

**Tutorial:**

# Heat Exchangers for Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycle Applications

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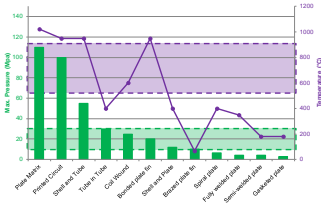
Clare Pittaway  
Dereje Shiferaw

Heatric

Shaun Sullivan  
Eric Vollnogle



# The following slides present an overview of heat exchangers in supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> applications



Heat Exchangers in sCO<sub>2</sub> power cycle applications

System Optimisation for Heat Exchangers

HEXs suited for s-CO<sub>2</sub> applications

Heat Exchanger Mechanical Design for S-CO<sub>2</sub>

Hydraulic Design with Supercritical Fluids

Questions



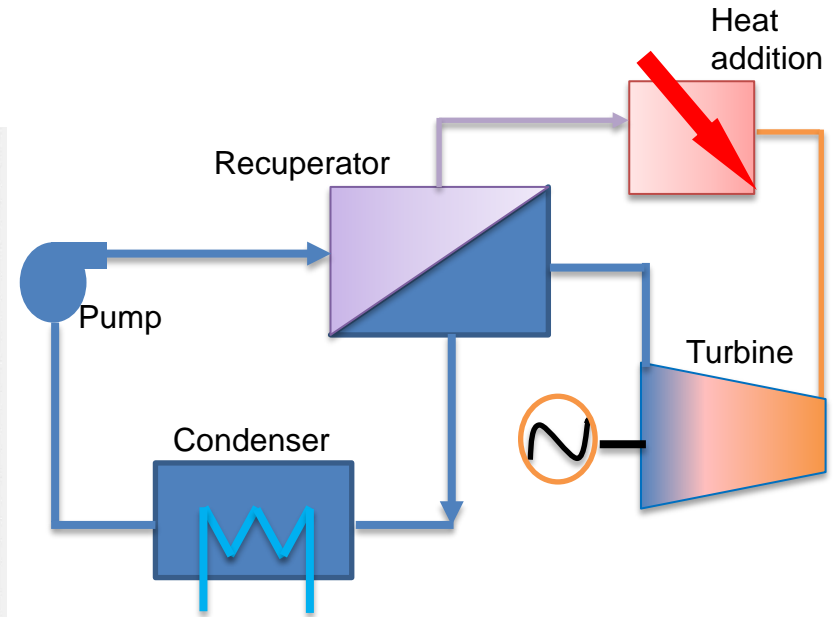
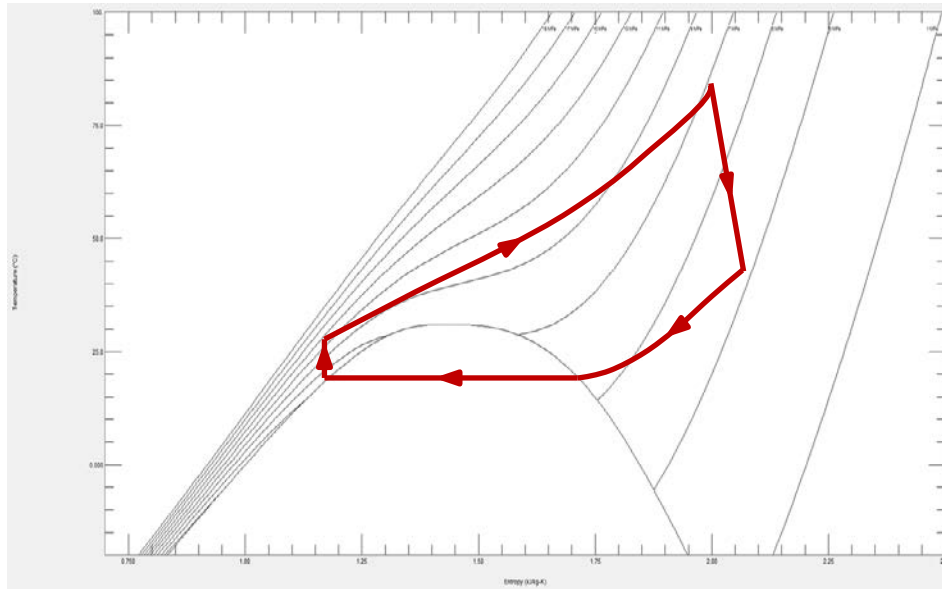
# Heat Exchangers in sCO<sub>2</sub> power cycles applications

