



**TEXAS RE**

# **Artificial Intelligence in the Electric Industry**

**Thomas Spencer**  
International Energy Agency

**Javad Mohammadi**  
The University of Texas at Austin

**June 11, 2025**

# Antitrust Admonition

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# Upcoming Texas RE Events



**talk** with  
**TEXAS RE**

June 16, 2025  
2024 Reliability  
Performance and  
Regional Risk  
Assessment



**talk** with  
**TEXAS RE**

June 24, 2025  
Modeling and  
Model Verification



**talk** with  
**TEXAS RE**

July 22, 2025  
Extreme Weather  
Response Risk  
Element



# Upcoming Texas RE Events



July 16, 2025

Evolving Grid  
Workshop



September 17, 2025

Q3 MRC, AGR&F, and  
Board Meetings



October 1, 2025

Winter  
Weatherization  
Workshop



# Upcoming ERO Enterprise Events

**NERC**NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION**Date****Event****June 16**Technical Talk with RF (RF)**June 19**Reliability & Security Monthly Update (WECC)**July 17**Reliability & Security Monthly Update (WECC)**July 21**Technical Talk with RF (RF)

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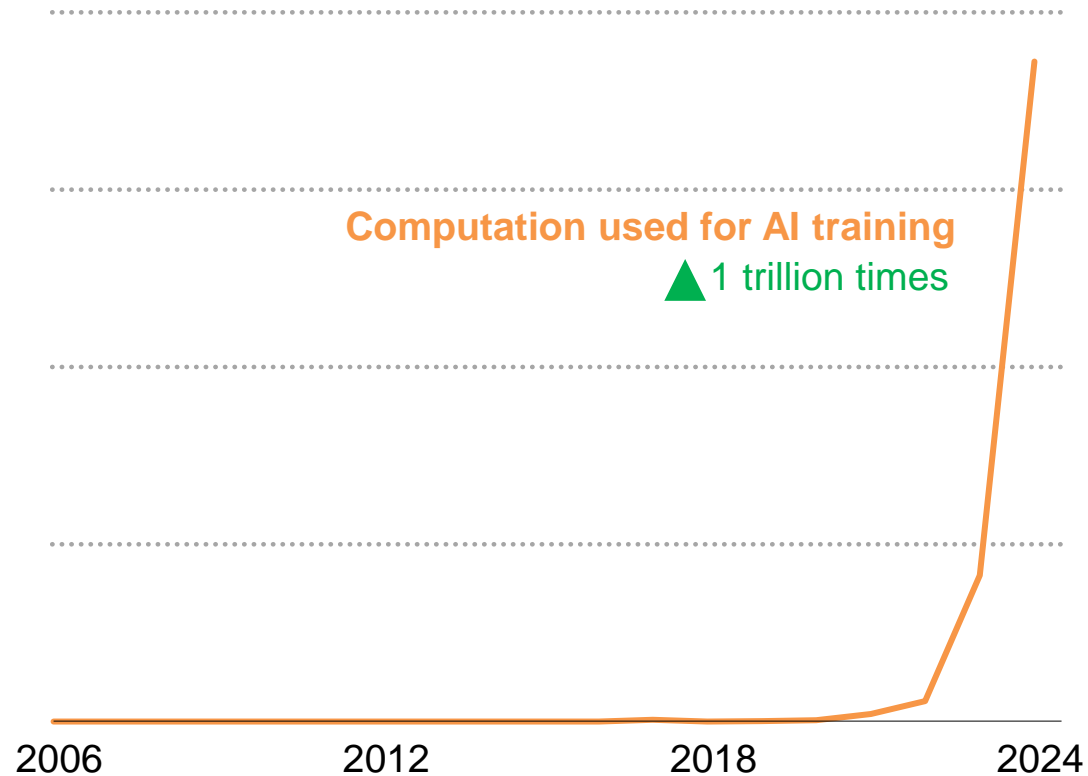
# Energy and AI

Thomas Spencer, Senior Energy Analyst, STO

11 June 2025

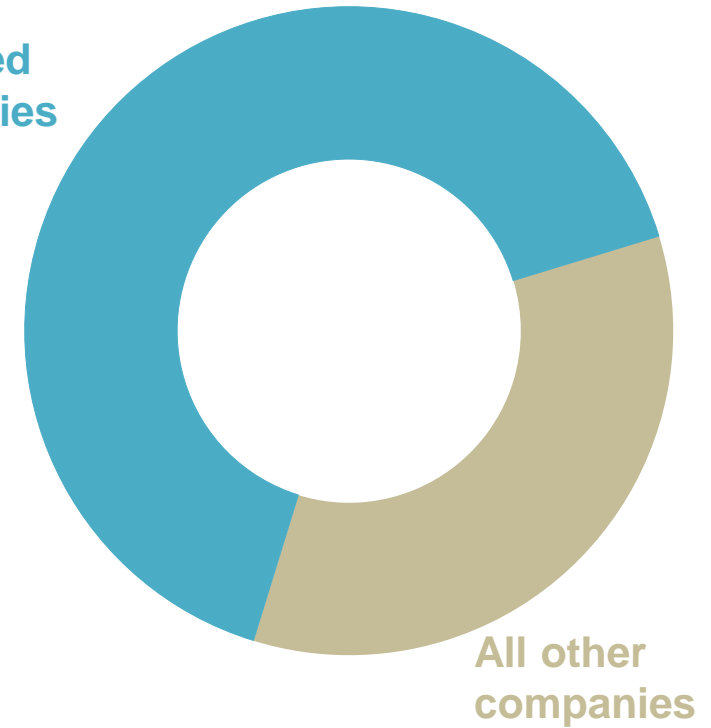
# The rise of artificial intelligence

AI model training size



Change in market capitalisation of the S&P500  
(November 2022 to March 2025)

AI-related  
companies  
60%



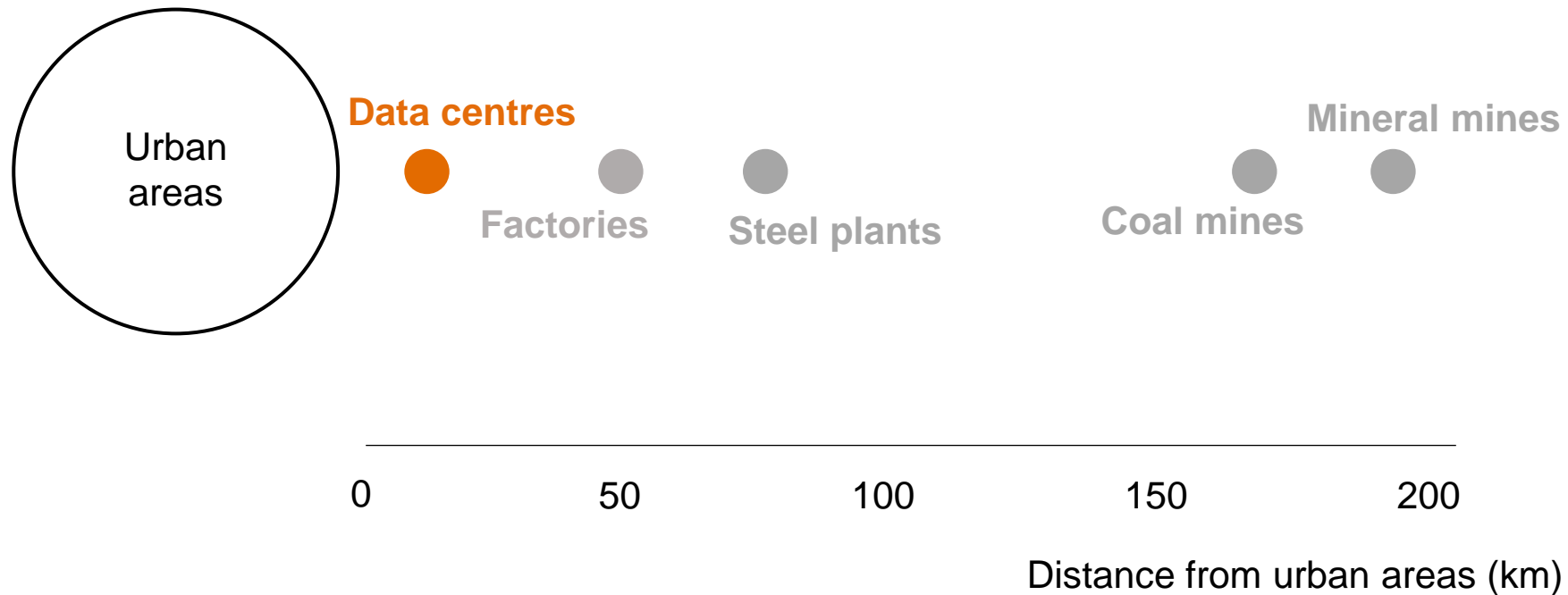
All other  
companies

**Cheap and abundant computing, more data, and technical breakthroughs have ushered in a new age of AI. AI-related companies drove most of the increase in market cap, in anticipation of the growth opportunities.**



