

The right pre-insulated pipe systems
for large scale solar district heating
networks

**3rd international conference on Smart
Energy Systems and 4GDH**

Peter Jorsal

12 September 2017

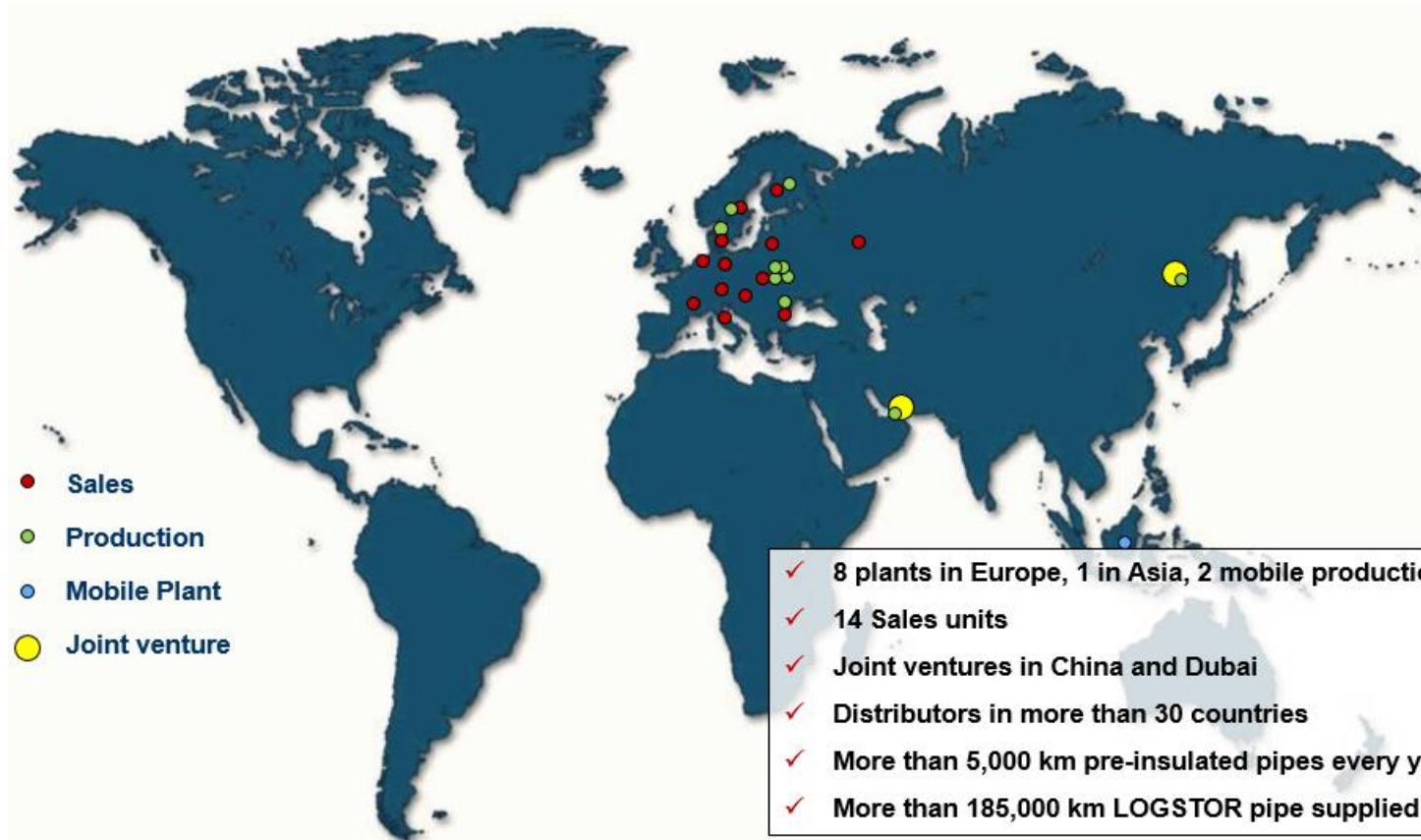
The LOGSTOR Group & global presence

Headquarters in Denmark

1,500 employees

Annual turnover > 250 MEUR

Owner: Triton Fund III

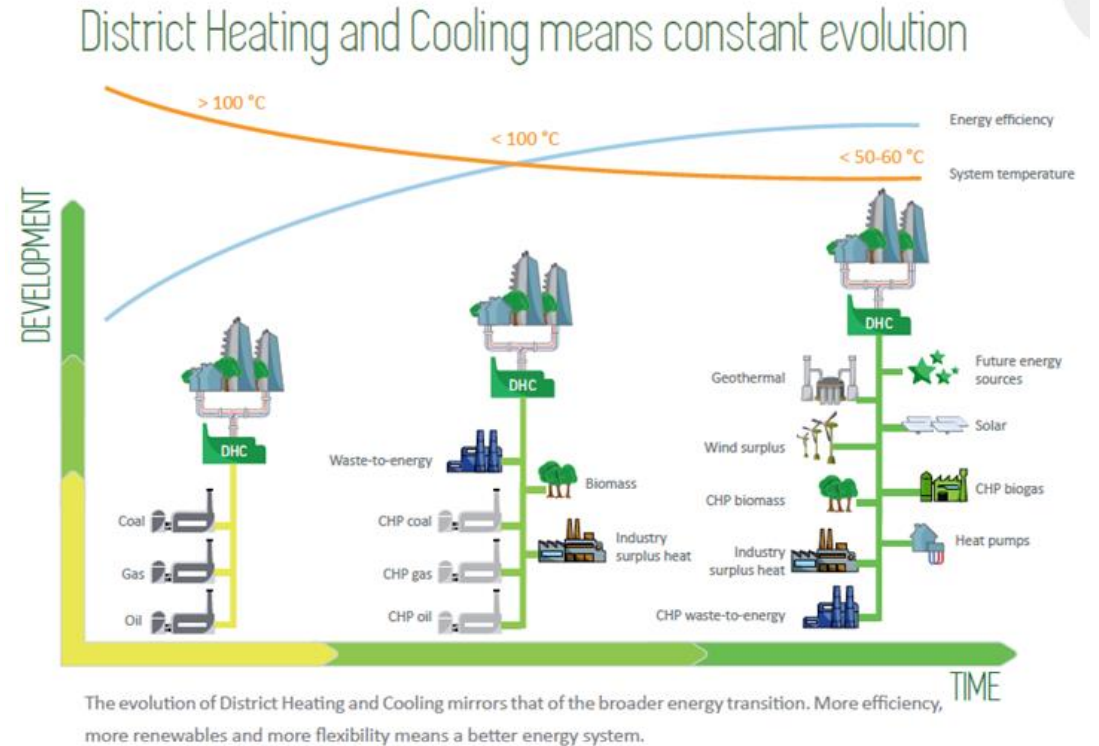


Large scale solar heating networks



Large scale solar heating networks

- Large scale solar heating networks are already today playing an important role in Denmark
- This is expected to spread to Europe in the future
- This presentation is not about research and development of a new system
- It is about learning from the history when moving ahead



- More than 20 years of experience with large scale solar district heating networks
- The first designs was based on the know how from traditional district heating projects
 - Products
 - Design of the system
- The design assumptions were insufficient in respect to
 - Temperature
 - Temperature cycles during service life



Number of temperature cycles in a solar network is up till 40 times more than in a conventional district heating system

Experience with solar heating networks

- Energy companies has experienced damages like
 - Leaking joints
 - Resulting in corroding steel
 - Fatigue failure on the steel
 - Immediate leak that will spread in the pre insulated system system
 - Corroding valve connections at the introduction to the solar panels



Fig. 1 - Branch, damaged by large movements.



Fig. 2 - Moisture spread, stemming from a casing joint, damaged by large movements.



Fig. 3 - Released copper ions from brass valve, causing corrosion of the steel pipe. The damage is on the return pipe. No damage on the flow pipe.



Fig. 5 - Dislocated casing joint due to the large number of movements



Fig. 4 - Shrink wrap peeled off due to the large number of movements.

