

CO₂ for Industrial Refrigeration
Pumped Circulated Systems

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1. Chillers' drivers

- Charge reduction
 - Environment (HFC – global warming)
 - Safety (ammonia and hydrocarbons, toxicity and flammability)
- Typical charge reduction in a chiller:

Standard system	> 2000 kg
Chiller with evaporative condenser and flooded shell&tube HE	< 500 kg
Chiller with evaporative condenser and flooded PHE	< 200 kg
Chiller with PHE condenser and flooded evaporator	50-100 kg
Chiller with PHE condenser and DX evaporator	< 20 kg

- **But an unavoidable consequence is increased energy consumption!**

2. CO₂ vs. water based brines – summary

- Energy savings with CO₂ systems
 - higher evaporating temperature due to lower temperature difference in the PHE and evaporators
 - much smaller pumps
 - smaller heat in-flow via insulation due to smaller pipes
 - better heat exchange
- As a consequence, a significant carbon footprint reduction of the installation
- CO₂ systems are more economical: both lifetime and first cost
- Installation is simple
- Smaller pipes – easier installation, especially when copper is used.
- No issues with food safety or good damage in case of leaks
- No freezing issues
- No oil in evaporators

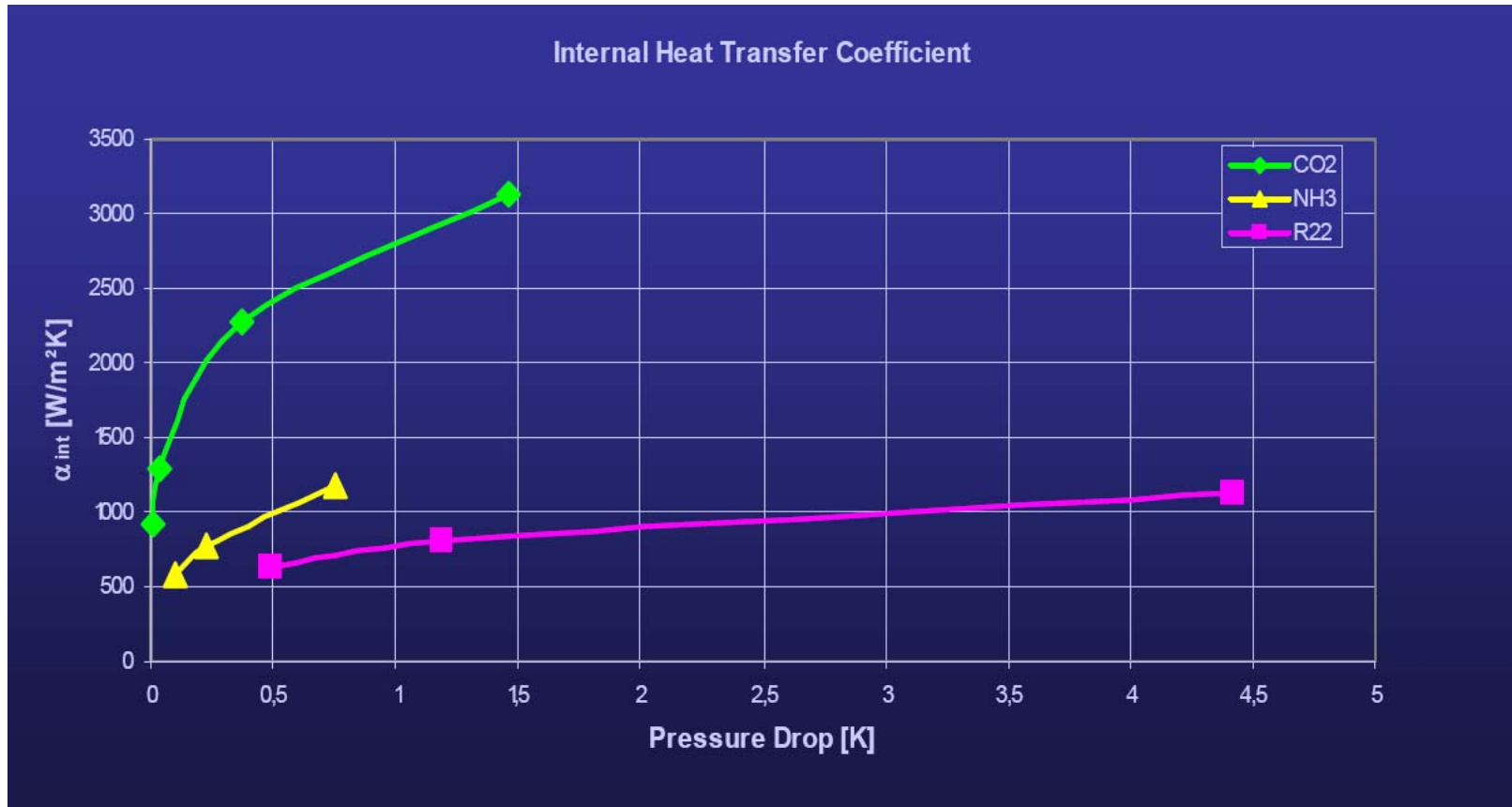
2. CO₂ properties as brine

- ODP = 0 (Ozone depletion potential)
- GWP = 1 (Global warming potential)
- Not flammable
- Not toxic (EN 378)
- Low viscosity
 - small pumps
- High volumetric cooling capacity
 - small pipes
- Moderate pressures
 - 40-45 bar for most of the pump circulated systems

Substance	Critical temperature and pressure
CO ₂	31°C / 73,8 bar
Propane	96,7 °C / 42,4 bar
Water	374 °C / 22 bar
Ammonia	132 °C / 113 bar

Substance	Triple point
CO ₂	-56,6°C / 5,18 bar
Propane	-188 °C / 0,3 mPa
Water	0 °C / 0,006 bar
Ammonia	-77,6 °C / 0,06 bar

Internal heat transfer coefficient with flooded operation vs. other refrigerants

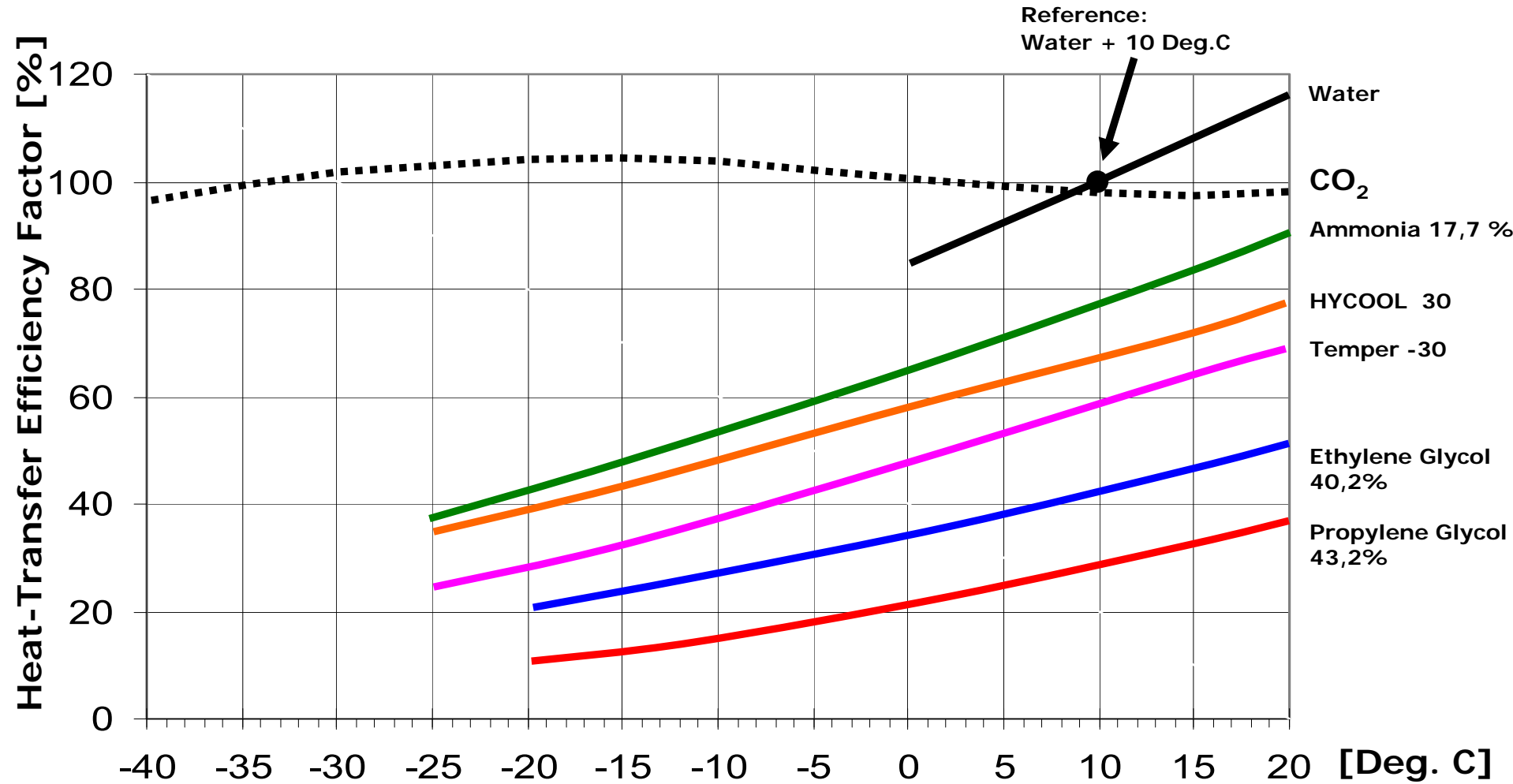


- Source: Günter

2. CO₂ as a brine – lower energy consumption



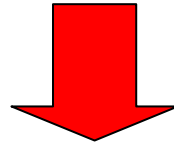
High Heat-Transfer Efficiency Factor



The Heat-Transfer Efficiency Factor expresses the relation between the heat-transfer coefficient and the cooler temperature.