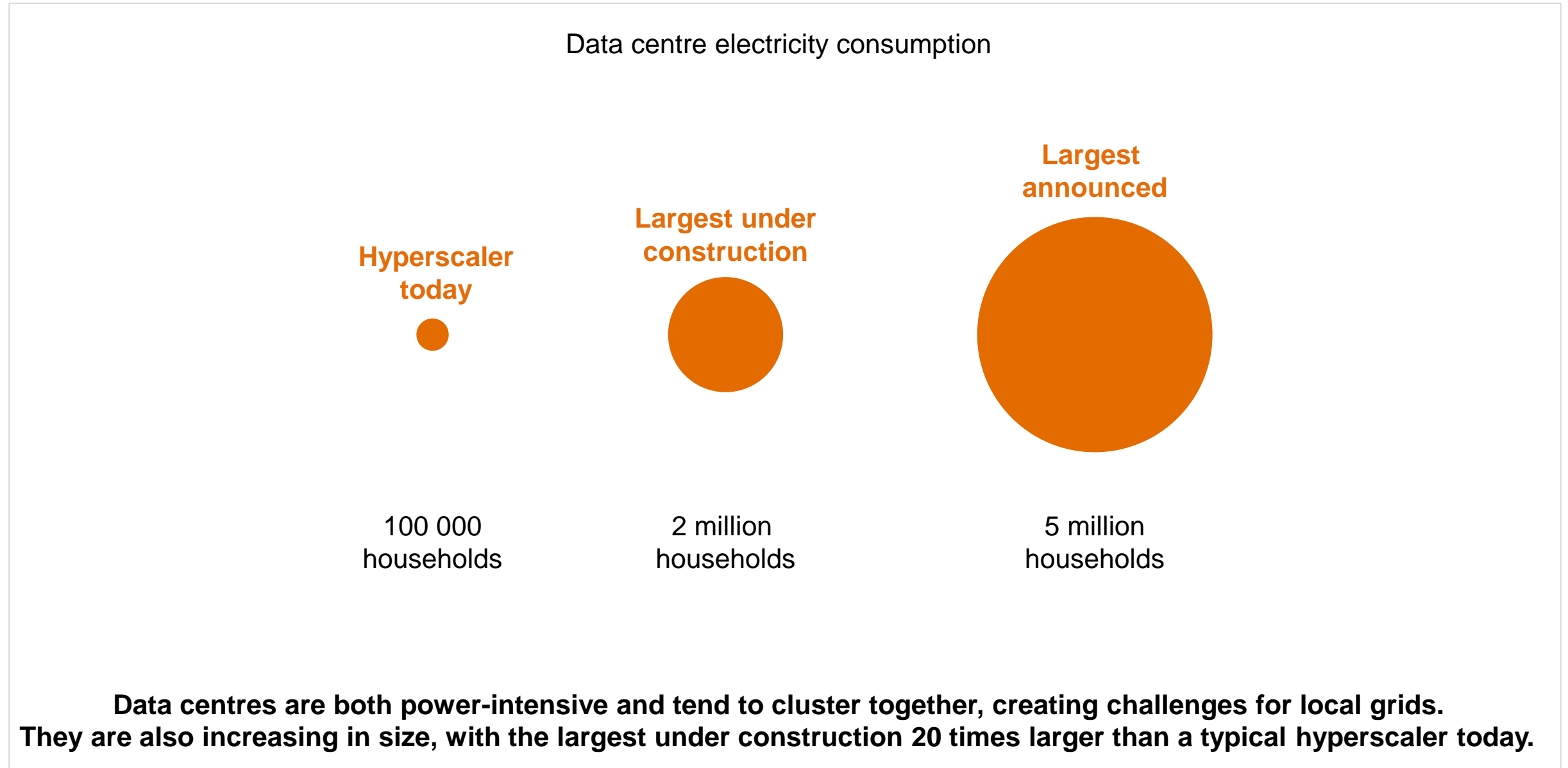
# Data centres cluster together

Proximity of selected infrastructure to urban areas

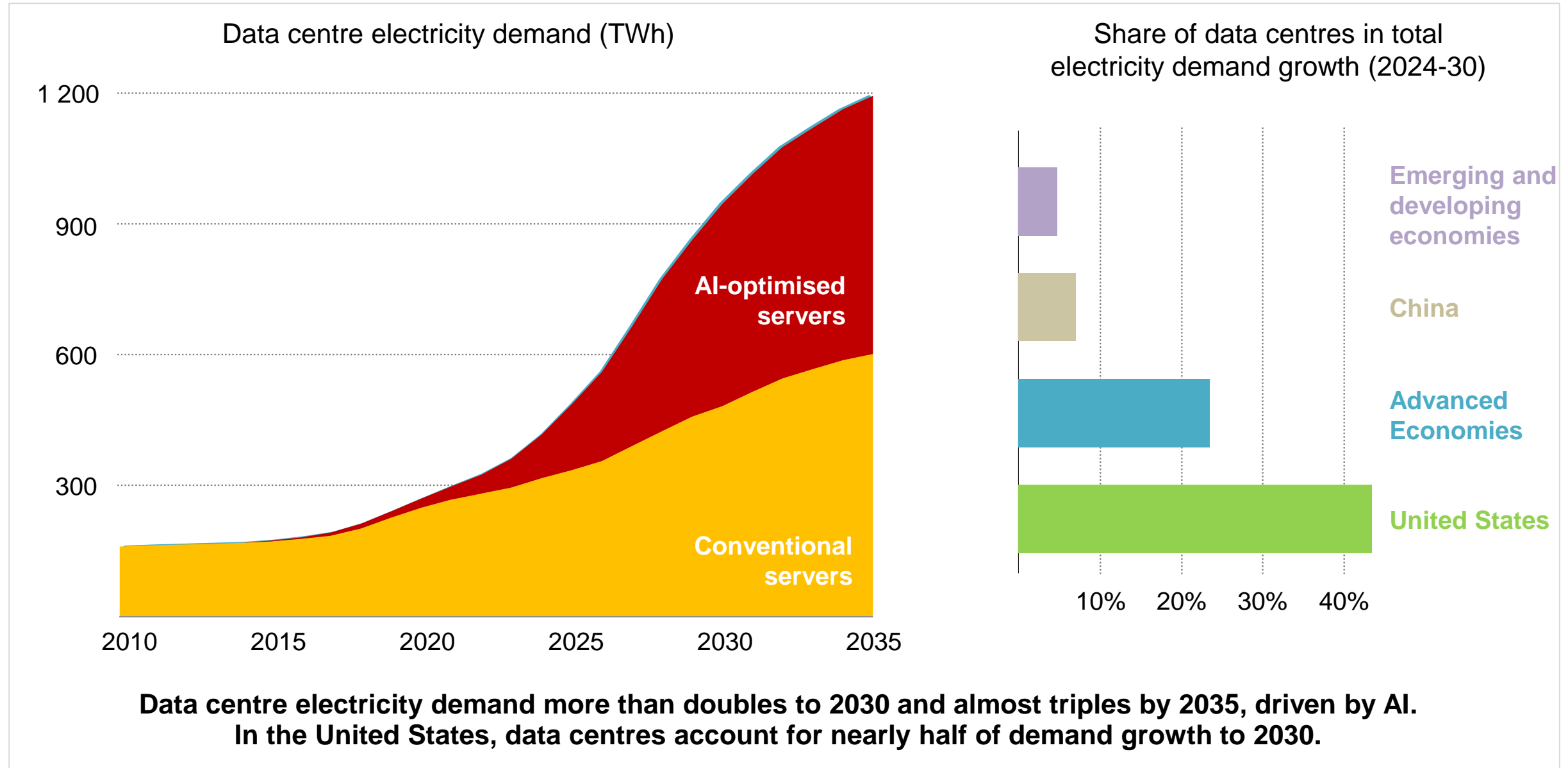


**Data centres are both power intensive and tend to cluster together, creating challenges for local grids.**

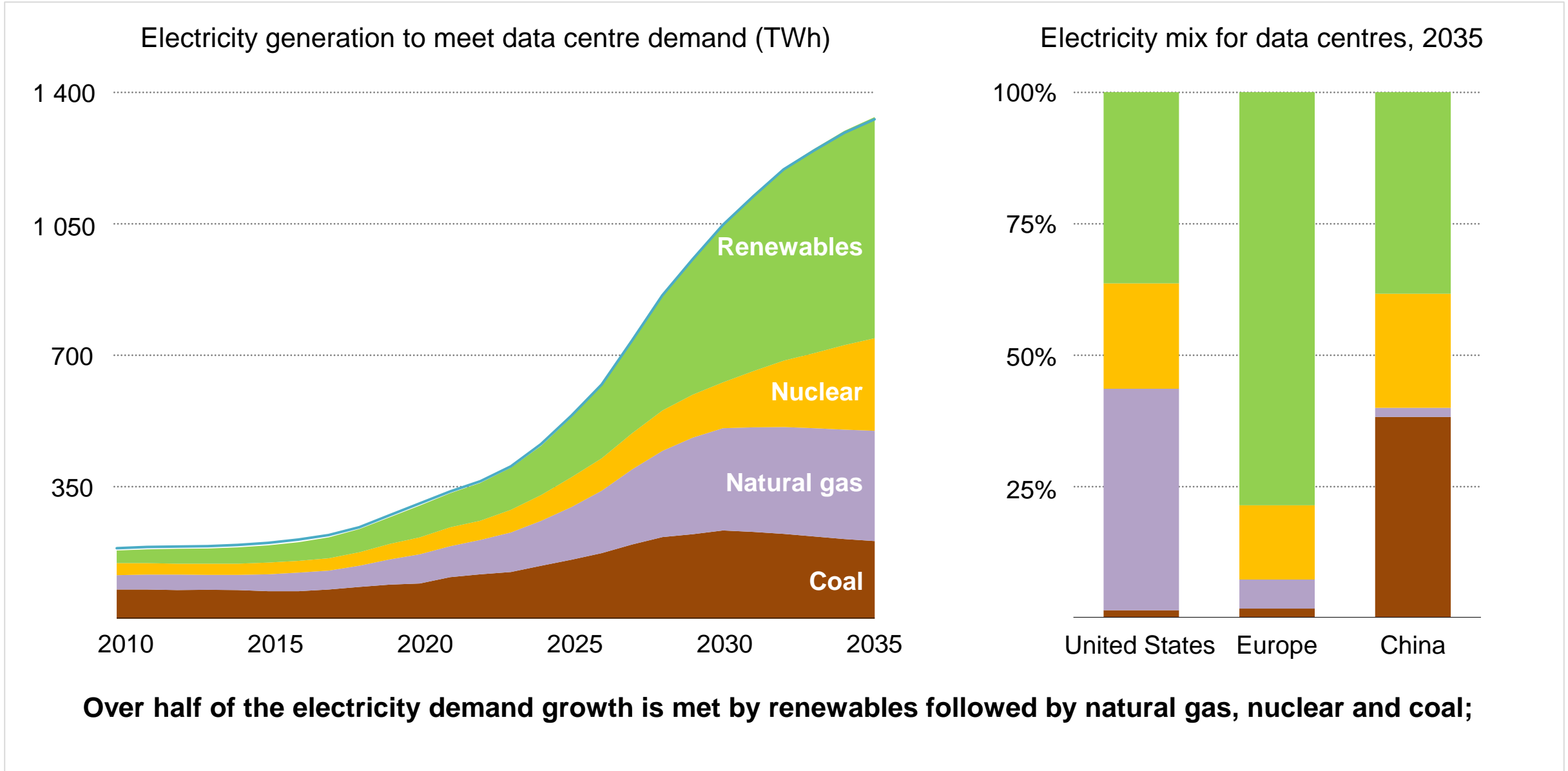
