

# OPTIMISING THE DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM

IEA DHC Annex TS2 Workshop, October 23, 2018, Nottingham

Ralf-Roman Schmidt



# MAIN CHALLENGES FOR DISTRICT HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

- Uncertain price trends for electricity, natural gas and biomass
- Decreasing specific heat demand in existing and new buildings
- Political requirements for decarbonisation



## ALTERNATIVE HEAT SOURCES

Such as solar and geothermal energy, ambient heat via heat pumps and waste heat from industries and service sector

- can minimize investment risk (independent on fuel prices)
- guarantee supply security (independence of energy imports)
- Reduce CO2 emissions



# BARRIERS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ALTERNATIVE HEAT SOURCES

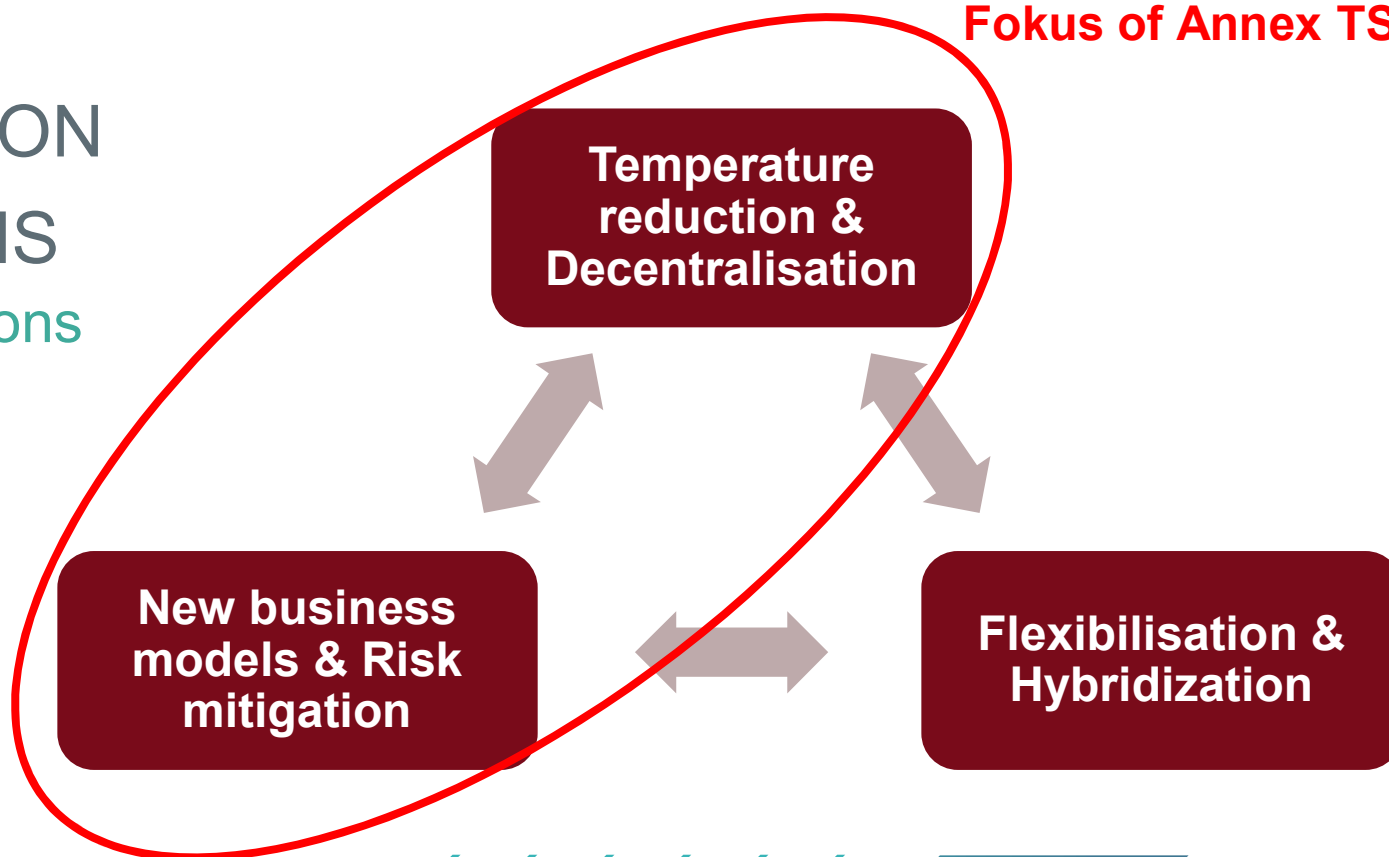
These sources are in general

- fluctuating and/ or non-controllable and/or
- small scale and/ or on a decentral location located and/or
- have their highest potential at low temperature levels



