

# Opportunities & Limits of Recycling ...and of a Circular Economy

Markus A. Reuter  
[Dr. h.c., D. Eng., Dr. habil., PhD]



# **Circular Economy**

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## **Product Centric Recycling**

Material Centric Recycling

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## **Infrastructure Criticality?**

Metal Criticality





# **Circular Economy**

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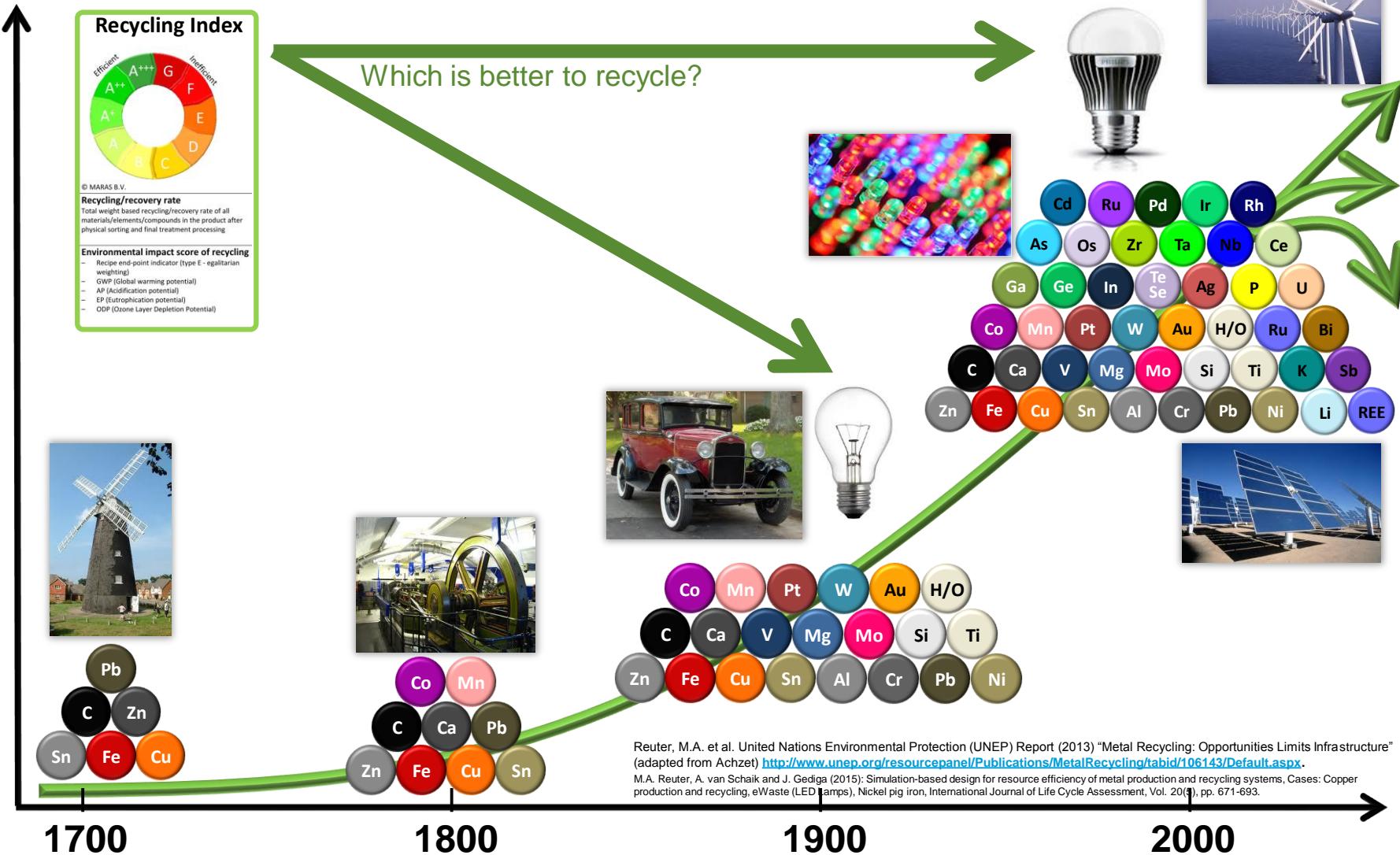
Which of these  
lamps is better for a  
circular economy?

