

R&D activities on sCO₂ in Europe: Components Challenge – Expanders

5th episode – 28 September 2023

This webinar is in cooperation with 9 European R&D projects

COMPAS_sCO₂

SCARABEUS 




CO₂OLHEAT


sCO₂-4-NPP

CARBOSOLA

 DESOLINATION

SOLAR
sCO₂OL

sCO₂-Efekt

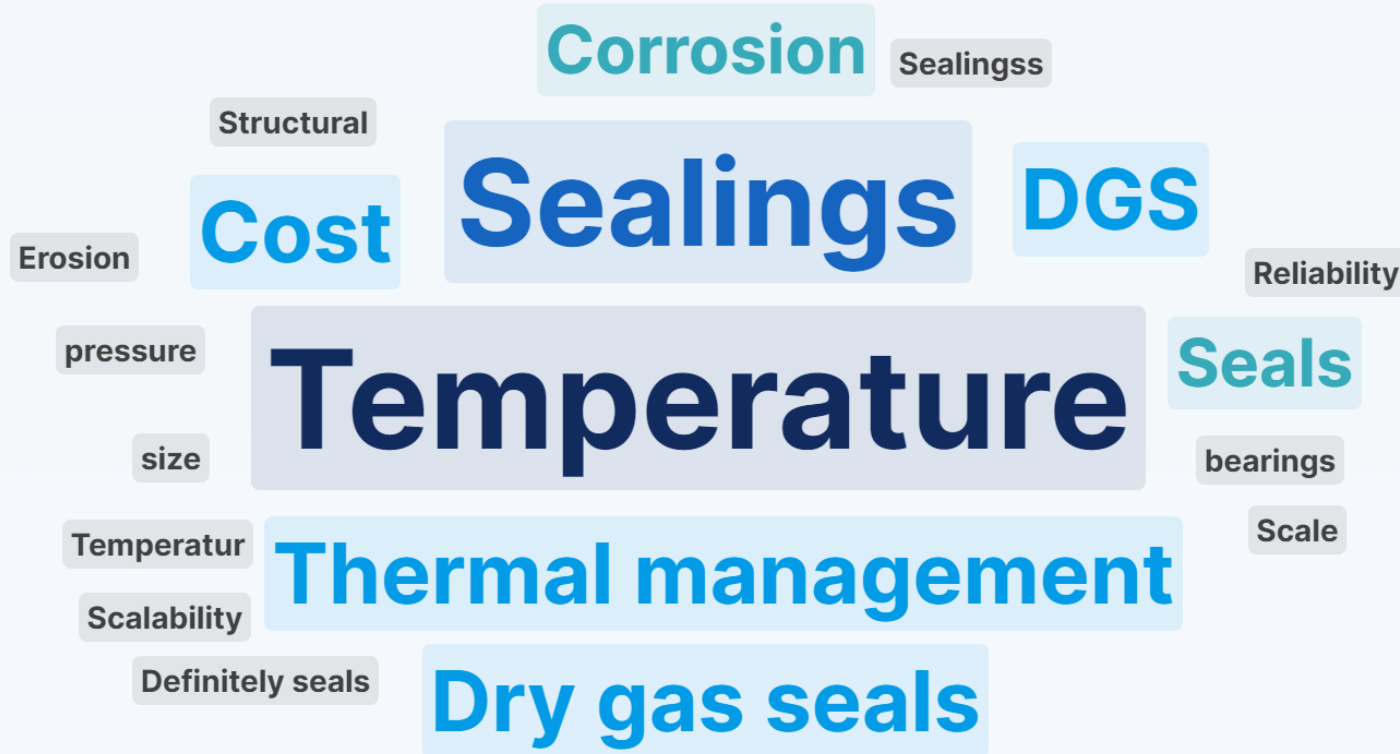
Webinar content & speakers

- **Which boundary conditions for CO₂ turbines?**
(Alberto Traverso – University of Genoa)
- **Expander stage of an sCO₂ Comander for 2 MW output power** (Markus Sauerborn – Atlas Copco)
- **Benefits and design challenges of axial sCO₂ turbines**
(Stefan Glos – Siemens Energy)
- **Baker Hughes Design Experience with unfired Expanders**
(Andrea Paggini – Baker Hughes)



Opening Slido question

What are the main challenges for the sCO₂ expanders design? (1-2 words)





Which boundary conditions for CO₂ turbines?

Prof. Ing. Alberto Traverso

Chair of Energy and Environmental Systems

University of Genoa, Italy

Presentation outline

- sCO₂ application panorama
- Turbines for CSP plants
- Turbines for Waste Heat Recovery plants
- Turbines for Nuclear power plants
- One outlier turbine
- Turbines for Energy Storage application
- Two-phase sCO₂ nozzles
- Summary conclusions

sCO2 cycle potential applications

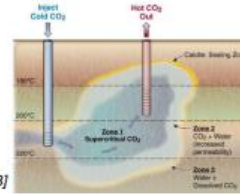
Supercritical CO₂ in Power Cycle Applications



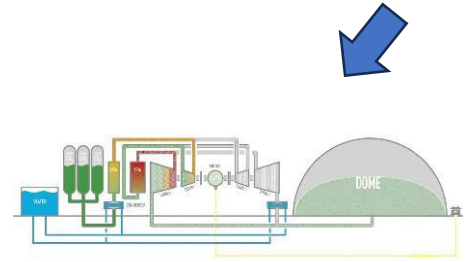
Concentrated Solar Power



Fossil Fuel



Geothermal



Energy storage



Nuclear



Ship-board Propulsion



Waste Heat Recovery

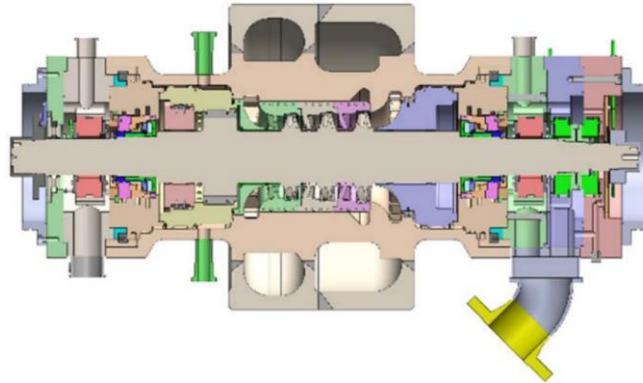


CO2 refrigeration



The STEP project, US (supercritical transformational electric power)

A schematic of the 16 MW (gross) sCO₂ turbine (27,000 rpm)



The turbine casing was fabricated from IN 625 for cost and schedule reasons, as well as an unfavorable experience with HA282 casting (the predecessor SunShot project).

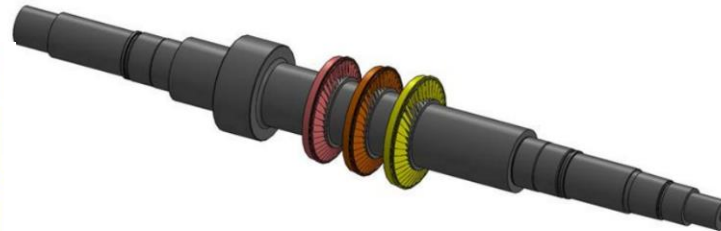


Figure 12 –Turbine Casing – fabricated IN 625

Single piece Nimonic 105 multi-stage STEP turbine rotor



Figure 11 –Turbine Nozzles for each stage



<https://www.gti.energy/step-demo/step-demo-resources/>

A critical risk is the short distance from the high **temperature inlet at 715°C** to the seal/bearing locations, limited to 200°C.

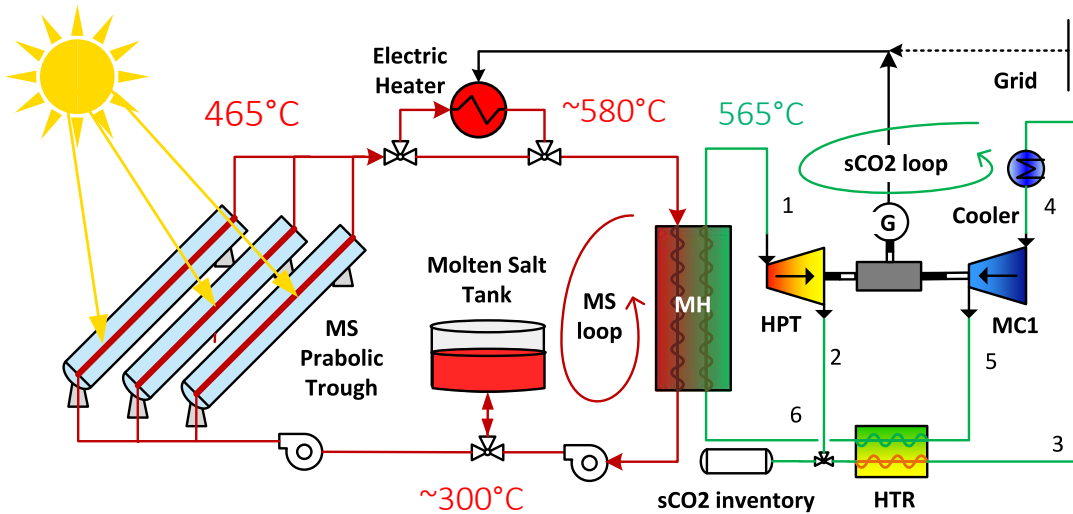
Inlet and outlet pressures are **250bar** and 92bar, respectively.

The SOLARSCO2OL demo project in EU (SOLAR based sCO2 Operating Low-cost plants)

Plant integration and demonstration will occur at Evora (PT) large scale CSP facility, with a gross power of 2MWe

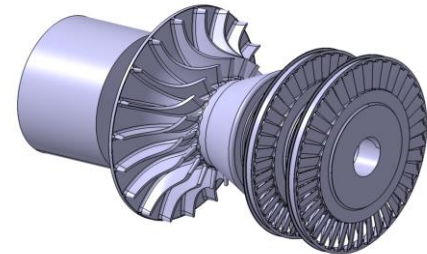


MS hot side tie



Turbine (FTM)

- 2,000 kW, 30,000 rpm, **185.5 bar**, **565°C**
- 3 stages: 1 radial, 2 axial (up-scaling 10 MW)
- Rotor: length 790 mm, shaft Ø 76 mm
- Blades Ø: 115 mm (axial), 150 mm (radial)



The CO2OLHEAT project in EU (Supercritical CO2 power cycles demonstration in Operational environment Locally valorising industrial Waste HEAT)

Waste heat



The project focuses on Waste Heat Recovery through sCO2 cycles in Resource and Energy Intensive Industries.

Target: development and demonstration of a 2MW highly flexible sCO2 WH2P power block with a heat source $T > 400^\circ\text{C}$ and efficiency $\eta > 23\%$

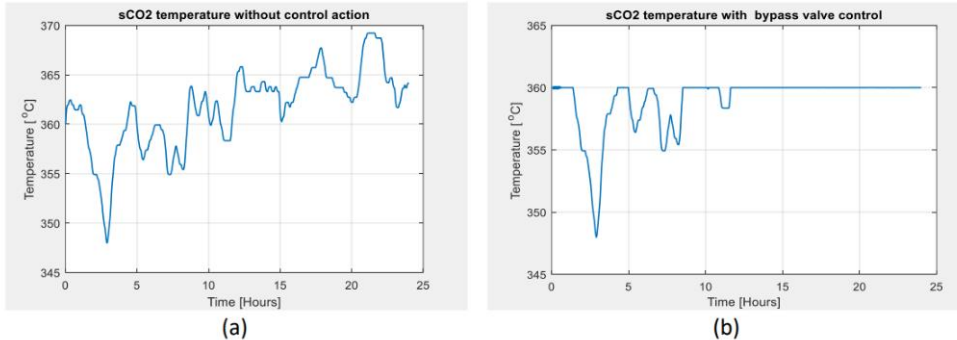
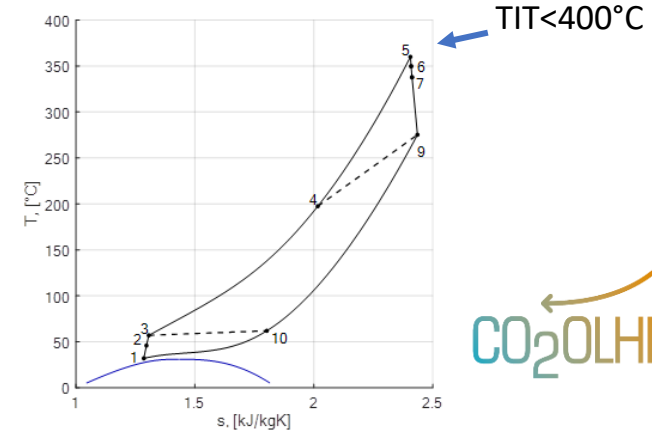
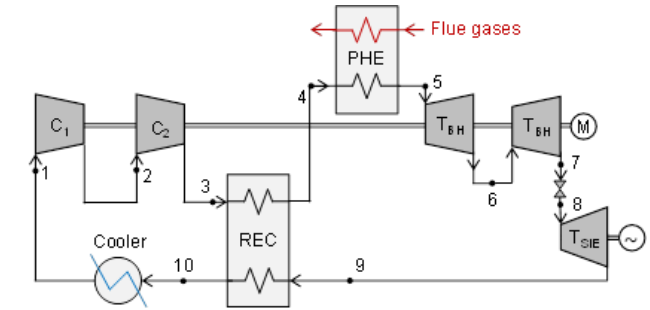


Figure 12 – Dynamic simulation of sCO2 temperature at the Primary Heat Exchanger outlet (a) non-controlled system ; (b) controlled system.