Renaud Le Pierres

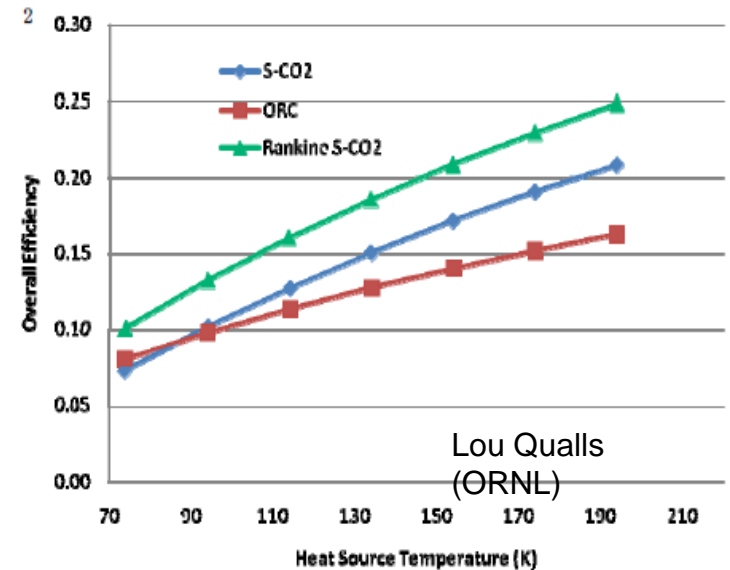
Heatric

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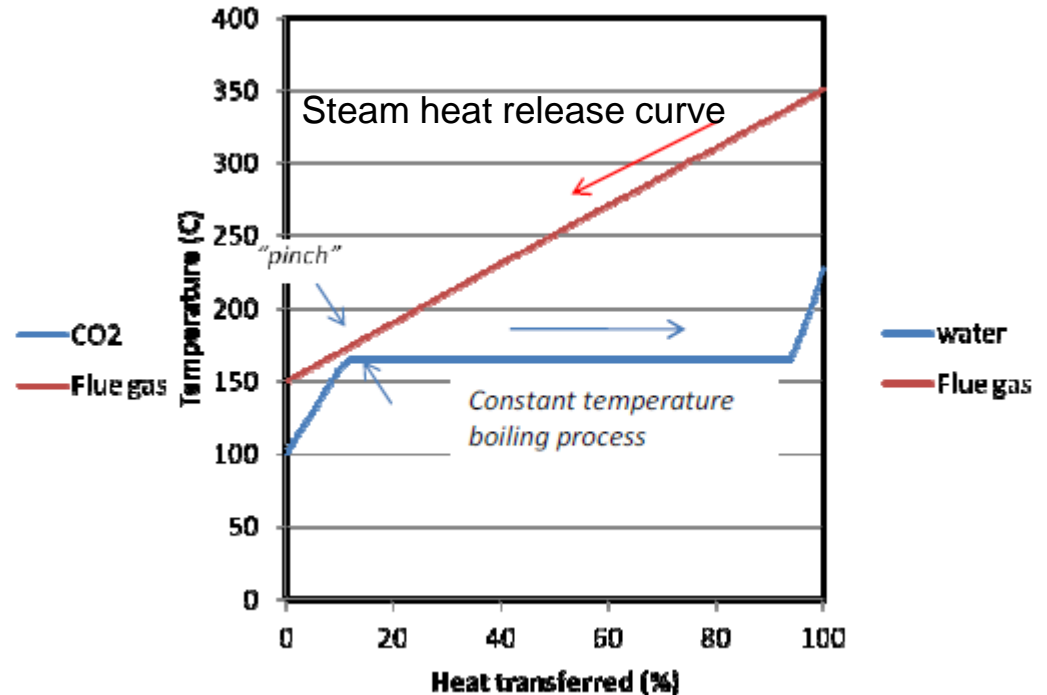
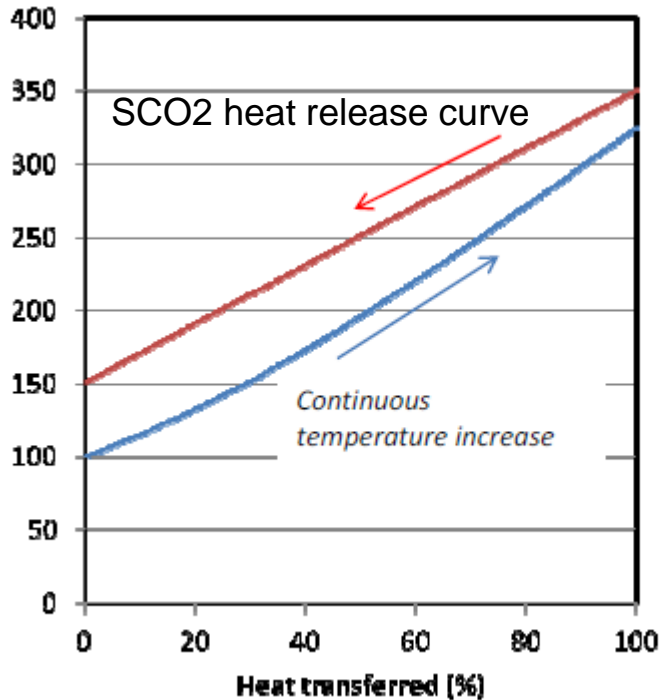
# S-CO<sub>2</sub> Rankine Cycles



