

Industry decarbonisation with process integration, electrification and district heating



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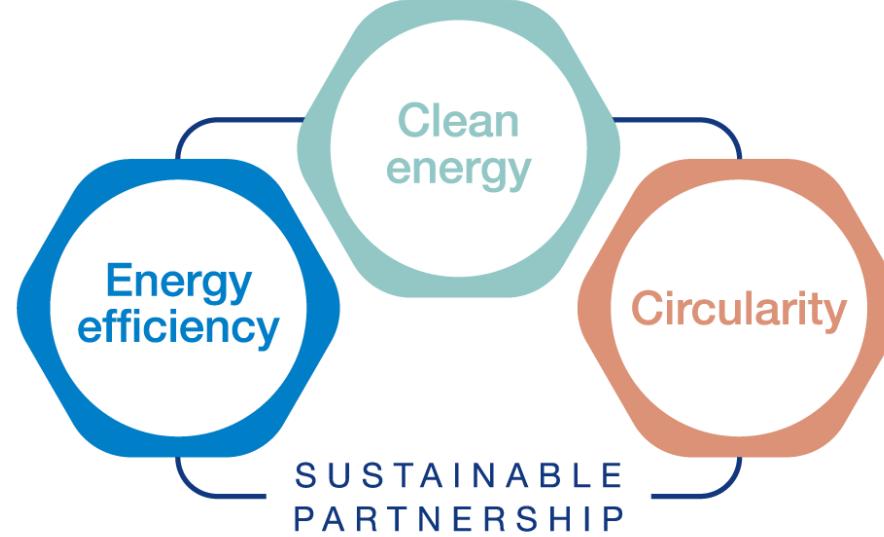
Online INTREPIDH webinar, 12 Jan 2026

University of Zagreb
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
and Naval Architecture



Agenda

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Energy partnering goals
- ▶ How to process with industry decarbonisation
 - Improving heat recovery
 - Electrification of process heat
 - Integration of district heating
- ▶ Case study of DH integration
- ▶ Summary
- ▶ Q&A session



General overview

Industry

- ▲ The industry sector in 2022 was directly responsible for emitting 9.0 Gt of CO₂, accounting for a **quarter of global energy system** CO₂ emissions¹.
- ▲ Annual emissions slightly declined in both 2020 and 2022, **but not enough** to align with the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) Scenario, in which industrial emissions fall to about 7 Gt CO₂ by 2030
- ▲ In 2021, the EU industry sector accounted for **25.6 % of the final energy consumption**²



¹Tracking Clean Energy Progress 2023, IEA

²Eurostat

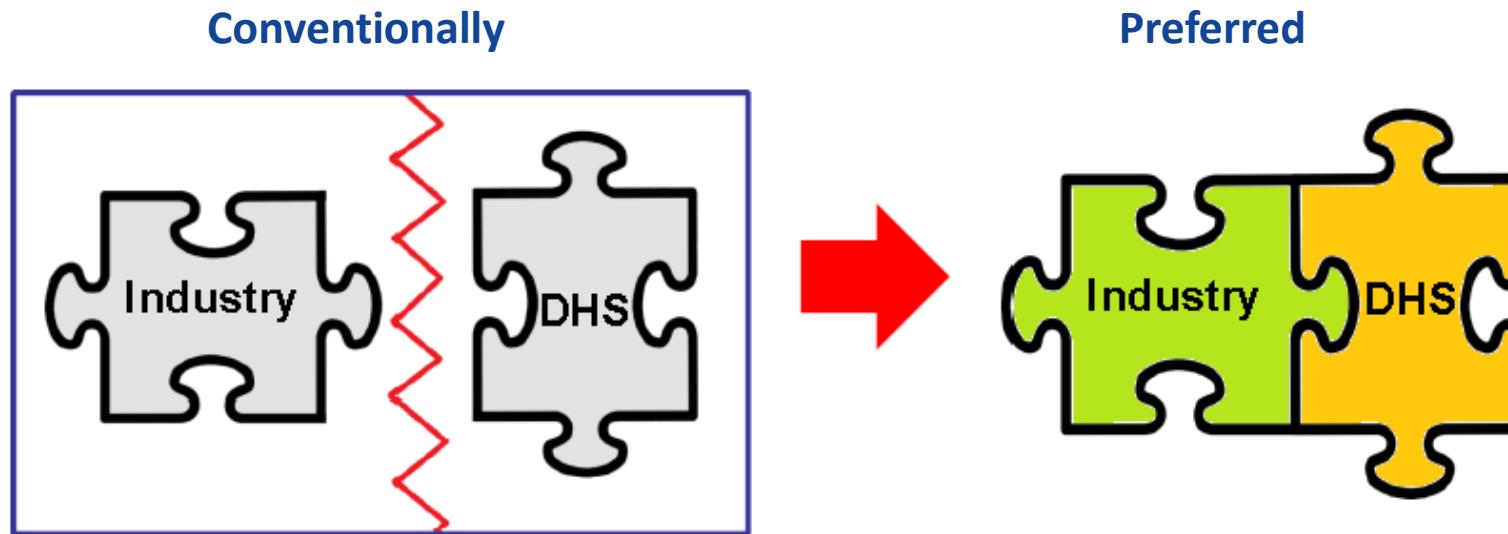
³IEA report

District heating sector

- ▲ The EU district heating sector accounts for around **30% of the overall energy demands**
- ▲ Only **25% of DHSs** are driven by **renewable energy**³
- ▲ EU **forced the strategy** for making heating and cooling more efficient and sustainable that presumes **sector decarbonization**
- ▲ Focus on Eastern Europe, where district heating is based **mostly on fossil fuels**.