SOLUTION  
OPTIONS  
3 dimensions

**Fokus of Annex TS2**

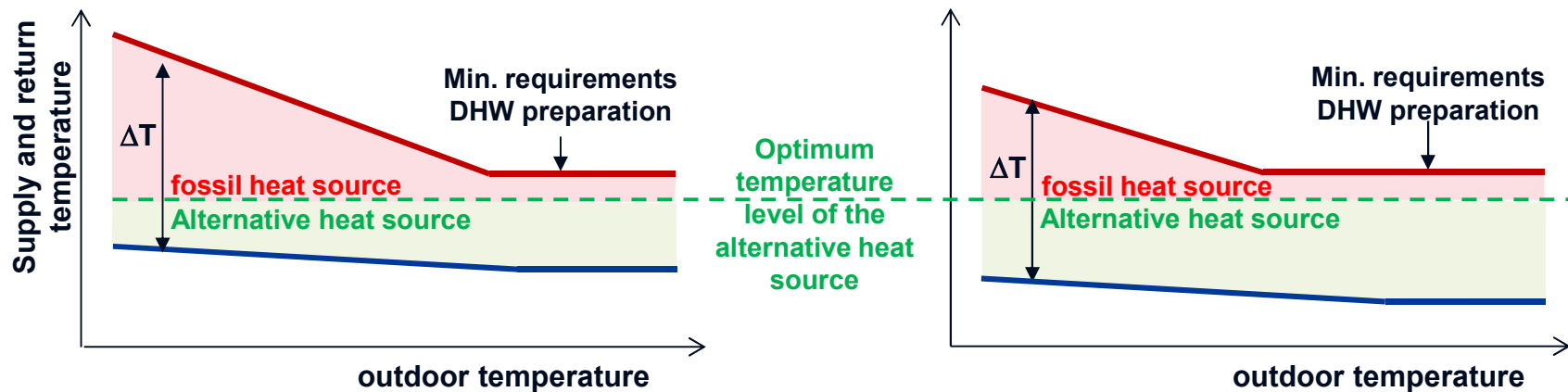


# TEMPERATURE REDUCTION & DECENTRALISATION

05.11.2018



# HIGH NETWORK TEMPERATURES IN MANY CITIES



- **Challenges** for lowering the supply temperatures
  - room heating: radiators are often designed for  $T_{\text{supply}} = 50\text{-}90^\circ \text{ C}$
  - DHW preparation:  $T_{\text{supply}} > 55\text{-}60^\circ \text{ C}^1$  required to avoid Legionella
  - transport capacity: for low  $\Delta T = T_{\text{supply}} - T_{\text{return}}$  pumping cost are high
  - building side installations: reducing  $T_{\text{return}}$  is cost intensive

DHW = domestic hot water  
 1: depending on national regulations




$T_{\text{supply}}$  = supply temperature  
 $T_{\text{return}}$  = return temperature

# EXAMPLE: REDUCTION OF RETURN TEMPERATURES



National project: **T2LowEx** – transformation of traditional DH networks towards low temperature network via secondary side measures

- **Aim:** Investigation of secondary side potentials and effects of temperature reduction in existing DH networks in Austria
  - Identification of the reasons for high return temperatures and measures for reducing them
  - Comprehensive economic evaluation of the effects of lower return temperatures for the network and the customer
  - Development of incentive based business models and win-win situations for end customers and heat suppliers.

Kategorie	Fehler- quelle	Problem / Auswirkung	Mögliche Maßnahme	Fehlerortung	Aufwand	...
 Hausanschluss- station	Falsche Lage des Wärme- übertragers	Bei horizontaler Lage Anschlüsse oben: Schmutzpartikel setzen sich ab; Anschlüsse unten: Luft sammelt sich	Plattenwärmetauscher immer senkrecht montieren	Sichtkontrolle	Mittel - Hoch	
	Regelung	Überfahren der primärseitigen Fahrvorgabe kann instabiles Regelverhalten in der Hausanschlussstation bewirken	Anpassen der Fahrvorgabe laut Herstellerangaben und Adaptierung nach durchgeführtem hydraulischem Abgleich	häufiges Taktieren von Anlagenkomponenten	Niedrig	
 Hausanlage	Fehlender hydraulischer Abgleich	Über- bzw. Unterversorgung von Heizflächen; Komforteinbußen "Vohnraumklima", erhöhte Heiz- und Pumpstromkosten	Hydraulischen Abgleich durchführen	Ungleiche Wärmeverteilungen in den einzelnen Räumen; störende Betriebsgeräusche an Heizkörpern; "Diskomfort"	Niedrig	
	Nutzer- verhalten	falsches Lüften; verstellen der Heizkörper durch Möbel; falsche Benützung der Heizkörper (ein Heizkörper zum Heizen für die ganze Wohnung); etc.	Stoßlüften statt Fenster dauerhaft gekippt; auf freistehende Heizkörper achten; Nutzen aller Heizkörper in jedem Raum und Verwendung der Thermostatventile	Aufklärungsmaßnahmen und Bewusstseinsbildung bei den Nutzern	Niedrig - Mittel	
 Trinkwasser- erwärmungsanlage	Anlage / System selbst	niedrige RLT nur möglich, wenn sich das Heizungswasser an der Sekundärseite abkühlen kann	Wassermengen kontrollieren → Einregeln der Verbraucher; Fühlerpositionen optimieren; drehzahlgeregelte Pumpen	Anlageninspektion / Überprüfen der hydr. Schemata	Niedrig - Hoch	
	Zirkulations- system	Speicherlose Durchflusssysteme liefern in zapffreier Zeit systembedingt RLT über der minimal erforderlichen Zirkulations-RLT von 55 °C	stufenweise / kaskadierte TW- Erwärmung; Einsatz von Speicher (Zwischenspeicherung der Restwärme möglich)	Anlageninspektion / Überprüfen der hydr. Schemata	Niedrig - Hoch	
...						