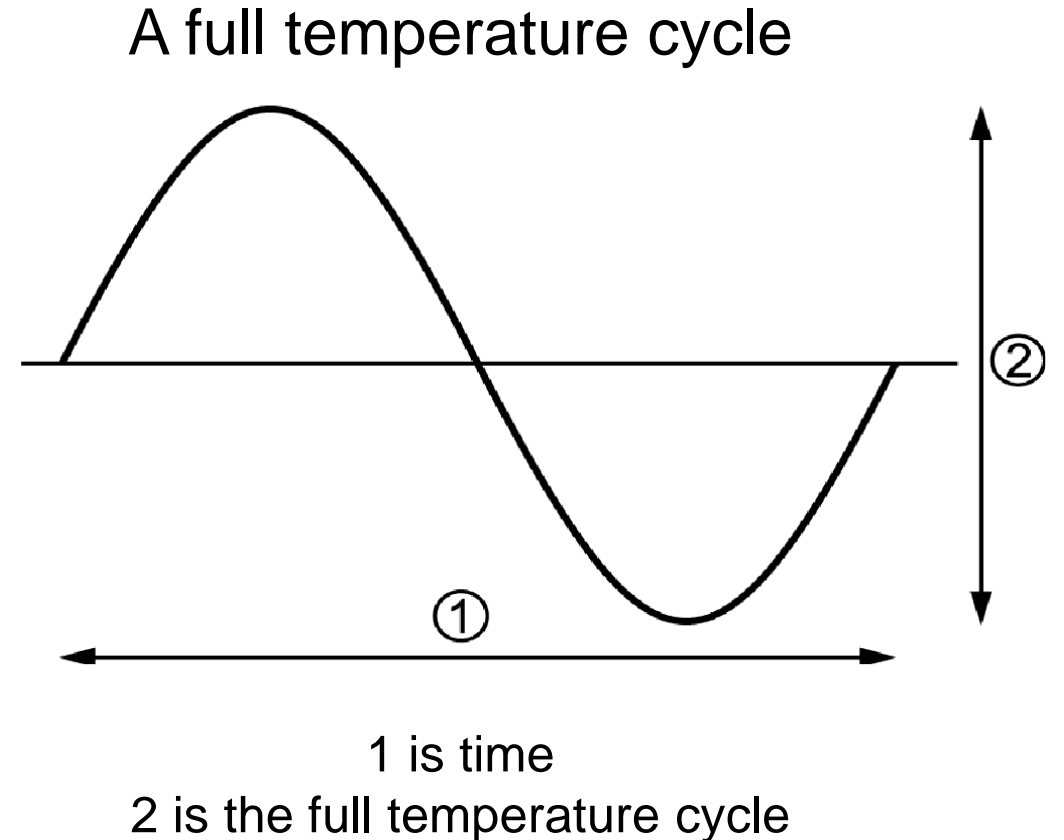
Wrong design assumptions has lead to damages in the network

- We have today much better understanding of the design criteria's
 - Temperature in the system over the year
 - Number of temperature cycles over service life
- The right products that will withstand the loads from the temperature cycles



The expensive experience has lead to better knowledge and better design assumption

- Standard district heating system
 - The system is designed for a minimum service life of 30 years with the number of full temperature cycles depending on type of network
 - Transmission pipelines 100 temperature cycles
 - Distribution pipelines 250 temperature cycles
 - House connections 1000 temperature cycles
- Large scale solar district heating system
 - Number of full temperature cycles over 30 years is
 - 3500 – 10950
 - Depending on the system



