

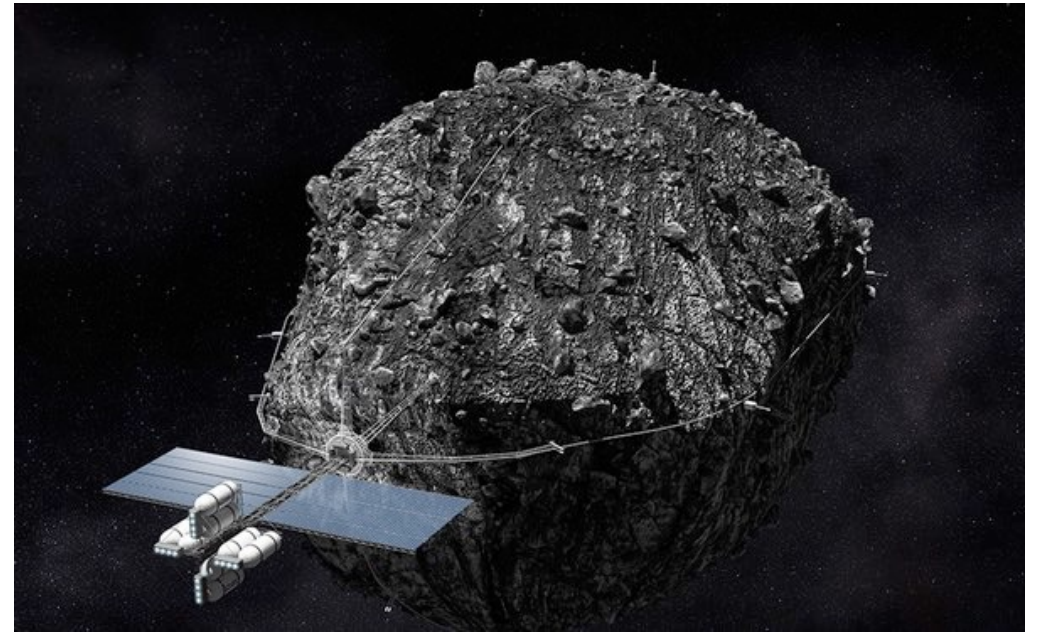
# Comparison of Oil and Gas Industry Business Planning with Space Resource Industry Planning

by

Dr. William H. Butler  
Shell Oil Company



Credit: Saudi Aramco



(credit: Brian Versteeg/Deep Space Industries)

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Space Resource Roundtable  
Colorado School of Mines  
June 7-10, 2022

# Why consider extra-terrestrial opportunities now?

## ■ Cost disruption

- *SpaceX and other companies are expected to dramatically reduce launch costs within the decade.*

## ■ Energy Transition

- *Industry must repurpose itself toward carbon free energy.*
- *Window of opportunity to use current cash flow to start new business opportunities*

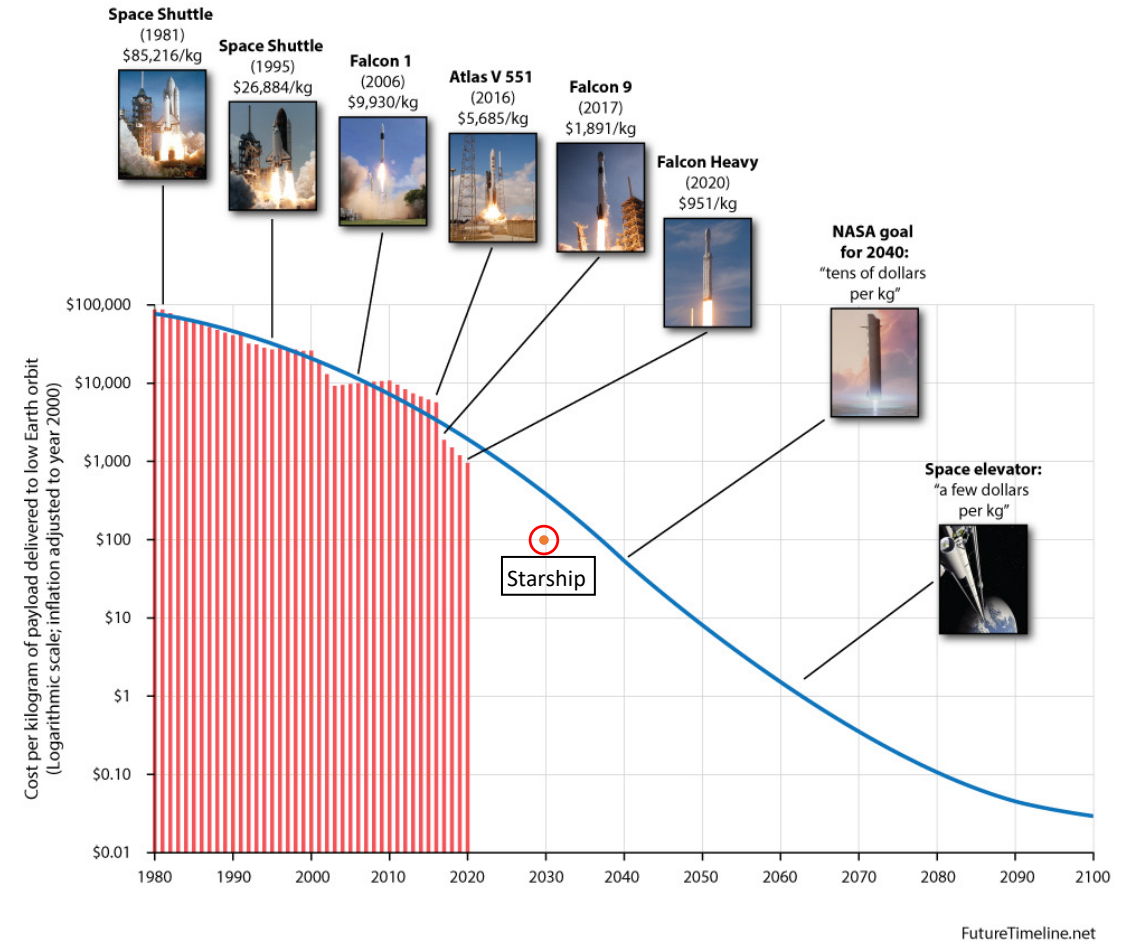
## ■ Maturing of in-situ resource production technology