The aim of energy partnering

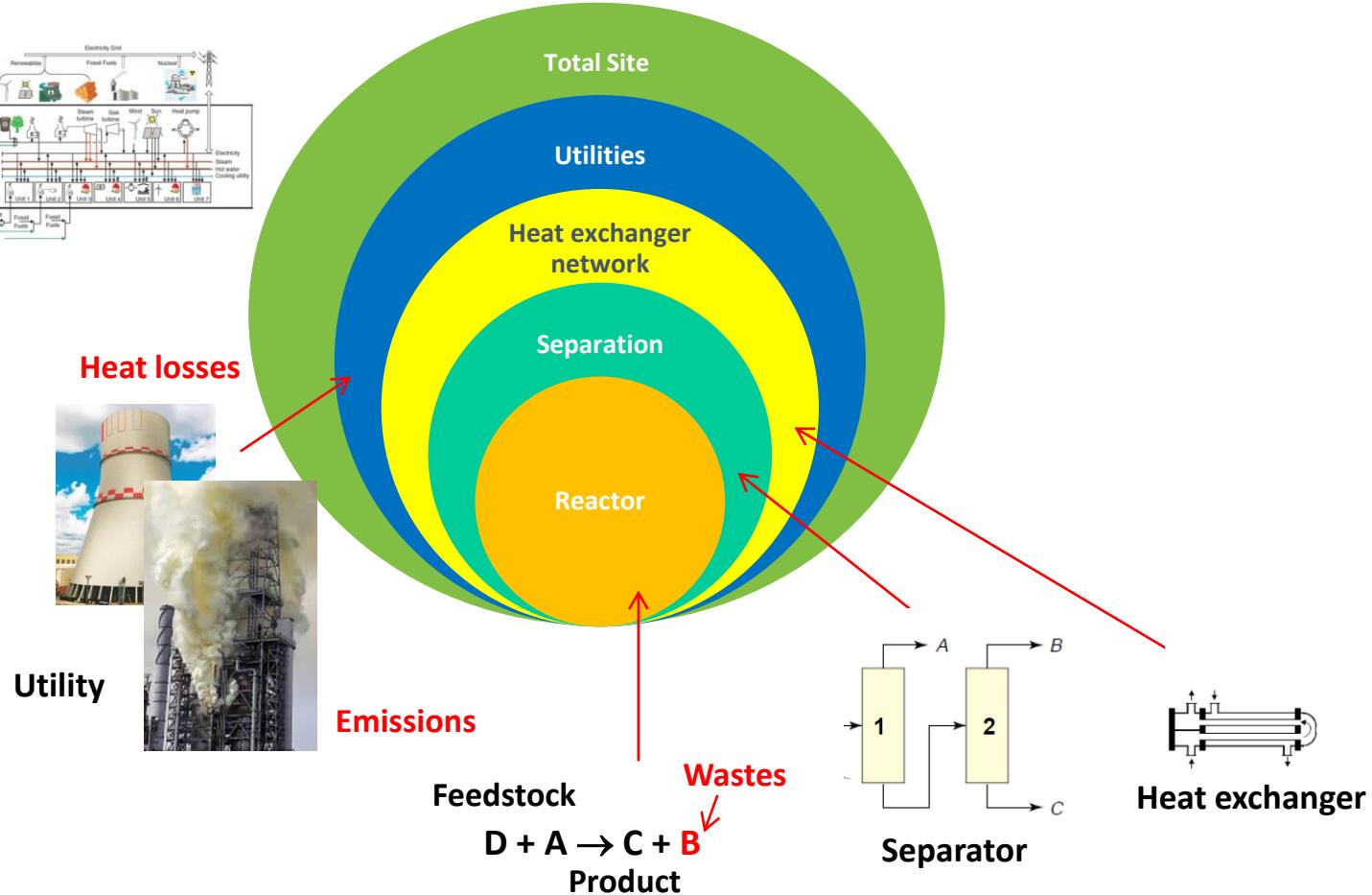


Benefits

- ▲ reduction in the final energy consumption & costs (direct)
- ▲ Pollution reduction
- ▲ Reduction of equipment size (energy generating)
- ▲ Reduction in auxiliary energy consumption (pumps, fans, etc.)