Crucial to work with the right design parameters

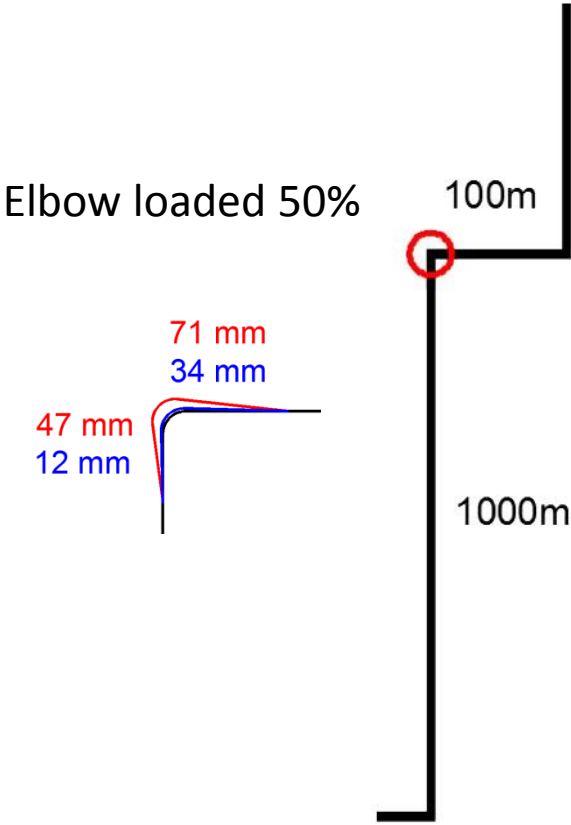
- Standard district heating system
 - Max. temperature 110 °C
 - 250 full temperature cycles over service life
- Solar district heating system, type 1
 - Max. temperature 110 °C
 - 3500 full temperature cycles over service life
- Solar district heating system, type 2
 - Temperature between 10 – 110 °C
 - 1 full temperature cycle per day
 - Shortly up till 150 °C 5 hours twice a year
 - Full temperature cycles over service life is 10950



- General assumptions
 - Installation temperature 10°C
 - Soil cover 0,6 m
 - Pressure 6 bar

Comparison of 3 different design criteria's
During winter time temperature in the pipe system can go down to -15 °C

