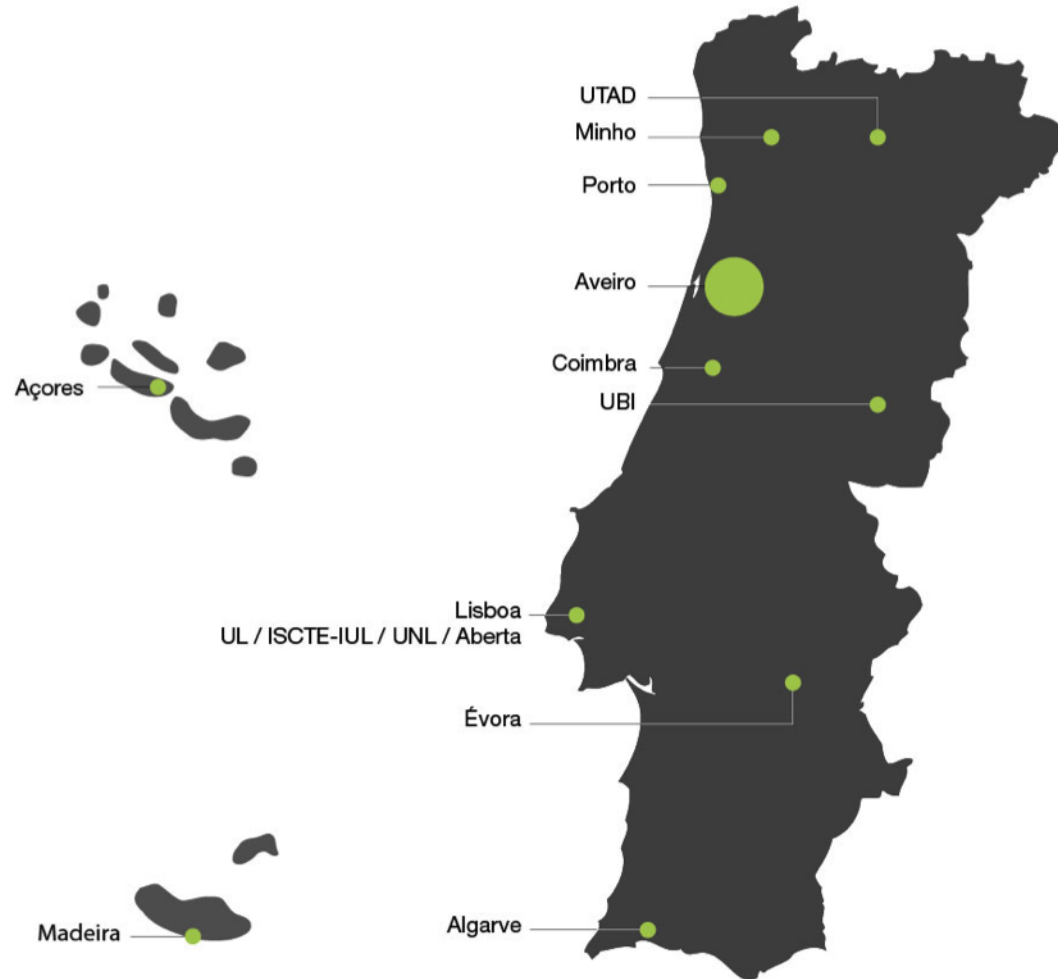


ENERGY MULES, A NOVEL SOLAR POWER SATELLITE SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE CAPABLE OF ENERGY STORAGE

University of Aveiro Team
r.pereira@ua.pt



OUTLINE

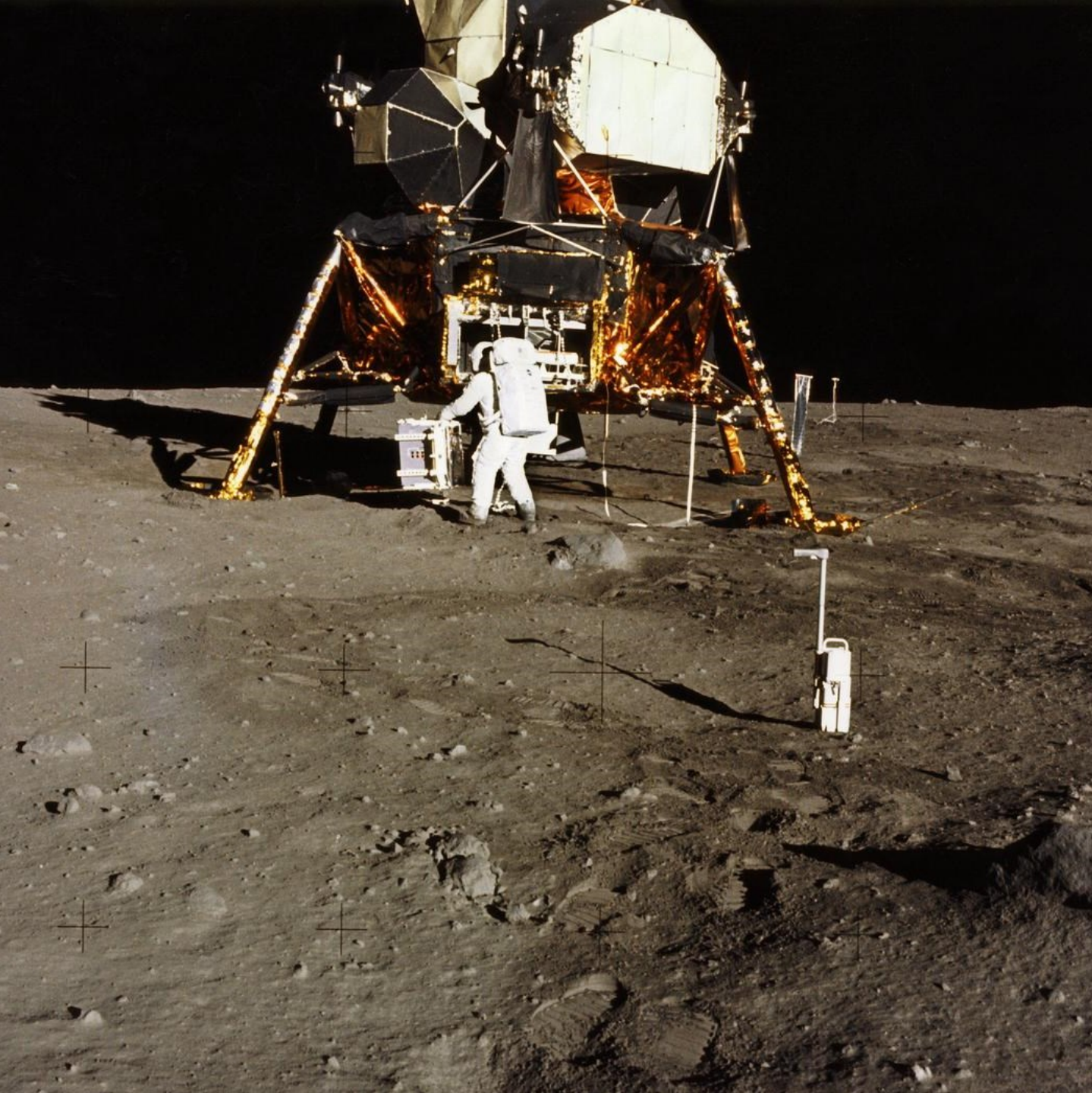
1. Introduction
2. Power Generation
3. Energy Storage
4. WPT Transmitter
5. Quasioptical Approach
6. Power Reception
7. Energy Overview
8. Environmental Impact
9. Near Term Demonstrator

A landscape photograph showing a dense forest of green trees covering a valley. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. A large, bright sun is visible in the upper left portion of the sky. The foreground is framed by the dark green leaves and branches of trees on the left and right sides.

Moon – Our distant companion

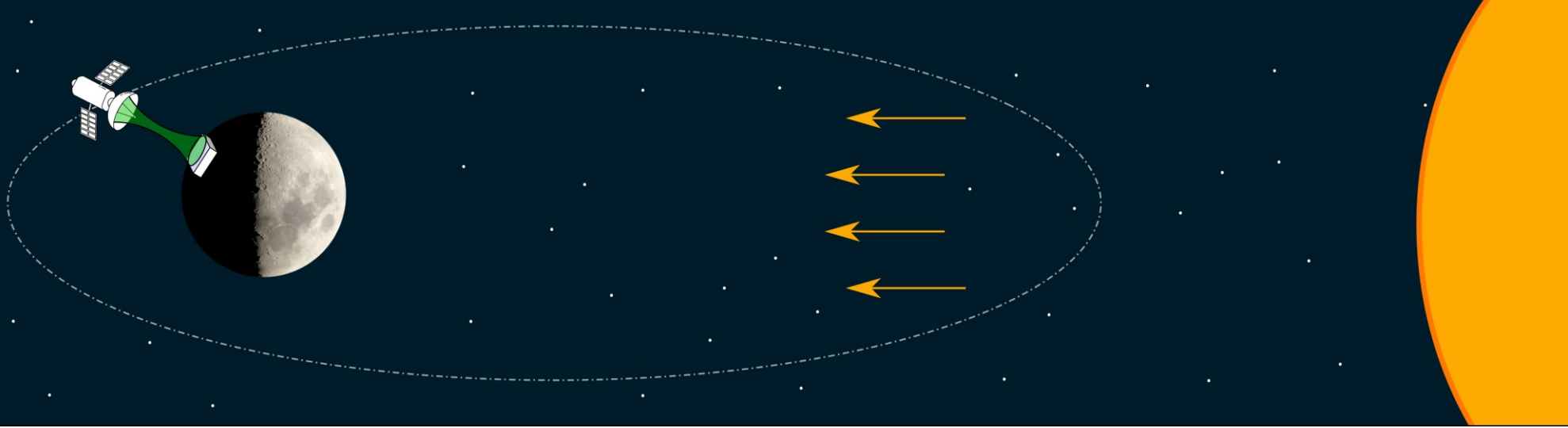
Paradigm shift:

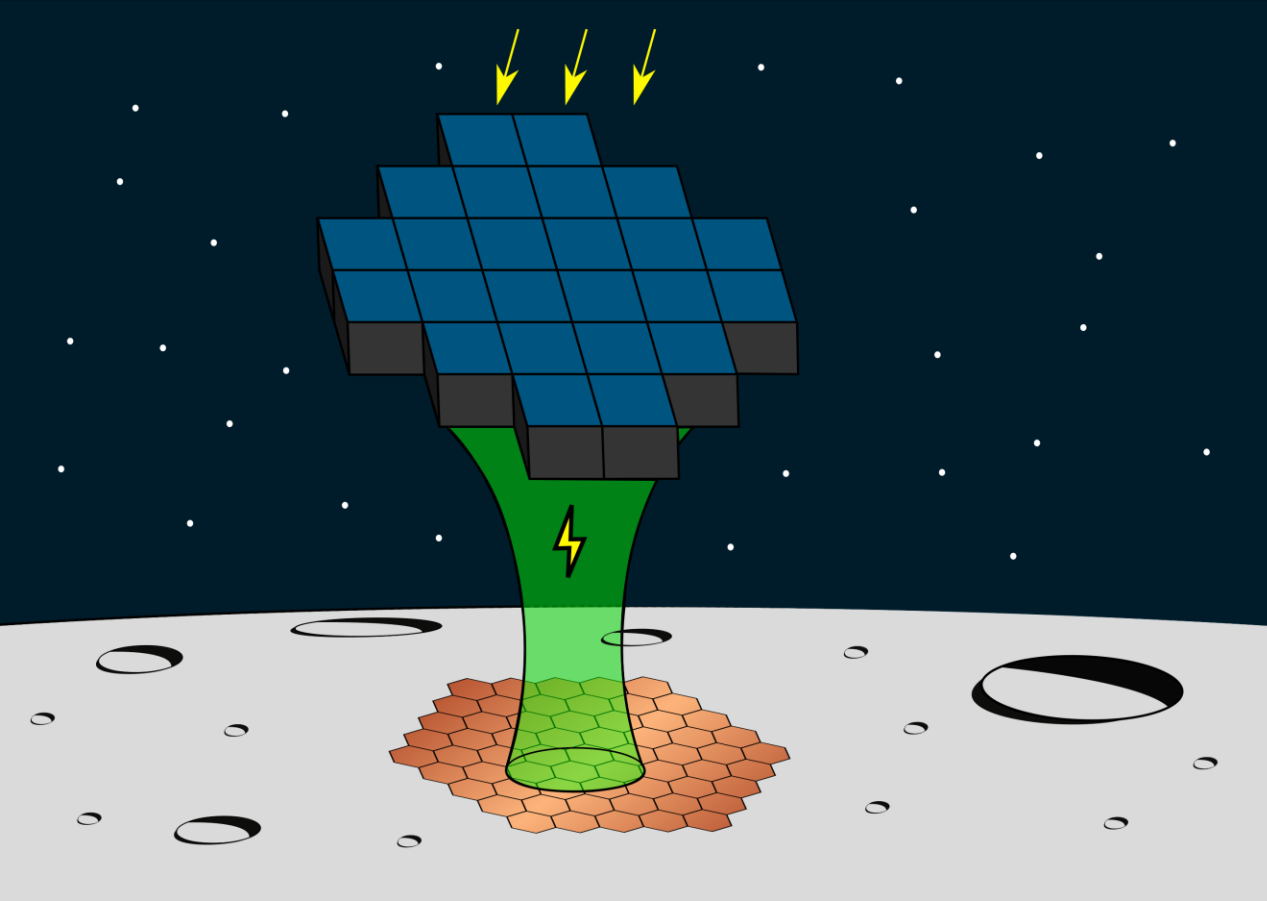
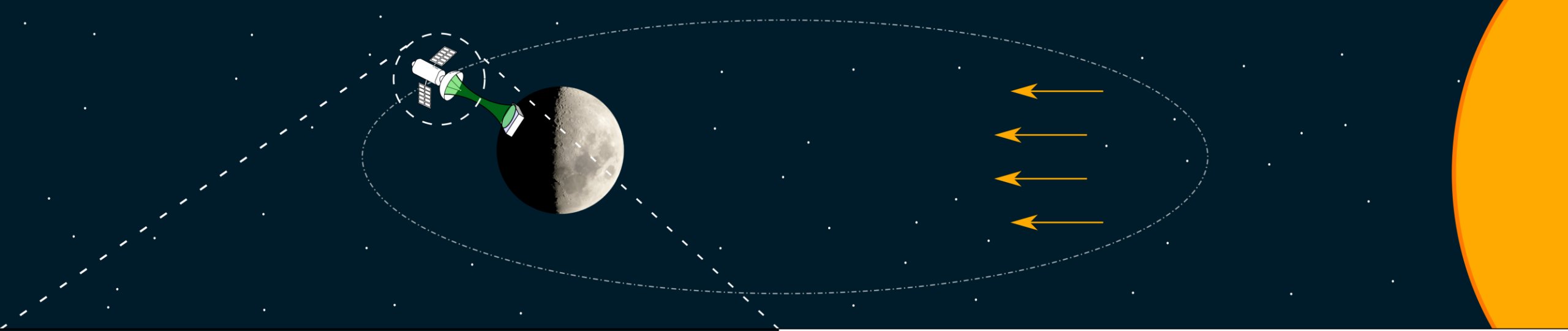
From a distant object
to an explorable body

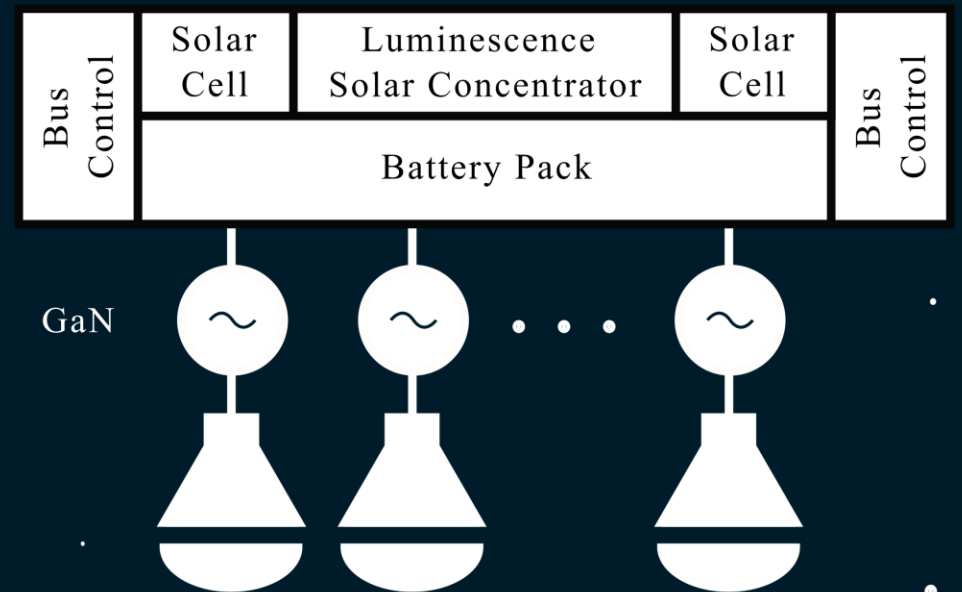
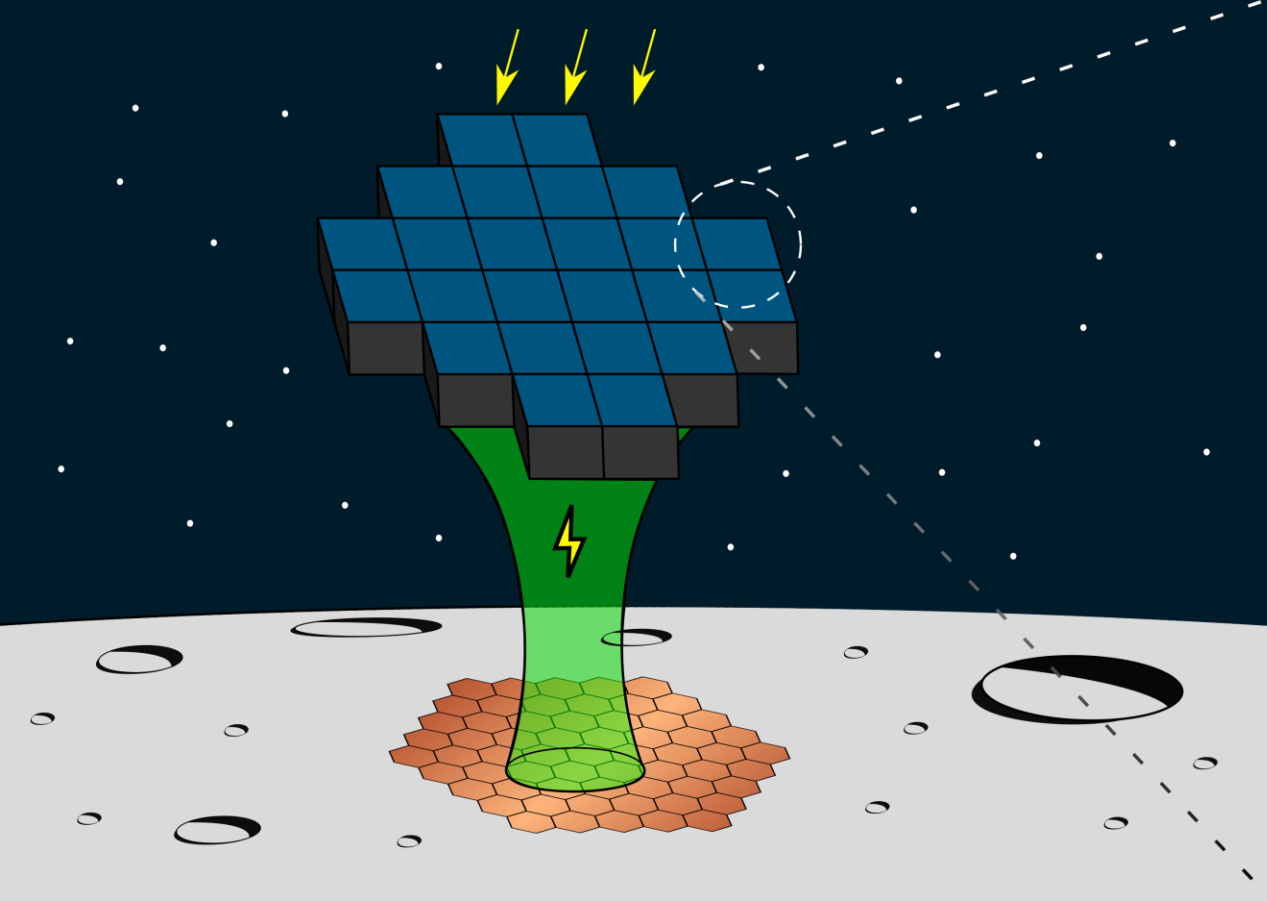
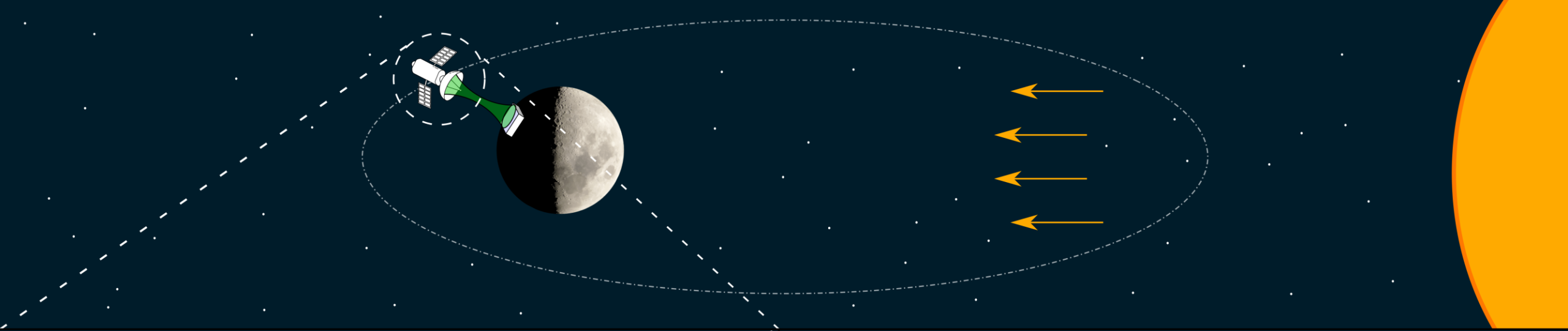


HOW TO SUPPLY ELECTRICAL POWER TO A LUNAR BASE?