# Data centres cluster together – and are growing in size



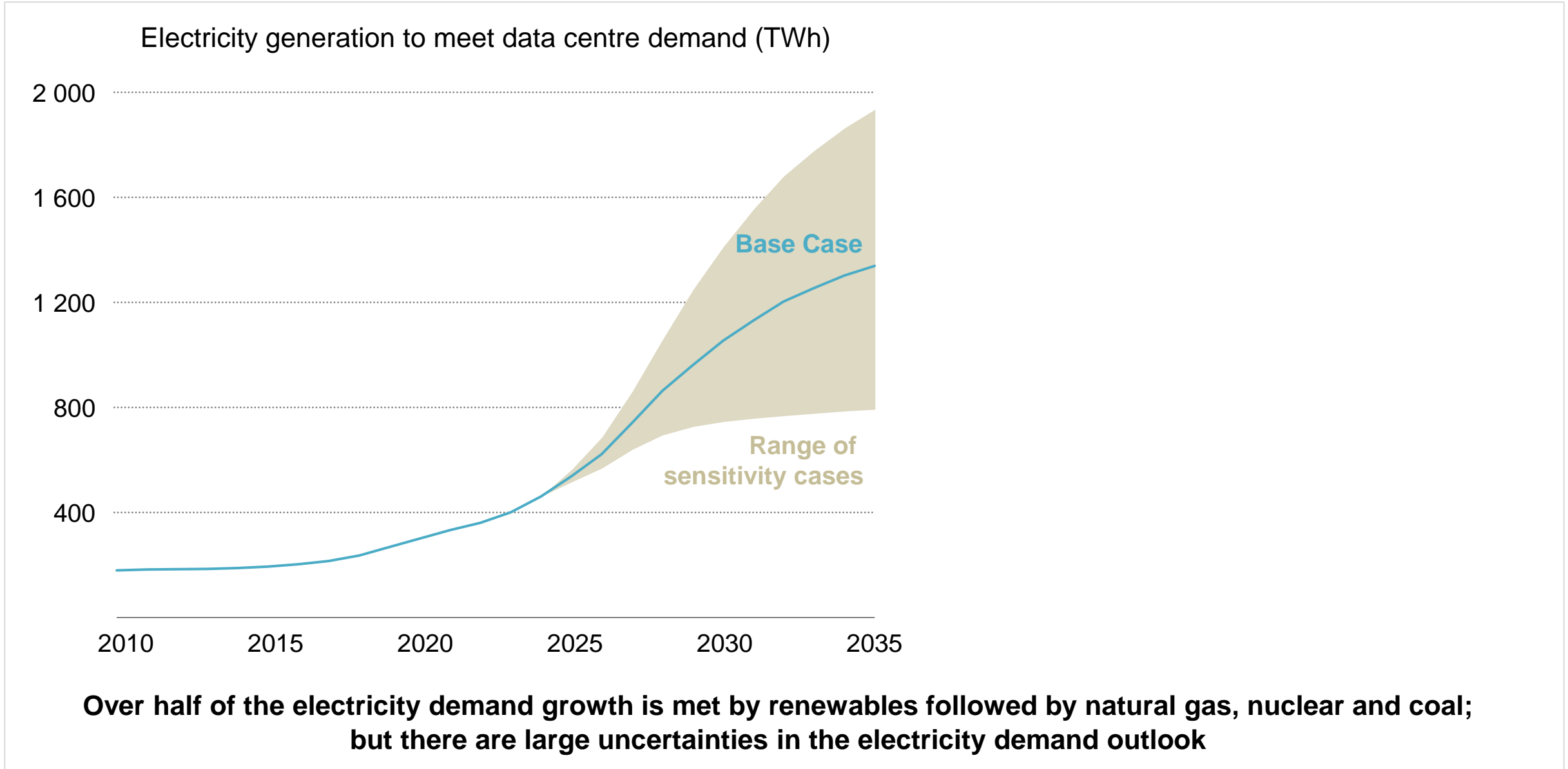
# Data centre electricity demand surges



# A diverse range of sources will be needed to meet demand



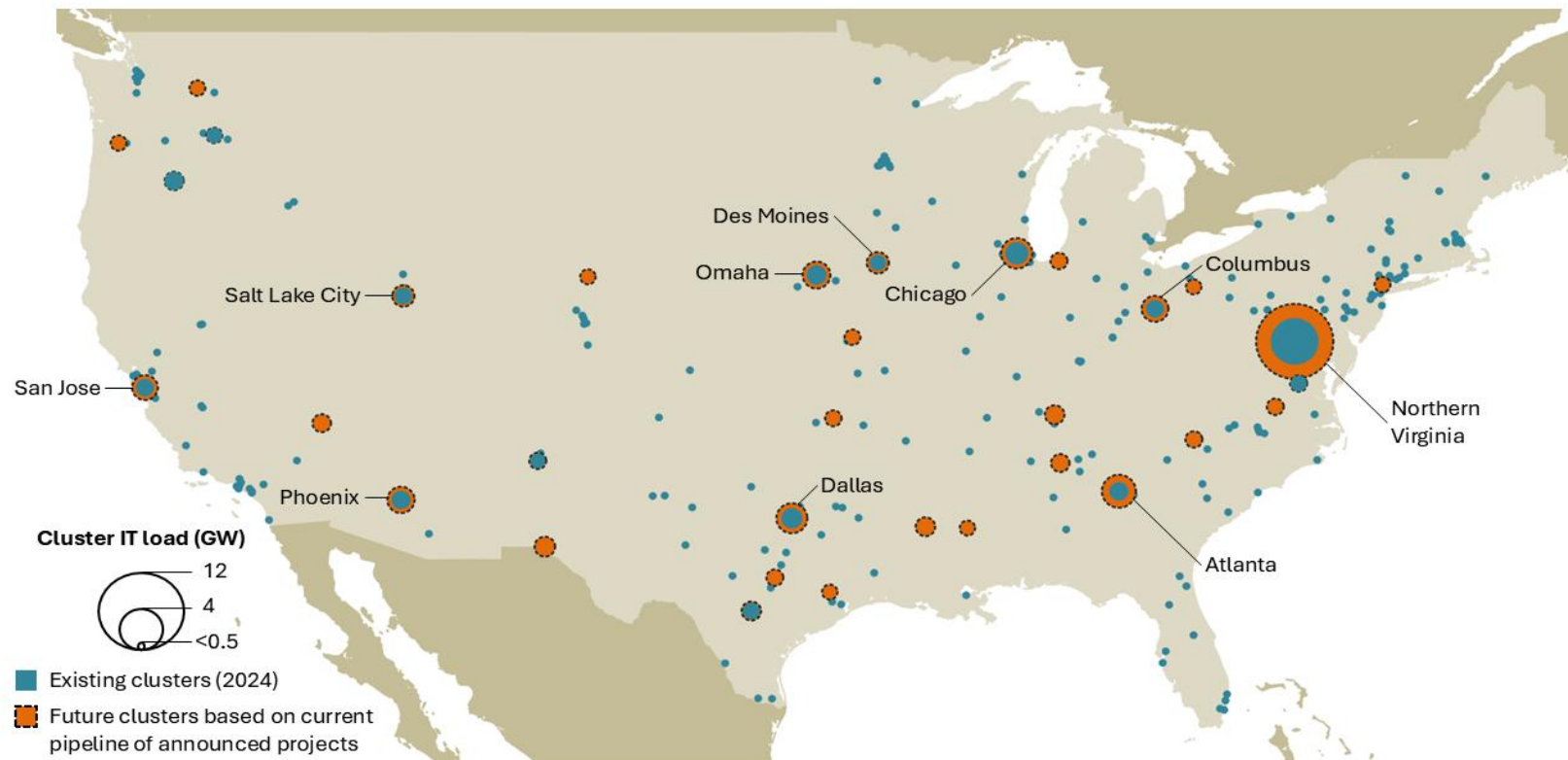
# A diverse range of sources will be needed to meet demand