2. CO₂ as a brine – lower energy consumption

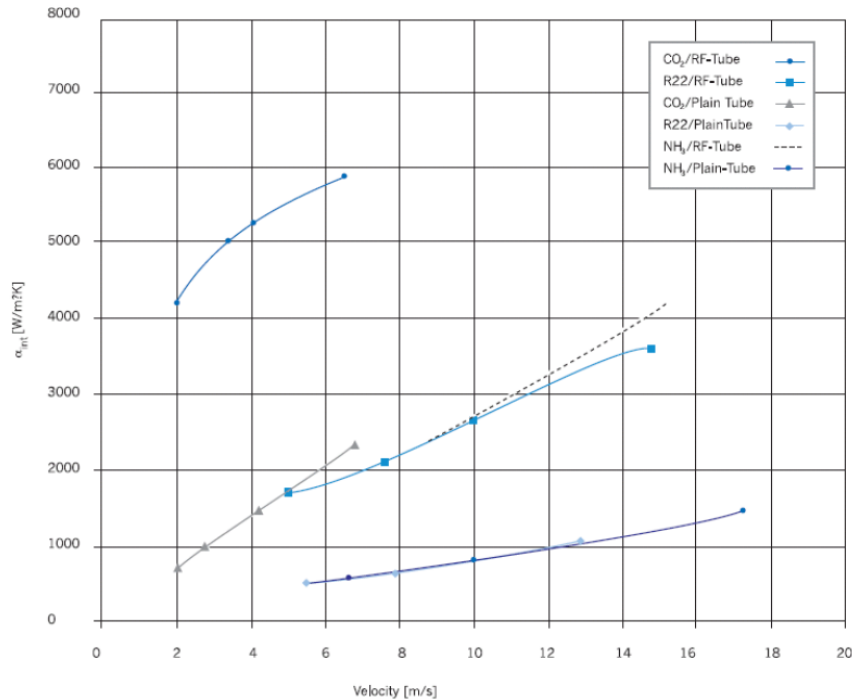
- High heat transfer efficiency factor + constant evaporating temperature + better distribution of refrigerant in heat exchangers result in:
 - Lower temperature difference in cascade PHE (1-2 K)
 - Lower temperature difference (2-3 K) in evaporators



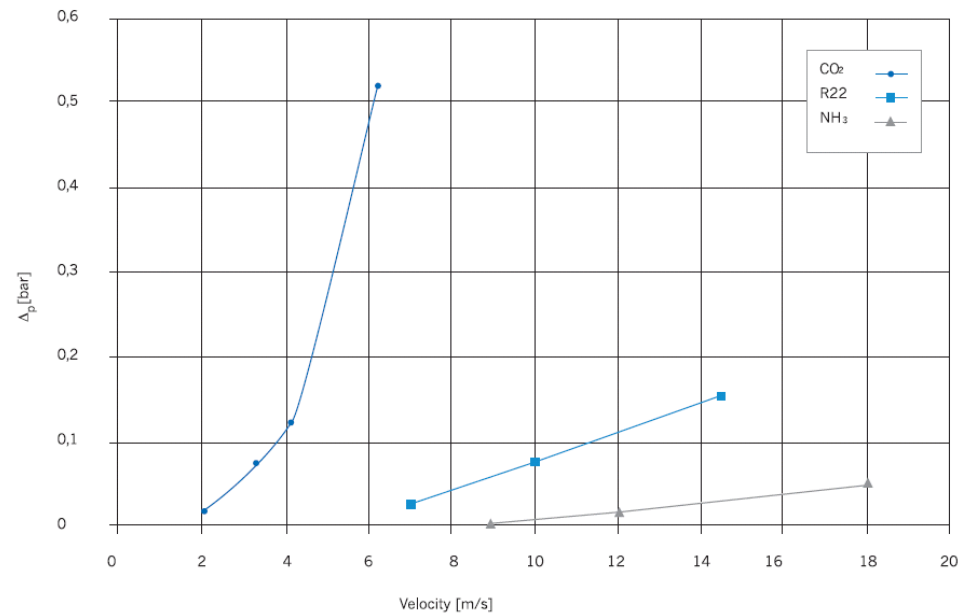
- **Higher suction pressure and lower energy consumption of the chiller**

2. CO₂ as a brine – lower energy consumption

Low circulation rate (1.1 – 2)



Heat transfer of different refrigerants in relation to velocity.*

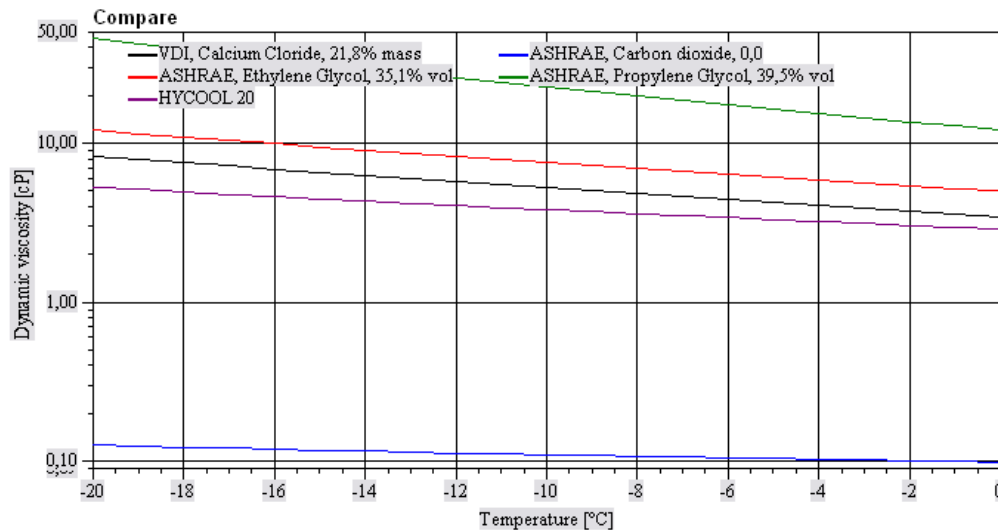
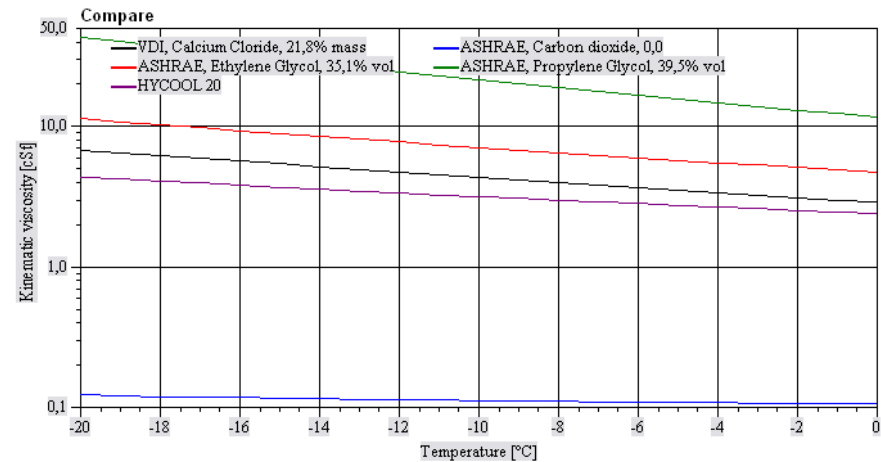


Pressure loss in relation to refrigerant velocity*

*DESIGN CRITERIA FOR CO₂ EVAPORATORS, Roland Handschuh, Güntner

2. CO₂ as a brine – lower energy consumption

Low viscosity



2. CO₂ as a brine – lower energy consumption

Pumps: Low circulation rate (1.1 – 2*), low viscosity

	Power, kW	
	-10°C	-20°C
CO ₂	0,97	0,85
CaCl ₂	13,34	14,22
Hycool	16,02	16,15
Ethylene Glycol	15,87	18,8
Propylene Glycol	14,03	16,68

- Calculated power consumption by pumps in case of ca. 500 kW capacity

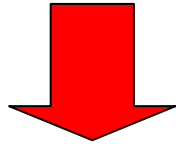
Example: CO₂ circulation rates for different evaporator types



- Air-coolers
 - CO₂ – 1.1 to 2
 - NH₃ – 3 to 10
- Plate freezers
 - CO₂ – 4-5
 - NH₃ – 10 to 20

2. CO₂ as a brine – lower energy consumption

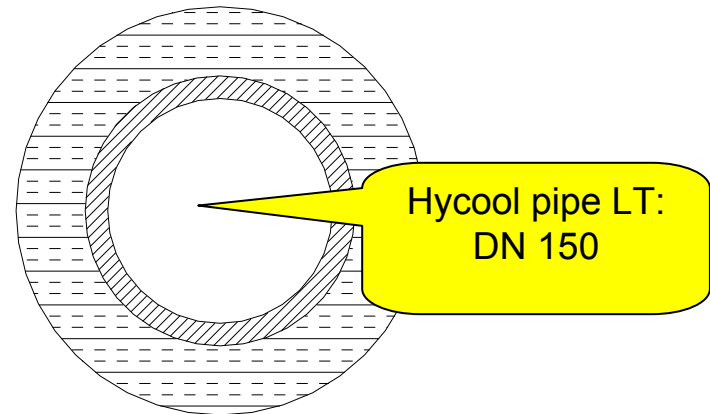
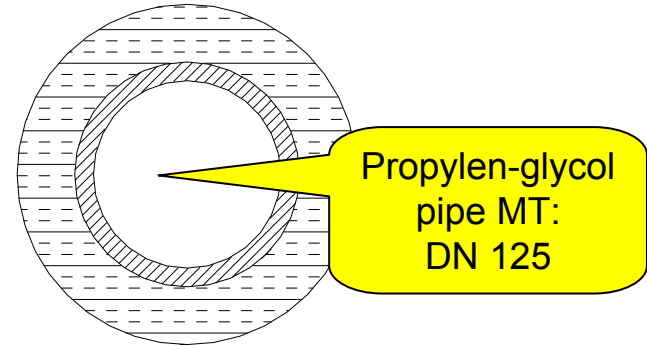
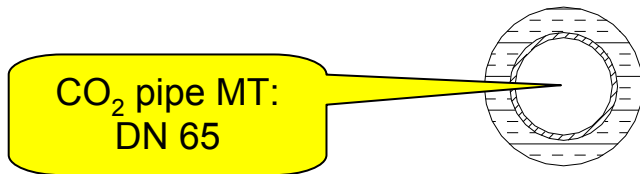
- Low circulation rate 1.1 - 2
- Low viscosity
- Low massflow



- **Low energy consumption by pumps**

2. CO₂ as a brine – Lower energy consumption

Pipe size and insulation reduction – lower heat gains

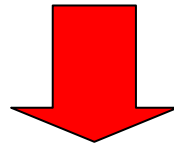


- Heat gain only due to smaller piping could mean more than 5% of the total energy savings (dependent on the ambient conditions)**