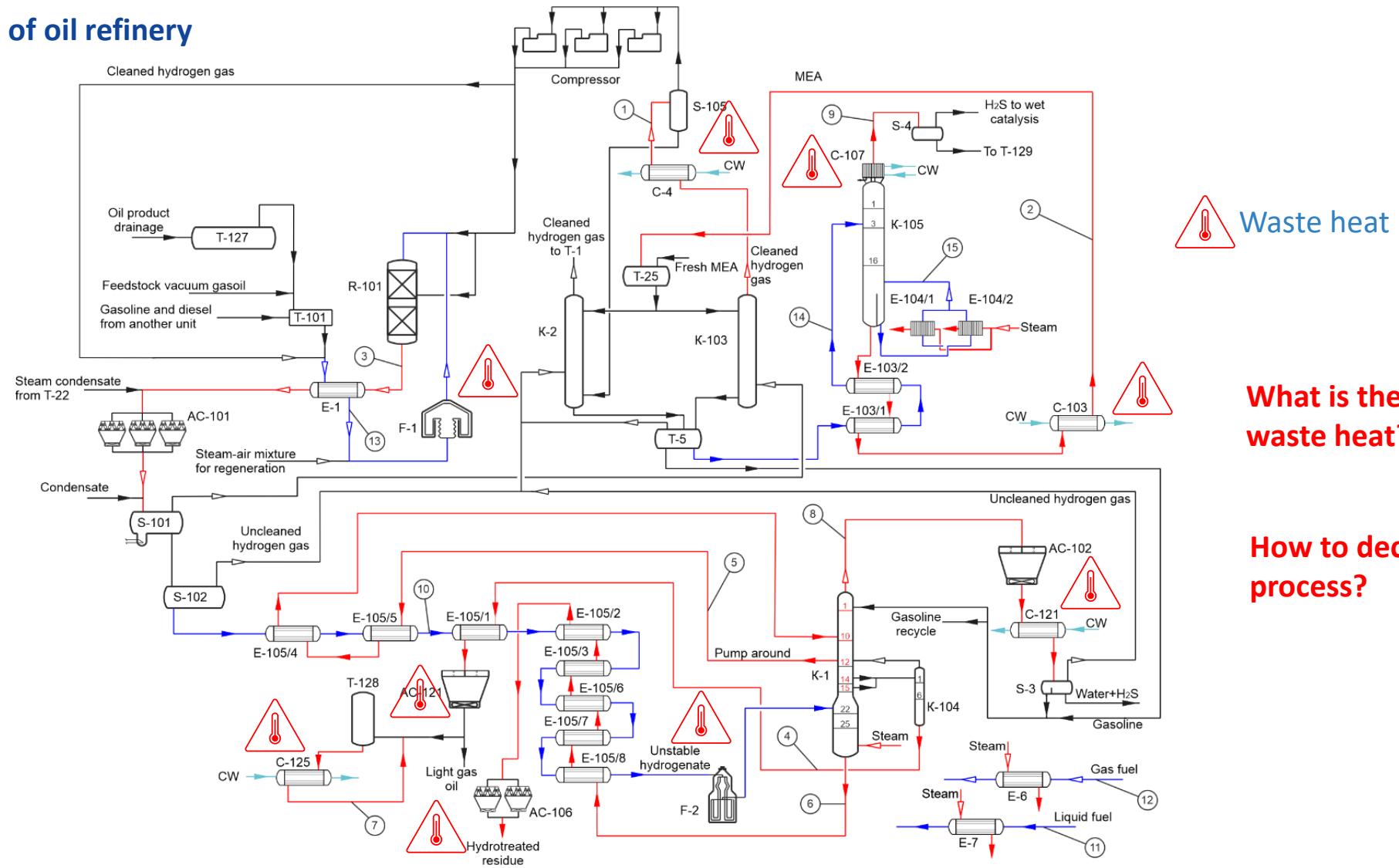
Need to exploit the degrees of freedom within the system to produce energy efficiently that achieve the desired decarbonization goals

Hierarchy of Process System



Example of real industrial process

Hydrotreater unit of oil refinery

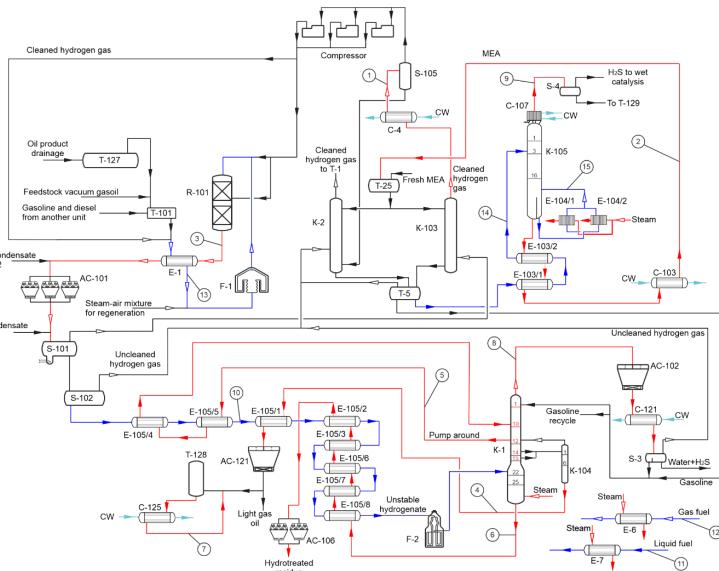


What is the potential of waste heat?

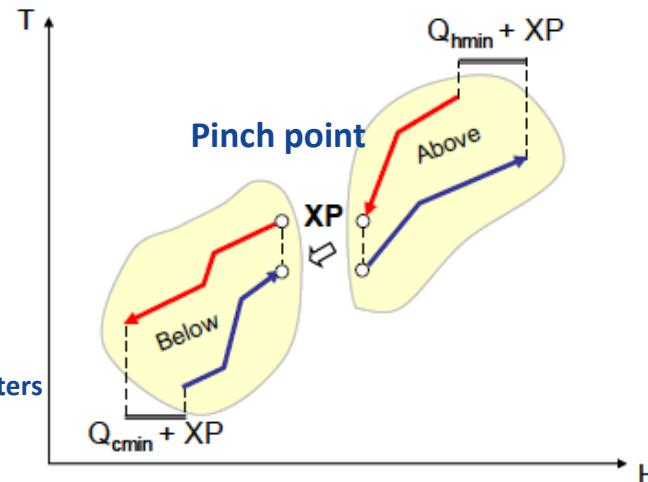
How to decarbonize the process?

