

MITe*i*
MIT Energy Initiative

UTILITY OF THE FUTURE

An MIT Energy Initiative response
to an industry in transition

In collaboration with IIT-Comillas



Carlos Batlle
<CBattle@mit.edu>

<https://energy.mit.edu/profile/carlos-battle>

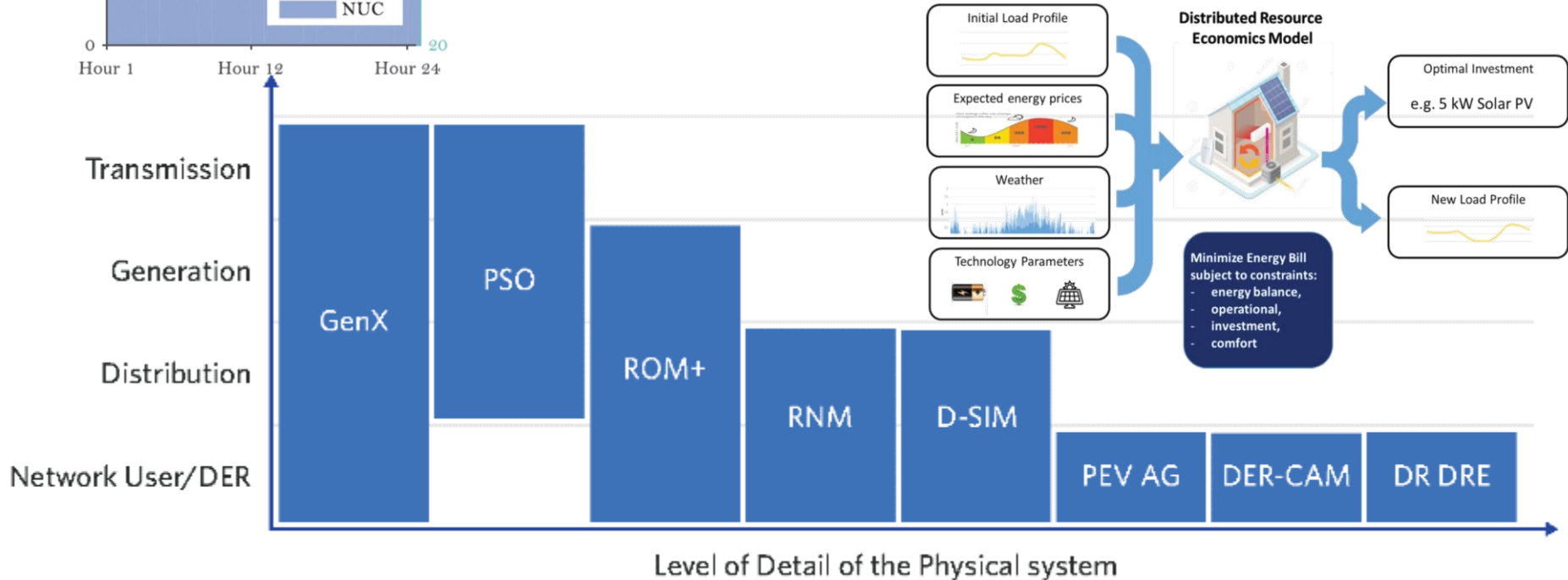
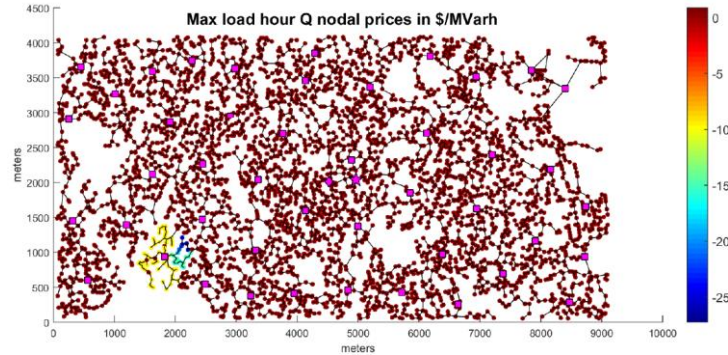
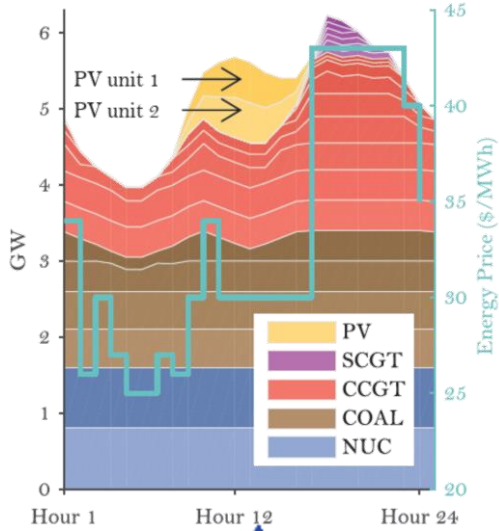


Aim, tools and contributors

The future of the provision of electricity services

- Examine new options for the provision of electricity services from **DERs** and **ICTs**
- Focus on the **USA & Europe** over the **next decade & beyond**
- **Policy and regulatory recommendations** to facilitate an **efficient utilization of ALL resources**, whether **centralized or decentralized**

The modeling tools



The Research Team

Principal Investigators

Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga, Professor, Electrical Engineering, Institute for Research in Technology Comillas Pontifical University; Visiting Professor, MIT Energy Initiative

Christopher Knittel, George P. Shultz Professor of Applied Economics, Sloan School of Management, MIT; Director, CEEPR, MIT

Project Directors

Raanan Miller, Executive Director, Utility of the Future Study, MIT Energy Initiative

Richard Tabors, Visiting Scholar, MIT Energy Initiative

Research Team

Carlos Batlle, Research Scholar, MIT Energy Initiative; Professor, Comillas Pontifical University

Ashwini Bharatkumar, PhD Student, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society, MIT

Michael Birk, SM, Technology and Policy Program, MIT

Scott Burger, PhD Student, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society, MIT

José Pablo Chaves, Research Scientist, Institute for Research in Technology, Comillas Pontifical University

Research Team (continued)

Pablo Duenas-Martinez, Postdoctoral Associate, MIT Energy Initiative

Tomás Gómez, Professor, Director of the Institute for Research in Technology, Comillas Pontifical University

Ignacio Herrero, Research Assistant, Institute for Research in Technology Comillas Pontifical University