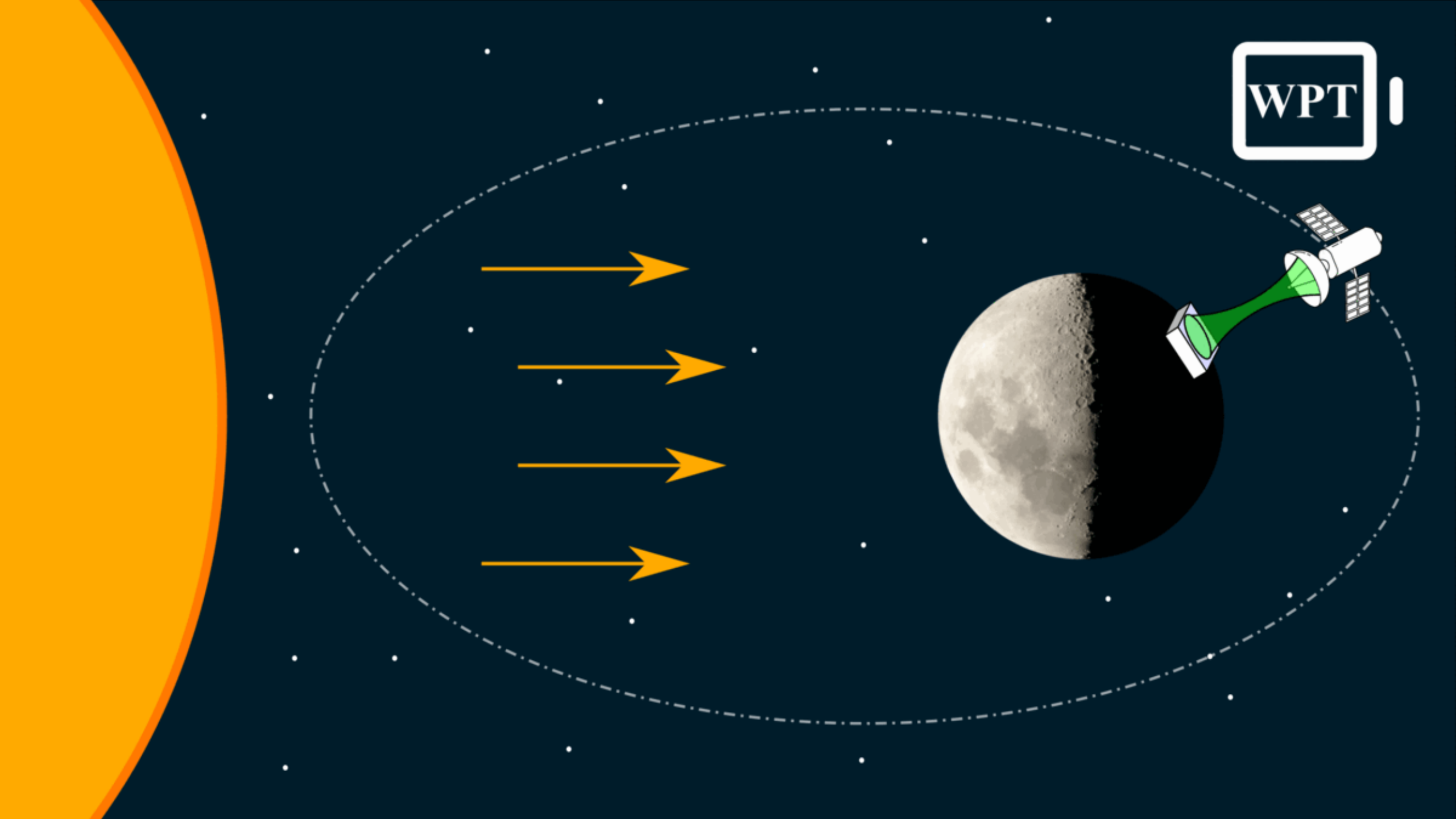
The base will endure 14 days in the dark.







WPT



HOW TO SUPPLY ELECTRICAL POWER TO A LUNAR BASE?

The base will endure 14 days in the dark.

We propose a novel Solar Power Satellite System architecture:

- Capable of energy storage
- Compact and efficient
- Applicable to other scenarios
- Clean energy

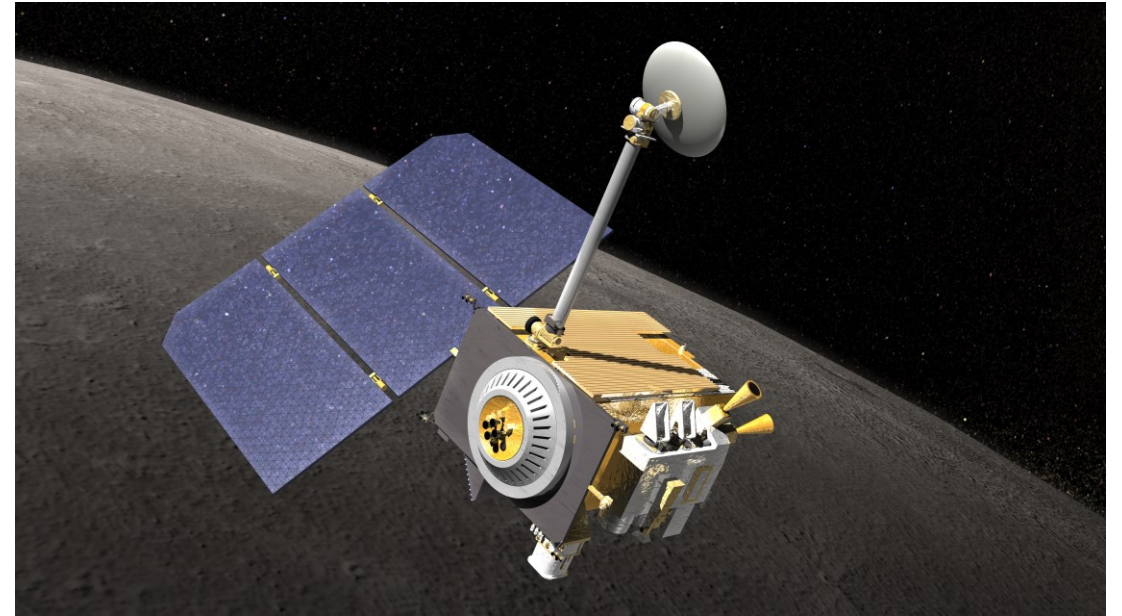
INTRODUCTION

Solar Power
Generation

Energy Storage

Wireless Power
Transfer

INTRODUCTION



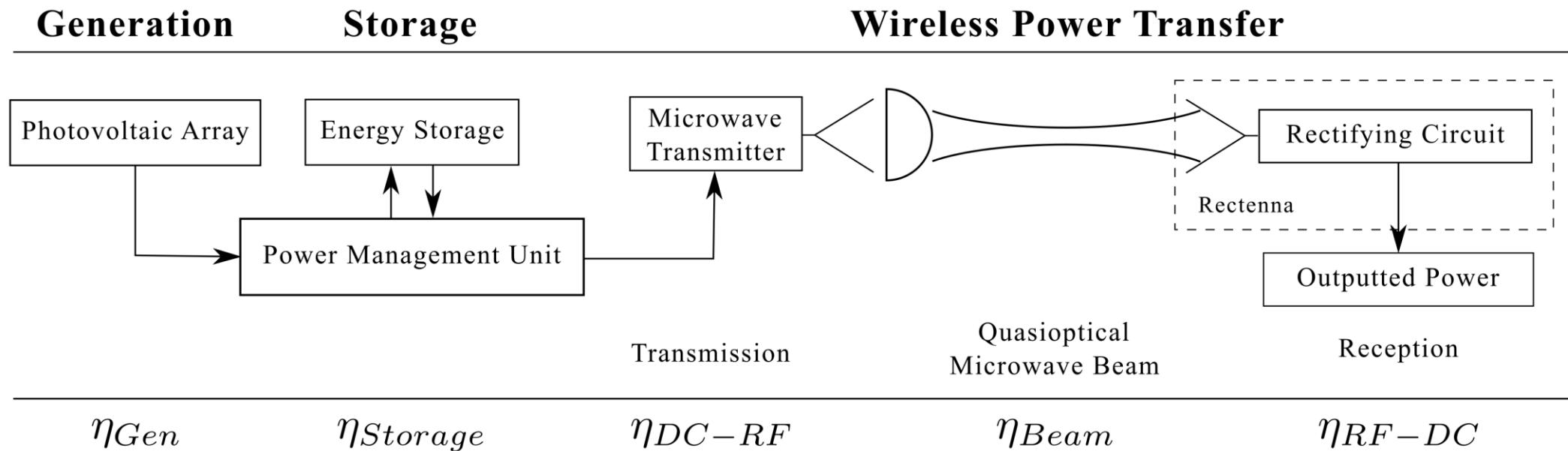
© wikipedia

The minimum altitude will be the WPT distance:

$$L = 20 \text{ km}$$

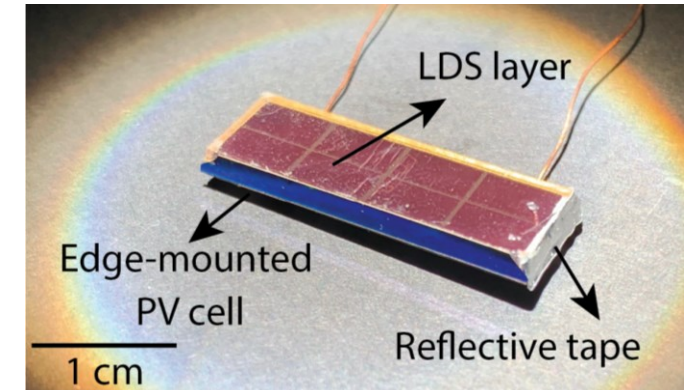
(2 hour orbit)

INTRODUCTION



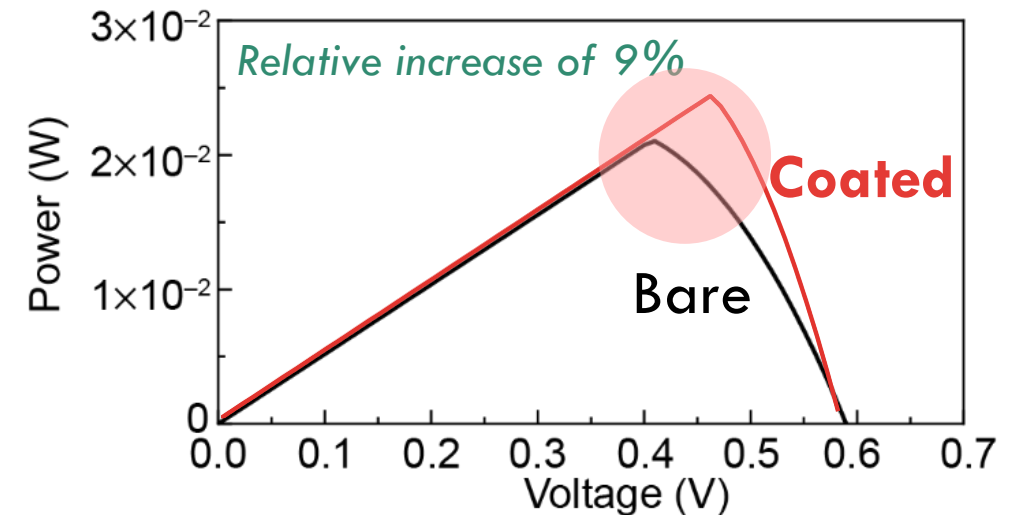
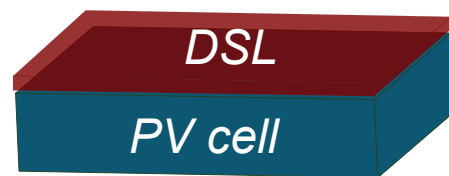
POWER GENERATION

Deposit a luminescent downshifting layer (LDS) on top of the solar cells.