# Data centre clustering only partially reduces

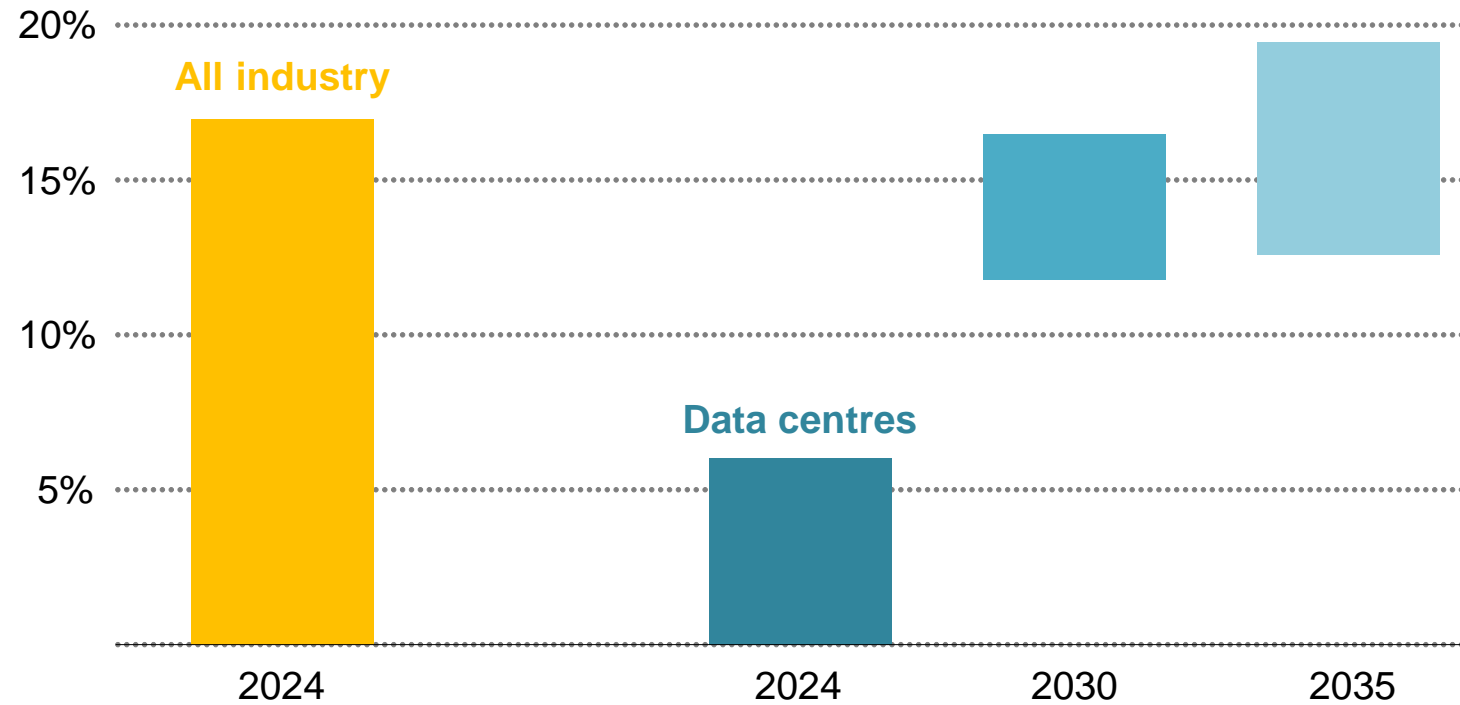
Data centre hubs by installed and planned capacity, continental United States, 2024



**Despite the clear benefits of reducing the spatial concentration of data centres, around half of capacity under development is in pre-existing clusters, raising concerns over local grid bottlenecks.**

# The rapid growth of data centres requires smart integration

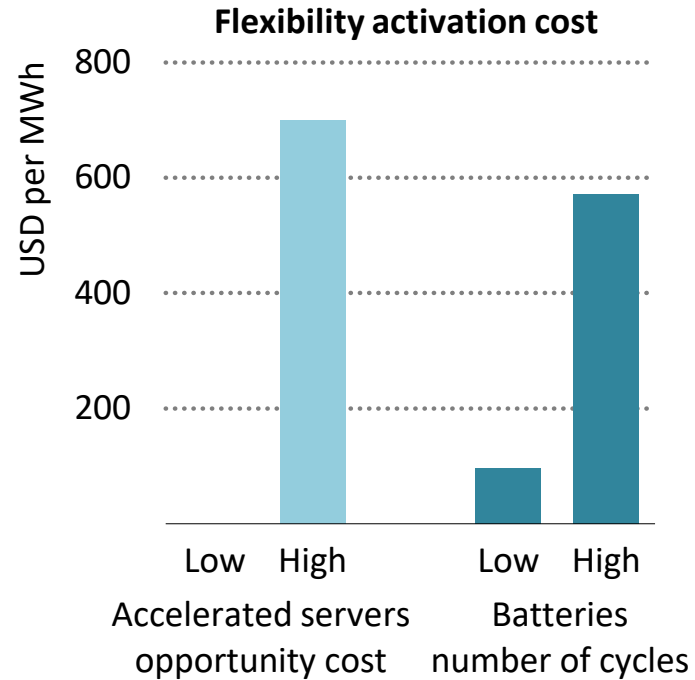
Data centre sector and industry sector connected load as a share of total peak demand, United States



**Today, total data centre installed capacity in the United States equates to slightly more than 5% of peak load; by 2030, the installed capacity of data centres in peak load could be as much as the entire industry sector today.**

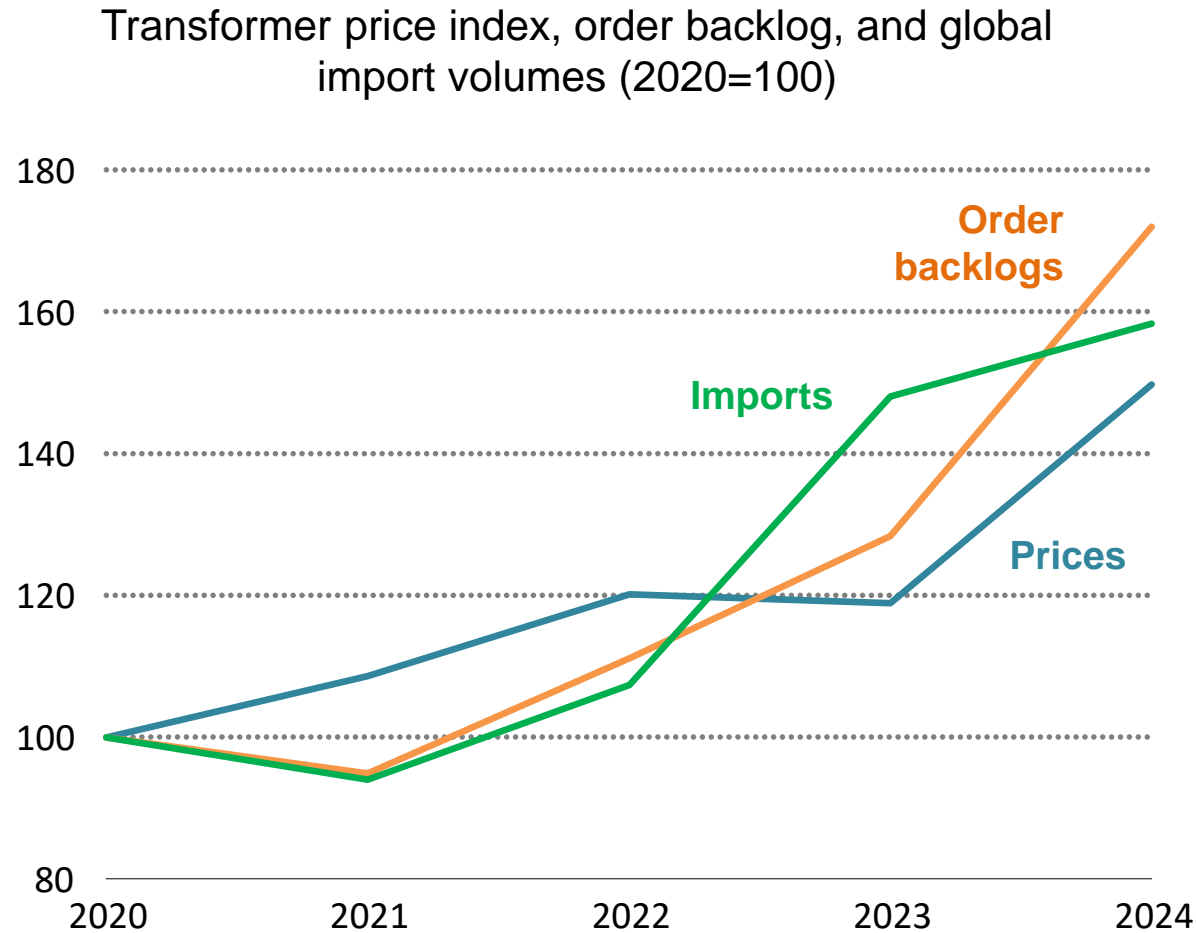
# Data centre flexibility depends on opportunity cost and regulation

