



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE



# HEAT PUMP INTEGRATION IN DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEMS

Opportunities and Barriers

Roman Geyer

Seminar at the University of Geneva

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 | 17:15 – 18:30





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- General overview
- Basics of DH and HP
- Hydraulic integration options
- Barriers / challenges
- Possible solutions and opportunities
- Success factors
- Monitoring and Optimization
- Developments / Project Highlights
- Closing
- Discussion

# SEMINARS ON ENERGY CHALLENGES

- Energy demand in Switzerland
- District heating (DH) potential
- Renewable heat integration in DH
- Low temperature DH in Geneva
- Heat pump integration in district heating systems: Opportunities and Barriers
- Role of combined heat and power in the energy transition

**1.370**  
employees

**bmvit**

**8** Centers

Austria's largest  
**RTO**

Infrastructure Systems

System  
Competence

Applied Research

Next Generation  
Solutions

**4** Subsidiary  
Enterprises

LKR, NES, SL, Profactor 51%

Federation of  
**Austrian Industries**  
(through VFFI)

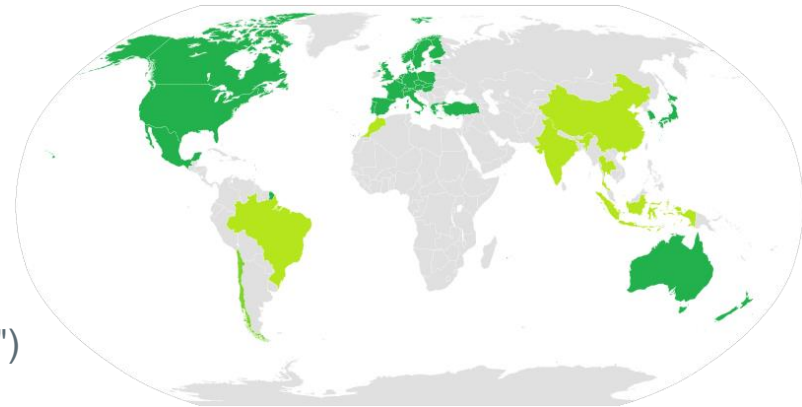
**Tomorrow Today**

**162,9**  
M EUR total revenue



# INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)

- Founded in 1974 by 16 industrial nations to combat the **oil crisis** (IEA has strategic oil reserves)
- Goal: To **guarantee reliable, cost-effective and clean energy**
- Current: 30 Member States
- Important publications:
  - [Key Energy Statistics](#)
  - [World Energy Outlook](#) ("Bible of the Energy sector")
- **Cooperation platform** in the field of research, development, market launch and application of energy technologies



# IEA HPT ANNEX 47



## Heat Pumps in District Heating and Cooling systems

- International project team:



### Activities:

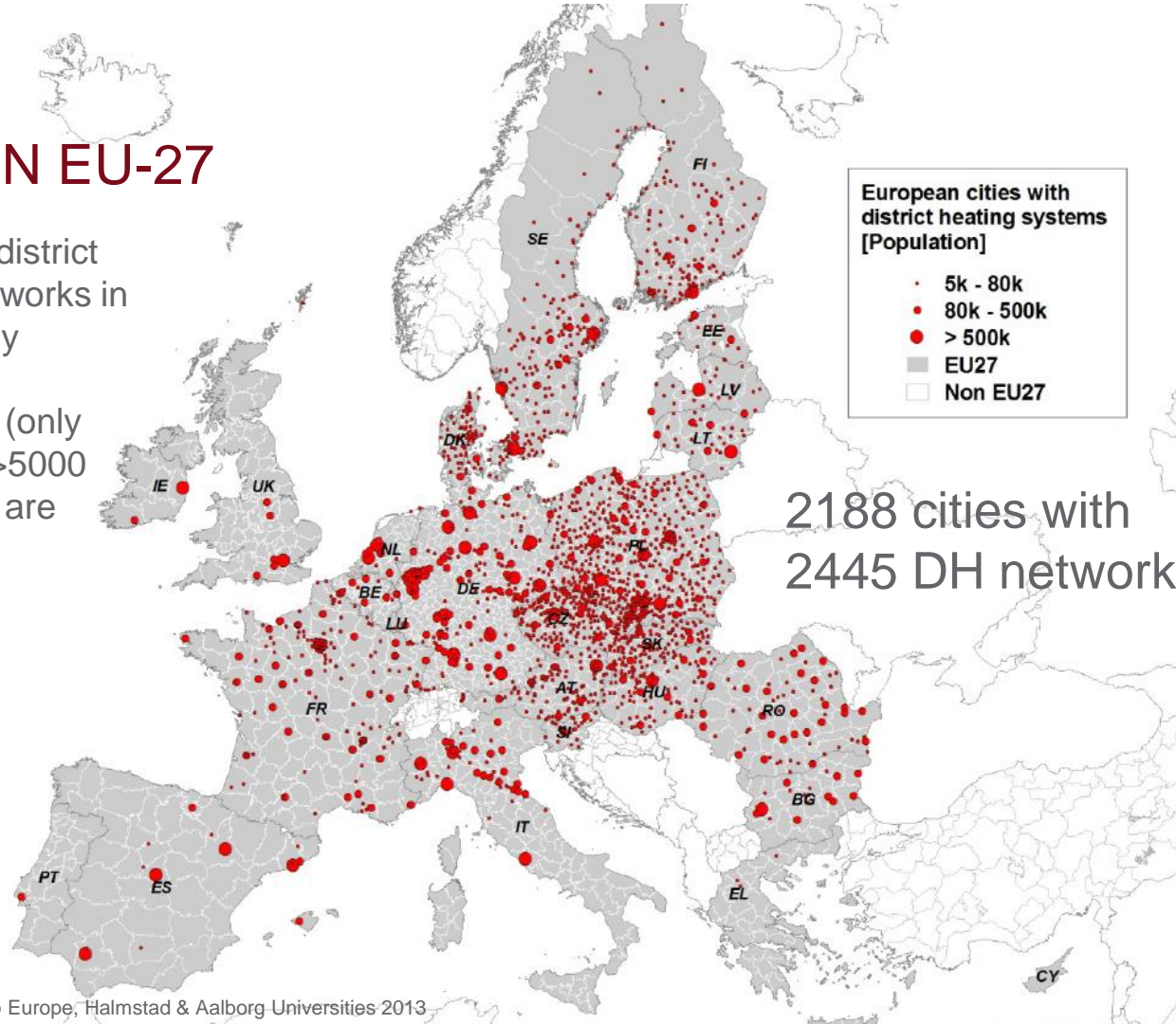
- Task 1. Market and energy reduction potential
- Task 2. Description of existing DHC systems and demonstration and R&D projects with HPs
- Task 3. Review the different concepts/solutions
- Task 4. Implementation barriers, possibilities and solutions

Country	Demos
AT	11
CH	10
DK	9
SE	8
UK	6
<b>Sum</b>	<b>44</b>



# DH IN EU-27

Cities with district heating networks in the EU27 by number of inhabitants (only cities with >5000 inhabitants are shown).



2188 cities with  
2445 DH networks are shown

# INSTALLED HP CAPACITIES

Survey EHPA (European Heat Pump Association)

1,422 MW<sub>th</sub>

57 HP plants  
112 HP → Ø 12.7 MW<sub>th</sub>/HP

## COP

Average: 3.74  
RL increase: 5.4 – 6.5  
LT-DH: 5.5  
Absorption-HP: 1.4 – 1.7

## Refrigerants

R134a most frequent (~ 70 %)  
NH<sub>3</sub> promising  
CO<sub>2</sub> Further development needed

Installed capacity [MW<sub>th</sub>]





# DH IN SWITZERLAND AT A GLANCE

9%

of residential heat demand  
covered by DH

7.7 TWh

DH generation in 2017  
(CH: 85 TWh total head demand)

17 TWh

potential for DH

2-3 TWh

potential for HPs in DHN

1,000 [-]

DH networks  
(of which 600 has biomass as main  
energy carrier)

32%

based on waste incineration  
(wood 30%, gas 23%)

# BASICS OF DISTRICT HEATING AND HEAT PUMPS

Functional principle district heating

Why to lower temperatures?

Influences of reduced temperatures

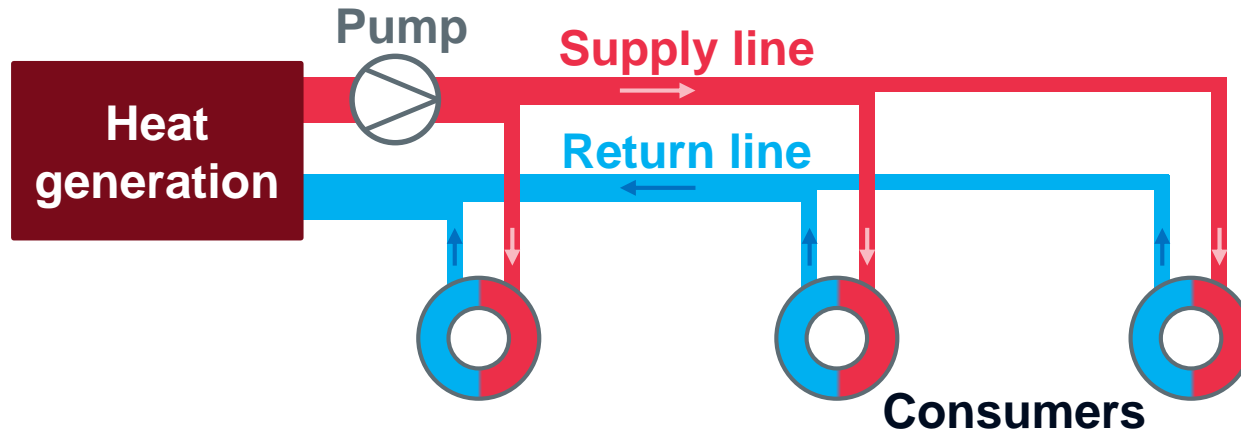
Example: CHP (Back pressure)

Motivation for HP integration

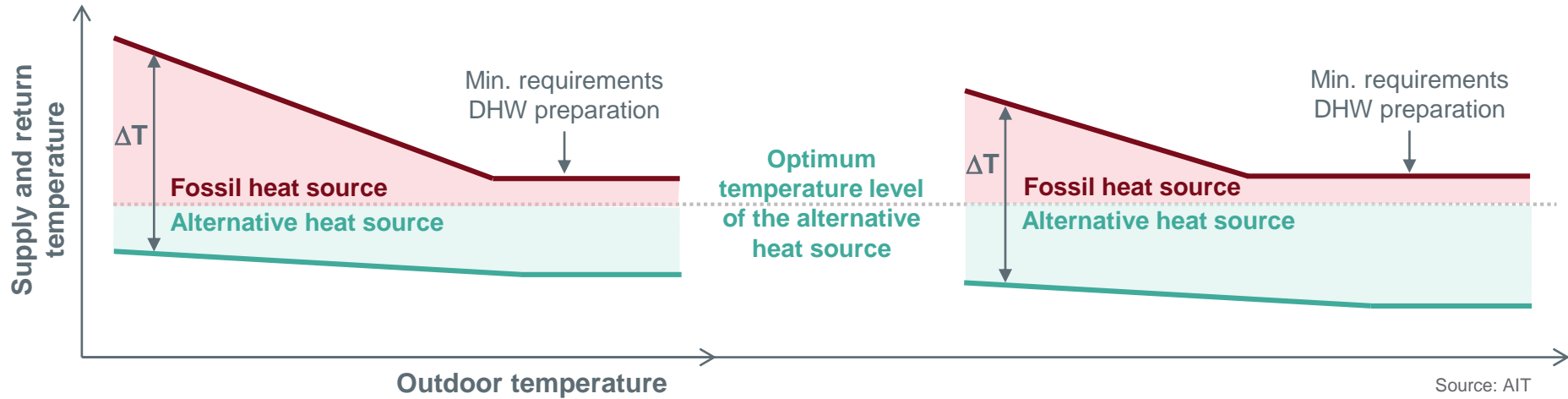


# FUNCTIONAL PRINCIPLE DISTRICT HEATING

- (Central) Heat generators produce hot water
- (Central) Pumps ensure heat distribution in the network
- Heat is distributed by a supply line which supplies the consumers with hot water
- Cooled water is returned through the return line to the heat generator(s), where it is heated again



# WHY TO LOWER TEMPERATURES?



Source: AIT

# INFLUENCES OF REDUCED TEMPERATURES

## Generation



Higher fuel utilization, Higher electricity yield in CHPs, Better economic efficiency, Reduction of emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, ...), Better integration of alternative energy producers (heat pumps, waste heat, ...), etc.

## Grid



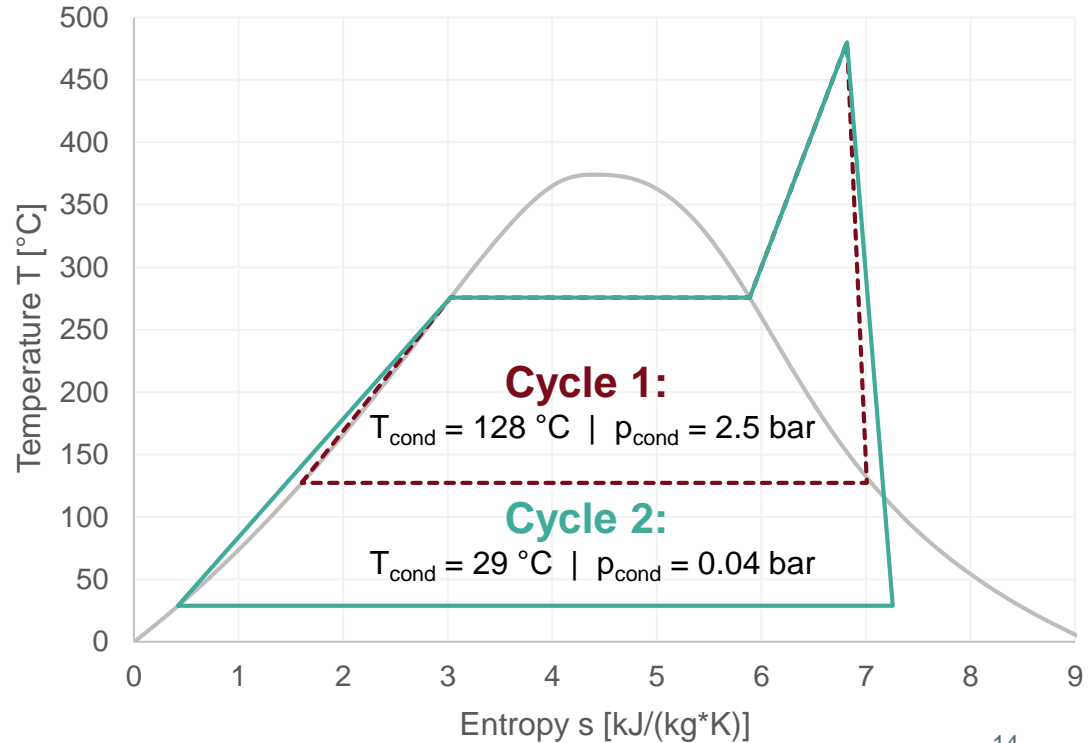
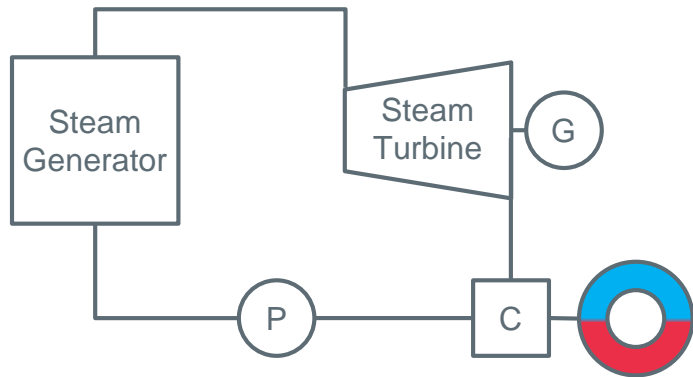
Higher transmission capacities, reduction of heat losses, reduction of mass flow and thus of pumping costs, smaller pipe dimensions for new buildings, etc.