Example on design with different design parameters

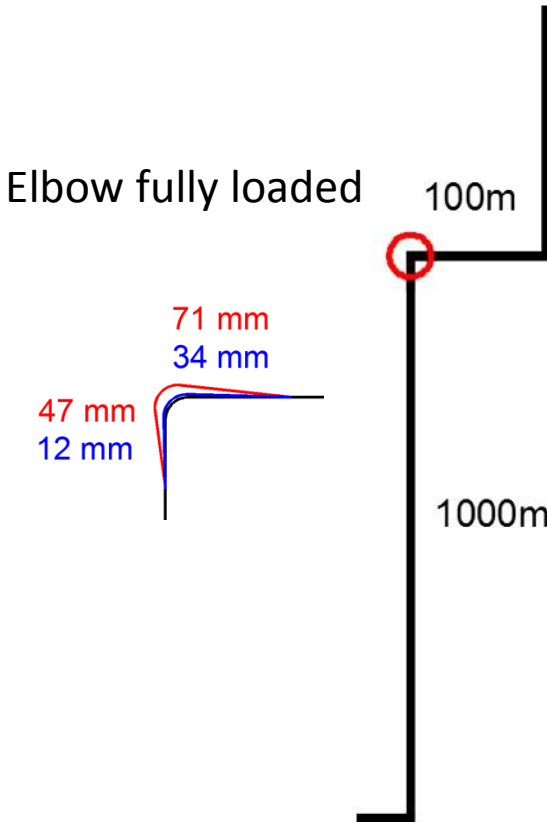


Elbow loaded 50%

100m

1000m

District heating
250 temperature cycles

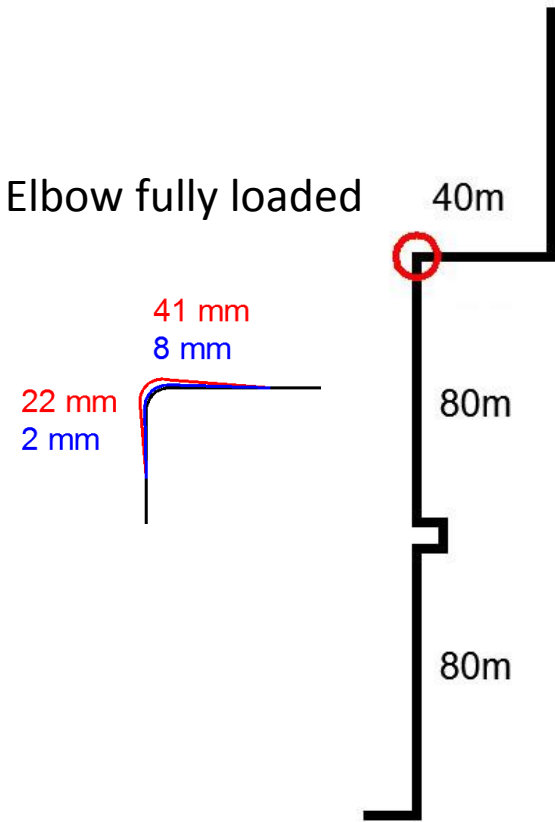


Elbow fully loaded

100m

1000m

Solar heating
3500 temperature cycles



Elbow fully loaded

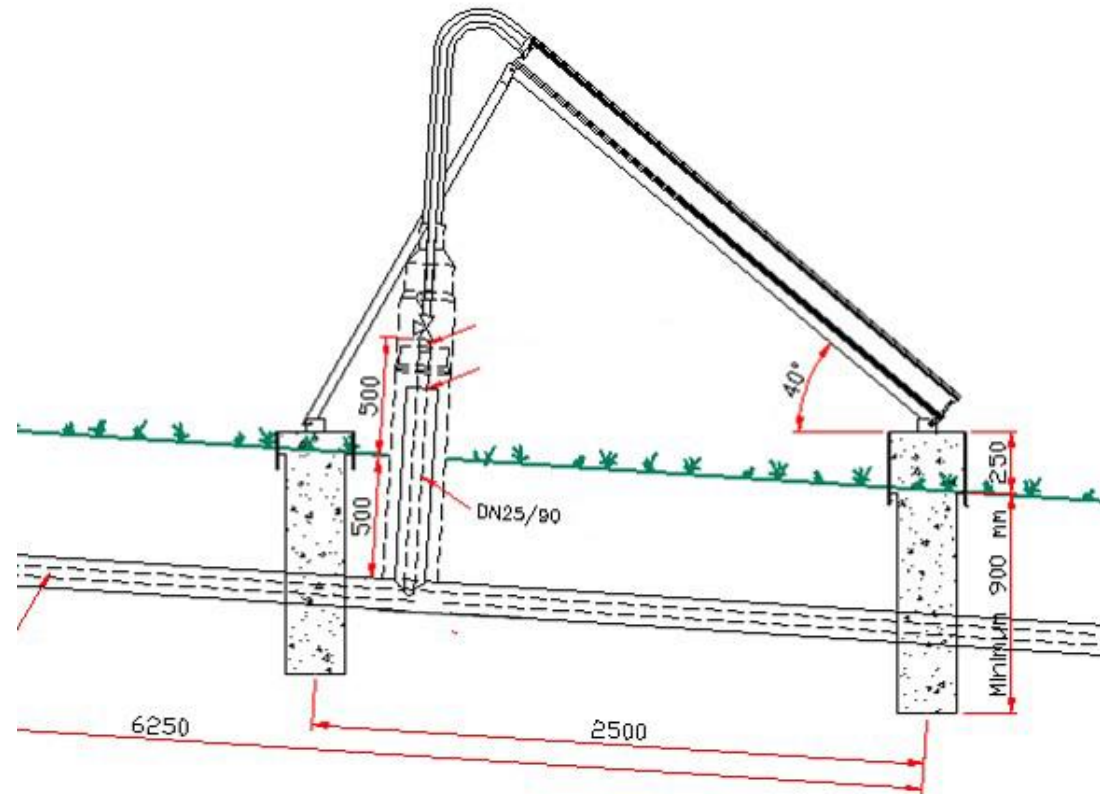
40m

80m

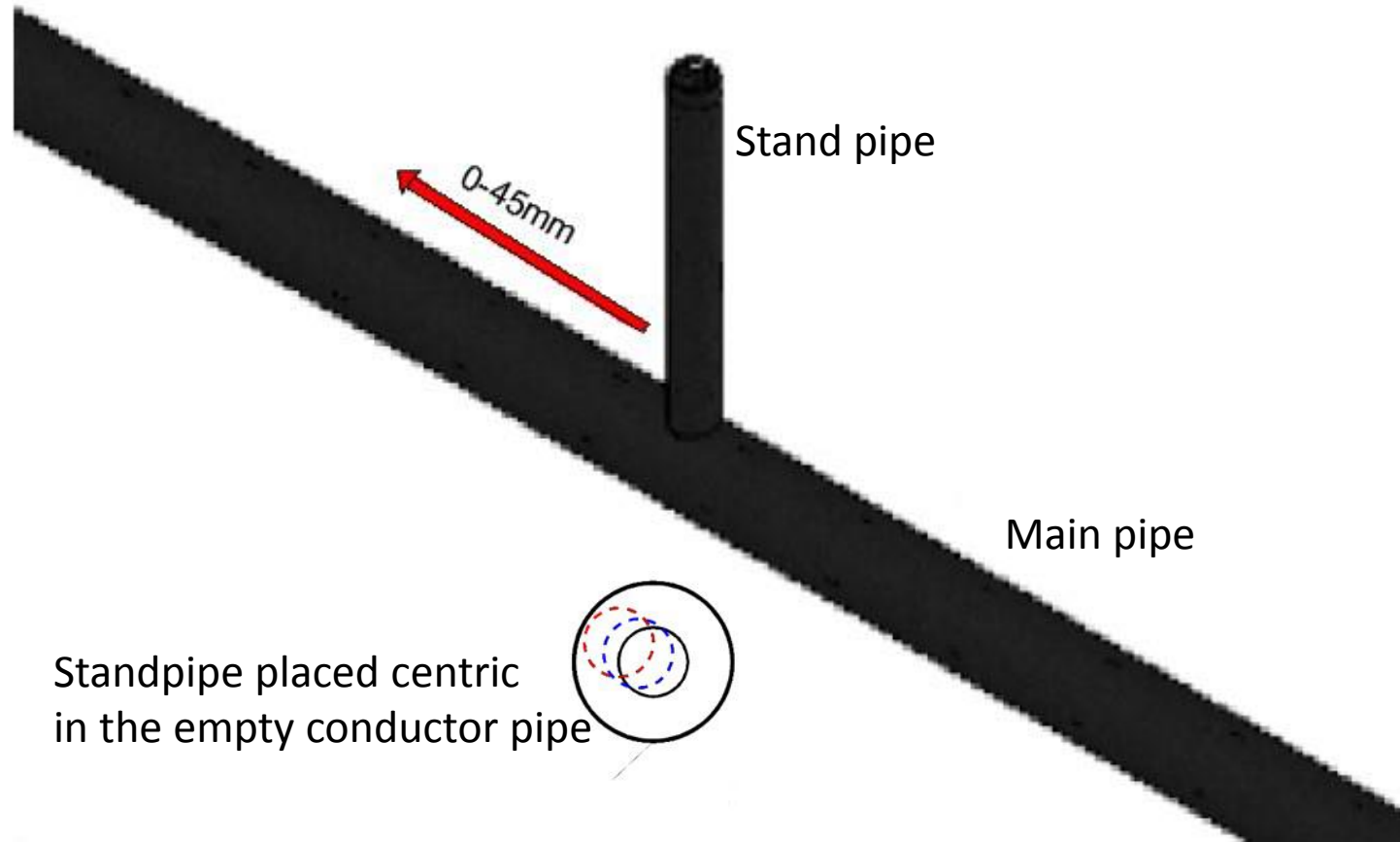
80m

Solar heating
10950 temperature cycles

Empty conductor pipe around the standpipe



Standpipe placed centric at the time of installation



Standpipe placed centric
in the empty conductor pipe

Movement must be calculated at peak temperature
During winter time temperature in the pipe system can go down to -15 °C

Component requirements

- Welded joints is recommended
- All standpipes to the solar panels must be placed in empty conductor pipes
- Branches and bends must be pre-insulated
- It is recommended that change in direction is done with 90° bends
- No twin pipes when number of temperature cycles is more than in a normal district heating network
- Active Monitoring system