Sam Huntington, SM, Technology and Policy Program ('16), MIT

Jesse Jenkins, PhD Candidate, Institute for Data, Systems and Society, MIT

Max Luke, SM, Technology and Policy Program ('16), MIT

Raanan Miller, Executive Director, Utility of the Future Study MIT Energy Initiative

Pablo Rodilla, Research Scientist, Institute for Research in Technology Comillas Pontifical University

Richard Tabors, Visiting Scholar, MIT Energy Initiative

Karen Tapia-Ahumada, Research Scientist, MIT Energy Initiative

Claudio Vergara, Postdoctoral Associate, MIT Energy Initiative

Nora Xu, SM, Technology and Policy Program ('16), MIT

Faculty Committee

Robert Armstrong, Director, MIT Energy Initiative

Carlos Batlle, Research Scholar, MIT Energy Initiative;
Professor, Institute for Research in Technology, Comillas
Pontifical University

Michael Caramanis, Professor of Mechanical Engineering
and Systems Engineering, Boston University

John Deutch, Institute Professor, Department of
Chemistry, MIT

Tomás Gómez, Professor, Director of the Institute for
Research in Technology, Comillas Pontifical University

William Hogan, Raymond Plank Professor of Global
Energy Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government,
Harvard University

Steven Leeb, Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer
Science and Mechanical Engineering, MIT

Richard Lester, Associate Provost and Japan Steel
Industry Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering,
Office of the Provost, MIT

Leslie Norford, Professor, Department of Architecture,
MIT

John Parsons, Senior Lecturer, Sloan School of
Management, MIT

Richard Schmalensee, Howard W. Johnson Professor of
Economics and Management, Emeritus
Dean, Emeritus, Sloan School of Management, MIT

Research and Project Advisors

Lou Carranza, Associate Director, MIT Energy Initiative

Stephen Connors, Director, Analysis Group for Regional
Energy Alternatives, MIT Energy Initiative

Cyril Draffin, Project Advisor, MIT Energy Initiative

Paul McManus, Master Lecturer, Questrom School of
Business, Boston University

Álvaro Sánchez Miralles, Senior Associate Professor,
Institute for Research in Technology, Comillas Pontifical
University

Francis O'Sullivan, Research Director, MIT Energy
Initiative

Robert Stoner, Deputy Director for Science and
Technology, MIT Energy Initiative

Advisory Committee

Chair: Phil Sharp, President, Resources for the Future

Vice Chair: Richard O'Neill, Chief Economic Advisor, FERC

Janet Gail Besser, Executive Vice President Northeast Clean Energy Council

Alain Burtin, Director, Energy Management, EDF R&D

Paul Centolella, President, Paul Centolella & Associates LC, Senior Consultant, Tabors Caramanis Rudkevich

Martin Crouch, Head of Profession for Economists and Senior Partner, Improving Regulation, Ofgem

Elizabeth Endler, Research Program Manager, Shell International Exploration & Production (US) Inc.

Phil Giudice, CEO, President, and Board Member, Ambri Inc.

Timothy Healy, CEO, Chairman and Co-founder, EnerNOC

Mariana Heinrich, Manager, Climate & Energy, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Paul Joskow, President and CEO, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, MIT Professor Emeritus

Melanie Kenderdine, Director of the Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis and Energy Counselor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

Christina La Marca, Head of Innovation, Global Thermal Generation, Enel

Alex Laskey, President & Founder, Opower

Andrew Levitt, Sr. Market Strategist, PJM Interconnection

Luca Lo Schiavo Deputy Director, Infrastructure Regulation, Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water (AEEGSI)

Gary Rahl, Executive Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton

Mark Ruth, Principal Project Lead, Strategic Energy Analysis Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Miguel Sánchez-Fornie, Director, Global Smart Grids, Iberdrola

Manuel Sánchez-Jiménez, Team Leader, Smart Grids, European Commission

Laurent Yana, Director Advisor of Global Bus, Group Strategy Division, Engie

Audrey Zibelman, Chair, New York State Public Service Commission

Consortium members



Booz | Allen | Hamilton



World Business Council for Sustainable Development



LOCKHEED MARTIN



Paul & Matthew Mashikian

Scope & key recommendations

Part 1: Understanding distributed energy resources (DERs) and the new ways of providing electricity services

“L'avenir, tu n'as point à le prévoir mais à le permettre”
Citadelle, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 1948

**“The future, you do not have to foresee it,
but to enable it”**

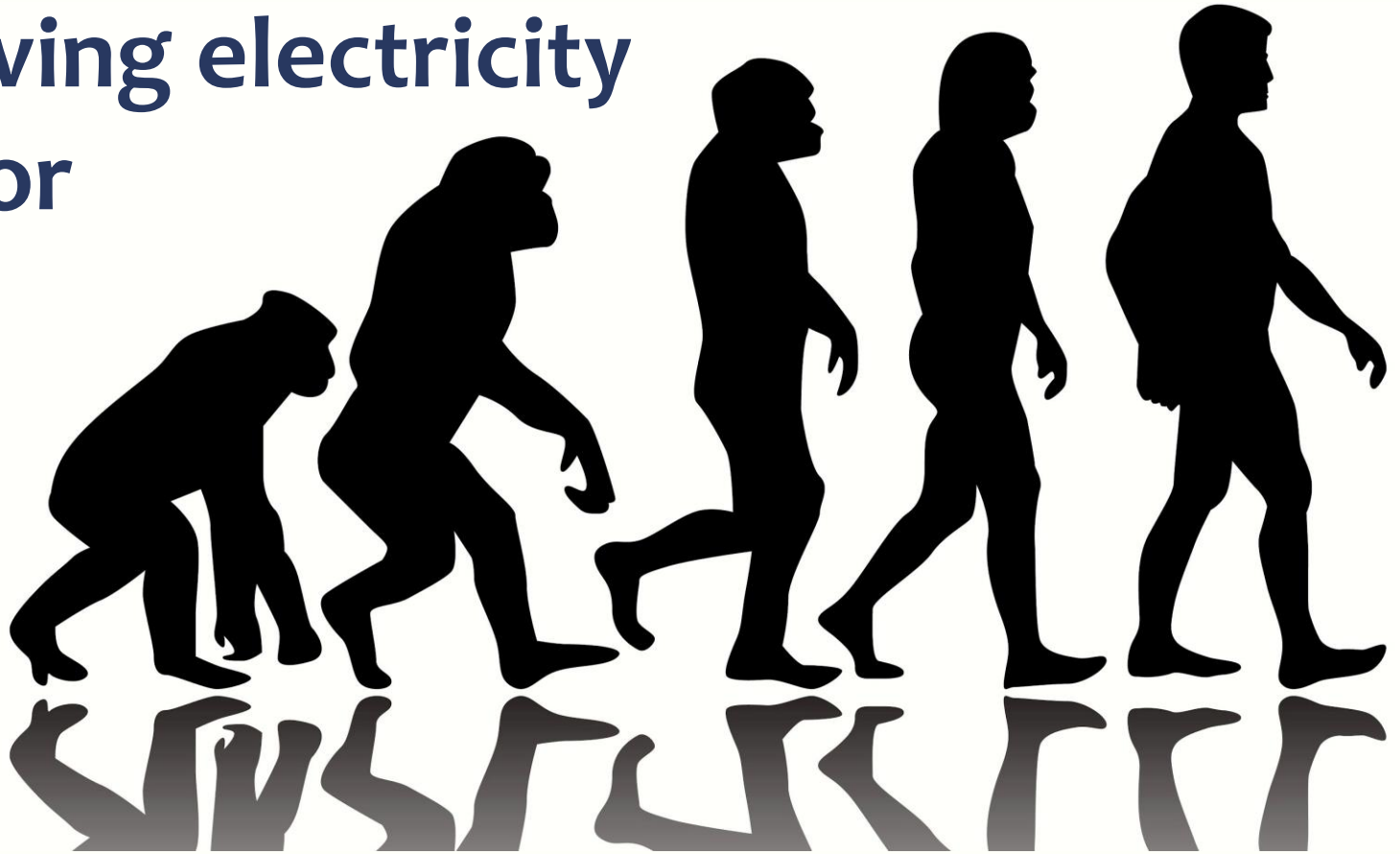
Is the future distributed?