## Customers

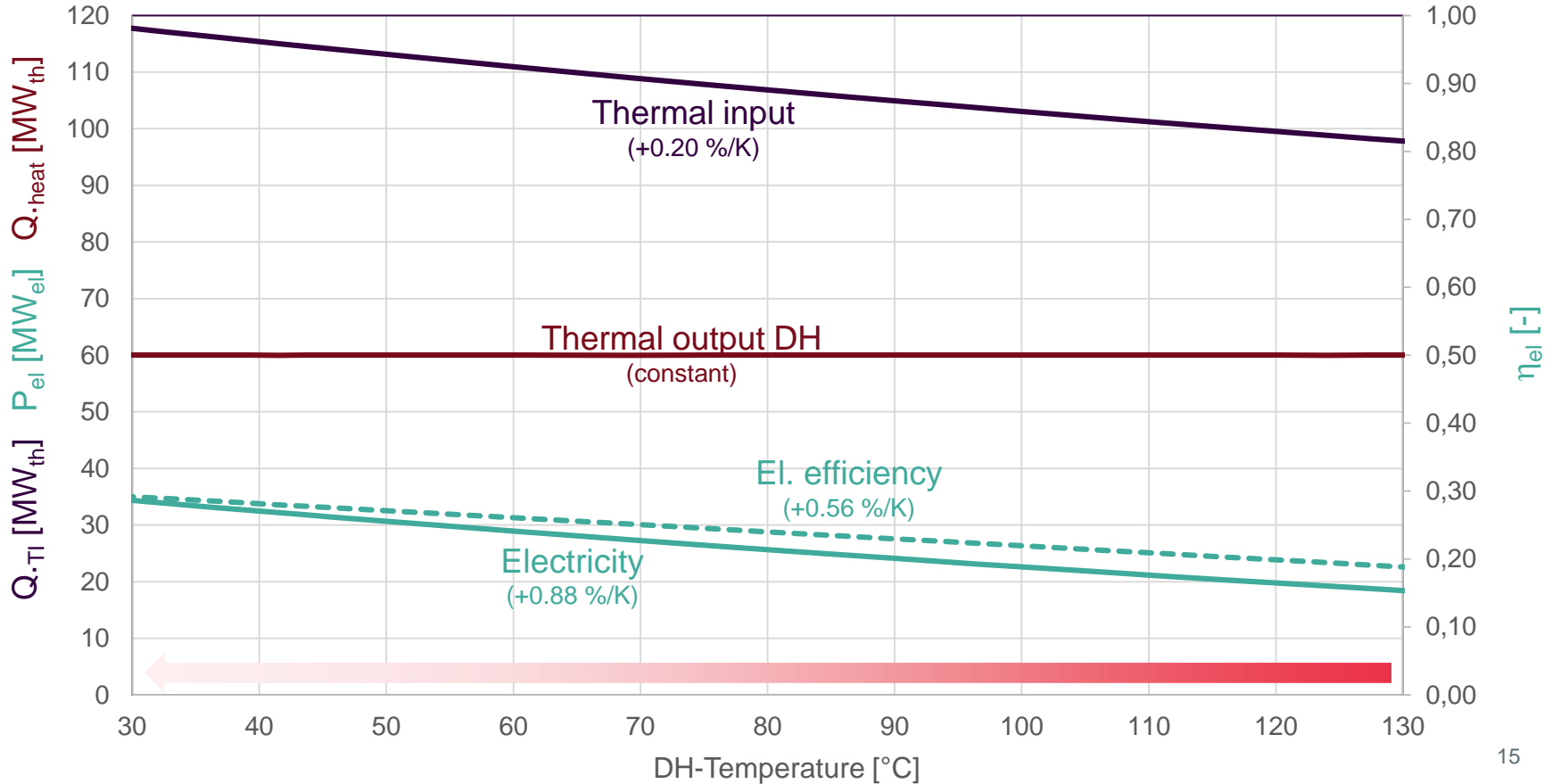


Ecological and economical operation, optimal design and construction of the plants, economical DHW preparation (hygienically perfect and with low return temperatures), etc.

# EXAMPLE: CHP (BACK PRESSURE)



# FIRST ASSESSMENTS



# MOTIVATION FOR HP INTEGRATION

The motivation to use HPs in DHC can be divided into the following areas:

- **usage / capture** of low temperature alternative heat sources
- **enabler** for other alternative energy sources
- link to **power** grid (balance of energy domains)
- **reduction** of the network temperatures
- increasing transport **capacities** by using the return line as a source



# HYDRAULIC INTEGRATION OPTIONS FOR HEAT PUMPS IN DH NETWORKS

External

Internal

Supply line

Return line

Transport capacity

Sub networks



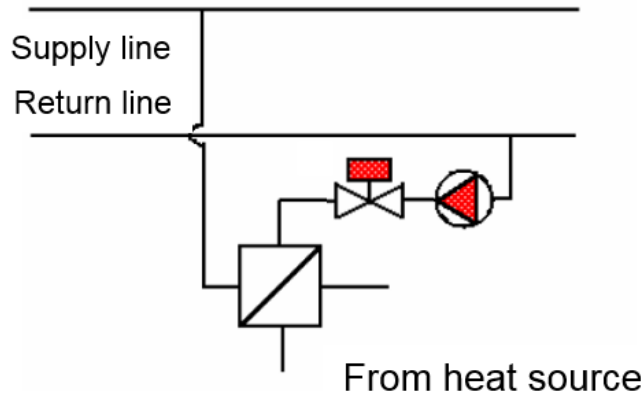
# “EXTERNAL” HEAT SOURCES

- **Environmental heat**
  - Sea, Lake, Groundwater
- **Industrial processes**
  - Steel & iron and foundries
  - Pulp & paper
  - Food producers
  - Data centers
  - Drying processes (e.g. laundries), etc.
- **Existing infrastructure**
  - Other alternative energy producers (e.g. flue gas)
  - Sewers
  - Tunnel systems

# HYDRAULIC INTEGRATION OPTIONS FOR HEAT GENERATORS IN DH NETWORKS

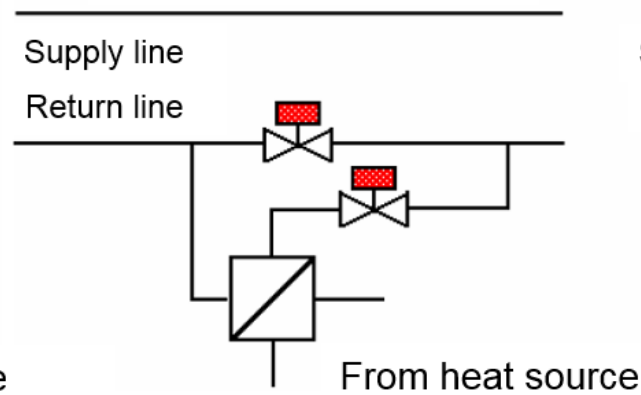
## General hydraulic feed-in options

From return to supply



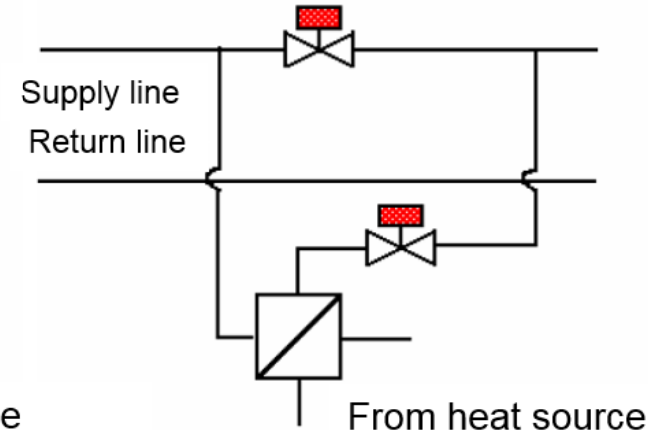
- Pump needed ( $\Delta p$ : SL-RL)
- „Classical“ heat generator integration
- No influence on return temperature

From return to return



- no (or small) Pump needed
- Best efficiency for heat generator
- Return temperature increases

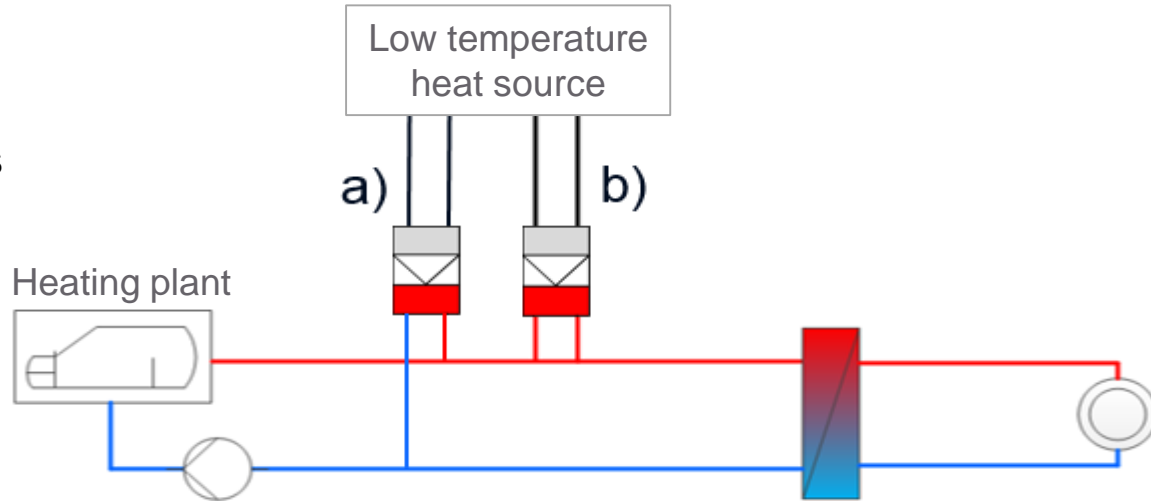
From supply to supply



- no (or small) Pump needed
- Lower efficiency for heat generator
- Max. temperature after feed-in

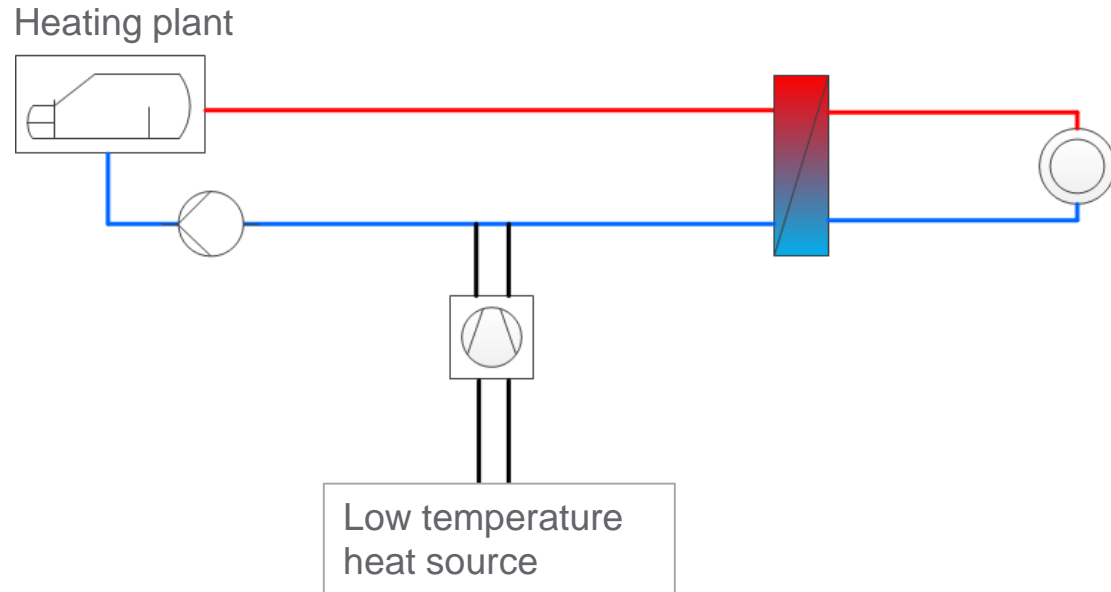
# INTEGRATION OF HP WITH **EXTERNAL** HEAT SOURCE IN THE DH **SUPPLY** LINE

- Parallel **(a)** or serial **(b)** integration
- Integration into supply line: high temperature requirements for the heat pump
- Requirements for special Refrigerants
- Pro: Temperature boost happens close to the consumer



