

# OLED solutions for lighting applications

**Advanced Materials for Next Generation  
OLEDs**

Michele Ricks  
DOE SSL Workshop 2020  
January 2020

**EMD  
PERFORMANCE  
MATERIALS**

# we are unique

Since our founding more than 350 years ago, we've become truly global with more than **56,000 employees in 66 countries** working on break-through solutions and technologies.



Merck KGaA  
Darmstadt, Germany

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EMD  
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EMD  
PERFORMANCE  
MATERIALS

We are known as “Merck” internationally except for the United States and Canada, where we operate as EMD Serono in the biopharmaceutical business, MilliporeSigma in the life science business, and EMD Performance Materials in the high-tech materials business.



we are the  
company  
behind the  
companies  
advancing  
digital living





# Advancing display

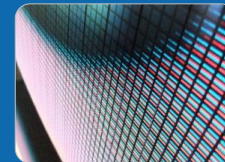
From large TVs to touch screens and free-form displays: We have played a part in all **key display innovations** and can be found in more than half of all flat-screen televisions, smartphones and tablet computers.

Today, our customers use our unrivalled breadth of product, depth of understanding and specialist expertise to make the most of the increasingly vital role of display in a digital era:



## LC materials

Market Leading Innovation



## OLED materials

Revolution in display & lighting



## Photoresists

A global leader in Display Resists



## Reactive Mesogens

Ultra-thin coatings and optic films



## Siloxanes

New backplanes and Barriers



## Quantum materials

Major leap in display color



## LED Phosphors

Bright, energy-efficient & vivid

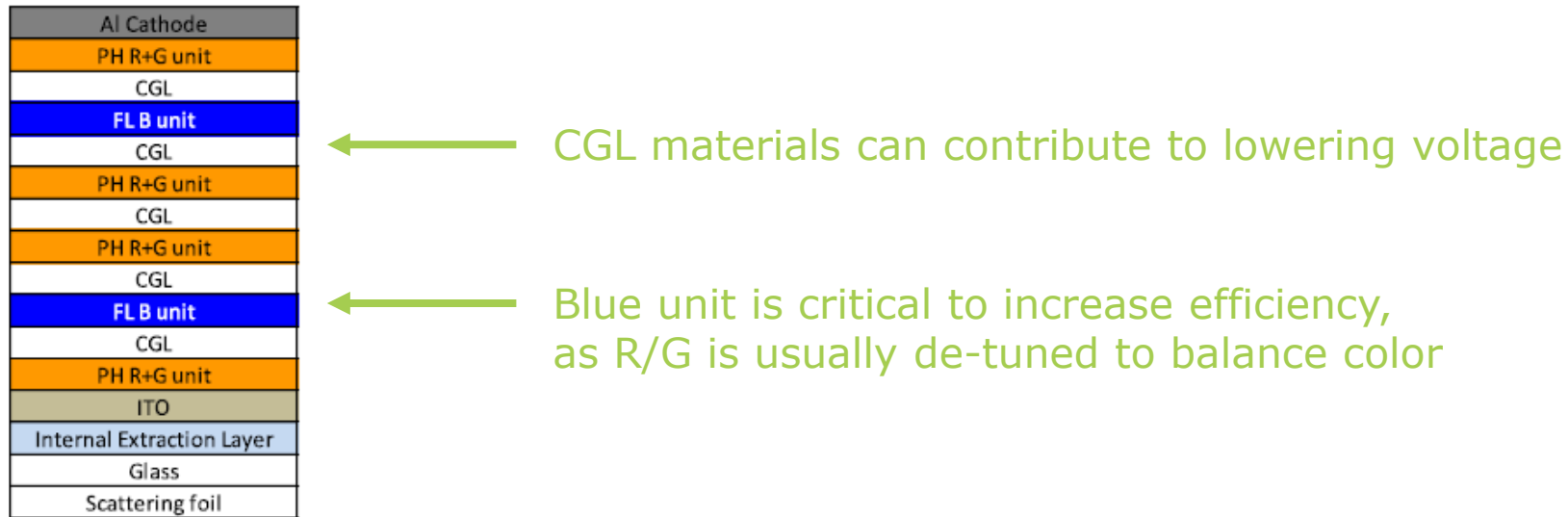
# challenges for OLED lighting

01



# Transport Materials for OLED Lighting

## Opportunities and Challenges



**Figure 5:** Brite2 white OLED stack

J. Spindler et al. "24-2: Invited Paper: High Brightness OLED Lighting", *SID INT SYMP DIG TEC*, 47 (2016).



**Higher Im/W devices can broaden the market for OLED lighting. Improve Im/W by increasing efficiency and lowering voltage.**