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## **Infrastructure Criticality? Metal Criticality**

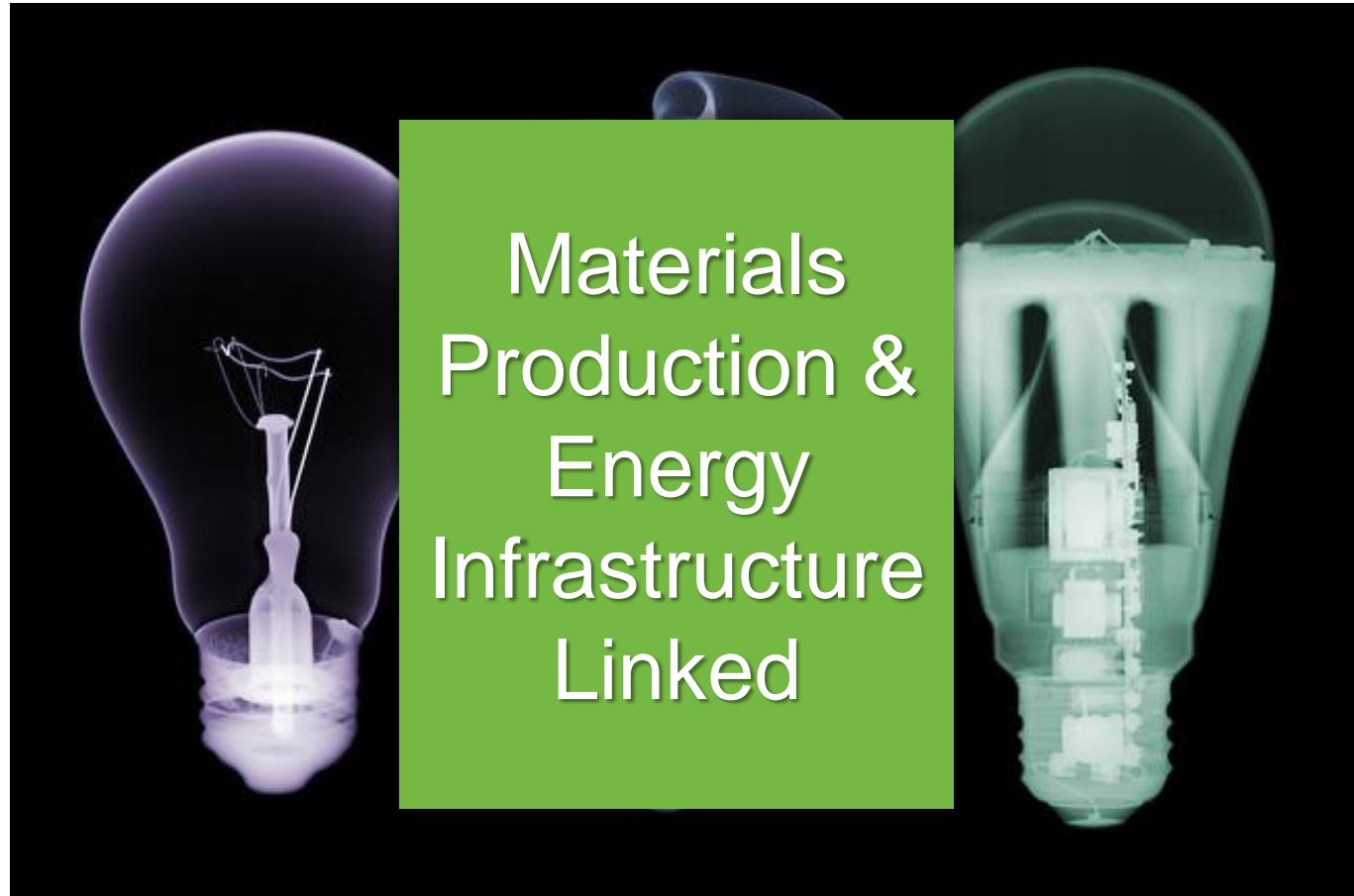
# Metals always a part of society, but complexity?