- 20 – 25 % first law efficiency
- Up to 10 % more efficient than ORC
- Heat Sources include Geothermal, exhaust gasses, industrial waste, solar, etc



# Exchanger application in $\text{SCO}_2$ Cycles

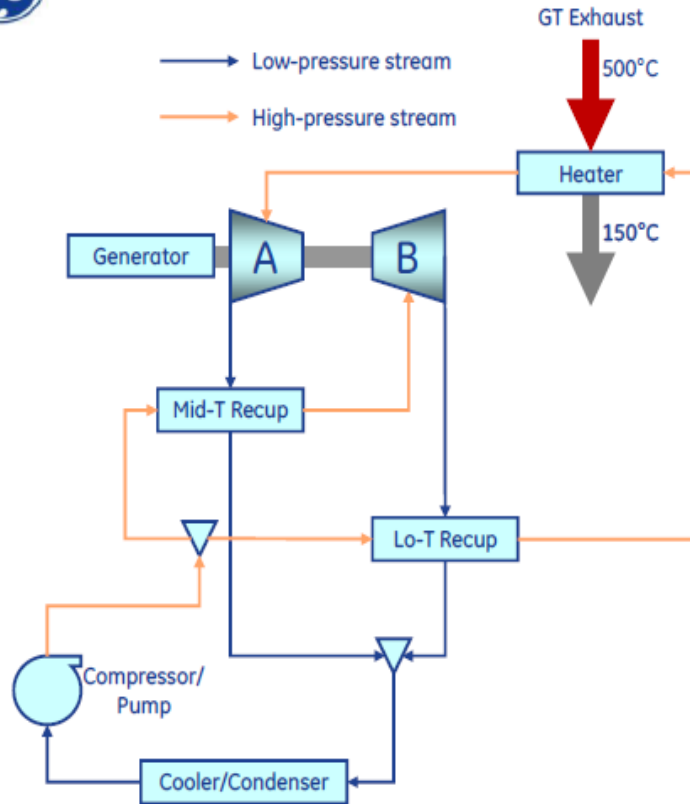


- Better heat recovery possible in  $\text{SCO}_2$  cycles with single phase exchangers
- Two phase boiling at constant temperature (steam cycles) limits close temperature approach (pinching)

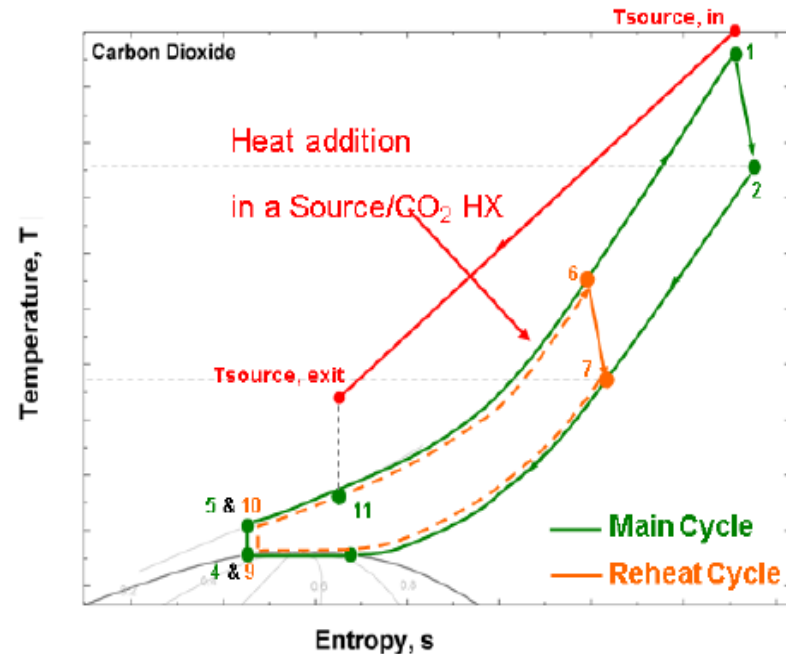
# Applications using $\text{SCO}_2$ Rankine Cycles