- *'Living off the Land' dramatically reduces cost*

## ■ First mover advantages

## ■ Space resource economy will dominate 'someday'

- *Seek low hanging fruit to get in the game*



# Example of O&G Project economics

## **Establishing Minimum Economic Field Size and Analysing its Role in Exploration Project Risks Assessment: Three Examples\***

**Virendra Singh<sup>1</sup>, Elena Izaguirre<sup>1</sup>, Ivan Yemez<sup>1</sup>, and Horacio Stigliano<sup>1</sup>**

Search and Discovery Article #41827 (2016)\*\*  
Posted July 11, 2016

\*Adapted from extended abstract prepared in conjunction with oral presentation given at AAPG GEO 2016, The 12<sup>th</sup> Middle East Geosciences Conference and Exhibition March 7-10, 2016, Manama, Bahrain

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<sup>1</sup>Respol S.A. ([iyemez@repsol.com](mailto:iyemez@repsol.com); [vsingh@repsol.com](mailto:vsingh@repsol.com))

### **Abstract**

The Upstream E&P industry is one of the most risky businesses to invest in and is dominated by different types of uncertainties: political, economic, social and technical. There are many areas that can lead to optimistic or pessimistic risk assessment. Overestimation, underestimation, misidentifying critical risks, overselling and underselling projects are some of the common problems that are encountered. For

# Technical Risking

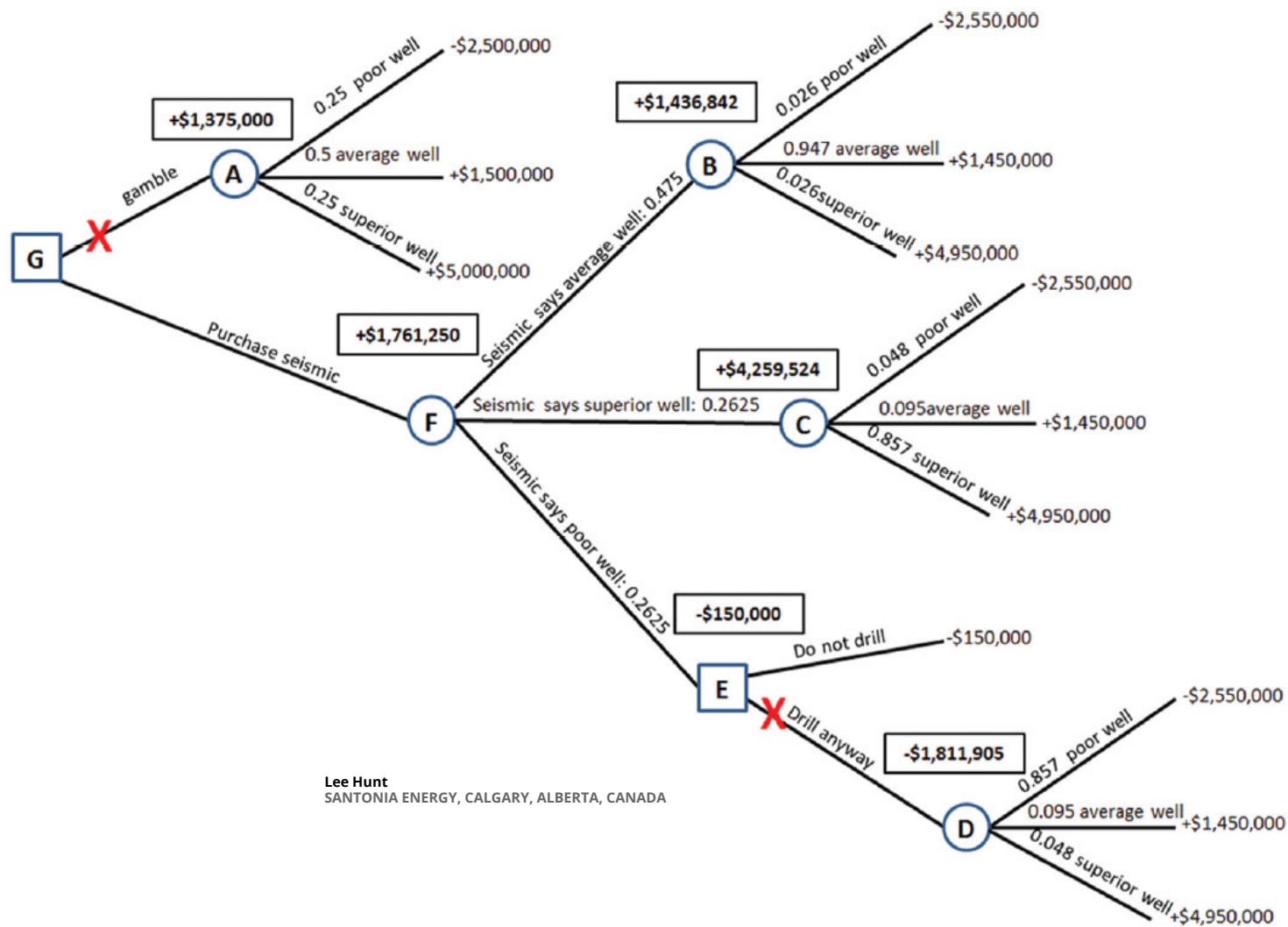
- Hydrocarbon source rock components ( $P_{\text{source}}$ )
- Timing of trap formation, hydrocarbon migration and preservation ( $P_{\text{timing/migration}}$ )
- Reservoir rock components ( $P_{\text{reservoir}}$ )
- Trap geometry (closure) components ( $P_{\text{trap}}$ )
- Seal effectiveness ( $P_{\text{seal}}$ ).