Metal/Element Use Intensity in Products



# Circular Economy: Simplicity *vis-à-vis* Complexity

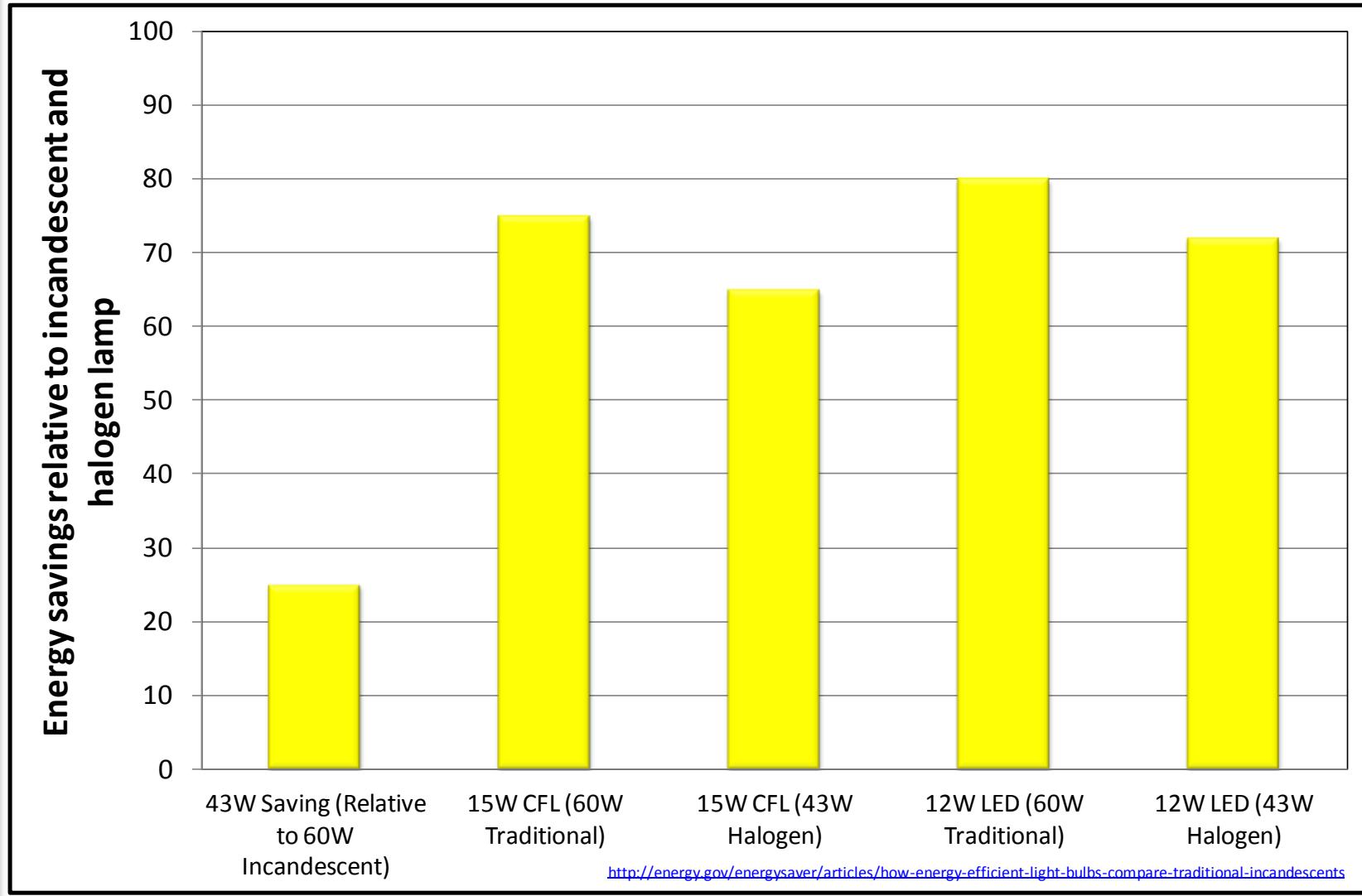
Ag
Al
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
As <sub>(O)</sub> <sub>3</sub>
Au
Ba
Bi
Ca(O)
Cu
Cu <sub>2</sub> O
Dy(Oxide)
Fe
FeOx
Mg
MgO
Mn
MnO
Na
Ni
Pb
Pd
Sb <sub>(O)</sub> <sub>3</sub>
Si
SiO <sub>2</sub>
Sn
Sr(O <sub>2</sub> )
Ti
TiO <sub>2</sub>
W
WO <sub>3</sub>
Y <sub>(O)</sub> <sub>3</sub>
Zn
Zr/ZrO <sub>2</sub>