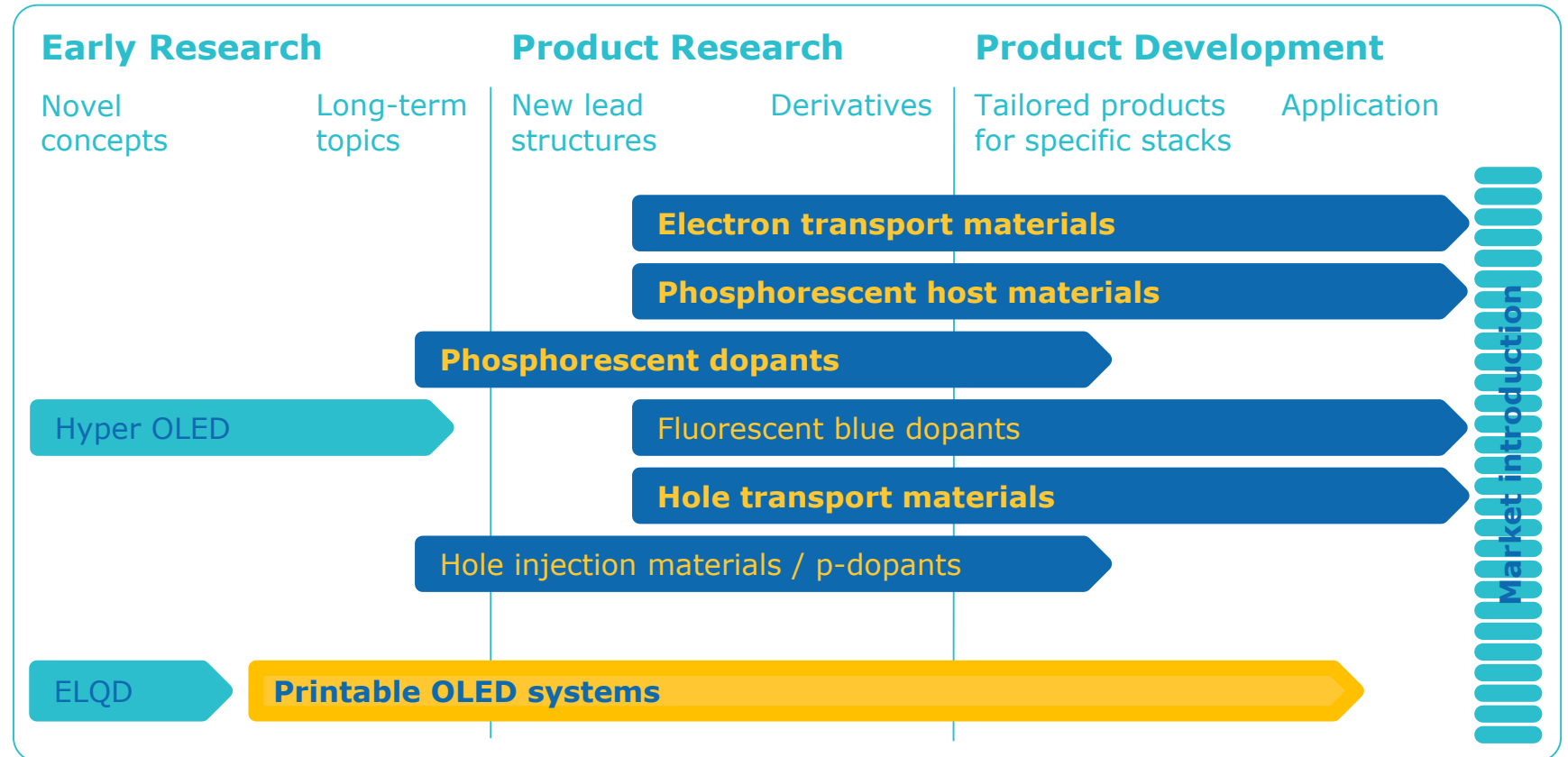
02

**OLED** @ Merck KGaA,  
Darmstadt, Germany,  
Performance Materials



# We offer state-of-the-art materials developed for the full stack of both processing technologies, printing and vapor

- Cathode**
- EIL** Electron Injection
- ETL** Electron Transport
- EML** Emission R,G,B
- HTL** Hole Transport
- HIL** Hole Injection
- Anode** ITO