The future is integrated



A framework for an evolving electricity sector



Part 2: A framework for an efficient and evolving power system

4. A Comprehensive and Efficient **System of Prices and Regulated Charges** for Electricity Services
5. The Future of the **Regulated Network Utility Business Model**
6. **Restructuring Revisited: Electricity Industry Structure in a More Distributed Future**
7. The **Re-Evolution of Short- and Long-Term Electricity Market Design**

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cost-reflective prices and charges



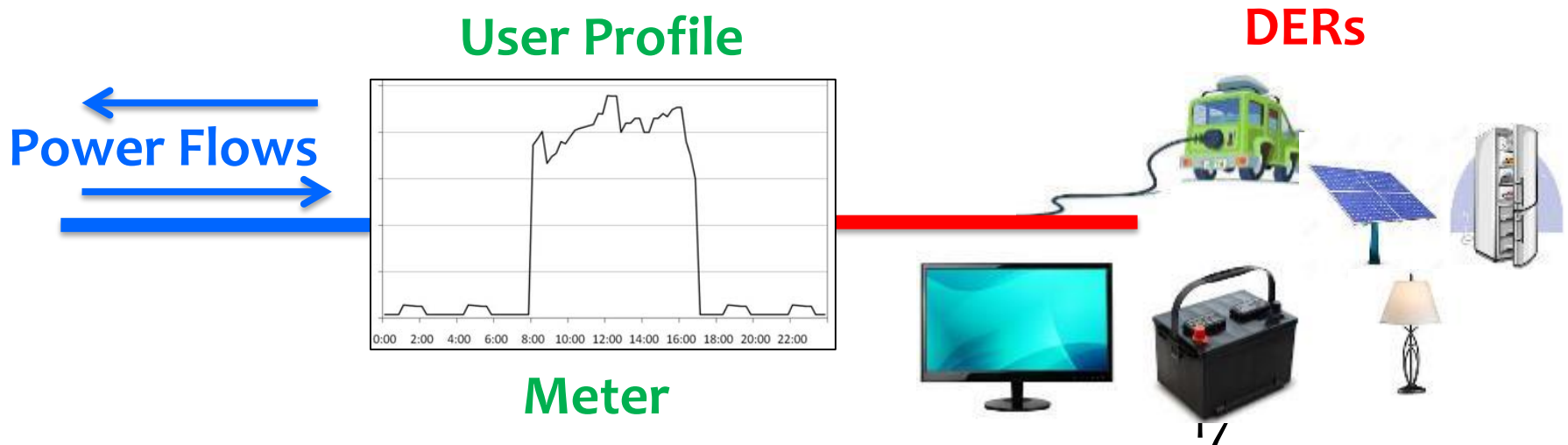
Part 2: Understanding distributed energy resources (DERs) and the new ways of providing electricity services

CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE & EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF PRICES & CHARGES