*Steel and stainless steel pipes could also be used

2. CO₂ as a brine – lower energy consumption

- Smaller discharge pipes
- Smaller return pipes

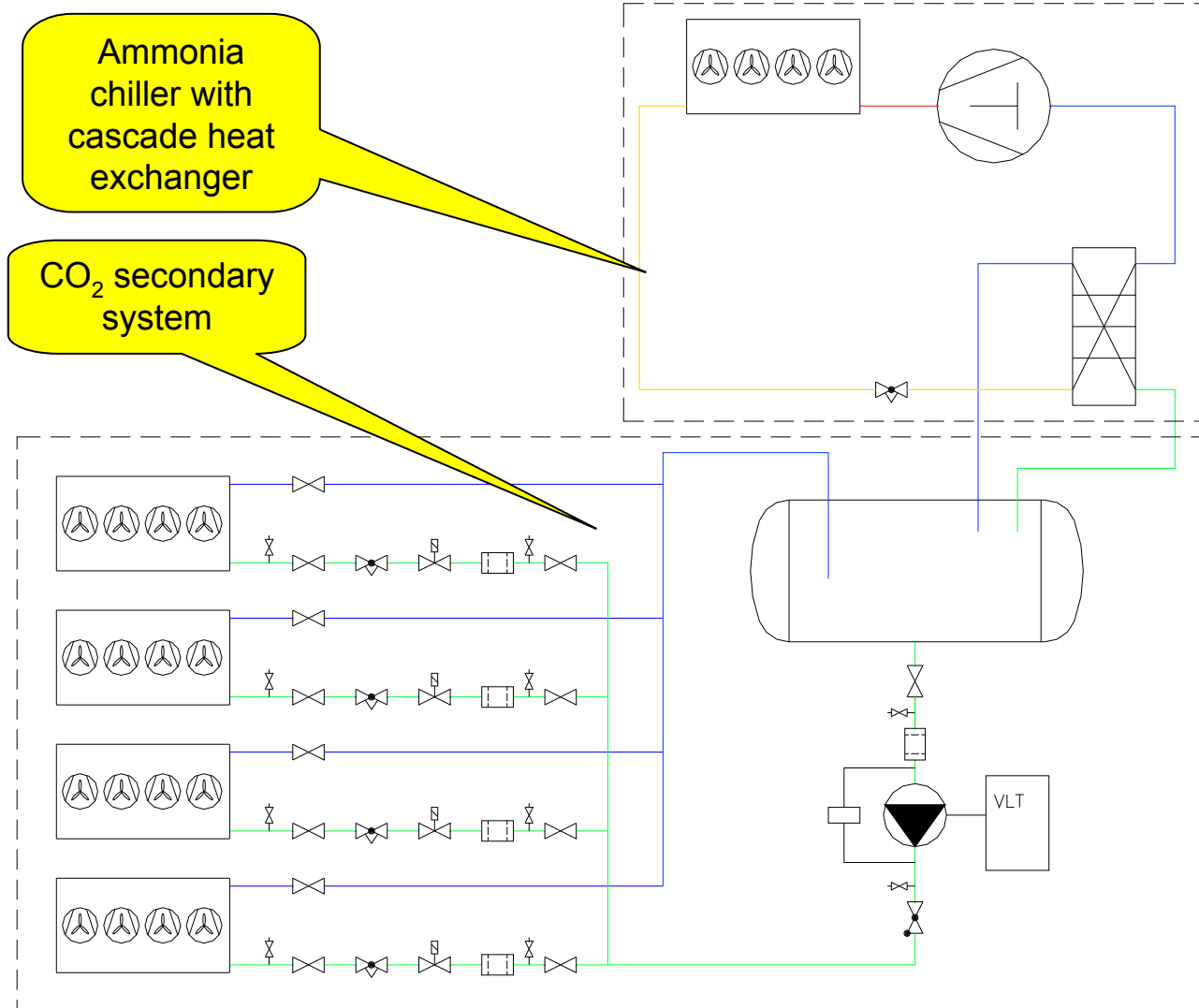


- **Heat gain only due to smaller piping could mean more than 5% of the total energy savings (dependent on the ambient conditions)***

*Carbon Dioxide In North American Supermarkets, David Hinde

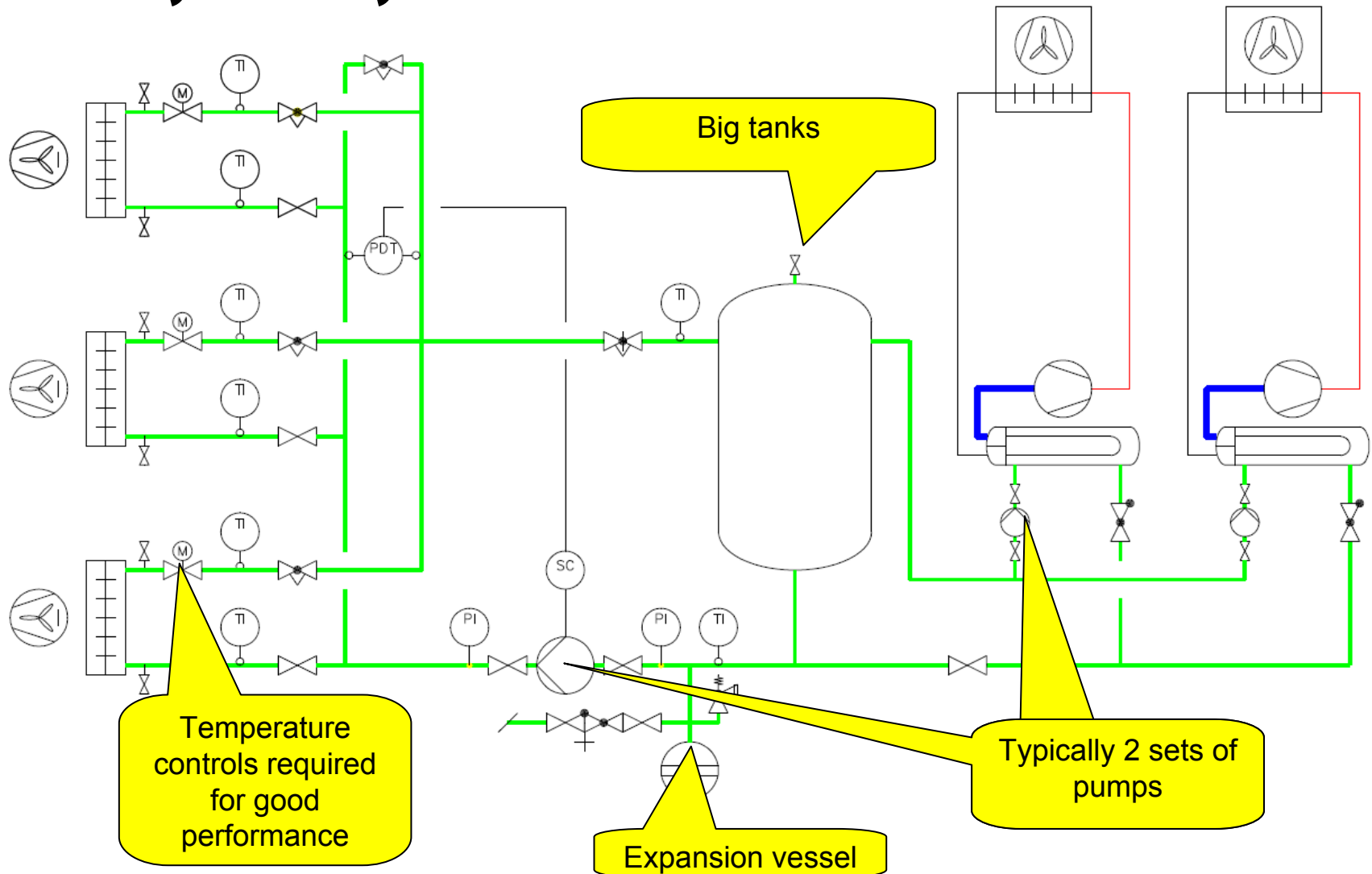
2. CO₂ as a brine – competitive cost

Simple CO₂ pumped diagram



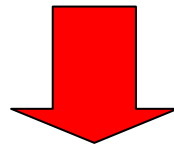
3. CO₂ as a brine – competitive cost

Brine systems layout



2. CO₂ as a brine – competitive cost

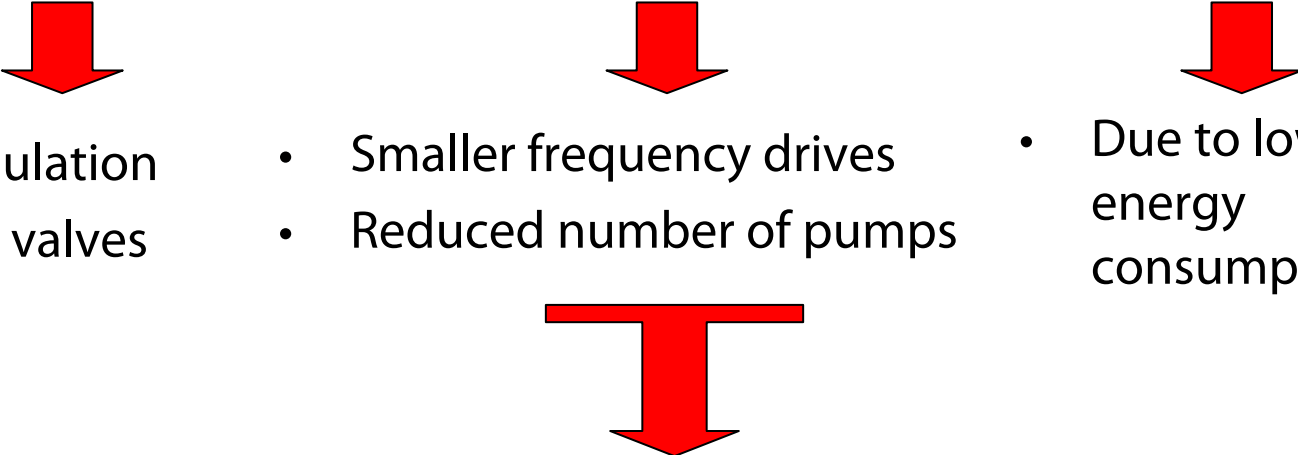
- Simple layout
- Less components
- Easier engineering
- Faster start-up
- Less maintenance



- **Competitive system cost**

2. CO₂ as a brine – competitive cost

Smaller components

- Smaller CO₂ pipes
 - Smaller CO₂ pumps
 - Smaller chiller
- 
- Less insulation
 - Smaller valves
 - Smaller frequency drives
 - Reduced number of pumps
 - Due to lower energy consumption

Competitive cost of CO₂ systems*

* Detailed analysis of the components is presented in the calculation example

4. Calculation example

- Cold storage facility
 - 500 kW of MT and LT capacity
 - air temperature 0°C and -20°C
 - 23 coolers cold rooms/23 coolers in frost rooms
 - pumped operation
 - System layout
 - System 1: NH₃ chiller + CO₂
 - System 2: propylene-glycol MT + Hycool LT