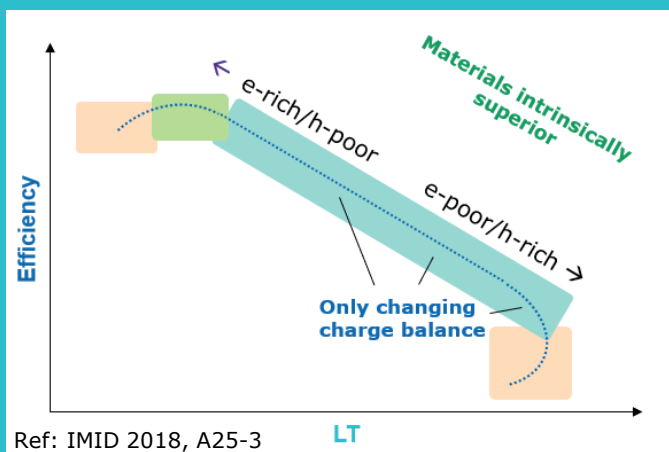
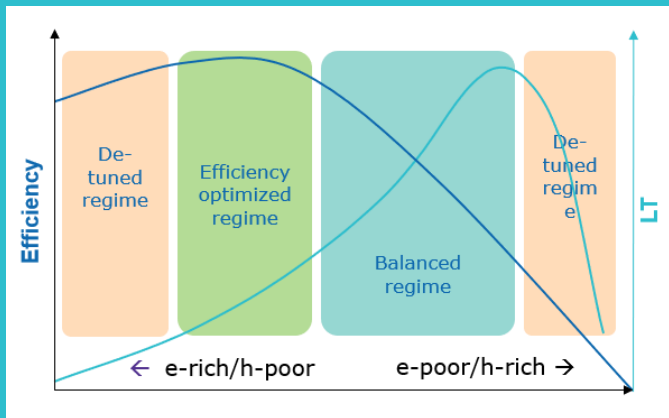
**>> R&D portfolio covering the full range from early hot topics to mature products**



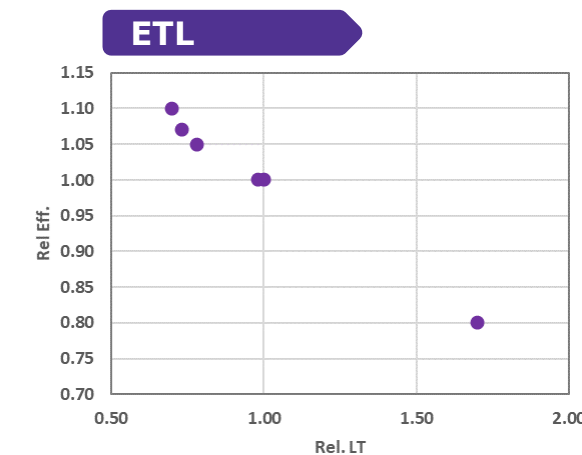
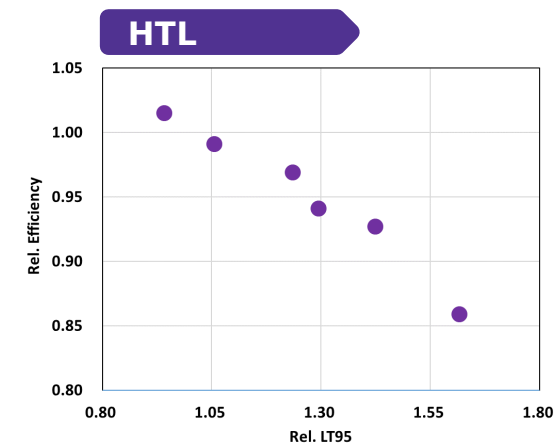
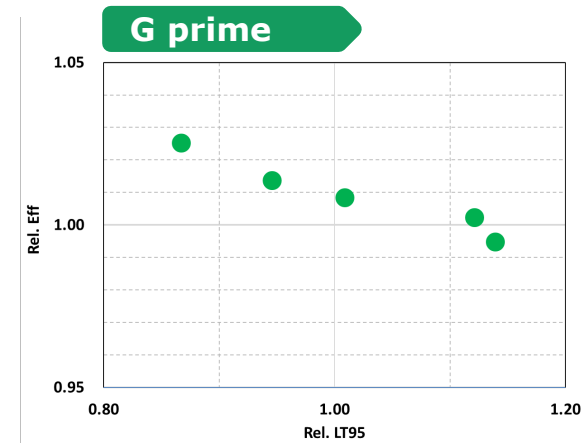
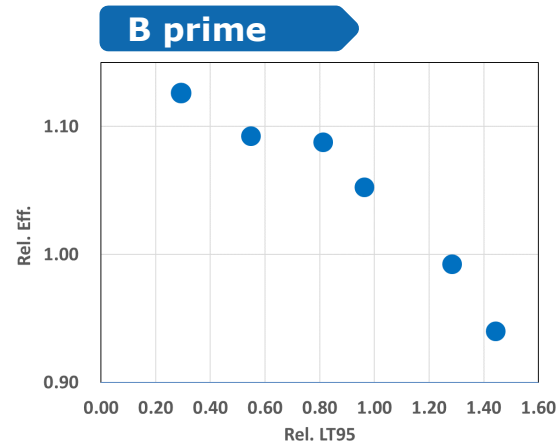