Energy targeting

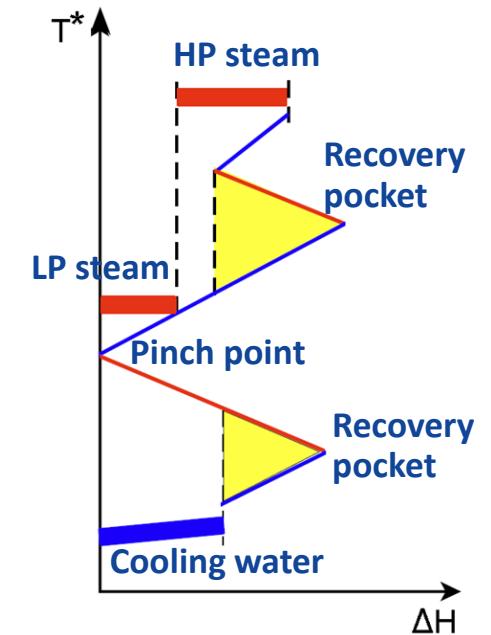
Process integration approach



- ✓ Streams
- ✓ Properties
- ✓ Process parameters



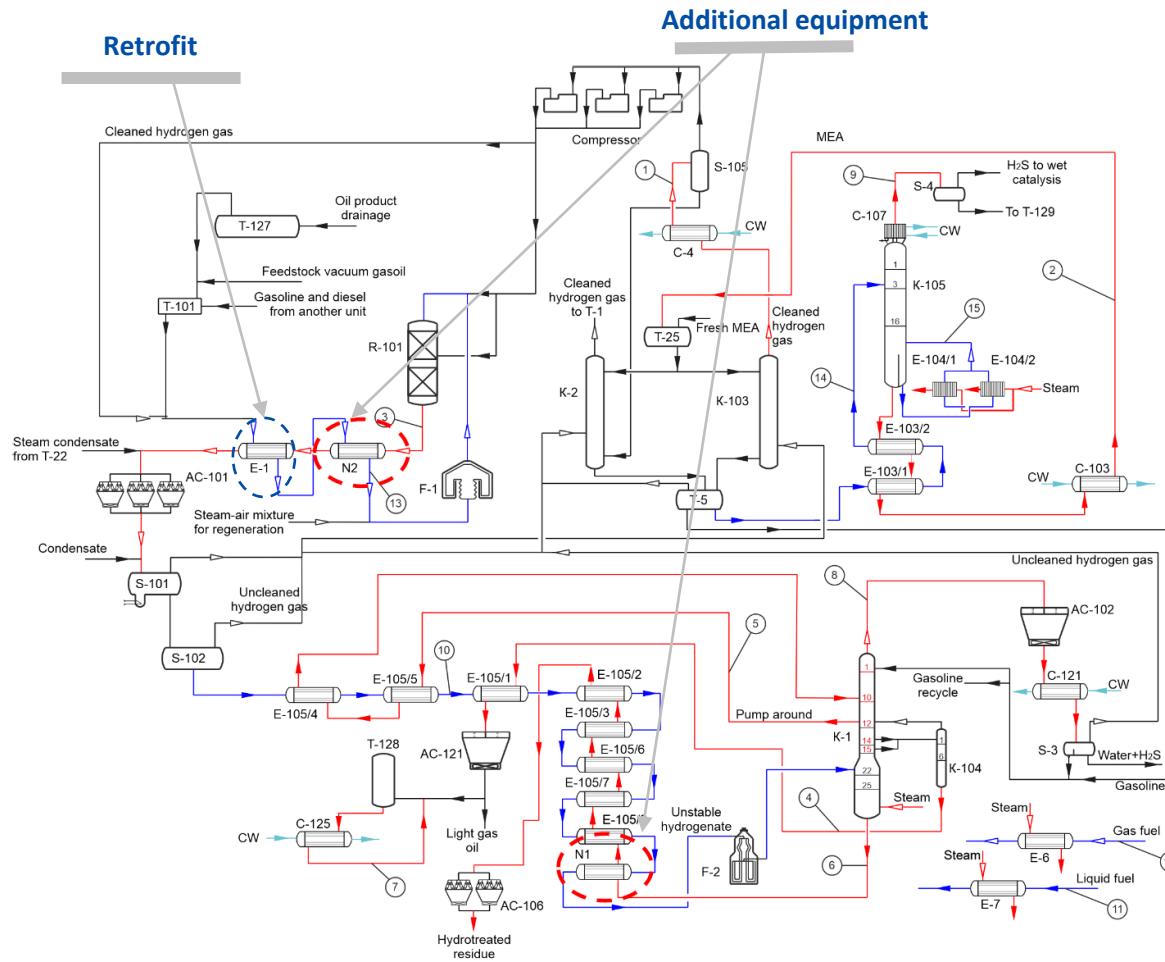
Flowsheet



Energy targets

Improving the heat recovery

Hydrotreater unit of oil refinery



Energy saving measures

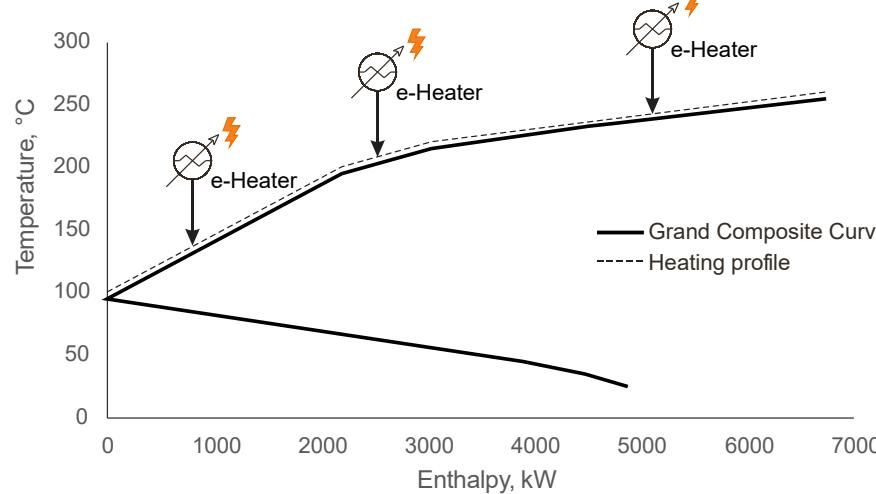
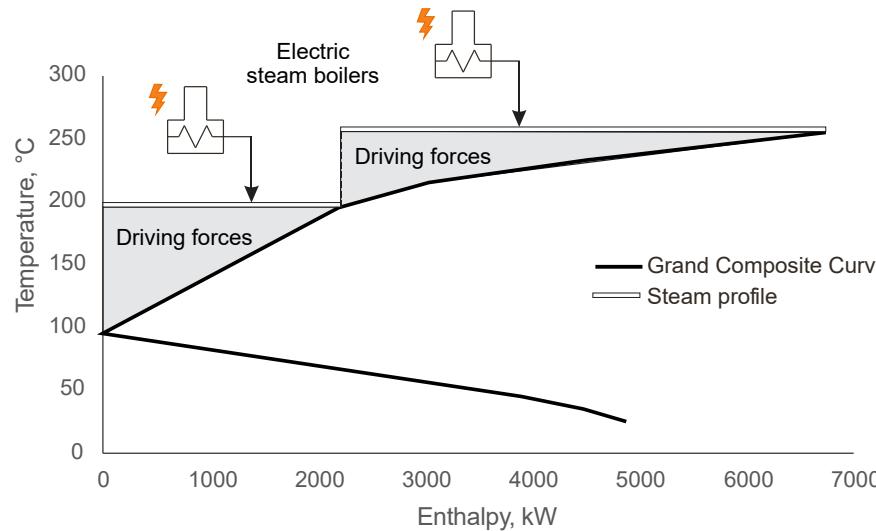
- Flowsheet upgrade
- Revamping of heat exchangers
- Economic efficiency