# EXAMPLE: REDUCTION OF RETURN TEMPERATURES



EU-project TEMPO

## Demonstration of technological innovations towards low(er) network temperatures:

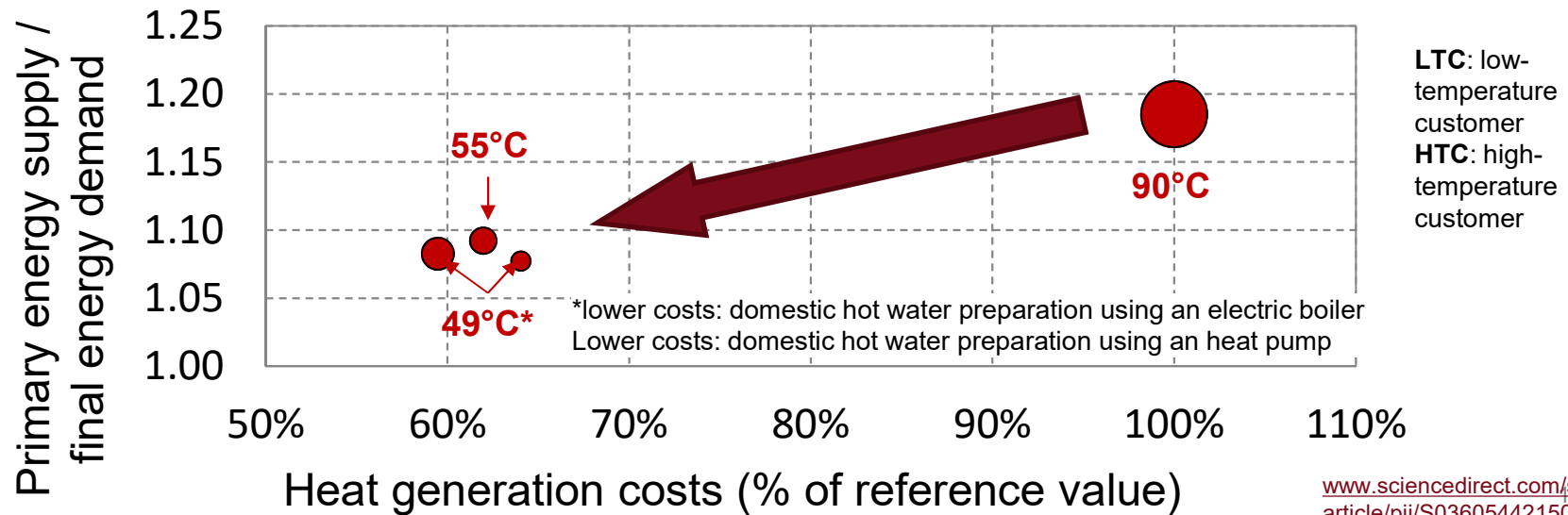
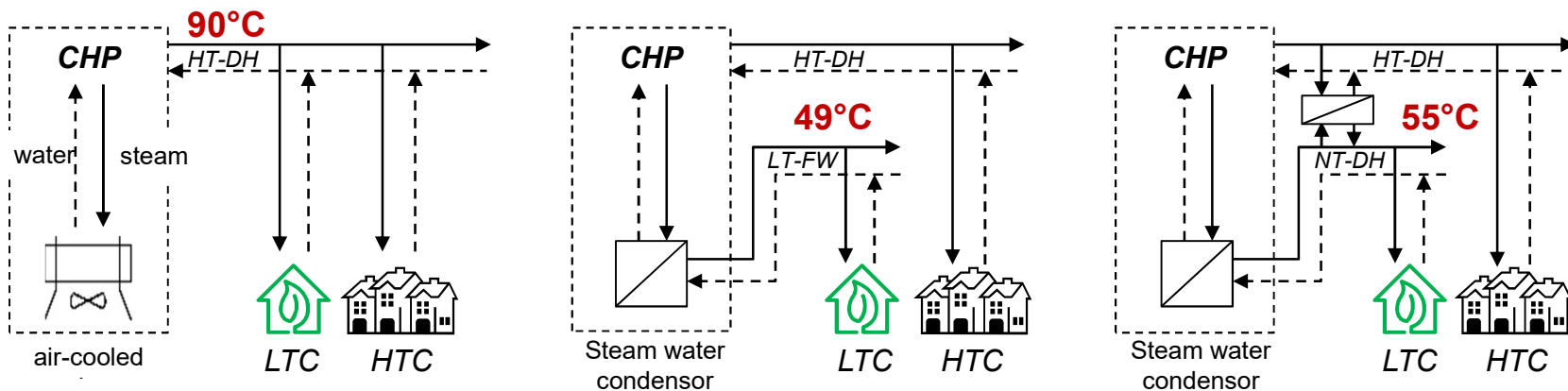
- supervision **ICT platform** for fault detection and diagnosis in substations
- **Visualisation tools** for expert and non-expert users
- Smart DH **network controller**, to balance supply and demand and minimize the return temperature (from STORM project)
- Innovative **pipe system** - eliminating bypasses in substations
- Optimisation of the **building installation** (e.g. poor hydraulic balancing, misbehaving thermostatic radiator valves etc.) by automatic fault detection
- Decentralised **buffers** - cut the power peaks in the network
- **Application to 3 demo sides** (existing urban, existing rural, new rural)

More Information: [www.tempo-dhc.com](http://www.tempo-dhc.com)