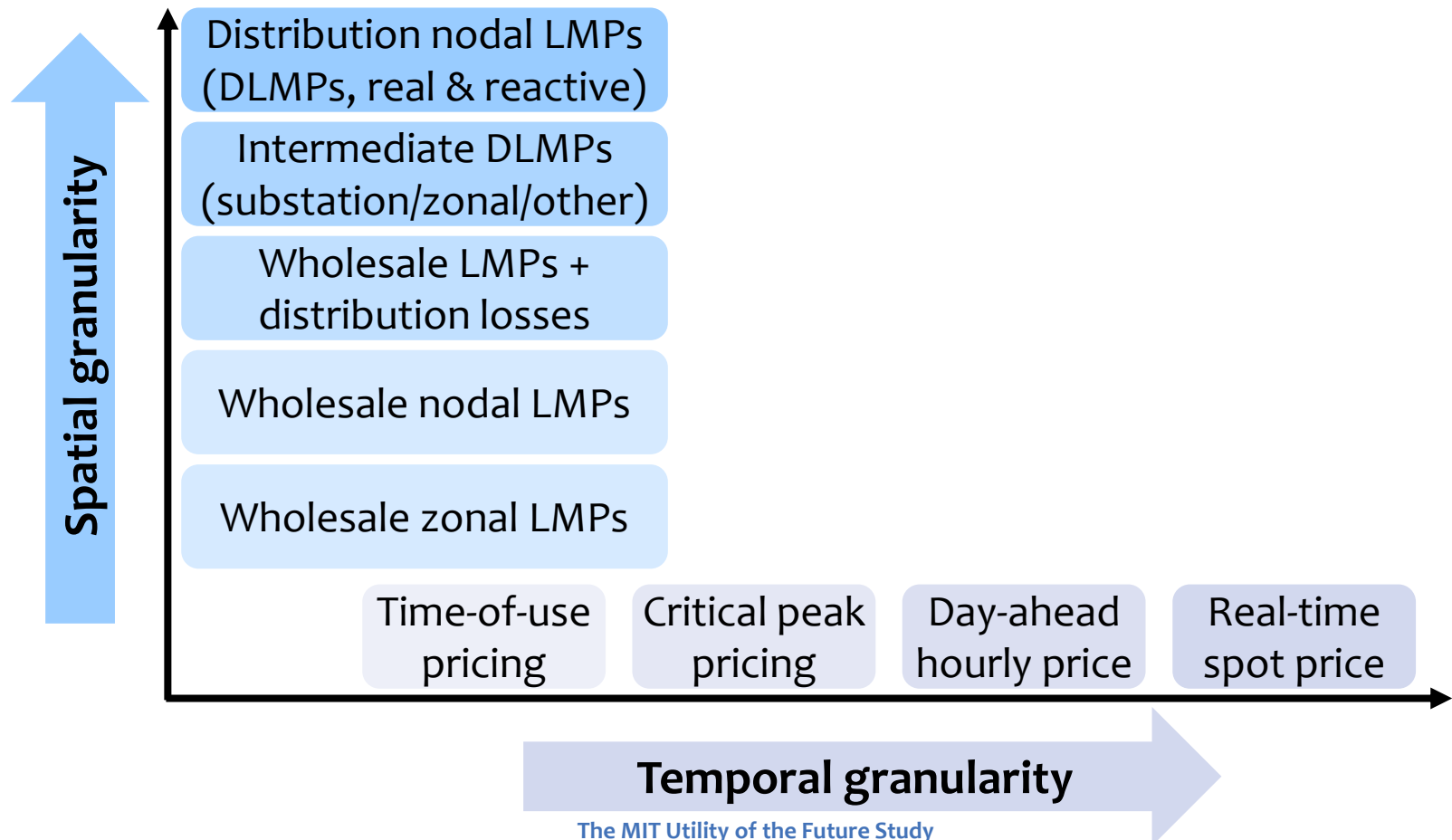
The only way to put all resources (**centralized & distributed**) on a **level playing field** and achieve **efficient operation and planning**

Prices and charges

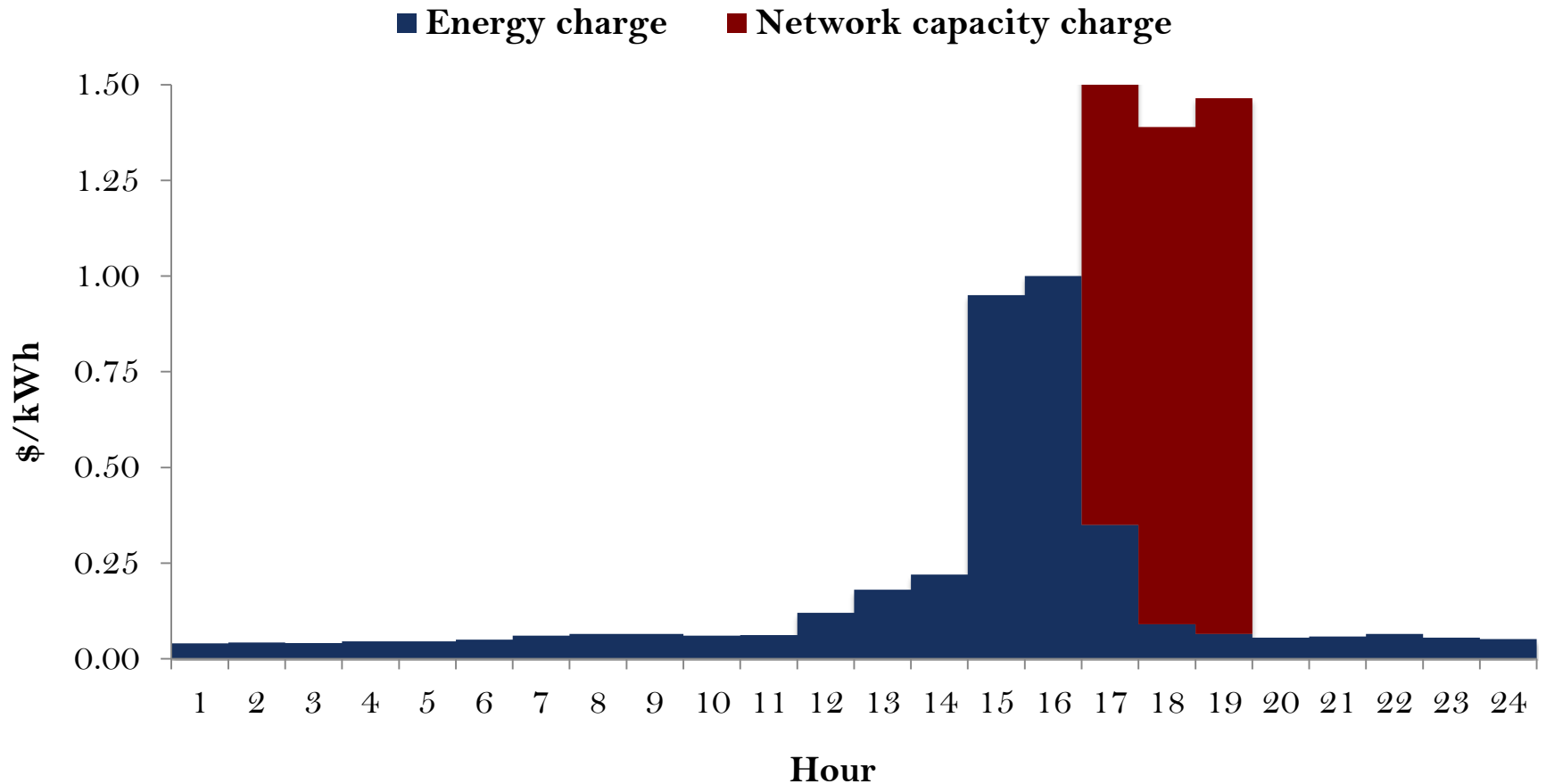
- Based on the individual injection & withdrawal profiles
 - Symmetrical
 - Avoiding going behind the meter