imagination at work

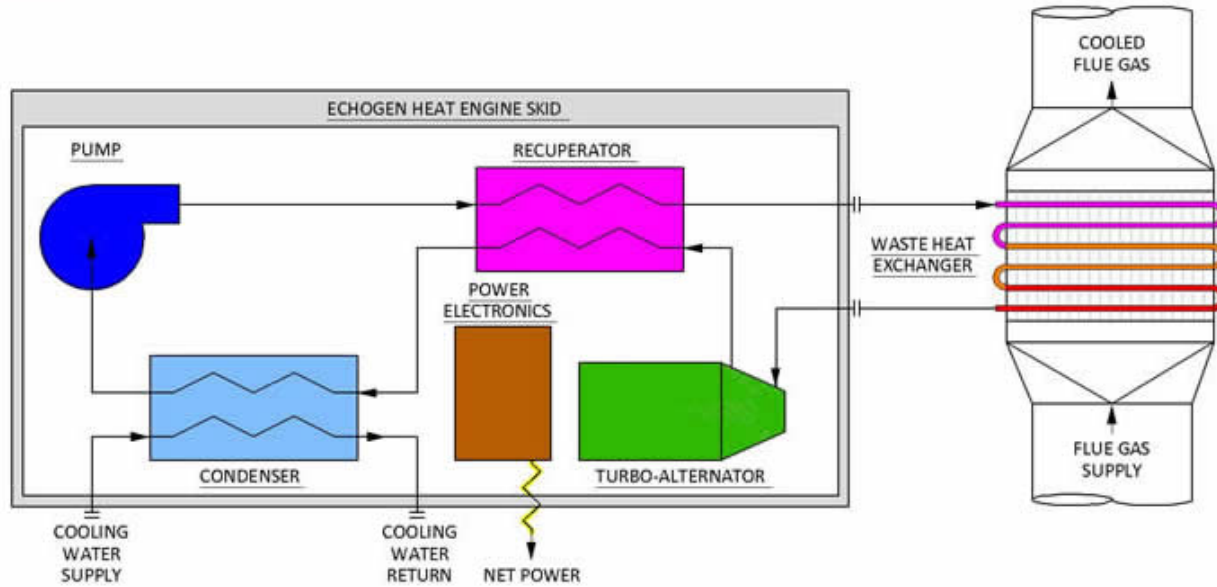


Courtesy of GE  
GRC (patent pending)



- 30% first-law efficiency
- Better utilization of exhaust energy
- 10% more power output compared to ORC
- Compact turbo-machinery with low footprint