# EXAMPLE: LOW TEMPERATURE DISTRICT HEATING



Utilization of condensor waste heat



# EXAMPLE: WASTE HEAT UTILIZATION FROM A DATA CENTER

## Data center **Atos**



- Build in 2010, extension in 2012
- Cooling demand 5 GWh

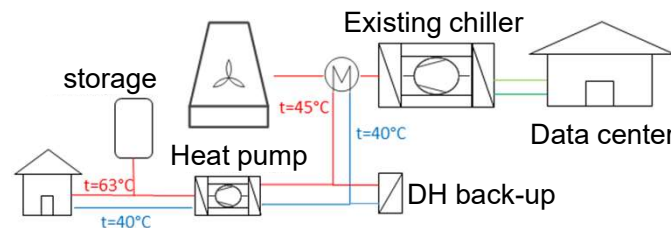
↕  
About 250 m  
distance

## New district **SOZIALBAU AG**

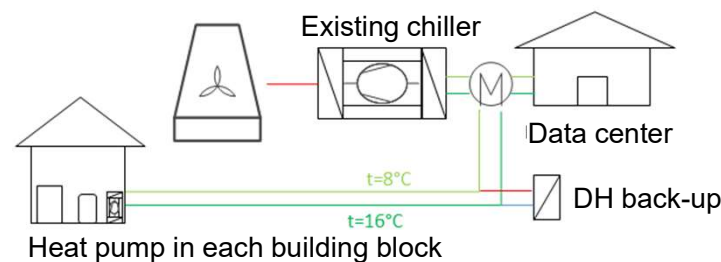


- 1.100 apartments, date of construction 201
- Heat demand 7,3 GWh

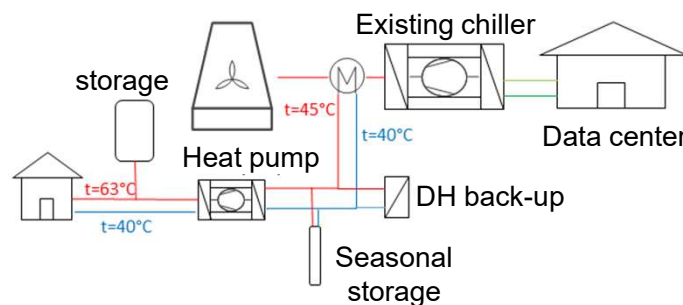
### V1 (HP with DH Back-Up)



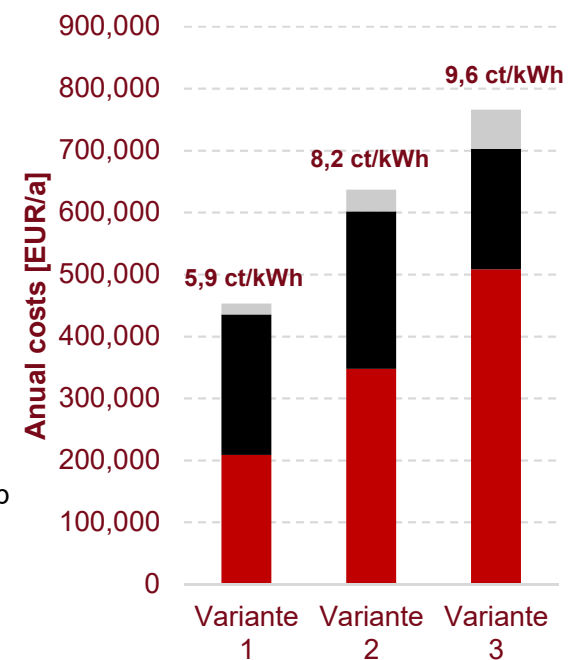
### V2 (ultra-low DH network)



### V3 (V1 + seasonal storage)



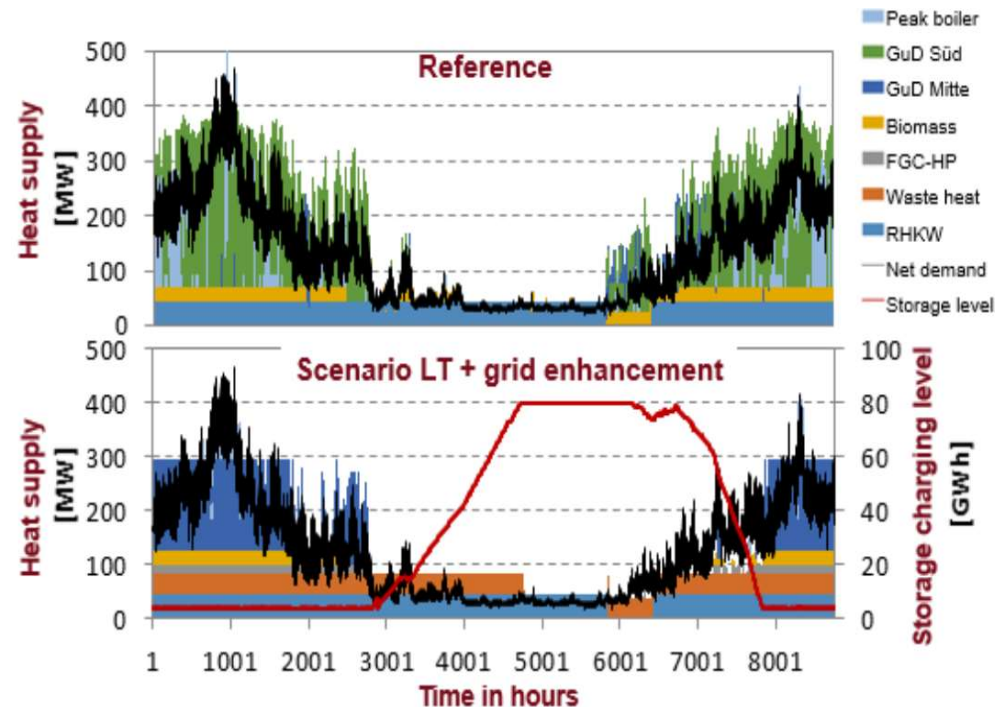
## Economic evaluation



- Other costs
- Operational costs
- Capital costs

## EXAMPLE: WASTE HEAT UTILIZATION SEASONAL STORAGE FOR LINZ

- large amounts of **waste heat from a steel mill** cannot be used due to the **competition to waste incineration**
- The **integration of a seasonal storage** (2,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>, 100 mil. €) could lead to a share of about 25% waste heat
- optimized **storage management** (balancing of the CHP plants) allows up to 4.4 full load cycles and a **payback period of 20 years** (best case)