The  $P_g$  is obtained by multiplying the probabilities of the occurrence of each of the five factors of the play concept.

$$P_g = P_{\text{source}} \times P_{\text{timing/migration}} \times P_{\text{reservoir}} \times P_{\text{trap}} \times P_{\text{seal}}$$

Example:  $0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.8 = 0.33$

# Decision Trees and Value of Information





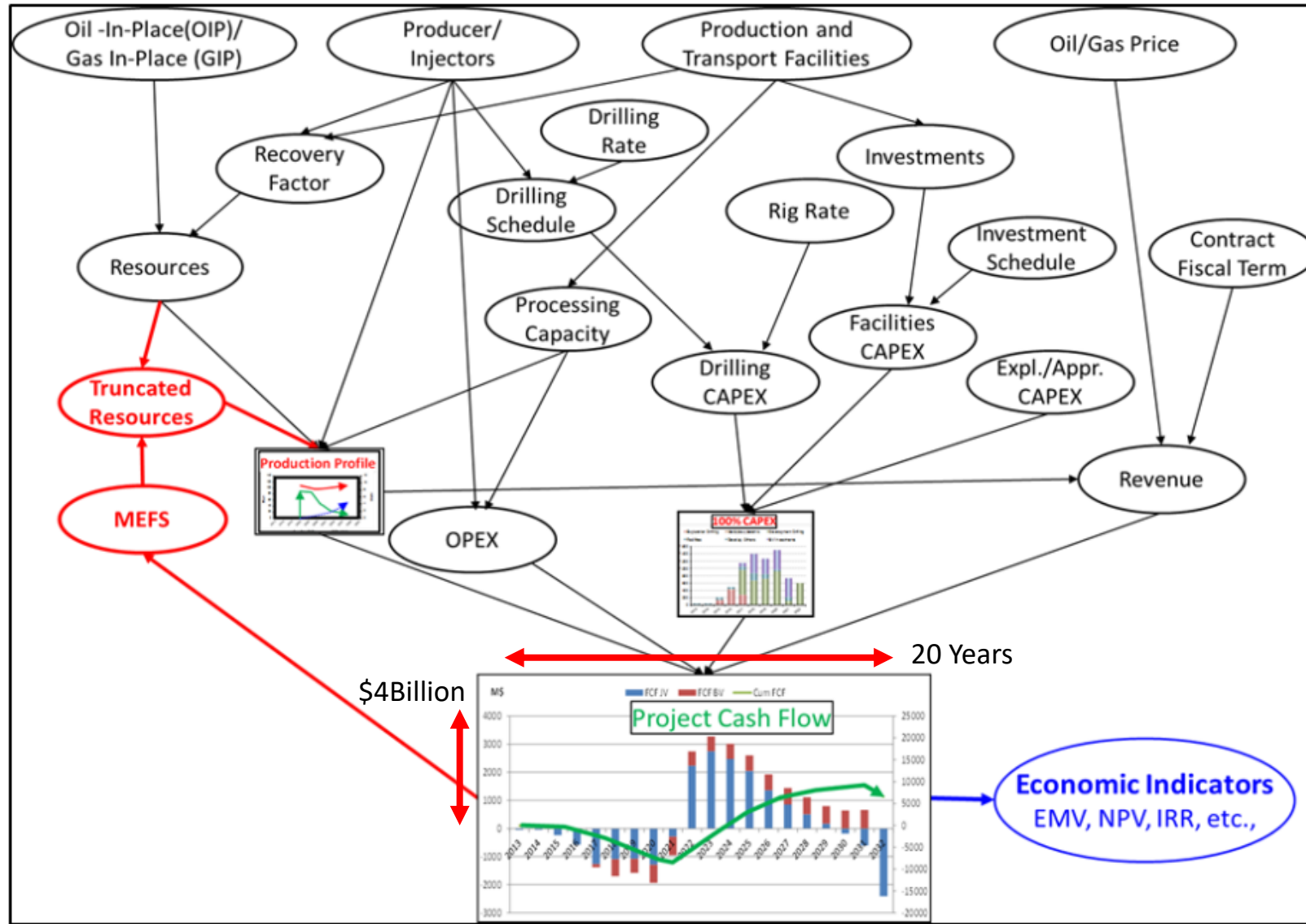
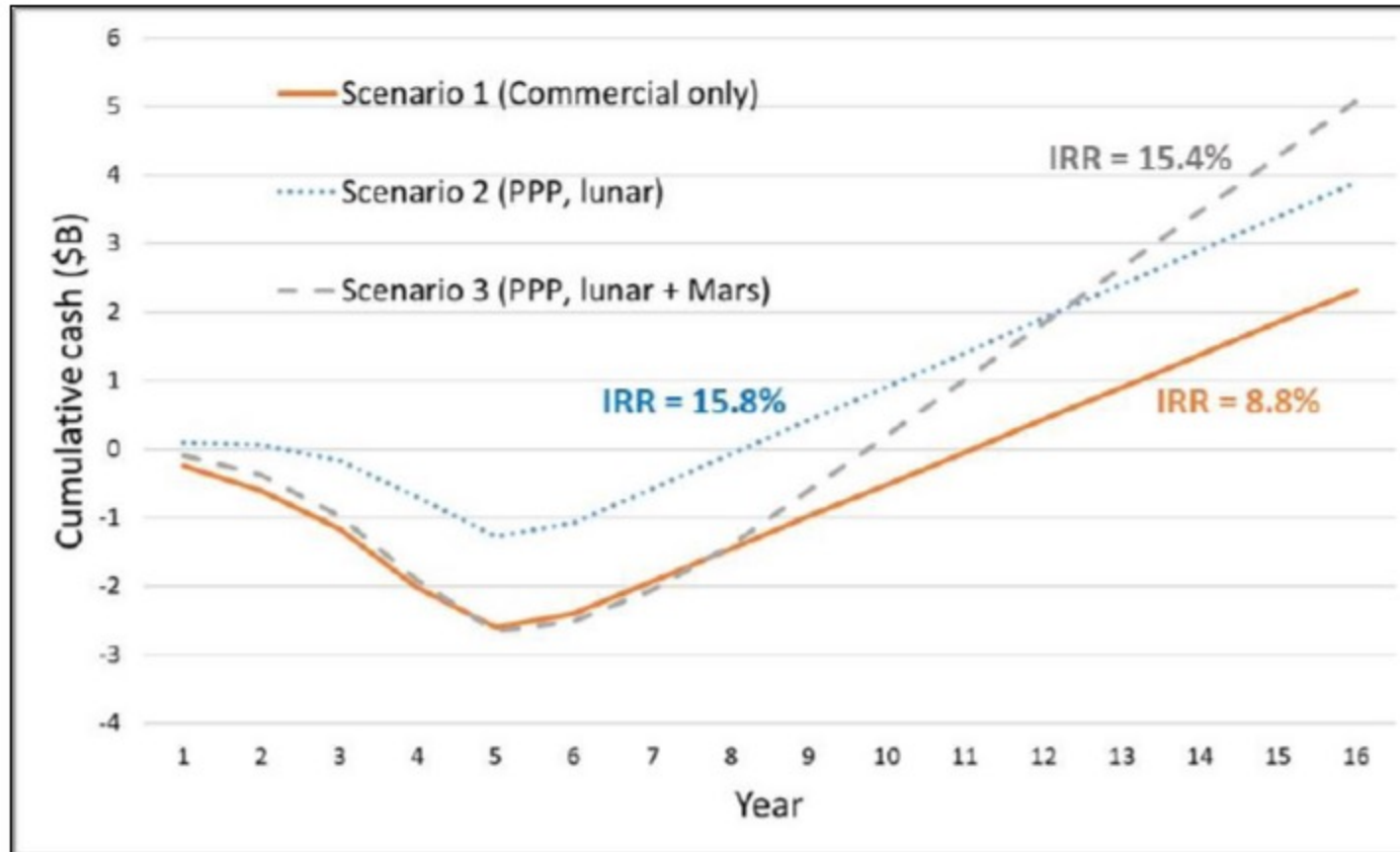


