



# **Digitalization in the energy world: the role of big data/ AI, Blockchain and cyber security**

Christoph Burger and Jens Weinmann, ESMT Berlin  
Ljubljana, August 27, 2019

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- Founded by 25 leading global companies and institutions
- Based in the heart of Europe in Berlin, with a branch office in Shanghai, China
- Offers a full-time MBA, an executive MBA, a master's in management as well as open enrollment and customized executive education programs

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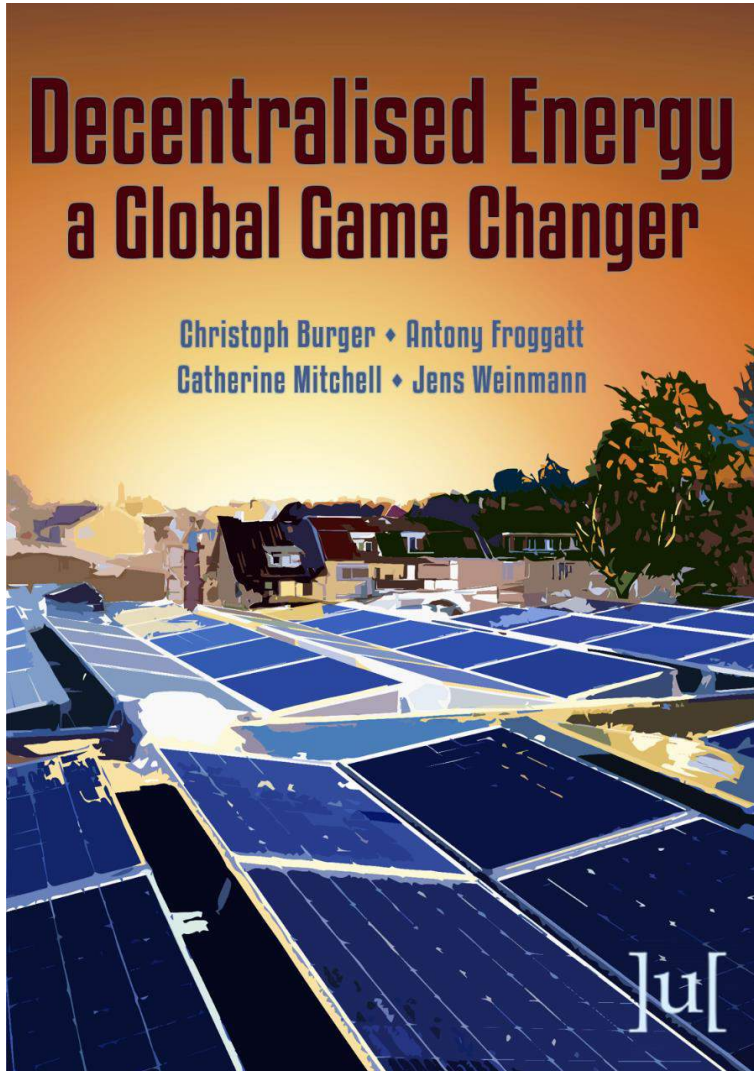
Carsten  
Spohr



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Board and CEO

# Energy activities focusing on downstream innovation

## Upcoming book to analyze governance and business model innovation on a global scale



### Contents

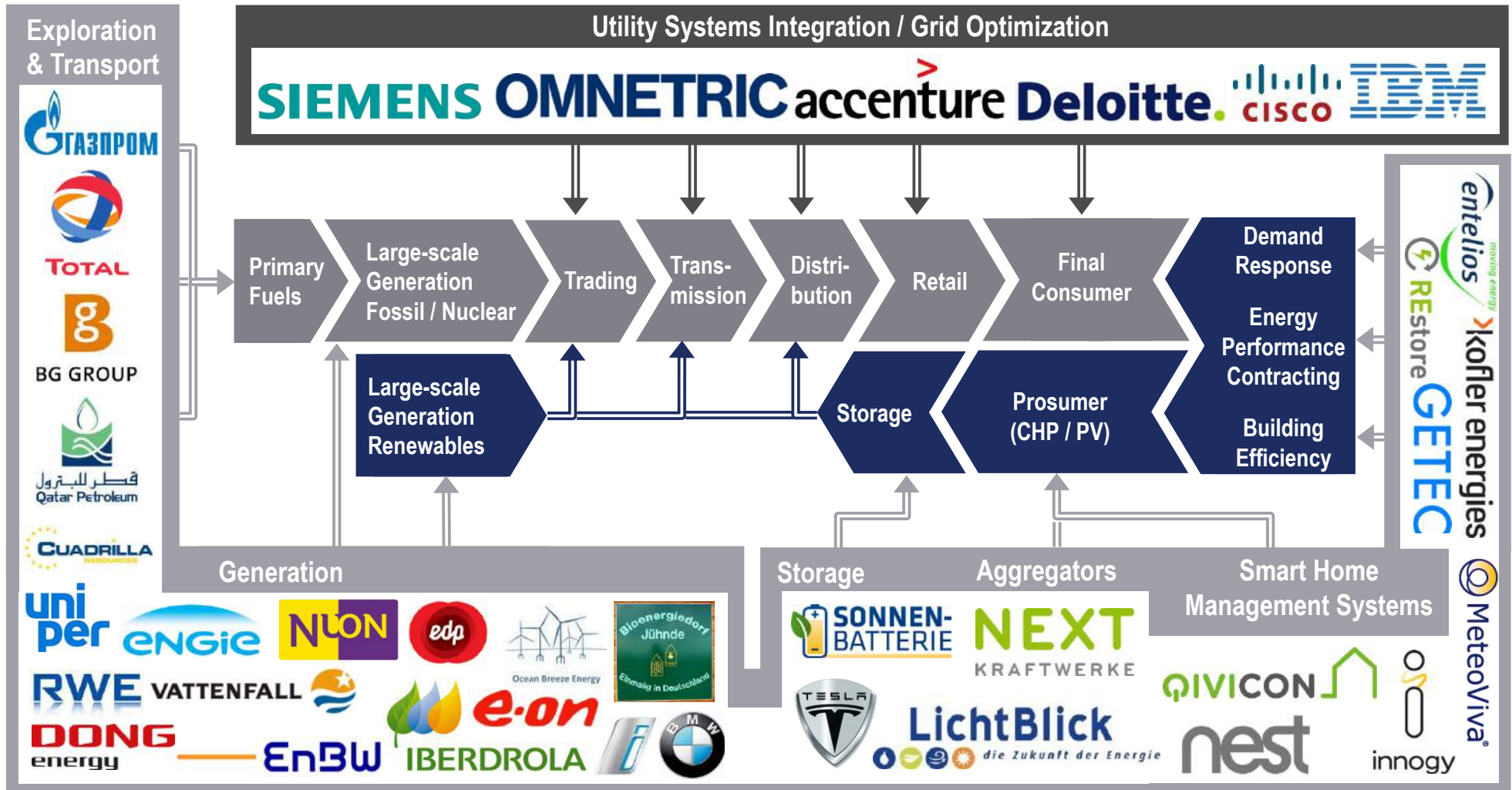
1. Introduction: The rise of decentralized renewable energy generation
2. Regulatory and policy incentives – establishing governance of decentralized energy systems  
Country analysis: Australia, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Italy, California and New York
3. Business models beyond subsidies – which core competencies are needed?  
Case analysis: Envio Systems, Timo Leukefeld, Entelios, SOLshare, Mobisol, Solarkiosk, Power Ledger
4. The three phases of the energy transformation – top-down and bottom-up
5. Global game changer – leading the future