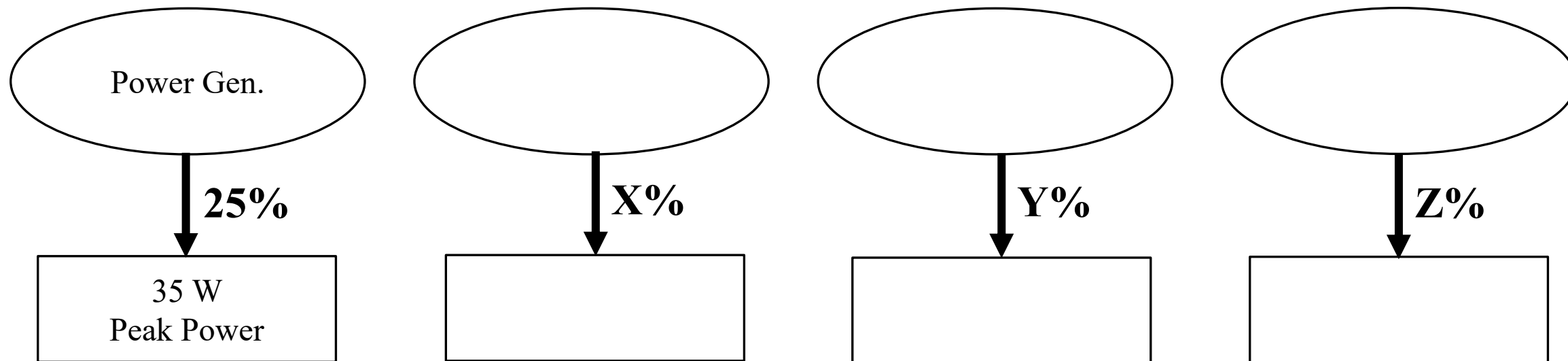


$$A_{PV} = 0.91 A_{tile} = 6 \times 160 \times 138 \text{ mm}$$

Solar generation: 25% conversion efficiency



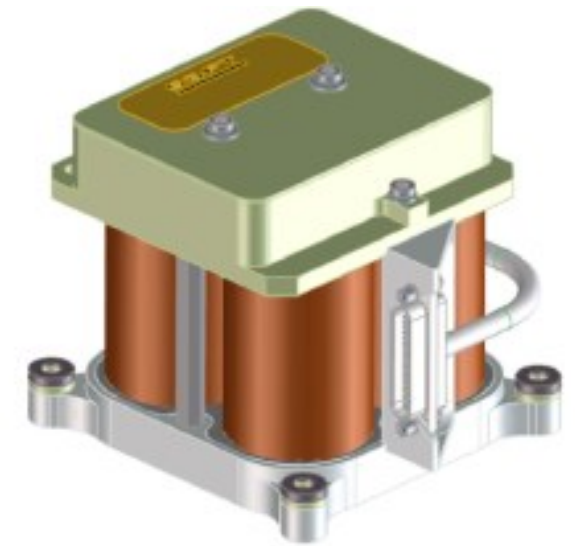
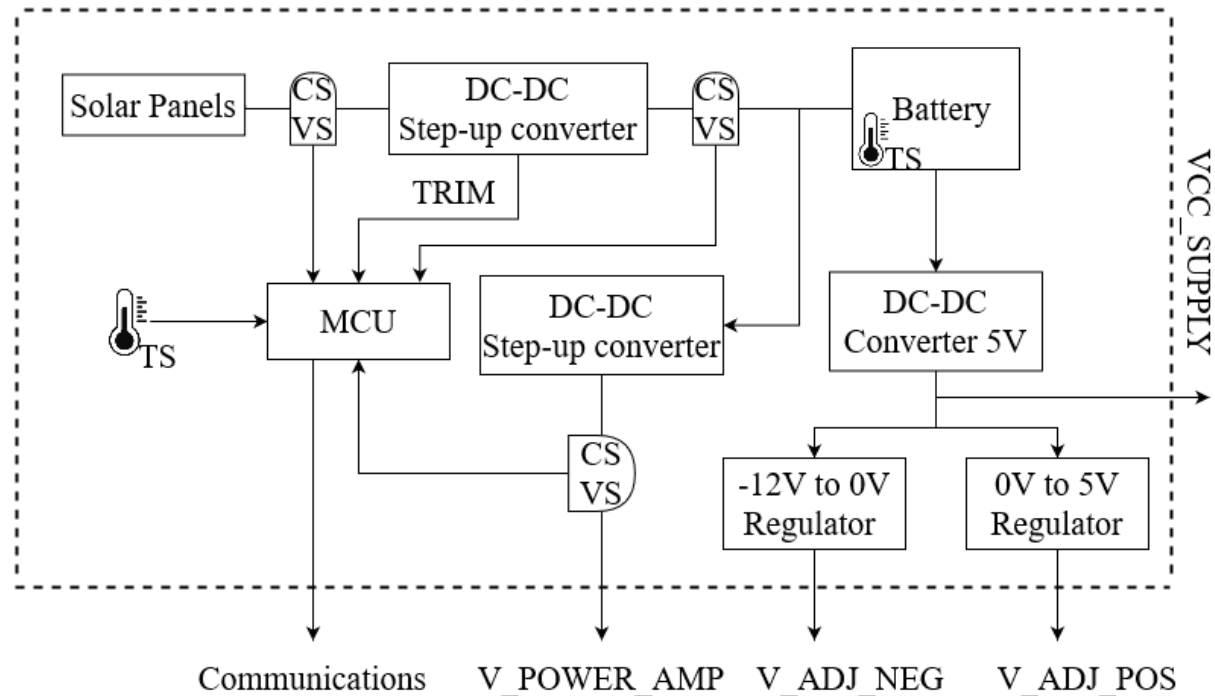
POWER BUDGET



▪ Per tile & Per orbit

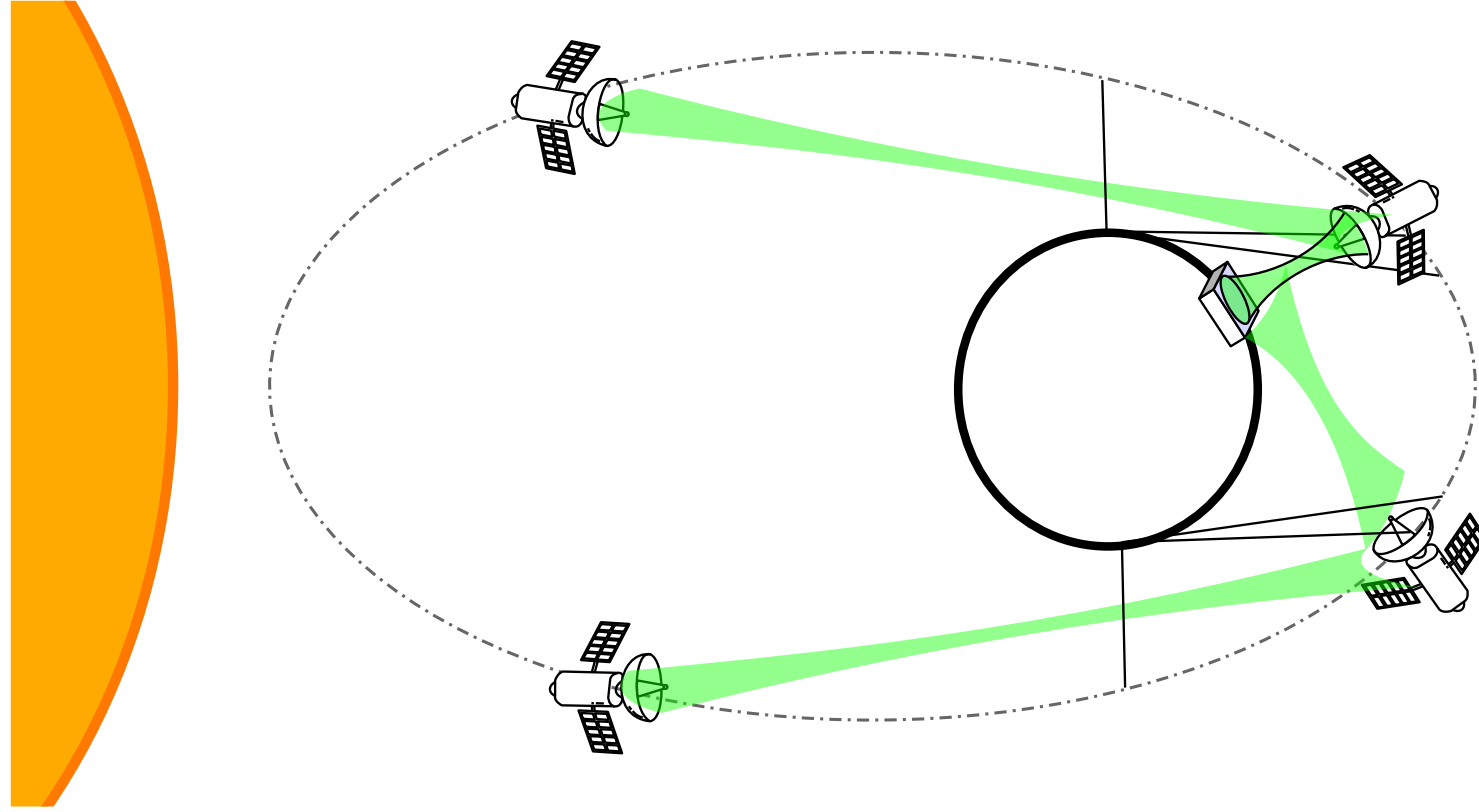
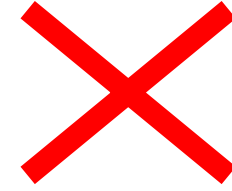
ENERGY STORAGE

- Space-graded battery pack
- Designed in-house power management unit (PMU)