Turbine boundary conditions are in the mild-range, allowing the use of low grade steel material. Pressures are anyway in the supercritical region.

<https://co2olheat-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/D5.1.pdf>



CO2OLHEAT

The sCO₂-4-NPP project in EU (Innovative sCO₂-Based Heat Removal Technology for an Increased Level of Safety of Nuclear Power Plants)

The project focuses safety of Nuclear Power Plants (NPP), targeting the development of a sCO₂ backup cooling system, attached to the principal steam-based cooling system, to considerably delay or eliminate the need for human intervention (>72 hours) in case of accidents such as station blackouts.



sCO₂-4-NPP

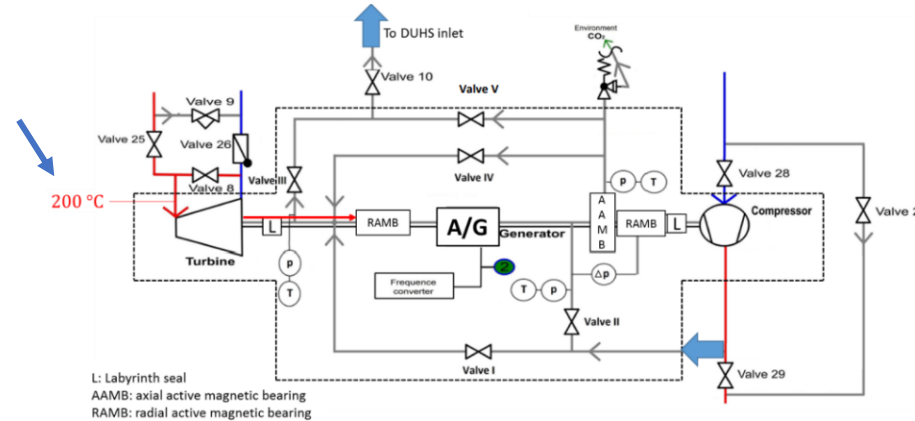
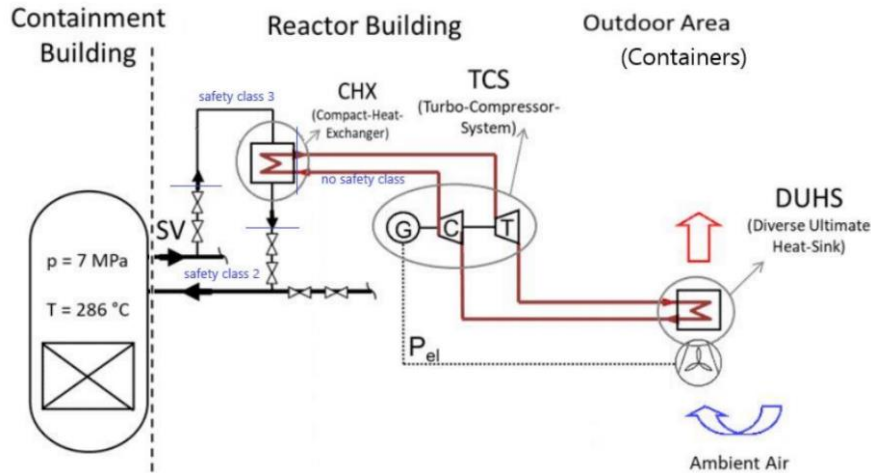
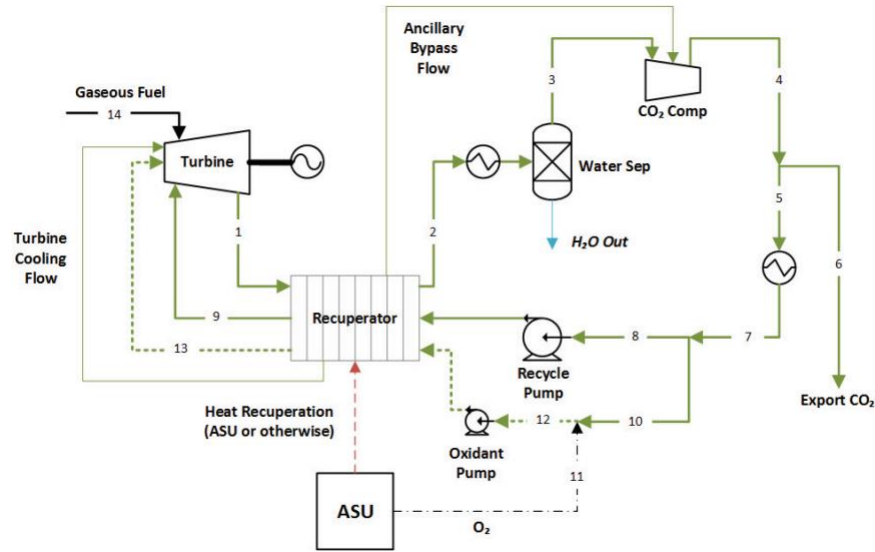


Figure 27: P&ID diagram of the additional cooling system

https://www.sco2-4-npp.eu/wp-content/uploads/sCO2-4-NPP_D4.3_Conceptual_Design_of_sCO2_4_NPP_Turbomachine_R1.0.pdf

Outlier: the ALLAM cycle by NET power

The Allam cycle is an oxy-fuel combustion cycle that utilizes hydrocarbon fuels while inherently capturing approximately 100% of atmospheric emissions, including CO₂



The cycle operates with a single turbine that has an inlet pressure of approximately **300 bar** and a pressure ratio of 10.

Inlet temperature 1150°C
Outlet temperature >700°C

Recuperator role is key in achieving the target performance

The Carnot-Battery concept based on sCO₂ cycles

sCO₂ heat pumps and power cycles could reduce PTES concept CAPEX, particularly via reversible and flexible machines. Furthermore, the possibility to exploit freely available heat sources (such as waste heat and/or CSP inputs) could increase the electrical RTE, making the system capable of an apparent RTE > 100%

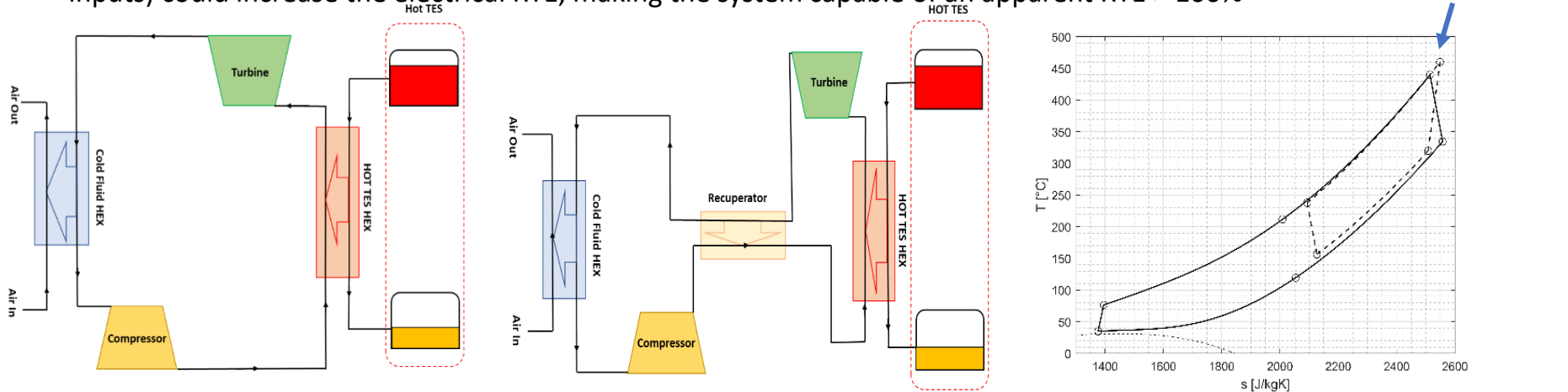
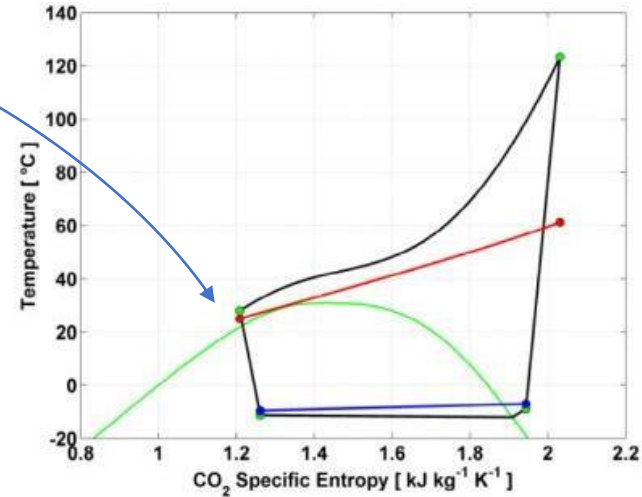
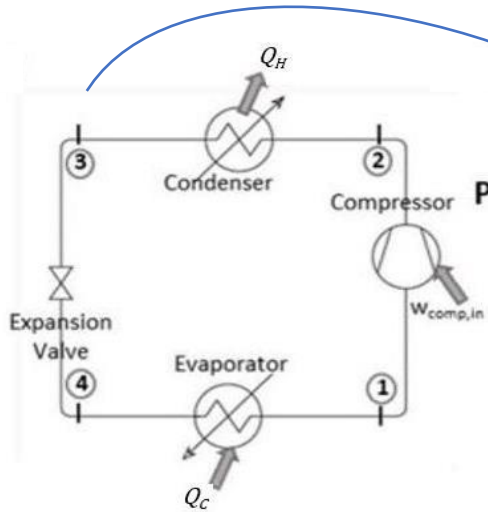


Figure 3. Discharging cycle configurations: (a) simple discharge cycle and (b) recuperated discharging cycle.

S. Barberis, S. Maccarini, S.S.M. Shamsi, A. Traverso, 2023, “Untapping Industrial Flexibility via Waste Heat-Driven Pumped Thermal Energy Storage Systems”, Energies, Vol. 16(17), pp. 6249.

CO₂ two-phase nozzles modelling

Two-phase CO₂ nozzles, starting supercritical, are currently being used in CO₂-based chillers and heat pumps



Example of thermodynamic cycle of a CO₂-based heat pump (trans-critical).

External heat sources are highlighted with red and blue lines. An ejector or turboexpander could be placed at point (3).

CO₂ two-phase nozzles modelling

The speed of sound in two-phase flows is much lower than in single-phase flows.

A convergent-divergent nozzle must be used to achieve high speeds.
They are used in ejectors and two-phase turbine!

Phenomena related to two-phase fluids make modeling these nozzles complex.

The phenomena to be considered for modeling are mainly three:

- **slip**: speed difference between phases.
- **friction**: Use of complex experimental correlations to determine friction.
- **metastability**: rapid expansion can result in a metastable phase that modify the evolution of the pressure profile.

M. de Lorenzo, Ph. Lafon, J. M. Seynhaeve, and Y. Bartosiewicz, "Benchmark of Delayed Equilibrium Model (DEM) and classic two-phase critical flow models against experimental data," *International Journal of Multiphase Flow*, vol. 92, pp. 112–130, 2017.

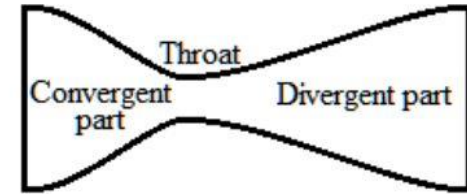
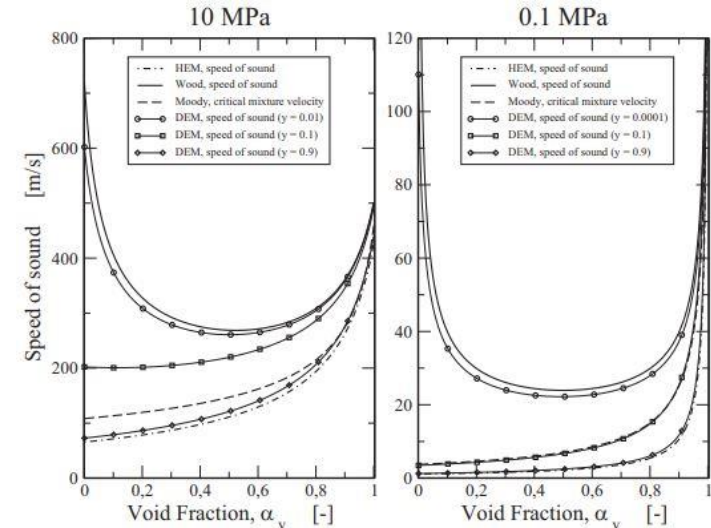


Figure 4: convergent-divergent nozzle.



Speed of sound in two-phase conditions with different modeling approaches.