# Echogen EPS systems



# Echogen commercialisation

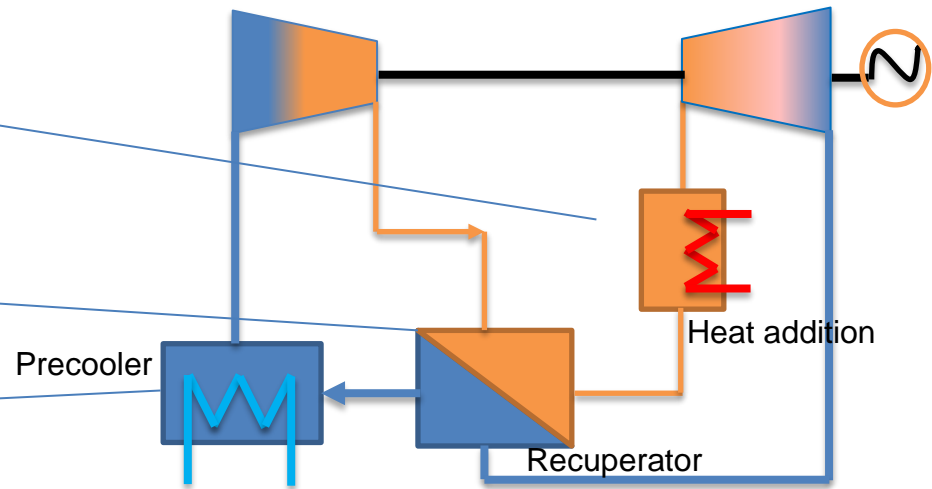
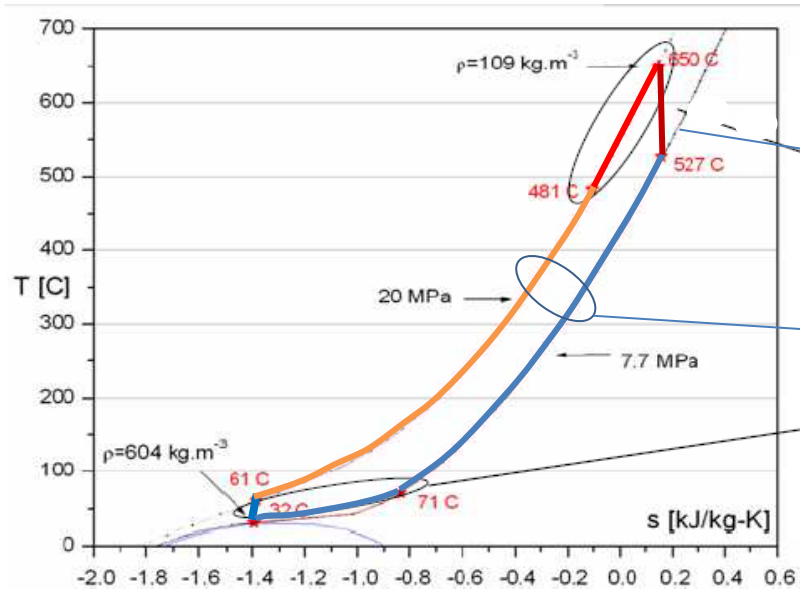
- Built and tested demonstration unit
- Since designed and built commercial scale system, EPS100 (6-8 MW)
  - Ongoing testing at Dresser Rand's facility at Olean in New York
- Similar system, EPS 7 (400kW), currently in design for commercial introduction in 2014

Echogen used compact exchangers  
>300m<sup>2</sup> heat transfer area  
~13000kg  
Core ~ 1.5 x 1.5 x 0.5 m

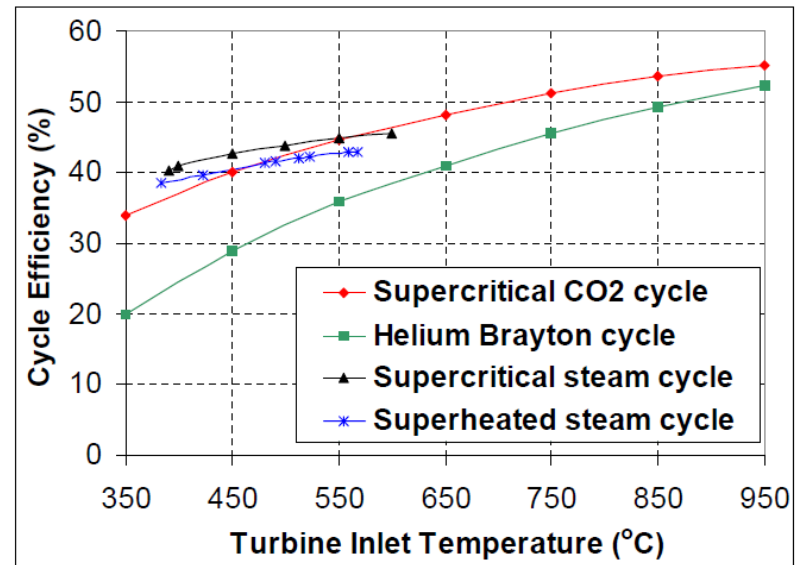
Comparable S&T:  
>850m<sup>2</sup>  
~50000kg  
Shell ~ 1.2m diameter x  
12m length



# Exchangers in SCO2 Brayton Cycles



- Better fuel-power conversion efficiency
- Require high turbine inlet temperatures for efficient operation
- Simple cycles are highly recuperative
- Compressive work takes significant portion of developed power