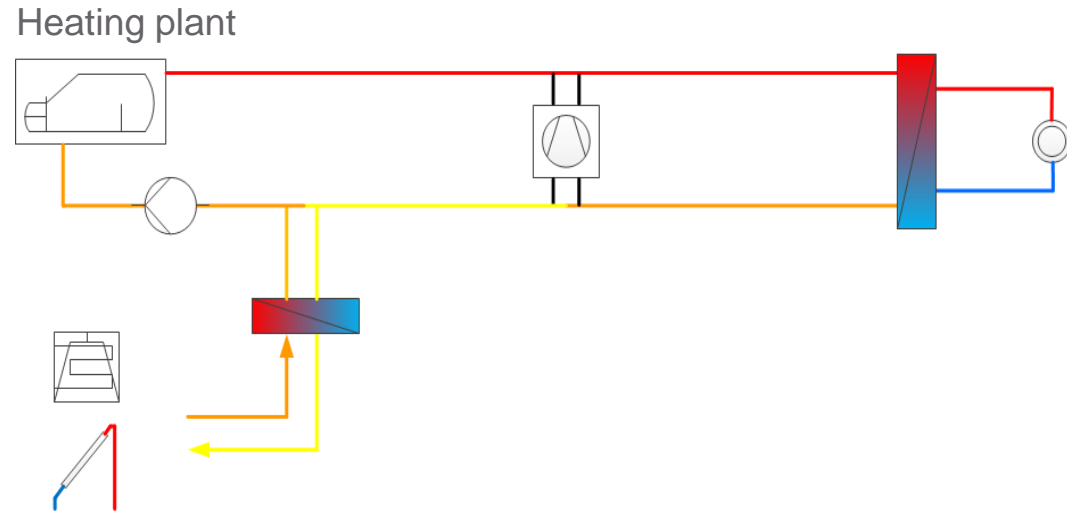
# INTEGRATION OF HP WITH **EXTERNAL** HEAT SOURCE IN THE DH RETURN LINE

- Integration into return line:  
lower temperature of the return line → higher efficiency of the heat pump
- BUT: higher return temperatures on existing heat generators



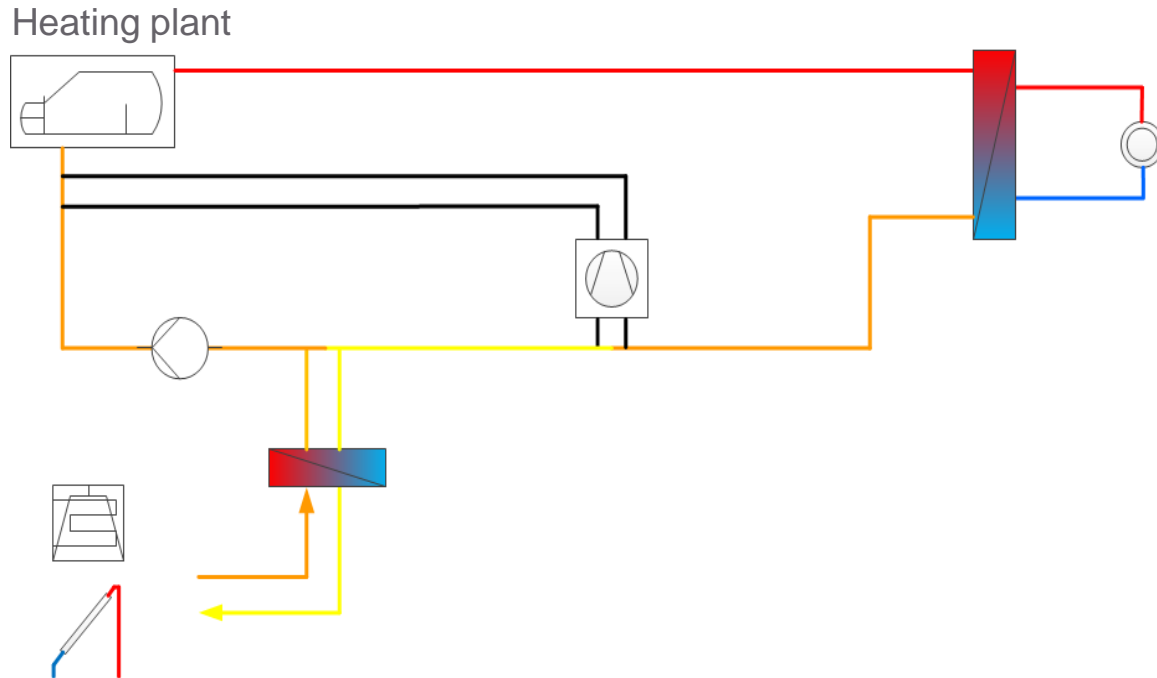
# INTEGRATION OF HP WITH INTERNAL HEAT SOURCE IN THE DH SUPPLY LINE

- Note: No additional renewable energy source is brought to the DH-network by the HP (except using renewable electricity)
- Add on: return temperature reduced → additional possibility for (alternative) energy sources e.g. flue gas condensation or solar thermal



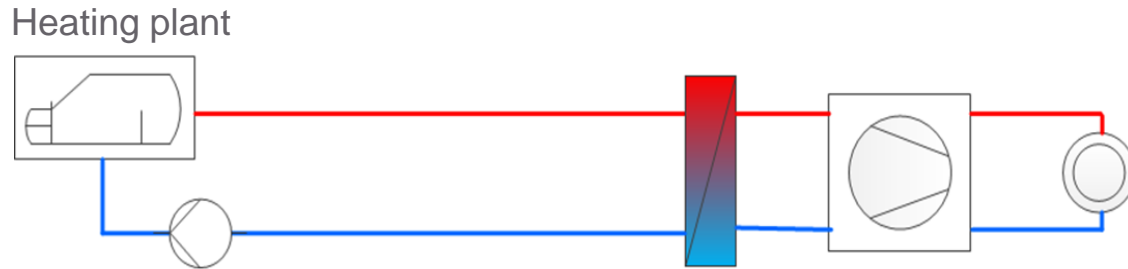
# INTEGRATION OF HP WITH INTERNAL HEAT SOURCE IN THE DH RETURN LINE

- Note: No additional renewable energy source is brought to the DH-network by the HP (except using renewable electricity)
- Just return line integration leads to higher efficiency of the heat pump
- Easier integration of low-grade waste heat



# INTEGRATION OF HP WITH INTERNAL HEAT SOURCE TO INCREASE TRANSPORT CAPACITY

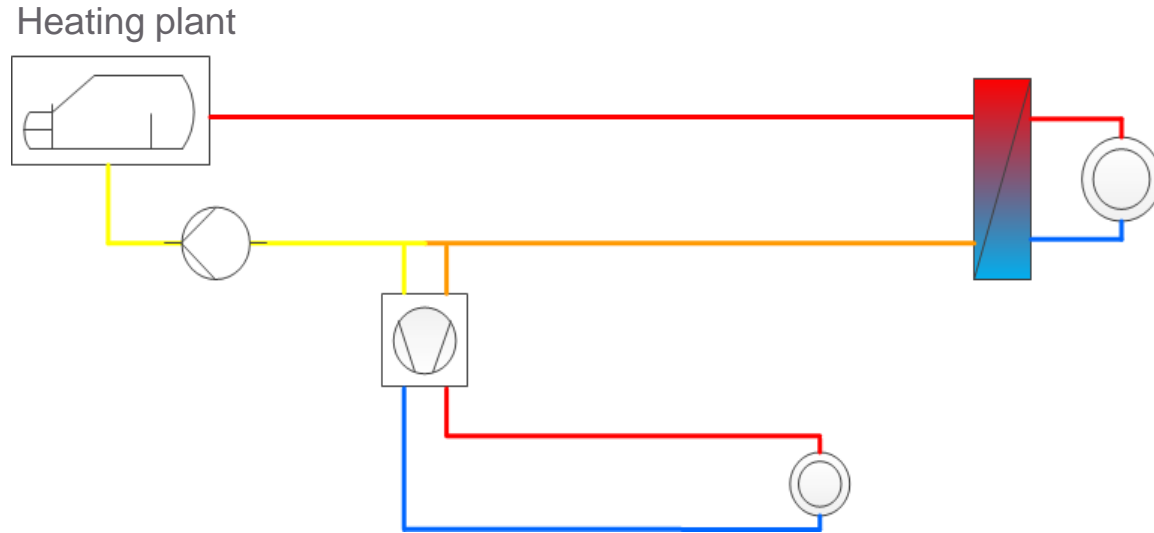
- Booster: Increasing transport capacity / temperature in secondary networks
- Add on: supplying remote areas and prevent bottlenecks





# INTEGRATION OF HP WITH INTERNAL HEAT SOURCE TO SUPPLY SUB NETWORKS

- Supplying sub networks
- Add on: e.g. coupling 3GDH with 4GDH (low temperature networks)



# BARRIERS / CHALLENGES

Social-, economical- and technical barriers



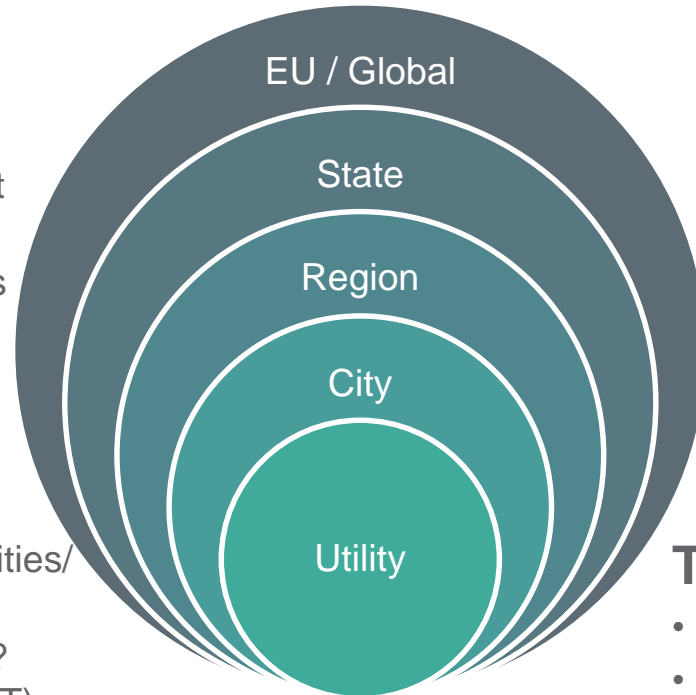
# CHALLENGES WE HAVE TO FACE

## Customers

- Prosumer
- Citizens' power stations
- Service orientation and comfort (cooling requirements)
- New business and tariff models
- Supply security
- ...

## Market

- High volatility, pooling of flexibilities/ balancing energy markets
- Copper plate or electric fences? (e.g. electricity price zone DE/AT)
- Energy price developments (oil, gas, ...)
- ...



## Society & Politics

- Demographic developments
- Decarbonization / COP21
- Energy efficiency act
- ...

## Technology & Innovation

- Digitization & Smart Home
- Energy efficiency & storage
- Electric mobility
- ...

# BARRIERS

## Social

System change  
(technology, distribution system, ...)

Shifting policy  
(long-term strategies needed)

Lack of confidence

Policy  
(Funding other technologies but not HPs)

Lack of knowledge  
(Integration, operation, ...)

Fossil fuel subsidies  
(do not help ...)

Energy prices  
(gas, el., ...)

Spatial planning  
(usually ignorant to available heat sources)

## Technical

Availability of technical requirements

Availability of HP-products

Availability of heat sources  
(location, temperature, ...)

## Economical

Investment costs  
(HP in combination with DHC)

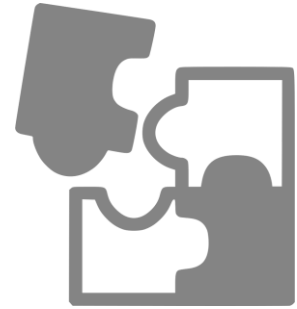


# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Holistic heat supply strategies

Sector coupling/ hybrid energy systems

Business models



# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

## Social

Energy policy/planning

Reduction of emissions  
(air pollution, ...)

Local involvement


System thinking  
(closing energy cycles)

Phase-out of fossil fuel  
(reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions)

... AND  
OPPORTUNITIES

Education & Instruction  
(technology related)


Circular energy economy  
(proper system design)



Guidelines / Descriptions  
(how to use ... / install HPs)

Fair pricing  
(internalization)

Capacity expansion



Heating & Cooling  
(both at same time)

## Technical

Higher efficiency  
(CHP, network, ...)

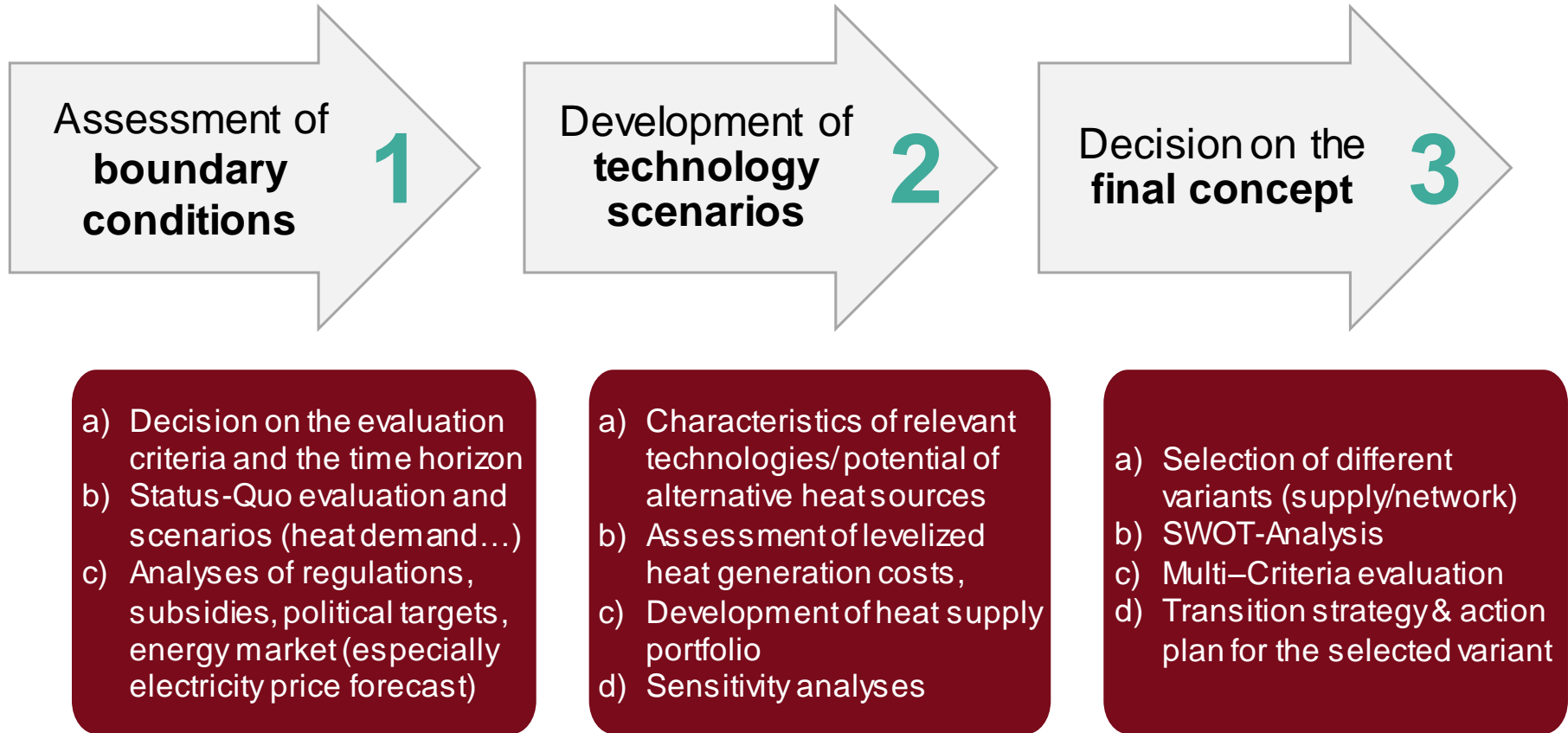
## Economical

Reduction of losses  
(generation, network, ...)