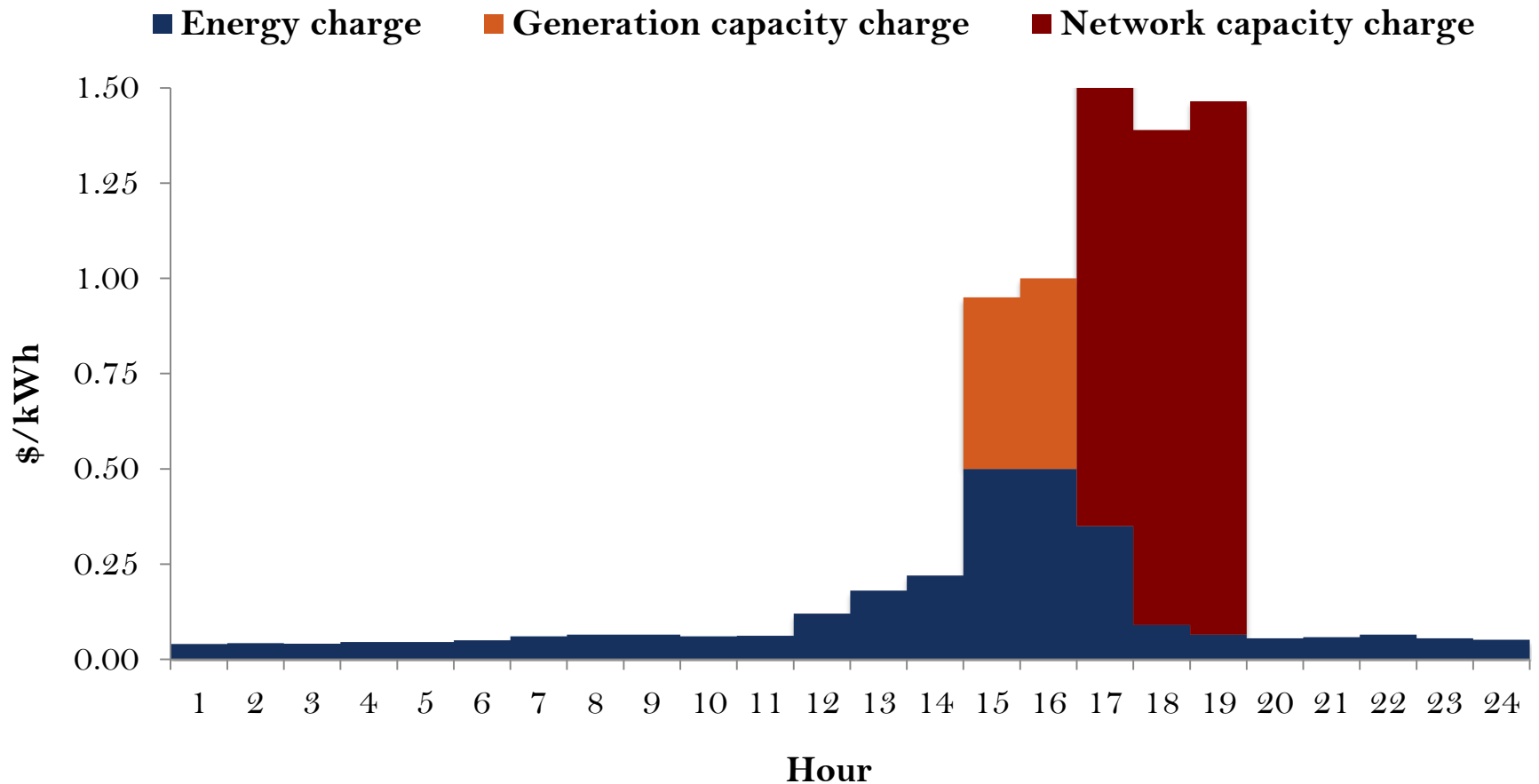
Optimize the granularity of price signals with respect to both time and location



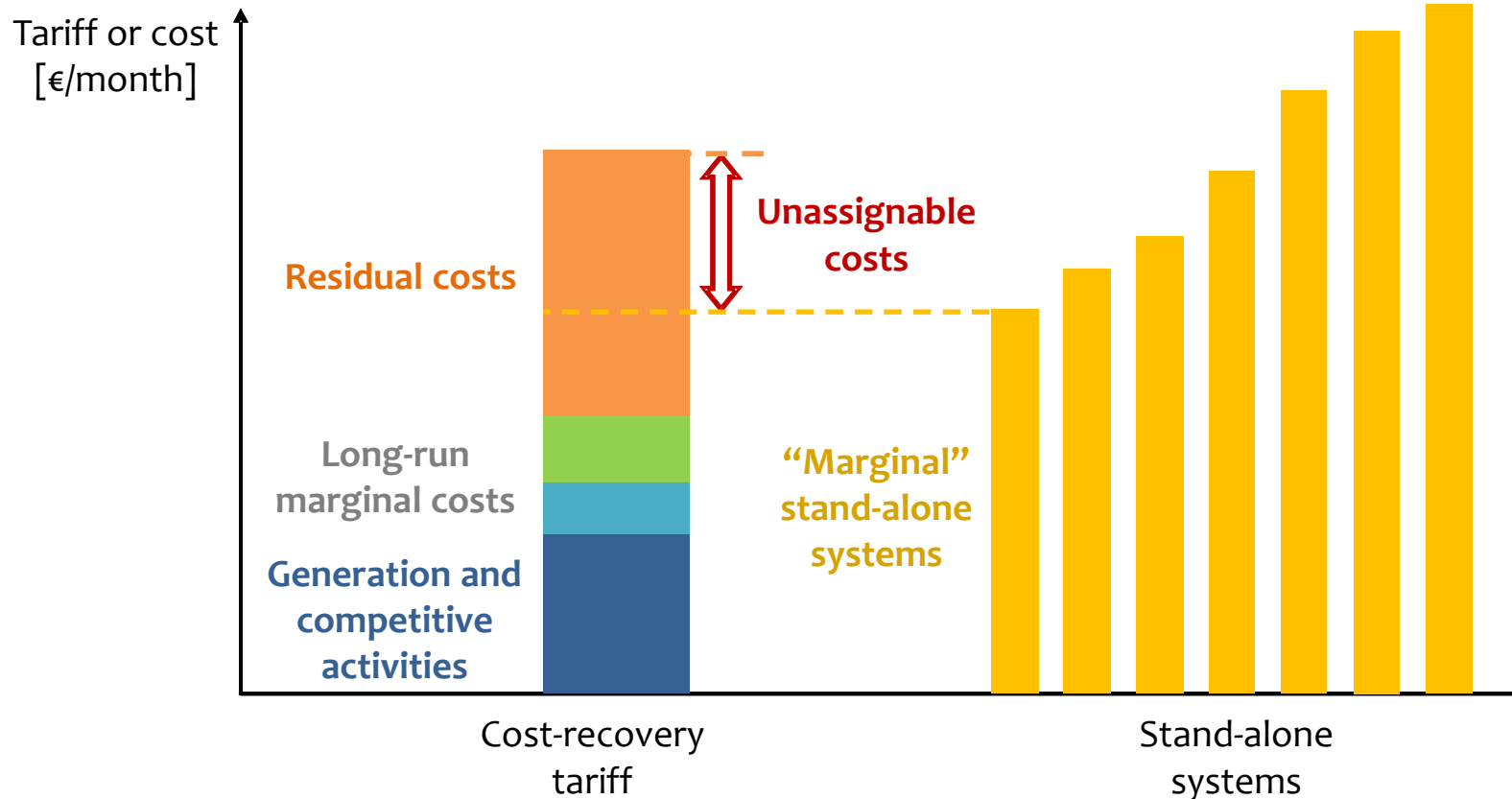
Forward-looking peak-coincident network capacity charges