Flexibility costs from data centres and batteries versus electricity market prices in Texas



**Data centres are 10 times more capital intensive on a per MW basis than an aluminium smelter; operational flexibility depends on opportunity costs and a supportive regulatory framework**

# Power related supply chains are showing signs of strain



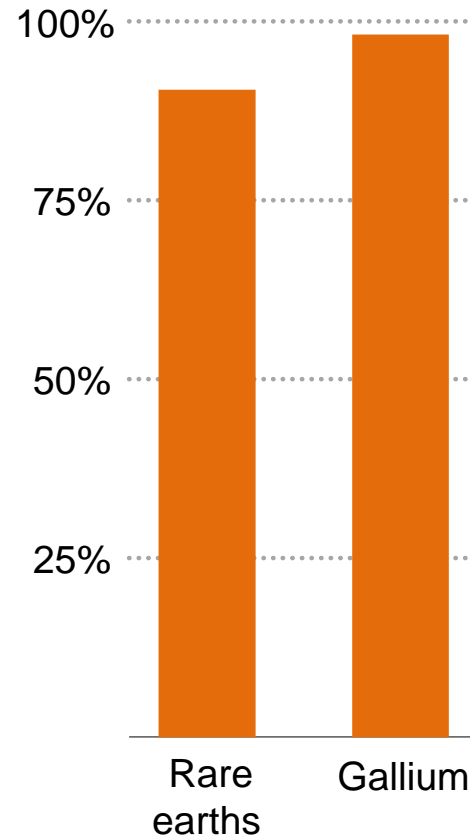
**As a result of a surge in orders, prices and order backlogs for transformers have increased substantially since 2020; building a new “data centre sized” transmission line can take 4-8 years in advanced economies**

# AI could sharpen some energy security concerns & help address others

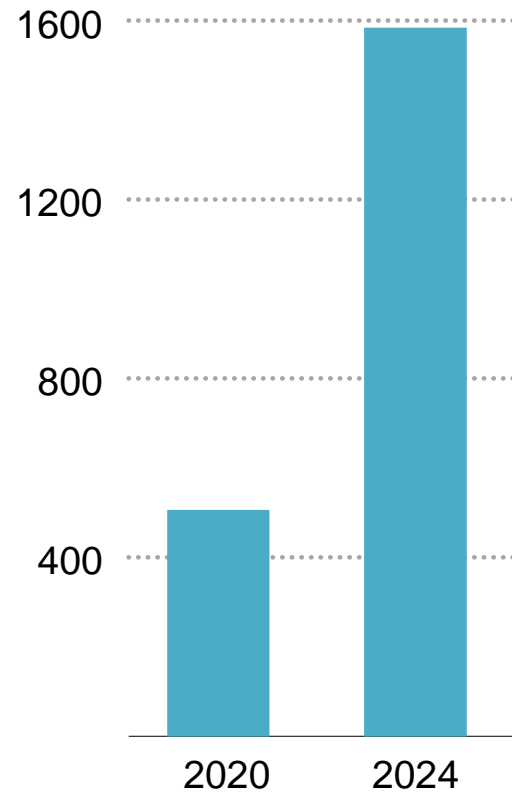
Public



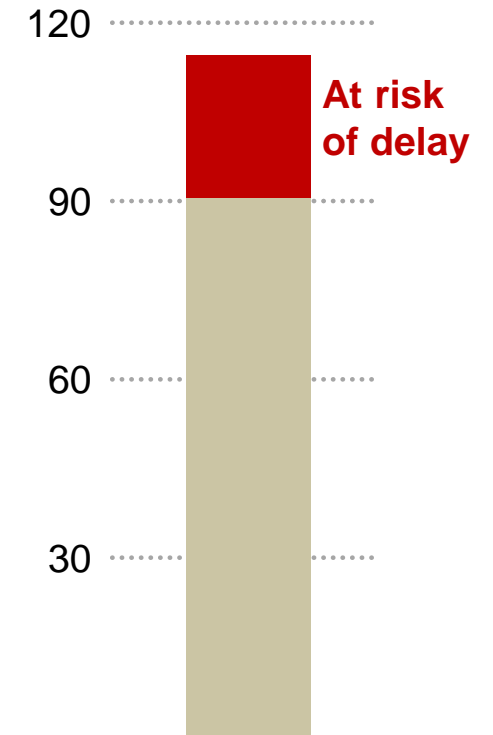
Share of largest country  
in refined supply



Weekly cyberattacks  
on energy utilities



Capacity additions of data centres  
from 2025-30 (GW)



**The rise of AI sharpens the focus on supply chain and cyber security, but AI can also address security concerns; unless the electricity sector steps up, around 20% of planned data centre capacity could be at risk of delays.**



led

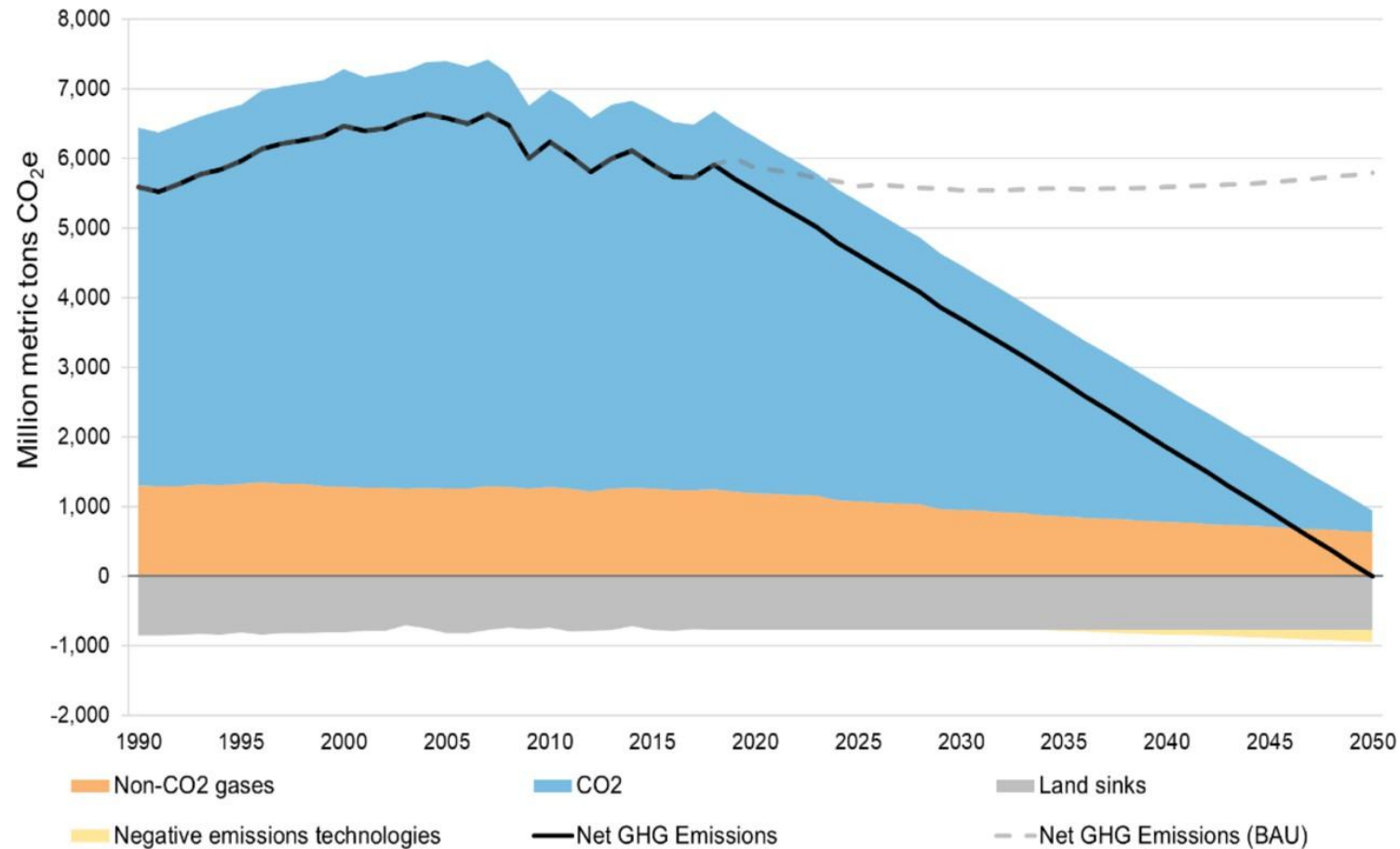
# **Artificial Intelligence in the Electric Industry**