Standardization  
(R&D, solutions, interface)

Flexibility  
(balancing markets)

# HOLISTIC HEAT SUPPLY STRATEGIES

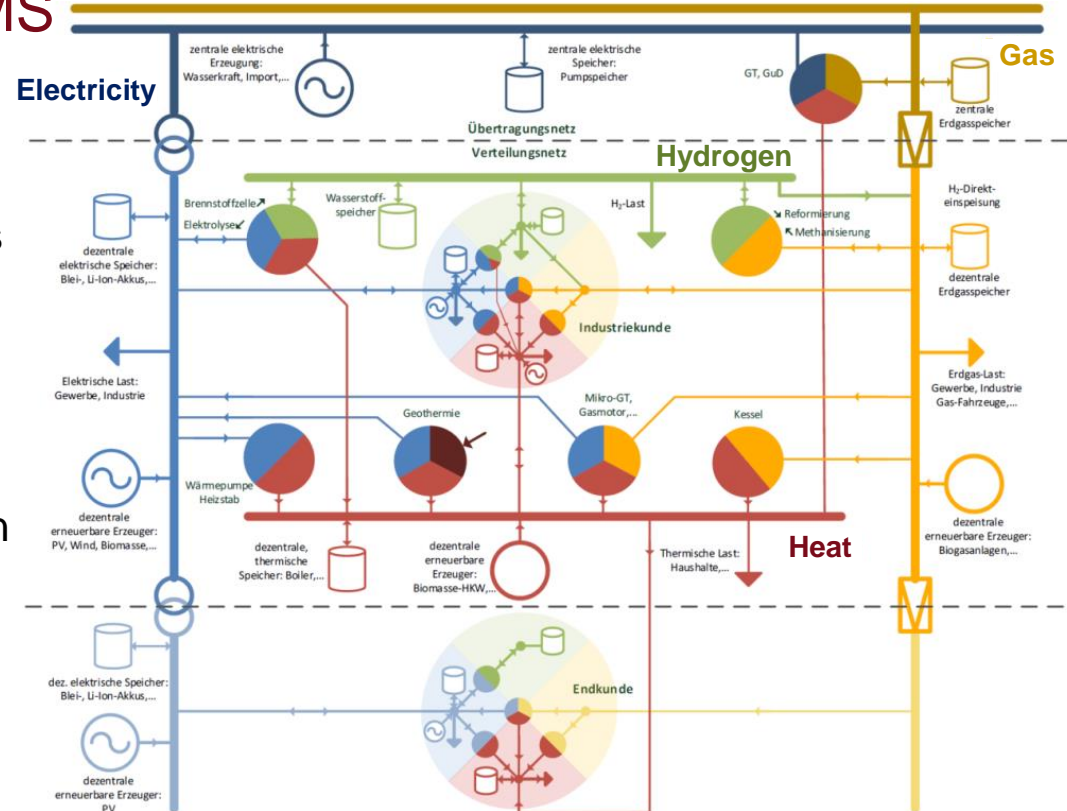


# SECTOR COUPLING / HYBRID ENERGY SYSTEMS

The use of HPs in times of favorable electricity prices can increase the:

- **share** of renewable energy sources and the **security of supply** in the heating grid and
- technical **capacity** and **own consumption** in areas with a high degree of local electricity production from PV and wind energy
- **services** for power grid / energy markets

**BUT:** high **complexity** and **very dynamic** behavior



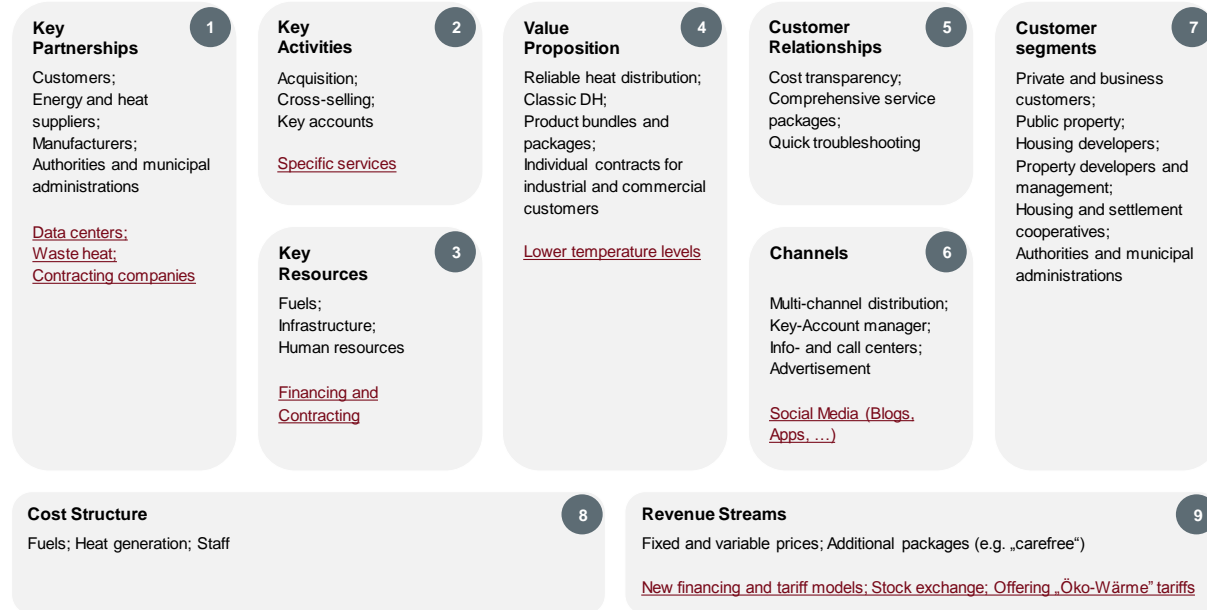


# BUSINESS MODELS

## Innovative approaches are needed

Existing business and financing models are often unsuitable for the integration of (decentralized) heat pumps in DH networks!

- Digitization
- Regionality
- Fuel substitution
- Specific services
- System optimization
- Flexible tariff models
- Holistic system concept
- Financing and contracting
- Waste heat / cooling energy
- Set up “heat stock exchange”
- Reduction of system temperatures



Source: AIT

# SUCCESS FACTORS



# WHAT DO WE NEED?



- Strong partners: companies, institutes, start-ups, etc.
- Projects: demo, best practice, experiences, motivation
- Learning by doing: requires pioneers who are willing to "pay its dues"
- Energy spatial planning: localizing waste heat, avoiding double infrastructure
- Standardized solutions: R&D, degression of costs, economy of scale
- Price signals: to the use of fossil fuels, reduce the burden from tax and levy on clean energy

# MONITORING AND OPTIMIZATION

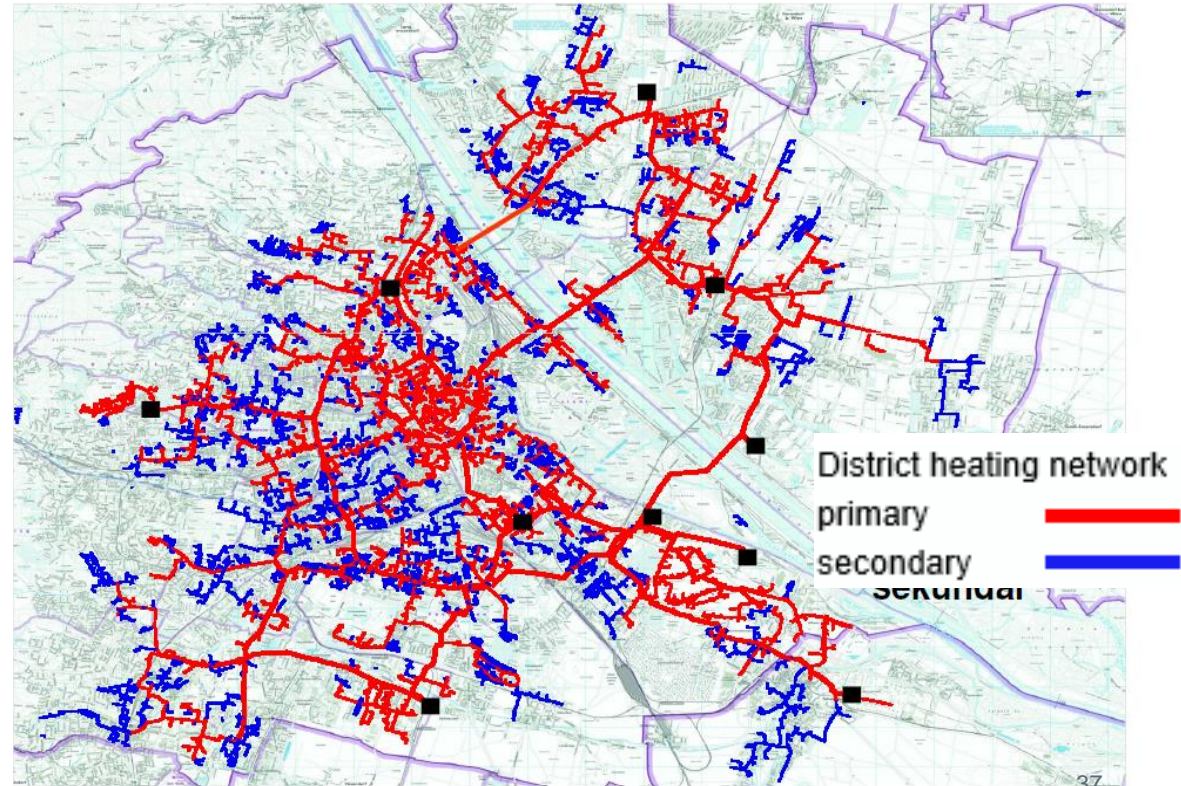
District Boost:

Application of heat pumps in the district heating network of Vienna

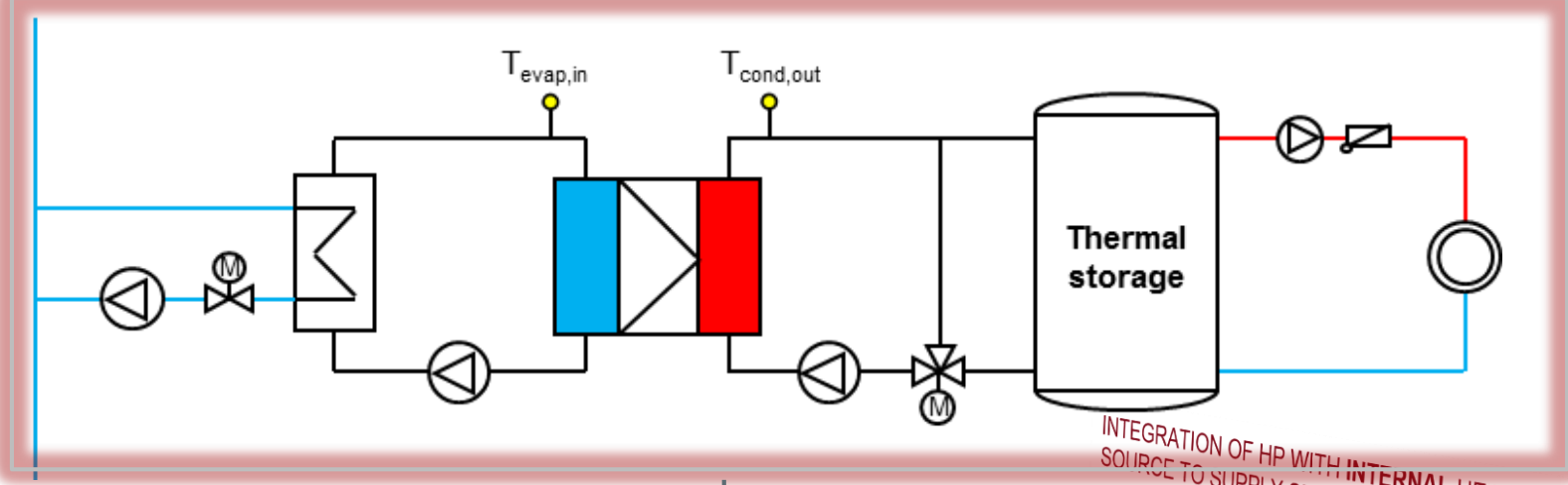


# PILOT PLANT – DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK VIENNA

- Heat generation: ~ 6 TWh/a
- Primary net ≈ 560 km
- Secondary net ≈ 630 km
- $T_{\text{supply}}$  prim. 80 – 150 °C
- $T_{\text{supply}}$  sec. 63 – 90 °C