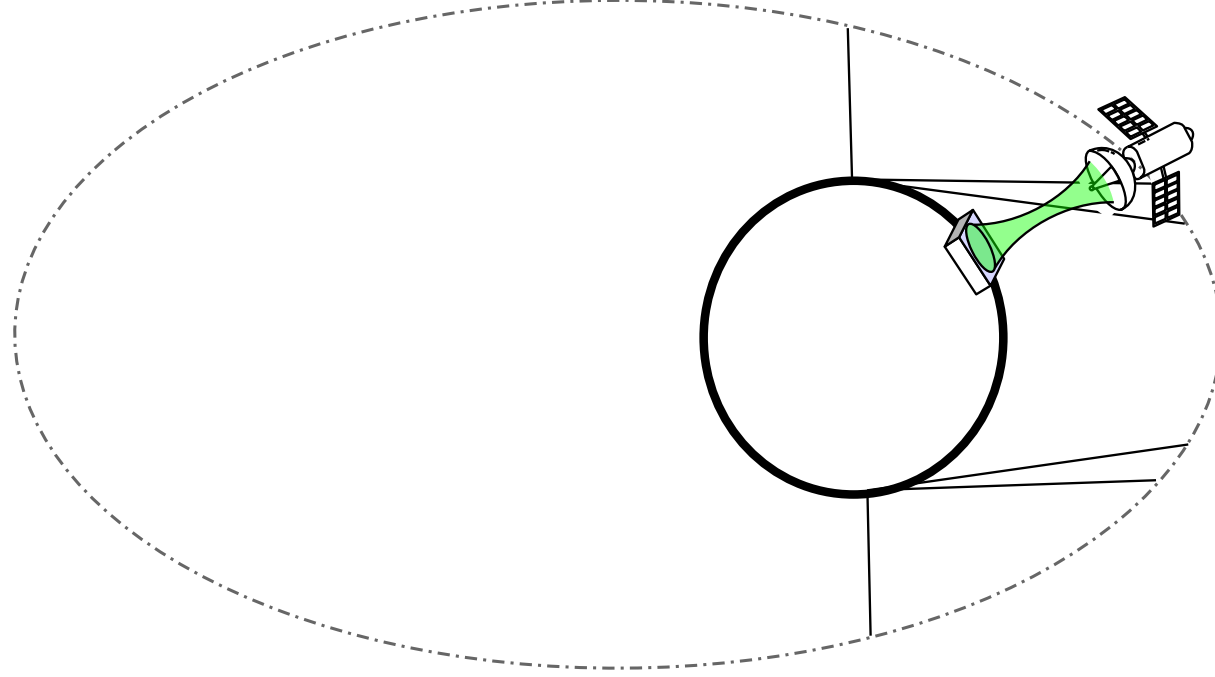


4s1p VES16 battery, Saft batteries

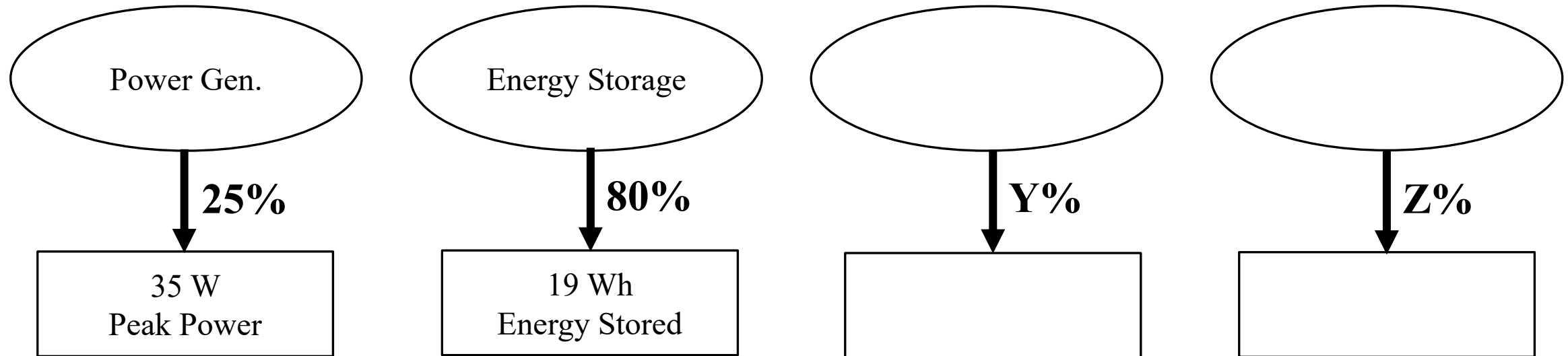
ENERGY STORAGE



ENERGY STORAGE



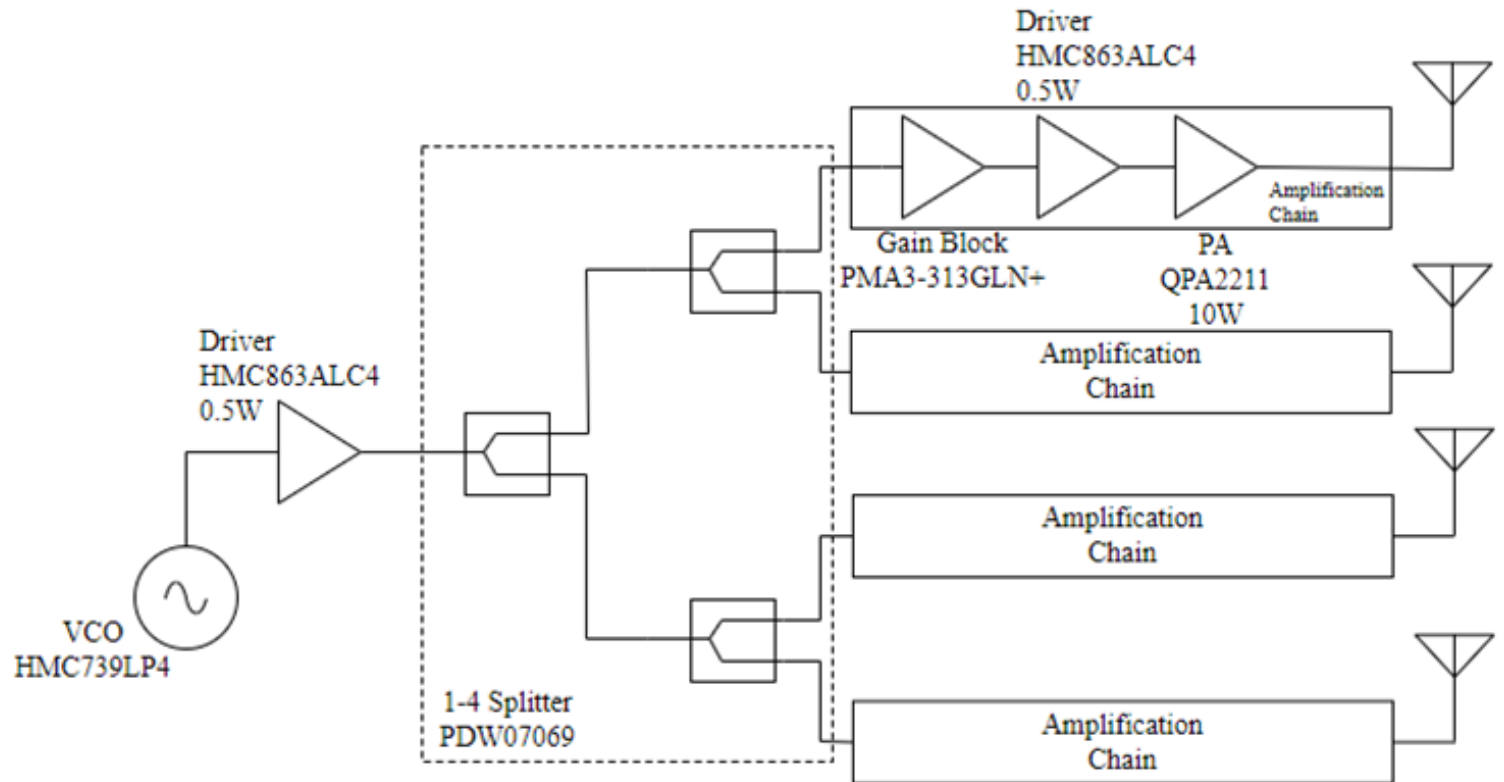
POWER BUDGET



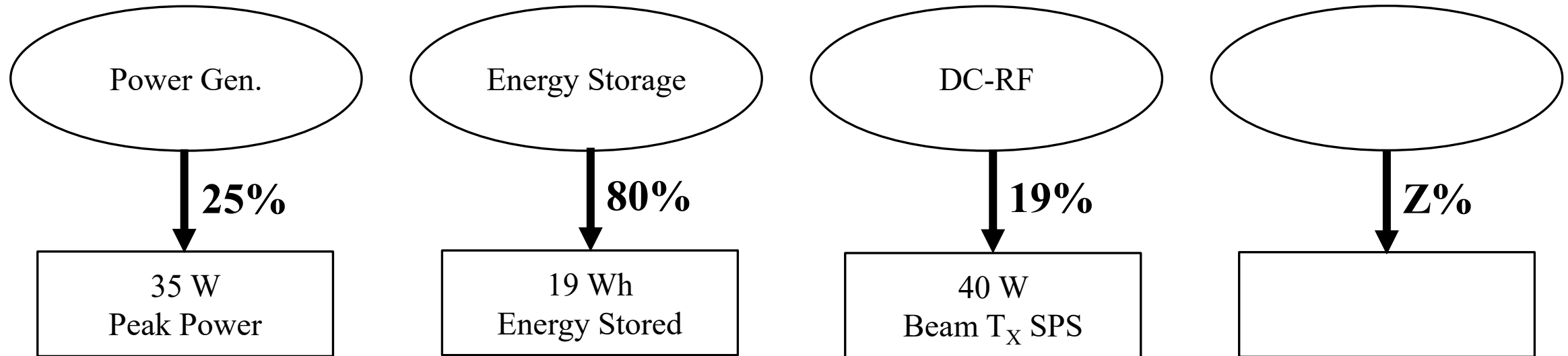
▪ Per tile & Per orbit

WPT TRANSMITTER

- Transmitter architecture
- 215 W
- Output 40 W
- DC-RF eff. 18%
- Freq = 28 GHz