Figure 1. Influence diagram for Integrated Risk/Opportunity Analysis of an E&P Project.

Cases		Case-1: Gas and Water Reinjectd	Case-2: Gas and Water Reinjectd (Permeability Sensitivity)	Case-3: Gas Exported (Water injection sensibility)
<b>Description</b>				
Development Concept		Sebsea Tie back to Leased FPSO	Sebsea Tie back to Leased FPSO	Sebsea Tie back to Leased FPSO
Well Type		Vertical/Slanted	Vertical/Slanted	Vertical/Slanted
Well appraisal		1	1	1
Total well		14	15	23
Fluid Type		Volatile Oil	Volatile Oil	Volatile Oil
First oil Date from date of discovery		5.5 Years	8.5 years	5.5 Years
Plateau duration	Year	5	6	8
Field Life	Year	24	24	24
<b>Resources</b>				
Pmean untruncated resources	MBOE	232	232	232
P <sub>h</sub>	%	39.7	39.7	39.7
<b>Production</b>				
Cumulative production	MBbl	488	488	422
Oil rate (Peak production)	Bbl/d	90000	90000	110000
Gas rate (Peak production)	M stcf/d	162	162	200
<b>Cost Estimate</b>				
Exploratory phase	MUS\$	164	164	164
CAPEX	MUS\$	4461	4278	5939
OPEX	MUS\$	7007	6993	5593
ABEX	MUS\$	547	520	765
Total Cost	MUS\$	12179	11955	12461
<b>Resources Truncated Case</b>				
Pmean truncated	MBOE	456	488	422
WACC+2%	%	10.47	10.47	10.47
MEFS	MBOE	207	246	151
P <sub>e</sub>	%	14.90	12.40	20.00
EMV	MUS\$	-2.3	-21.3	27.9
TIR Risked	%	12.24	10.16	14.51

Table 4. Summary of different development scenarios and MEFS Estimates for Example 3.



*Figure 8. Cumulative cash for the Propellant Production Company.*

George Sowers, "The Business Case for Lunar Mining" preprint



# Sample business cases

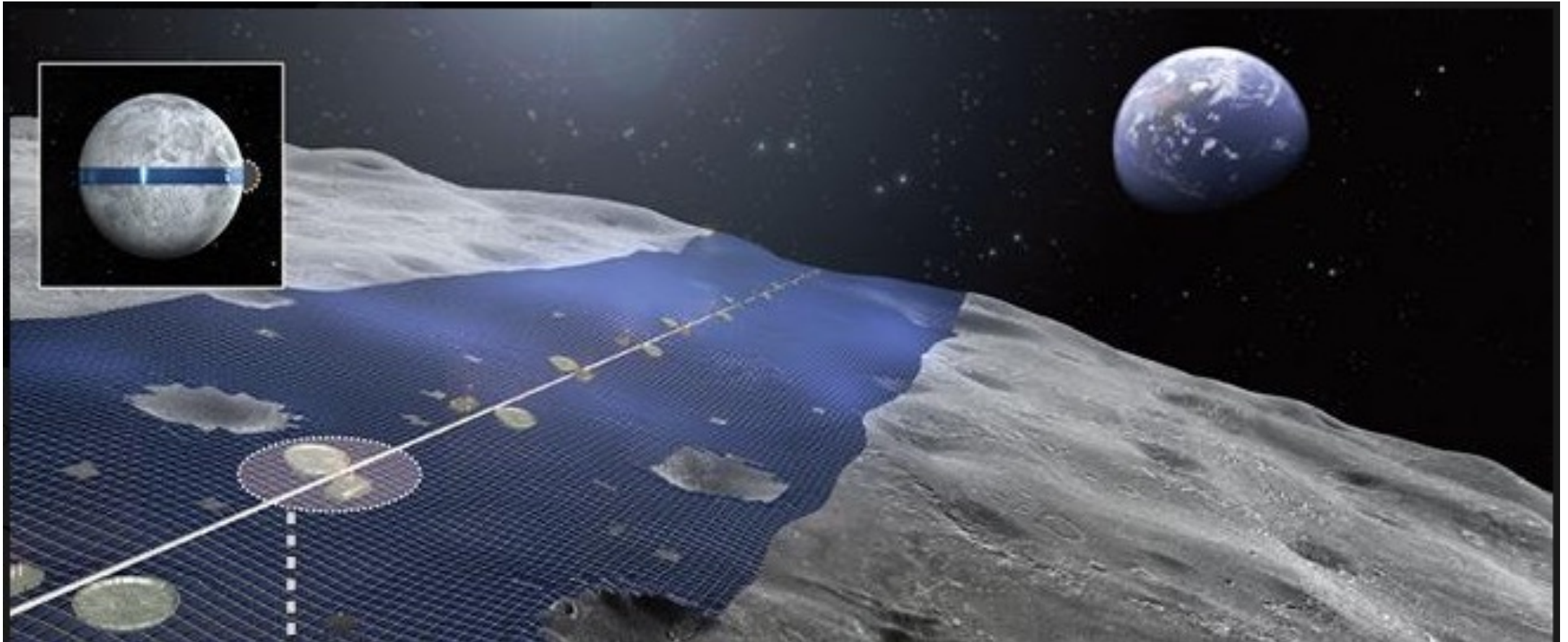
## Assumptions:

- *SpaceX Starship reduces cost to orbit 10x, to \$200/kg by 2030.*
- *Industry will stick with its core mission as an energy/fuel company. Opportunities that merely seek government contracts are excluded, but these can be part of a larger plan.*
- *Opportunities for mining are excluded, unless related to energy.*
- *First revenue no later than 2030 (e.g. probably no He<sup>3</sup> cases)*

## Examples:

- Lunar electric company – own solar cells on Moon, likely produced locally, to provide power for customers there.
- Own the extraterrestrial propellant value chain – produce water from the moon or asteroids and transfer it to high orbits (LEO likely not competitive).
- Mine asteroids for water (fuel), or metals for the electric economy (platinum, lithium, etc)
- Own orbiting solar stations that beam power back to earth (maybe just own the ground receiver stations).
- Provide SpaceX with platform near gas field for launch/landing with methane provision.

# Luna Ring – Shimizu Corporation



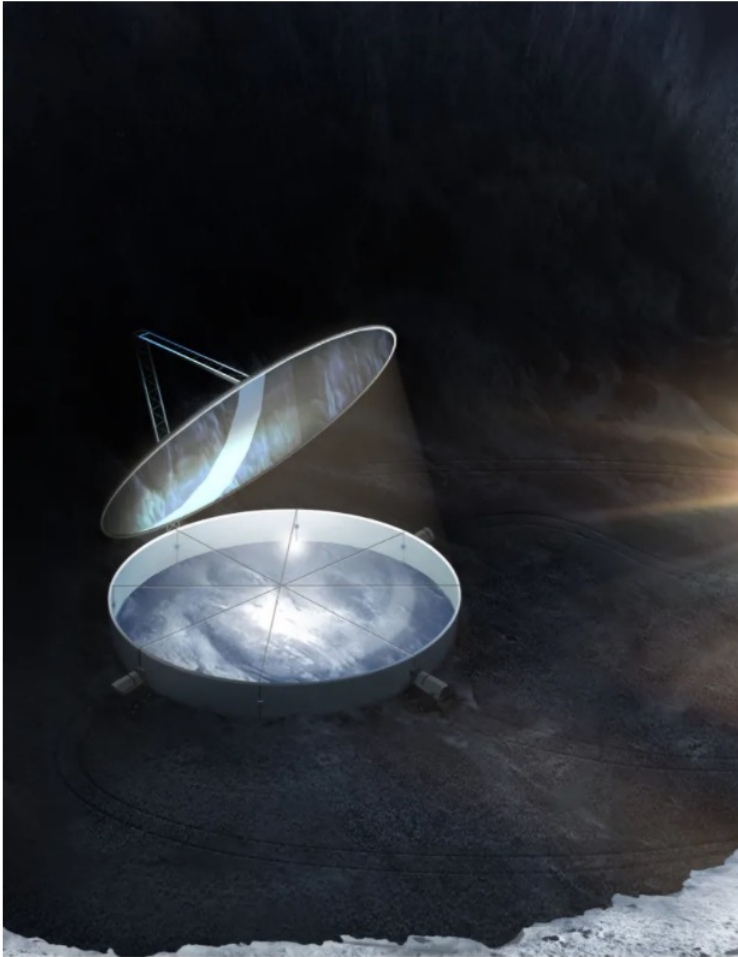
*Shimizu Corporation*

400 km wide

100 TW

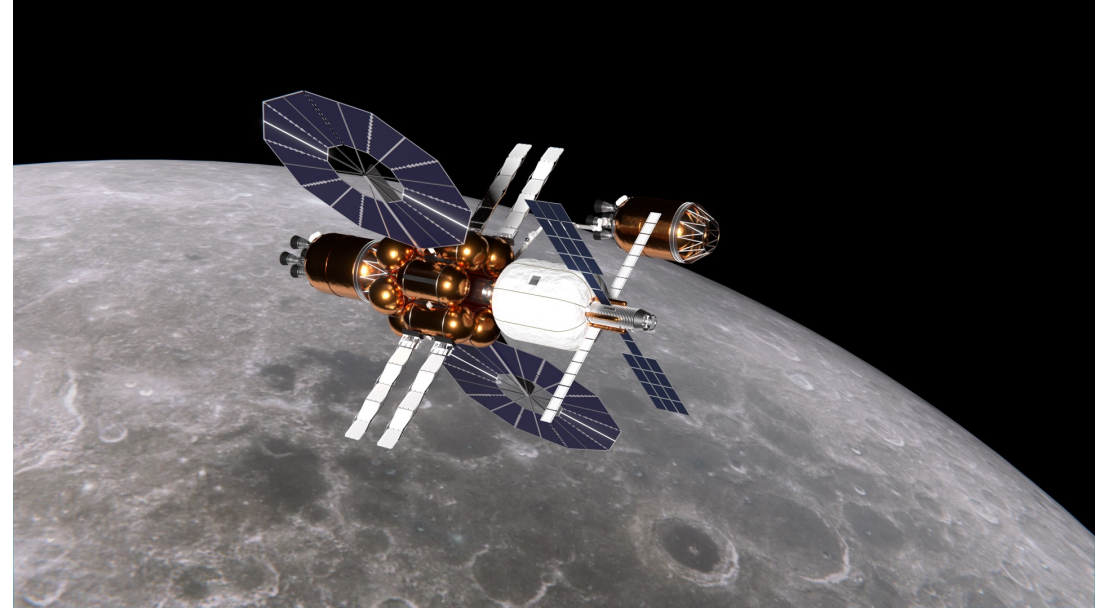
World energy consumption 2019: 18.5 TW

# In situ resources



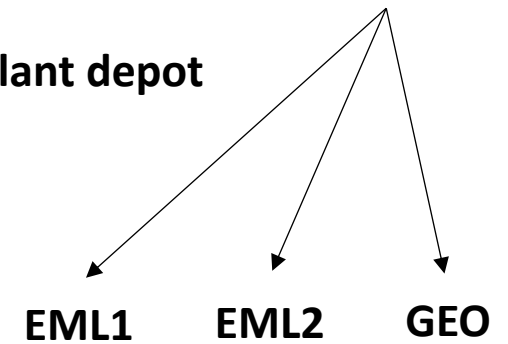
In this proposed design, mirrors use sunlight to heat the water ice in the lunar soil. The water vapor is transferred into tanks on the side.