New correlation for critical CO₂ flow rates

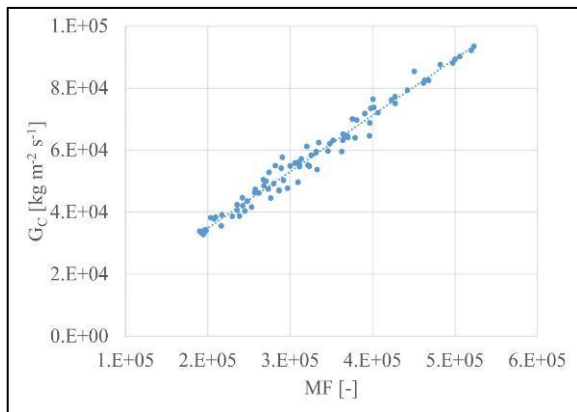


Figure 10: relation between MF and critical mass flux G_c .

$$MF = \left(\frac{\Delta T_{SAT-ISO}}{T_{crit}} \right)^a \left(\frac{\Delta P_{SAT-ISO}}{P_{crit}} \right)^b \left(\frac{F}{P_{crit}} \right)^c \left(\frac{E \cdot \mu_{crit}}{P_{crit}} \right)^d$$

$$G_C = n \cdot MF + G_{C,0}$$

Coverage factor: 95%

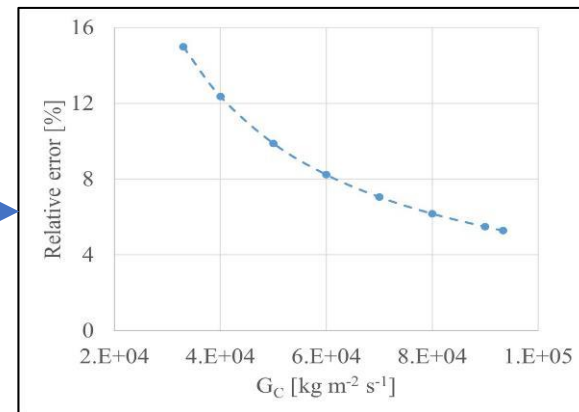


Figure 11: relative error of G_c .

- The linear regression between MF and G_c must not only be as accurate as possible but also meet the assumptions of **homoscedasticity and normality**. Maximum accuracy was sought by maximizing the value of R^2 regression parameter.
- In the validation range, the error is in the range $\pm 15\%$** (higher the lower the flow rate, i.e. the closer to the liquid saturation line)

Table 1: correlation values after the optimization.

Parameter	Value	Unit
a	-0.301532	[-]
b	0.371195	[-]
c	0.147544	[-]
d	-0.411644	[-]
n	0.181921791	[kg m ⁻² s ⁻¹]
$G_{C,0}$	-1564.972	[kg m ⁻² s ⁻¹]

M. Ferrando, A. Traverso, V. Sishla, 2023, "A new statistical approach to identify critical mass flow rate in CO₂ nozzles near saturation conditions", *International Journal of Refrigeration*, Vol. 149, pp. 181-191.

4. Summary conclusions

- sCO₂ cycles for **power production** require high performance turbines (**up to 715°C and 250bar**)
- **WHR applications or Carnot-battery** cycles require mild performance turbines (up to **450°C and 200bar**)
- Nuclear applications are in the low temperature range (**<300°C**)
- For fossil fuel oxy-combustion, a semi-closed cycle has been proposed (Allam cycle) involving a cooled turbine with inlet conditions in the order of **1150°C and 300bar**.
- CO₂ in supercritical or transcritical cycles are nowadays in commercial use for **refrigeration cycles** in mid-to-large applications (e.g. supermarkets), requiring detailed engineering for **two-phase flow** management in ejectors or expanders.
- **Boundary conditions for sCO₂ turbines** are much more **application-dependent** than sCO₂ compressor boundary conditions

Thank you!



Università
di **Genova**

Expander stage of an sCO₂ Compander for 2 MW output power

Markus Sauerborn
Aerodynamics & Process Development
Atlas Copco Gas and Process, Germany

This is the Atlas Copco Group



Customers in more than **180** countries



49 000 employees in **70** countries



Established in **1873** Stockholm, Sweden



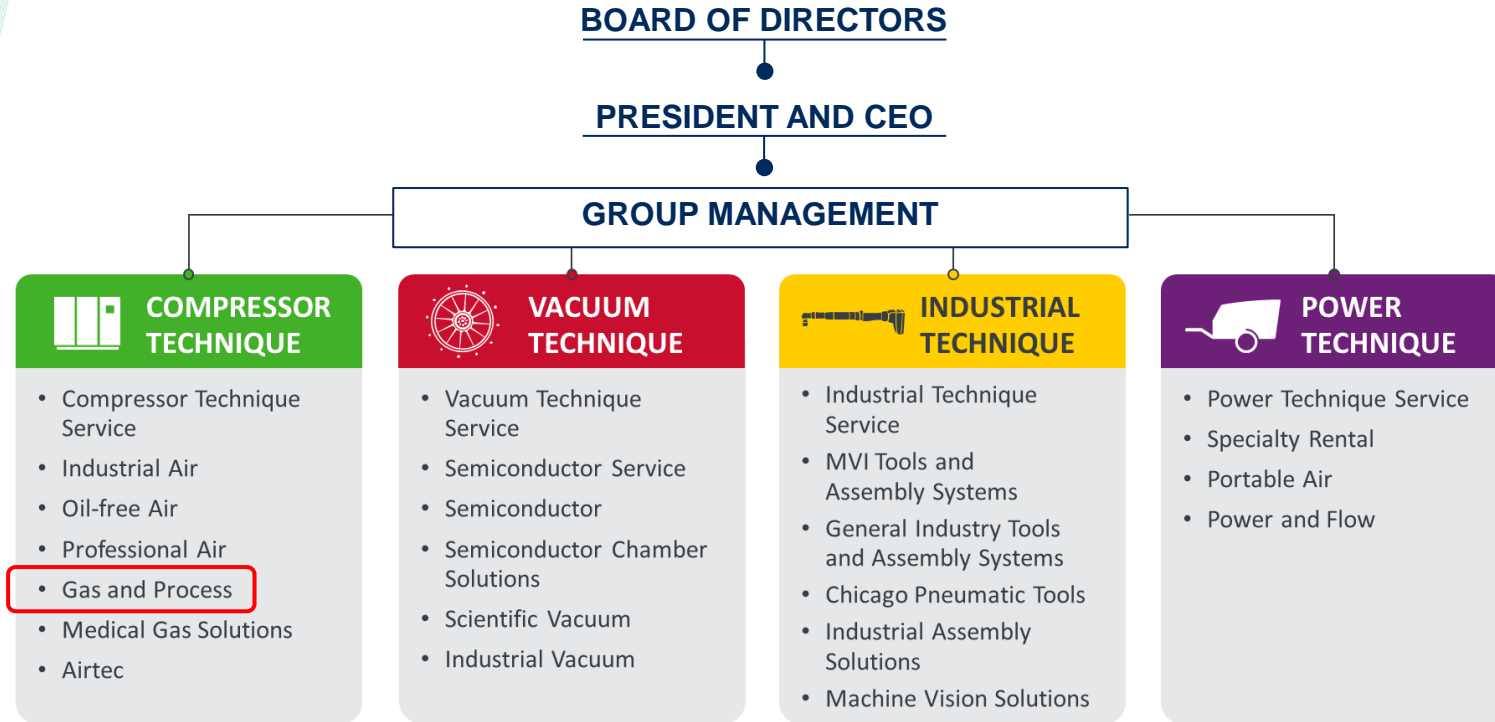
Turnover of **141 BSEK/ 13 BEUR***



Operating margin of **21.4%**

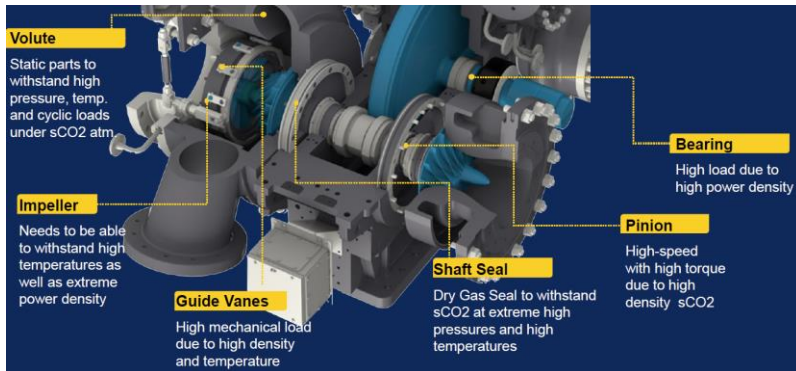
*Based on the average exchange rate in 2022.

Atlas Copco Gas & Process



sCO₂ Component Challenge

Leveraging decades of experience in CO₂ handling for the next phase of sCO₂ turbomachinery evolution

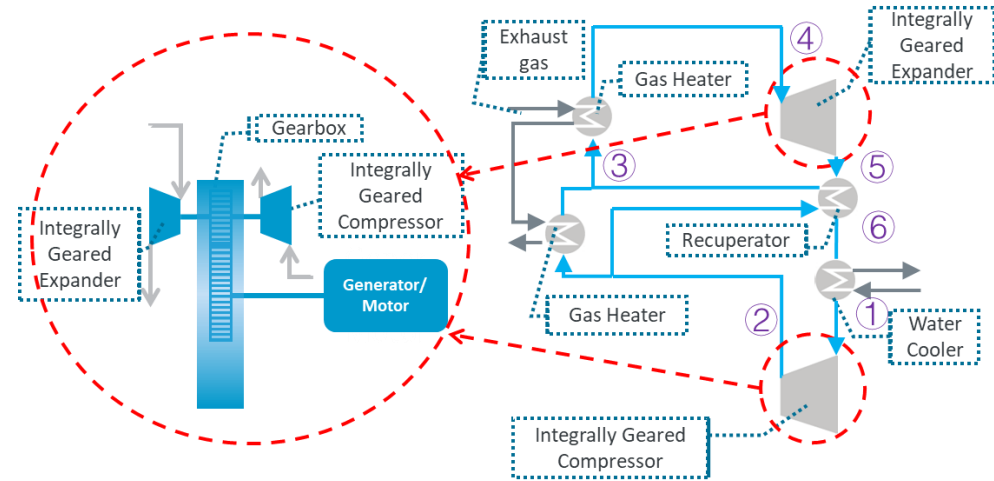
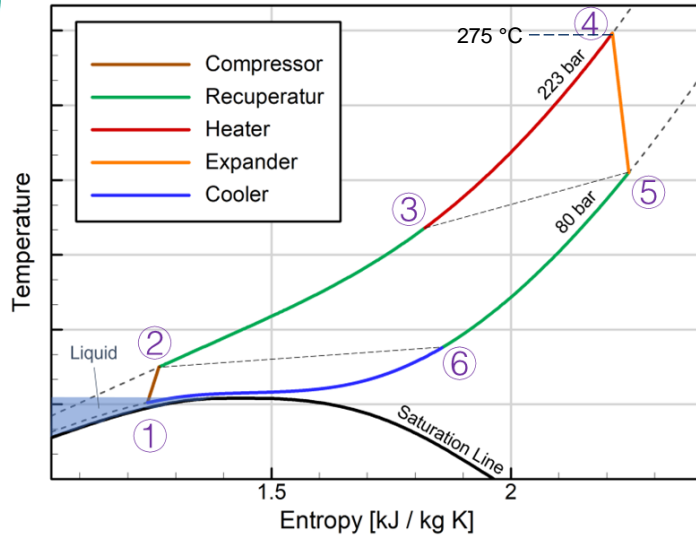


Year Ordered	Compressor Type	Q'ty	Gas Handled	Volume m ³ /h	t1 °C	P1 bar(a)	P2 bar(a)	Speed Rotors rpm	Driver Power kW	Driver Speed rpm
2013	GT040T8S1	2	CO ₂	21 999	45	1,06	202	18 034 32 461 36 068 37 455	5 150	2 960



sCO₂ Componder (2018)

Waste heat recovery cycle and machine design

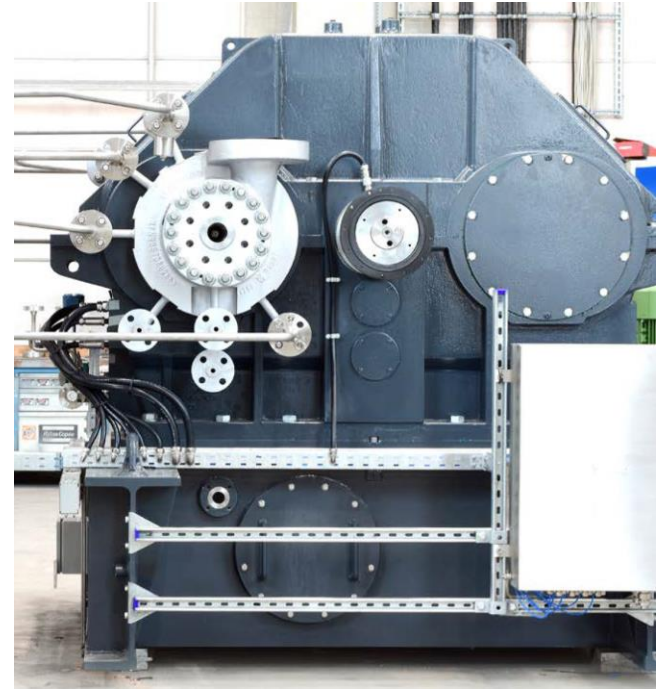


sCO₂ Compaander

Integrally geared design



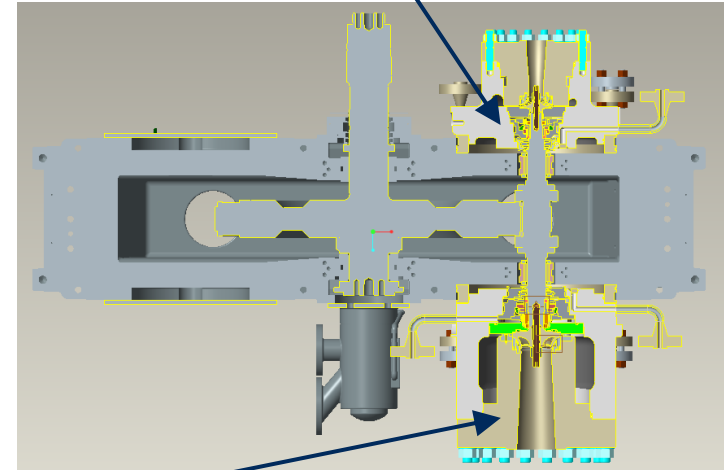
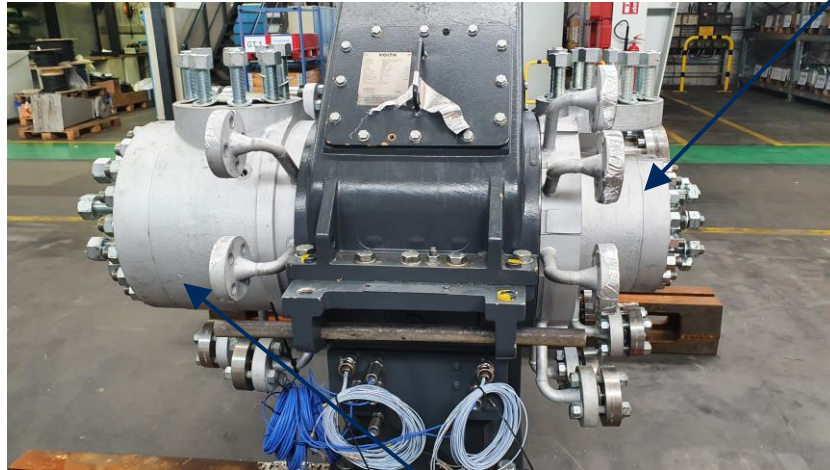
Expander stage