... and scarcity-coincident generation capacity charges



Allocate residual network and policy costs without distorting efficient incentives



Address distributional concerns without sacrificing efficient incentives

Efficient pricing would unwind cross-subsidies and result in greater variability in charges

- Lump-sum bill credits or surcharges can restore desired cross-subsidies if desired
- Lump-sum pre-payments or hedging arrangements can address monthly bill variability
- Means-tested low-income assistance can replace implicit subsidy due to volumetric charges

2. Improved network regulation



Part 2: Understanding distributed energy resources (DERs) and the new ways of providing electricity services

ENHANCE DISTRIBUTION REGULATION

To **enable** the development of more **efficient & innovative** distribution utility **business models**

State of the art regulatory tools to reduce information asymmetry & manage uncertainty

Incentive-compatible menu of contracts

- to induce accurate utility forecasts and minimize strategy behavior

Engineering-based reference network models

- to equip regulators for forward-looking benchmarks and analyze uncertainty scenarios

Automatic adjustment mechanisms

- to account for forecast errors

See Jenkins & Pérez-Arriaga (2017), “Improved Regulatory Approaches for the Remuneration of Electricity Distribution Utilities with High Penetrations of Distributed Energy Resources,” *The Energy Journal* 38(3): 63-91

3. Revisit industry structure

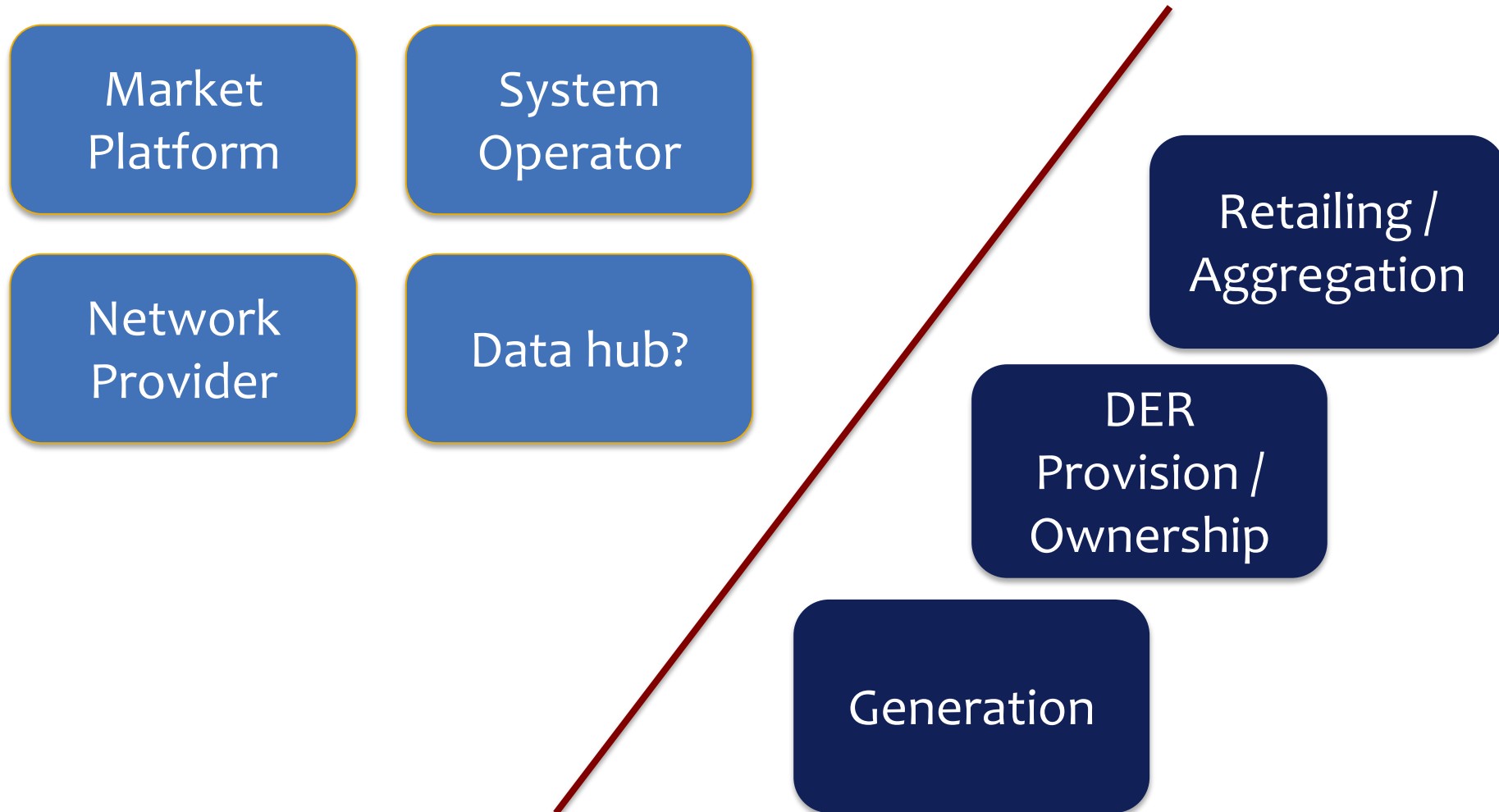


Part 2: Understanding distributed energy resources (DERs) and the new ways of providing electricity services

RETHINK INDUSTRY STRUCTURE TO MINIMIZE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Responsibilities and independence of network providers, system operators and market platforms through **unbundling** and **strict regulatory oversight**