# Agenda

Chapter 1 What drives digitalization in the energy world? – a short teaser

Chapter 2 What is the role of big data/ AI, Blockchain and cyber security? – potential and challenges

# The value chain of the energy business is turned upside down: the case of Germany

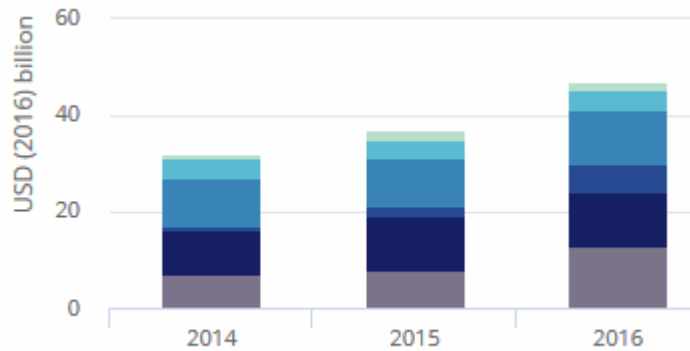


Source: Burger/Weinmann (2014/17)

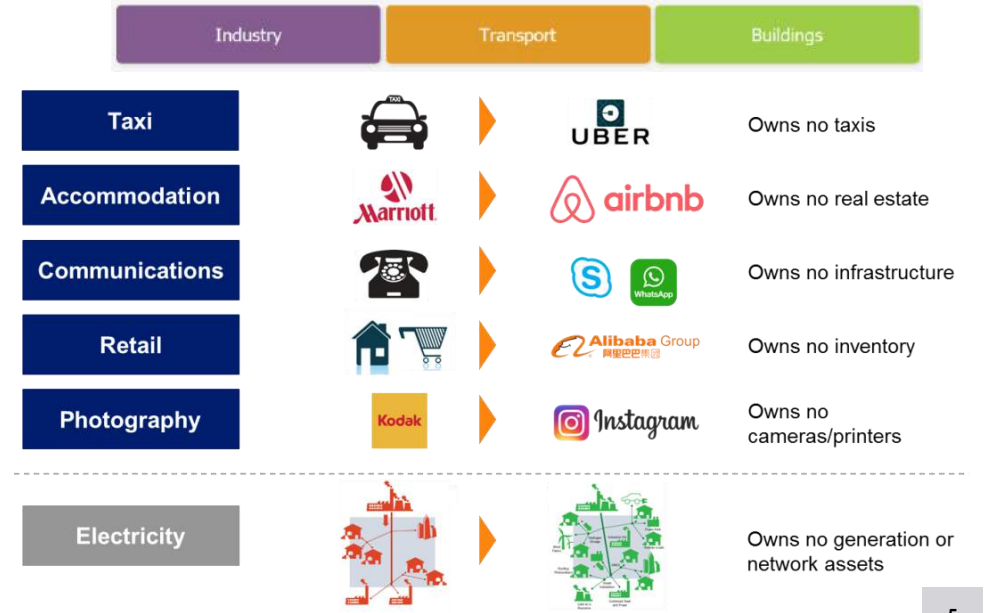
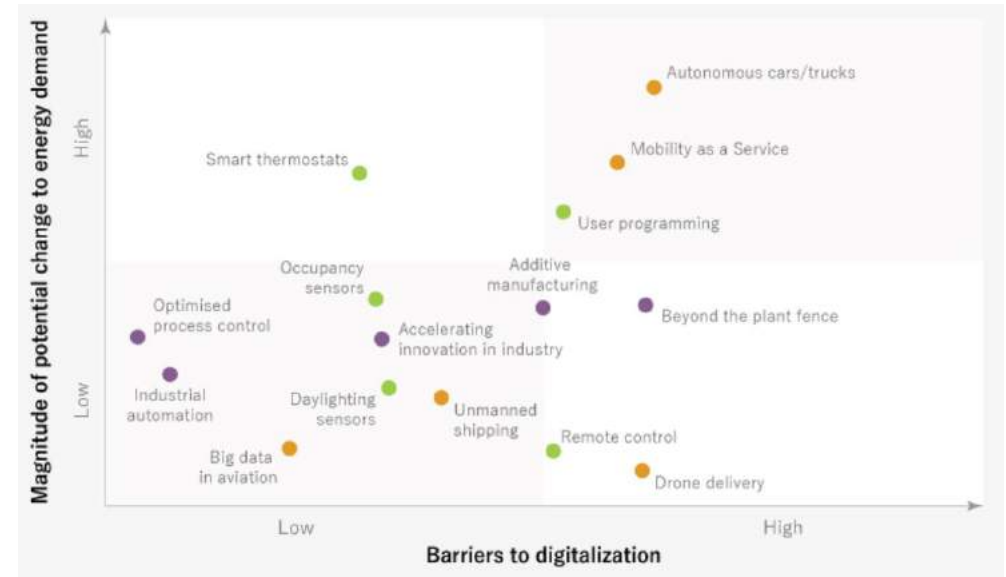
*The revolution is not renewables but the opportunity to produce own energy with increasing complexity for the system and market*