COURTESY GEORGE SOWERS



ULA/Lockheed Martin/Bigelow lunar depot concept

## Lunar orbiting propellant depot



# Investigation of Equatorial Medium Earth Orbits for Space Solar Power

Michael A. Marshall, Richard G. Madonna, *Senior Member, IEEE*, and Sergio Pellegrino

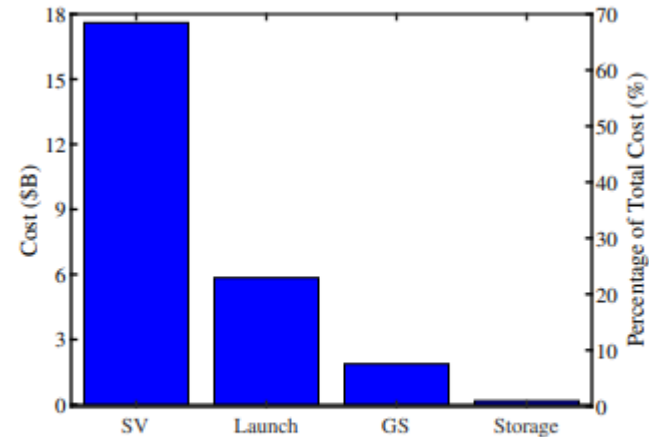


Fig. 9. LCOE breakdown for one GEO power station and ground component. SV and GS denote space vehicles and ground segment, respectively. Most of the cost resides in the space vehicles.

Total cost quoted at \$2320/MWh

Ground station alone would be \$200/MWh

Total cost needs to be <\$50-70/MWh in large markets

Still quite a ways to go before economic viability



## SpaceX “Phobos” platform – “Deimos” also exists

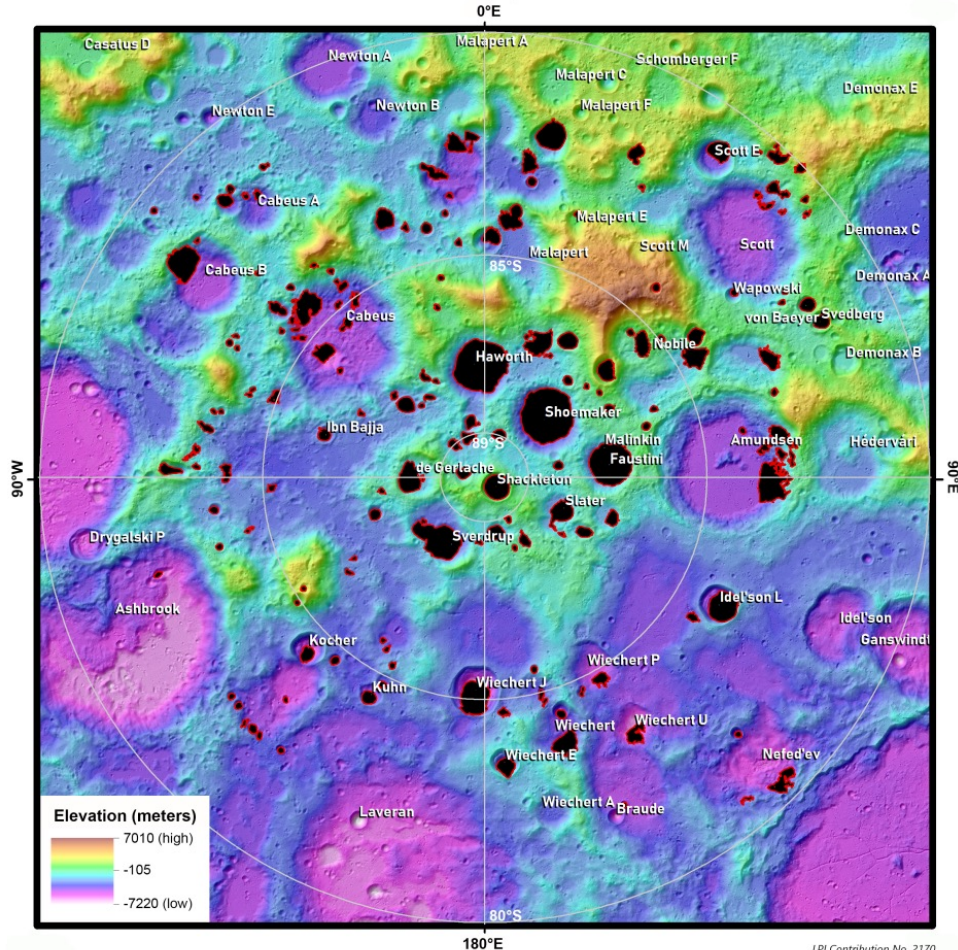




# Lunar south Pole

Topography and Permanently Shaded Regions (PSRs) of the Moon's South Pole (80°S to Pole)

Polarstereographic Projection (scale true at pole)  
Scale: 1:2,659,475

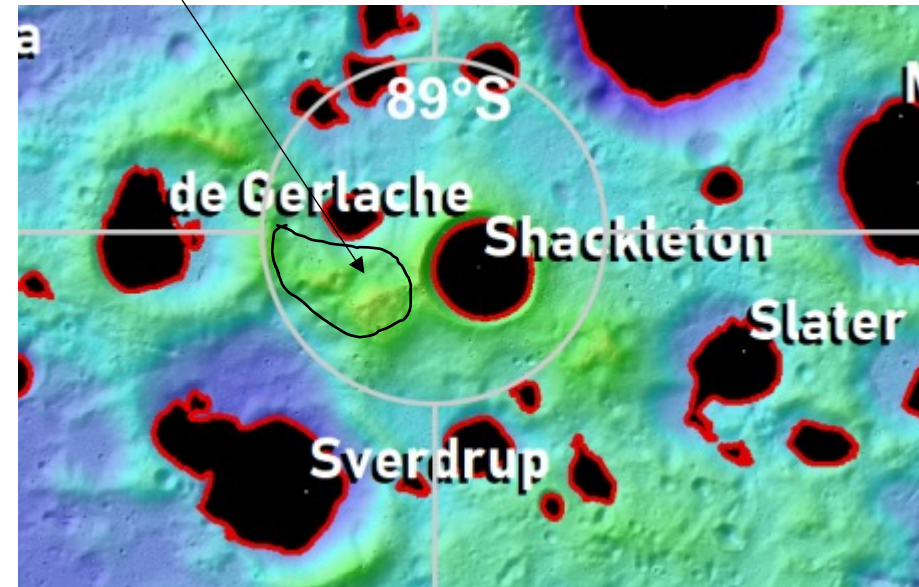


■ Lunar axis at  $1.6^\circ$  compared to Earth's  $23.5^\circ$

■ Permanently Shaded Regions

■ "Peaks of eternal light"

■ First mover advantage?