Carefully assign responsibility to minimize potential conflicts of interest





4. Update electricity markets

Part 2: Understanding distributed energy resources (DERs) and the new ways of providing electricity services

IMPROVE WHOLESALE MARKET DESIGN TO BETTER INTEGRATE DERS

Reward **flexibility** improving bidding formats, time granularity and reserves pricing and **evolve RES support mechanisms** for a **level playing field** for all technologies

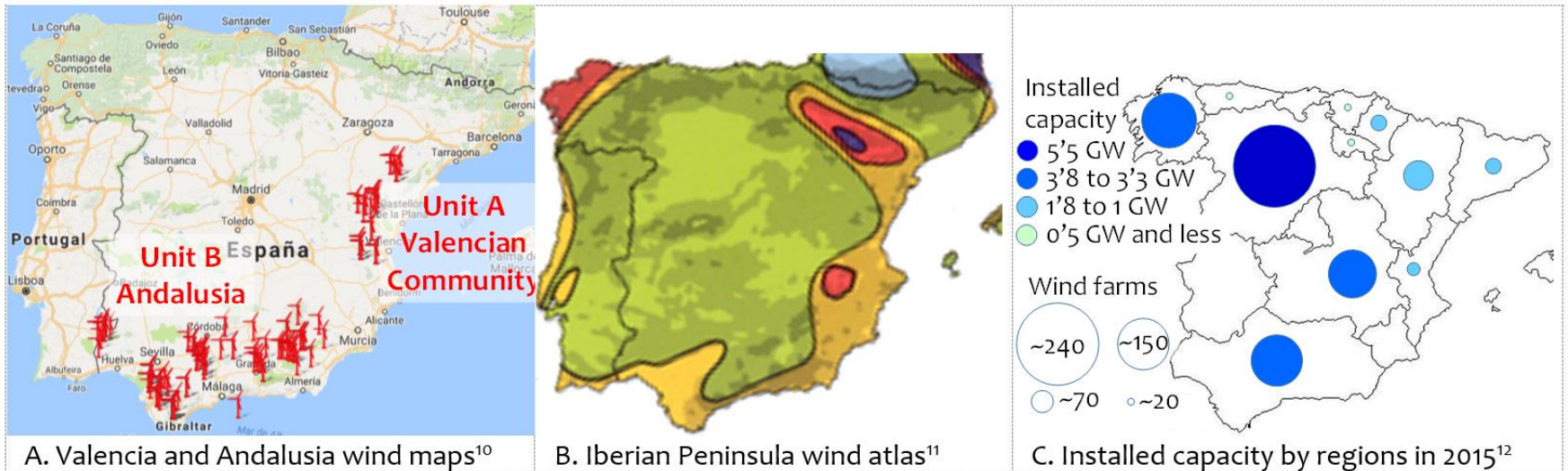
Enable new resources to play in existing and emerging markets

Update wholesale **market rules** (such as bidding formats) to reflect the operational constraints of new resources

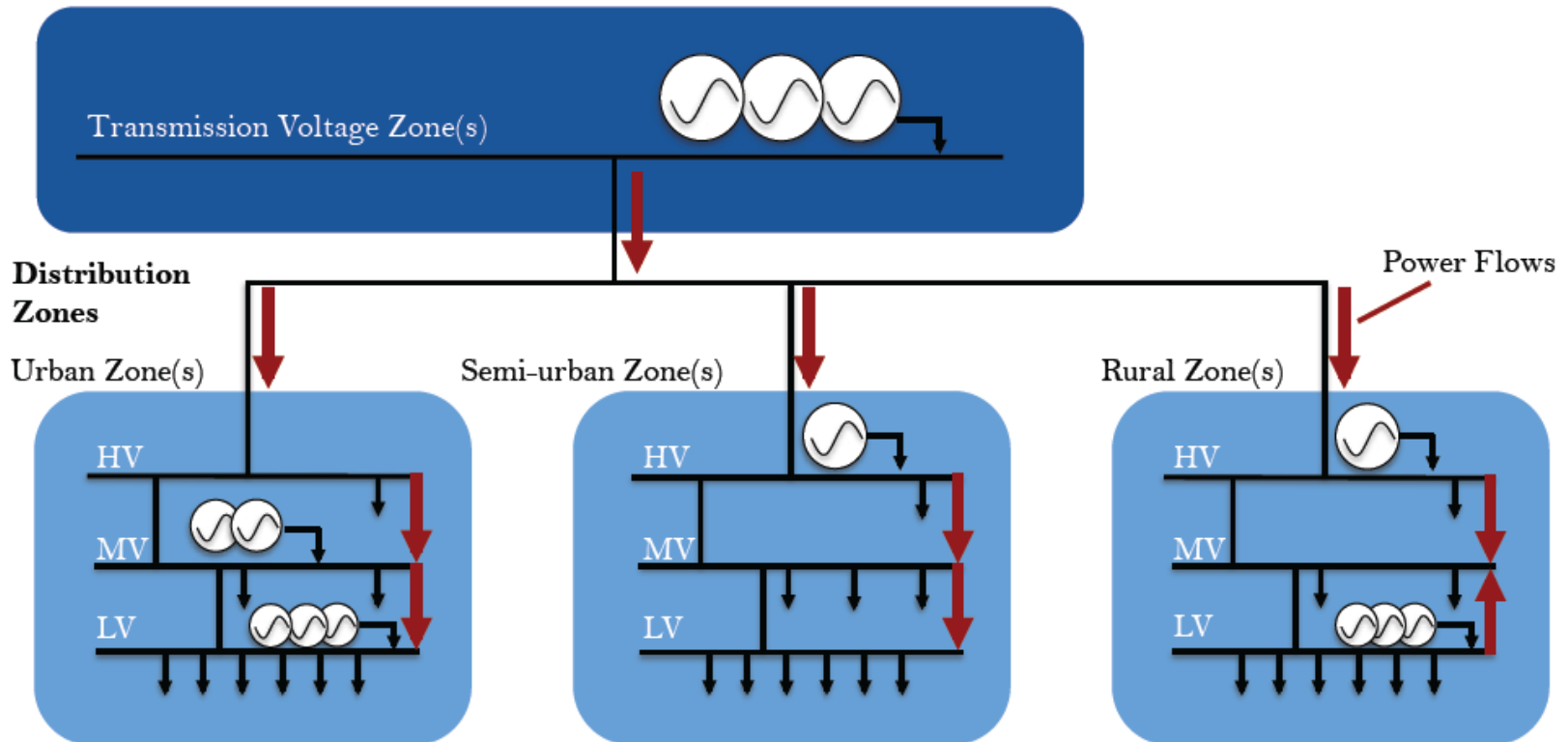
Implement **liquidity**-oriented solutions to mitigate existing **entry barriers**