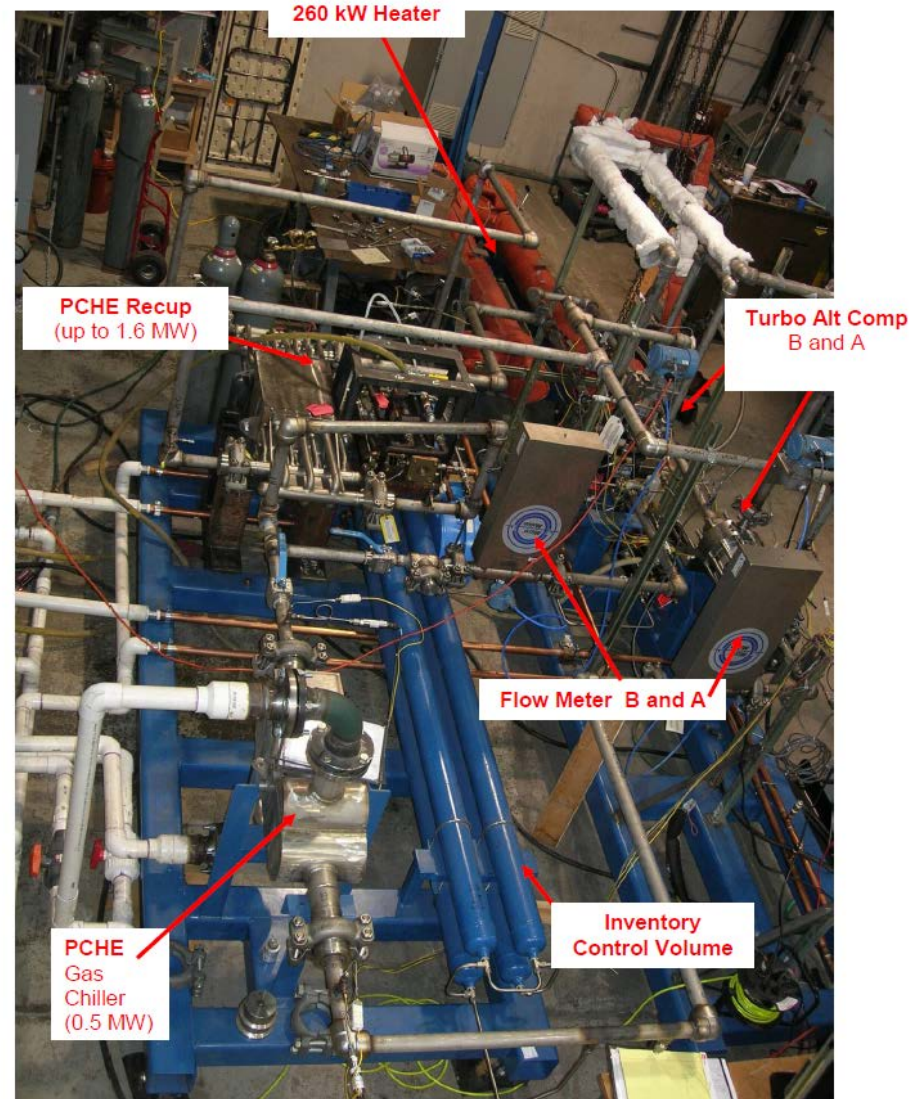
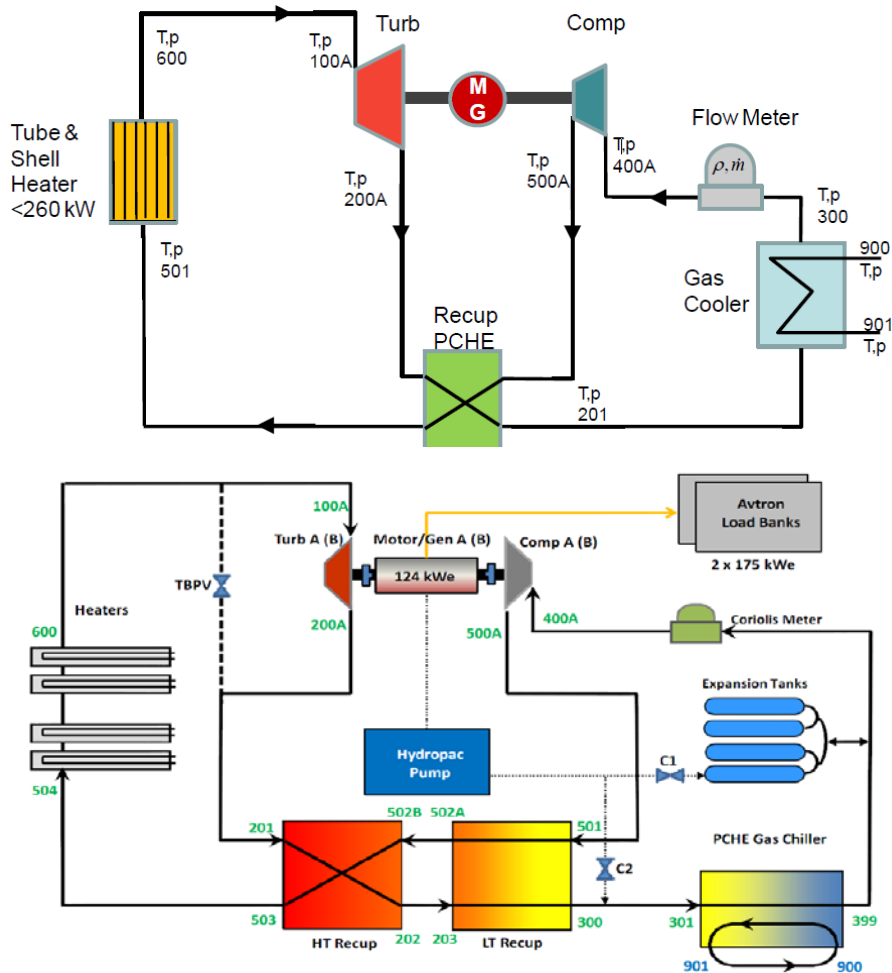