# Digitalization investments aim to enable better performance, new networks and services in the light of a new energy world

Investments in digital electricity infrastructure and software



- Electricity systems software
- Industrial energy management software
- Building energy controls
- EV Chargers
- Smart grid infrastructure
- Smart meters



Source: <https://www.iea.org/digital/>, retrieved on 06.08.2019; Digitalisation in the Energy Sector | Pöyry global

# Agenda

## Chapter 1

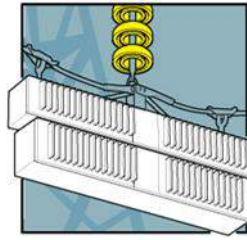
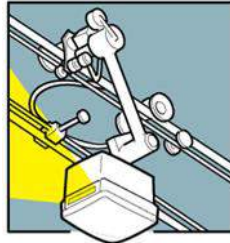
What drives digitalization in the energy world? – a short teaser

## Chapter 2

What is the role of big data/ AI, Blockchain and cyber security? – potential and challenges

# AI is creating opportunities for new service models

Drones and insect-size robots identify defects, predict failures, and inspect assets without interrupting production



Smart wires combine with machine learning to enable real-time power dispatching, and optimize it to current grid load



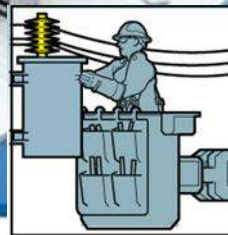
Machine learning-enabled forecasting anticipates supply and demand peaks



Virtual agents automate call centers, and automatically segment consumers based on service history; machine learning offers early warning of bad debts



Smart-meter data and machine learning enable utilities to offer services based on usage, weather and other factors



Field workforce receives real-time updates to decrease response times and reduce the impact of outages



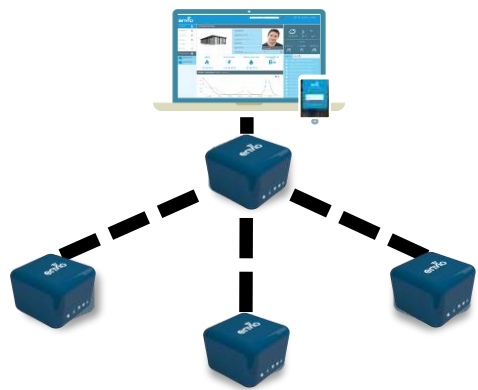
Sensors and machine learning allow for by-the-minute adjustments to maximize generation efficiency



Few technicians remain, but they spend more time on problem solving; in place of logging inspection status by hand



# Envio Systems is leveraging the Internet of Things for a low-cost alternative for building efficiency ...



Johnson  
Controls

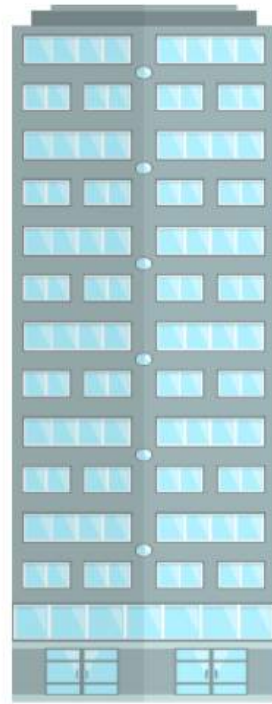
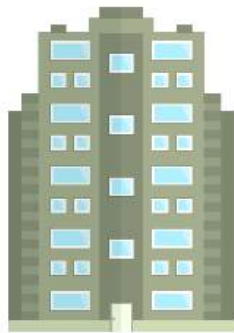
SIEMENS