**Javad Mohammadi**  
**Assistant Professor, UT Austin**

# The energy value chain is transforming

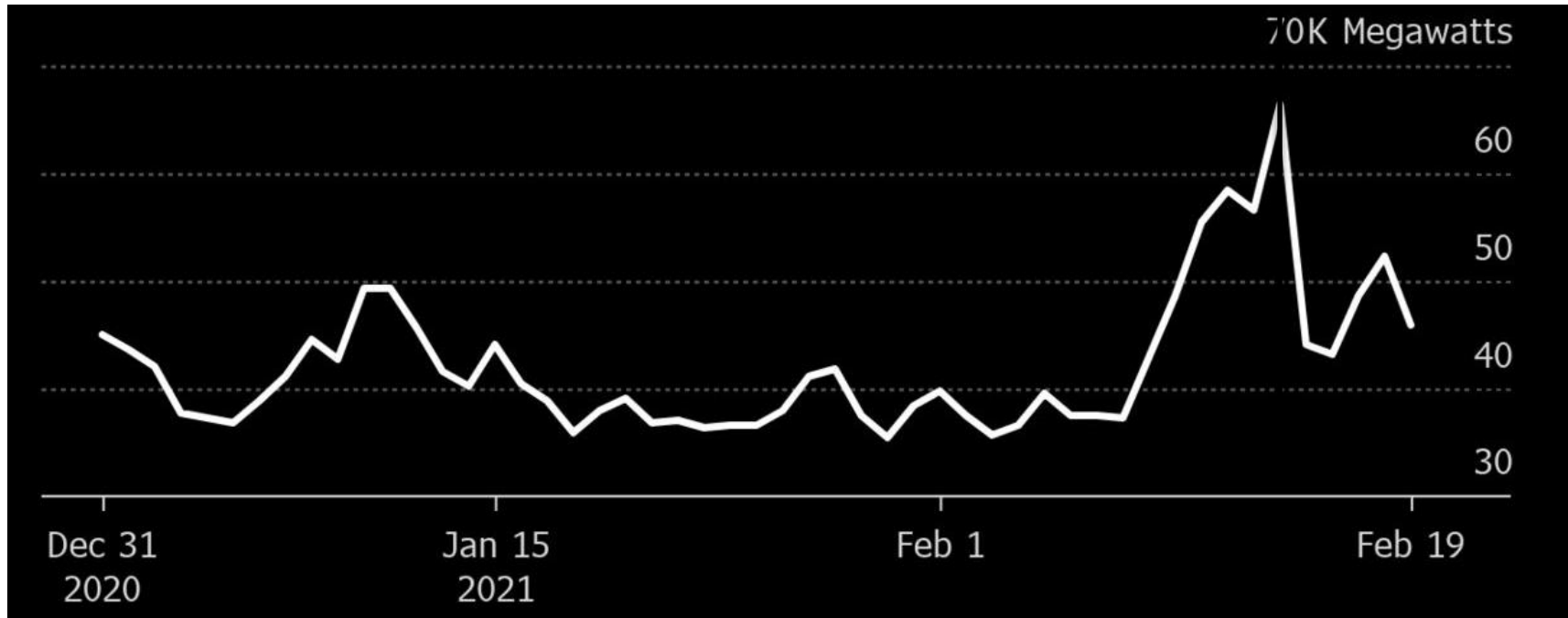


# Decarbonization



# The need for resiliency

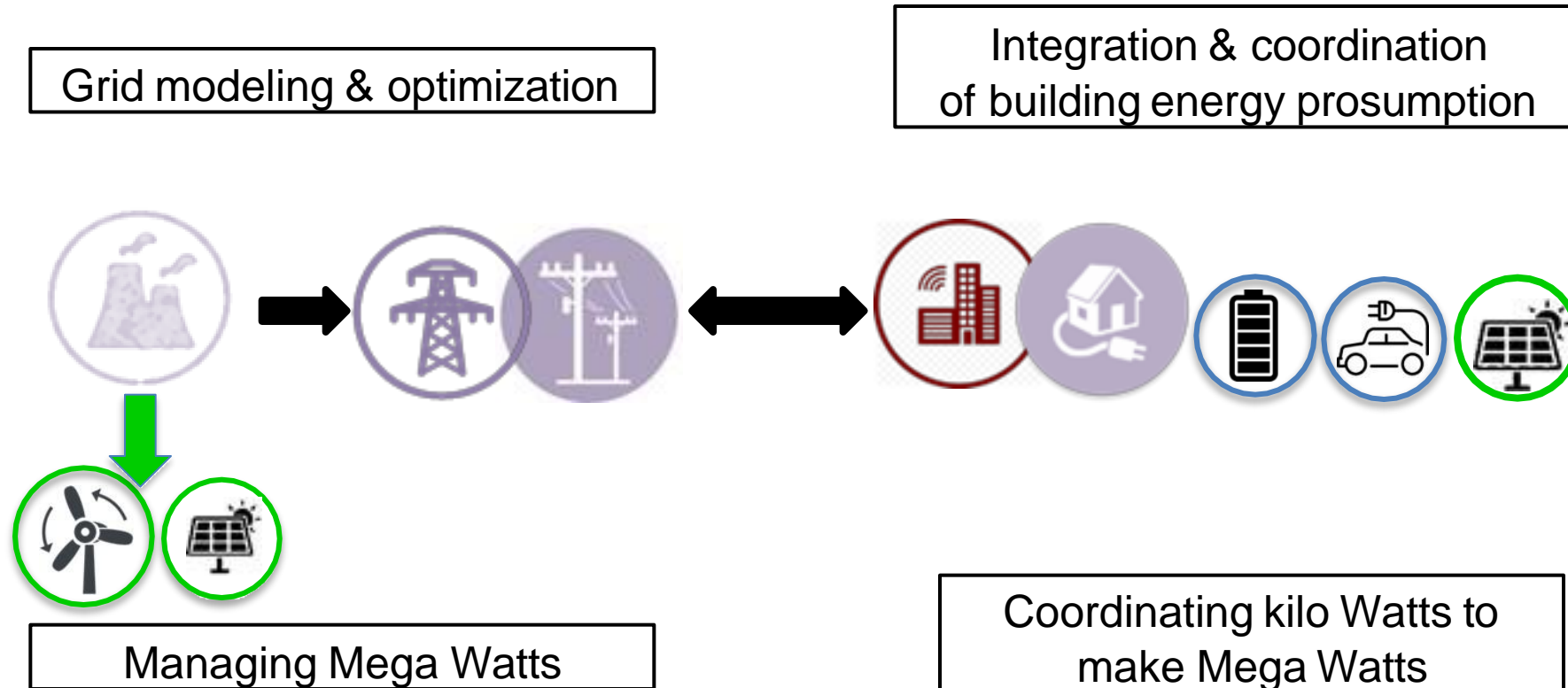
## “Texas and California Blackouts: A Song of Ice and Fire”



Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-02-20/texas-blackout-how-the-electrical-grid-failed>



# Meeting decarbonization goals with resilience



**How can AI help?**

# Advanced analytics for top-down management

- Security Constrained Optimal Power Dispatch
- Mix Integer Non-linear programming
- Focus on speed for finding a feasible solution
- Selective simplifications of the problem formulation
- Up to \$31K node systems