3. Calculation example

Energy consumption



CO2 secondary efficiency calculation tool. Version 3.9

	CO2	Propylene Glycol	Units
Air temperature, t_{air}	0		°C
Cooling power, Q_o	500		kW
Circulation rate, n	1,1		-
Temp. dif. in evap., dt_{evap}	5,0	7,0	K
Temp. dif. in PHE, dt_{PHE}	2,0	3,0	K
Brine temp. dif., $t_{out} - t_{in}$		4,0	K
Evaporating temp., t_o	-7,0	-10,0	°C
Additional heat gains, k_q	5%	7%	%
Additional heat gains, Q_{add}	25	34	kW
Pump power cons., P_{pump}	0,7	11,0	kW
Adjusted cooling power, Q_{oad}	525,7	543,6	kW
Compr. power cons., P_{comp}	126,5	145,3	kW
Working hours, daily	18,0		h
Total install energy cons.	127	156	kW
Total daily energy cons.	2.289	2.812	kW*h
Energy savings	19%		%

3. Calculation example

Energy consumption



CO2 secondary efficiency calculation tool. Version 3.9

	CO2	Hycool	Units
Air temperature, t_{air}	-20		°C
Cooling power, Q_o	500		kW
Circulation rate, n	1,1		-
Temp. dif. in evap., dt_{evap}	5,0	7,0	K
Temp. dif. in PHE, dt_{PHE}	2,0	3,0	K
Brine temp. dif., $t_{out} - t_{in}$		4,0	K
Evaporating temp., t_o	-27,0	-30,0	°C
Additional heat gains, k_q	7%	9%	%
Additional heat gains, Q_{add}	35	47	kW
Pump power cons., P_{pump}	0,6	15,6	kW
Adjusted cooling power, $Q_{o,adj}$	535,6	561,3	kW
Compr. power cons., P_{comp}	259,9	302,6	kW
Working hours, daily	18,0		h
Total install energy cons.	261	318	kW
Total daily energy cons.	4.690	5.728	kW*h
Energy savings	18%		%

4. Calculation example

First cost



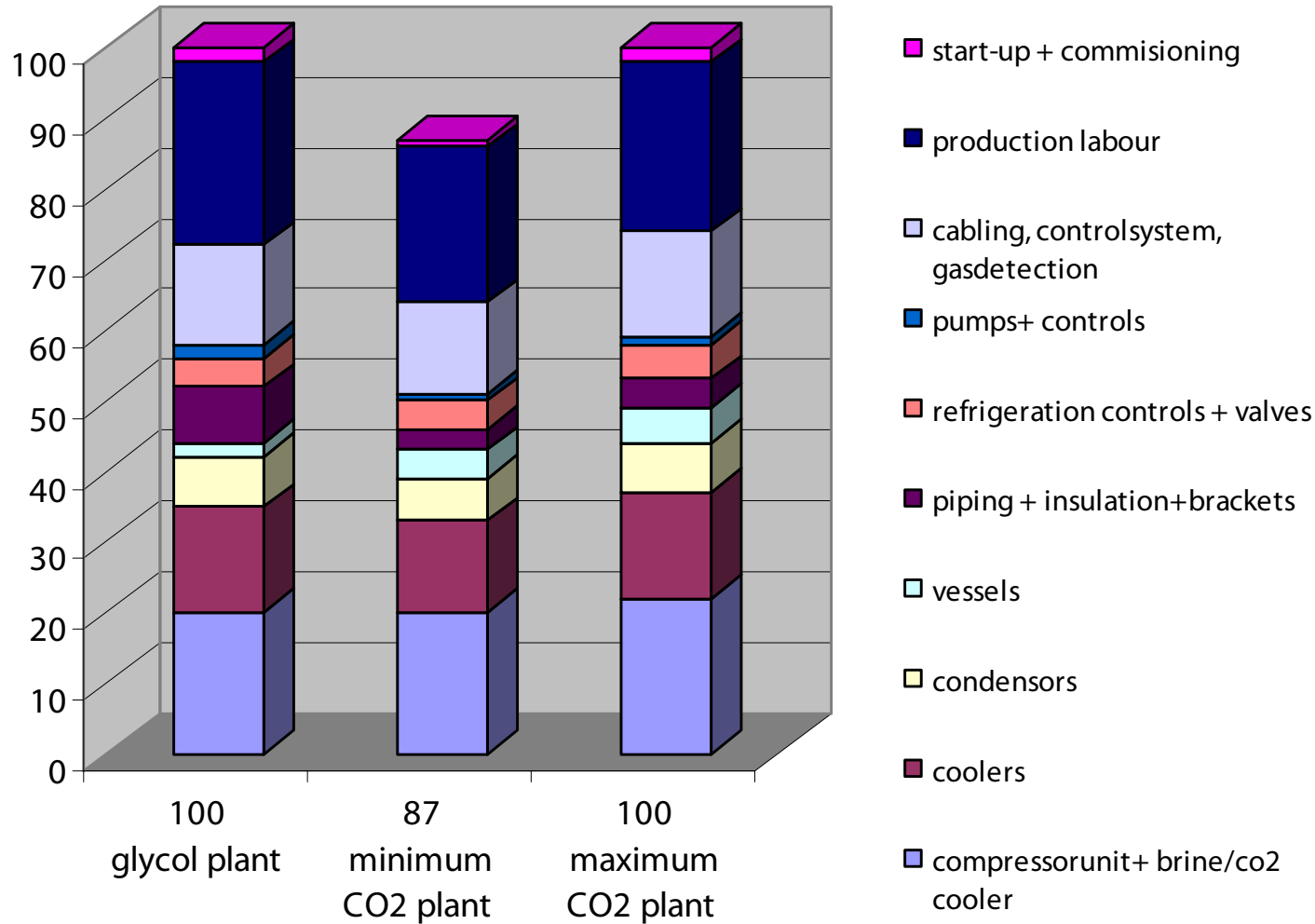
Spread due to the learning curve

compressor unit+ brine/co2 cooler
coolers
condensers
vessels
piping + insulation+brackets
controls + valves
pumps+ controls
cabling, control system, gas detection
production labour
start-up + commissioning

glycol plant	CO2 plant min	CO2 plant max
	minimum	maximum
100	87	100
20	20	22
15	13	15
7	6	7
2	4	5
8	3	4
4	4	5
2	1	1
14	13	15
26	22	24
2	1	2

4. Calculation example

First cost



4. Calculation example

First cost NH₃/CO₂ vs. HFC/glycol cost optimized chiller

	HFC/brine	NH ₃ /CO ₂	
	82	87	
compressor unit+ brine/co2 cooler	10	20	less swept volume for same capacity
coolers	15	13	less surface, no gradient between temp in and out
condensers	4	6	smaller condensor because of less motorpower compressor
vessels	2	4	higher working pressures, so higher design pressures
piping + insulation + brackets	7	3	pipes 1/3 in weight, support construction less heavy, insulation less
refrigeration controls + valves	3	4	higher working pressures, so higher design pressures, dedicated functions
pumps+ controls	2	1	less swept volume for same capacity
cabling, control system, gas detection	14	13	Smaller cables but additional gas detection
production labour	24	22	less piping weight , construction lighter
start-up + commissioning	1	1	only for first plants risk if higher cost because of new technology

Relatively small first cost difference <10%, but in this case the efficiency and running cost difference is even higher!

4. Calculation example

Financial impact - HT

Money calculation		
kW*h price	0,1	EURO
Life time of the installation	15	years
Discount rate	10%	%
First cost	500.000	500.000
Energy cost, life time	1.256.033	1.542.621
Total energy savings	286.588	EURO
Annual energy savings	19.106	EURO
NPV	145.522	EURO

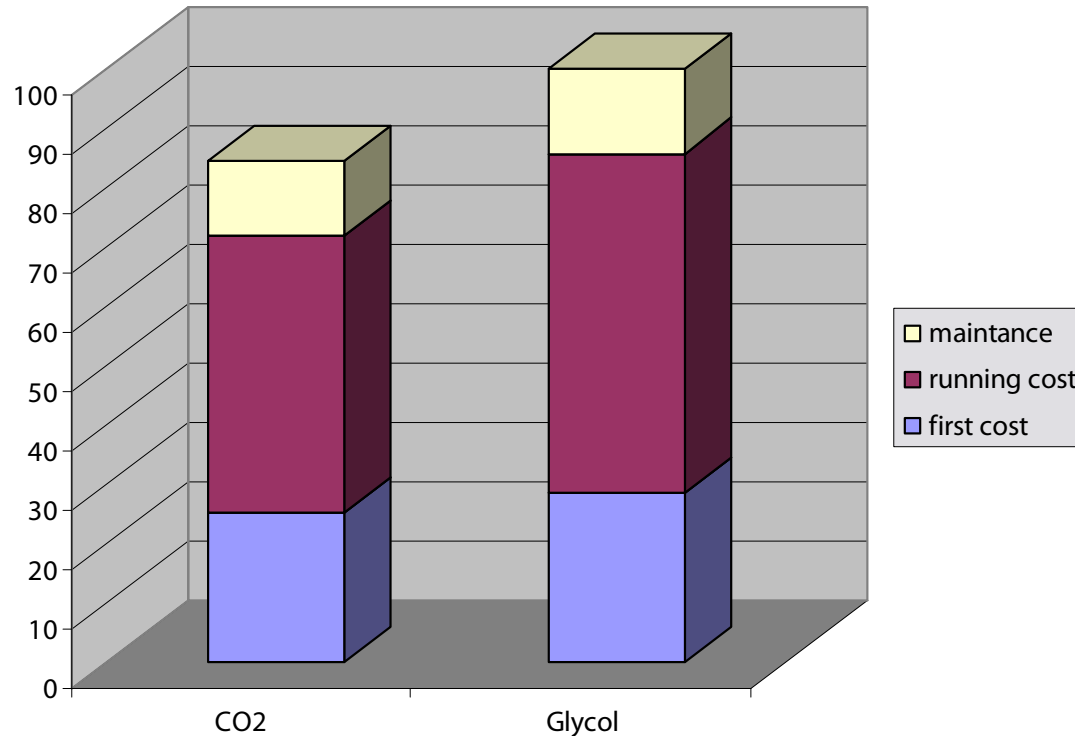
4. Calculation example

Financial impact - MT

Money calculation		
kW*h price	0,1	EURO
Life time of the installation	15	years
Discount rate	10%	%
First cost	500.000	500.000
Energy cost, life time	2.572.996	3.142.791
Total energy savings	569.795	EURO
Annual energy savings	37.986	EURO
NPV	288.932	EURO