Results

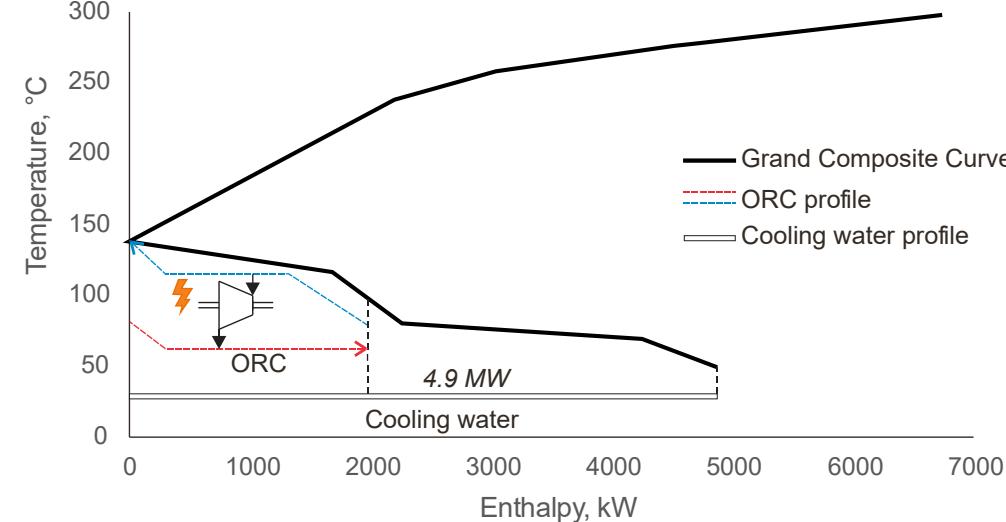
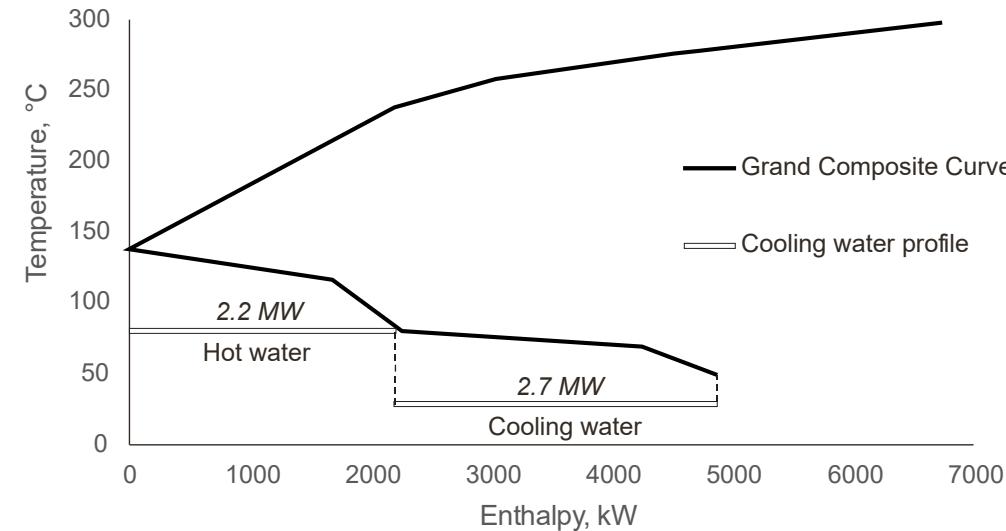
- A **retrofit project** with improved heat recovery is proposed
- The reduction in **fuel gas** consumption in furnaces is **54%**
- The reduction in **electricity** consumption is **20%**
- Emissions reduction is **18.9 ktCO₂/y**