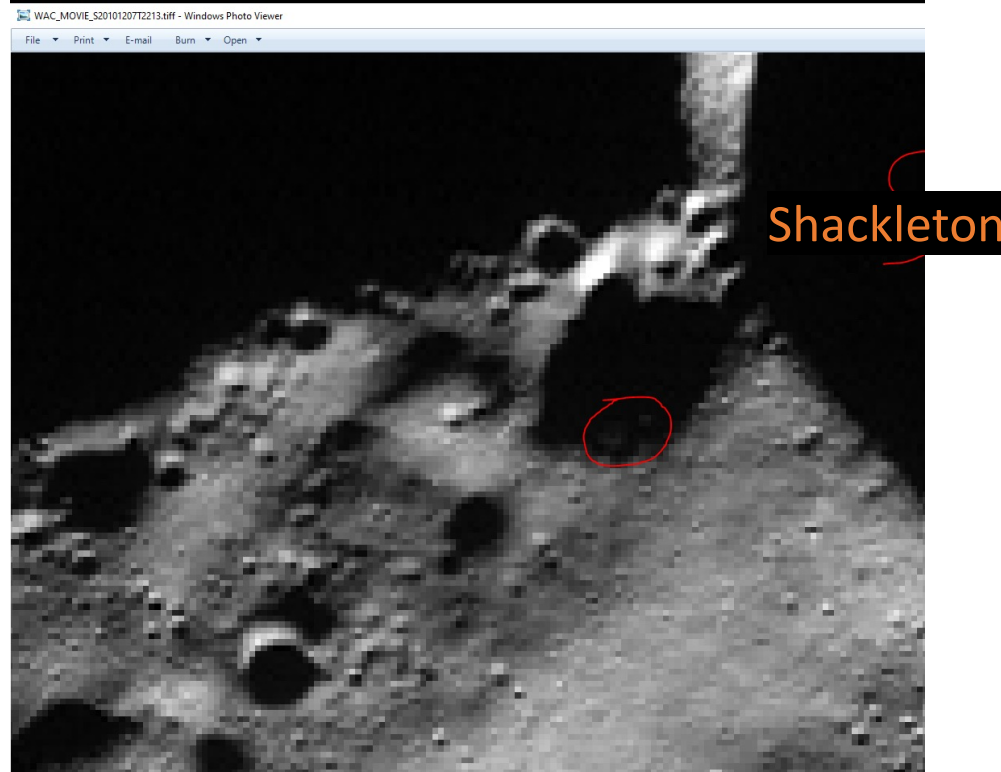
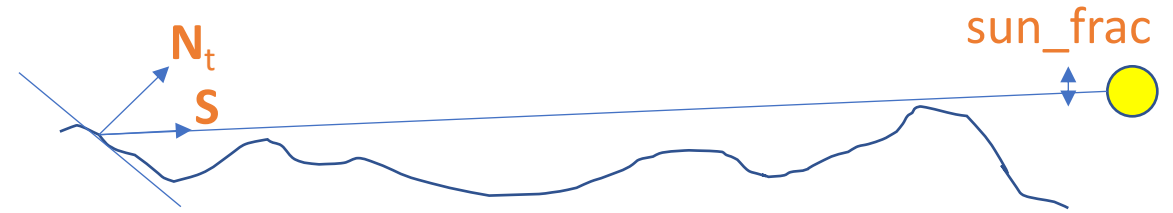
# Insolation modeling

Combine DEM with Sun ephemeris

Compute horizon functions: elevation as function of azimuth

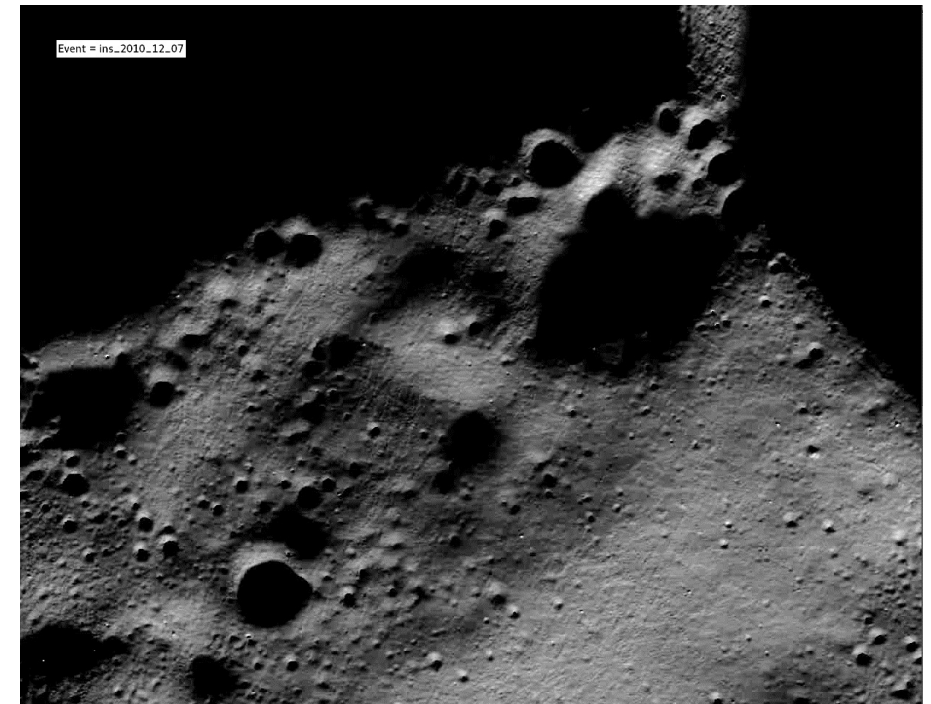
$\text{Insolation} = (\mathbf{N}_t \bullet \mathbf{S}) * \text{sun\_frac}$