4. Calculation example

Life time costs



- CO₂ brine systems have at least 15% lower lifetime cost – including installation, energy and maintenance costs
- The system is a future proof, as it is efficient and uses no synthetic refrigerants

4. Calculation example

Carbon footprint



High temperature/
propylene
glycol

CO2 calculation		
Energy intensity	0,65	kg CO2/kW
CO2 savings	1.859	ton
Cars equivalent	14.410.861	km
Trees equivalent	5.484	pcs

Medium
temperature/
Hycool

CO2 calculation		
Energy intensity	0,65	kg CO2/kW
CO2 savings	3.696	ton
Cars equivalent	28.651.731	km
Trees equivalent	10.903	pcs

4. Calculation example

Carbon footprint

- www.cotoo.com



37,333 tons



289,403,100 km

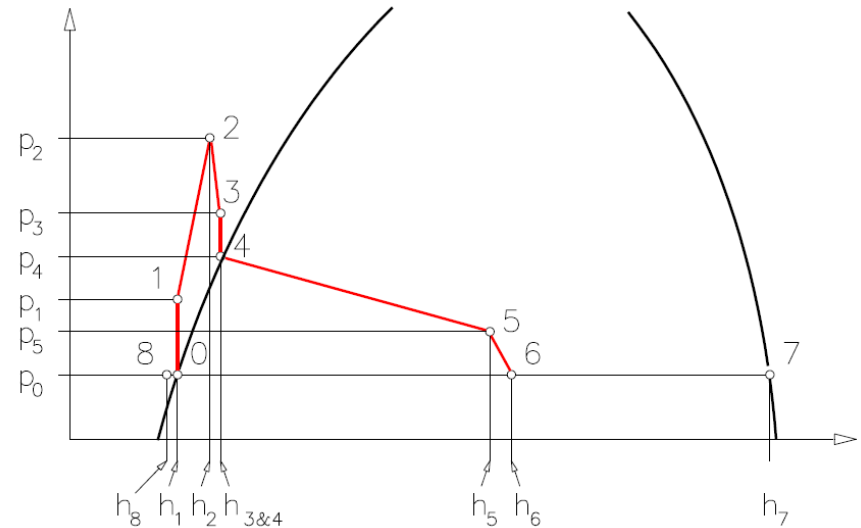
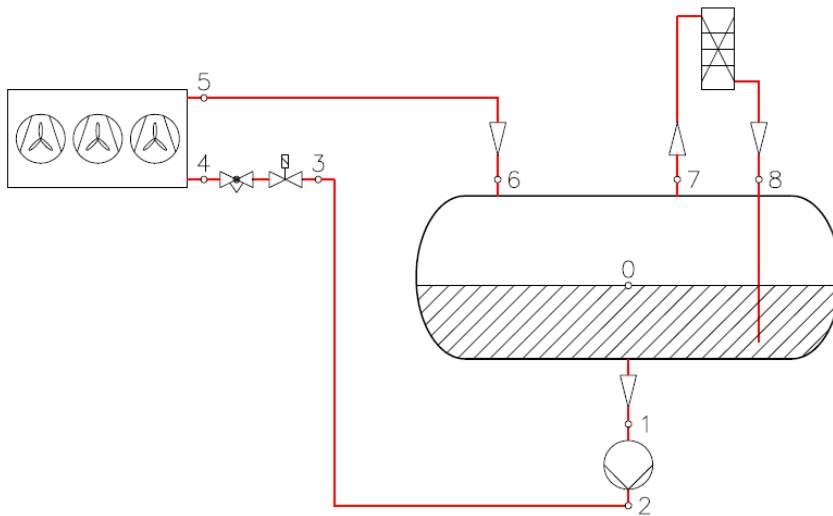


110,127 trees

5. Technical solutions

- CO2 brine systems are simple, but there are a few aspects that needs to be taken care of:
 - Stand still pressure
 - Cascade heat exchanger control in DX systems
 - Pump control
 - Defrost

5. Technical solutions *process in pumped CO₂ systems*



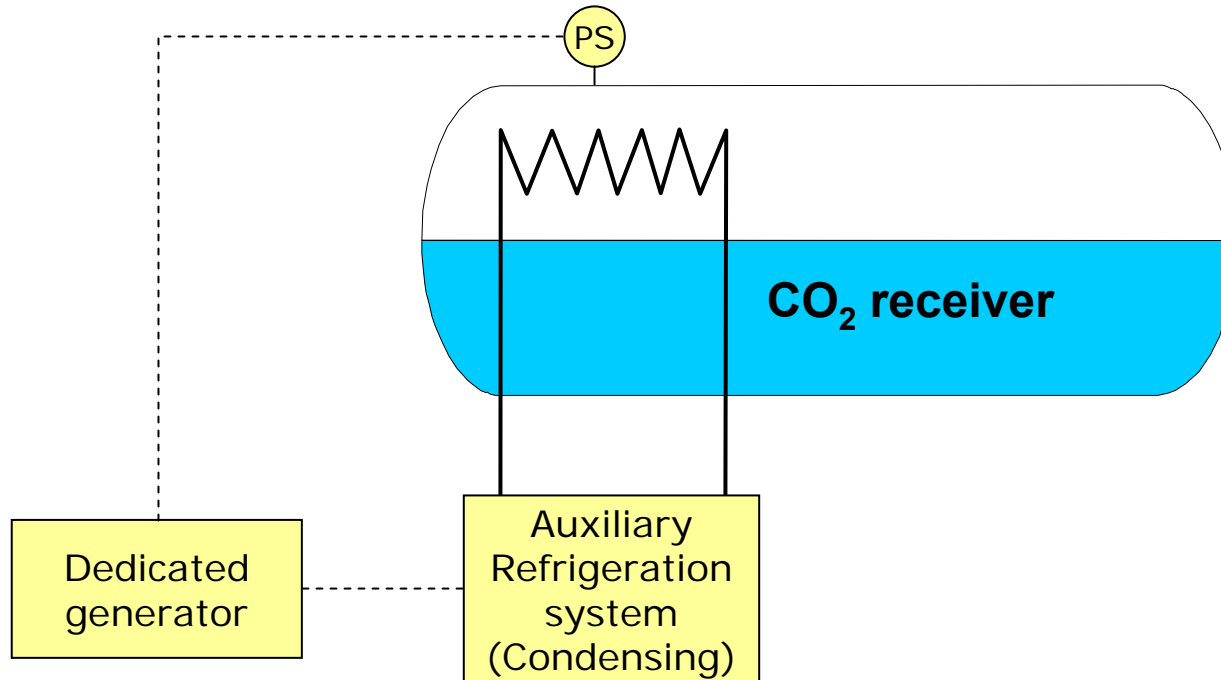
5. Technical solutions

Pressure rating of CO₂ systems

- Typical working pressure between 15 and 35 bar, similar to other refrigerants
- MWP 40-50 bar, depending on defrost
- Stand still pressure could rise up to 85 bar (or even higher) if not taken care of – mitigation is required
- Stand still unit is a simple and cost effective method to address the issue
- Please be careful when using copper piping. MWP of copper pipes could vary a lot depending on the wall thickness

5. Technical solutions

Standstill temperature control

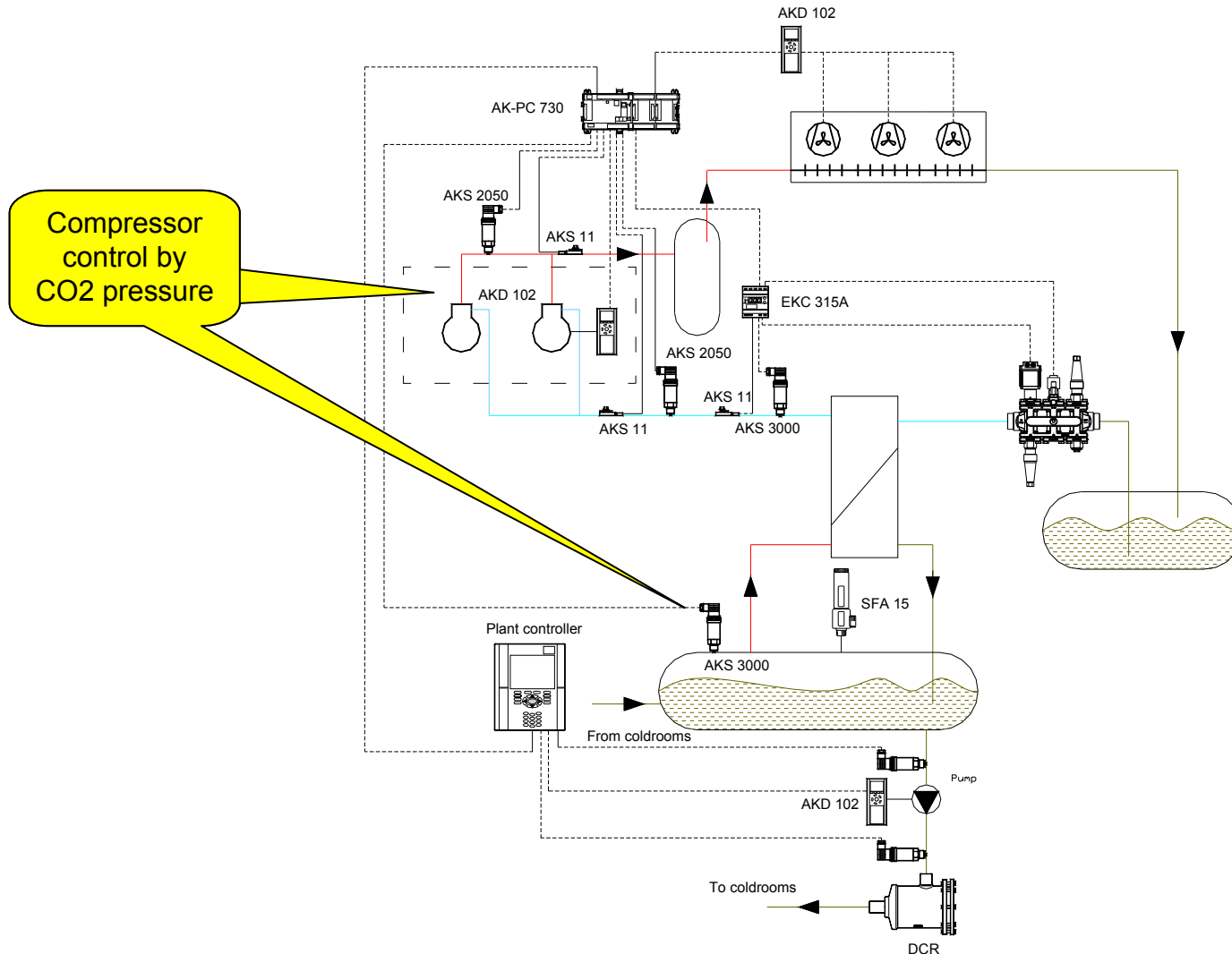


Auxiliary cooling system - in case of power failure

Capacity dependent of system design and ambient temperature (~ 4kW / 1000 kW)

