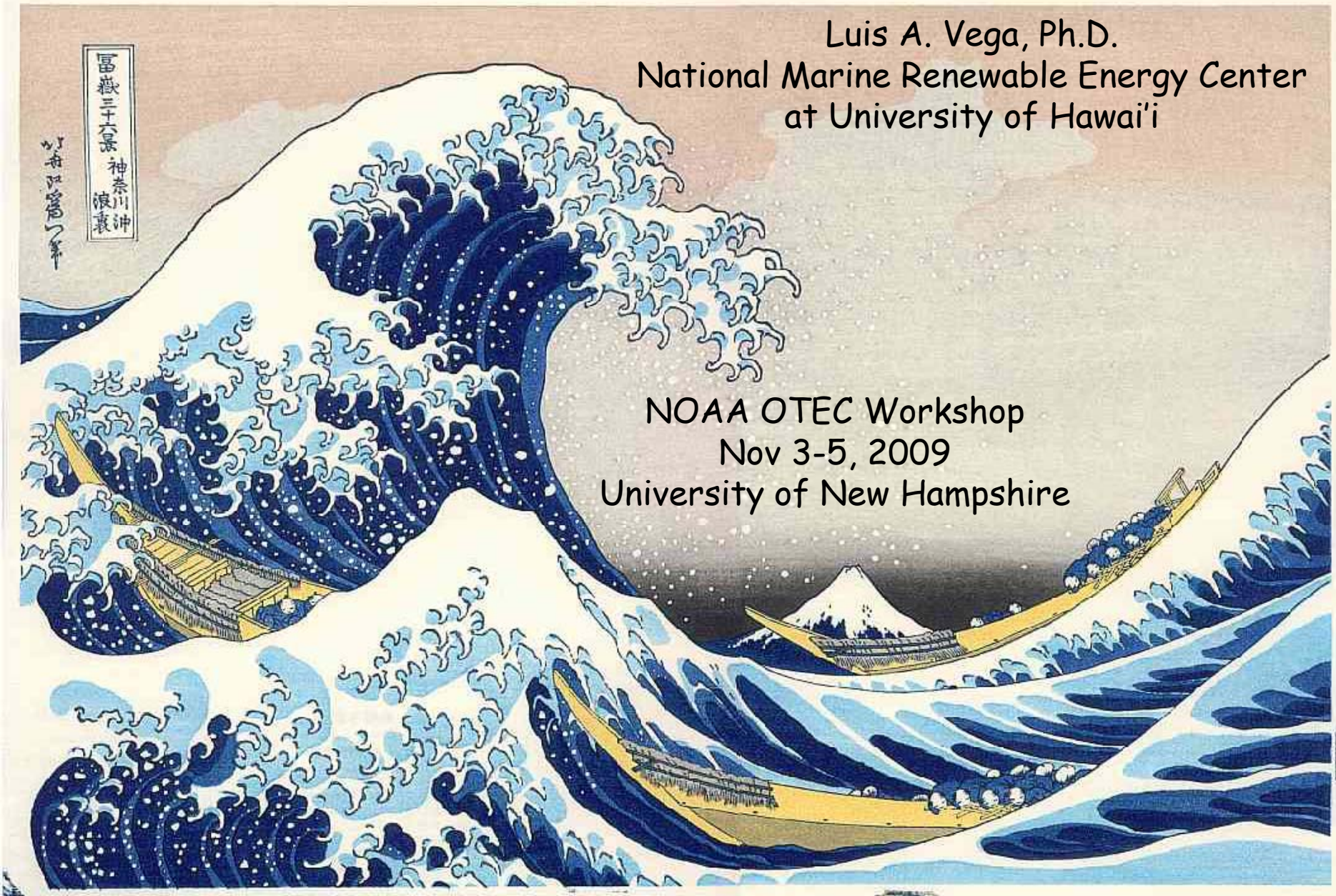


Luis A. Vega, Ph.D.
National Marine Renewable Energy Center
at University of Hawai'i

NOAA OTEC Workshop
Nov 3-5, 2009
University of New Hampshire



Workshop Objectives

- Are commercialization challenges:
 - (i) Technical,
 - (ii) Engineering,
 - (iii) Development costs?
- OTEC Development Roadmap

USA OTEC: Development Schedule

(Assumption)

