climate change externalities
- Path dependency in energy
- Coordination problems
- Unusually high risk uncertainty
- Long time horizons
- Leverage vs crowding out

Public Policy

- Holistic systems approach
- Overcoming technological roadblocks
- Modern industrial policy
- Promoting entrepreneurship
- Demand-side policies

Innovation Capability

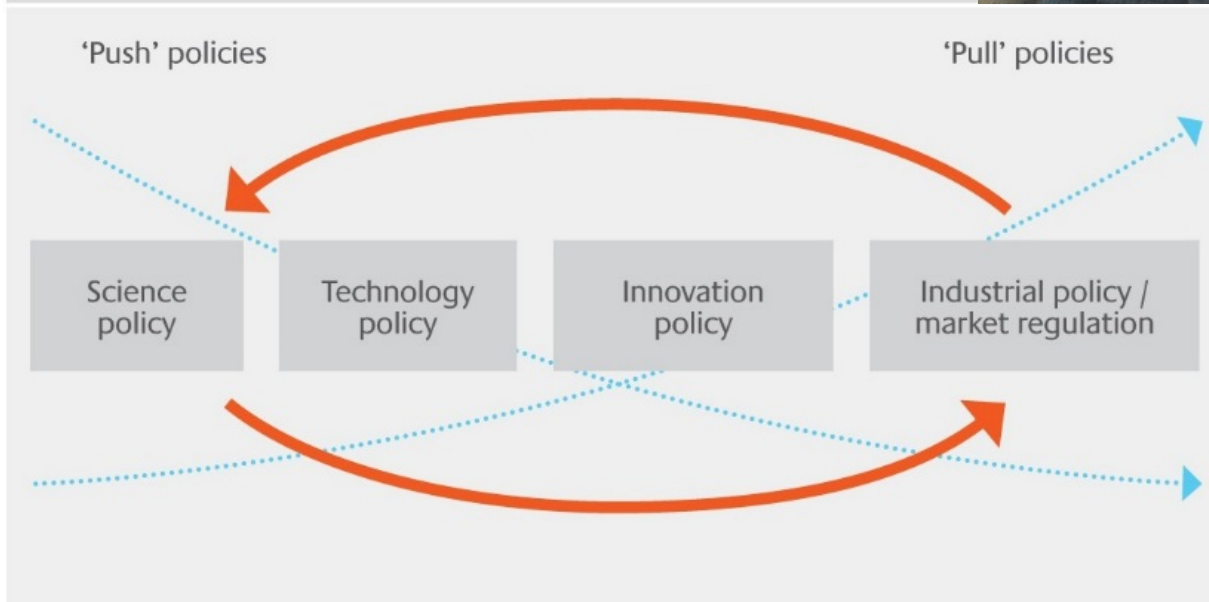
- Vulnerability to swings in climate change policy
- Handling disruptive innovation
- New business models
- Skills gaps in low carbon
- Commercial skills



## Policy journey...



### Public policy



#### Key Issues:

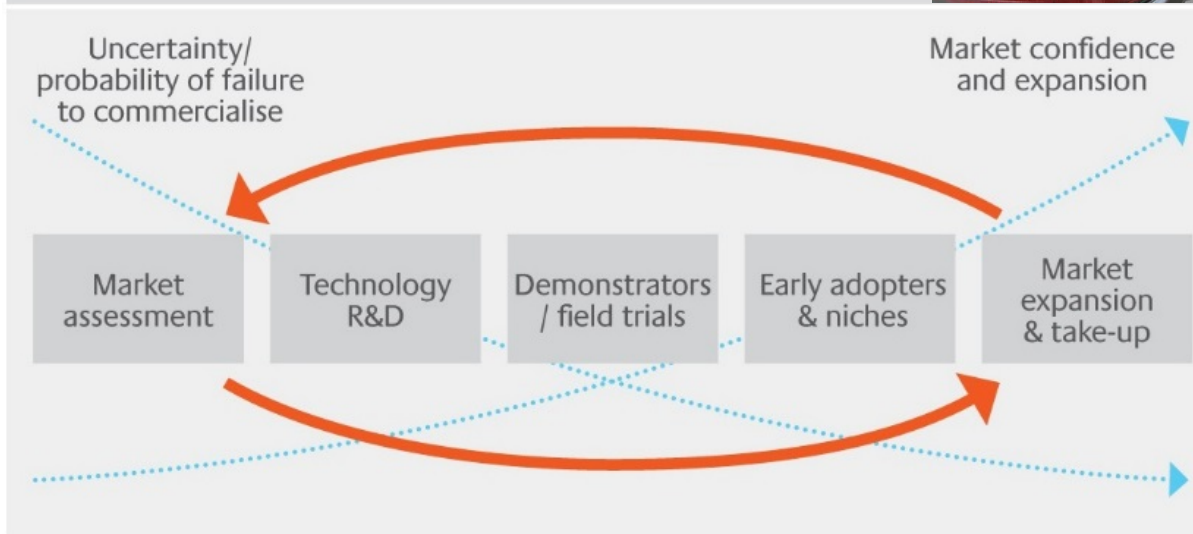
- Systems approach
- Overcoming technological roadblocks
- Building innovation capability
- Strategic collaboration
- Promoting entrepreneurship
- Demand-side policies