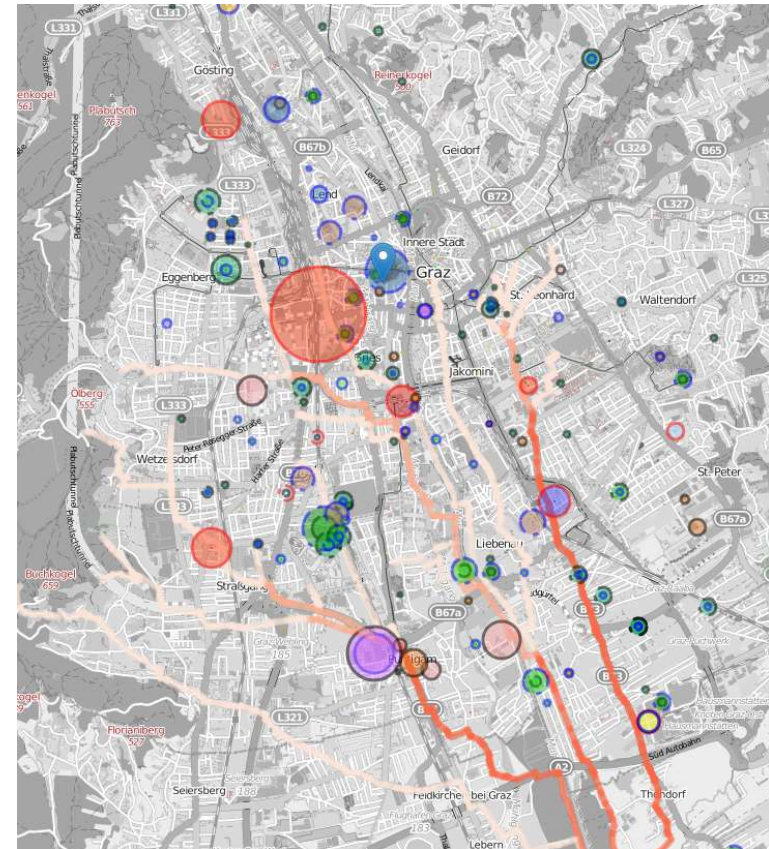
- **However, various uncertainties apply, boosting the investment risks!**
  - especially electricity prices, long term availability of the waste heat and CO2 market conditions

# EXAMPLE: WASTE HEAT UTILIZATION IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCES



## IEA DHC Annex XII project MEMPHIS

- **Development of a generic methodology**
  - using open data to assess
  - waste heat potential from industry and service sector + sewage water
- **Application and Demonstration**
  - 3 cities (AT, DE, UK)
  - interactive web application
- **Transferability and Impact analysis**
  - Analyzing the transferability of the methodology to other countries
  - Evaluating technical and economic aspects



<http://www.2018dedays.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/180927-3-Business-Roman-Geyer.pdf>

<http://blogs.hawk-hhg.de/memphis/>

# NEW BUSINESS MODELS & RISK MITIGATION

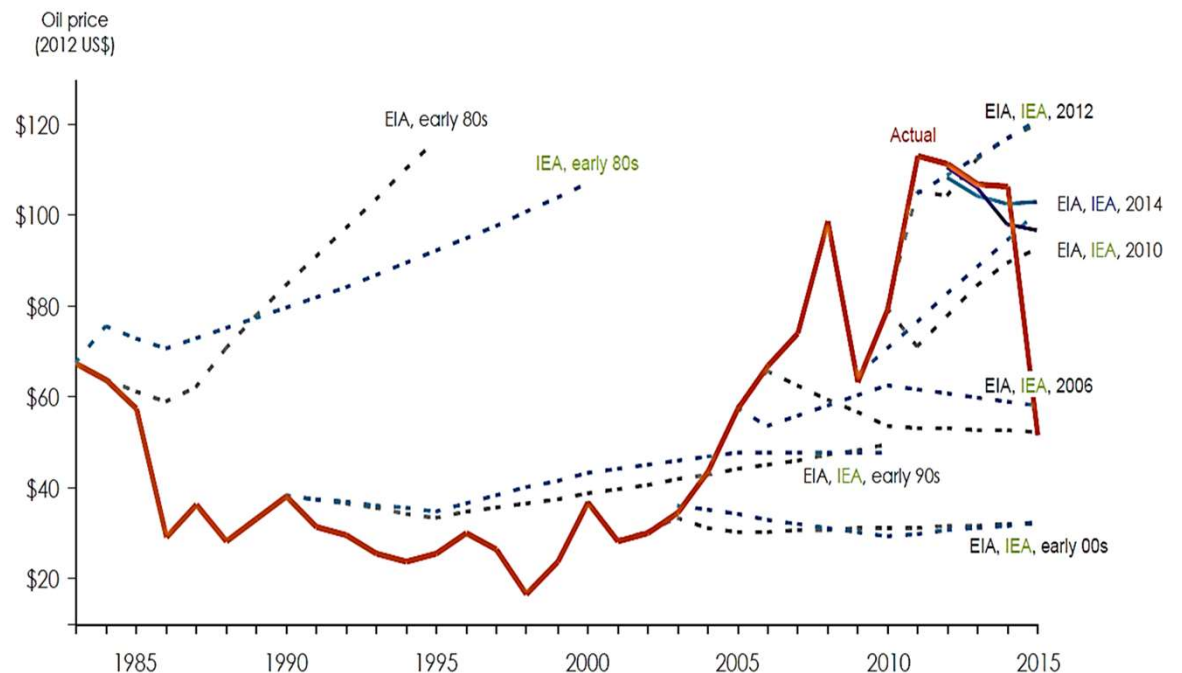




# CONSIDERING UNCERTAIN LONG TERM PERSPECTIVS

- Energy efficiency and decarbonisation
- Legal framework, regulations and subsidies
- Volatility of electricity markets
- Development of the oil and gas price
- Digitalisation and new technologies