5. Technical solutions

Cascade heat exchanger control



5. Technical solutions

Pump control

- Low circulation rate in CO₂ – 1.1 to 2
- Piping and protection devices are similar to other refrigerants
- Energy consumption of CO₂ pumps is very small, but it is still a good idea to equip them with a frequency converter (especially as it will be a small one):
 - With fixed control devices on evaporators such as REG valves, the flow control and distribution will be much more stable (when pumps are controlled according to the pressure differential, not the head pressure)
 - Still further energy reduction possible. Even a small 2 kW pump running with VLT can save up to 7 MW*h! And that would add up to the savings from higher evaporating pressure due to more stable operation

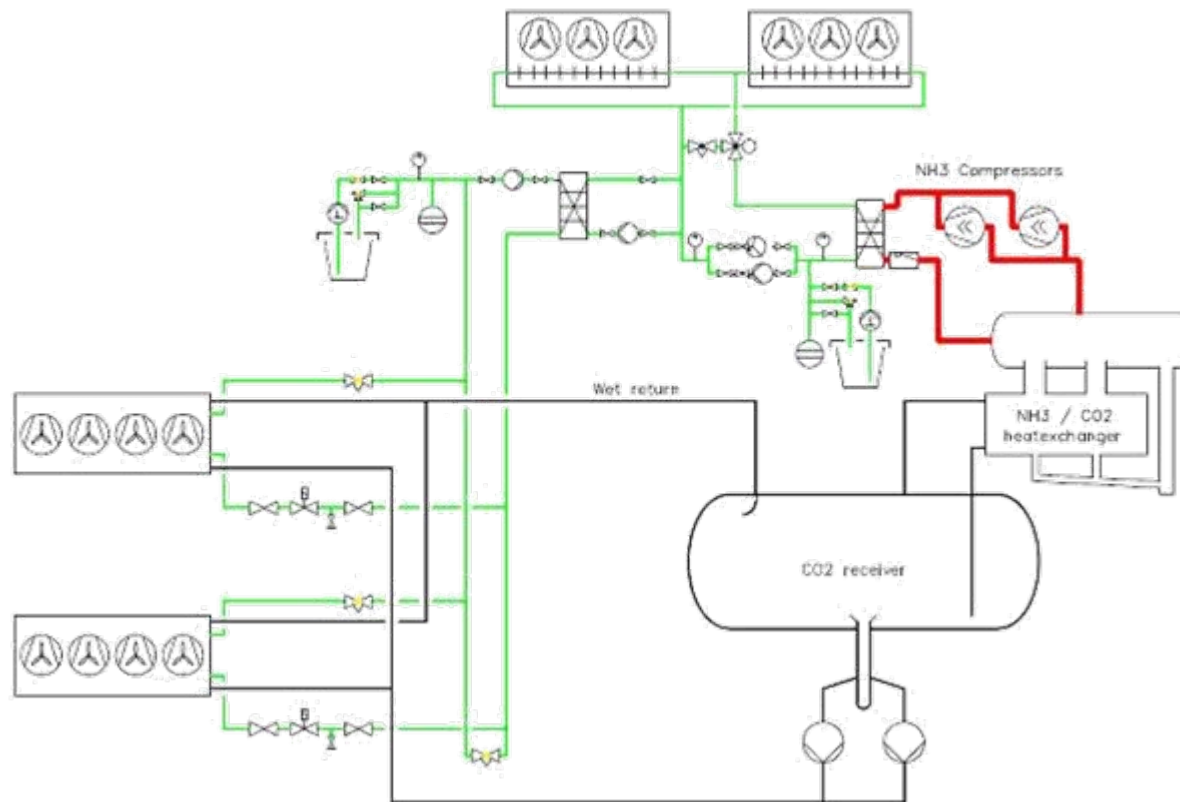
5. Technical solutions

Defrost

- Most typical defrosts for CO₂ brine systems:
 - Electrical (similar to standard brines)
 - Brine defrost (additional system)
 - Water defrost (drain required)
 - Hot gas defrost (requires additional vessel and HE heated by HP stage)

5. Technical solutions

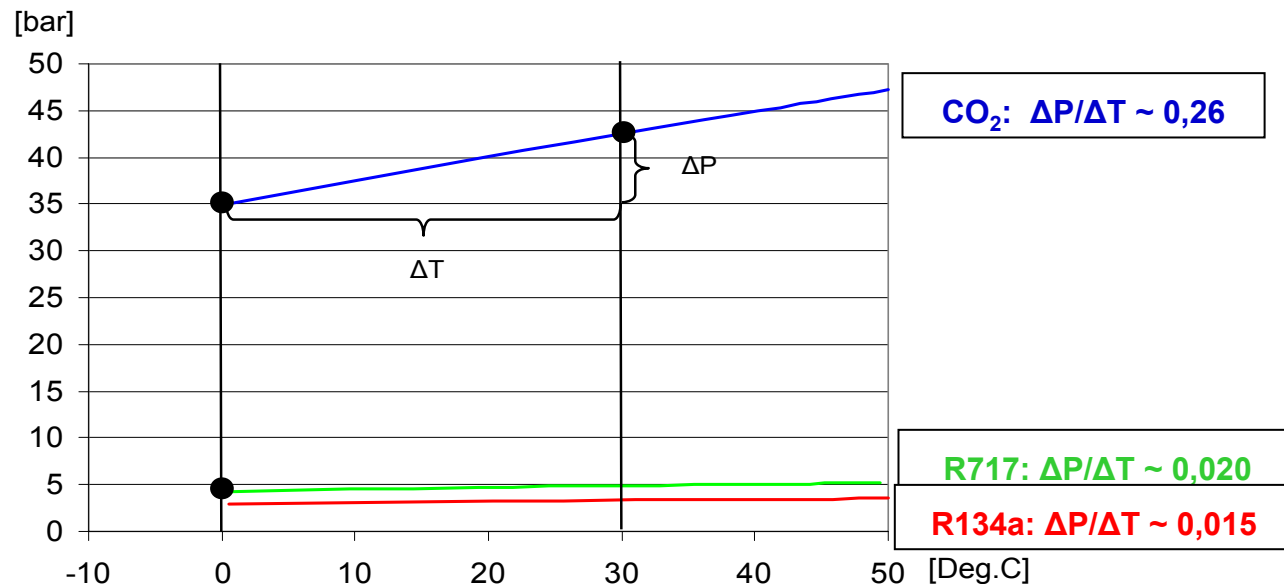
Defrost – brine (example)



5. Technical solutions

Defrost – considerations

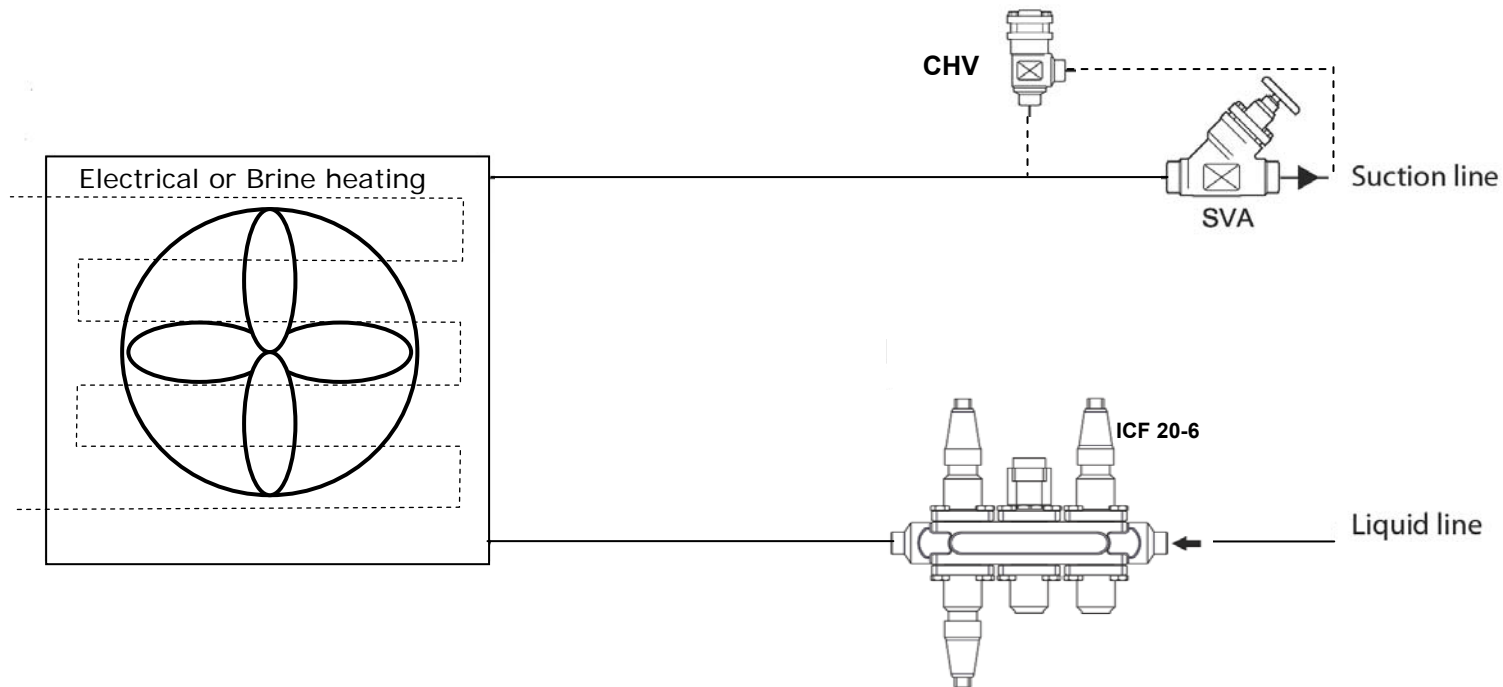
- The pressure rating of the system should correspond to the defrost pressure. It is still possible to have a 40 bar system, but then there must be no liquid CO₂ in evaporators during defrost.