Electrification of process heat

Heating the process

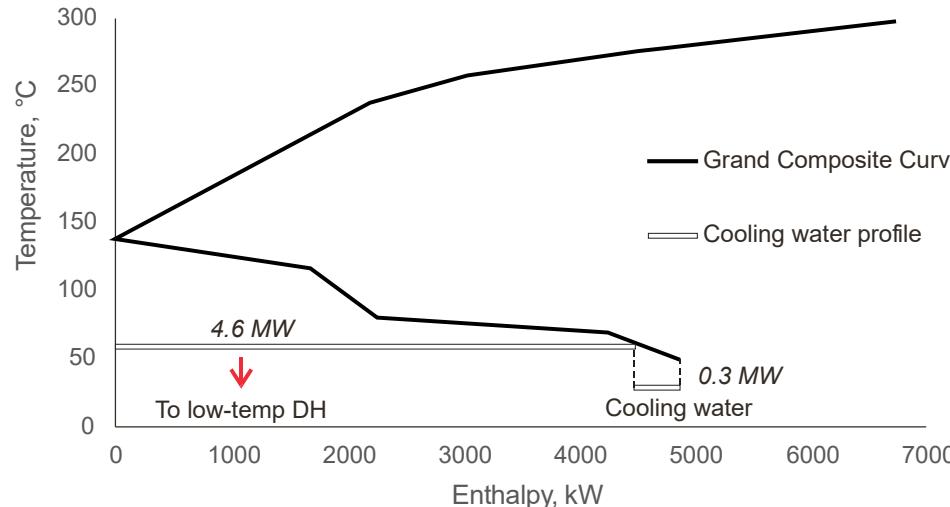
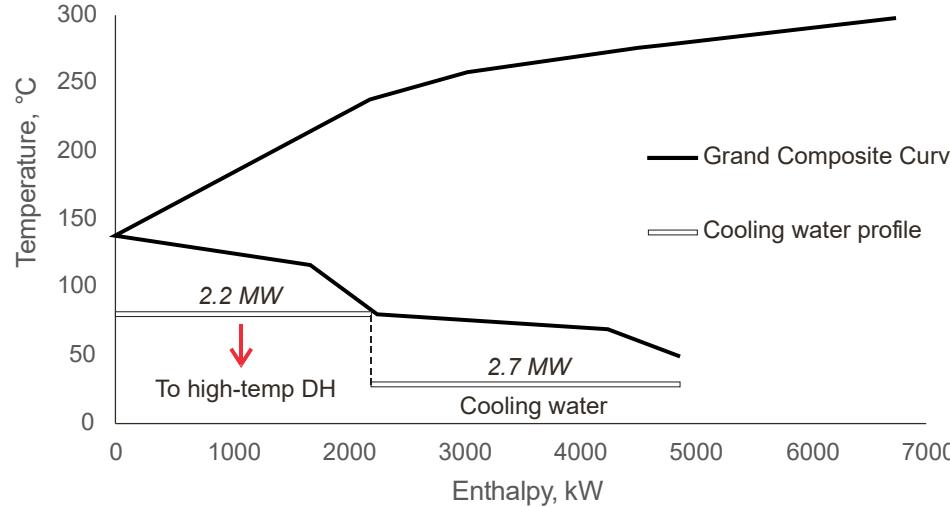


Cooling the process

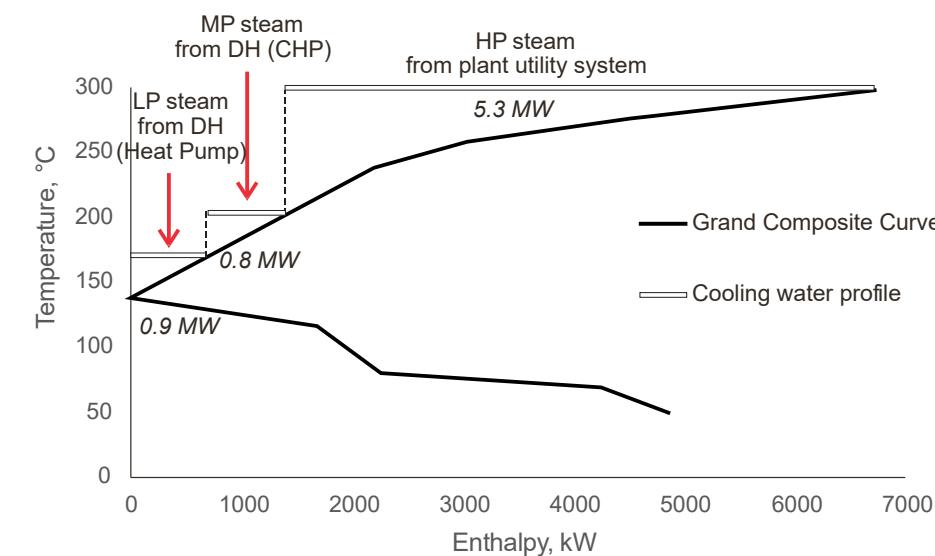
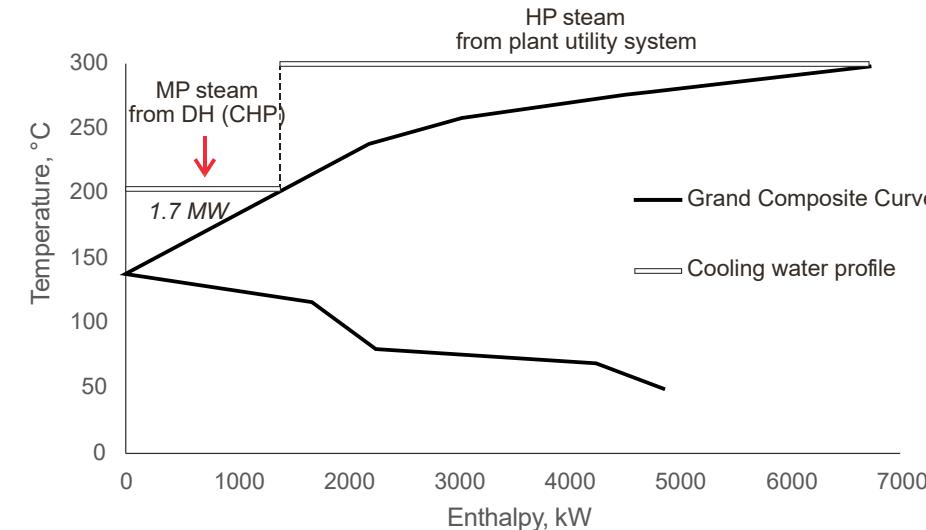