Schneider  
Electric

Honeywell

envio

GRIDPOINT



**MARKET SIZE**  
(Buildings Europe & North America)

**10.600.000**      **600.000**

Hardware: 500 EUR

Smart Climate Controls

Smart Lighting Control

Demand Response

Occupancy Controls

Failure Detection

Weather Predictor

Hosting: 5 EUR per controller per month

Reporting System

LEED and BOMA Best Tracking

Real-time Energy Tracking

Mobile and Email Alerts

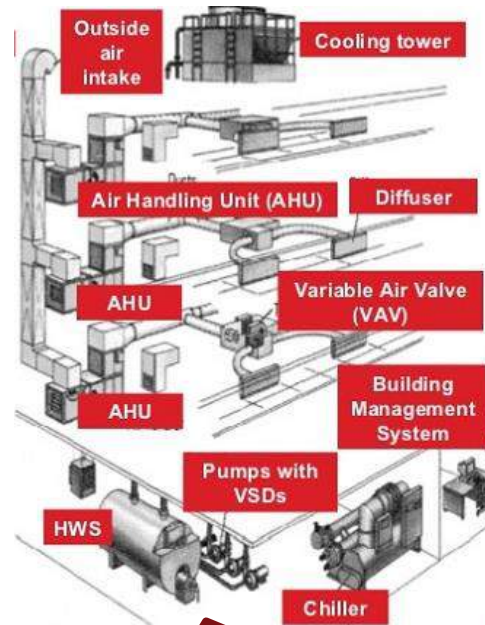
Security System

Criteria	envio	Honeywell, etc.
Payback period	1-2 Years \$0.60-\$0.80 Per Sq./Ft.	6-8 Years \$3-\$4 Per Sq./Ft.
Installation	60 KEUR	240 KEUR

... while still keeping human control on it



Reza Alaghehband,  
CEO



### 1) Device recognition

- Naming conventions of HVAC devices often unclear
- Understand common serial numbers and match them with the category of the device and manufacturer
- Recognize device according to consumption patterns by learning from all the buildings that are part of the Envio database

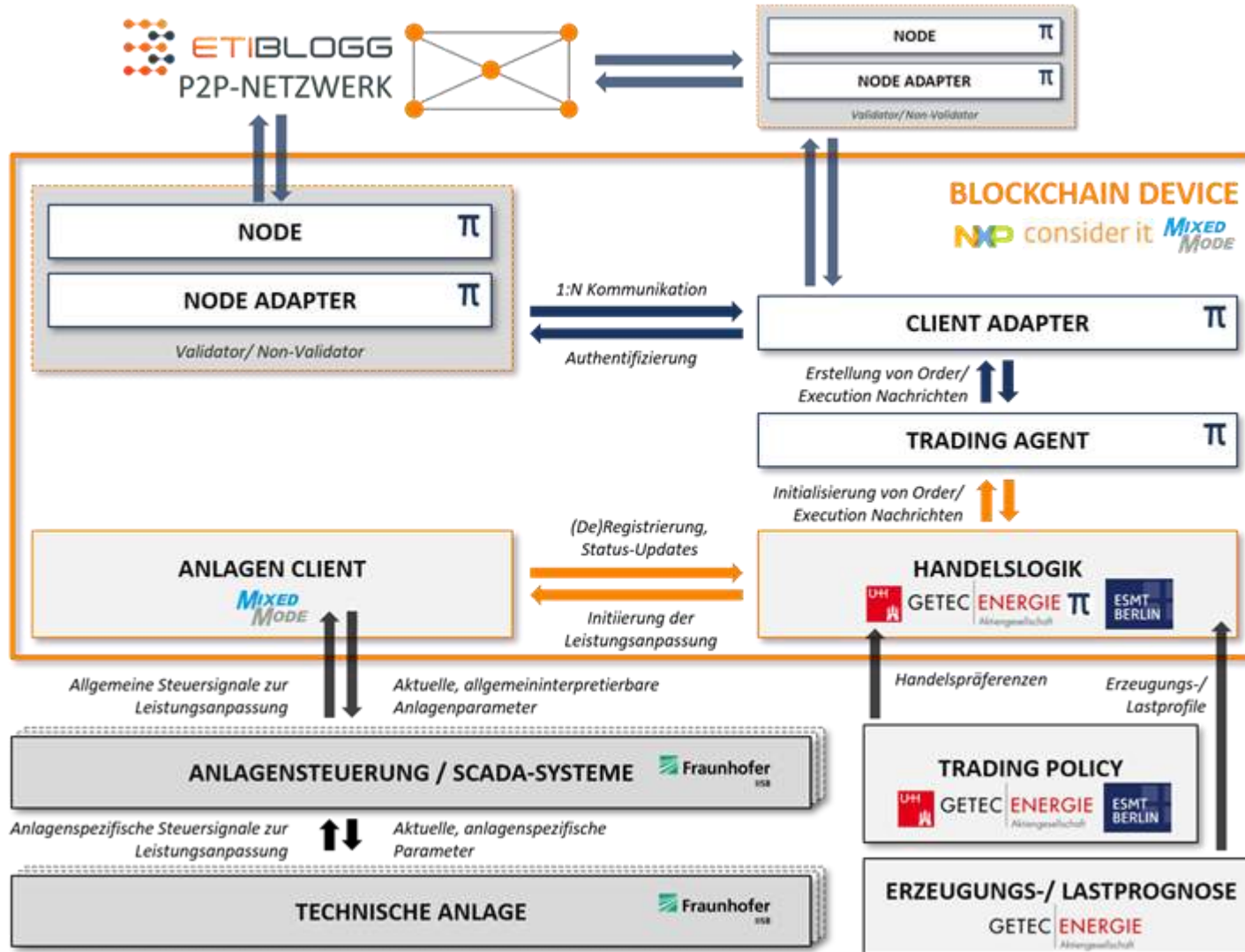
### 2) Predictive maintenance

- Train the system to identify potential breakdowns
- Analyze data to recognize patterns (e.g. burst pipe) to trigger preventive actions