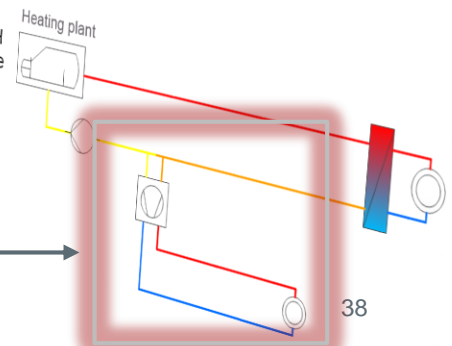


# PILOT PLANT – SIMPLIFIED SCHEME

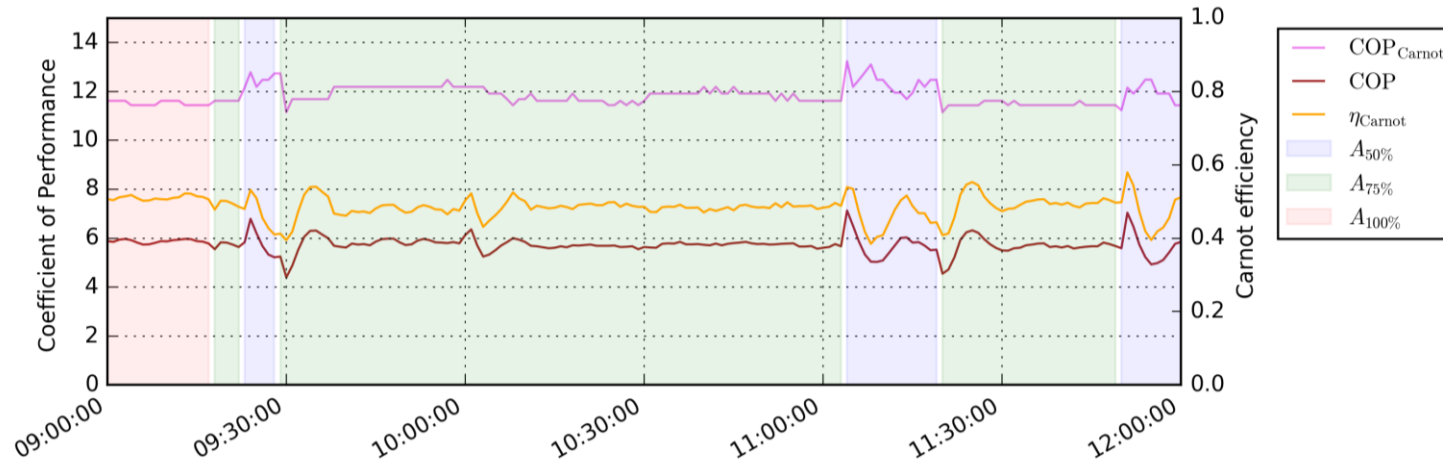
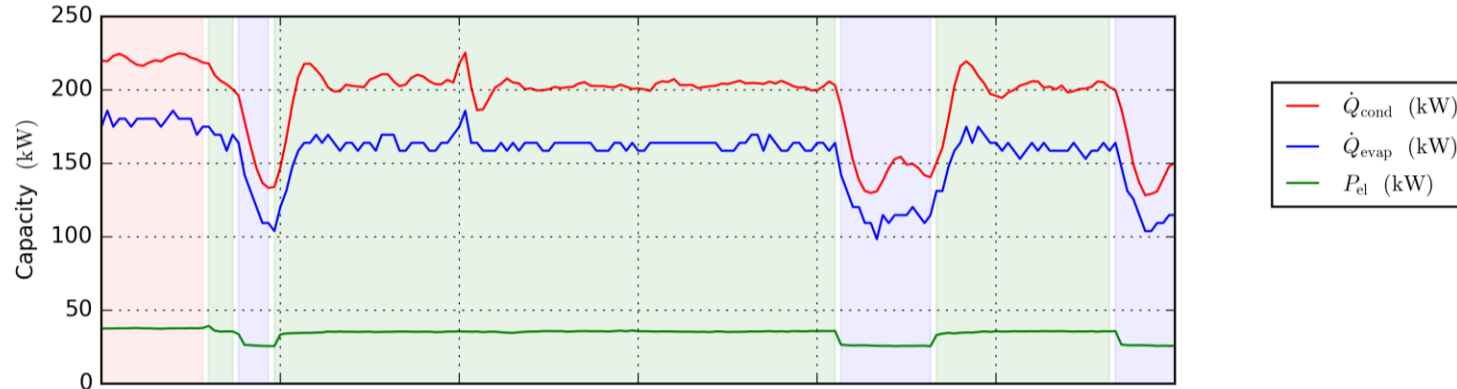


**INTEGRATION OF HP WITH INTERNAL HEAT SOURCE TO SUPPLY SUB NETWORKS**

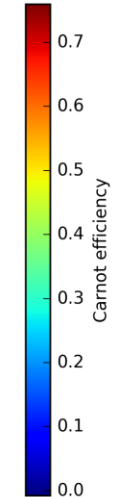
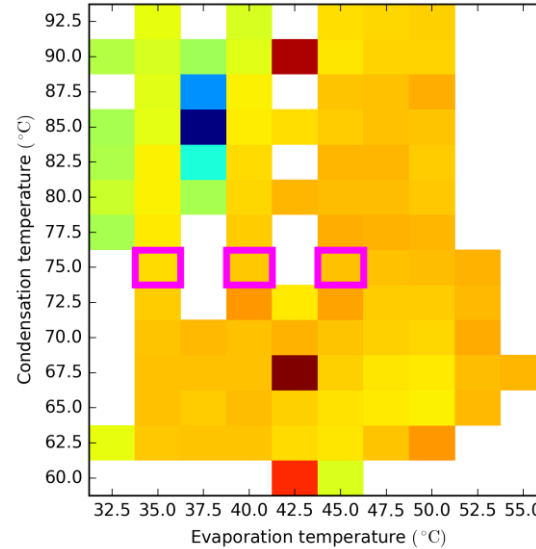
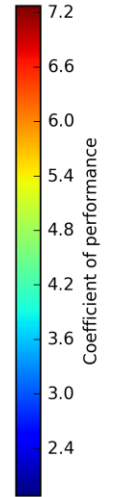
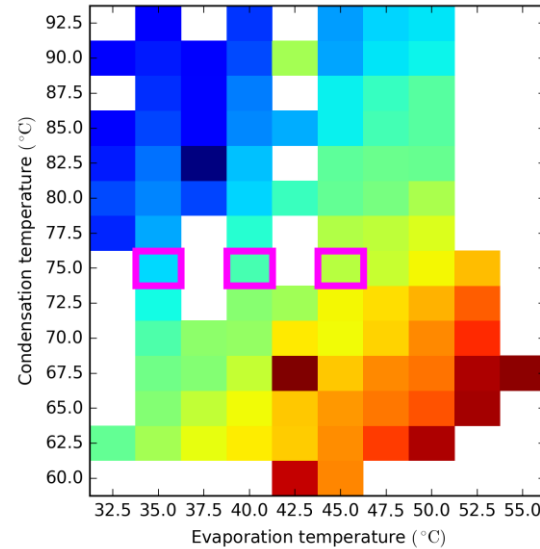
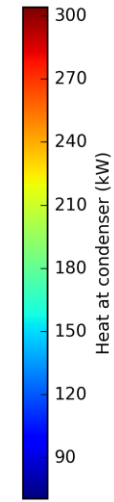
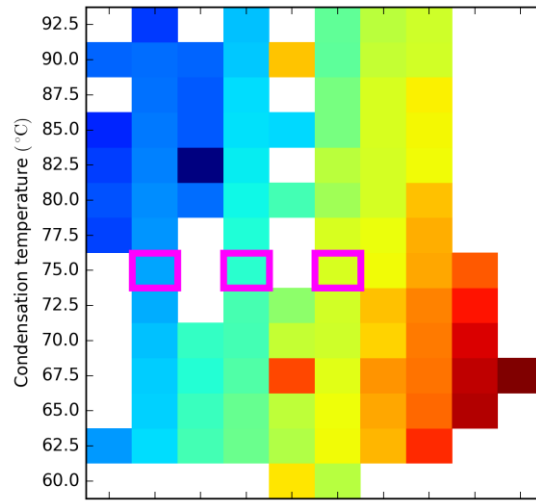
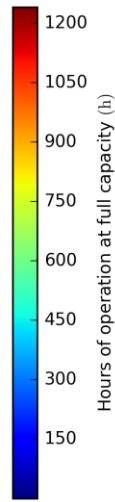
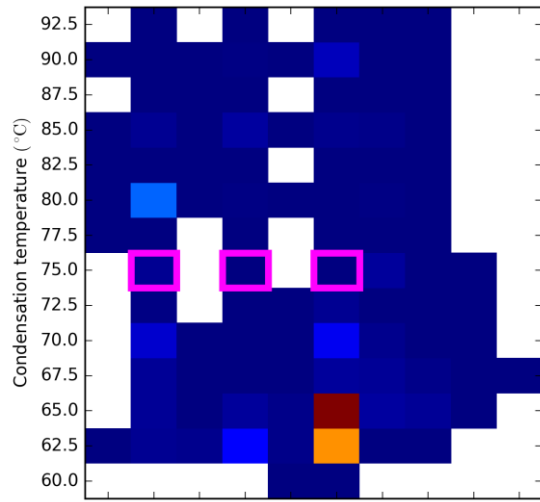
- Supplying sub networks
- Add on; e.g. coupling 3GDH with 4GDH (low temperature networks)



# PILOT PLANT – ANALYSIS



# PILOT PLANT – PERFORMANCE DATA





# PILOT PLANT – SUMMARY & LESSONS LEARNED

## Dimensioning

Capacity and efficiency vary within operating range

- choose most important operating points well
- consider most unfavorable operating points

## Hydraulics and general concept is good

Thermal storage allows for

- long operating times at full load and thereby high efficiency
- potentially cheaper HP due to lower peak capacity

## Further optimization possible

To control faster and more accurate

- adapt control parameters of mixing valve

To avoid starts (transient operation) and partial load

- adapt storage management and hysteresis of capacity slide

Monitoring and optimizing is  
always good

- especially in the first  
months after commissioning

Measured heat output was around 23 %  
below the manufacturer specifications!

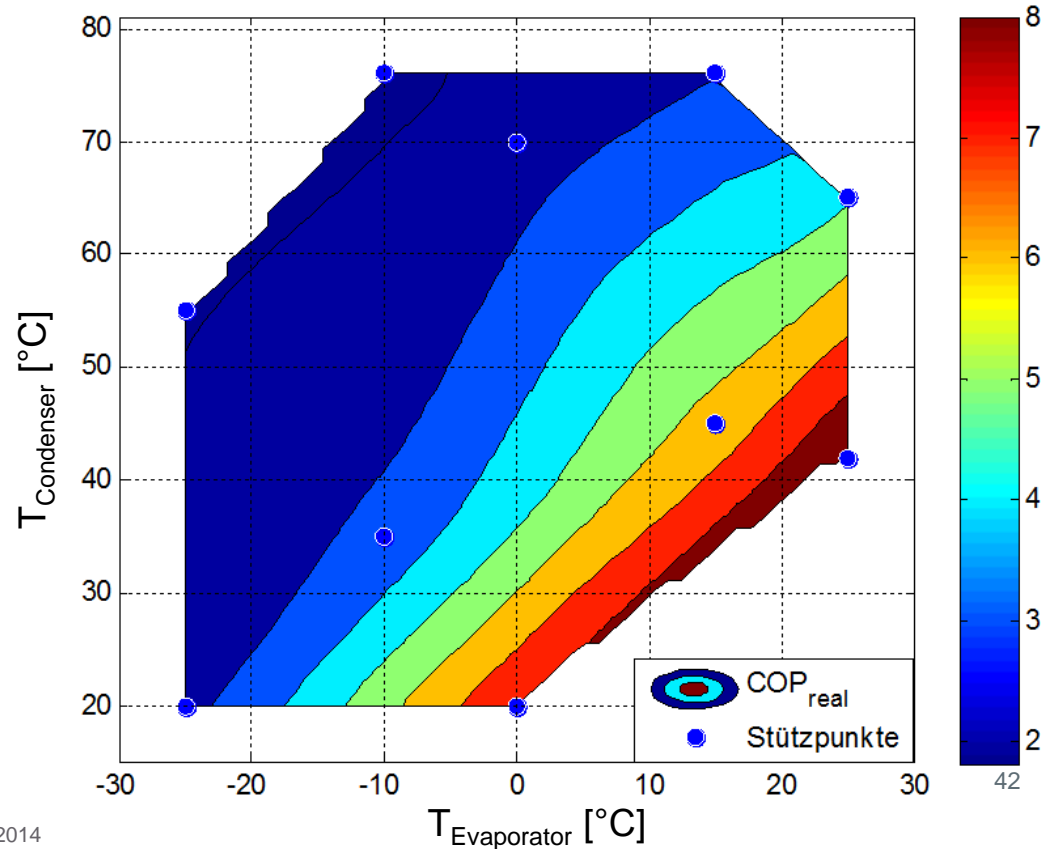
- Leakage identified
- Amount of refrigerant was to little

# CONSIDERATION OF EFFICIENCY WHEN SELECTING THE HEAT SOURCE

- Ratio electricity / heat price:
  - 20ct / 8ct = 2.5
  - SPF >> 2.5

## Recommendations

- low network temperatures and/or high heat source temperatures
- SPF > 3.5 ... 4.0







# DEVELOPMENTS / PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



# EUROPEAN GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

## Selected examples

-  Mäntsälä (FI): HP for district heating;  
Source: **Waste heat** data center; 4 HPs; COP: 3.4;  $Q_{\cdot H}$ : 3.6 MW
- Mänttä-Vilppula (FI): „**steam-temperature**“ HP of up to 120 °C;  
Source: **Return line DH**; 1 HP; COP: 2.0;  $Q_{\cdot H}$ : 158 kW
-  Stockholm (SE): HP for district heating;  
Source: Sea water; 6 HPs;  $Q_{\cdot H}$ : **180 MW**
-  Drammen (NO): world's **largest** low GWP (**NH<sub>3</sub>** (R717)) refrigerant heat pump in DH;  
Source: Fjord water; 3 HPs; COP: 3;  $Q_{\cdot H}$ : 13.2 MW
- Oslo, Sandvika (NO): HP for district heating and cooling;  
Source: **Sewage** (direct extraction); 3 HPs;  $Q_{\cdot H}$ : 21 MW;  $Q_{\cdot C}$ : 14 MW
- Oslo, Fornebu/Rolfsbukta (NO): **first** HP-plant using **HFO-1234ze** (tetrafluoropropene);  
Source: Fjord water; 2 HPs; COP: 4.4;  $Q_{\cdot H}$ : 16 MW;  $Q_{\cdot C}$ : 20 MW
-  Lausanne (CH): heat pump built in 1985;  
Source: **Lake Lemán**; 2 HPs; COP: 4.8;  $Q_{\cdot H}$ : 4.5 MW