# Our Approach

## Broad Material Portfolio



Charge Balance Effect



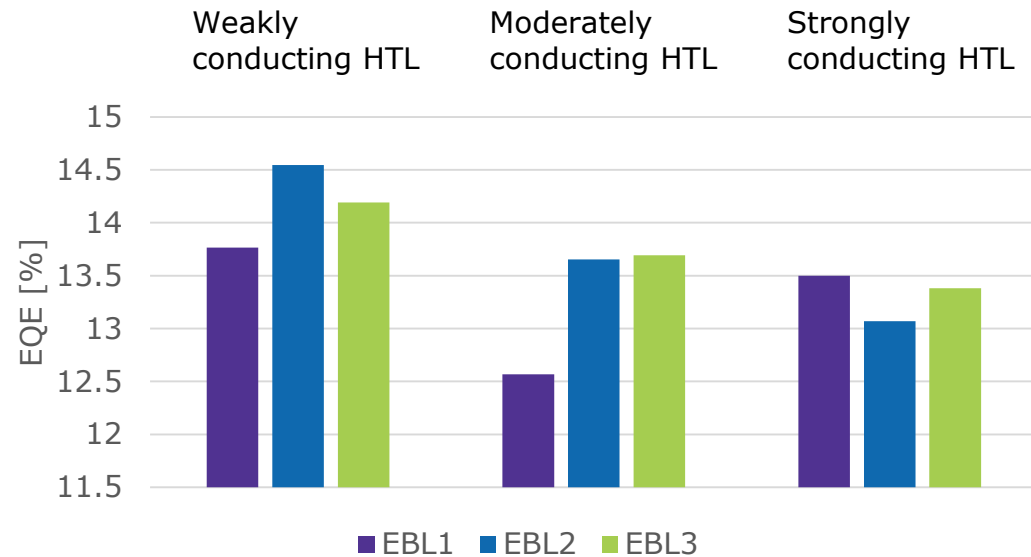
Freedom to tune device performance independently in RGB