USA OTEC DEVELOPMENT	← YEARS →					
	1 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to ∞
Pre-Commercial Plant (> 5 MW)		Ops				
Electricity (Desal Water) Plants in Hawaii and USA Territories: ~ 20 x 100 MW Plants	Prelim Design		Ops	Ops	→	→
NH3/H2 Plantships Supplying all States				Prelim Design		Ops →

OTEC: The Challenge

- **Major Challenge** is not technical but rather **financing of a capital intensive technology** without an operational record;
- If plant > 50 MW, cost of electricity (\$/kWh) would be **cost competitive**;
→ How do you get more than $\frac{3}{4}$ Billion Dollars for a 100 MW plant without a "track record" and without invoking national security, global warming, environmental credits, etc.?
- Without operational records from a **pre-commercial plant** (~ 5 MW) financing of commercial sized plants (> 50 MW) is **highly doubtful**;

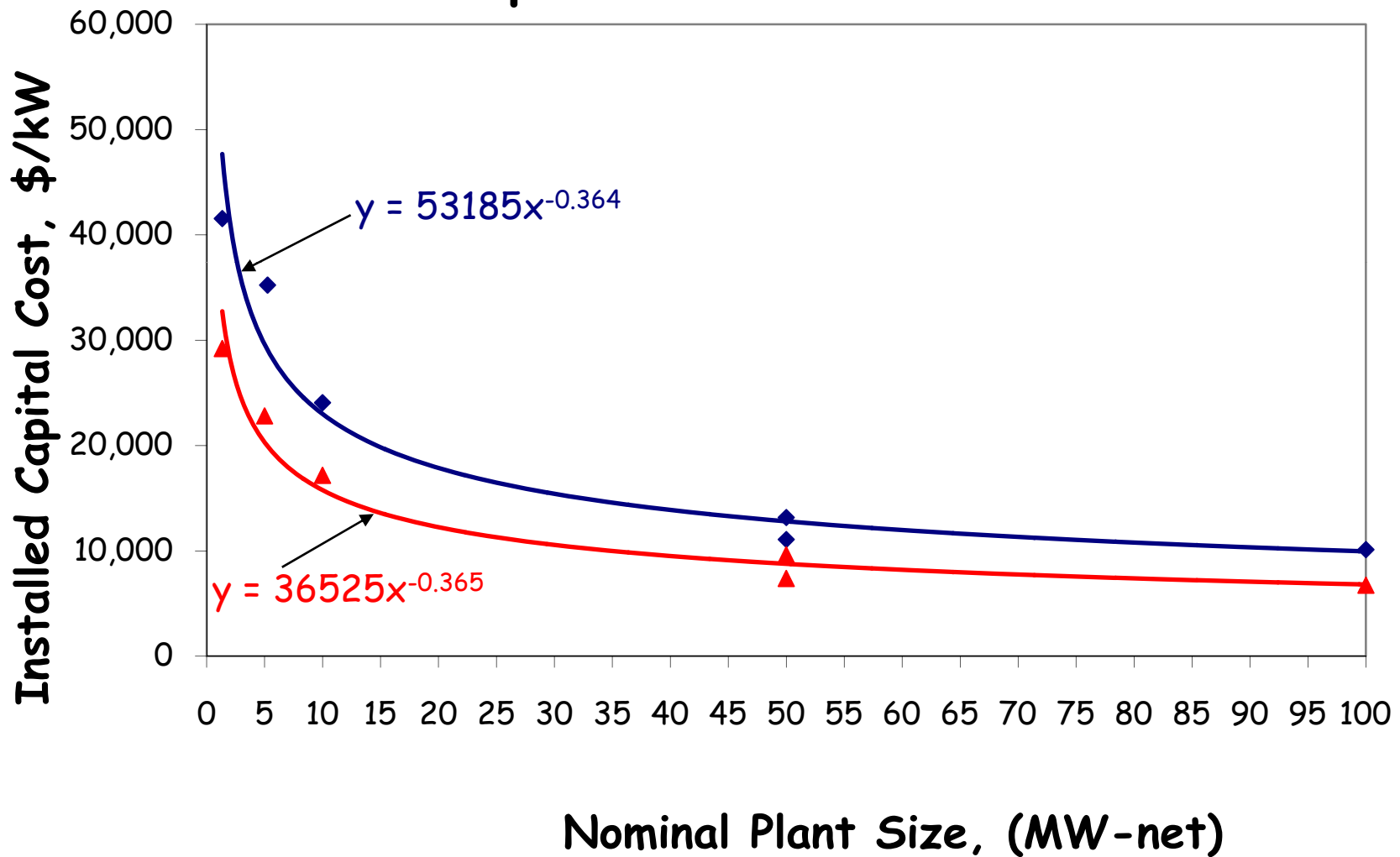
OTEC Pre-Commercial Plant

- Federal funding required for **pre-commercial plant** (~ \$120M to \$150M);
- Pre-Commercial Plant would take 5-years from the go-ahead to deliver electricity to the grid;
- Pre-Commercial Plant must operate for at least one year before finalizing engineering and environmental-impact mitigation design aspects of the commercial size plant;
- The Commercial Plant would take another 4 to 5-years to deliver electricity to the grid;

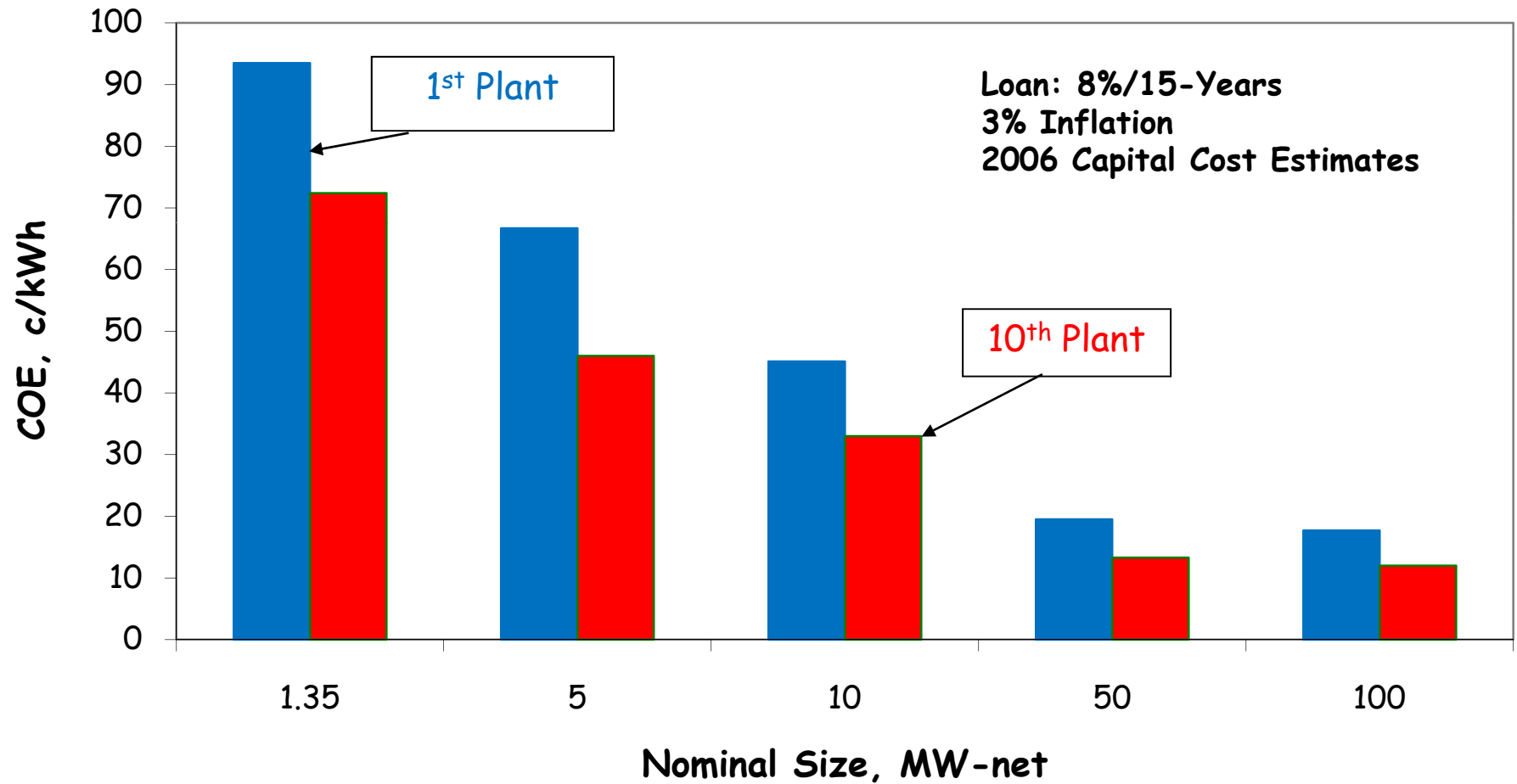
Economics Summary

Because OTEC is capital intensive
electricity cost-competitiveness if
Size > 50 MW & > 15-year Life-Cycle.