Integration of district heating

Heating the process

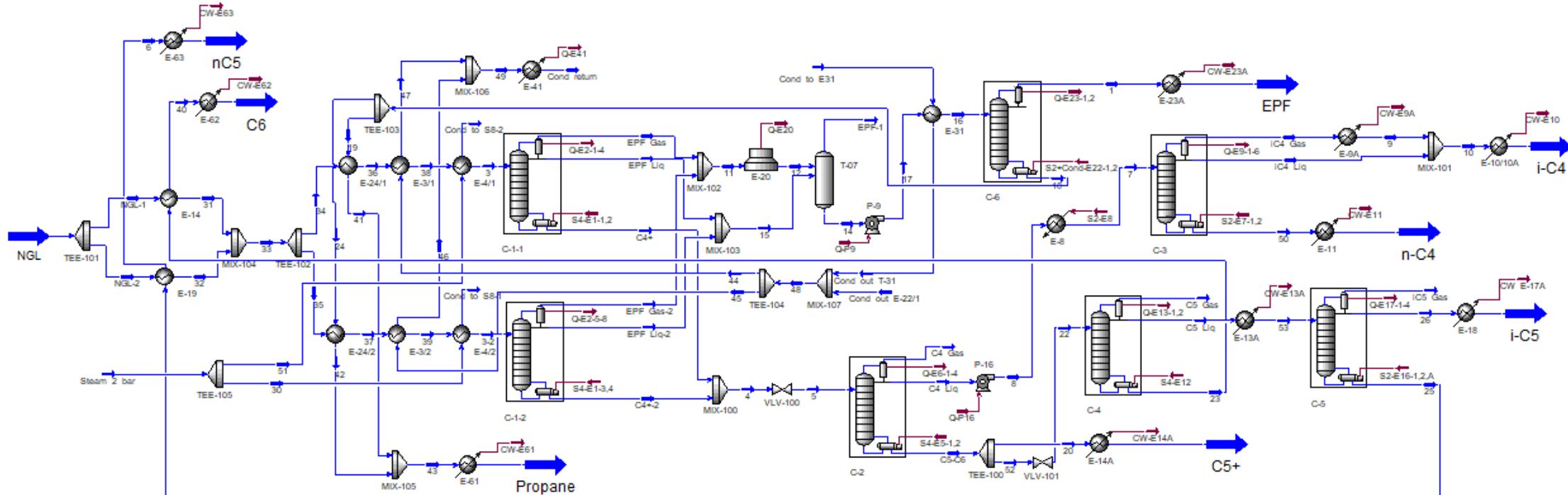


Cooling the process



Case study – DH integration

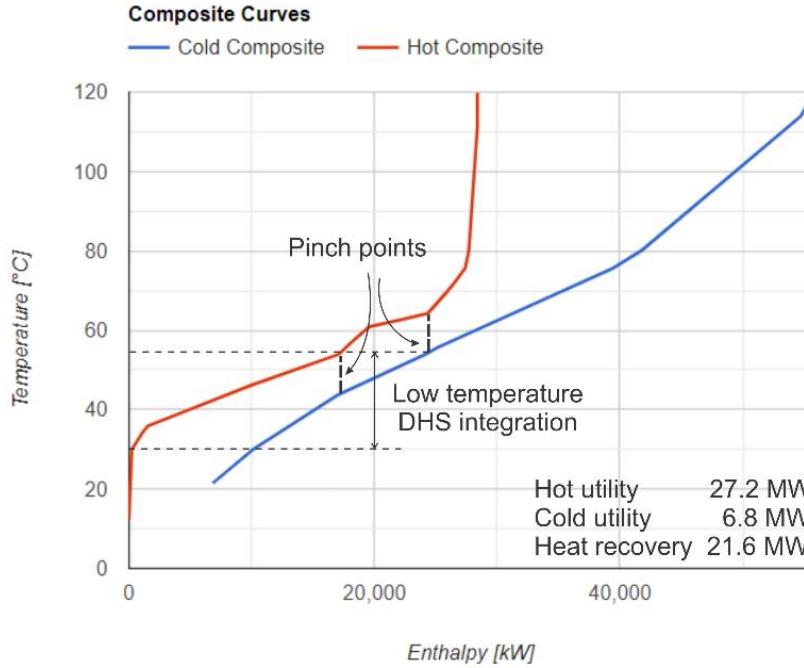
Gas fractioning plant (UniSim model)



- The plant capacity is 4 Mt/y (feed)
- Hot utility is a steam (4 and 2 bar)
- Cold utility are cooling water and air coolers
- Low-temperature district heating (30→60 °C)