**“We don’t trust it!**

**We don’t put the machine in critical aspects applications  
If uncontrolled, it may heat up to 90°F (32°C)!”**

# Blockchain: within the ETIBLOGG (Energy Trading via Blockchain-Technology in the Local Green Grid) project, ESMT is analyzing business models, potential and hurdles



## ESMT research questions

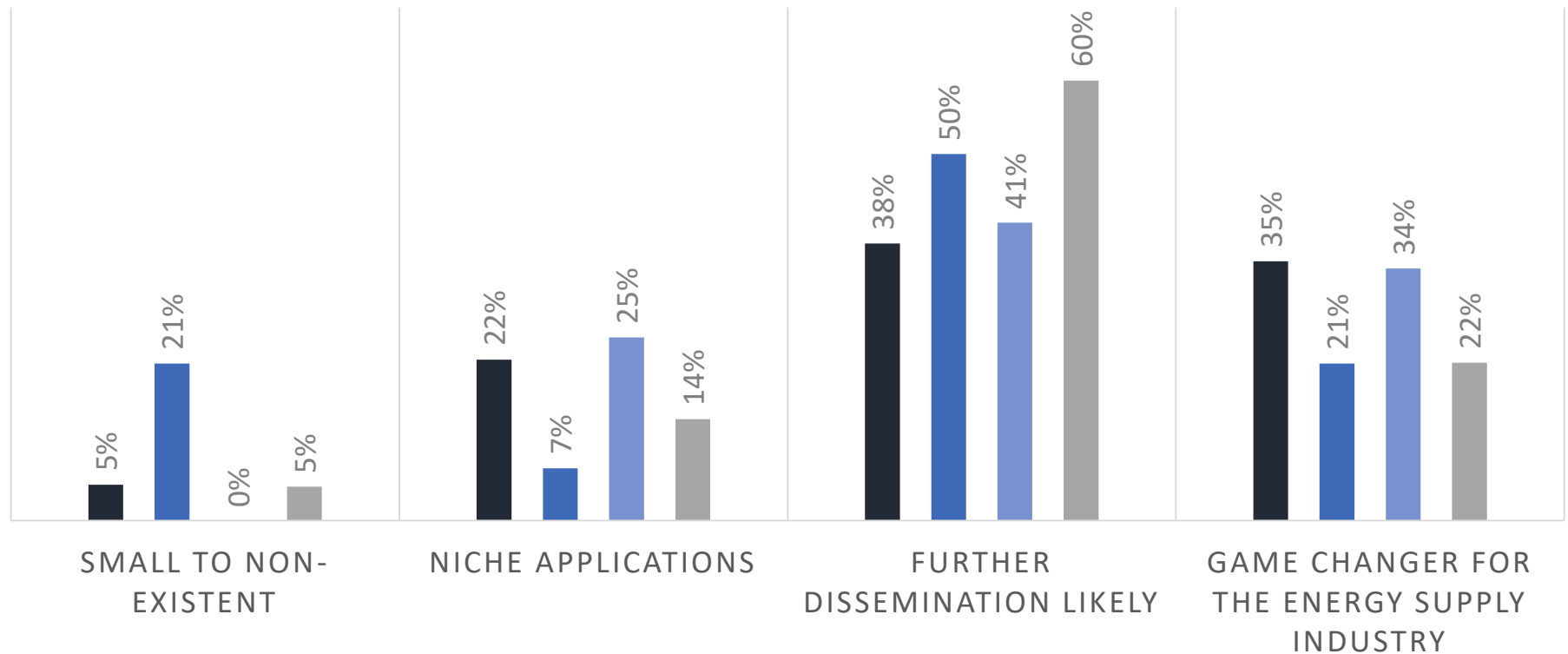
- How do business models in energy applications and platforms differ between single providers and consortia?
  - ⇒ **Qualitative interviews with providers from the energy sector, and non-energy firms, in particular finance/ fintech**
- In which fields do executives see the greatest potential and hurdles for implementing Blockchain solutions in the energy sector?
  - ⇒ **Quantitative global survey** among professionals in jobs related to the energy sector

# Based on a global survey in 2019 in energy business, more than 70% see Blockchain as a game changer or with further dissemination likely – an enabler of the transformation?