# Our Approach

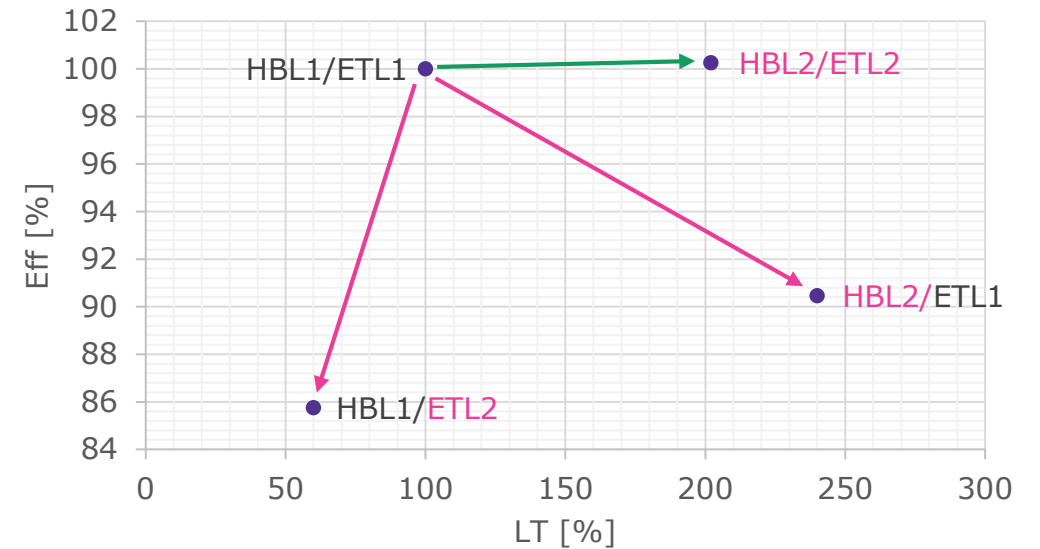
## Material Combinations and Full Stack Understanding

### Example 1: Interaction between HTL and EBL



**There is no universally best material!**

### Example 2: Interaction between HBL and ETL



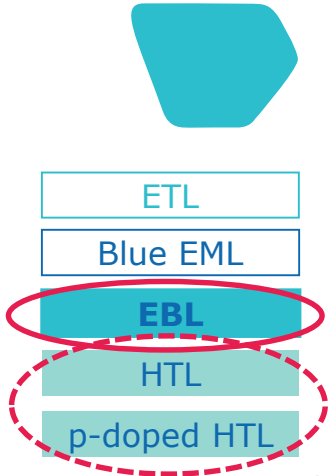
**One by one replacement does not bring solution!**



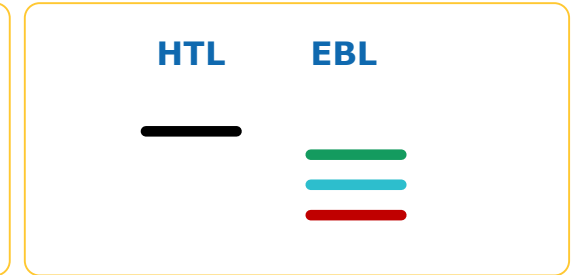
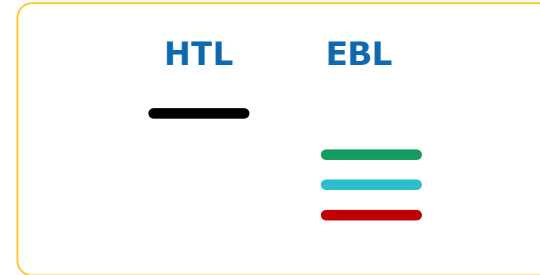
**We leverage a broad portfolio and understanding of interactions within the device to optimize performance for specific applications**



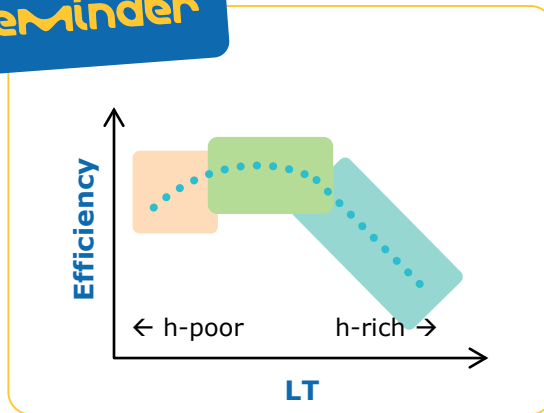
# Example Interaction between HTL and EBL