Accuracy check:



Actual LROC image on Dec. 7, 2010

Camera Resolution: 100m



Modelled insolation on Dec. 7, 2010

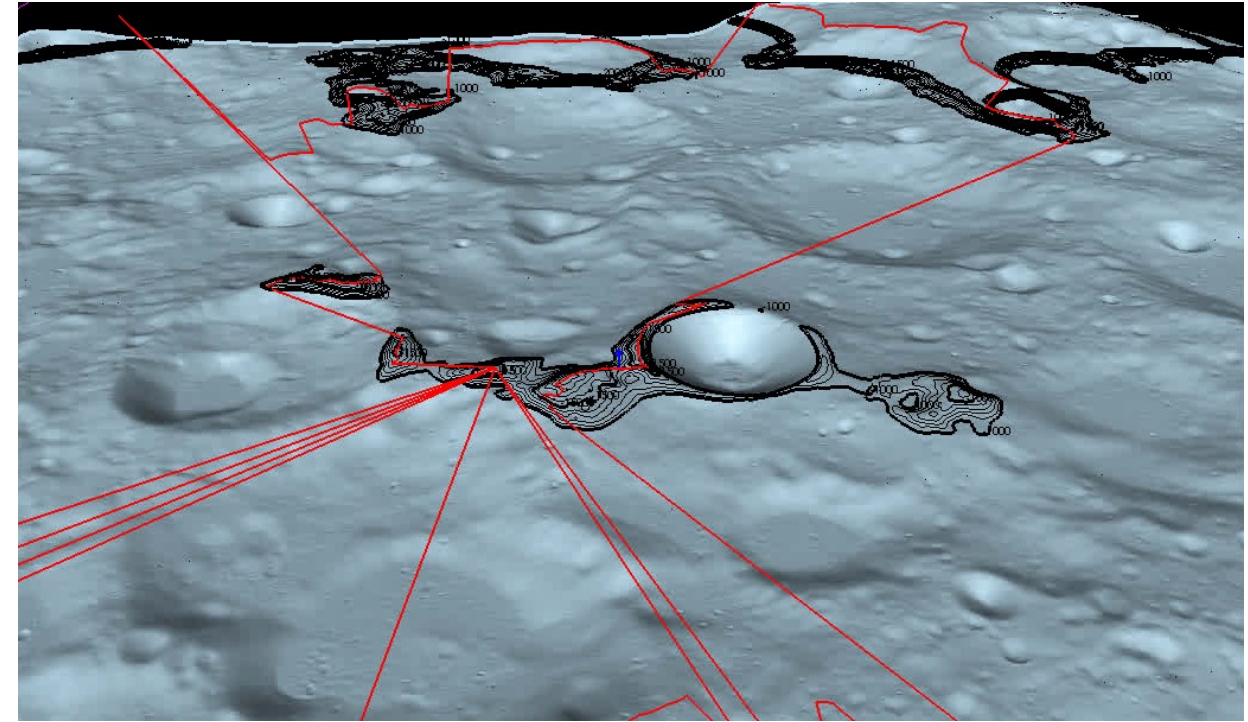
DEM Resolution: 10m

July 2022



# Lunar South Polar power

- Visualization
  - 3D terrain
  - Horizon function
  - Partial Contours



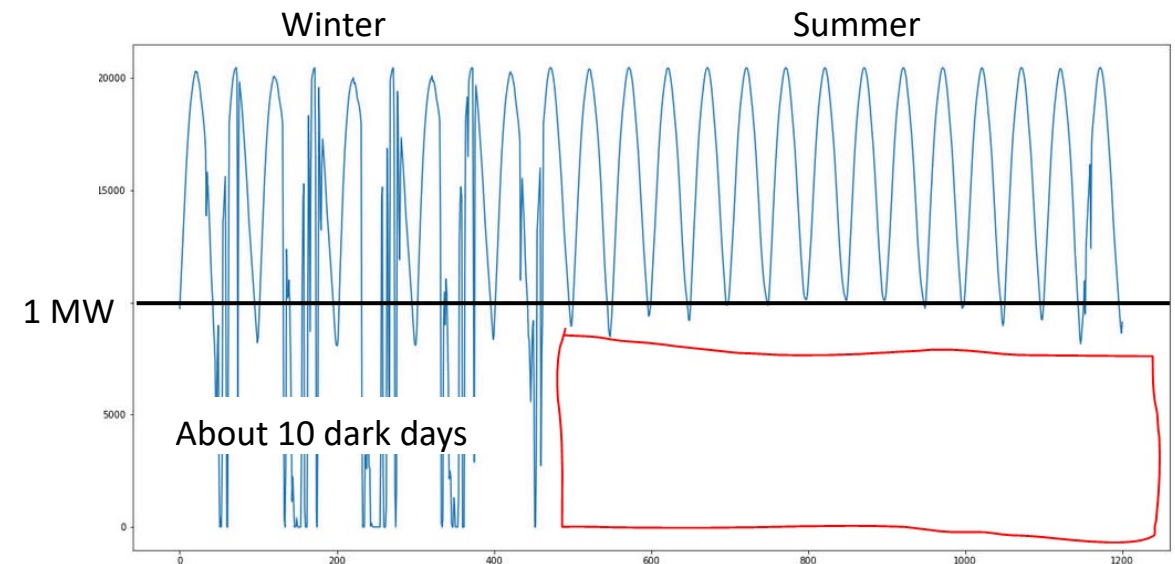
Power profile for array in 2030

## Power modelling for Lunar Resources

- In situ solar panel fabrication

Still looking for:

- Confidence in demand estimates
- Competition



# Summary - What does O&G Industry bring?

## ■ *Large Project management*

- Capital intensive
- Complex
- Rigorous Risk accounting
- Cost-effective commodity production and delivery

## ■ *Long View*

- Revenue likely years away (profit even further)
- Decades-scale projects, not 'mission'

## ■ *Legal*

- Legal framework not fully defined
- No land ownership, but recognized expectation of non-interference with operations

## ■ *Technical*

- Subsurface imaging
- Pipeline
- Drilling?

Thank you!