*Work in progress*

## HOW HIGH DO YOU ESTIMATE THE POTENTIAL OF BLOCKCHAIN IN THE ENERGY SECTOR?

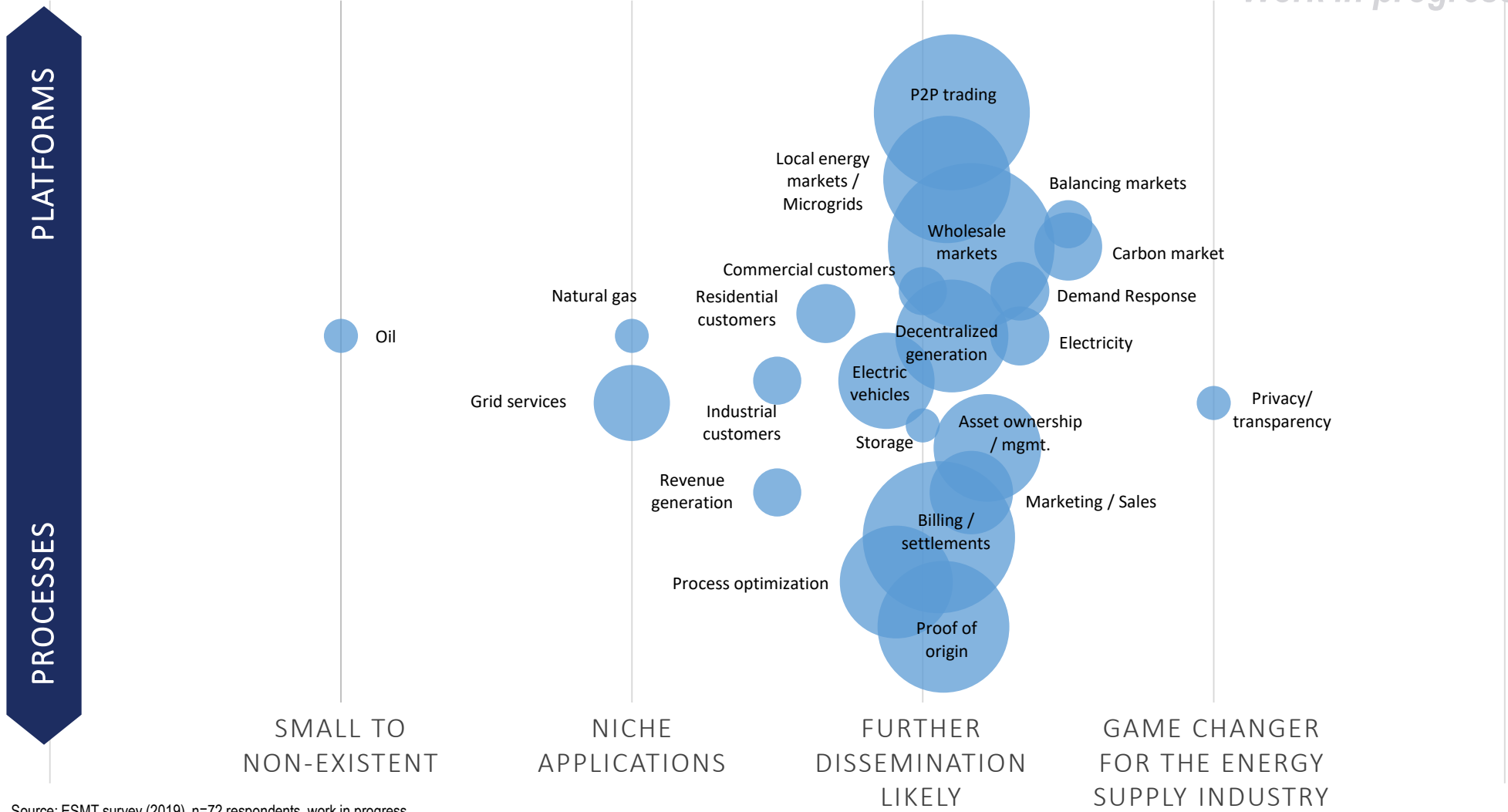
■ All responses (2019)  
 ■ USA & Australia (2019)  
 ■ DACH region (2019)  
 ■ Germany (2016)



Source: ESMT survey (2019), n=72 respondents, work in progress

# The potential of Blockchain within the transformation of energy markets is evenly distributed between platforms/ marketplaces and process optimization