# Vienna

Largest heat pump in Central Europe

Environmentally friendly DH  
**25,000**  
households

**40,000**  
tons CO<sub>2</sub> savings annually

**6 → 95 °C**

Using cooling water of power plants

**15 m€**

Total investment

**↑ 40 MW**

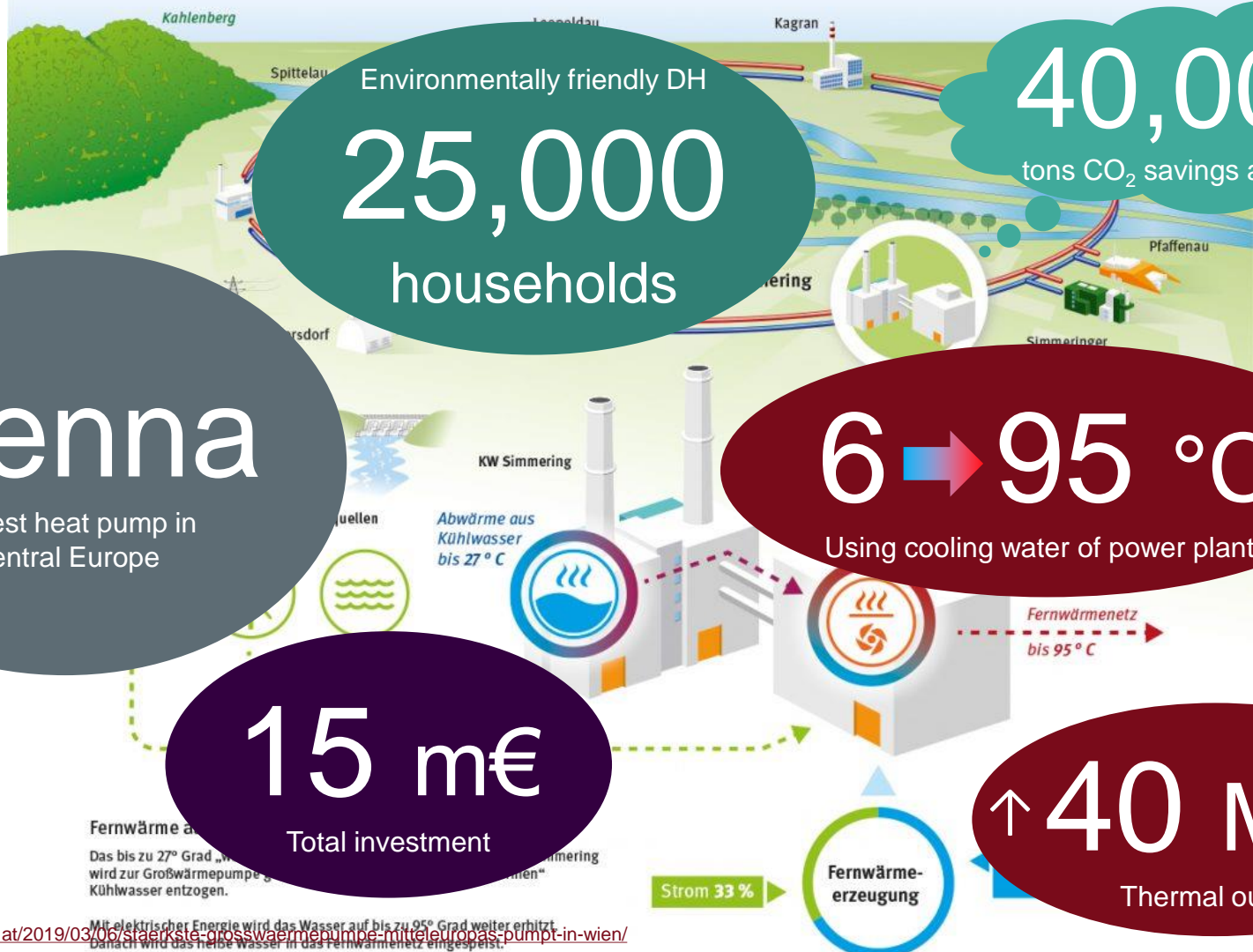
Thermal output

Fernwärme ab  
Das bis zu 27° Grad „W...  
wird zur Großwärmepumpe...  
Kühlwasser entzogen.

Mit elektrischer Energie wird das Wasser auf bis zu 95° Grad weiter erhitzt.  
Danach wird das heiße Wasser in das Fernwärmenetz eingespeist.

Strom 33%

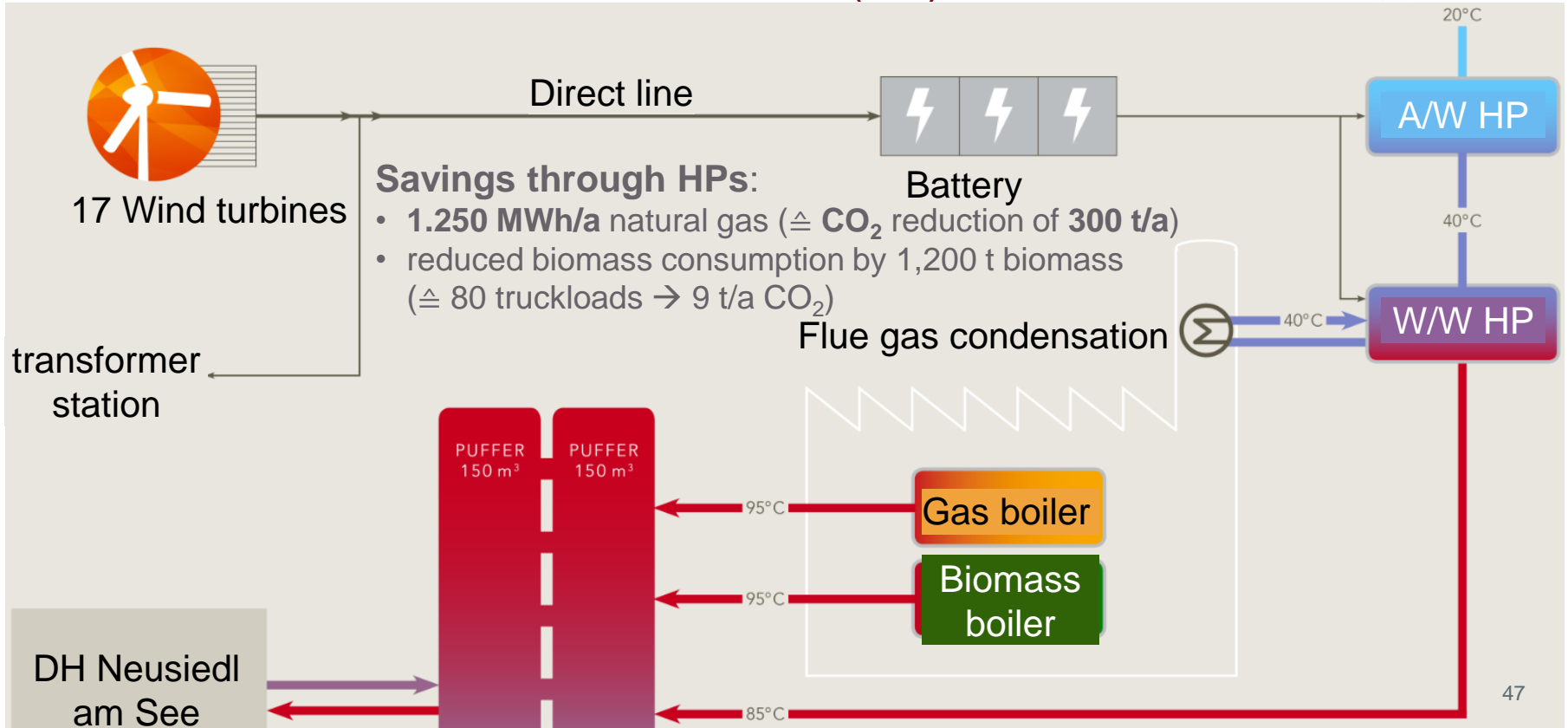
Fernwärme-  
erzeugung



# POWER2HEAT – SECTOR COUPLING PROJECT IN NEUSIEDL AM SEE (AT)

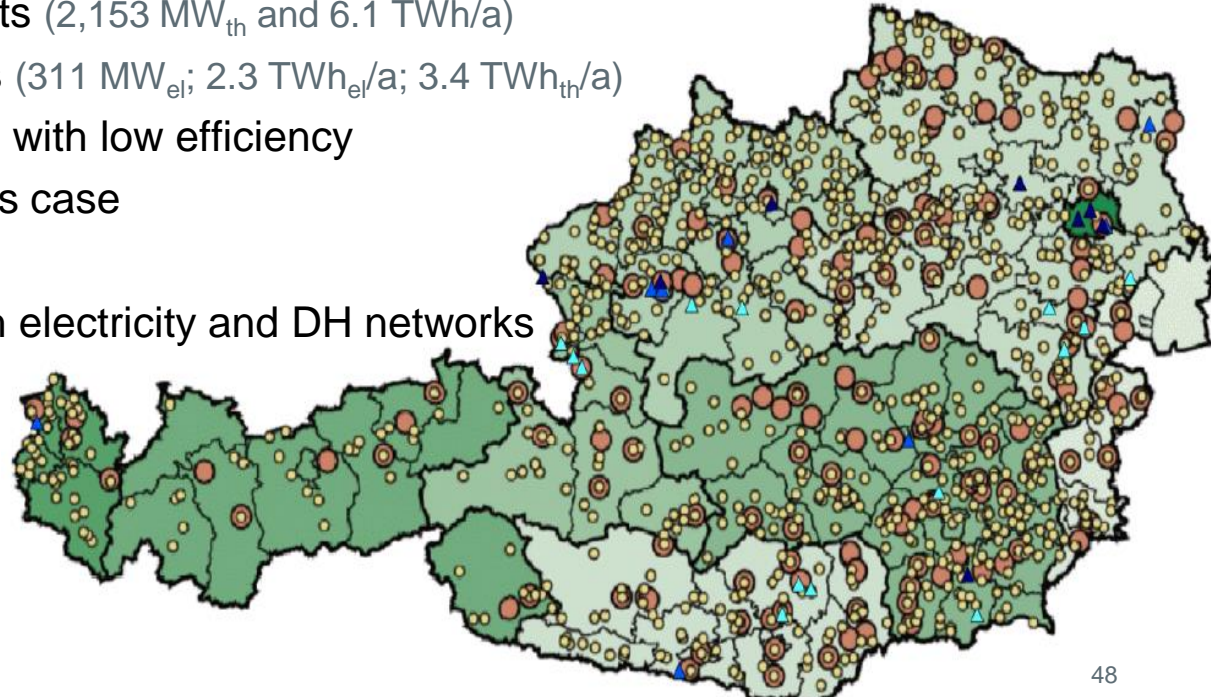
- Burgenland is the region with the highest wind energy supply in Austria (The Parndorfer Platte is one of the windiest inland regions in Europe)
- Neusiedl am See is a preferred living space with increasing heat demand
- Installation of a high-performance HP with a direct line to the transformer station
  - **winter:** flue gas condensation from the biomass boiler to supply water with 40 °C in a cold storage tank. The cold storage tank is the energy source for the water/water (W/W) heat pump → raising the temperature level to 85 °C.
  - **summer:** biomass boiler is shut down. The cold storage tank is filled with air/water (A/W) heat pump. W/W heat pumps are operated as in winter.
- Due to a storage of 300 m<sup>3</sup> the DH can supply for 10 hours
- In case if a wind slack, a battery storage will enable the heat pumps to be operated for a short time and then shut down in a controlled manner
- HPs: Saving of **1.250 MWh/a natural gas** and thus a **CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 300 t/a** and reduced biomass consumption by 1,200 t biomass ( $\triangleq$  80 truckloads → 9 t/a CO<sub>2</sub>)

# POWER2HEAT – SECTOR COUPLING PROJECT IN NEUSIEDL AM SEE (AT)



# fit4power2heat

- Austrian biomass district heating network settings:
  - ● 2,377 biomass heat plants (2,153 MW<sub>th</sub> and 6.1 TWh/a)
  - ● 128 biomass CHP plants (311 MW<sub>el</sub>; 2.3 TWh<sub>el</sub>/a; 3.4 TWh<sub>th</sub>/a)
    - old heat plants operating with low efficiency
    - highly replicable business case
- Power to heat solutions:
  - heat pumps support both electricity and DH networks



Sources:

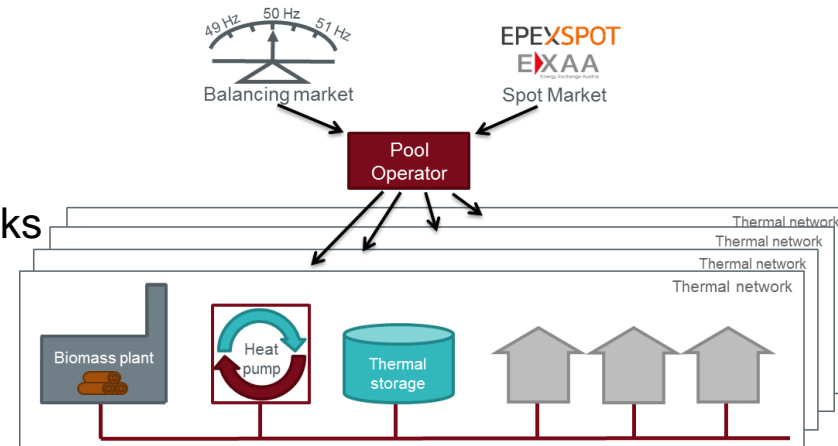
O. Terreros, Investigating heat pump pooling concepts in rural district heating networks in Austria, 2018 ([https://www.4dh.eu/images/Olatz\\_Terreros\\_2018.pdf](https://www.4dh.eu/images/Olatz_Terreros_2018.pdf))  
[https://www.biomasverband-ooe.at/uploads/media/Downloads/Publikationen/Bioenergie\\_Atlas/Bioenergie-Atlas\\_Oesterreich\\_2019\\_klein.pdf](https://www.biomasverband-ooe.at/uploads/media/Downloads/Publikationen/Bioenergie_Atlas/Bioenergie-Atlas_Oesterreich_2019_klein.pdf)



# fit4power2heat

## Project concept

- Integration of heat pumps in rural district heating networks
- Development of feasible use cases and potential business models
- Synergies between heat and electricity market
- Participation in the electricity markets:
  - Day-ahead SPOT market
  - Balancing markets (secondary and tertiary)
- Heat pump pooling over several heating networks



# fit4power2heat

## Outcomes

The integration of heat pumps in rural district heating networks is technically and economically feasible.