Compressor stage

sCO₂ Compaander

single pinion back-to-back arrangement

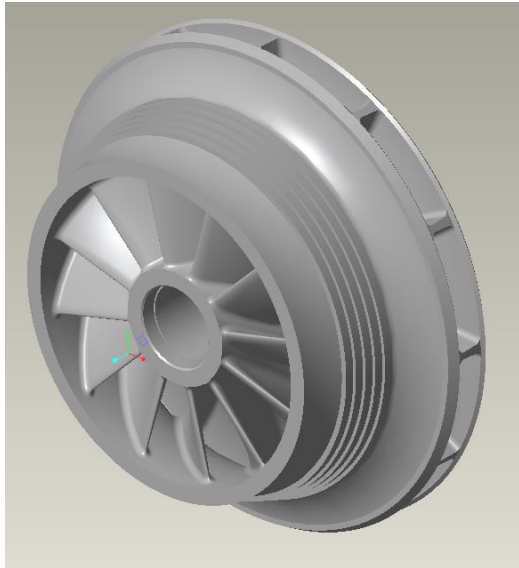


Compressor

Expander

sCO₂ Expander stage

Aerodynamic design parameters

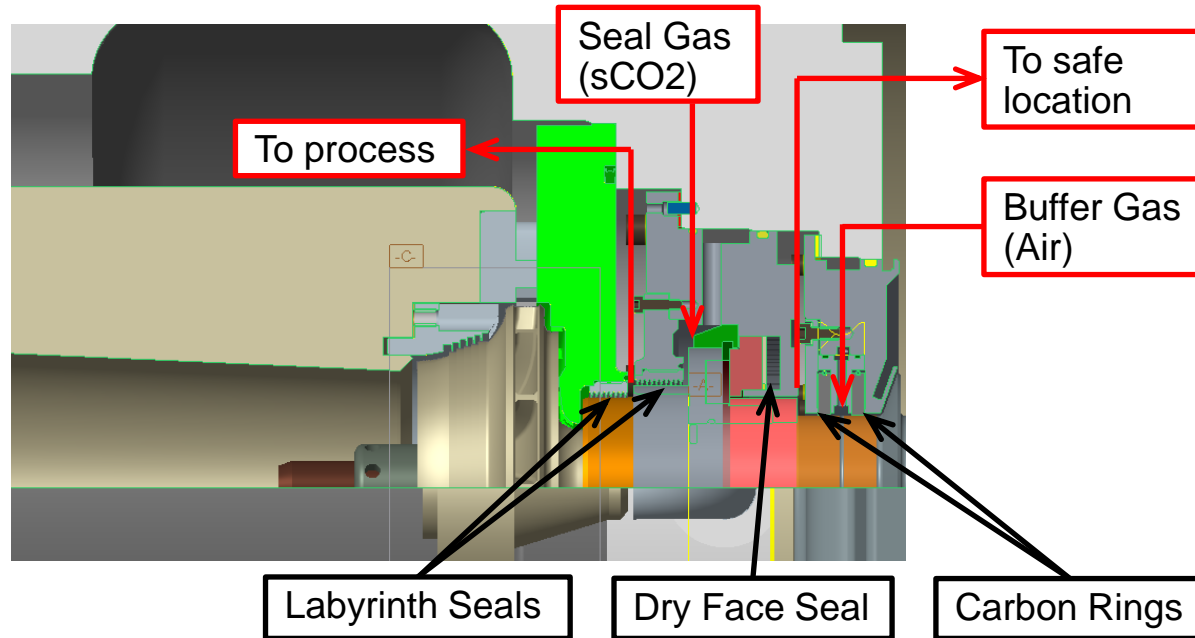


Impeller type		centrifugal, shrouded
Shaft sealing		labyrinth, dry face seal, carbon rings
Impeller outer diameter	mm	150
Speed	rpm	38000
Mass flow	kg/h	174600
Inlet pressure	bar	220
Inlet temperature	°C	275
Outlet pressure	bar	82
Expander power	kW	3528

- Gas property package: NIST/Refprop

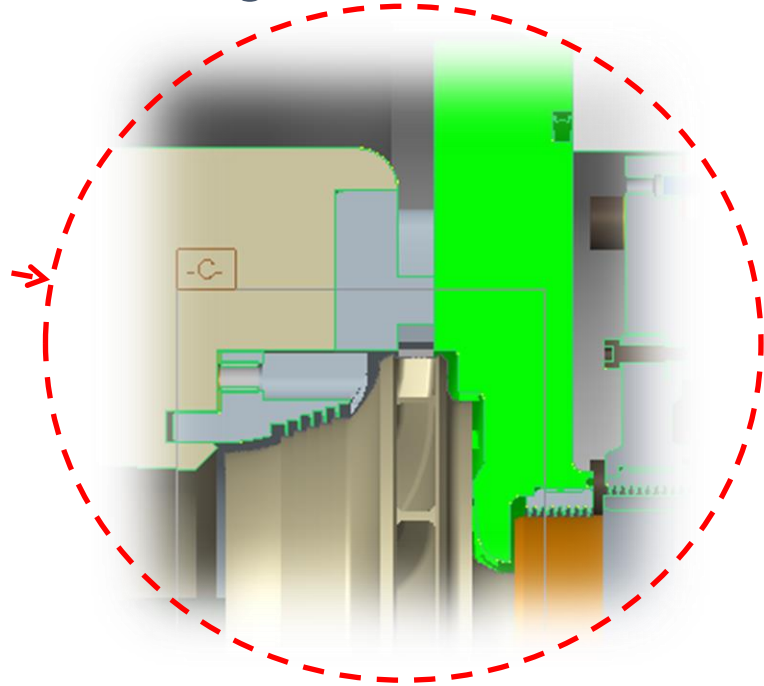
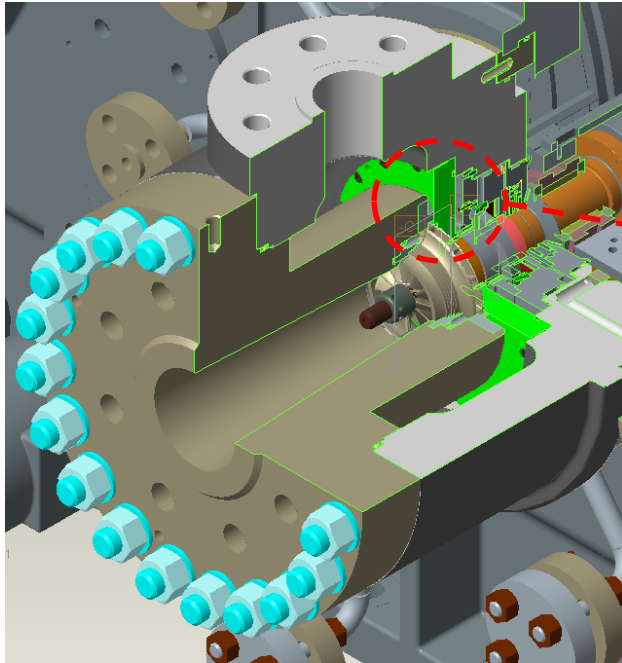
Shaft sealing

Labyrinth - Dry Face Seal – Carbon ring



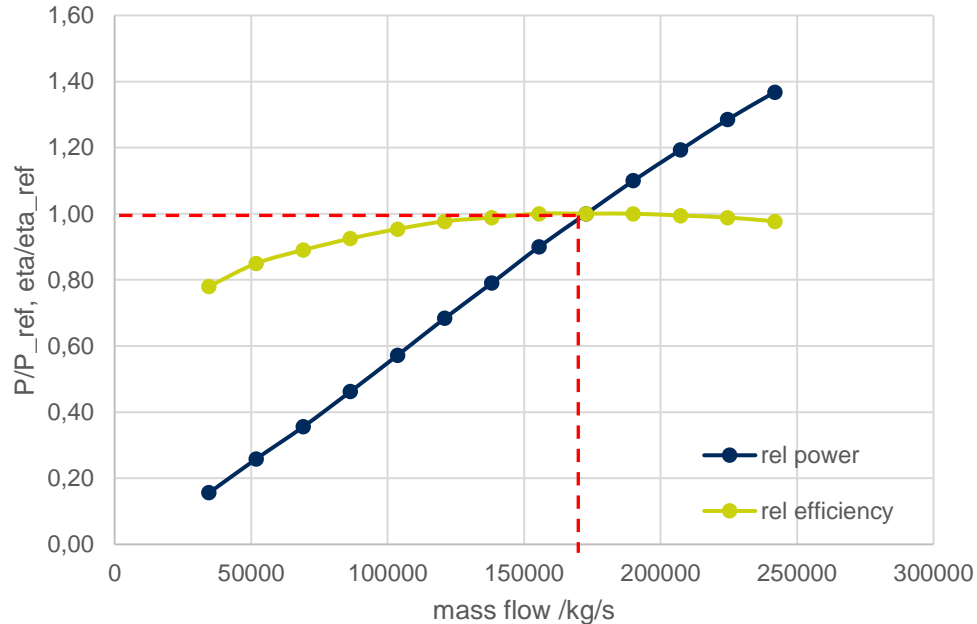
Nozzle ring (IGV)