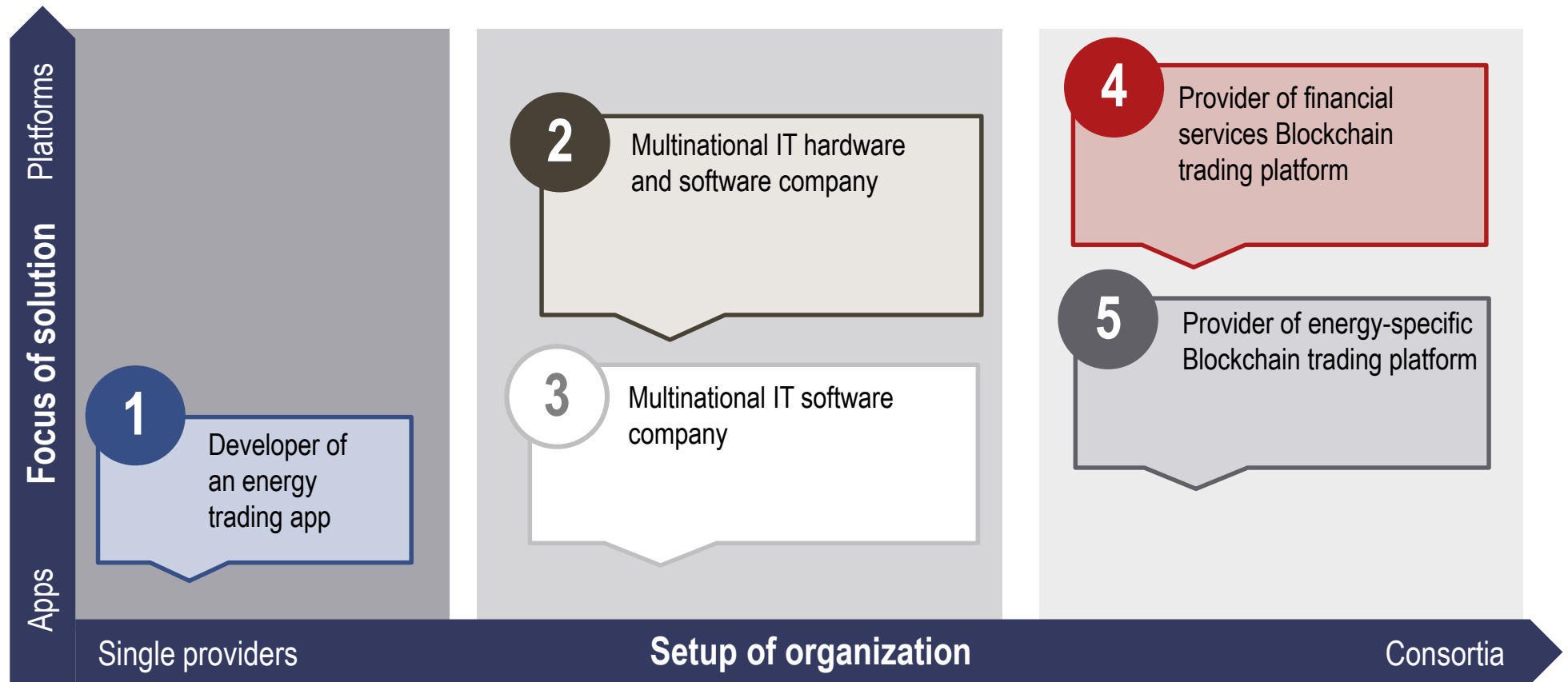
*Work in progress*



Source: ESMT survey (2019), n=72 respondents, work in progress

# Qualitative interviews with key decision-makers in energy-related, financial and multi-sector Blockchain applications were conducted to shed light on the business models pursued

*Work in progress*



1

Developer of  
an energy  
trading app

## Blockchain used as communication channel with 90% cost reduction and no regulatory hurdles

*Work in progress*

### Value proposition

“It's not just 20% technical optimization, it is **90% cost reduction**, because this organizational cost disappears. Instead, the nodes need to be hosted in the cloud, which - compared to 5 million - is maybe in the range of 5-10,000 Euro.”

### Blockchain usage

“That is just a **communication channel**. You can compare that with a chat service for example, with the Yahoo Messenger – before it was decommissioned, is been used as a **tool to offer and accept offers between traders**.”

### Hurdles

” One is a **technical pain point** ...If it is a high frequent market, Blockchain won't work for the execution because **we always have a delay**.” ...

”And the second pain point has absolutely **nothing to do with the technology**. ...there have been brokers who attempted to establish a new platform and they all **failed in dragging liquidity** from the existing platforms..” ...

“If you have this multilateral trading facility (MTF), which simply said is like an exchange, you have a bunch of **regulatory requirements to fulfill** and that is a very complex situation.”

### Financing

“Instead of having this foundation approach, we first start this as a service. Market participants will **pay a fee of €500 per month**, including 500 transactions per month. If it goes beyond 500 transactions per month, it will be charged on the basis of additional transactions.”

2

Multinational IT hardware and software company

5

Provider of energy-specific Blockchain trading platform

## 2: Permissioned Blockchain IT system 5: Tokenization model with hurdles and upside

### Value proposition

“The solutions are categorized in three dimensions. The first dimension is **join**. The second is **coordinate**, and the third is **build**: software as a service, like subscription, you have cloud services, and you have consulting application services.”

“We **develop software** for the decentralized network (platform), facilitate meetings, and produce or develop customized software for some of our affiliates, like IT services, or license payments. It's very similar to **Linux Red Hat business model**, on the one side Linux made an open source software, on the other side Red Hat made money with services. So you can consider our organization as a mixture between Linux and Red Hat in one.”

### Blockchain usage

“In my view, first are the typical value propositions that are addressed and delivered by Blockchain technology; first transparency, second trust; third, speed or acceleration concerning processes; and fourth, a wallet, the security dimension. Therefore **trust, security, speed, acceleration.**”

“Our affiliates tend to **use the Blockchain as little as possible**, because it costs money to use the Blockchain. So, usually it's being used for coordination purposes, for access rights, for value transactions, for a recording of provenance, and so forth. But as little as possible. Generally, **coordination of rights or ownership of assets.**”

### Hurdles

“We use Hyperledger Fabric, only because we truly believe that it is the only really enterprise-ready technology, it's really important to have technology that is **capable to run these high performance numbers.**”

“We have a bigger problem on the **privacy issue**. Where we developed a couple of features around privacy, but of course, it's easier in a private chain.”