# Exchangers that can be used in Brayton cycle include

- Spiral wound exchanger
- Shell and tube
- Diffusion Bonded exchangers (plate fin and etched channels)
- Hybrid exchangers
- Finned tube and shell
- Plate and shell
- Porous media (metallic foam) exchangers

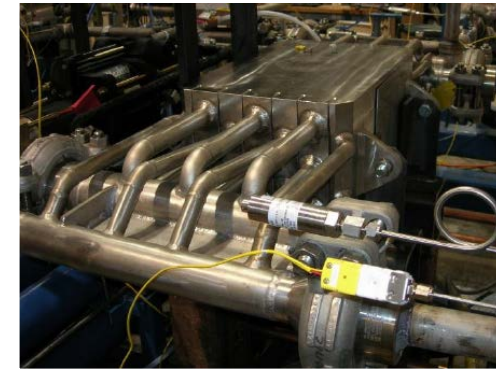
# Sandia / Barber Nichols Inc.

Sandia has built and tested simple and recompression sCO<sub>2</sub> test loops



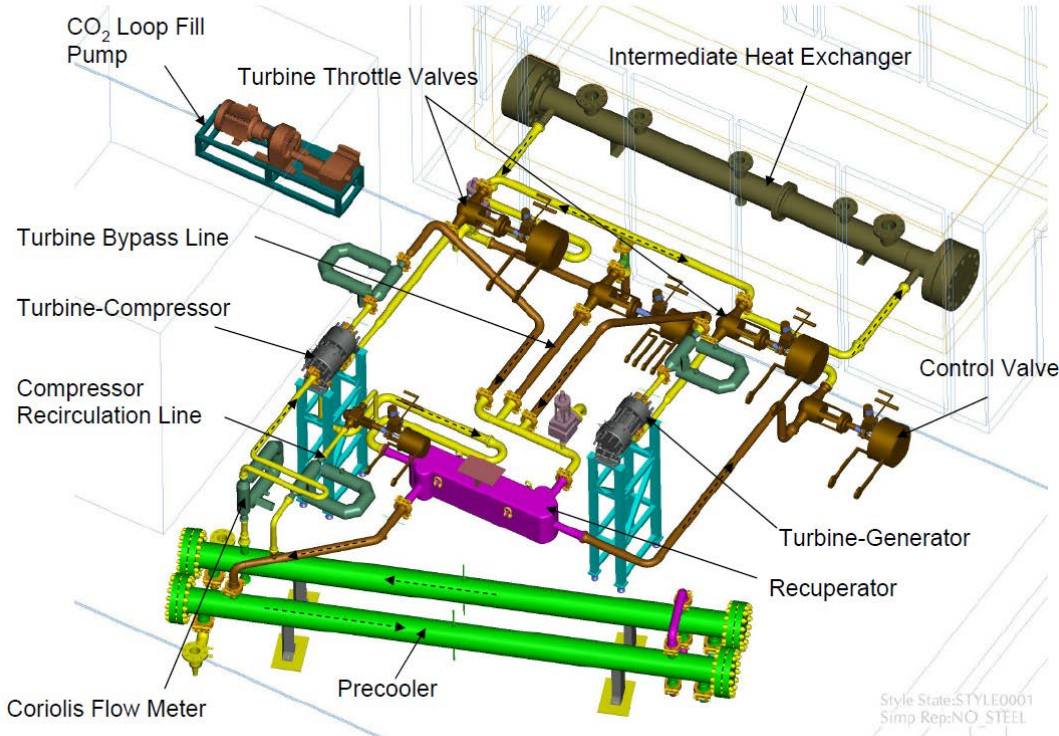
# Sandia Heat Exchangers used

- HT Recuperator
  - 2.27 MW
  - 482°C (900°F)
  - 17.24 MPa (2500 psig)
- LT Recuperator
  - 1.6 MW
  - 454°C (849°F)
  - 17.24 MPa (2500 psig)
- Gas Chiller
  - 0.53 MW
  - 149°C (300°F)
  - 19.31 MPa (2800 psig)
- 6 'Shell and Tube' heaters
  - U tubes contained resistance wire heaters