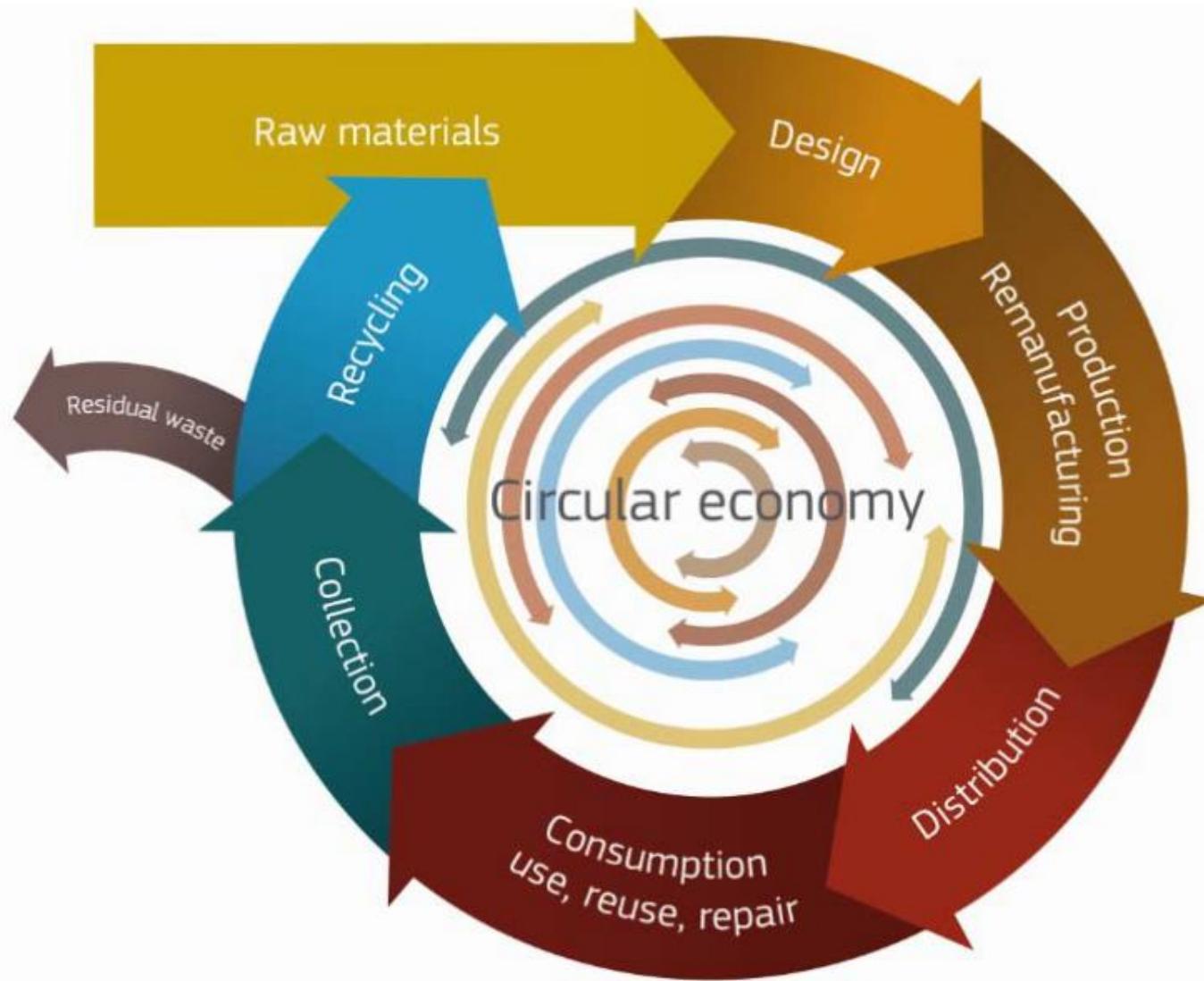
# Circular Economy: Simplicity vis-à-vis Complexity

From base metals: Optimal link between energy infrastructure and metals

Ag
Al
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
As <sub>(O3</sub> )
Au
Ba
Bi
Ca(O)
Cu
Cu <sub>2</sub> O
Dy(Oxide)
Fe
FeOx
Mg
MgO
Mn
MnO
Na
Ni
Pb
Pd
Sb <sub>(O3)</sub>
Si
SiO <sub>2</sub>
Sn
Sr(O <sub>2</sub> )
Ti
TiO <sub>2</sub>
W
WO <sub>3</sub>
Y <sub>(O3)</sub>
Zn
Zr/ZrO <sub>2</sub>



# Circular Economy: Product Centric Recycling



# We have choices...



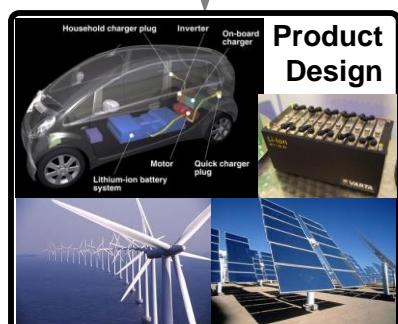
# The Circle and Stochasim of Life



# Metallurgy Block: Internet of Things (IoT)

## GEOLOGICAL MINE

Geological Minerals



Stocks & Losses

Functional Metal & Material Combinations

## URBAN MINE

Designer "Minerals" and Functional Materials

Market & Stocks



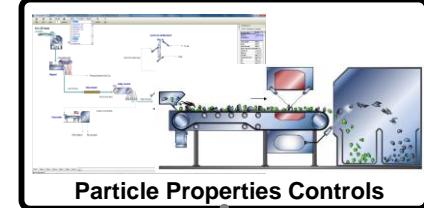
Product Complexity

Collection, Dismantling, Shredding



Unaccounted Losses & Theft

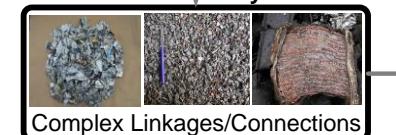
Physical Separation



Particle Properties Controls

Losses

Multi-material Recyclate Grades



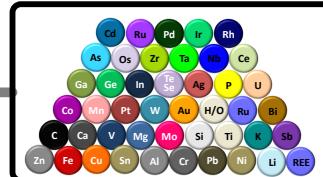
Complex Linkages/Connections

Losses & Stocks

## Metals & their Minor Elements Enablers of a Circular Economy

## Internet-of-Things

Metal & Energy Recovery (Pyro- & hydrometallurgy, Refining)