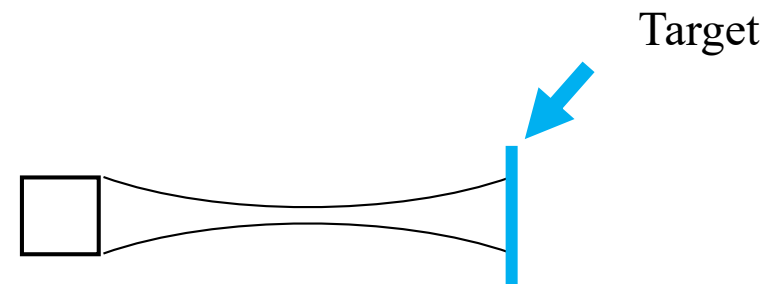
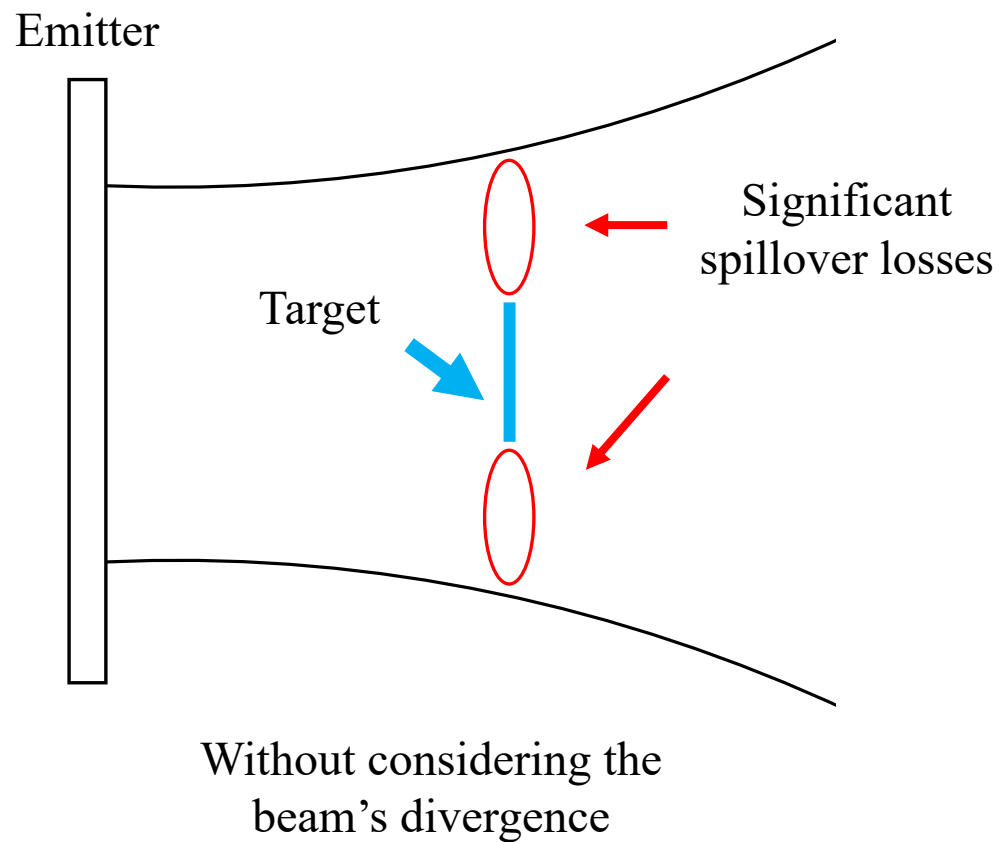


POWER BUDGET



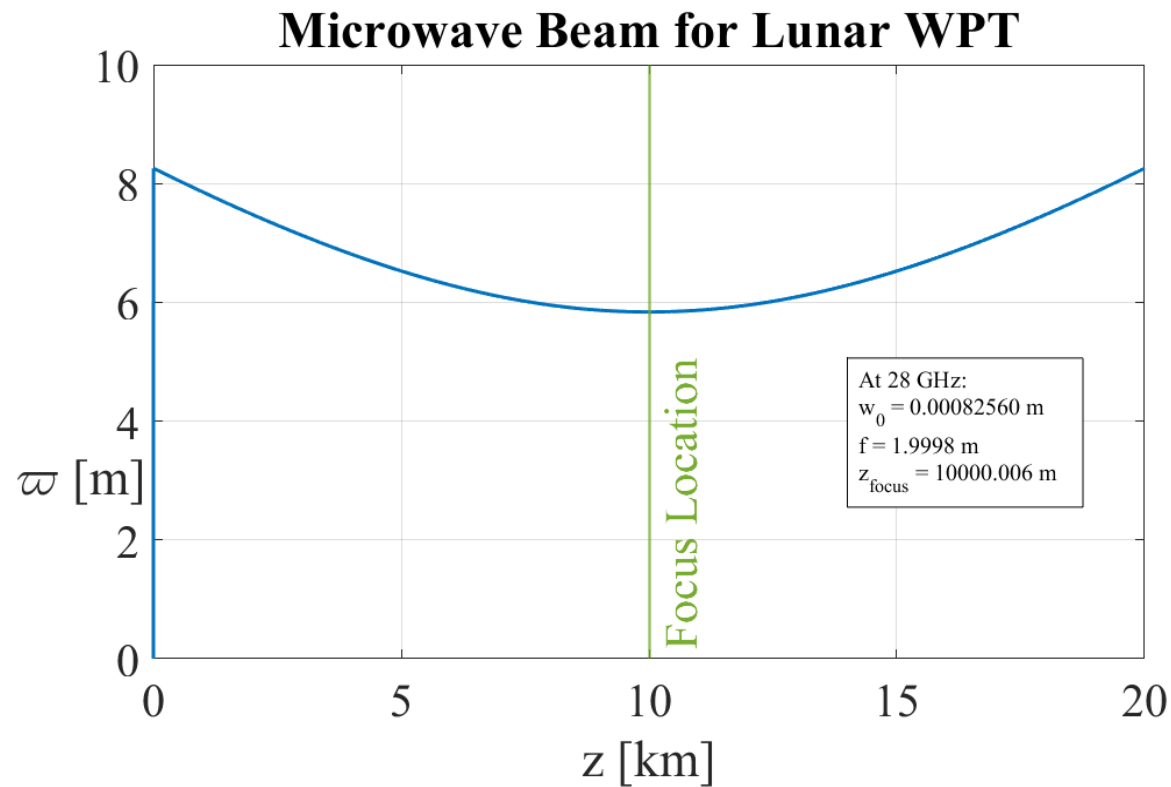
▪ Per tile & Per orbit

QUASIOPTICAL APPROACH



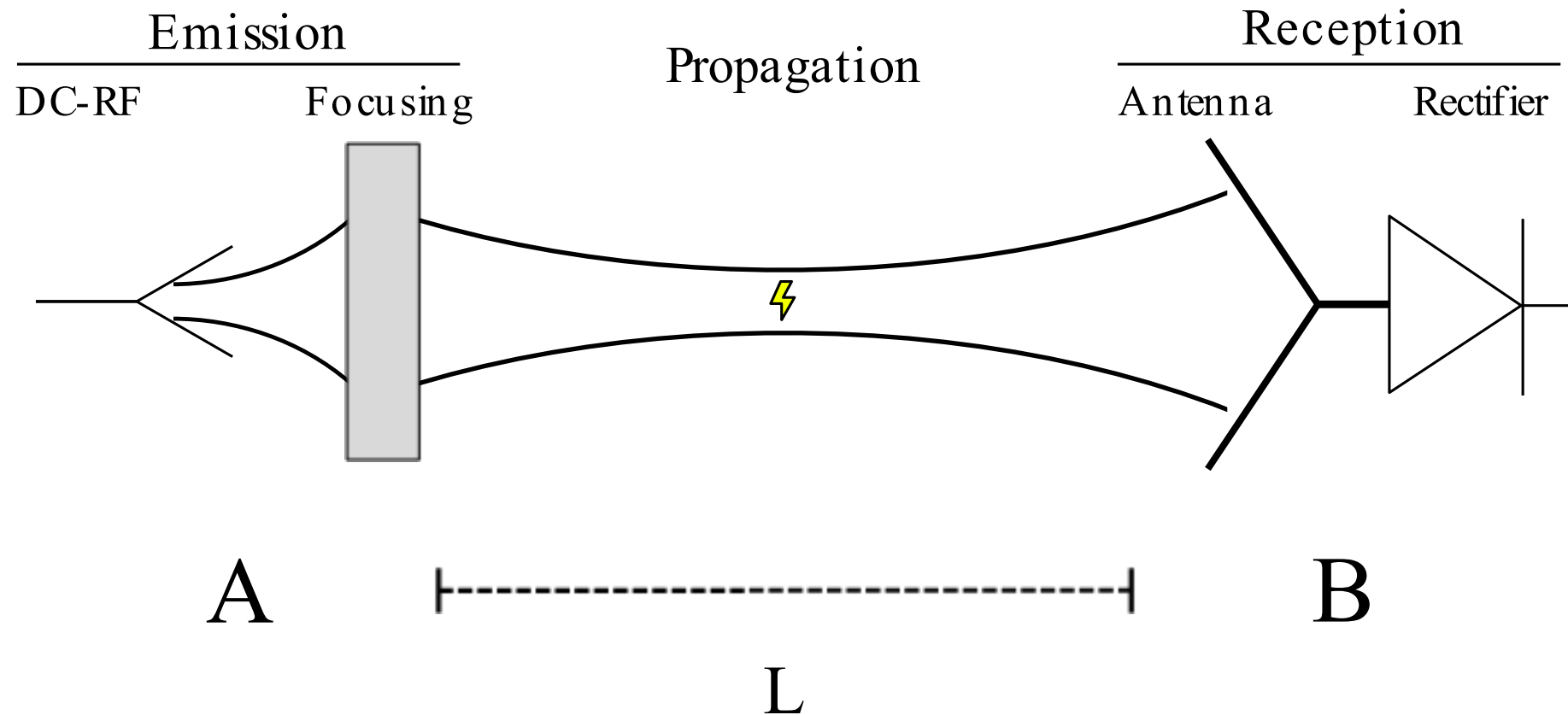
Our approach

QUASIOPTICAL APPROACH



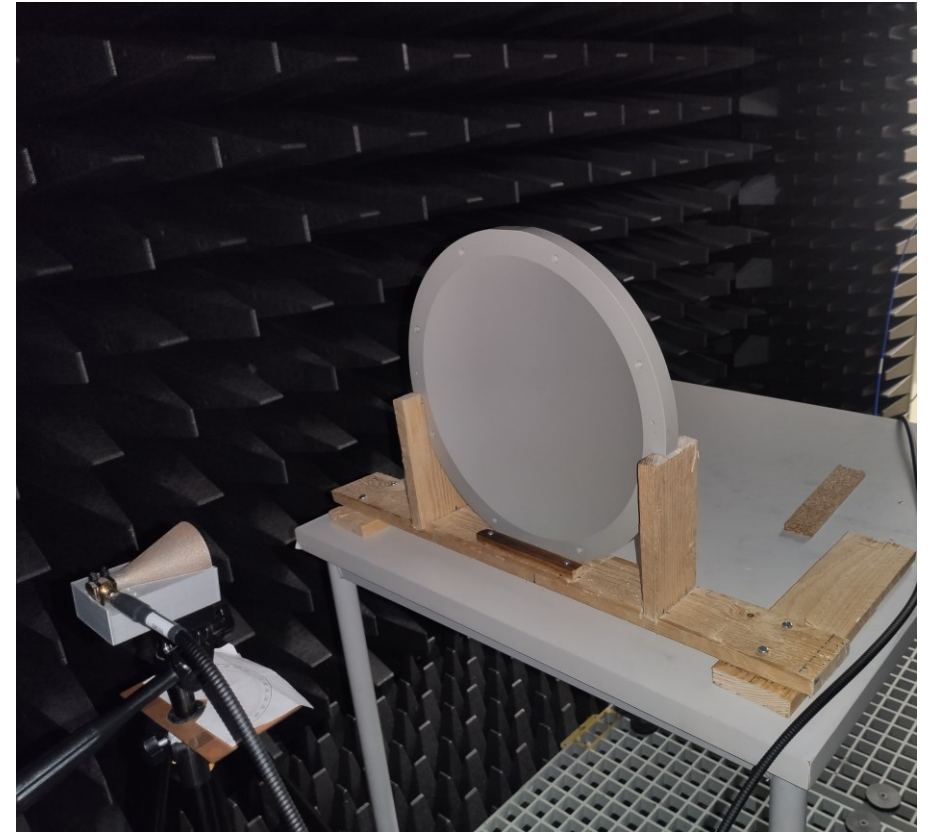
Frequency of operation	28 GHz
WPT distance	20 km
Beam radius at emission and reception	8.26 m

WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER SUBSYSTEM

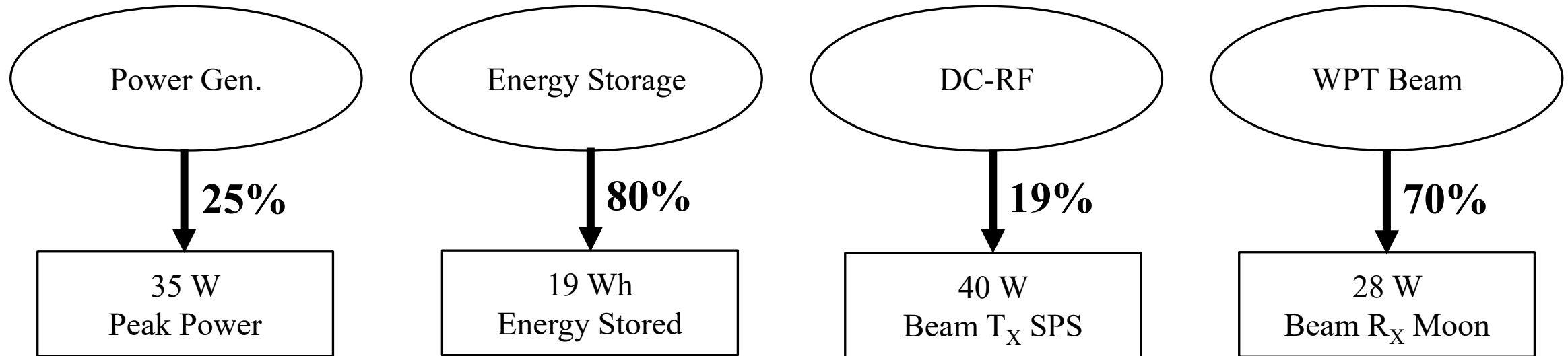


QUASIOPTICAL APPROACH

- Higher efficiency
- More compact
- Cost saving
- More complex to design and setup

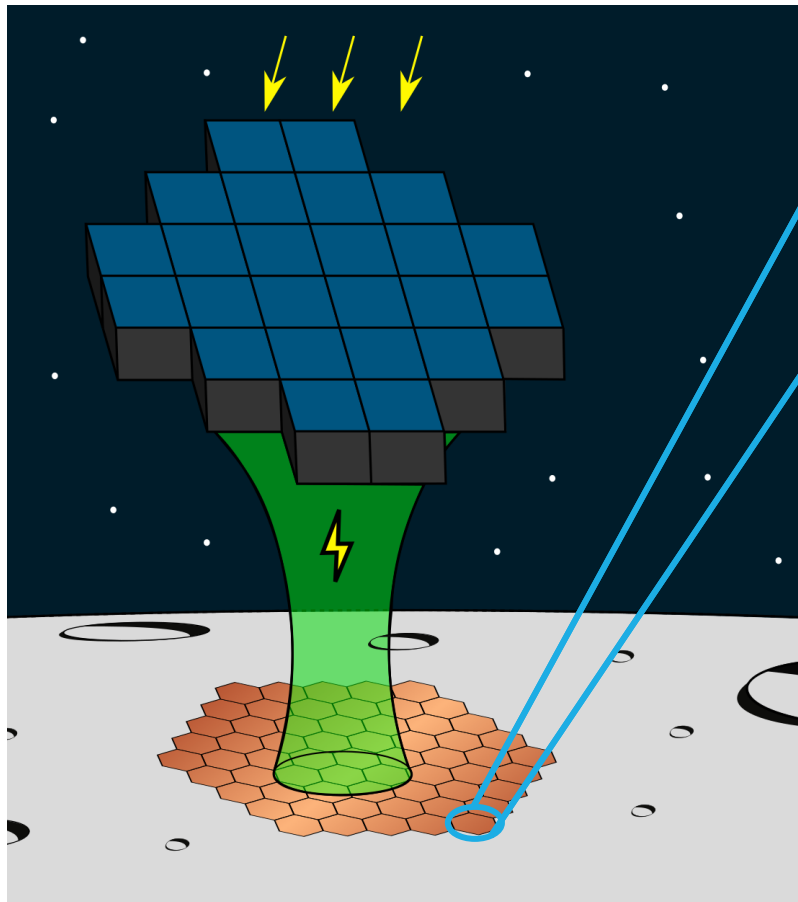


POWER BUDGET



▪ Per tile & Per orbit

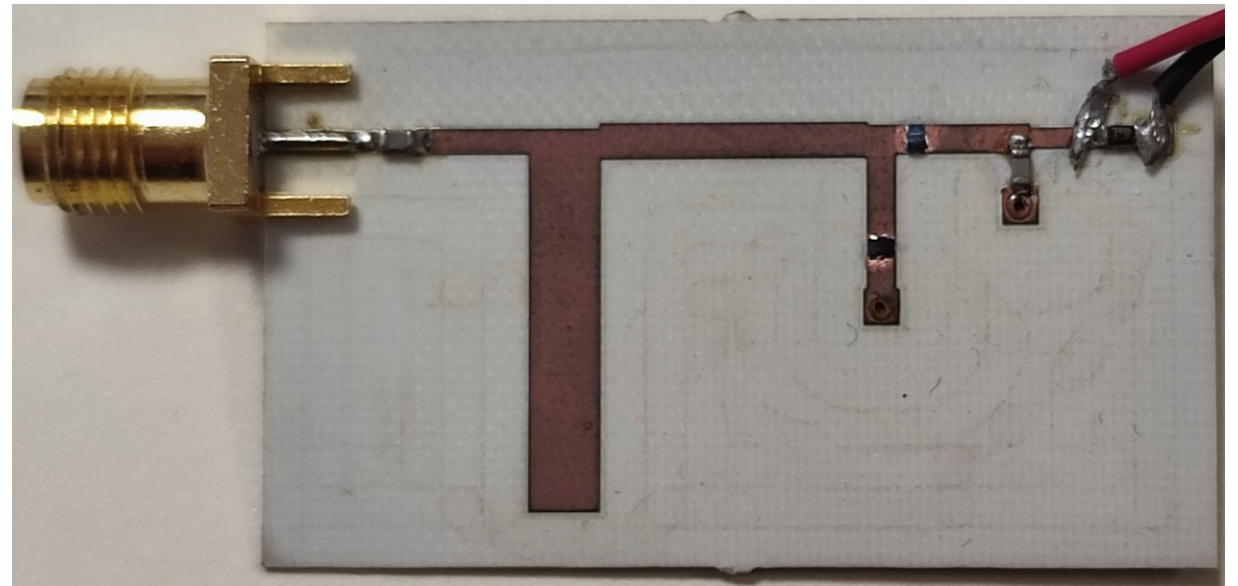
POWER RECEPTION



Antenna Array

RF-DC Converters

30 dBm of RF were converted to DC with 50% efficiency
Achieved experimentally



POWER BUDGET

$$T_{X_{duration}} = \frac{E_{available} (Wh)}{T_{X_{consumption}} (W)} = \frac{11}{215} \times 60 = 3 \text{ min}$$

	Per tile (W)	Total system (kW)
Peak Power generated	35	91.4
Beam power T_X	40	104
Beam power R_X	28	73.1

	Per tile (Wh)	Total system (kWh)
Energy stored in batteries	19	49.6
Energy available to transmit	11	28.7
Energy received on Moon	1.4	3.7

$$E_{Moon} = 2611 \times 28 \times \frac{3}{60} = 3.7 \text{ kWh}$$

SYSTEM'S EFFICIENCY

	Solar Panel	Energy storage	Transmitter	Beam	Total
η [%]	25	80	19	70	2.6

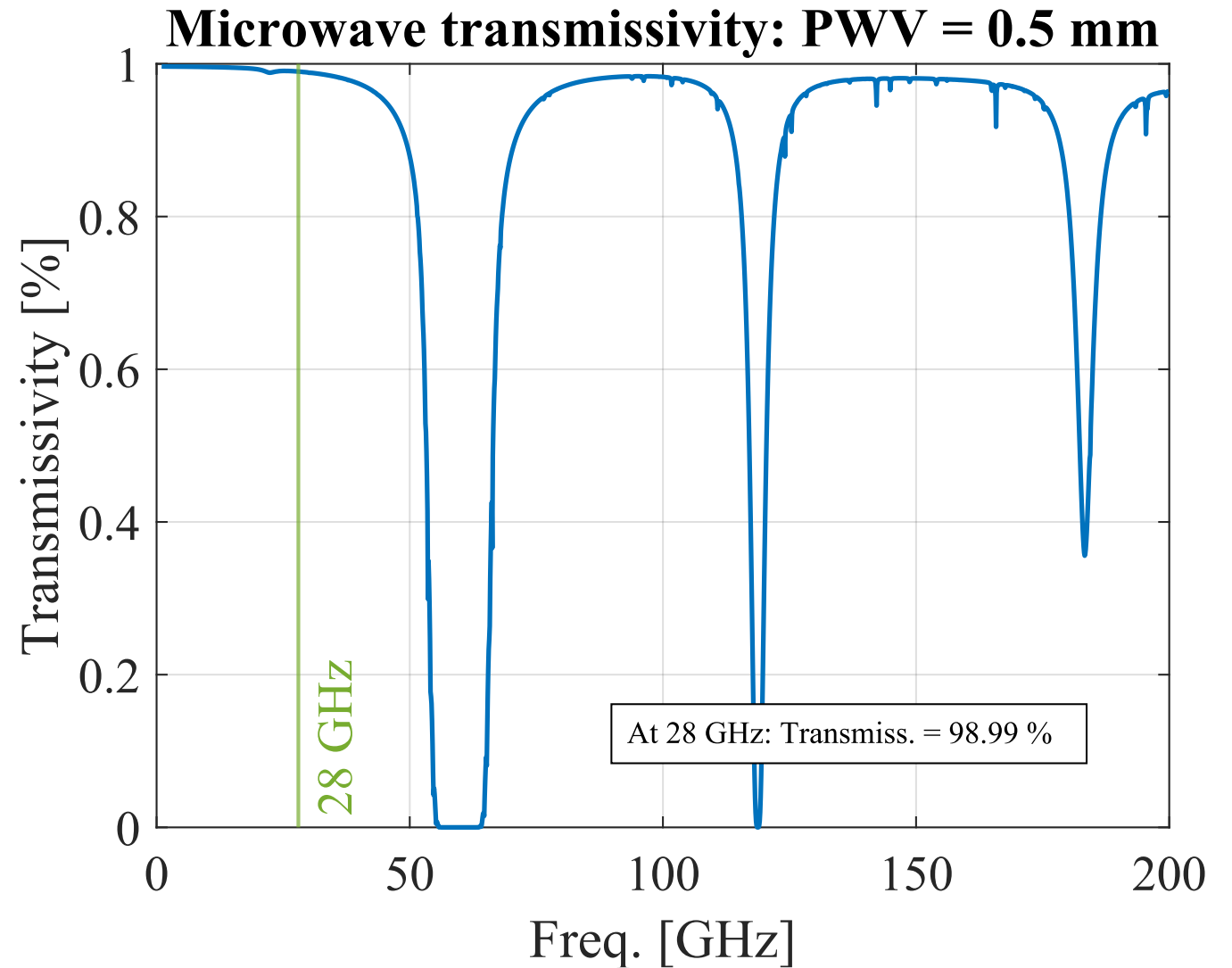
3.7 kWh each 2h!
Can be increased by adding tiles or
constellations