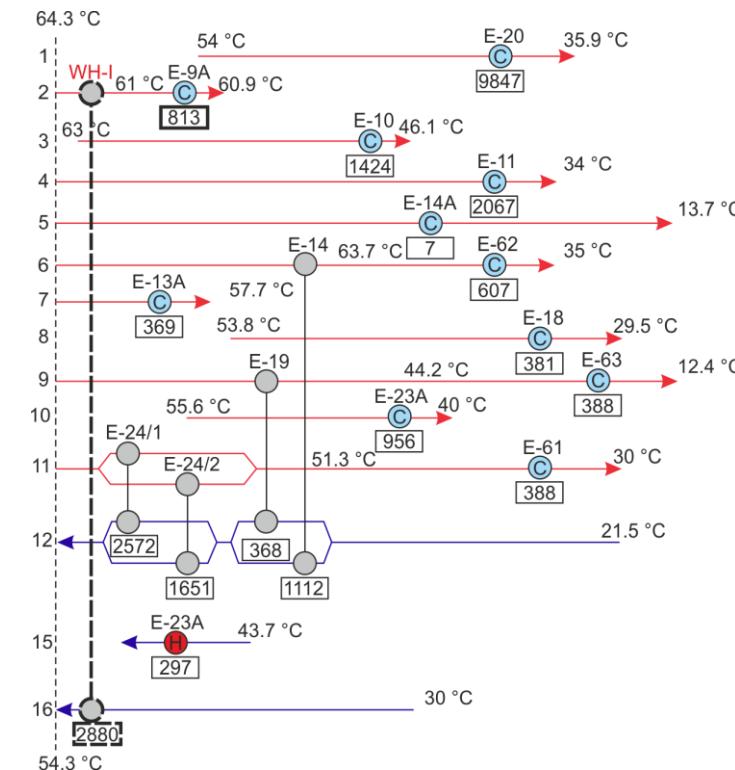
Case study – DH integration

Energy targeting



- DH water can be heated $30 \rightarrow 54^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Max hot water flow rate 103.1 t/h
- The process cooling in the range of 30-50 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ is performed by air coolers

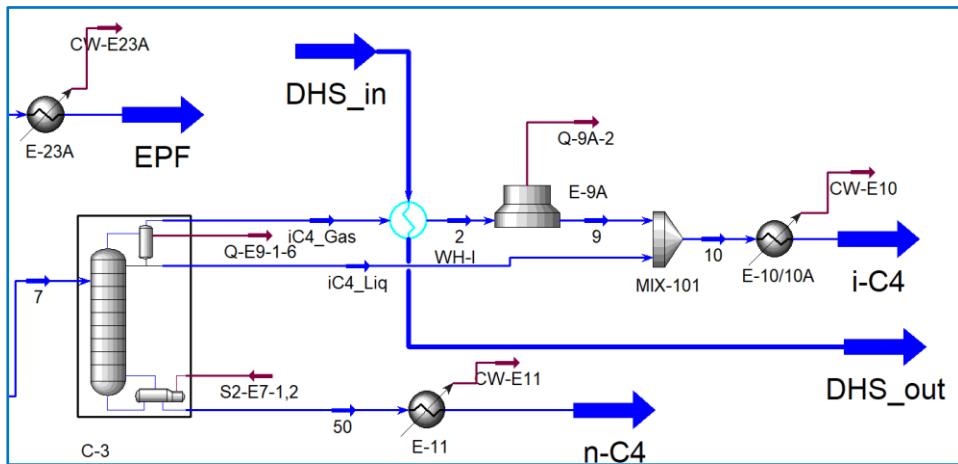
Exchanger network design



- 1 additional heat exchanger (WH-I)
- Placement at the top of debutanizer
- Process condenser duty decreased by 2,880 kW
- Electricity consumption reduced by 33.75 MW

Case study – DH integration

Final plant design (UniSim model)



Heat exchanger summary

- Heat duty: 2880 kW
- Heat transfer area is 122.93 m^2
- Heat transfer coefficient $1277.27 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$
- Type: shell-and-tube
- Length/diameter: $6096/254 \text{ mm}$
- Material: carbon steel

Heat exchanger design

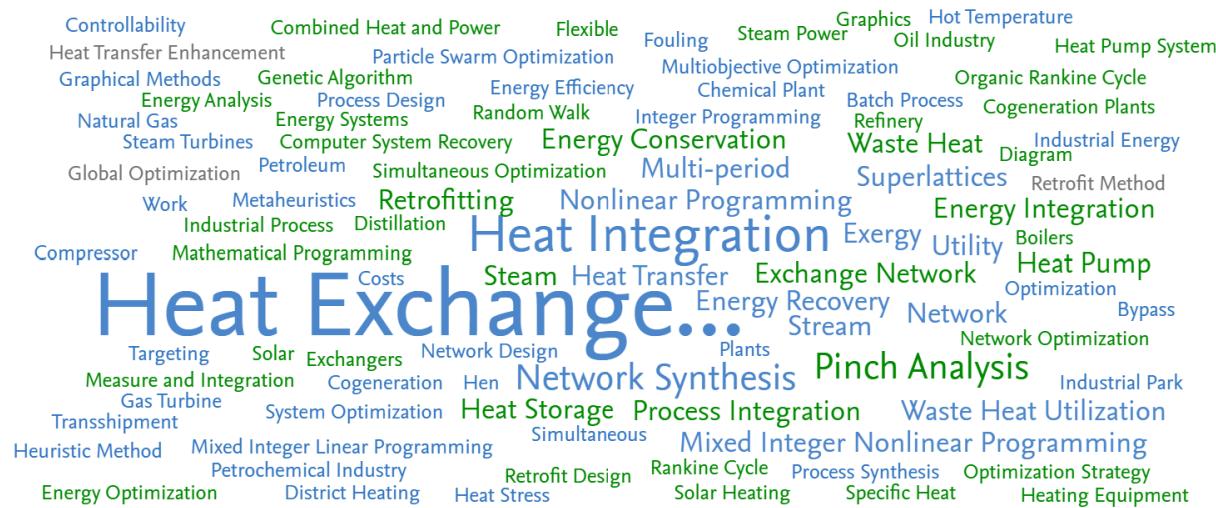
Summary

- ▲ Systematic approach plays pivotal role in industry-DH integration
- ▲ Finding a real potential important to get more benefits
- ▲ Process integration allows effectively decarbonise process industry with
 - Heat recovery improvement
 - Electrification of process heat
 - Effectively use of District Heating for process heating and cooling
- ▲ Economic trade-off and KPI can be estimated before redesign the process
 - Energy saving
 - Emission saving
 - CAPEX, OPEX
 - NPV, IRR, PI
- ▲ Further steps with final process design, scheduling, process safety are recommended

Thank you for your attention!



Q&A session



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