Thermodynamics Controls

Losses

# Metallurgy Block: Internet of Things (IoT)

## GEOLOGICAL MINE

Geological Minerals



## URBAN MINE

Designer "Minerals" and Functional Materials

Market & Stocks



Collection, Dismantling, Shredding



Unaccounted  
Losses & Theft

Web of Metals  
Connected technologies  
key to a Circular Economy

Stocks &

Losses

Stocks

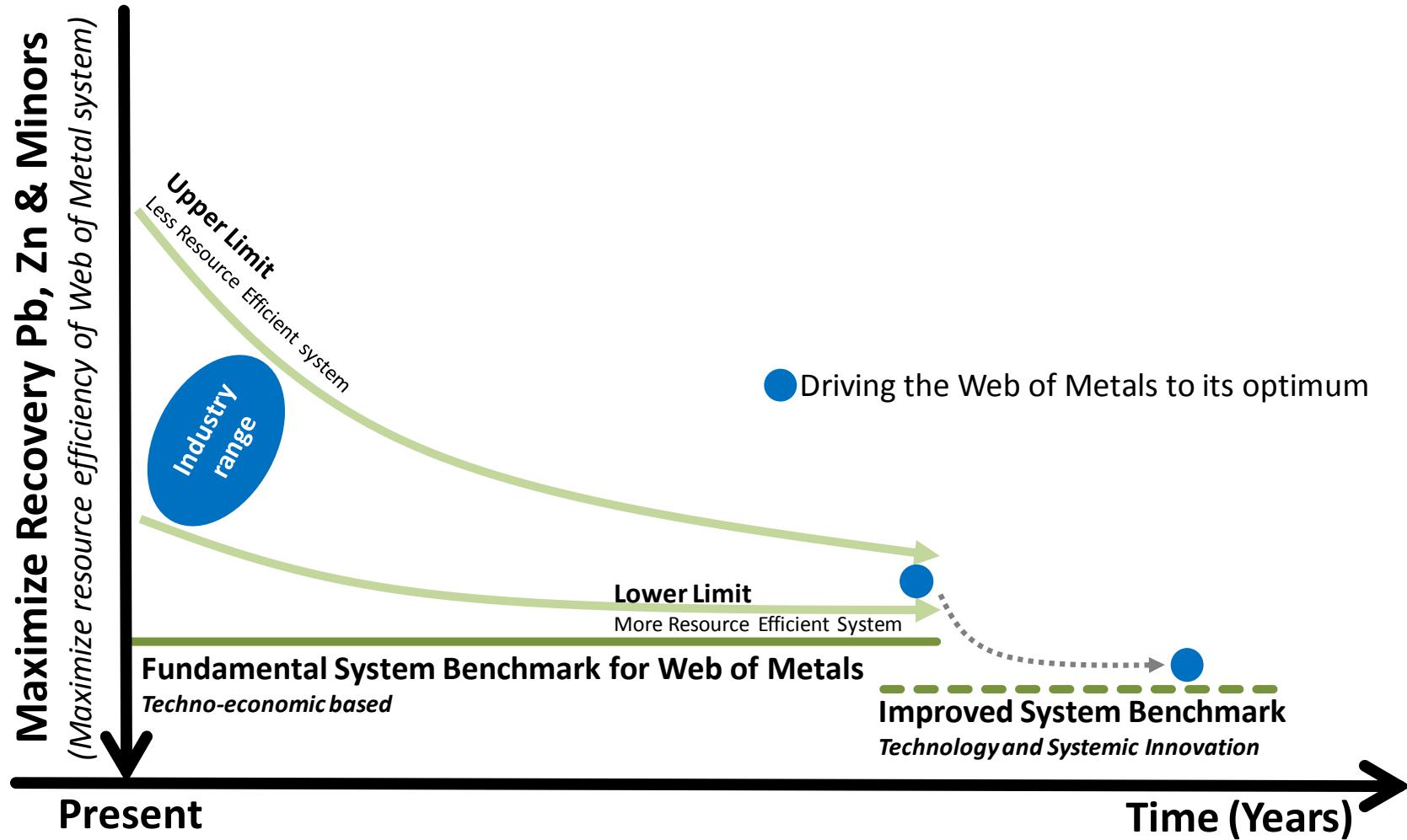
Metallurgical Infrastructure  
Mineral & Product centric thinking