fixed design - optional adjustable design for flow control



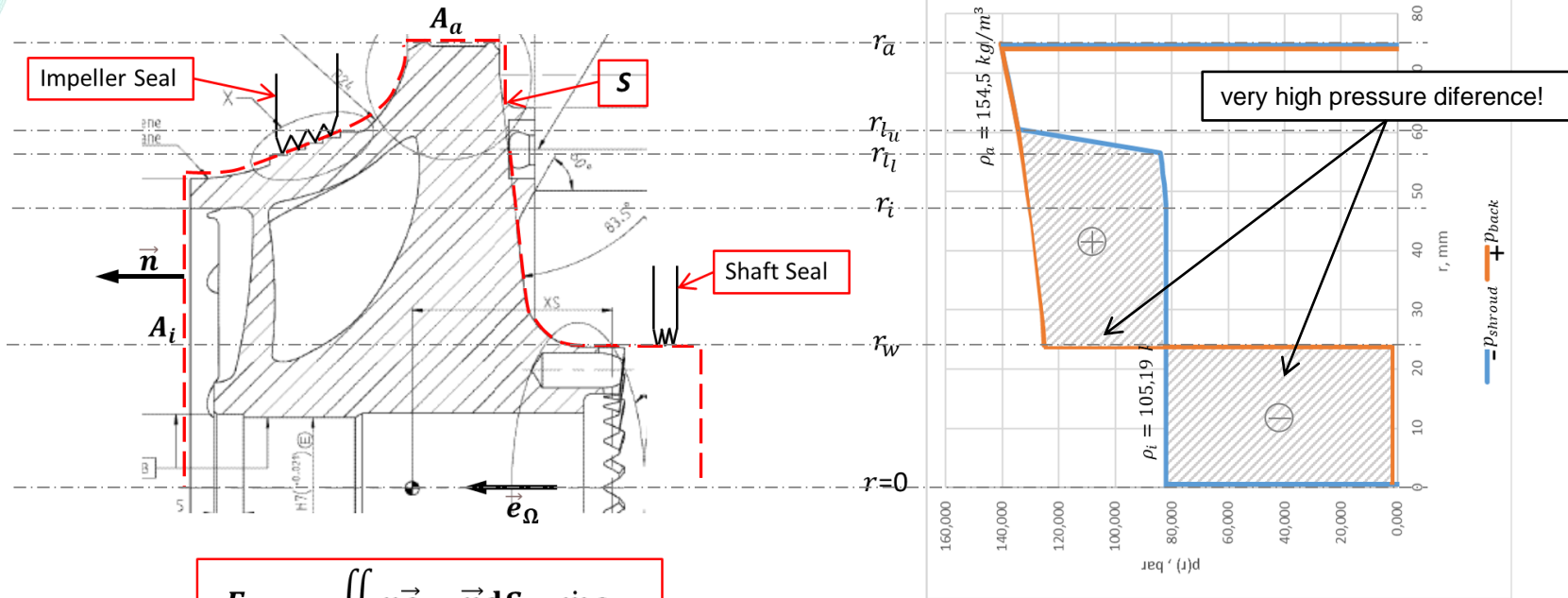
Flow control – adjustable nozzles

expander performance @adjustable IGV



Axial thrust

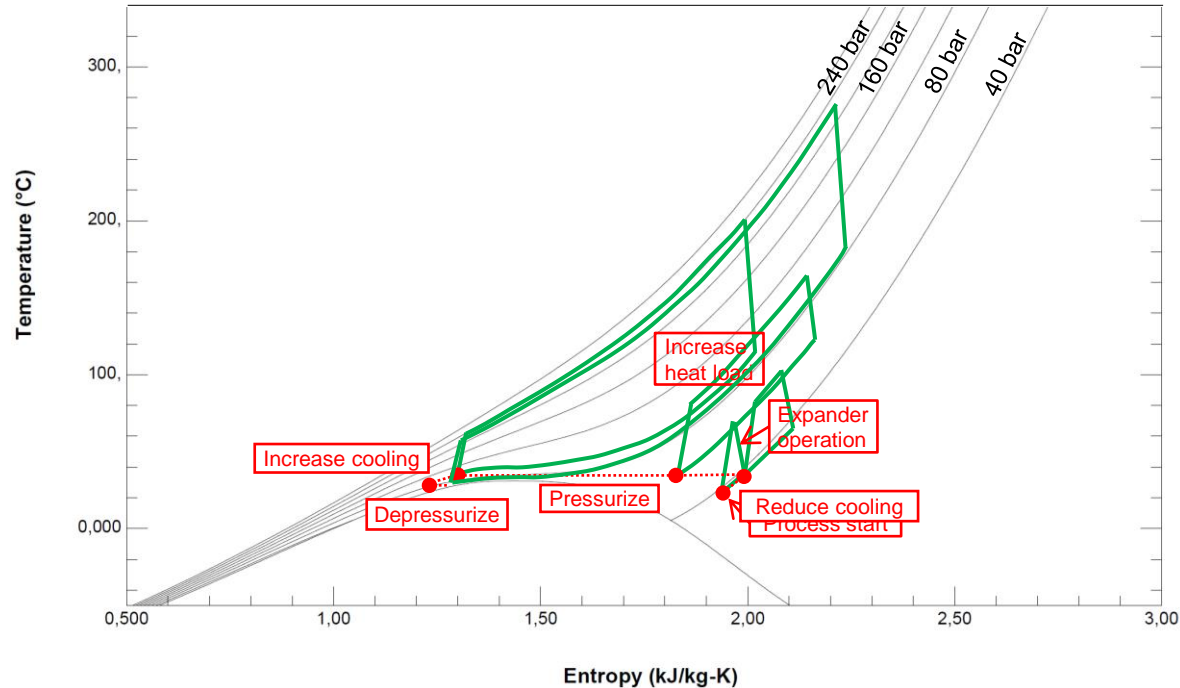
pressure distribution shrouded impeller



$$F_\Omega = - \iint_S p \vec{e}_\Omega \cdot \vec{n} dS - \dot{m} c_{\Omega i}$$

Start-up and controls

from gaseous to supercritical



Summary & Conclusion

- Long term experience in CO₂ handling allows for the next phase of sCO₂ turbomachinery evolution
- sCO₂ expander as part of a compander for 2 MW output power developed and order awarded in 2018
- Challenges and solutions in regards to aerodynamics, shaft sealing, axial thrust and process controls presented
- First in the commercial market machine delivered.

Thank you!

Markus Sauerborn

markus.sauerborn@atlascopco.com



Benefits and design challenges of axial sCO₂ turbines

Stefan Glos

Siemens-Energy, Germany

Agenda

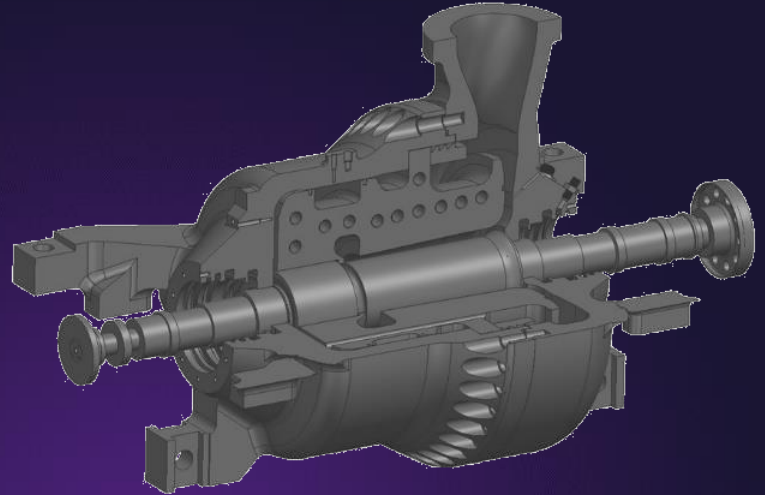
■ Basic Considerations

- Why sCO₂ ?
- Basic working principles and impact on turbine design
 - Impact of pressure losses & windage heating
- Application range for (axial) sCO₂ turbines

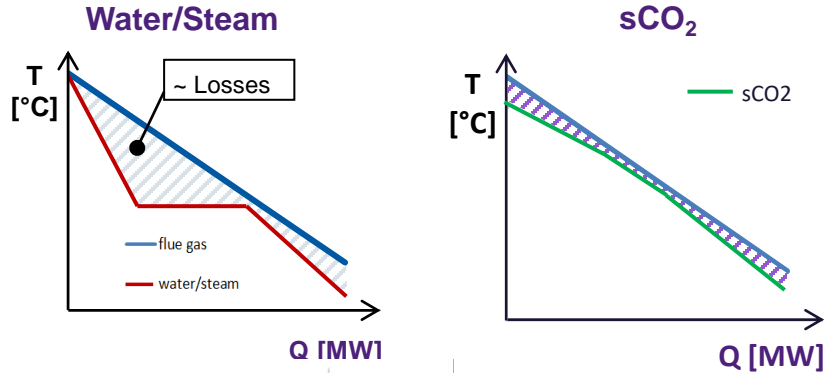
■ 2 MW turbine design for a demo plant

- Design study
 - Mechanics
 - Optimization of inlet aerodynamics
 - Sealing integration

■ Summary

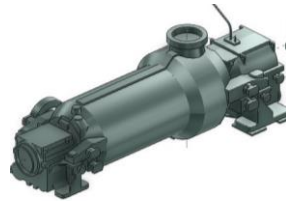
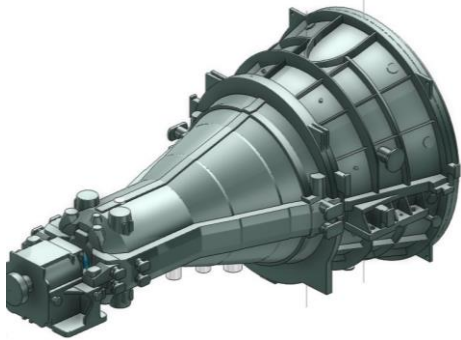


Why sCO₂ ?



Potential Benefits

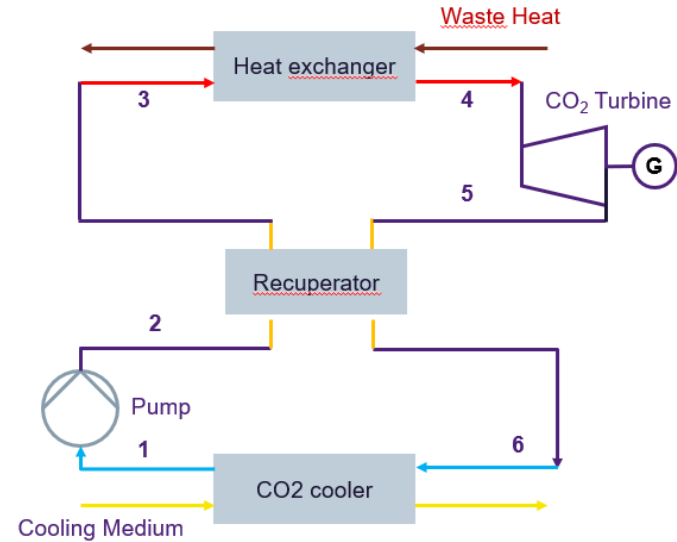
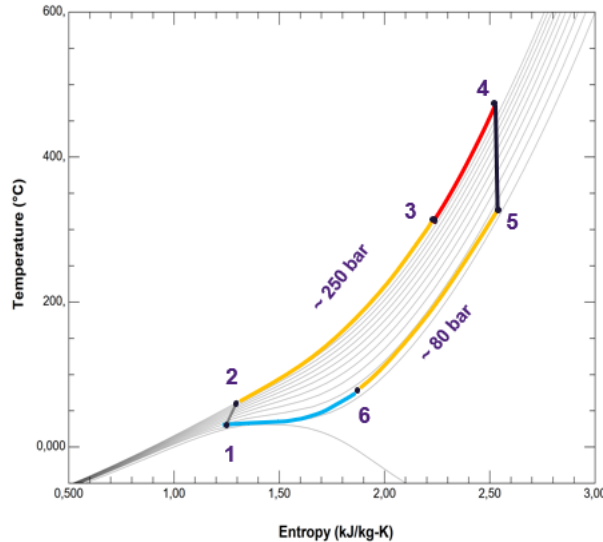
- Higher efficiency compared to water/steam
 - Depending on heat source, power output and heat sink temperature
- High energy density leads to smaller turbines & footprint
- Lower LCOE compared to water/steam
 - Depending on heat source, power output and heat sink temperature
- Non-hazardous fluid (not flammable/explosive/toxic)



36 MWeI WHR solution developed within CARBOSOLA project

sCO₂ working principles

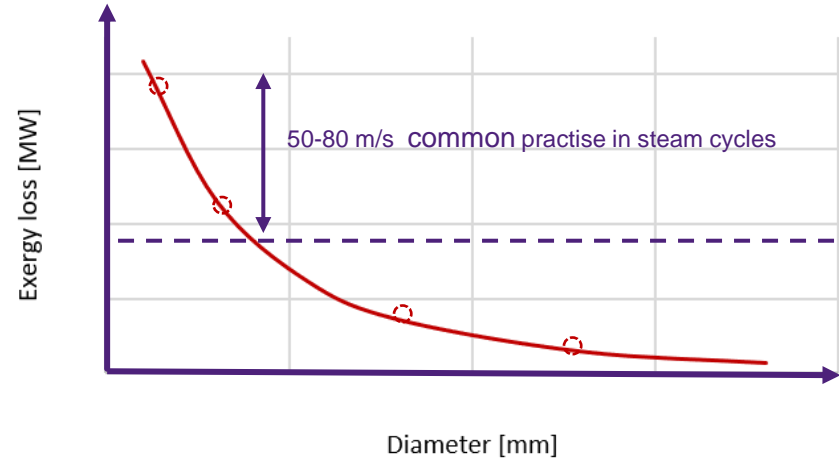
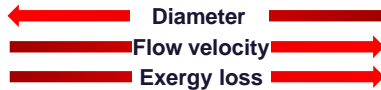
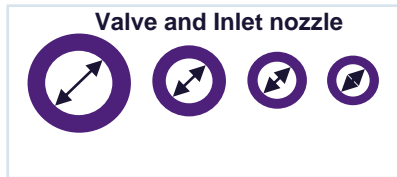
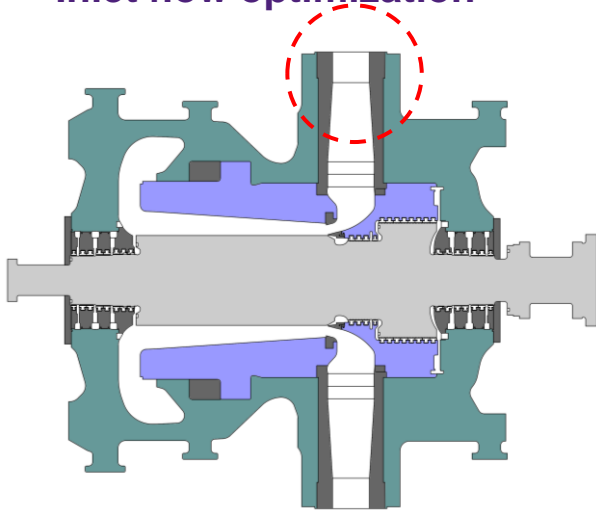
Impact on turbine design



- High pressure level (~250-300bar) → Turbine topology, mechanical design
- Backpressure turbine (~ 60-90 bar) → Operational concept (start-up, low load,...), sealing technology
- Low Δh but high Δp → High mass flow, few stages, robust air foils, internal leakages..
- High fluid density → Aerodynamics, rotormechanic &-dynamics