The right components are essential for a long life time

Component requirements

- Standpipes designed for the specific project
- Match the exact position of the solar panels
- Indoor manufacturing
- By companies specialized for this work
- Secures optimum conditions for high quality



Standpipes prepared indoor at factory site is an opportunity

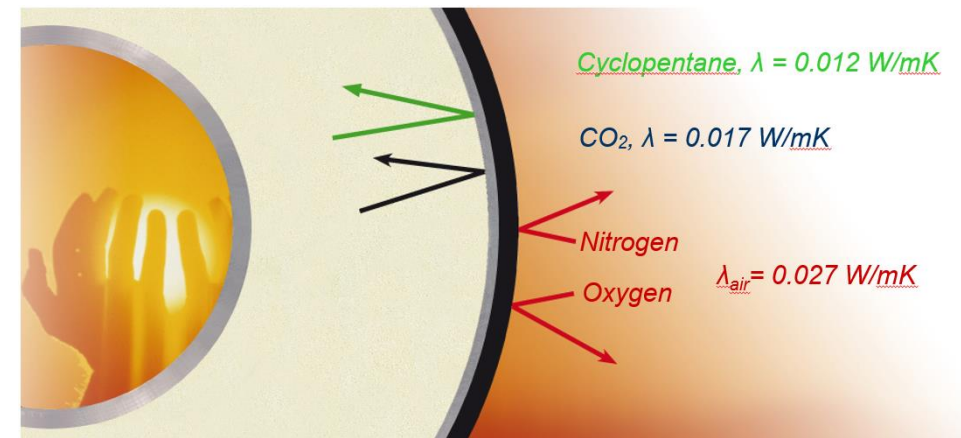
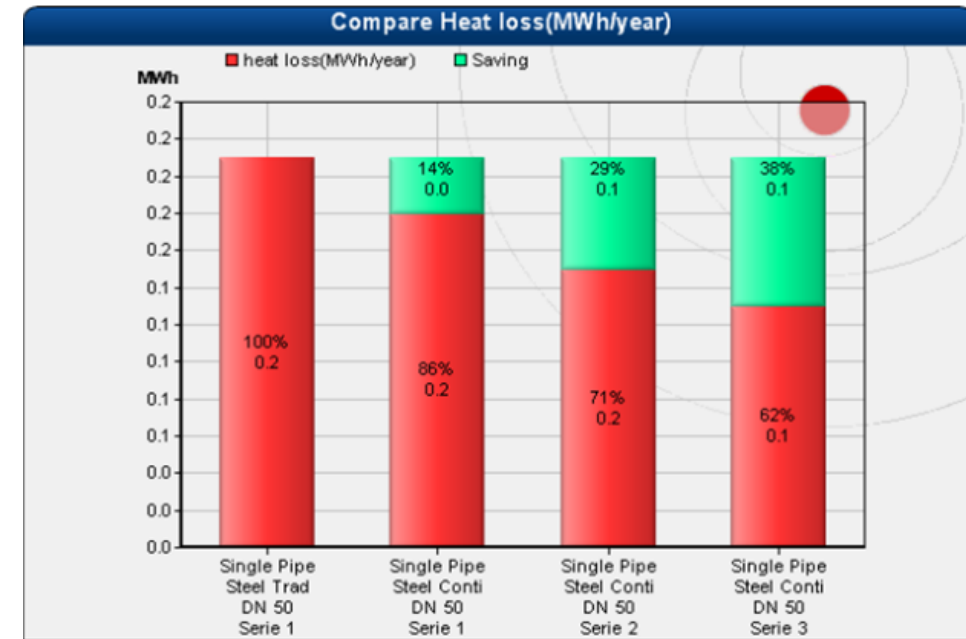
- A detailed static calculation must be done on all bends based on the number of full load temperature cycles
- The maximum pipe length section is calculated based on the “free space” in the empty conductor pipe around the standpipes
- During winter time temperature in the pipe system can go down to $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ till $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Use foam pads at change of directions
- These design requirements apply in the network between the solar panels and the heat exchanger before the standard district heating network



Static calculations based on number of temperature cycles

Focus on total cost of ownership (TCO)