Losses

# System Integrated Metal Production (SIMP)

## Innovative Digitalization of the Internet of Things (IoT)

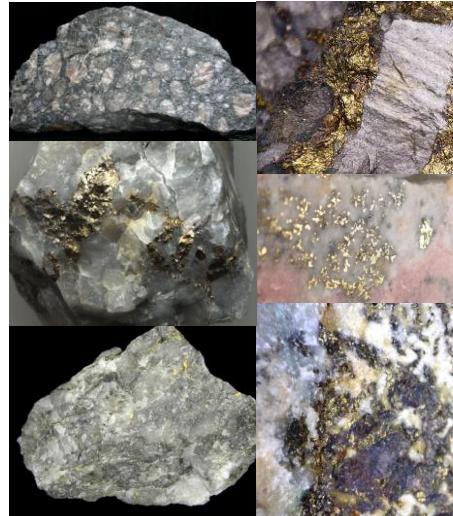


# Digitalizing & optimizing metallurgical systems

## Mineral/Product centric understanding

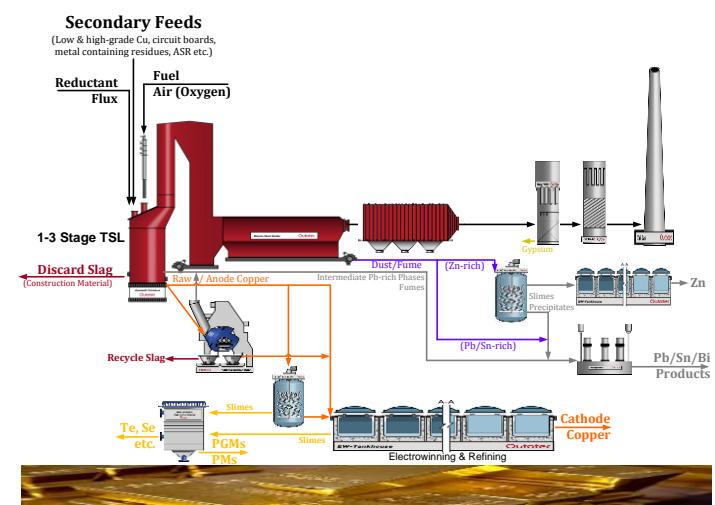
### Geological Minerals

>15 Elements in gold minerals



### Designer-Minerals

>40 Elements



### Geological Linkages

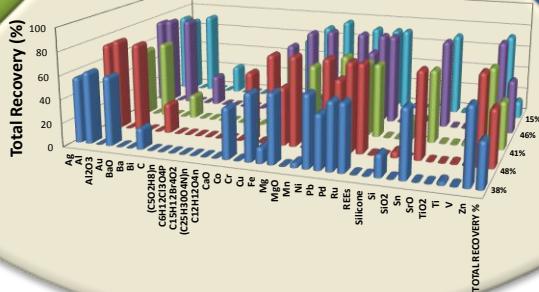
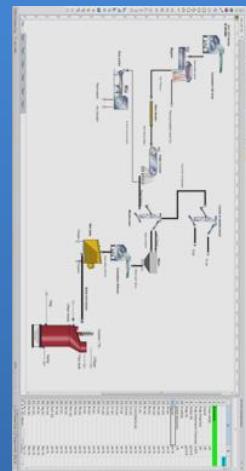
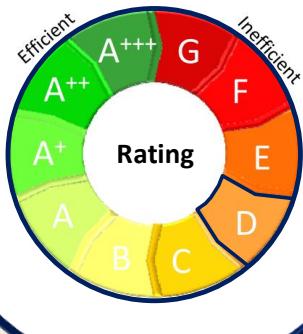
### Designer-Linkages Functional Materials