Minimize the interference of support mechanisms for clean technologies in electricity markets

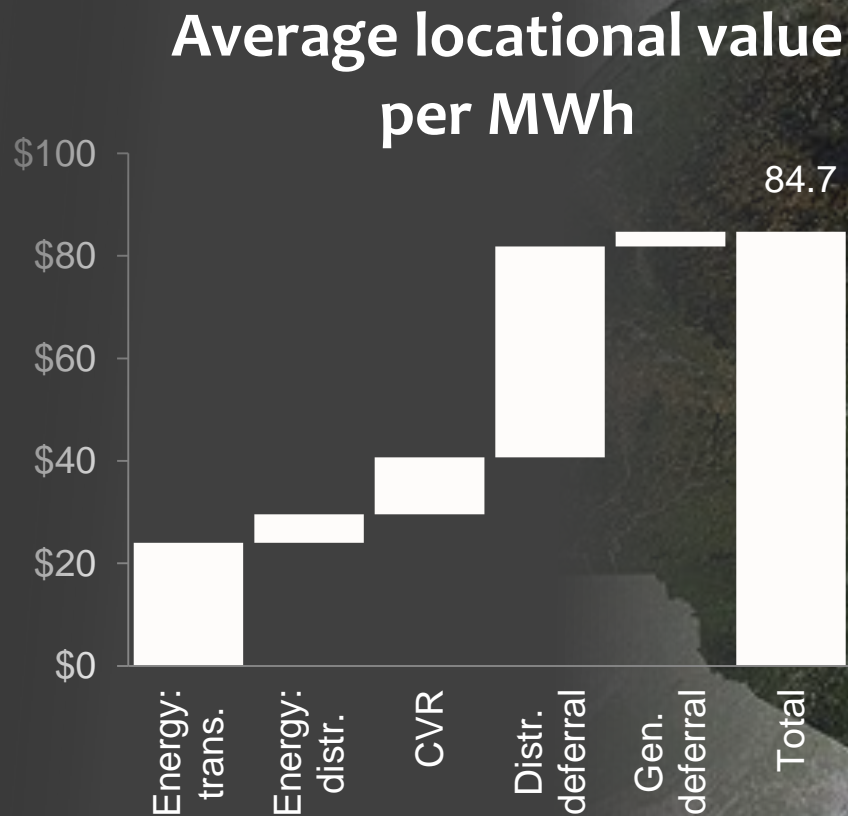
Auctioned capacity-based subsidies complemented with ex-post compensations defined for reference benchmark plants



Part 3: Insights on the Economics of DERs and the Competition between Centralized and DERs



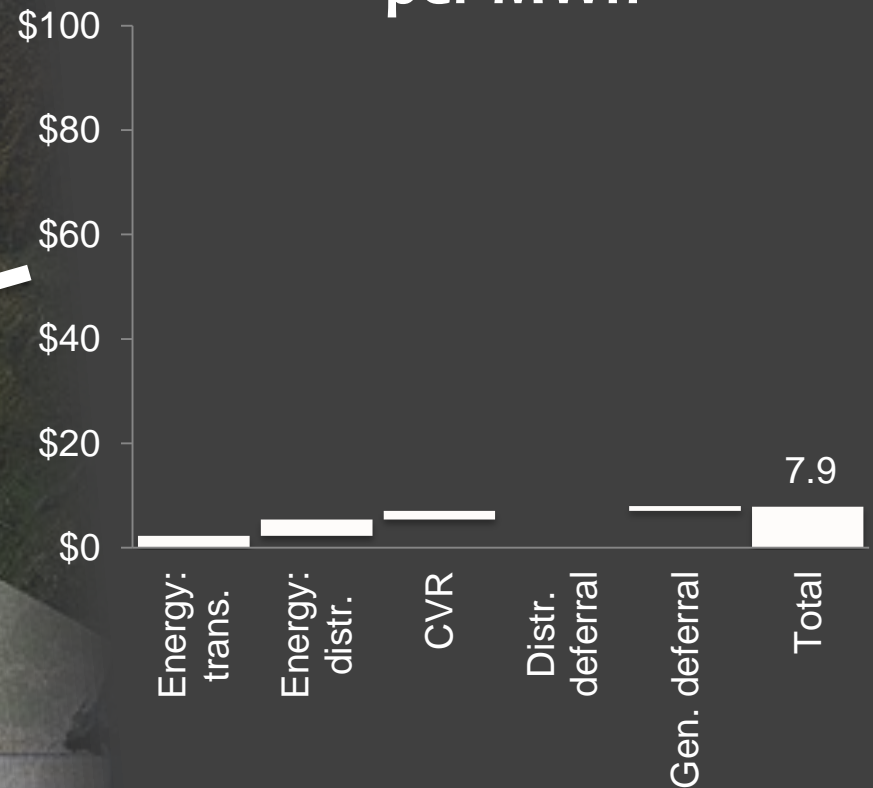
Part 3: Insights on the Economics of DERs and the Competition between Centralized and DERs



Part 3: Insights on the Economics of DERs and the Competition between Centralized and DERs



Average locational value per MWh



Part 3: Insights on the Economics of DERs and the Competition between Centralized and DERs

CAREFULLY EVALUATE THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND COSTS OF DERS

Better utilization of existing assets hold **great potential for cost savings.**

Economies of scale still matter.

The **distributed** deployment of resources is **not always cost-effective**

Part 4: A Policy and Regulatory Toolkit for the Future Power System

PROACTIVE POLICY & REGULATORY REFORMS

Networks, markets, end-user prices and charges, industry structure, cybersecurity...

Robust to the uncertain changes underway

TO FACILITATE EFFICIENCY IN THE FUTURE

Technology agnostic (centralized or decentralized, renewable or conventional, ...)

Part 4: A Policy and Regulatory Toolkit for the Future Power System

IN SUMMARY, WHAT THE STUDY PROPOSES

- can be gradually implemented with existing technology and reasonable regulatory measures
 - sets a level playing field for competition of centralized and distributed resources
- enabling an efficient outcome regardless of the future development of technologies or policy objectives



MIT*ei*
MIT Energy Initiative

UTILITY OF THE FUTURE

An MIT Energy Initiative response
to an industry in transition

In collaboration with IIT-Comillas