example: development of the oil prices and IEA/EIA scenarios



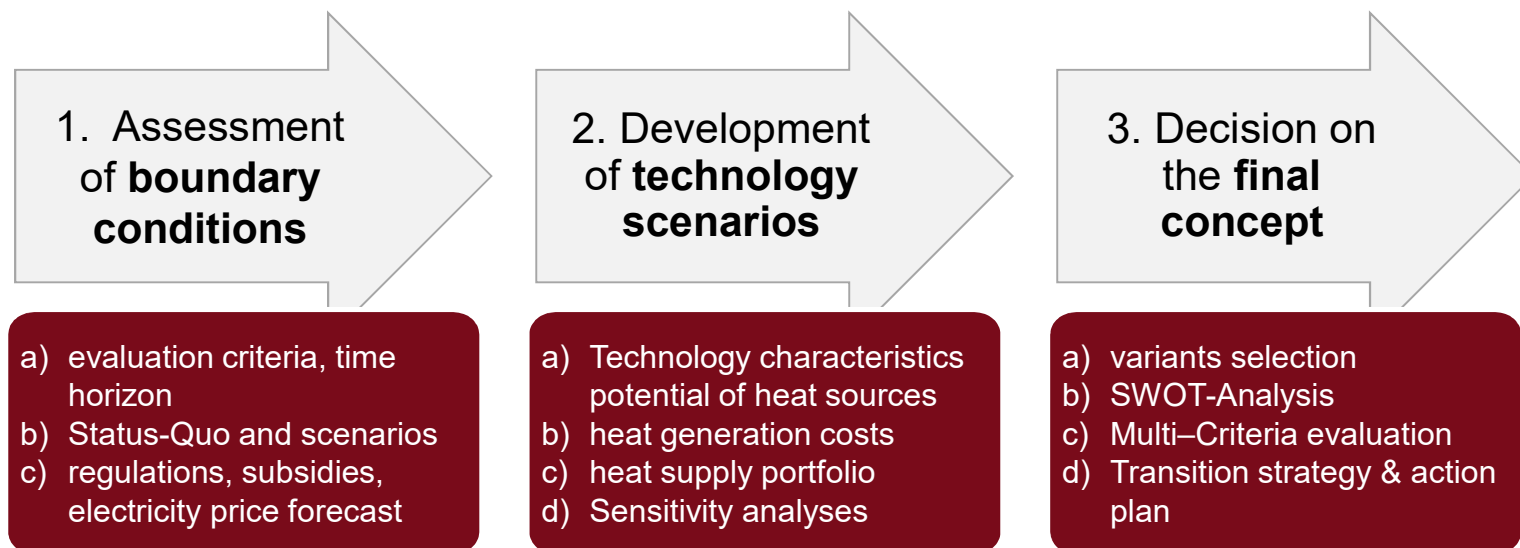
Notes: IEA and EIA imported crude oil price forecasts, selected years, baseline scenarios. All figures are in constant 2012 US\$/bbl.  
IEA: International Energy Agency, EIA: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Sources: IEA, *World Energy Outlook*, 1982, 1993, 2000, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2014  
EIA, *Annual Energy Outlook*, 1983, 1993, 2000, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2014

**Source:** Dieter Helm: THE NEW ENERGY LANDSCAPE – low fossil fuel prices, decarbonisation and new technologies, IET Mountbatten Lecture, 3rd November 2015, University of Oxford,

# EXAMPLE: DEVELOPMENT OF HEAT SUPPLY STRATEGIES

- **Motivation:** replacement of the existing lignite chp plants in the district heating network Chemnitz due to their high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and age
- Application of a **decision support methodology** that is
  - Highly transparent and follows a **clear sequential approach**





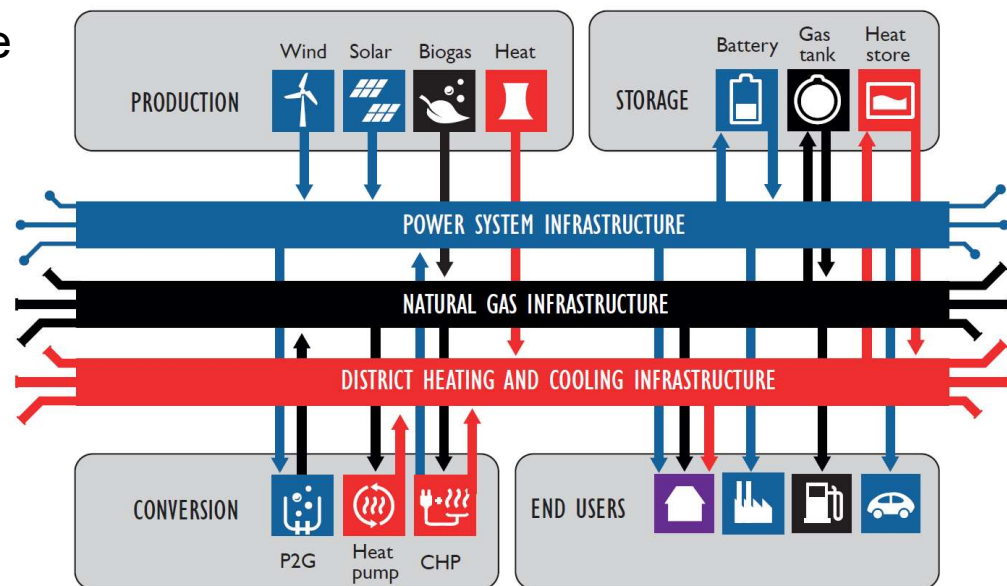
# FLEXIBILISATION & HYBRIDIZATION

05.11.2018



# INTEGRATED ENERGY SYSTEMS

- The integration of the electricity/ gas grids and heating/ cooling networks is considered as one of the **key measures for decarbonizing the energy system** (aka “sector coupling”). This
  - triggers important **synergies**, that couldn't be realised by optimizing the sectors individually.
  - is connected to several **challenges**, such as an increasing competition between the energy domains and a higher complexity.