### Complex Recyclates

### Metallurgical refining infrastructure

# Product Design

Greenprint



Recycling Rates

Simulation

# Recyclability Index → Enabling resource efficiency

Inform consumer in a simple manner of our industry to show its importance

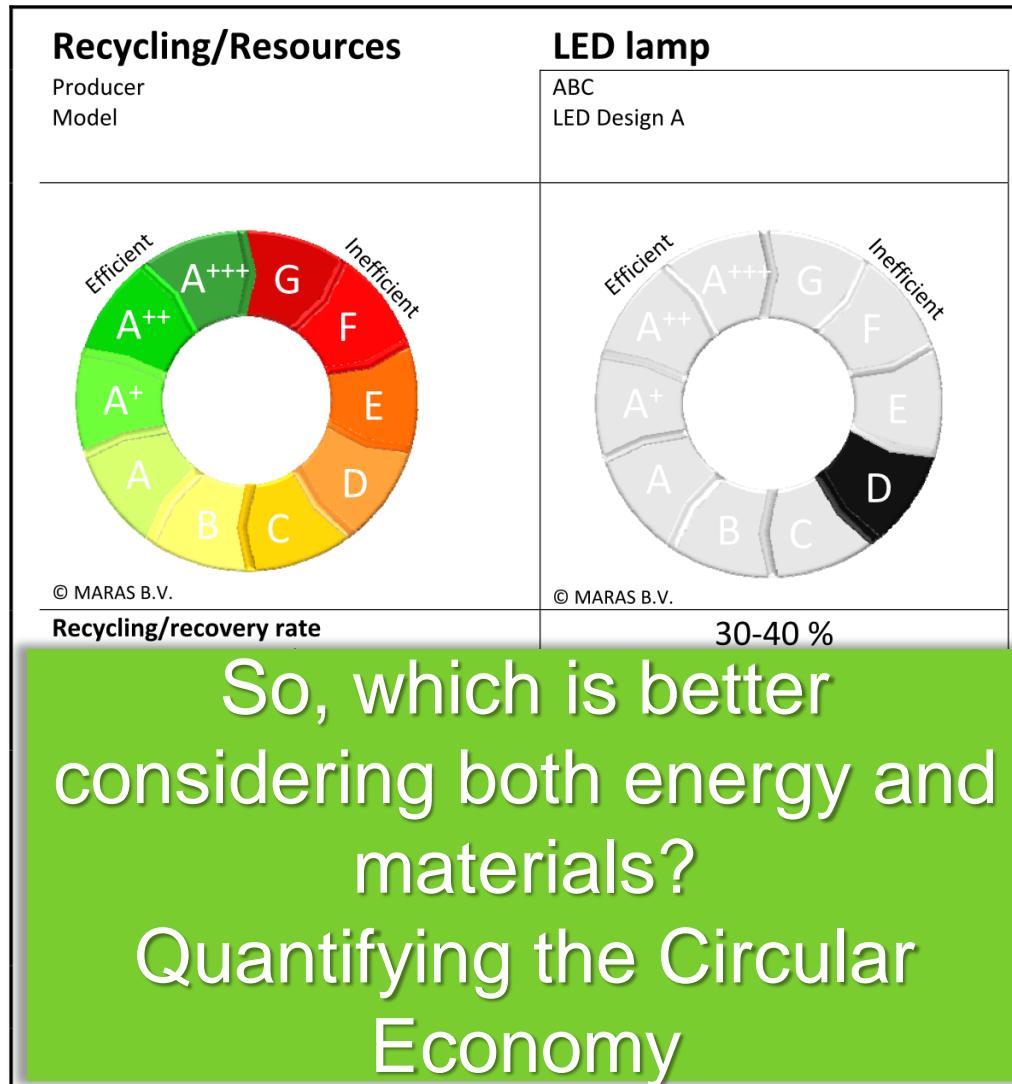
Recycling/Resources Producer Model	LED lamp ABC LED Design A
<p>© MARAS B.V.</p>	<p>© MARAS B.V.</p>
<b>Recycling/recovery rate</b> Total weight based recycling/recovery rate of all materials/elements/compounds in the product after physical sorting and final treatment processing	30-40 %
<b>Environmental impact score of recycling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recipe end-point indicator (type E - egalitarian weighting)</li> <li>- GWP (Global warming potential)</li> <li>- AP (Acidification potential)</li> <li>- EP (Eutrophication potential)</li> <li>- ODP (Ozone Layer Depletion Potential)</li> </ul>	0.082 0.66 3.13 e-3 1.76 e-4 4.55 e-10

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[Source: M.A. Reuter, A. van Schaik and J. Gediga (2015): Simulation-based design for resource efficiency of metal production and recycling systems, Cases: Copper production and recycling, eWaste (LED Lamps), Nickel pig iron, International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment, Vol. 20(5), pp. 671-693.]

# Recyclability Index → Enabling resource efficiency

Inform consumer in a simple manner of our industry to show its importance



[Source: M.A. Reuter, A. van Schaik and J. Gediga (2015): Simulation-based design for resource efficiency of metal production and recycling systems, Cases: Copper production and recycling, eWaste (LED Lamps), Nickel pig iron, International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment, Vol. 20(5), pp. 671-693.]



# **Digitalizing**

Linking web of  
Energy & Materials

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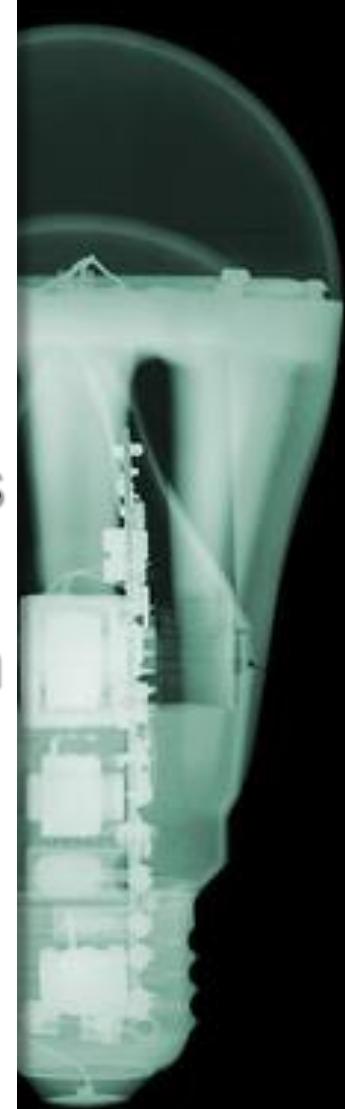
## **Internet of Things**

Process metallurgical systems  
key to circular economy  
De-silo thinking and education

