

# A DECADE OF IMPOSSIBLE SCENARIOS

In the gap between the incumbent path of the first curve and the emergent path of the second curve, seemingly impossible things can happen. The *2012 Ten-Year Forecast* adopts a typology of impossible scenarios\* to think systematically about the impossible.

## THIS TYPOLOGY POINTS TO FOUR KINDS OF IMPOSSIBILITY:

### TYPE 1 SCENARIO

These scenarios violate realistic time frames

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### TYPE 2 SCENARIO

These scenarios require the convergence of multiple improbable scenarios

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### TYPE 3 SCENARIO

These scenarios supersede our current understanding of reality

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### TYPE 4 SCENARIO

These scenarios require concepts not available to mainstream culture

Looking out over the horizon of the two-curve decade, the *2012 Ten-Year Forecast* applies these types of “impossibility” to the six driving forces of the decade to arrive at 22 impossible scenarios. Although these scenarios stretch our thinking—and perhaps even our credulity—each also stands on signals already visible in today’s very real world.

\* This typology was developed by Jacques Vallée, IFTF Distinguished Fellow, as part of an ongoing investigation into Futures: Impossible!

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