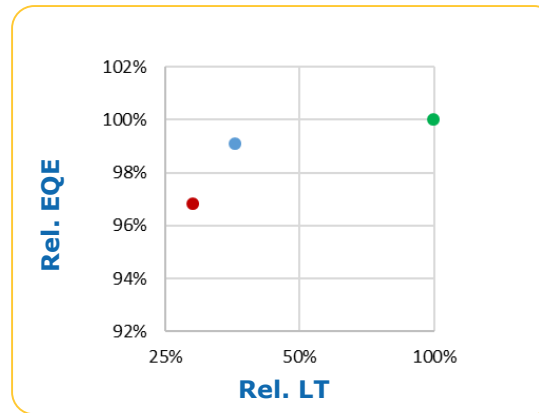
HOMO



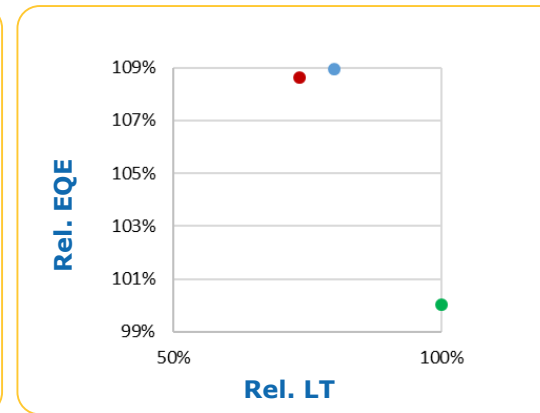
Reminder



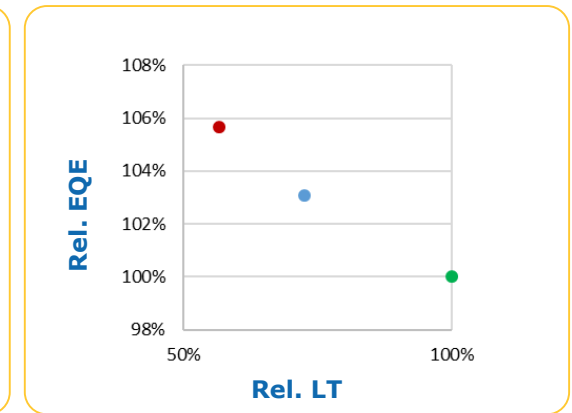
EBLs on high HOMO HTL



EBLs on medium HOMO HTL



EBLs on deep HOMO HTL



- Strong interaction with HTL
- Most efficient EBL in one device can be least efficient in another!