### Financing

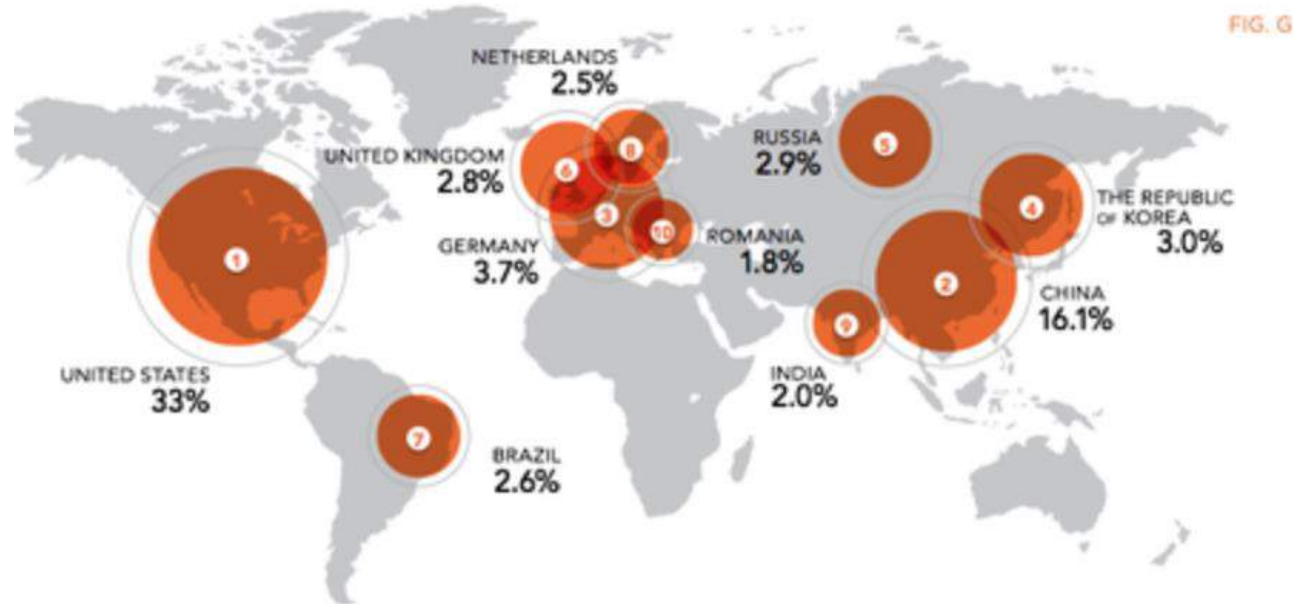
“It's a **heterogeneous approach** with services offerings coming out of different areas within our company, like **consulting, architectural services, software as a service cloud**, and so on, as the solutions are very different.”

“Besides fundraising, cash flow. It will be combination of cash flow based business models, which is as I said before, the **Red Hat business model** and a mixture of **token economics.**”



# Cyber security: a study by Alert Logic indicates that 37% of respondents estimate that their firm's sensitive data had been breached in the past 12 months

## Sources of cyber attacks

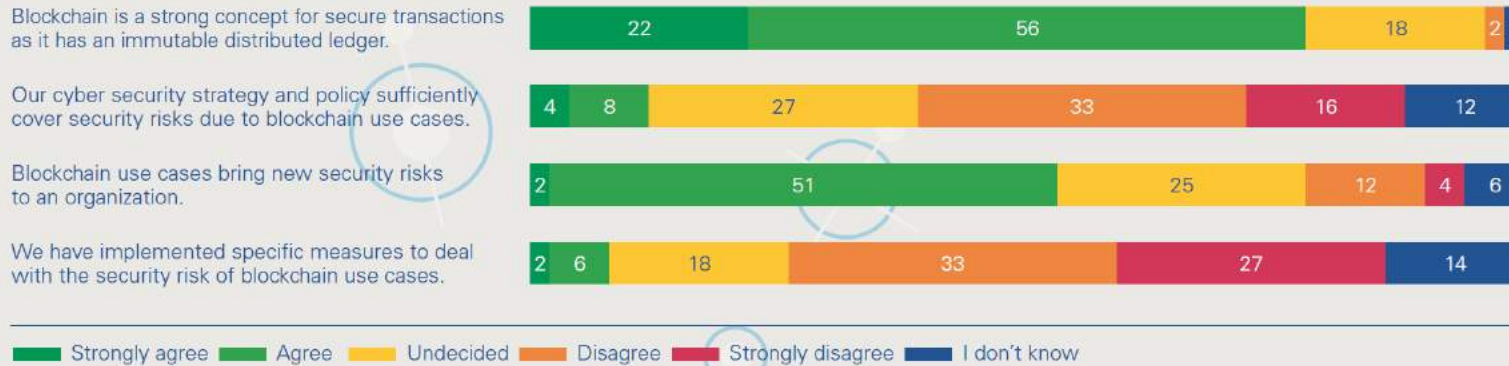


## Business models

- Industrial espionage
- Blackmailing
- Influencing (e.g. M&A)

# Example smart meter infrastructure: while Blockchain might provide a solution for cyber risks, smart meter infrastructure is specifically vulnerable at the edge

What is your opinion on cyber risks in relation to blockchain technology? (in percent)



- **Technical failures**  
Antiquated, insecure protocols
- **Institutional/ regulatory failures**  
Cost-driven regulation of distribution grid service operators
- **Organizational failures**  
Insufficient knowledge of distribution grid operators

# Summary

## Chapter 1

### **What drives digitalization in the energy world? – a short teaser**

- The value chain of the energy business is turned upside down: the case of Germany
- The revolution is not renewables but the opportunity to produce own energy with increasing complexity for the system and market
- Digitalization investments aim to enable better performance, new networks and services in the light of a new energy world

## Chapter 2

### **What is the role of big data/ AI, Blockchain and cyber security? – potential and challenges**

- AI is creating opportunities for new service models with providers (e.g. Envio) still controlling it by humans
- Blockchain is seen as a game changer or with further dissemination likely providing process and platform solutions with no hurdles for implementation up to many hurdles when using tokenization
- Cyber security is getting more important while smart meter infrastructure is specifically vulnerable at the edge

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thank you