### Reduction of heat generation costs

- Some scenarios show up heat generation cost reduction up to 15 % (12,600 €/year).
- Most attractive case: combination of **day-ahead spot** and **secondary market**
  
- **Capacity increase** in the district heating network
- **Prolongation of the lifetime** of the existing old boilers

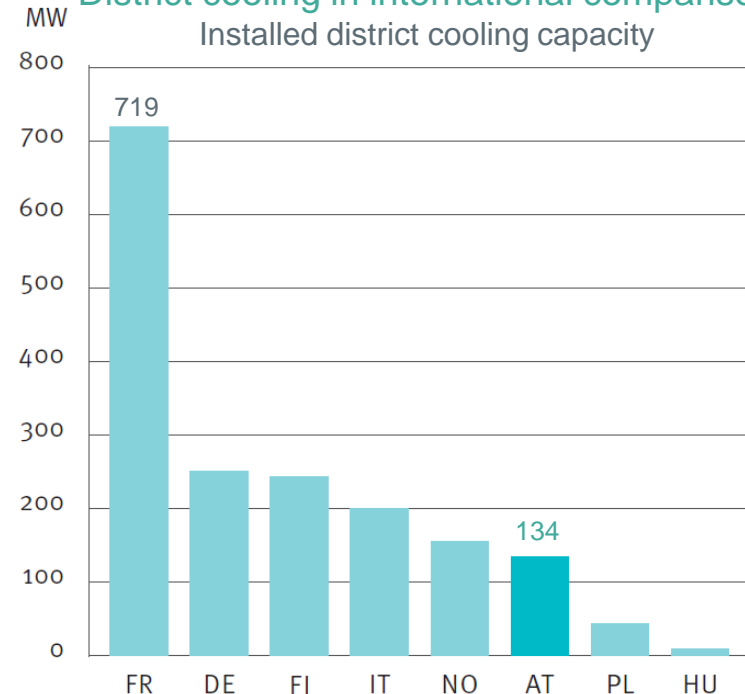
# FUTURE MARKET: DISTRICT COOLING

- Europe < 50% of all office space air-conditioned (USA, Japan ~ 80%)
- FR: largest district cooling market in Europe
- Possibility to increase efficiency (Trigeneration | CCHP)


## Europe (survey)

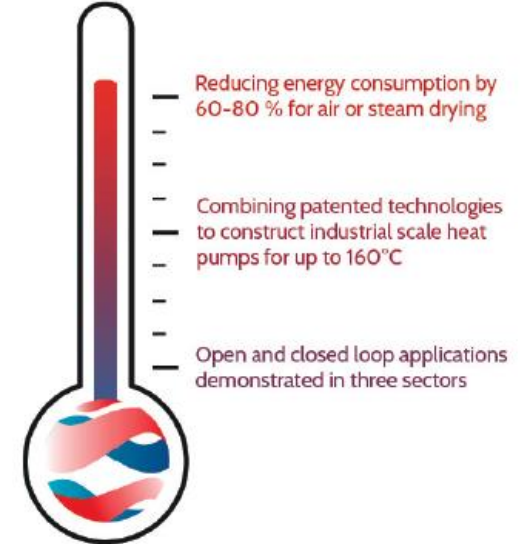
- 22 HP systems for heating and cooling purposes
- Showcase plants:
  - Helsinki (Kari Vala), Oslo (Sandvika), Stockholm (Nimrod)

District cooling in international comparison  
Installed district cooling capacity



# HIGH TEMPERATURE HEAT PUMP (HT-HP)

- Project **DryFiciency** (12 partners) 
- Horizon2020 Innovation project for Waste Heat Utilization in Industrial Drying Processes
- Drying: 12 - 25% of industrial energy consumption
  - Goal: up to 80% energy saving
- Demonstration of two HT-HP (400 kW) up to 160 °C



- Agrana
- Wienerberger



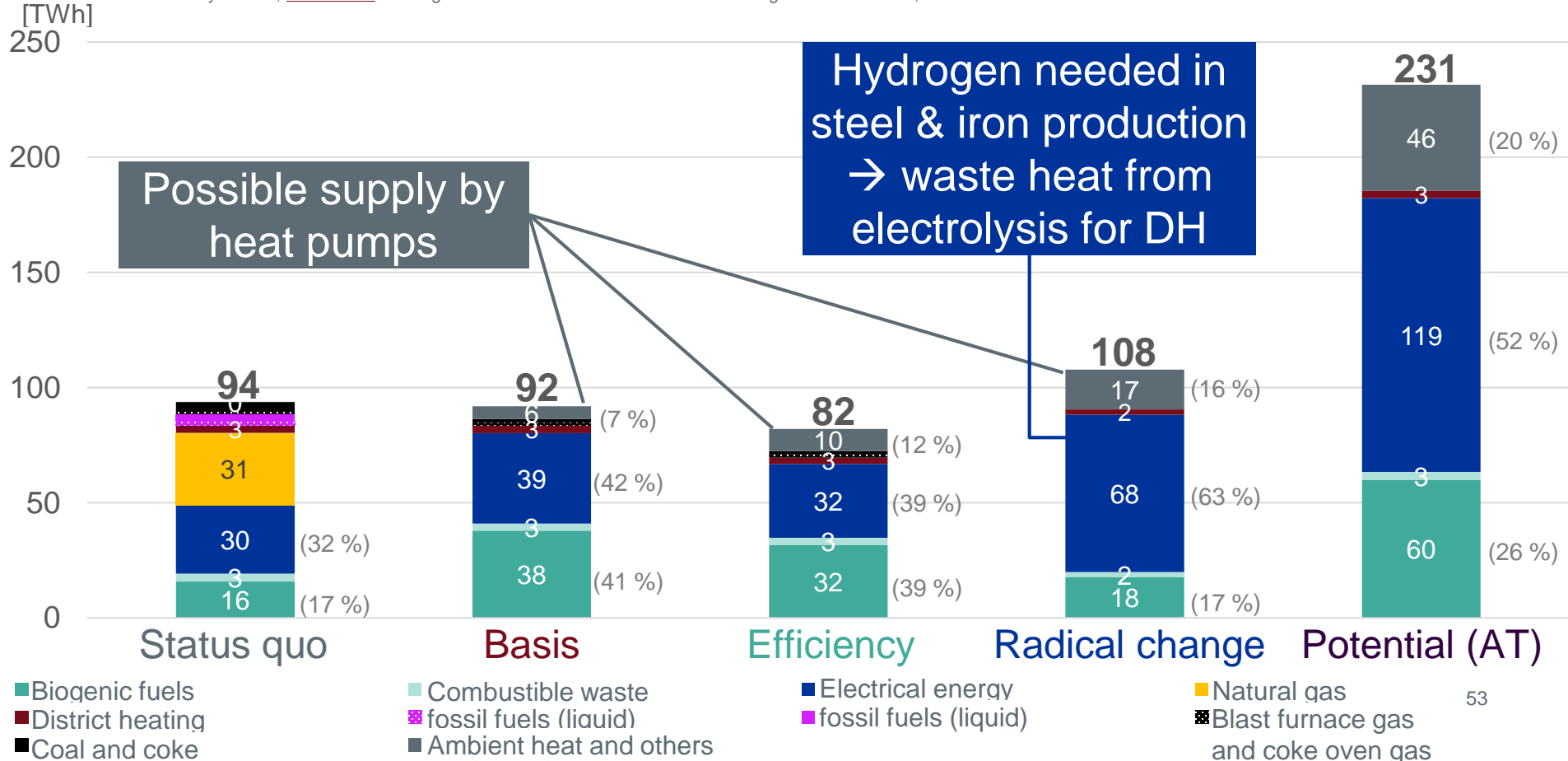
Leading supplier of sugar in CE



World's largest producer of bricks.

# SUPPLY OF INDUSTRY BY RENEWABLES

Source: R. Geyer et al., IndustRIES – Energieinfrastruktur für 100% Erneuerbare Energie in der Industrie, 2019



# CLOSING

Progress

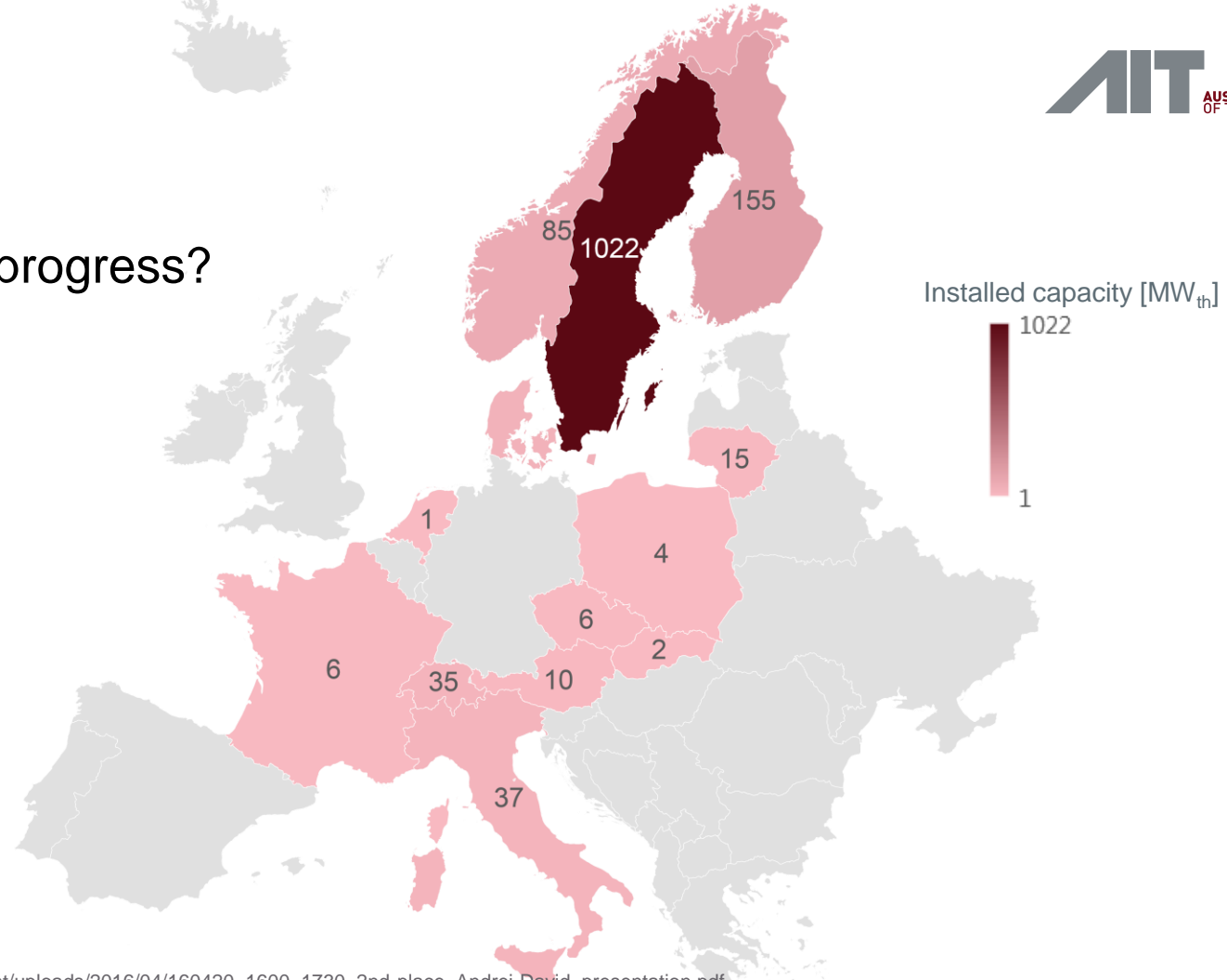
Conclusions

Key messages

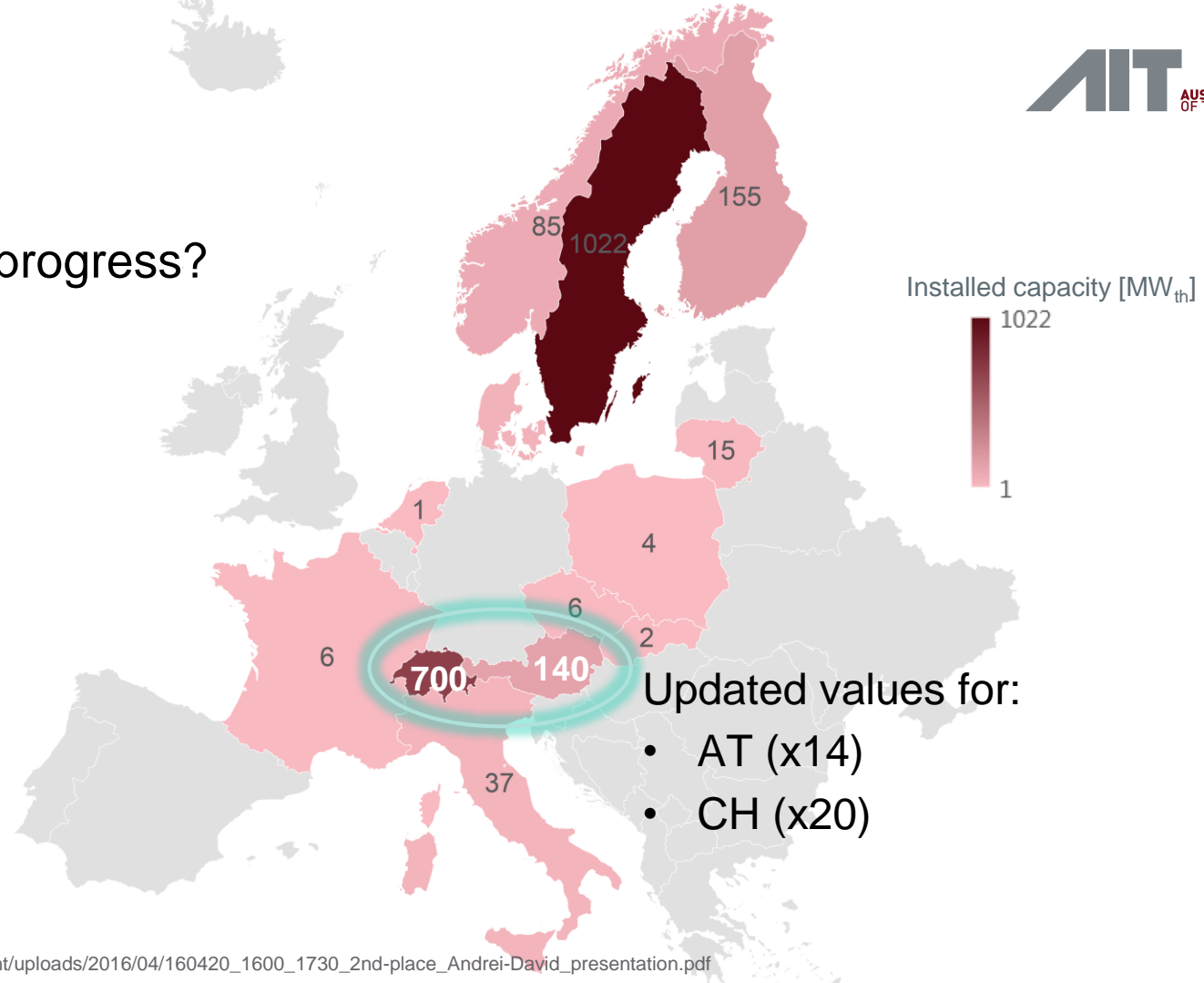
Announcement



Is there a progress?



Is there a progress?