Impact of pressure losses

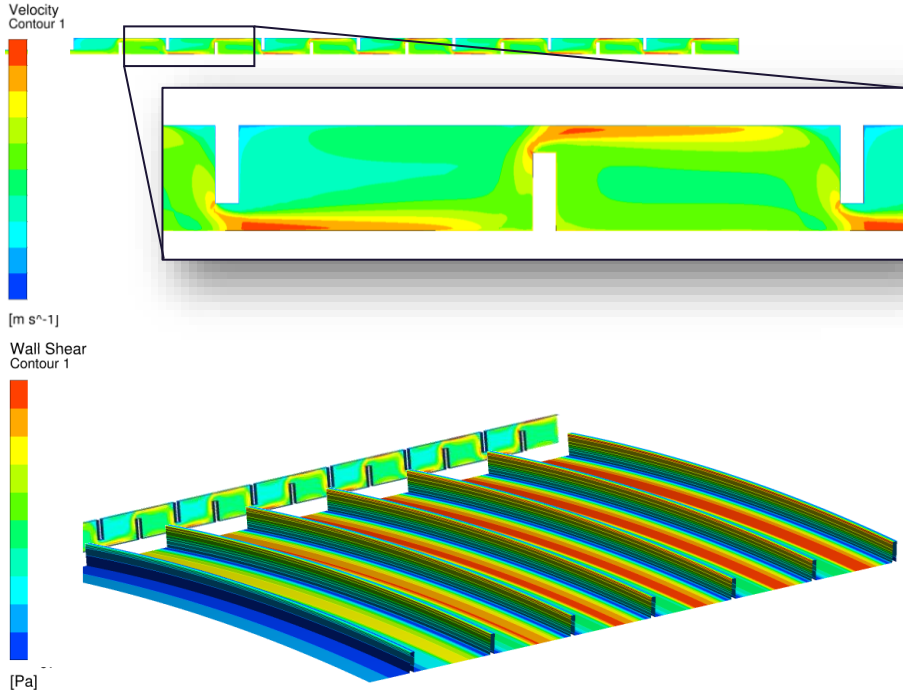
Inlet flow optimization



- Performance sensitive to pressure losses
- Thermo-economic optimization will lead to larger flow diameters than known from conventional steam cycles

Leakage and windage heating effects

Labyrinth seal flow physics



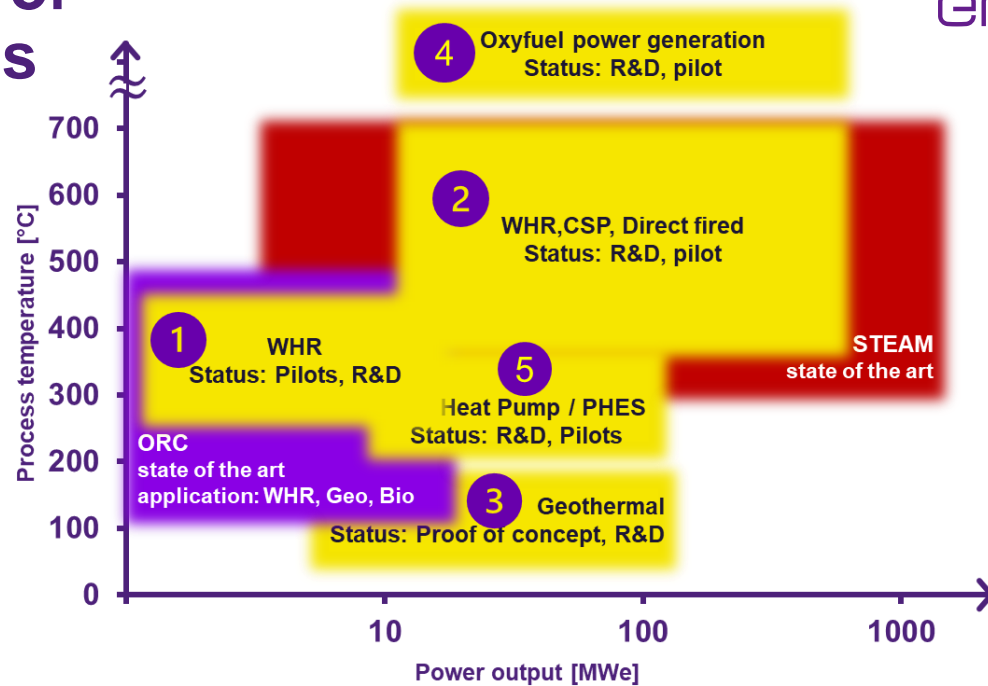
- Pressure difference and density drives mass flow \dot{m}

- Circumferential wall shear τ at rotating shaft is reason for fluid heat up Δh_t

$$\tau = \text{Const.} \cdot \text{Re}^{-0.2} \times 0,5 \rho w^2$$

- Temperature increase in labyrinth seals to be considered in mechanical design
- Especially important for high temperature applications

Application range of axial sCO₂ turbines



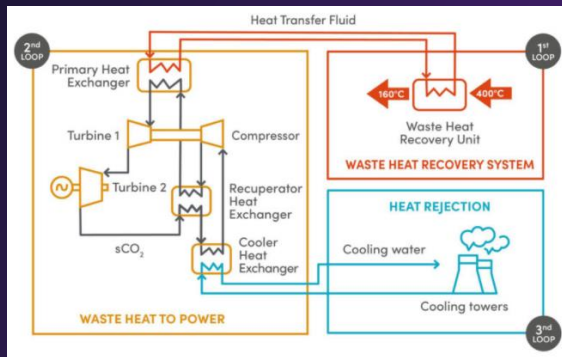
Turbine Type	Radial turbines		
		Axial turbines	
Speed [rpm] / di [mm]	~ 10000 / 160	~ 3000/ 400	~ 3000/ 700



Unit Scaling
2-100 MW



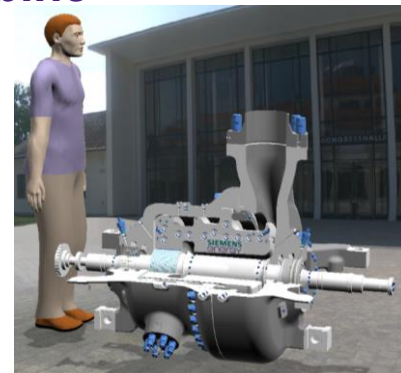
Turbine Performance
Up to 92%



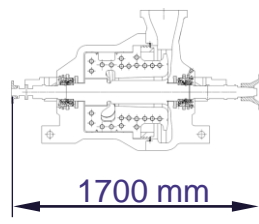
Large-Scale Industrial Waste Heat Recuperation with axial sCO₂ Turbine

CO₂OLHEAT

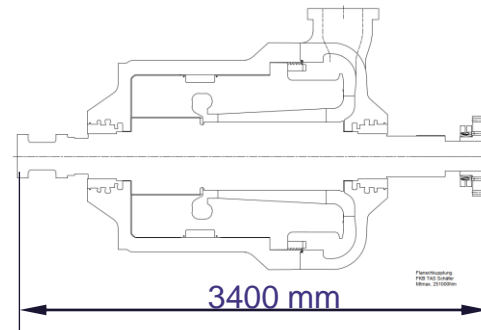
- Adapting barrel-type turbine design for high temperatures and pressures, i.e. high efficiencies
- Realization and validation of **2 MW demo application** within EU funded project **CO2OLHEAT** *)
- Design **scalable to large power output** for different types of applications



2 MW Demo sCO₂ turbine

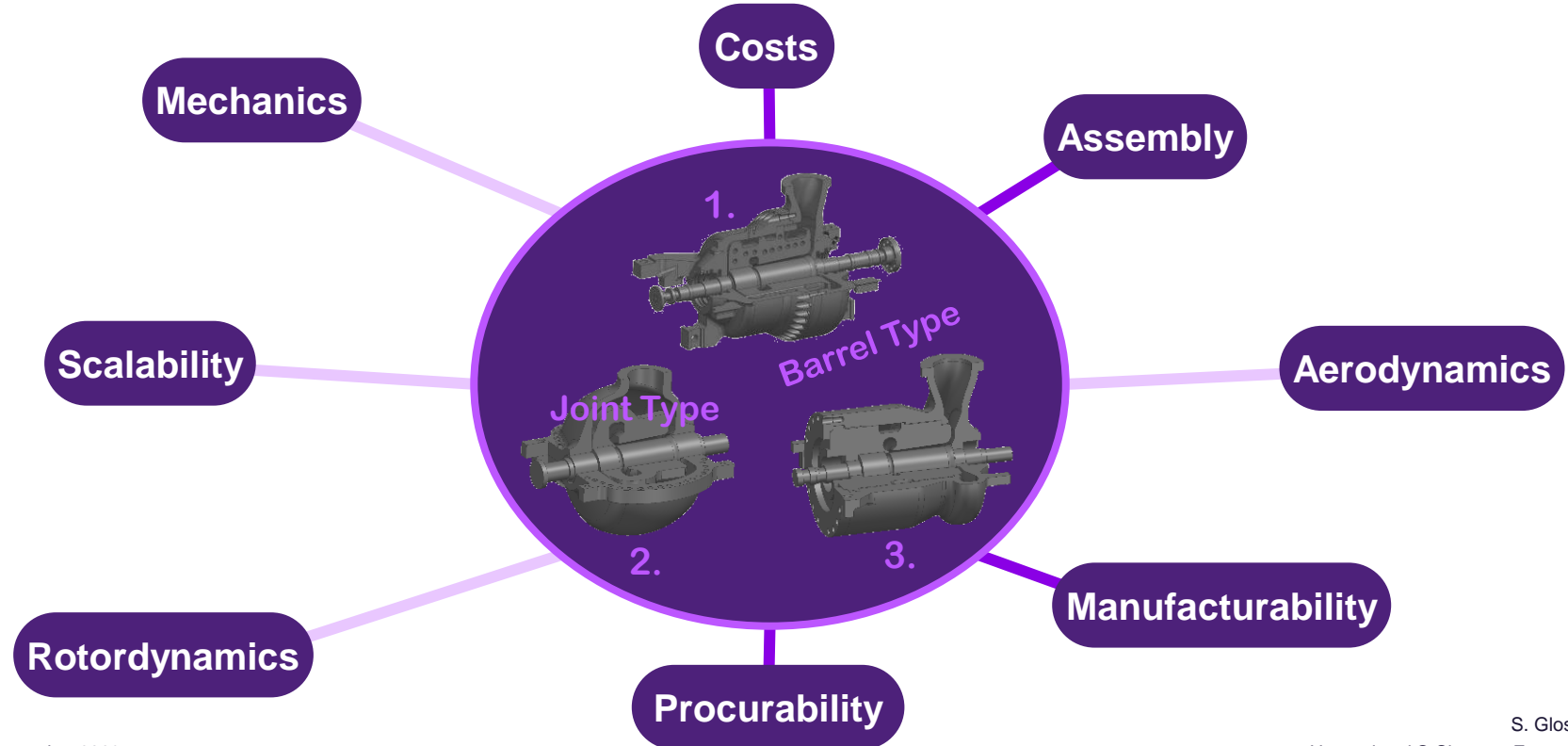


Upscaled 50 MW sCO₂



*) This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under GA n. 101022831