5. Technical solutions

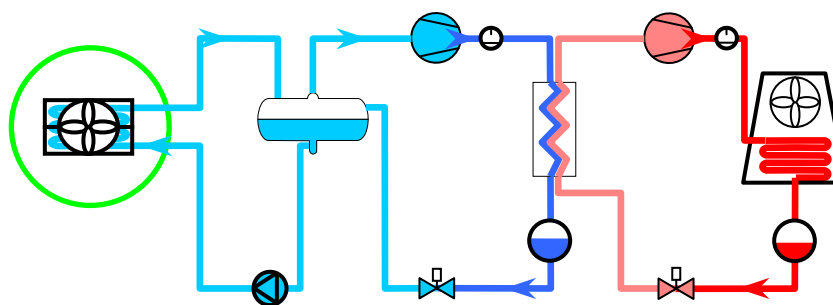
Defrost – considerations

CO₂ system with Electrical or Glycol defrosting
 (without drained liquid (remaining CO₂ need to evaporate))

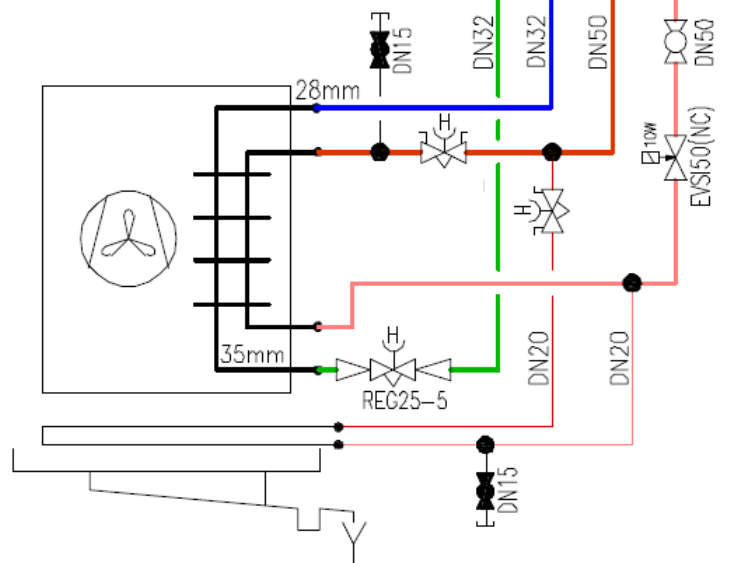
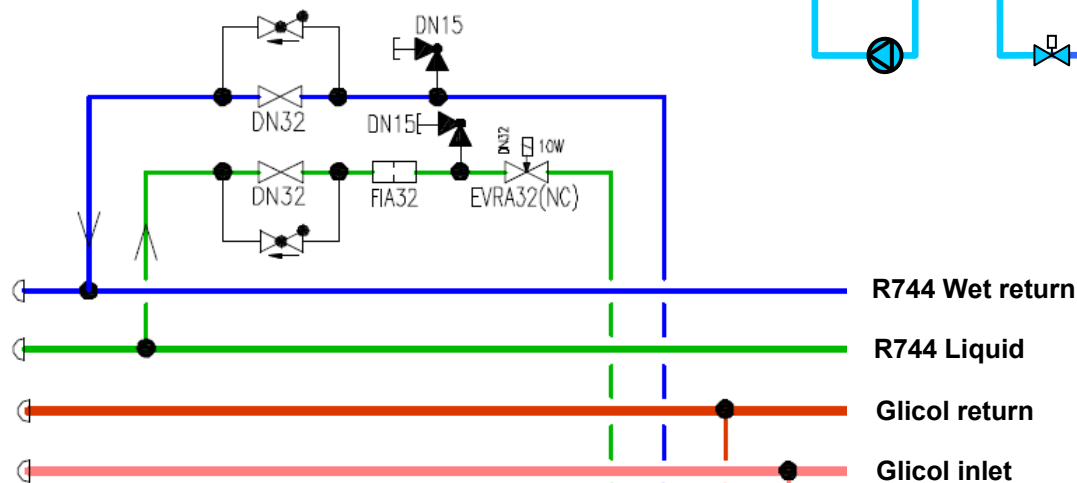


Design pressure 40 bar (580 psi)

Valve station for evaporator with hot glycol defrost



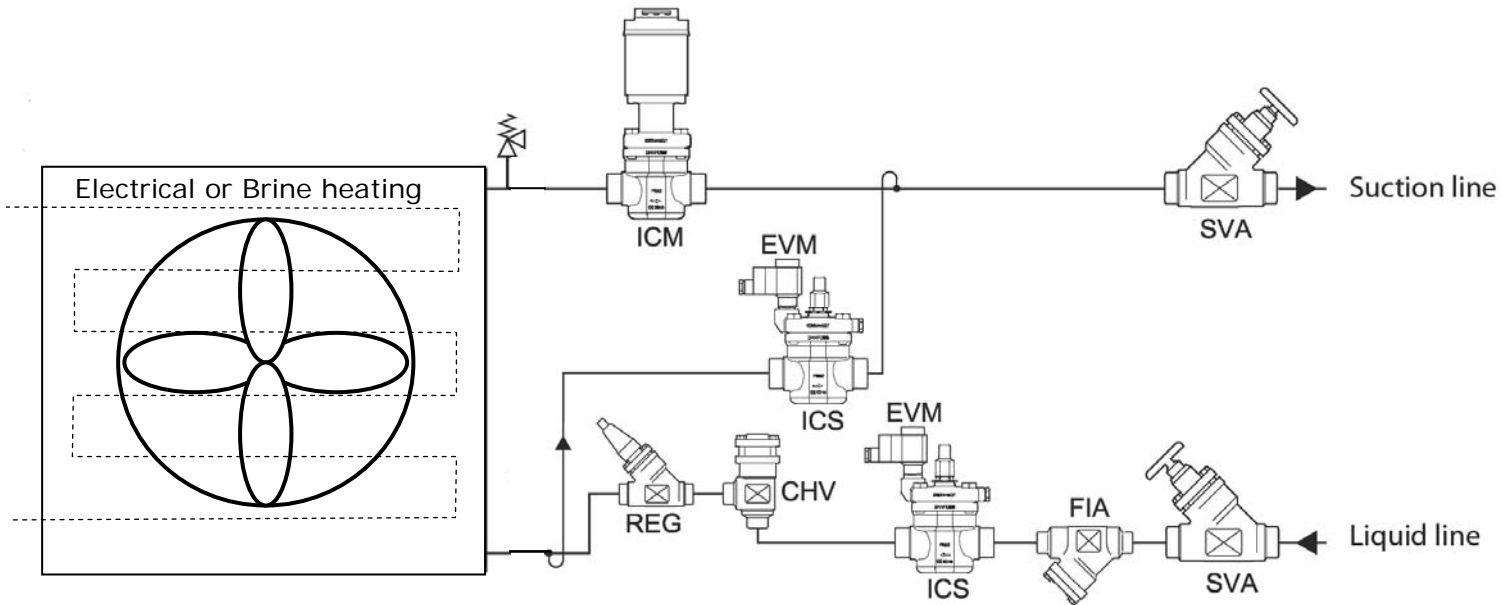
Danfoss



5. Technical solutions

Defrost – considerations

CO₂ system with Electrical or Brine defrosting (drained liquid - 40 bar)

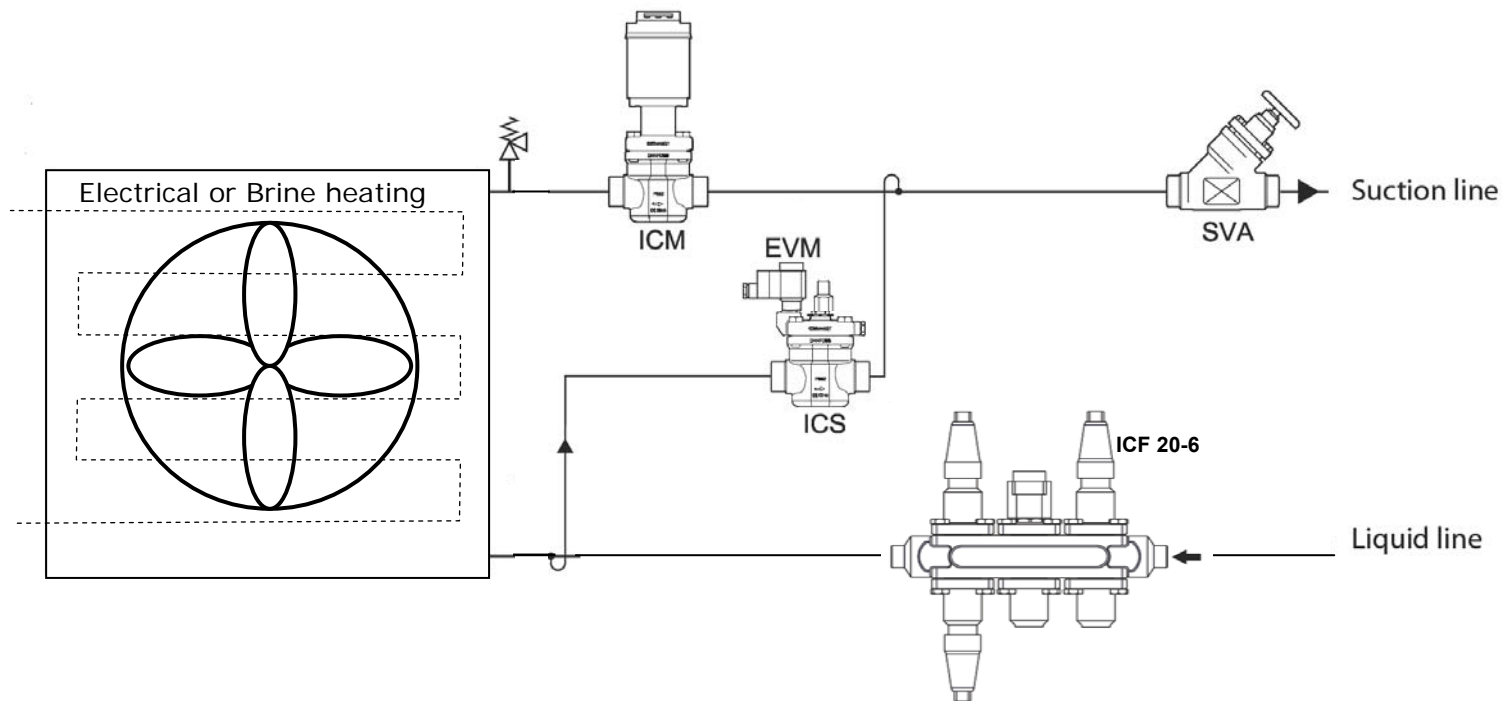


All valve direct coupled (welded)
Design pressure 40 bar (580 psi)

5. Technical solutions

Defrost – considerations

CO2 system with Electrical or Brine defrosting (drained liquid - ICF)