COMPLETE STRUCTURE

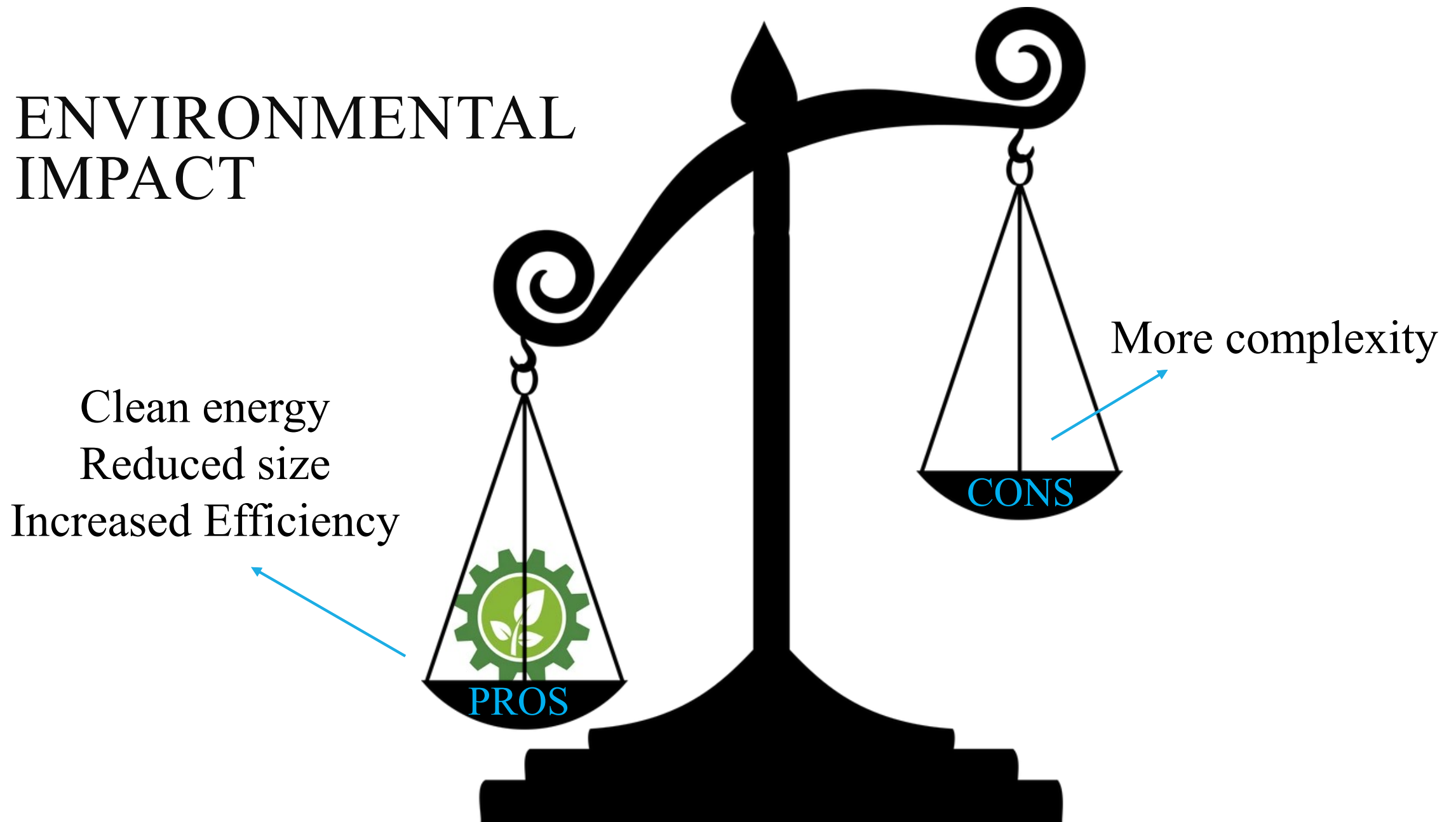
N_{tiles}	Total Area	Orbital Period	Total Efficiency	Energy Supply
2611	305 m ²	117 min	2.6 %	3.7 kWh

FLEXIBILITY

- Adequate for other missions and celestial bodies
- Including Earth's atmosphere



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

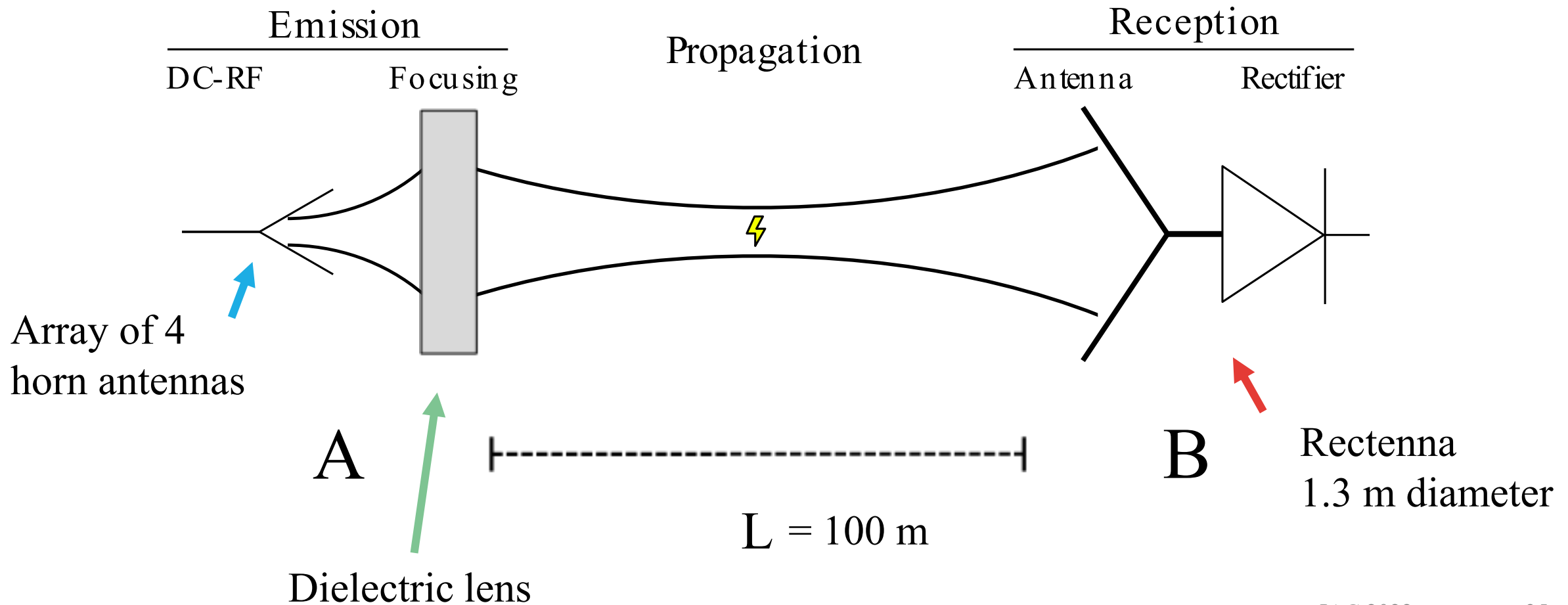


NEAR TERM DEMONSTRATOR

Proof of concept

- Demonstration of a complete system tile (28 GHz)
- 100-m wireless power transfer experiment
- Array of 4 horn antennas
- Lens with 1.3 m of diameter

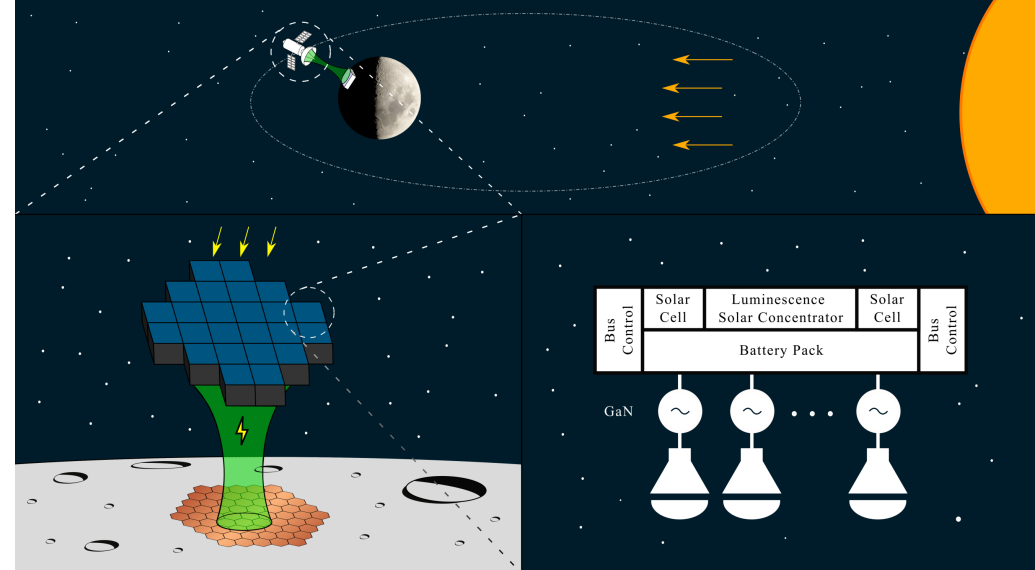
NEAR TERM DEMONSTRATOR



CONCLUSION

Proposed a novel solar power satellite system architecture

- Capable of energy storage
- Modular
- Adaptable to various scenarios (moon, asteroids, Earth, etc)
- Solar power generation + energy storage + wireless power transfer
- Green energy
- Near term demonstrators



TEAM



Matilde Monteiro



Henrique Chaves



Bruno Santos



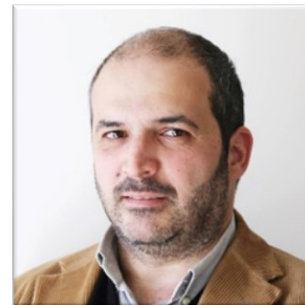
Helena Ribeiro



Ricardo A. M. Pereira

Undergraduate Students

Graduate Students



Nuno Borges Carvalho



Sandra F. H. Correia

Faculty Advisors

Q&A

Proposed a novel solar power satellite system architecture

- Capable of energy storage
- Modular
- Adaptable to various scenarios (moon, asteroids, Earth, etc)
- Solar power generation + energy storage + wireless power transfer
- Green energy
- Near term demonstrators