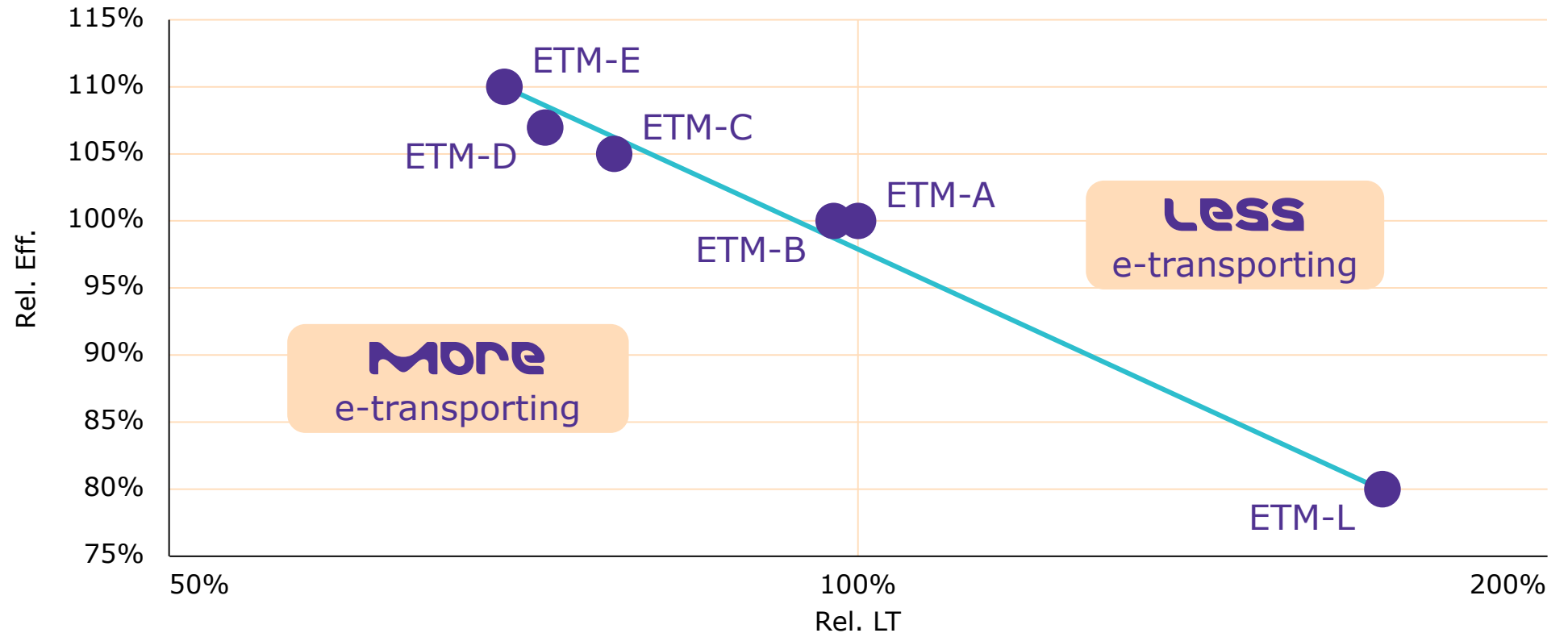


# How to adjust the charge balance?

## Our Electron Transport Material portfolio (selection)

- ETL
- Blue EML
- EBL
- HTL
- p-doped HTL

ETMs in vapor blue stack



➤ ETM portfolio covering a wide range of charge balance for tuning between LT and eff.