# EXAMPLE: HEAT PUMP INTEGRATION, DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT AS „ENABLER“



FFG



AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



EBC

Energy in Buildings and Communities Programme



## • Aim:

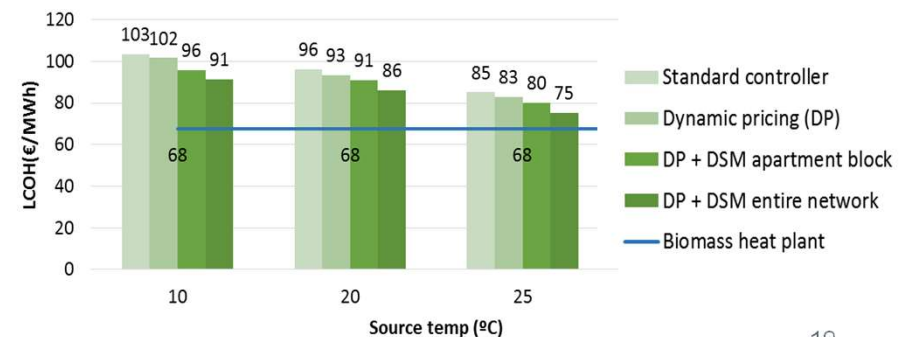
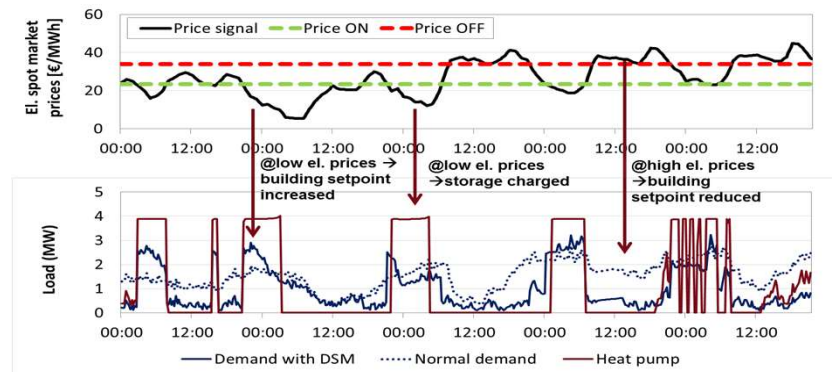
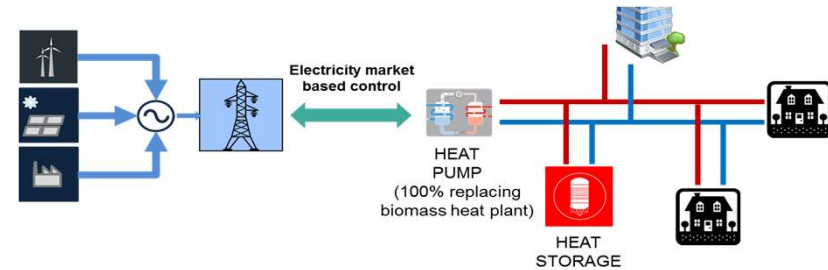
- Evaluation of different control strategies for the integration of heat pumps (>1MW) in district heating networks

## • Method:

- Participation at the spot-market
- Utilization of the DH network flexibility (storage, demand side management)

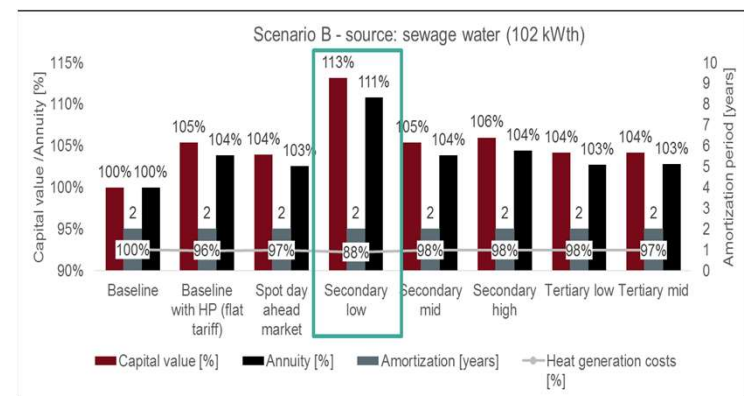
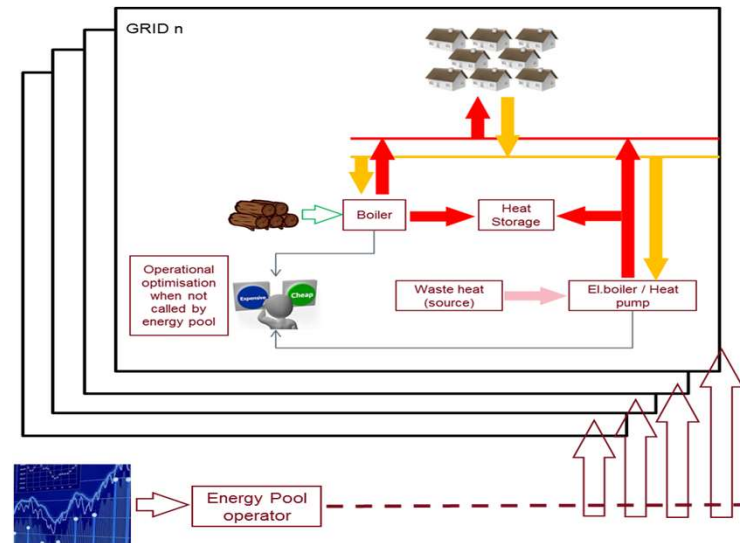
## • Results

- Reduction of the heat generation costs between 9 and 15% (example: rural network)