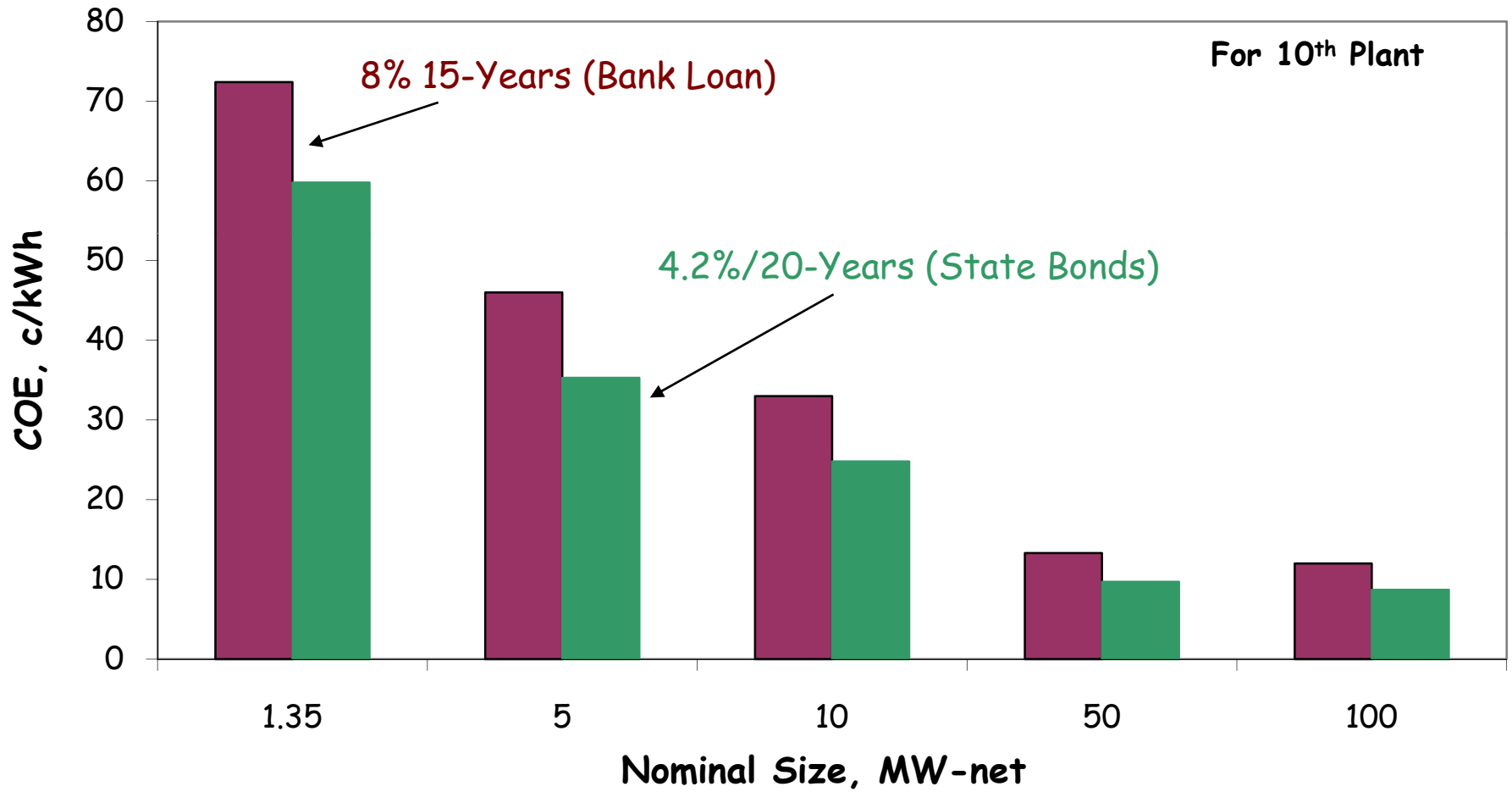
1st Plant and 10th Plant Capital Cost Estimates