## Market journey...



### Market confidence and expansion



#### Key Issues:

- Missing markets
- Multiple risk factors
- Novel technologies
- Finance to support demonstrators
- Consumer acceptance



# Capability journey...

Innovation capability

Capability requirement

Business driven capabilities

Operational

Management

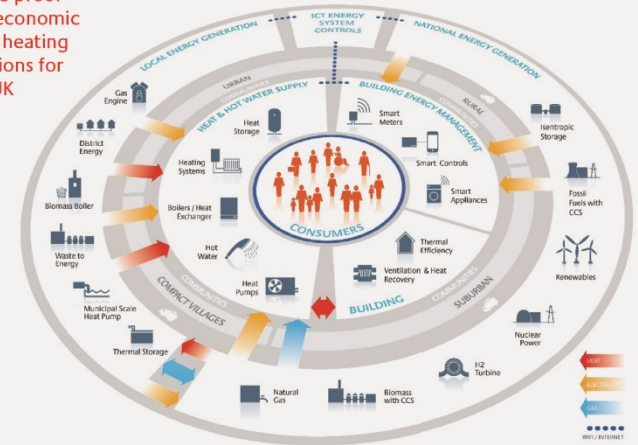
Transactional

Technology driven capabilities

Based on Zawislak et al <sup>13</sup>

## Smart Systems and Heat

- Creating future-proof and economic local heating solutions for the UK



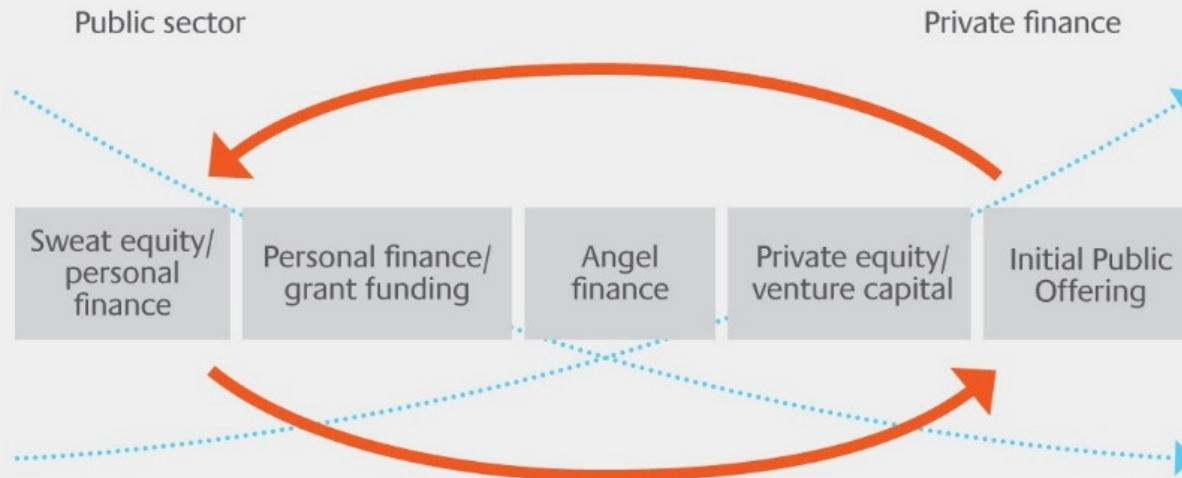
## Key Issues:

- Disruptive innovation
- New business models
- Skills gap
- Dependence on environmental policy
- Commercialisation skills



## Company journey...

### Sources of finance



Financial/company journeys may differ, often depending on the type of technology. The journey shown is stylised to illustrate potential sources of finance available.

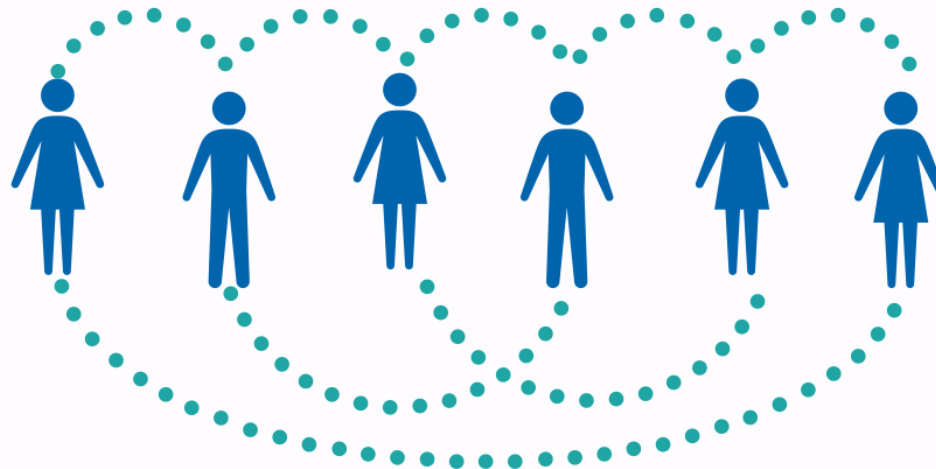


### Key Issues:

- Externalities
- Path dependency
- Coordination failures
- Risk and uncertainty
- Long time horizons
- Leverage vs crowding in