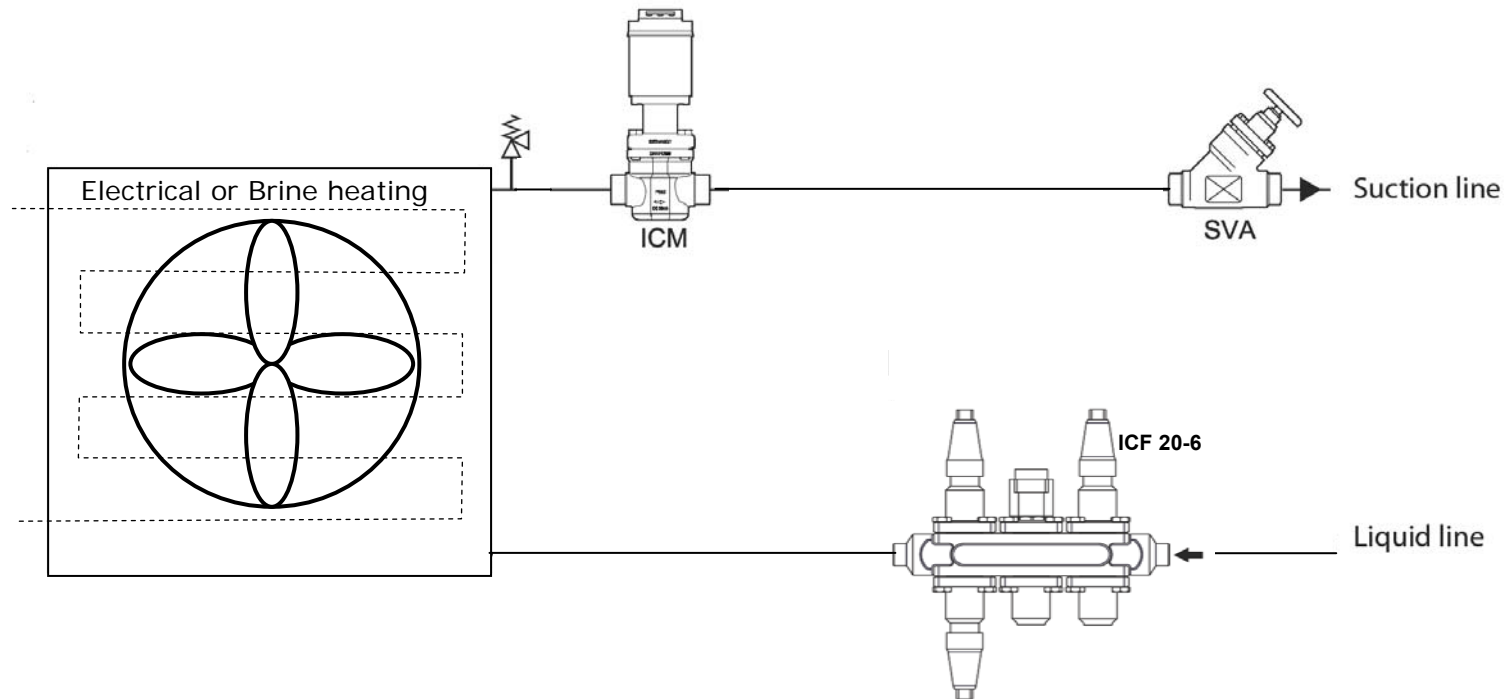


All valve direct coupled (welded)
Design pressure 40 bar (580 psi)

5. Technical solutions

Defrost – considerations

CO₂ system with Electrical or Brine defrosting
(without drained liquid (remaining CO₂ need to evaporate))



All valve direct coupled (welded)
Design pressure 40 bar (580 psi)

6. Case stories

Canada

- $\text{NH}_3 - \text{CO}_2$ brine systems, both LT and MT
 - Started Spring 2009
 - 4.600 m² total area of storage
 - MT: 360 kW, -17°C
 - LT: 130 kW, -28°C
 - Alternative to HFC/Brine solution
 - Variable speed drives on pumps and compressors
 - ICF valves stations for evaporators
 - copper piping

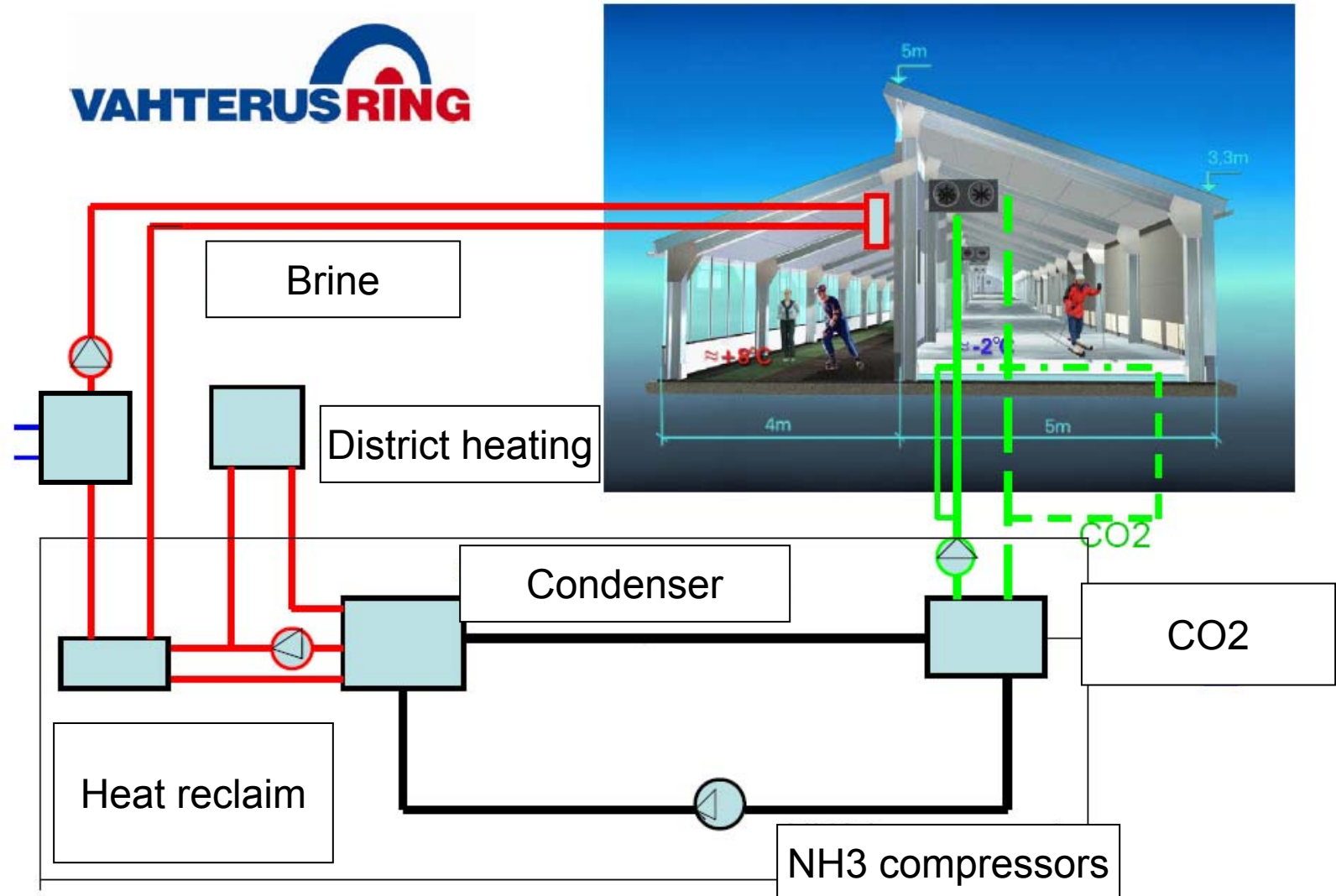
6. Case stories

VahterusRing – Finland (1)

- VAHTERUSRING SKI TUNNEL
 - * versatile sports facility
 - * ideal conditions around the year
 - * cross-country skiing track (-3 °C): Classical and freestyle/skating techniques
 - * exercise track (+8 °C in winter): Roller-skating, jogging, Nordic walking
 - * 150 metre long lane for athletes
 - * curling rink
 - * the longest covered building in the Nordic countries
 - * modern technology
- DIMENSIOS
 - * length 1057 metres
 - * width of the ski track 5 metres
 - * width of the exercise track 4 metres
 - * height differences 16 metres
- TECHNOLOGY
 - * CO2 brine system. On the ground there is about 20 km of 15 mm copper tube to keep the ground cold enough
 - * There are also several CO2 air coolers to maintain the air temperature at -30C
 - * The pumping cost is about 10 -15% compared to traditionally brine systems
 - * Ammonia refrigeration system: cooling capacity 400 kW, charge less than 50 kg, heating capacity 150 kW.
- Vahterus plate and shell heat exchangers
 - * Warm brine is used to heat the exercise track and defrosting the air coils in skiing track
 - * There is also energy efficient ventilation system that is equipped with dehumidification system to minimise the need of defrosting.
-

6. Case stories

VahterusRing – Finland (2)



6. Case stories

Holland – H.M. de Jong

- $\text{NH}_3 - \text{CO}_2$ brine systems, fruit storage
 - 20 m high
 - 12,500 pallets
 - Total ground surface area: 13,000m²
 - Hot gas defrost by separate compressors



7. Danfoss products

NH_3/CO_2 brine systems

- NH_3
 - ICM/ICF motorized valves for DX ammonia expansion
 - EKC 315A DX controllers
- CO_2
 - ICF valve stations for evaporators
 - DCR filter driers
 - Line components, both steel, stainless steel (50/52 bar pressure rating) and copper (45 bar pressure rating)
 - Evaporator controllers AK-CC 450
 - Variable speed drives VLT and AKD 102
 - AKV pulse modulating valves – an alternative to fixed setting REG valves

HTEF

$$HTEF = \frac{h}{E^{0.29}} \cdot D^{0.14} = C \cdot c_p^{0.33} \cdot k^{0.67} \cdot \rho^{0.57} \cdot \mu^{-0.52} \quad (A.15)$$

So HTEF is equal to $\frac{\text{Heat transfer coefficient}}{(\text{Pump power per unit heat transfer area})^{0.29}} \cdot \text{Diameter}^{0.14}$

It is convenient to operate with a dimensionless HTEF, so HTEF is normalized to water at 10°C:

$$HTEF = \frac{c_p^{0.33} \cdot k^{0.67} \cdot \rho^{0.57} \cdot \mu^{-0.52}}{(c_p^{0.33} \cdot k^{0.67} \cdot \rho^{0.57} \cdot \mu^{-0.52})_{\text{water},10}} \quad (A.16)$$

or

$$HTEF = \frac{c_p^{0.33} \cdot k^{0.67} \cdot \rho^{0.57} \cdot \mu^{-0.52}}{176.74} \quad (A.17)$$