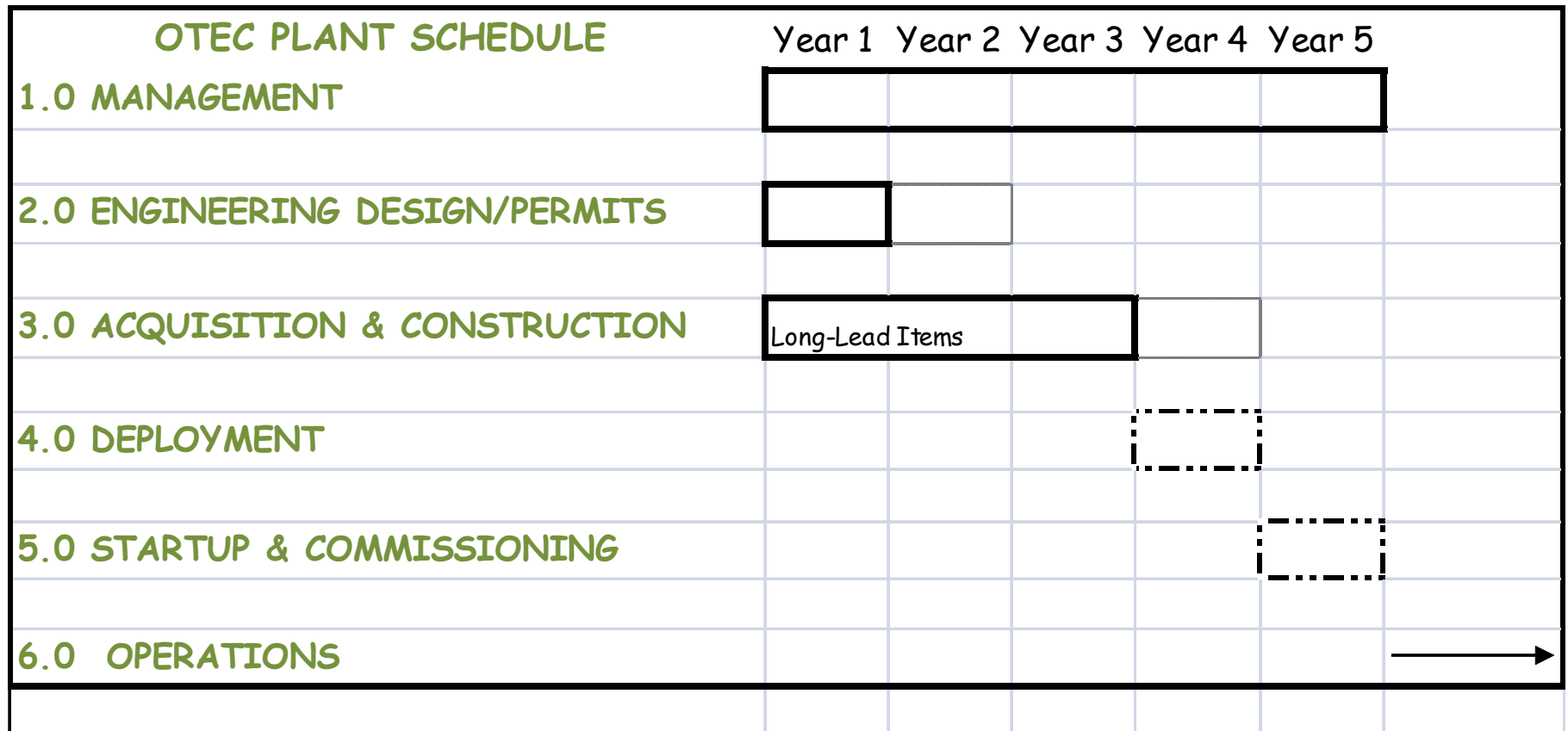
Cost of Electricity Production for 1st Plant and 10th Plant
[COE = CC + OMR&R]



OTEC Cost of Electricity Production as a Function of Loan Term



OTEC Plant Schedule



OTEC Plant Schedule

- Detailed-Engineering-Design ~ one-year; Permits ~ two-years;
- Major components are long-lead-items, requiring 12 to 24+ months for delivery, and are available from established industry;
- As much as 5-years after-receipt-of-order (ARO) is required before delivering electricity to grid.

Workshop Objectives

- Are commercialization challenges:
 - ~~(i) Technical,~~
 - ~~(ii) Engineering,~~
 - (iii) **Development costs**
- OTEC Development Roadmap (**see p. 3**)