Transmission Line and Transformer  
Switching NOT Allowed

**Real-Time**  
**(5 Min)**

**Offline**  
**(60 Min)**

Transmission Line and Transformer  
Switching Allowed

**Real-Time**  
**(5 Min)**

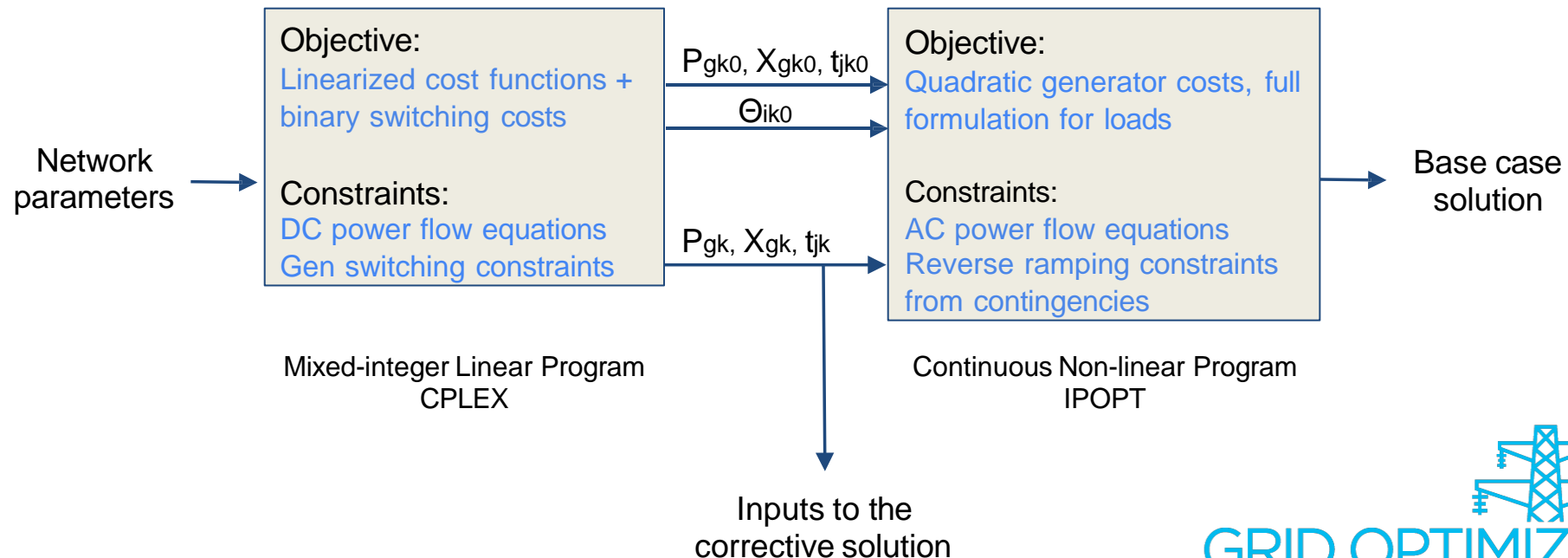
**Offline**  
**(60 Min)**



**GRID OPTIMIZATION (GO)**  
COMPETITION

**arpa-e**  
CHANGING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

# Advanced analytics for top-down management

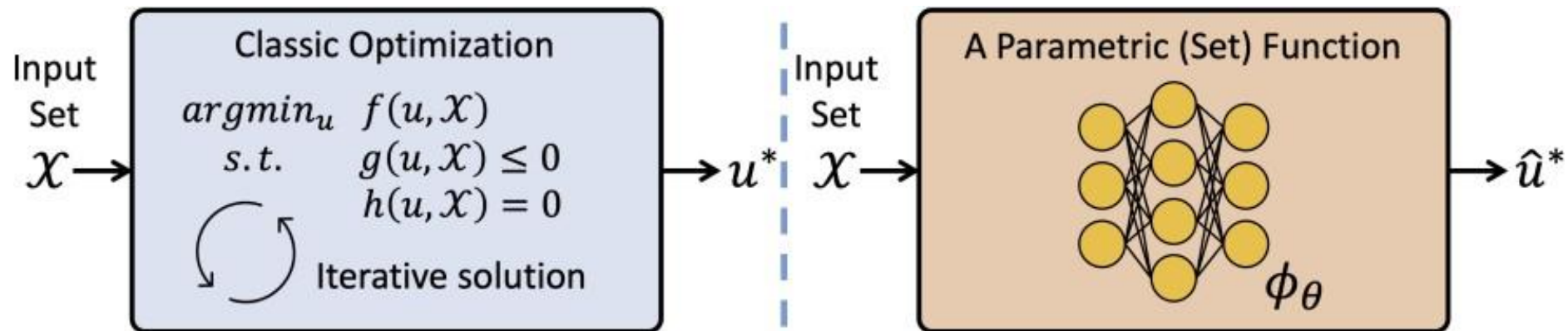


Source: Sharadga, H., Mohammadi, J., Crozier, C., & Baker, K. (2025). Scalable Solutions for Security-Constrained Optimal Power Flow with Multiple Time Steps. IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications.

# Speeding up decision-making

## LOOP: Learning to Optimize the Optimization Process

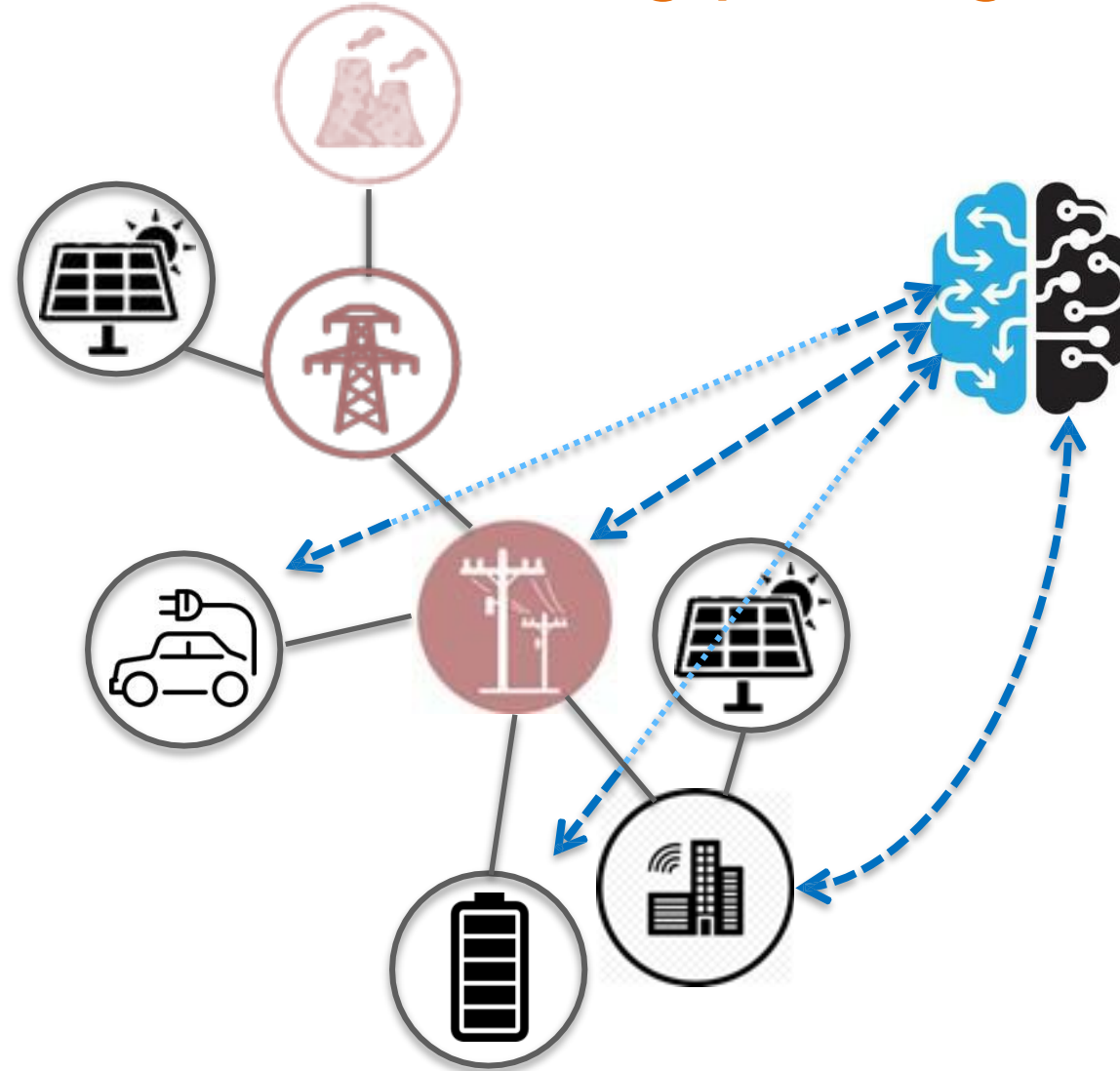
- Removing iterations from optimization → Significant speed-up