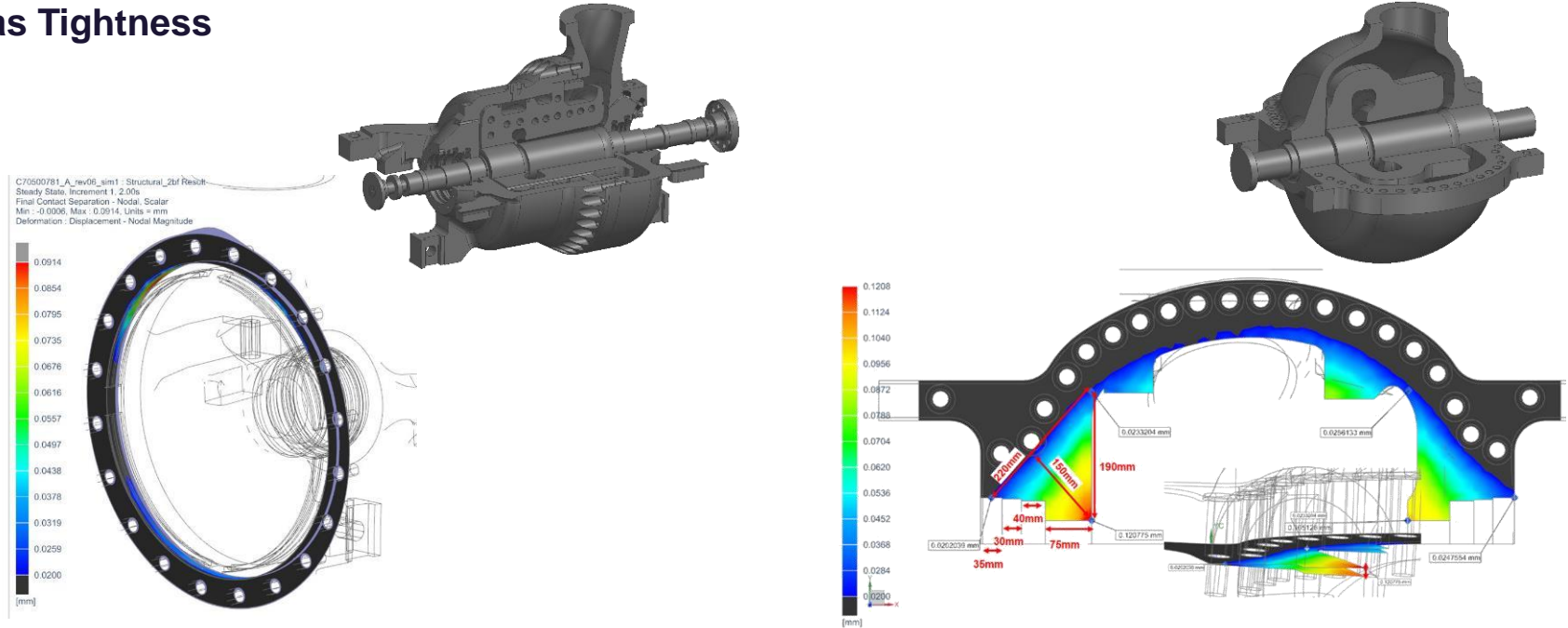
Turbine Design Decision Criteria



Turbine Design

Mechanical – Casing Deformation

Gas Tightness

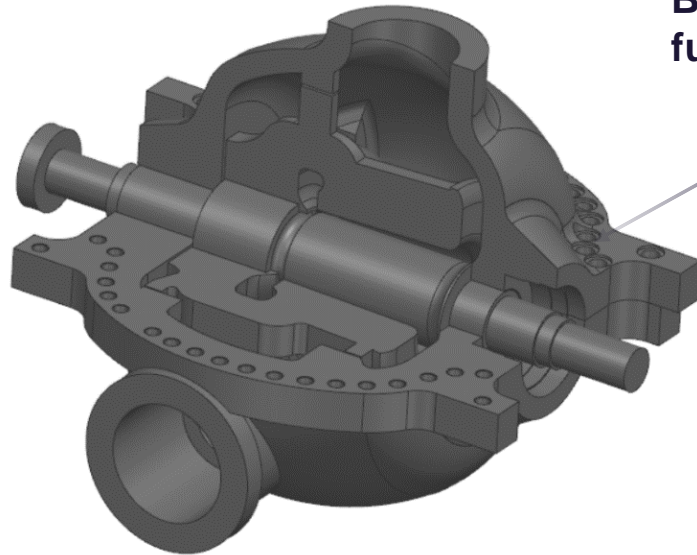


Half Joint leaking for joint type, due to high pressure (90 bar) and large dry gas seals

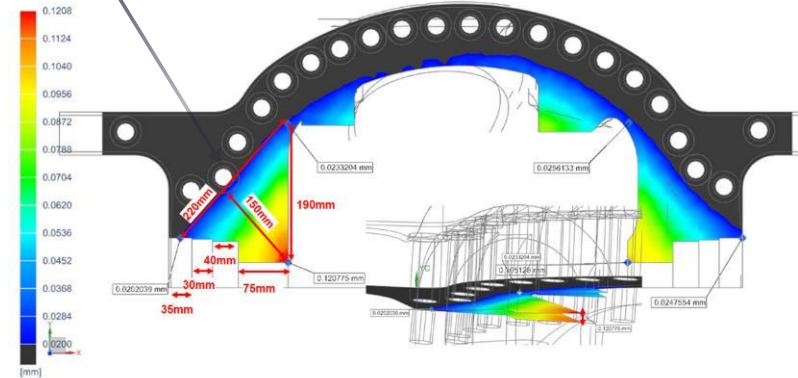
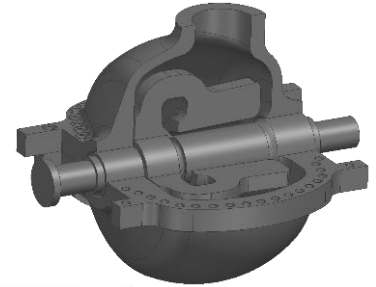
Turbine Design

Mechanical – Casing Deformation

Steam Tightness



Bolts cannot be moved further inside

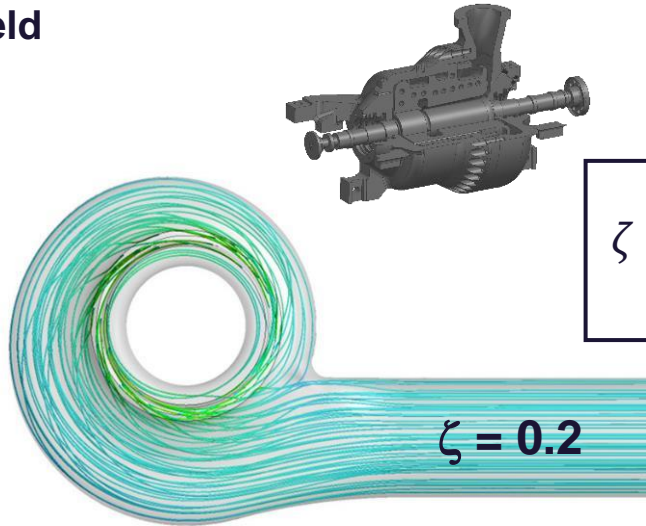
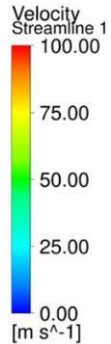


Half Joint leaking for joint type, due to high pressure (90 bar) and large dry gas seals

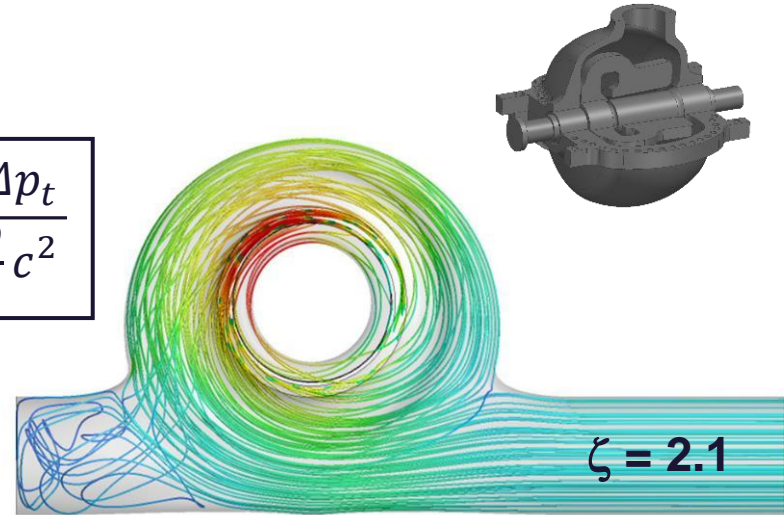
Turbine Design

Aerodynamics Part 1 – Inlet Flow

Flow Field



$$\zeta = \frac{\Delta p_t}{\frac{\rho}{2} c^2}$$

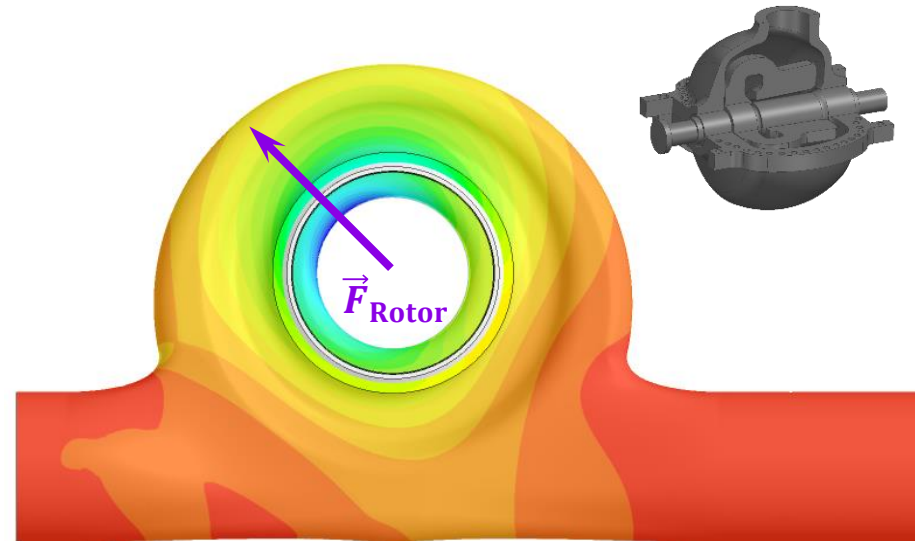
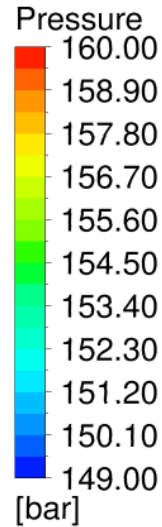
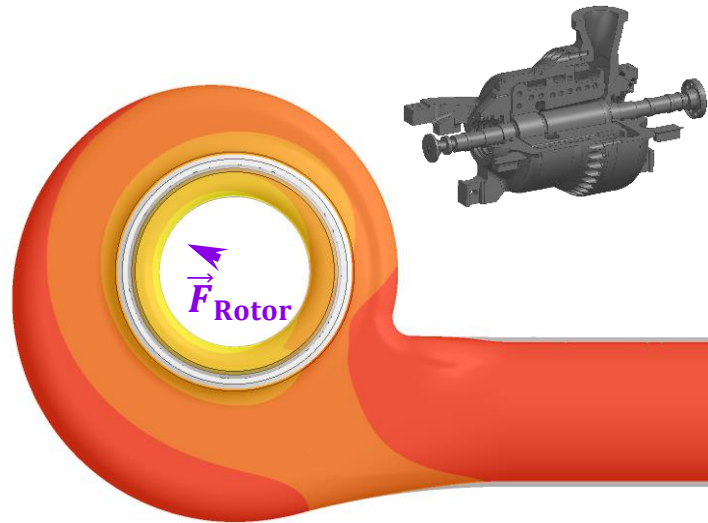


- Very homogeneous flow velocities
⇒ **low pressure losses**

- Locally very high flow velocities
- Large variation around circumference
⇒ **raised pressure losses**

Turbine Design

Aerodynamics Part 1 – Inlet Flow



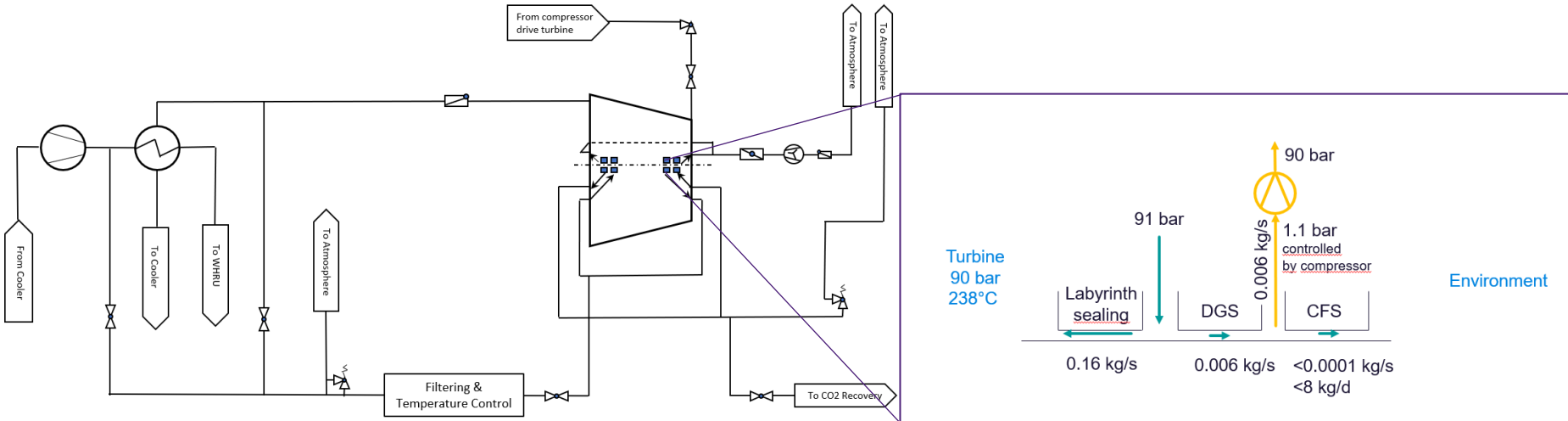
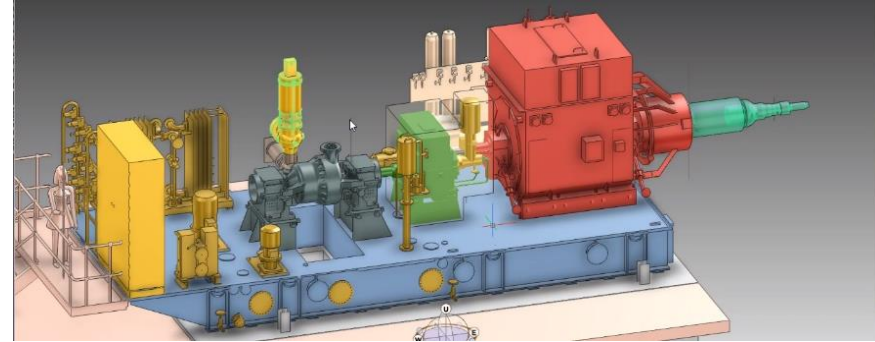
- Little pressure variation
⇒ **small resulting force on rotor**

- Large pressure variation
⇒ **reasonable resulting force on rotor**

Joint type turbine mechanically, aerodynamically and rotordynamically disadvantageous

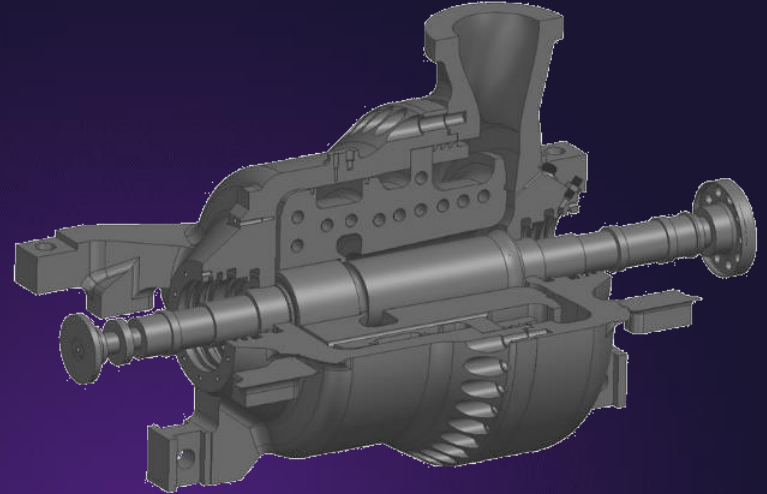
Dry Gas Seals Implementation

- DGS seal gas supply from system (downstream comp.)
- Backup-system necessary
- Recovery of leakage flow mandatory
- Minor remaining leakages need to be refilled
- Temperature limits of DGS to be considered
- Max. diam. of DGS may limit turbine sizing



Summary

- **sCO₂ turbines provide benefits in terms of performance & compactness**
- **Design challenges coming from the high energy density, pressure levels and specific fluid properties require must be considered**
- **Proven barrel type turbine concept very suitable**
- **Validation and comercialization remains the main challenge**



Thank you!