- Essential for a long life time is the right choice of products and the right system design
- Essential for the lowest TCO is the balance between the investment in pipe system and installation and the heat loss of the system over life time
- Lowest heat loss is achieved on systems with axial conti pipes with a diffusion barrier and low lambda value
- The diffusion barrier will secure the low heat loss in the entire life time



Focus on total cost of ownership (TCO)



Temperature

	Winter	Summer
Flow	85	75
Return [°C]	55	45
Ambient [°C]	4	14
Days	215	150

System Parameters

Definition λ PUR: ▼

calculating year:

Soil cover (h) mm:

Ambient: ▼

Certificate lambda:

Finance

Currency: ▼

price / kWh:

Interest rate [%]:

CO2-emission

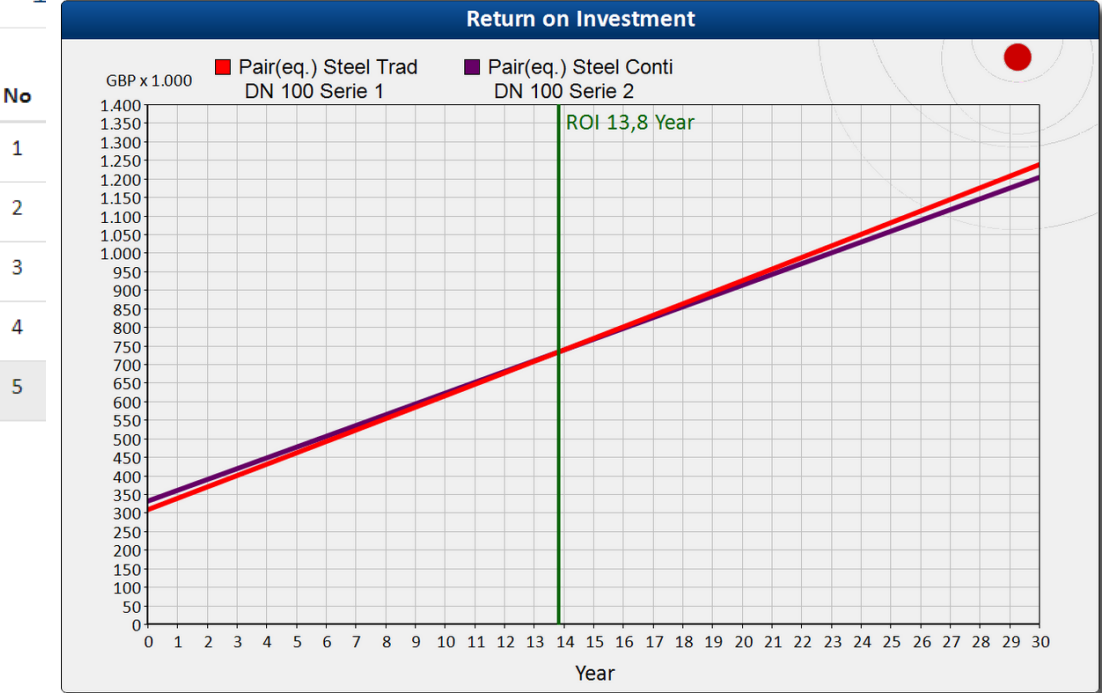
Fuel type: ▼

Efficiency [%]:

Operation Time/Year:

1 Longer distances

[Calculate](#) [Add pipe](#) [Delete pipe](#) [Copy Project](#) [Delete project](#)



D2	Diff.	Lambda	W/m		MWh/year	Cost pipe	cost install.	Cost operation	Compare
			Win. / Sum.						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.027	38.91 / 27.12		298.41	108000	200000	25000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.027	31.97 / 22.28		245.17	124000	210000	25000	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.023	31.52 / 21.97		241.69	117000	200000	25000	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.027	27.25 / 18.99		209.01	140000	210000	25000	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.023	26.31 / 18.34		201.76	126000	205000	25000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The right pre-insulated pipe systems
for large scale solar district heating
networks

**3rd international conference on Smart
Energy Systems and 4GDH**

Peter Jorsal

12 September 2017