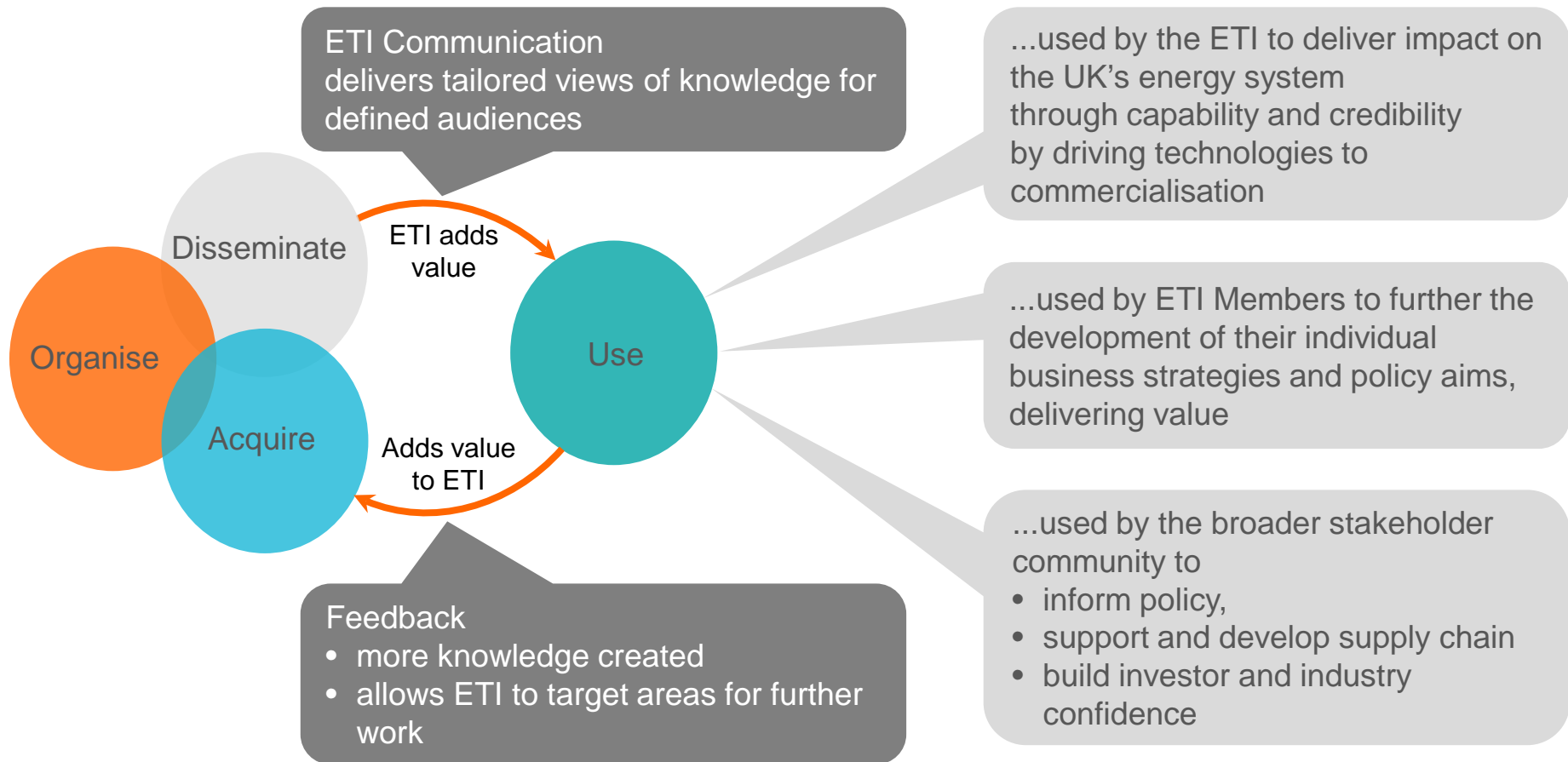
Successful innovation systems often involve open and iterative processes, which are complex



They depend on multiple interactions between different actors



## Priority is 'closing the loop' to deliver the ETI's outcomes





# Delivering Impact

## Delivery

Activity that creates project 'outputs'

## Action

Delivery of project 'benefits' to relevant stakeholders (beneficiaries)

## Impact

Defined project 'outcomes' have been achieved

### Delivering:

- knowledge for stakeholders
- knowledge about stakeholders
- knowledge from stakeholders



Collaboration and shared understanding is required to help the innovation process



involving interactions across science, business and government to facilitate knowledge transfer and learning

it is easier to achieve a transition with a shared understanding of the drivers of new low carbon energy technologies





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