SIEMENS
ENERGY

Baker Hughes Design Experience with unfired Expanders

Andrea Paggini
Baker Hughes, Italy

We take energy forward—
making it safer, cleaner,
and more efficient for
people and the planet

120+
countries

~55,000
employees

\$21.2B
revenue 2022

217
HSE Perfect
Days in 2022

\$556M
in research and
development

2,200
patents granted



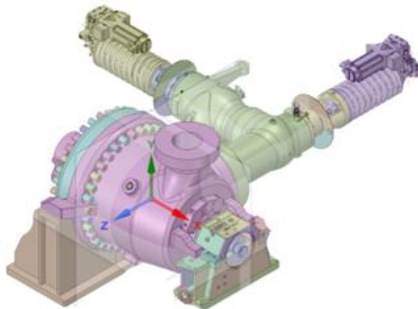
Baker Hughes 

BH experience with sCO₂ Axial Expanders

Baker Hughes



Three projects employing axial expanders carried out in the framework of Horizon 2020.



sCO₂-Flex*

- ~40 MW (25 MW_e).
- 620°C-245 bar at inlet.
- 81 bar at exhaust.
- Pure CO₂.
- 9000 rpm, 5 stages.
- Supercritical cycle (coal fueled).
- No prototype.

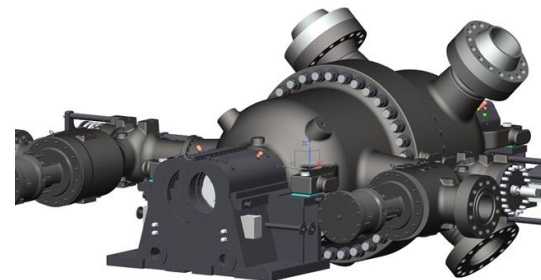
*The sCO₂-Flex project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 764690



Desolination**

- 2.5 MW (~2MW_e).
- 550°C-200 bar at inlet.
- 93 bar at exhaust.
- Mixture CO₂- SO₂.
- 17000 rpm, 5 stages.
- Transcritical cycle (CSP).
- Prototype in 2025.

**The DESOLINATION project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101022686



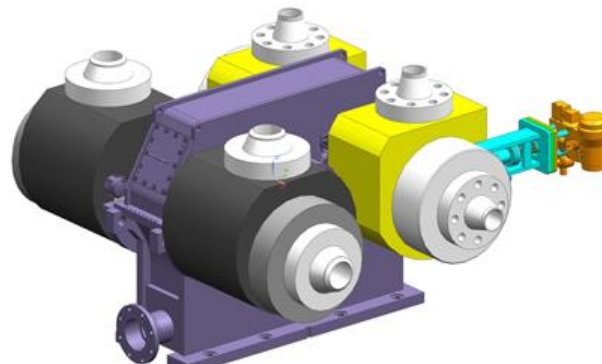
Scarabeus***

- ~130 MW (100 MW_e).
- 700°C-240 bar at inlet.
- 81 bar at exhaust.
- Mixture CO₂- SO₂.
- 3000 rpm, 14 stages.
- Transcritical cycle (CSP).
- No prototype.

***The SCARABEUS project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 814985

Both pure and blended sCO₂ applications. Most of technical challenges are common, few are peculiar of the CO₂ blended application.

BH experience with sCO₂ Radial Expanders



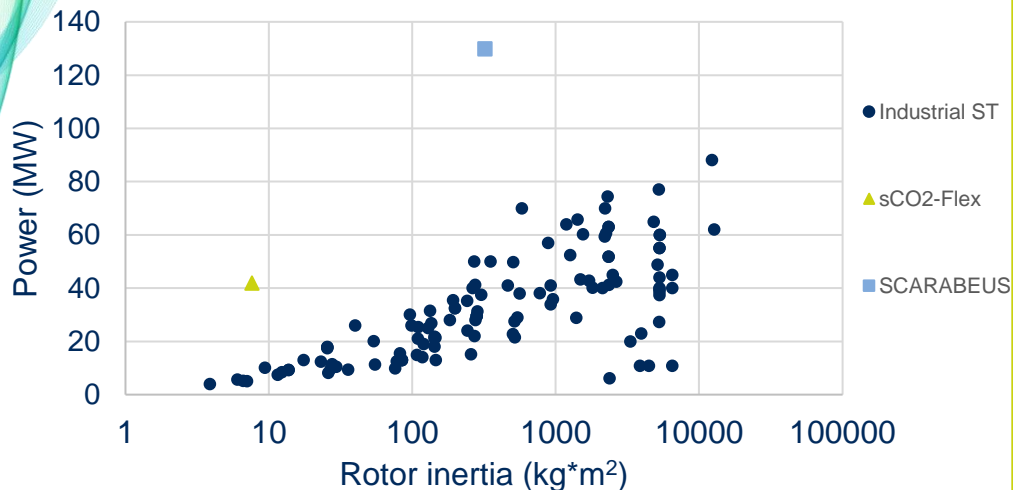
- Shrouded wheels much more efficient: +3.5% with respect to open wheels.
- Performance very much affected by non-scalable geometrical parameters (due to the small wheels size).
- Advanced manufacturing processes to minimize the surface roughness.

CO₂OLHEAT[†]

- Integrally geared compressor-expander.
- ~2 MW.
- Supercritical cycle (WHR).
- 360°C-210 bar at inlet.
- 85 bar at exhaust.
- Pure CO₂.
- Expansion:
 - 2 radial inflow impellers (back-to-back arrangement).
 - 12500 rpm.
 - Wheel diameter: 160 mm.
- Compression:
 - 2 radial outflow impellers.
 - 20000 rpm.
 - First phase with IGVs.

[†]The CO₂OLHEAT project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101022831

Design Challenges (1): extreme Power Density



SCARABEUS 1st rotor blade (AR~1.2)

- **Huge power-to-inertia ratio** establishes challenging requirements for **trip system responsiveness** and **rotor overspeed capability**.
- **Rotor-dynamic stability** very much sensitive to **destabilizing** forces (Alford effect and interstage cross-coupled stiffnesses): **validated models for accurate predictions are crucial**.
- Fluid forces drive big chords for airfoils: **aspect ratio AR** (height-to-chord ratio) of the blades tendentially **low**.

Technical challenges: **BLENDED CO₂ ~ PURE CO₂**

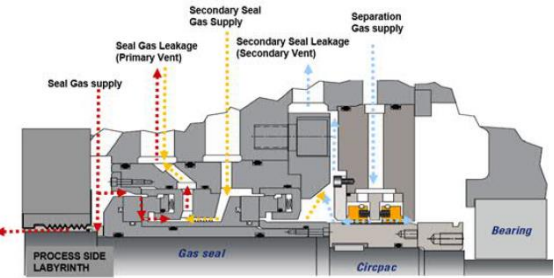
Design Challenges (2): Dry Gas Seals

PURE CO₂

- DGS are essential to avoid unaffordable quantities of CO₂ released into the atmosphere: gain with respect to labyrinths is some orders of magnitude!
- Conventional labyrinths are suitable for ST since the minimum pressure of the cycle is much lower (even sub-atmospheric Vs. > 80 bar for sCO₂): leakages from the HP machine can be recovered into IP and LP sections.
- Recompressing a leakage through labyrinth seals, although possible, would heavily impact the CO₂ cycle efficiency: **DGS** are **unavoidable** for sCO₂ cycles.
- DGS technology is currently available for low temperatures (~250°C): a dedicated **cooling** system is necessary. Tradeoff between cooling effectiveness and thermal stresses minimization in hot components is a tricky task.
- DGS are limited in size: this limits the **torque transmission capability**.

BLENDED CO₂

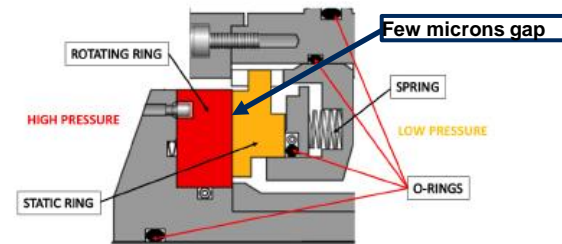
- Even a minimal release of process mixture into the atmosphere is to be avoided (owing to the nature of all the possible dopants): necessary a **buffer** with **pure CO₂**. To minimize the buffer flow entering the loop (and diluting the mixture), a peculiar (more complex) DGS arrangement is necessary.



REPRODUCED BY

D. Steinmann et al, «Dry Gas Seals for Centrifugal Compressors in Supercritical CO₂ Application», 7th International sCO₂ Power Cycles Symposium (2022).

SINGLE DGS DETAIL



Technical challenges: **BLENDED CO₂ > PURE CO₂**

Design Challenges (3): Materials

PURE CO₂

- Martensitic steel 12%Cr (common in ST up to >600°C), are prone to **oxidation** and **carburization** in CO₂ environment. **Ni-based** alloys experience, in general, much lower interaction with CO₂ at high temperature.
- Considerable amount of data available in the literature but mechanical properties degradation requires further assessments.

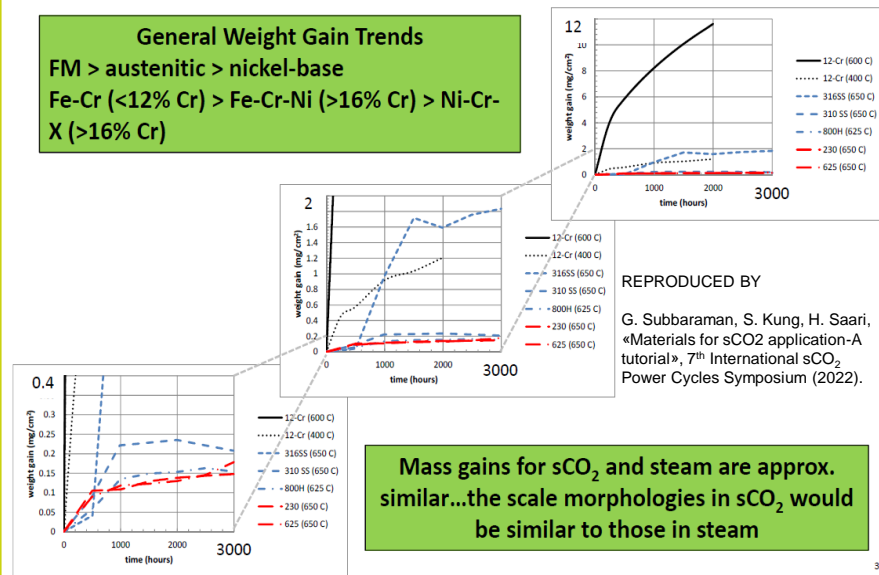
BLENDED CO₂

- Experimental data still scarce for the dopants of interest (TiCl₄, C₆F₆, SO₂,...): compatibility data gathered after **2000 hours of exposure** (tests carried out for Desolination at University of Brescia) have shown that, depending on the dopant, even certain Ni-based alloys can be totally inadequate.
- Material compatibility and manufacturability constraints increase a lot the complexity of the expander design.



sCO₂ Corrosion Testing – Results

General Weight Gain Trends
FM > austenitic > nickel-base
Fe-Cr (<12% Cr) > Fe-Cr-Ni (>16% Cr) > Ni-Cr-X (>16% Cr)



Technical challenges: **BLENDED CO₂ >> PURE CO₂**

Conclusions

- Apart from materials, the technical criticalities of expanders for carbon dioxide mixtures are comparable to the case of pure CO₂.
- Addressing **materials** and **manufacturing processes** more in details is the most crucial aspect, primarily for **blended CO₂** expanders, to fully exploit the advantages claimed by the sCO₂ technology.
- Despite the technical challenges highlighted, the turbomachinery design is able to achieve the technical objectives addressed by the sCO₂ technology in terms of **efficiency**, **compactness** and **operability** requirements.
- The development of a **demonstration** plant is a key enabler for the success of the technology.

Thank you for listening!

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Concluding Slido question

Are there any remaining challenges for sCO₂ expanders needing to be addressed and if so, which ones? (1-2 words)



Thank you and see you next time!

**Question / comments?
js@etn.global**