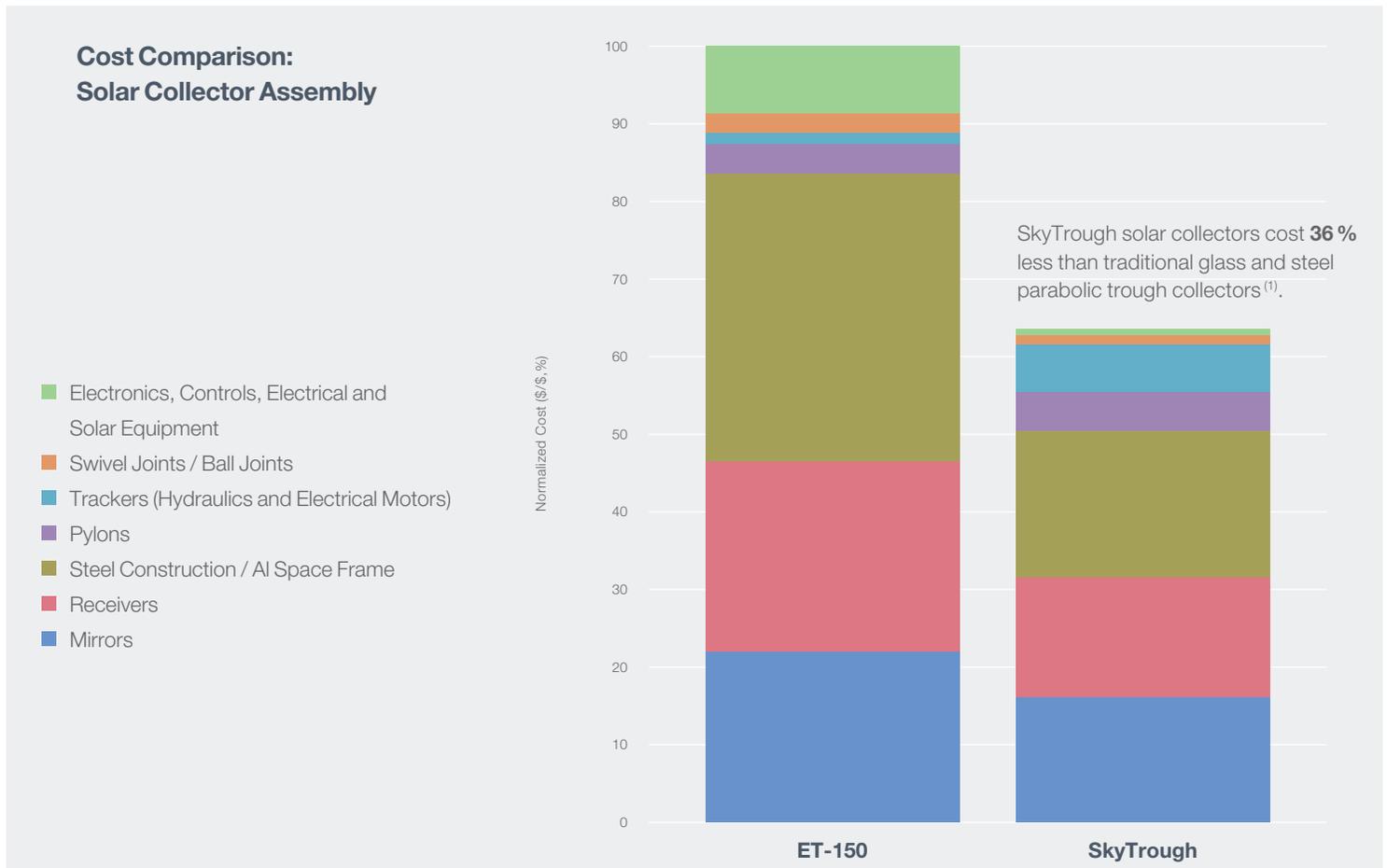


Cost Comparison:

Solar Collector Assembly

The SkyTrough® parabolic trough was engineered to minimize the cost of solar heat produced. Below, the costs of the components that comprise the SkyTrough® are compared to those of the EuroTrough 150 (ET-150)⁽¹⁾. This comparison neglects the costs for balance of field and installation, which contribute an additional 34 % cost savings⁽²⁾.



The SkyTrough® design is based on use of ReflecTech® mirror film in place of traditional glass mirror facets. Use of the film enables a cascade of cost-saving, performance-enhancing improvements to the design of the parabolic trough. Per unit aperture area, the ReflecTech® reflectors cost less than slumped glass mirror facets, and fewer receivers, pylons, trackers, and rotating piping connections are needed. The lighter reflectors and gravity-balanced design mean that the aluminum space frame is significantly lighter than traditional steel torsion box and torque tube designs, and results in reduced cost even when aluminum is more expensive than steel. The Sky-Trakker™ controls package supplied by SkyFuel is optimized for solar field operation. This results in reduced equipment costs, smaller parasitic loads, and decreased operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for the life of the plant.

(1) Costing information was taken from Renewable Energy Technologies: Cost Analysis Series, Vol. 1: Power Sector by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

(2) See "Cost Comparison: Balance of Field and Installation" for a detailed analysis of these costs.