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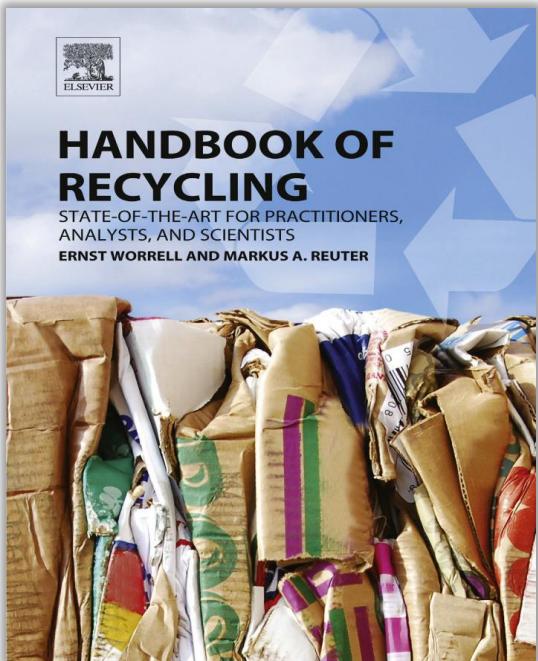
## **System Innovation**

Simulation & Optimization  
(linked to big data analysis)  
Inform Policy & Consumer



# Additional background sheets

# Digitalization for Sustainability [2013-2015]



*Product-Centric Simulation-Based Design for Recycling: Case of LED Lamp Recycling*

M. A. Reuter & A. van Schaik

Journal of Sustainable Metallurgy  
ISSN 2199-3823  
Volume 1  
Number 1  
J. Sustain. Metall. (2015) 1:4–28  
DOI 10.1007/s40831-014-0006-0

Journal of Sustainable Metallurgy

Springer

*Simulation-based design for resource efficiency of metal production and recycling systems: Cases - copper production and recycling, e-waste (LED lamps) and nickel pig iron*

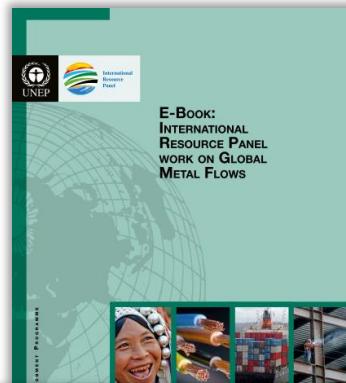
Markus A. Reuter, Antoinette van Schaik & Johannes Gediga

The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment  
ISSN 0948-3349  
Int J Life Cycle Assess  
DOI 10.1007/s11367-015-0860-4

The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment

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Springer



United Nations Environmental Programme - M.A. Reuter: Lead Author  
[http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/Portals/50244/publications/Metal\\_Recycling-Full\\_Report\\_150dpi\\_130919.pdf](http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/Portals/50244/publications/Metal_Recycling-Full_Report_150dpi_130919.pdf)

# System Integrated Metal Production: Innovative Digitalization



# Markus Reuter

[Dr. h.c., D.Eng., Dr. habil., PhD]

Background: <http://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=5cLC8VEAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

<http://fi.linkedin.com/pub/markus-reuter/11/195/90>

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Markus\\_Reuter3?ev=prf\\_highl](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Markus_Reuter3?ev=prf_highl)

<http://www.researcherid.com/rid/D-2839-2015>



## • Industry

- *Director Technology Management:* Technology Management, Outotec, Finland (2010→)
- *Chief Executive Technologist:* Ausmelt-Outotec, Australia (2006-2010 - taken over by Outotec 2010)
- *Leader furnace control group:* Mintek, South Africa (1994-1996)
- *Process Metallurgist:* Anglo American Corporation, South Africa (1984-1985)

## • Academic

- *Dr. h.c.:* Honorary Doctorate University of Liège (2015: Belgium)
- *D. Eng. & PhD:* University of Stellenbosch (1991 & 2006: South Africa)
- *Dr. habil.:* RWTH Aachen (1995: Germany)
- *Adjunct Professor:* Aalto University Helsinki (2012→)
- *Guest Professor:* Central South University Changsha, PR China (2012→)
- *Professor and Professorial Fellow:* University Melbourne, Australia (2005→)
- *Professor & emeritus:* TU Delft, Netherlands (1996-2012)
- *Adjunct Professor:* Stellenbosch, South Africa (1999-2007)

## • Publications, Interests etc.

- *Lead author:* UNEP report Metal Recycling: Opportunities, Limits, Infrastructure (2013)
  - [http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/Portals/50244/publications/Metal\\_Recycling-Full\\_Report\\_150dpi\\_130919.pdf](http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/Portals/50244/publications/Metal_Recycling-Full_Report_150dpi_130919.pdf)
  - <http://www.ubraintv.com/watch.php?id=842>
- *Co-Editor and contributor:* Handbook of Recycling (Elsevier 2014) (International Solid Waste Association 1<sup>st</sup> Prize-2014)
- 2016 EPD Distinguished Lecture Award, TMS
- *Main author:* The Metrics of Material and Metal Ecology (Elsevier 2005)
- >400 Publications: Book / Chapters in Encyclopedias / Journal / Conference / Patents
- *Expertise:* Process metallurgy & Minerals Processing / Recycling / Design for Recycling & Sustainability, Process control / Simulation