# EXAMPLE: HEAT PUMP INTEGRATION POOLING FOR BALANCING MARKETS

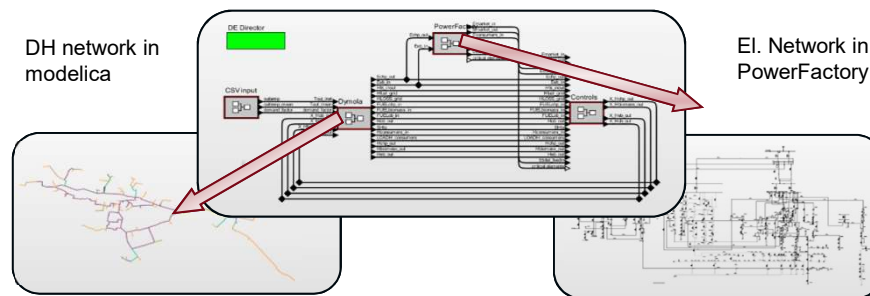
- **Aim:** develop innovative business models for heat pump integration in existing old and inefficient district heating networks by exploiting the:
  - Day-ahead SPOT Market
  - Balancing markets (secondary and tertiary balancing energy)
- **Outcome:**
  - Higher network capacity
  - no reinvestment in new biomass boilers
  - Increase of revenues
  - Reduction in heat generation costs
  - Reduction of HP operation costs in comparison to a flat electricity tariff.



# EXAMPLE: OPTIMISING HYBRID ENERGY GRIDS FOR SMART CITIES

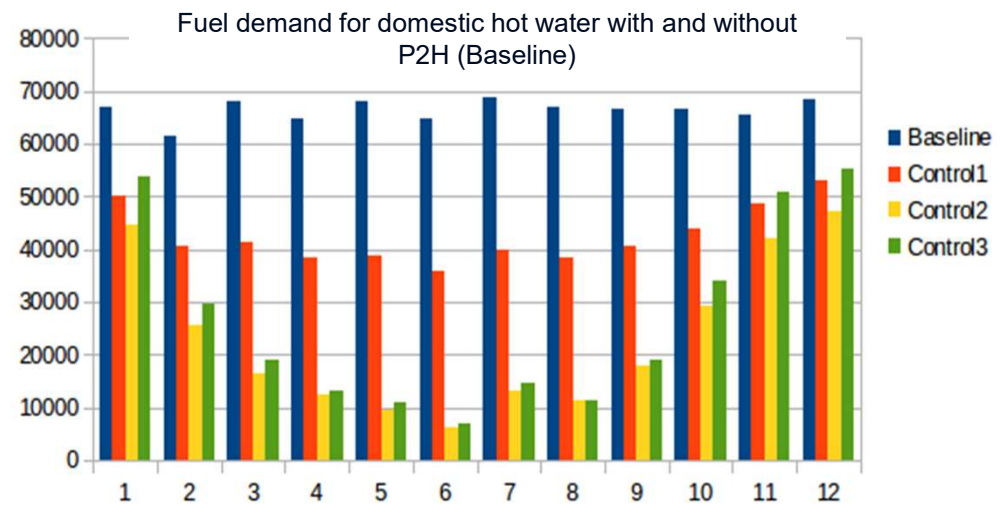


- Different Network Control System will be elaborated implementing novel Cooperative Control Strategies, coupling thermal and electrical network



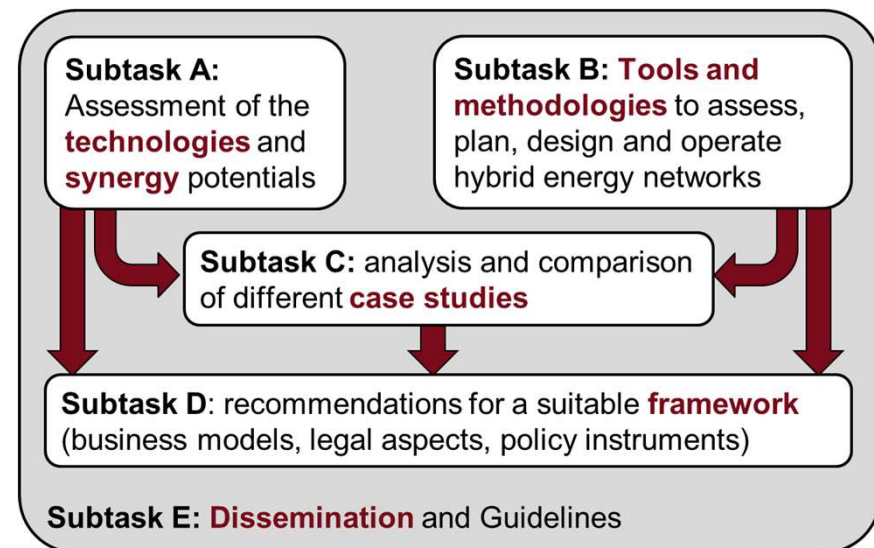
- **method:** Co-Simulation thermal/ electrical networks, using FMI Interface, optimizing in Matlab

- **Demo-Case:** Ulm (Germany), increasing share of PV results in low-voltage networks problems (power quality, overload, reflux),
- **results:** optimized utilization of electric boilers for domestic hot water supply



## OUTLOOK: IEA DHC ANNEX TS3: HYBRID ENERGY NETWORKS

- **Aim:** To promote the opportunities and to overcome the challenges for district heating and cooling networks in an integrated energy system context
- **Results:** guidebook and policy papers as well as different networking activities including industry workshops and special session at conferences
- **participants** can join anytime, resources are contributed in-kind
- **Participating countries:** Austria, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, UK, Korea, France, Belgium
- **working phase:** 2019-2021
- **cooperation** with IEA ISGAN, other cooperation's under development (EBC; ECES ...)
- **Operation agent:** Ralf-Roman Schmidt (AIT), with support of Fraunhofer IEE



# THANK YOU!

Dr.-Ing. Ralf-Roman Schmidt

**AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH**

Giefinggasse 6 | 1210 Vienna | Austria

T +43(0) 50550-6695 | M +43(0) 664 235 19 01 | F +43(0) 50550-6679

[Ralf-Roman.Schmidt@ait.ac.at](mailto:Ralf-Roman.Schmidt@ait.ac.at) | <http://www.ait.ac.at>