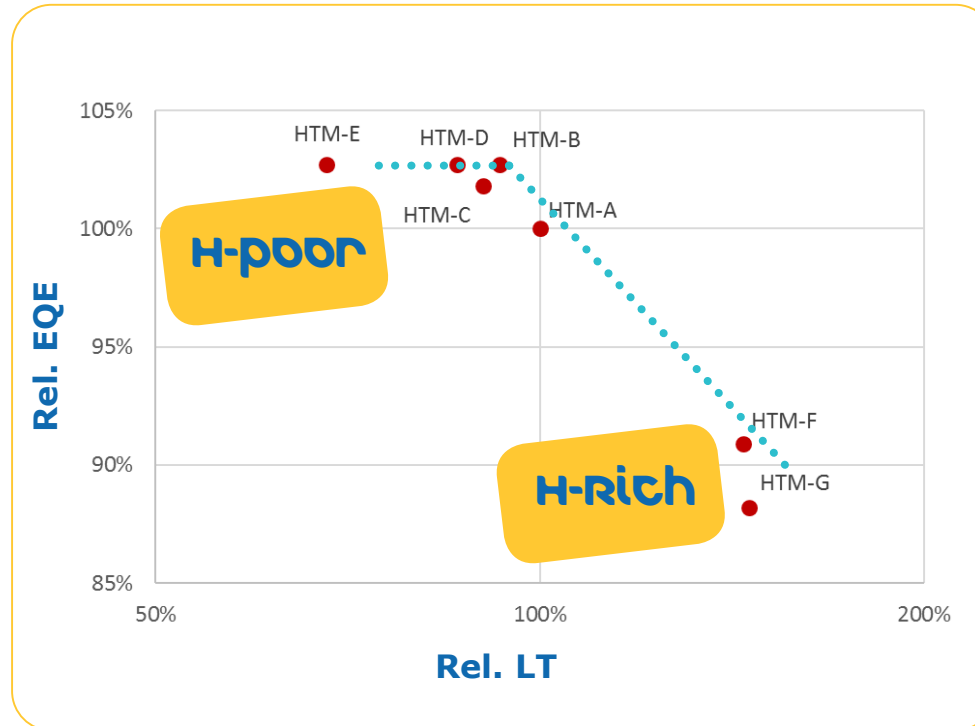


# Example

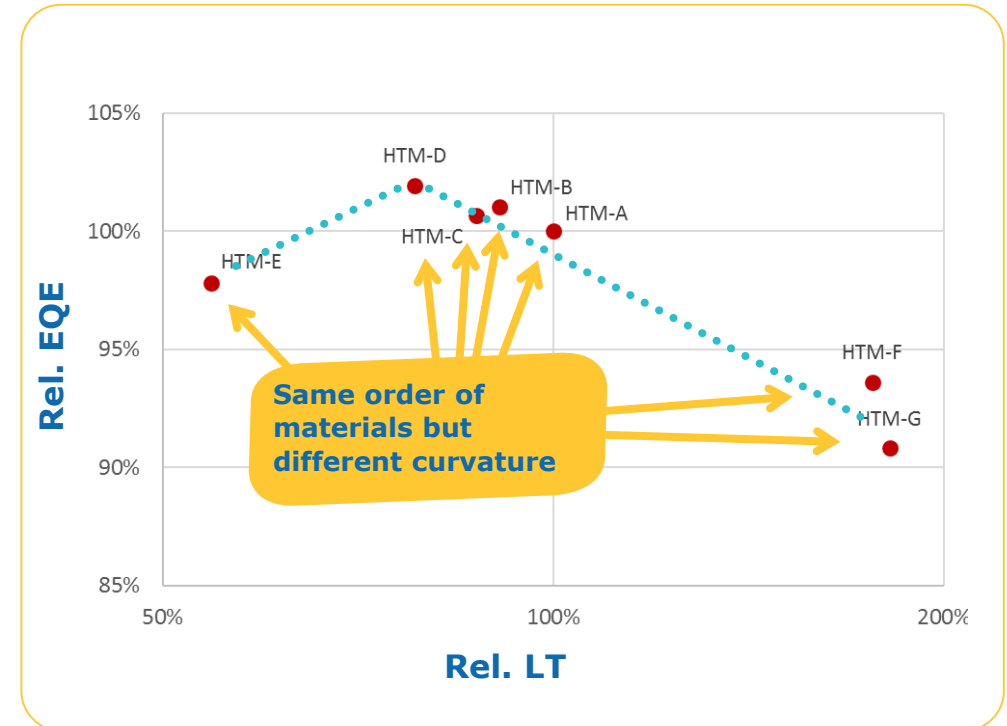
## Electron Blocking Material portfolio for fluorescent blue (selection)

- ETL
- Blue EML
- EBL
- HTL
- p-doped HTL

EBLs in blue stack with moderately e-rich ETL



EBLs in blue stack with strongly e-rich ETL



HTM portfolio for tuning between LT and efficiency by choice of EBL  
Interaction with choice of ETL has to be considered

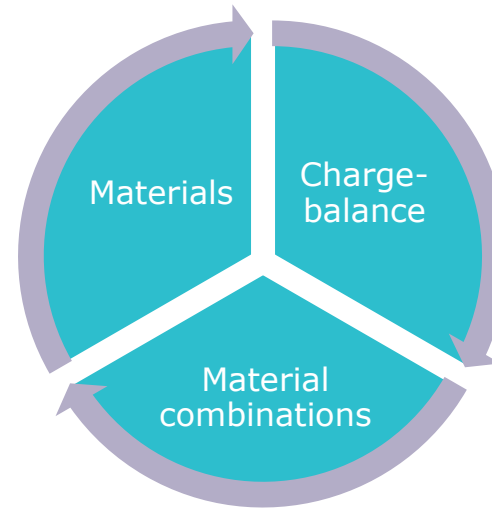


# Example

## Optimizing lifetime and driving voltage



Lifetime and driving voltage can be optimized with the right combinations of materials



**Full stack understanding**

We aim for understanding the whole OLED device and interaction of the different layers and interfaces with each other.

| Stack   | U [V]   | Rel. EQE | Rel. LT |
|---|---------|----------|---------|
| HTM-1 / EBL-1 / Ref-Host - Ref-Dopant / HBL-1 / ETM-1 | Ref     | 1.00     | 1.00    |
| HTM-1 / EBL-1 / New Host - Ref-Dopant / HBL-1 / ETM-1 | -0.15 V | 0.95     | 1.20    |
| HTM-2 / EBL-2 / New Host - Ref-Dopant / HBL-1 / ETM-1 | -0.52 V | 0.97     | 1.55    |
| HTM-2 / EBL-2 / New Host - Ref-Dopant / HBL-2 / ETM-2 | -0.70 V | 0.97     | 1.65    |



## Key Messages

# Tuning efficiency by transport layers



**Portfolio approach is key** for offering Transport Layers.



Interplay between HTL/EBL/HBL/ETL determines **overall performance**.



**Extensive combination screening** is necessary to optimize OLED stack.

### Our approach:

- Actively developing materials for various OLED layers to understand full stack
- Significant investments in physics / application lab resources

**„Charge Balance“**

is often dominating the LT/efficiency performance



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