# The need to revisit decision-making paradigms

Centralized

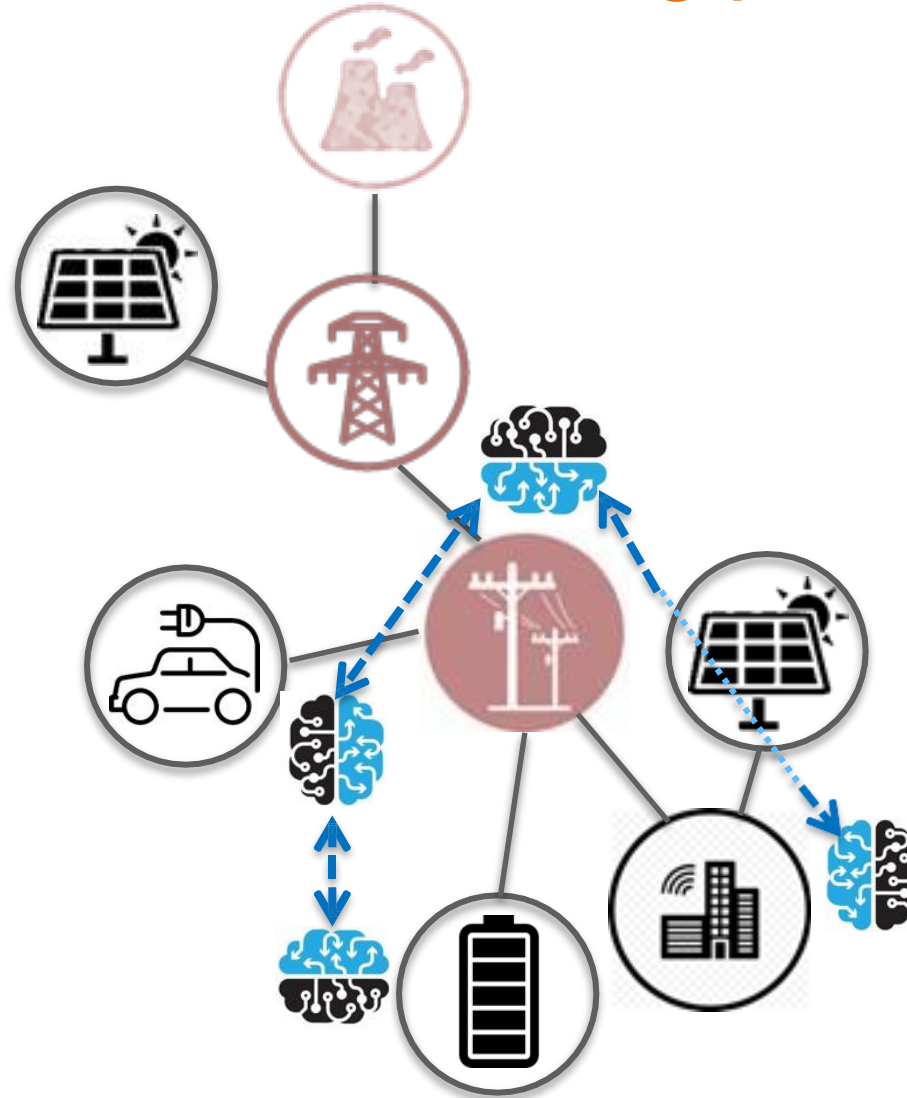


# The need to revisit decision-making paradigms

## Centralized

## Distributed

- Computationally efficient
- Privacy-preserving
- Adoptable



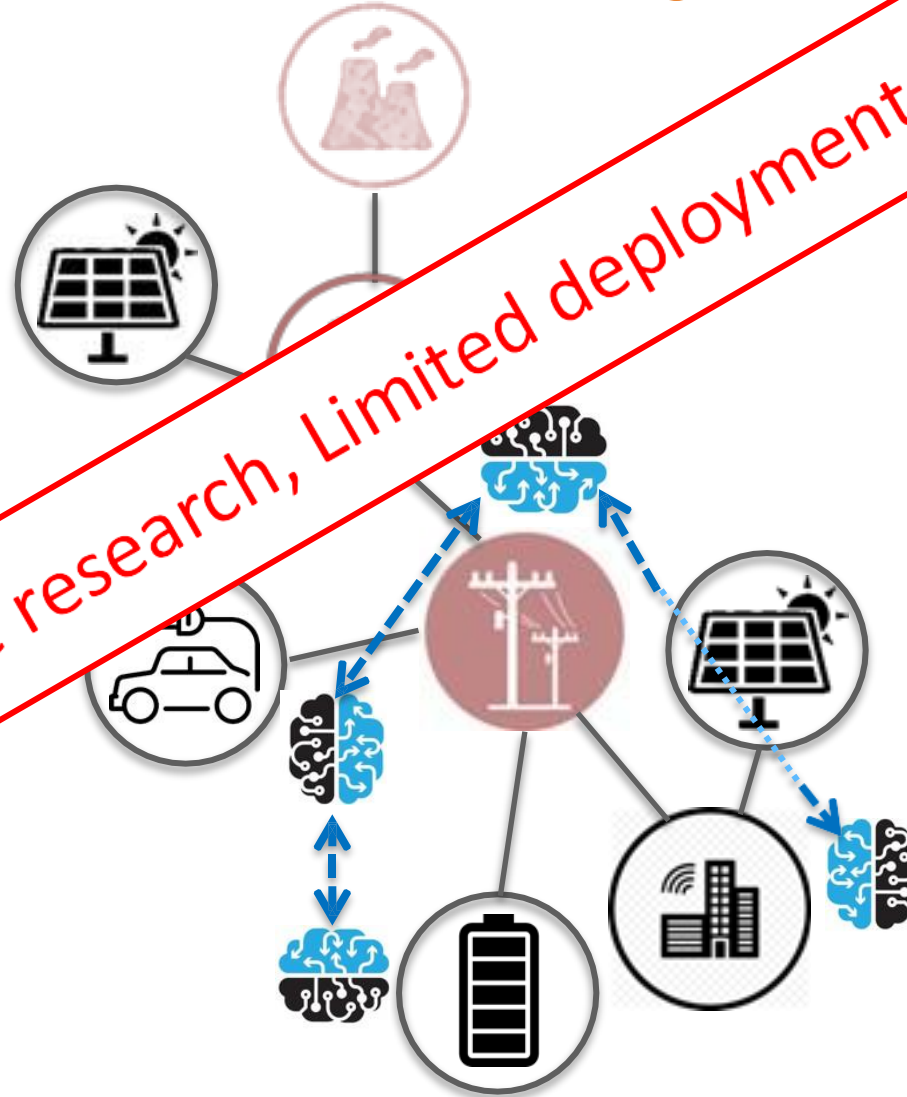
# The need to revisit decision-making paradigms

Centralized

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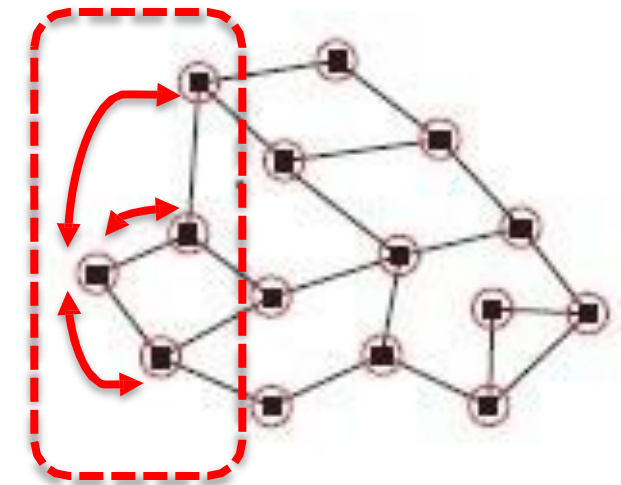
Extensive research, Limited deployment



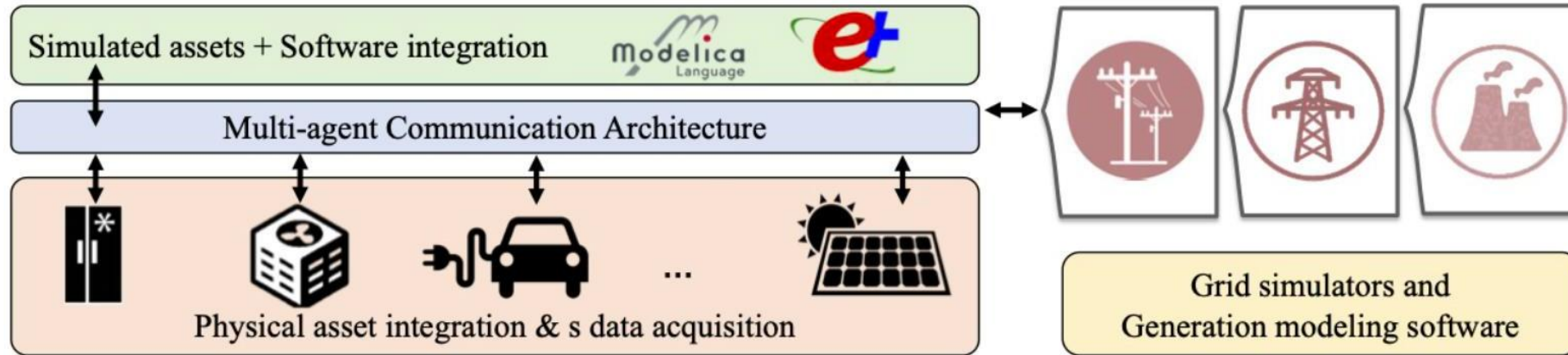
# Auto-tuning inter-agent interaction

## Automating selection of design parameters

- Information absorption/dissemination rate
- How to value neighbor's information?
- Traditionally derived based on convergence analysis
- Using AI for selecting the best parameters inside the feasible range



# Towards deployable AI-based optimizers for power grid





# What needs to be done!

## Data Gaps

- Generating realistic data sets
- Creating partnerships

## Trusting AI?

- Transparency issues
- Performance guarantees
- ....

Thank you



The background of the slide features a blurred image of the Texas state flag on the left and a close-up of a wind turbine's hub and blades on the right. The blades are white with red tips. A dark blue rounded rectangle with a thin light blue border is centered over the image.

# Questions?



**TEXAS RE**

Ensuring electric reliability for Texans