Updated values for:

- AT (x14)
- CH (x20)



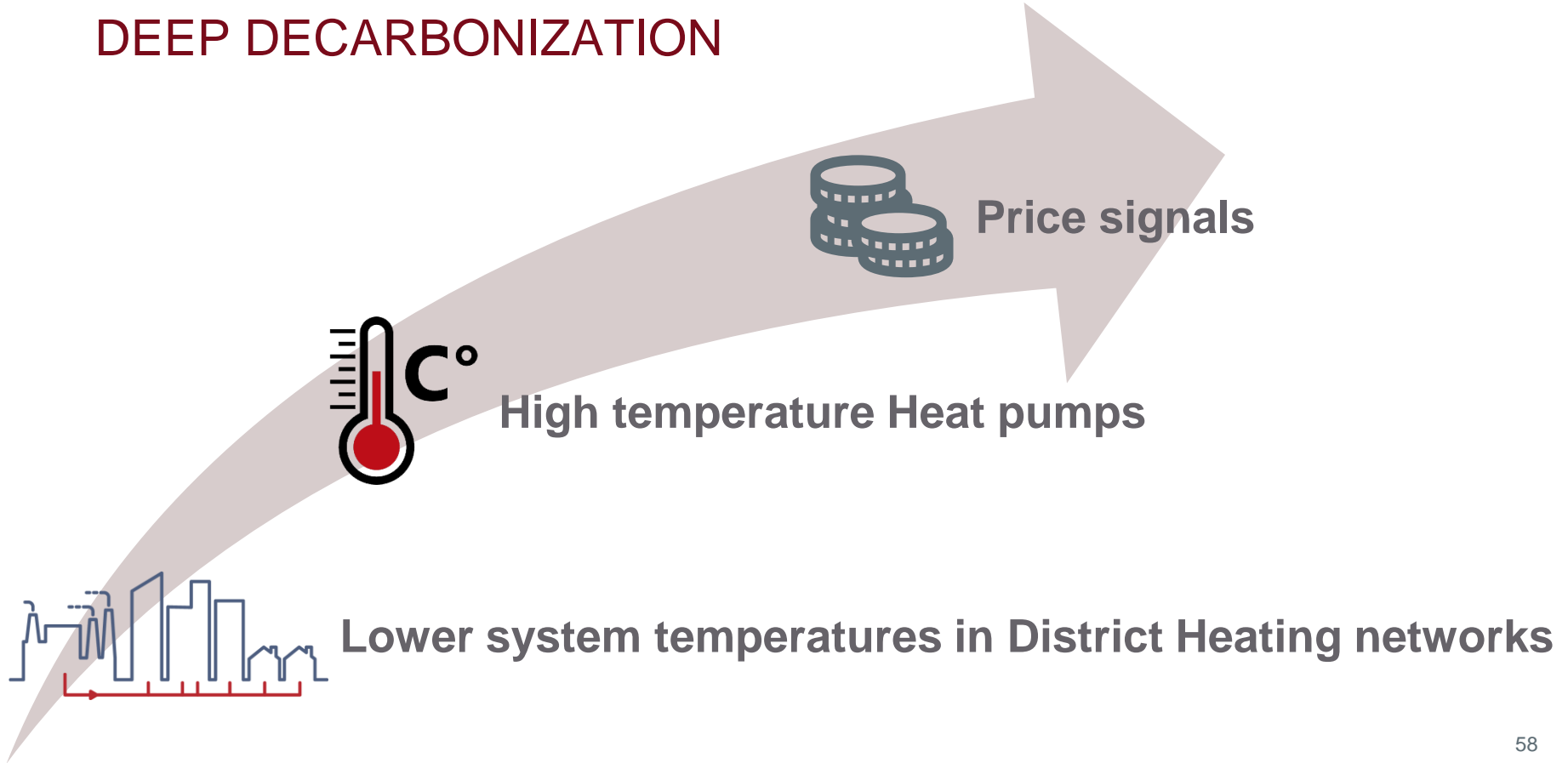
# CONCLUSIONS

- **Heat pumps** can make a significant **contribution** to the **decarbonization** of the heat supply (simultaneous decarbonization of the electricity supply)
- HPs are "**enablers**" for other alternative energy sources (geothermal, solar thermal, waste heat, etc.)
- HP **potential** depends on **economic** and **political framework** (but also on DH grid type, generation mix and other local conditions)
- **New business models** and **application** possibilities are required / support HP integration (e.g. sector coupling, energy markets, pooling, heating & cooling, flexible tariffs, etc.)

## Looking ahead:

- **Positive** signs for **heat pumps** in **DHC networks** (remarkable developments in recent years; e.g. Austria, Switzerland)

# KEY MESSAGES FOR DEEP DECARBONIZATION

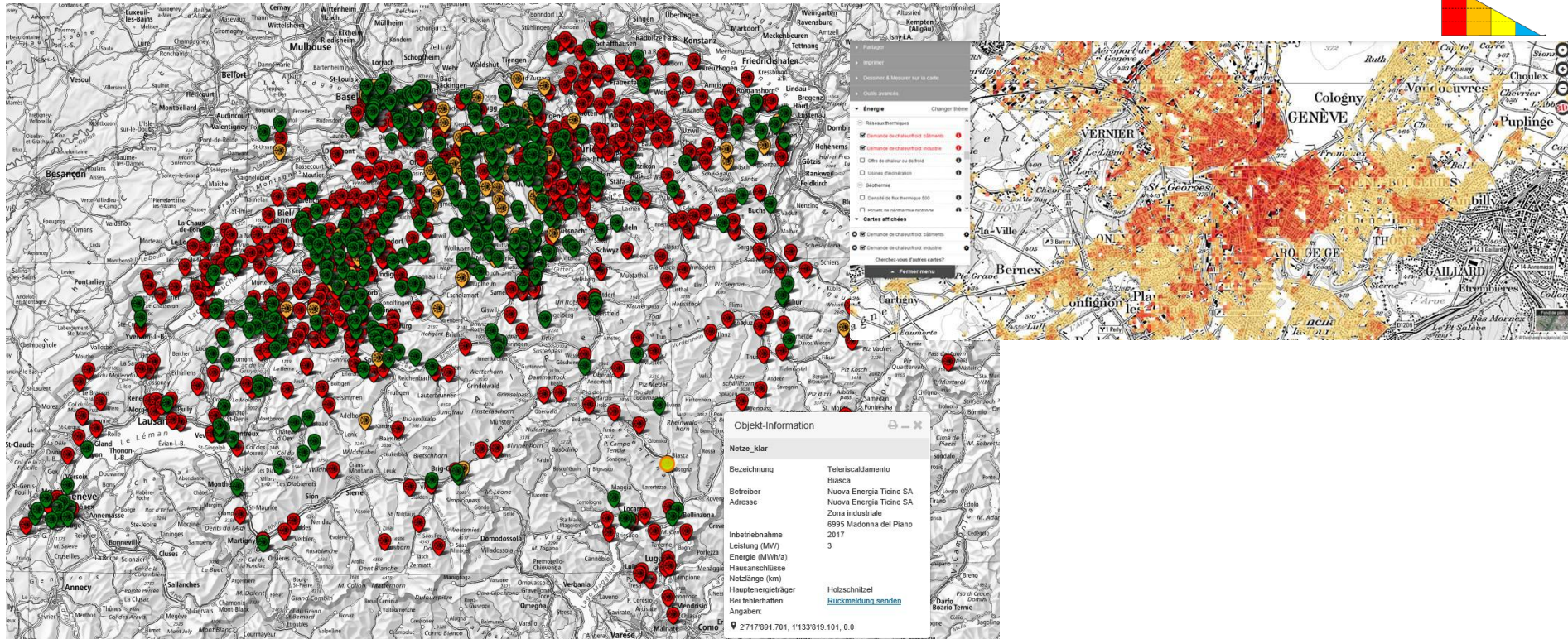
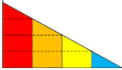


# ANNOUNCEMENT



<https://map.geo.admin.ch/> → category «Energy» → «thermal networks»

Hochschule Luzern



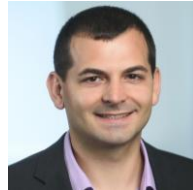
Source: <https://s.geo.admin.ch/82d8014435> as of December, 18<sup>th</sup> 2019

# THANK YOU!

Roman Geyer

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Research Engineer  
Integrated Energy Systems  
Center for Energy



<http://heatpumpingtechnologies.org/annex47/>

<https://map.geo.admin.ch/>

<https://www.unige.ch/sysener/fr/colconf/seminaires/>

[IndustRIES](#) (Study how to supply the Austrian Industry by RES)

IEA HPT Annex 48 – Task 1 Report:  
Case Studies of Industrial Heat Pumps in Switzerland

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Acknowledgement to the University of Geneva for the possibility of this seminar



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DISCUSSION



# ANNEX

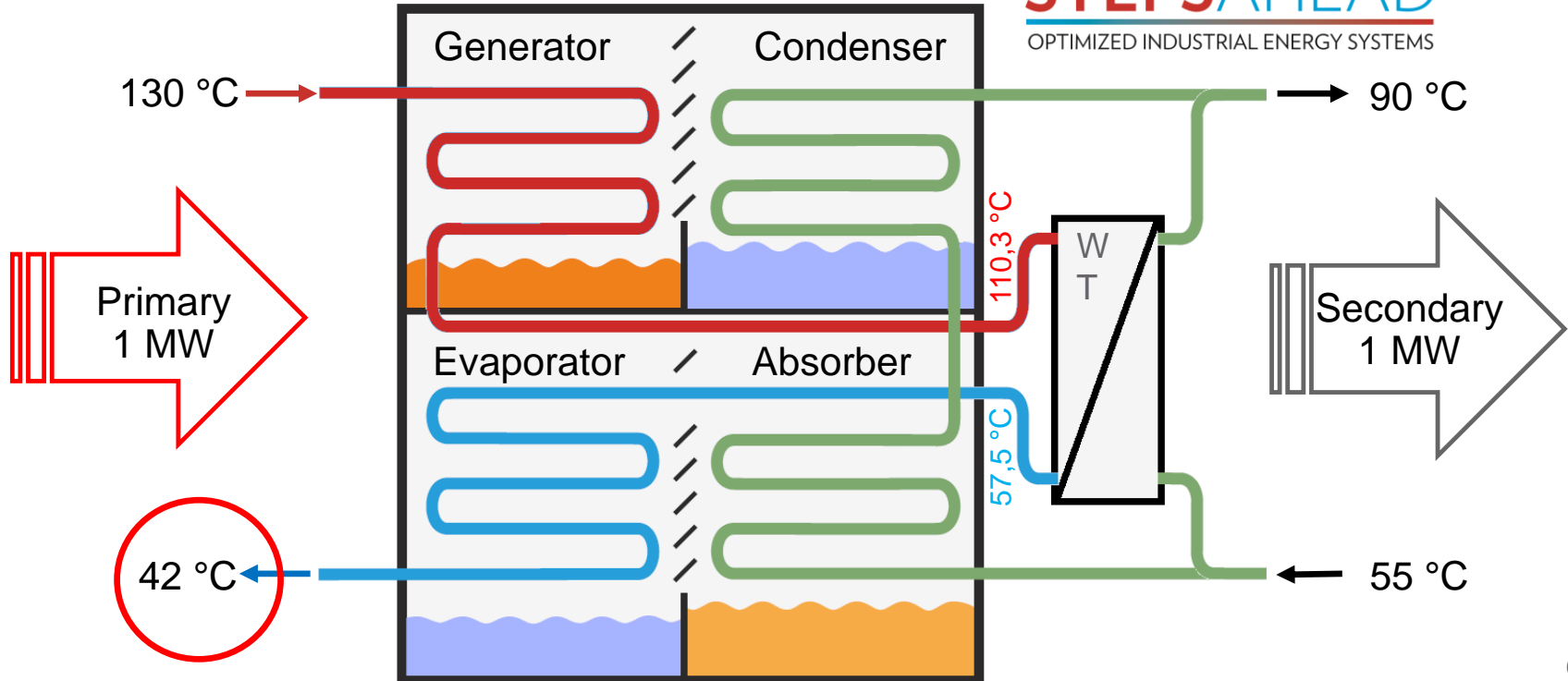


# ABSORPTION HEAT EXCHANGER

- Reduction of the return temperature
- Capacity increase of the existing network

**STEPSAHEAD**

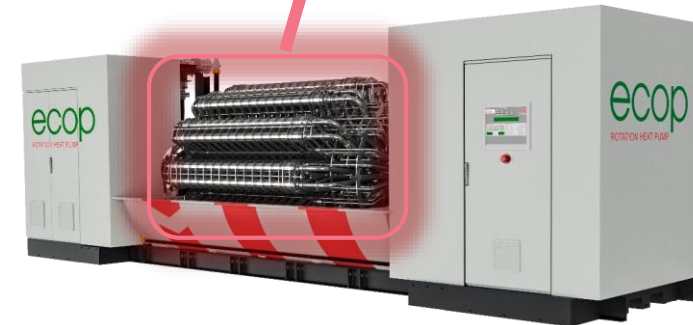
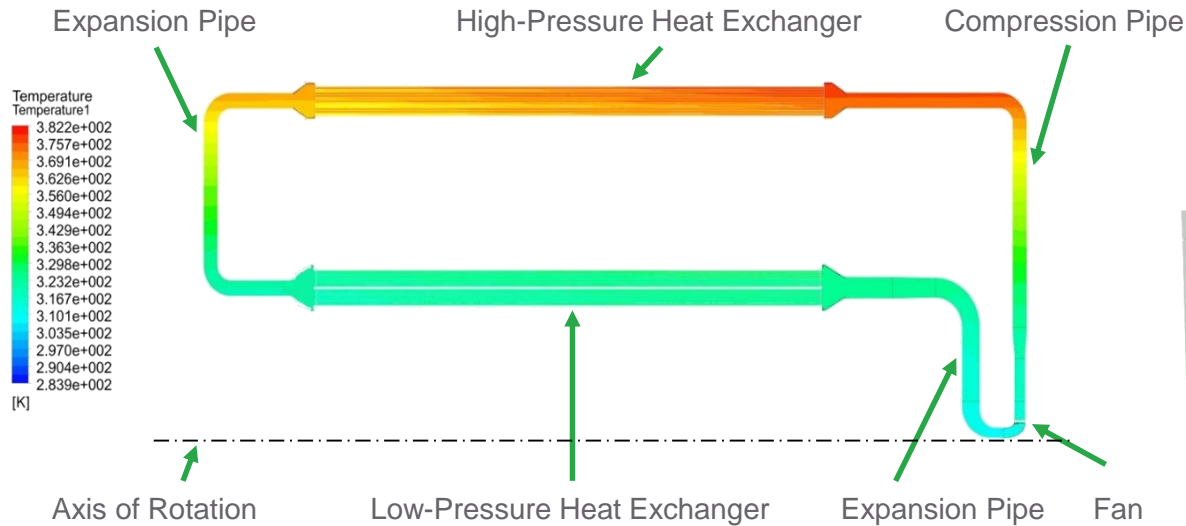
OPTIMIZED INDUSTRIAL ENERGY SYSTEMS



# ECOP – ROTATION HEAT PUMP

- Joule-Process
- High-Temperature 100-150 °C
- High COPs fluctuating input and output temperatures

ecop





# STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF HEAT PRODUCTION

- Utilization of latent heat within flue gas (waste incineration power plant) through a high temperature heat pump (estimated capacity: 16 MW<sub>th</sub>)
- GeoTief Wien
  - Research project analysing the geothermal potential in eastern Vienna
  - 3D-seismic measurements in 2018 (October to end of November) in an area of about 180 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Analysing the data until 2020