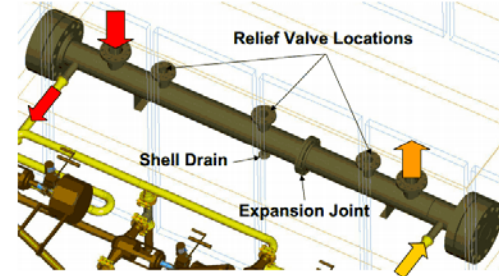


# Bechtel – Integrated Test System

## IST Physical Layout



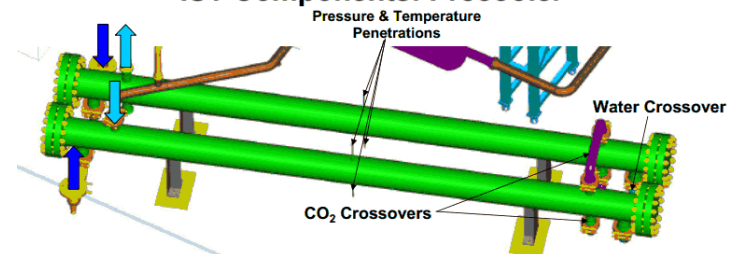
### IST Components: Intermediate Heat Exchanger



- Intermediate Heat Exchanger
  - Shell: MultiTherm PG-1
  - Tubes: CO<sub>2</sub>
  - 1 shell, 230 tubes, 3/8" OD
  - 10" NPS OD x ~17' long
  - Expansion joint to accommodate differential thermal growth

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### IST Components: Precooler



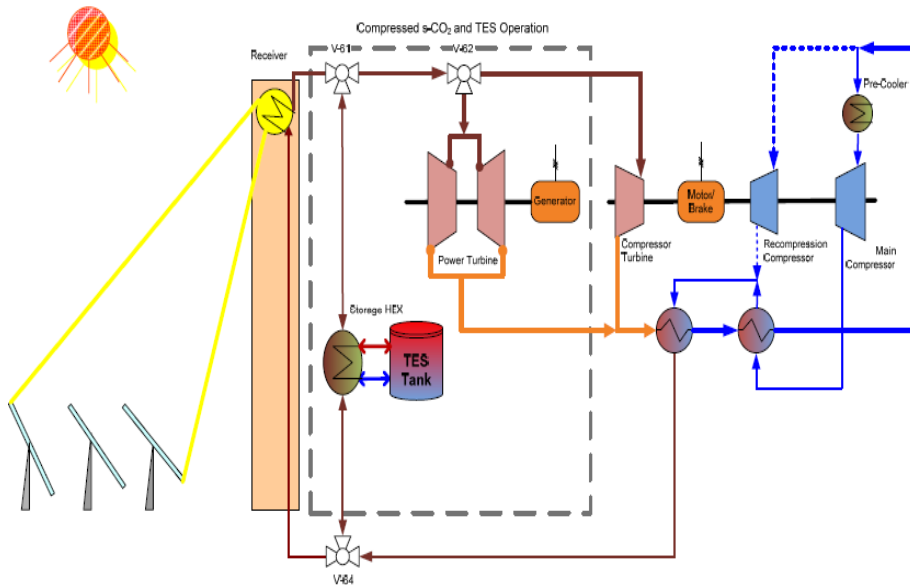
- Precooler
  - Shell: CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Tubes: H<sub>2</sub>O
  - 2 shells, 77 tubes each, 5/8" OD
  - 10" NPS OD x ~19' long
  - Locations for temperature and pressure measurements at the center of each shell



11

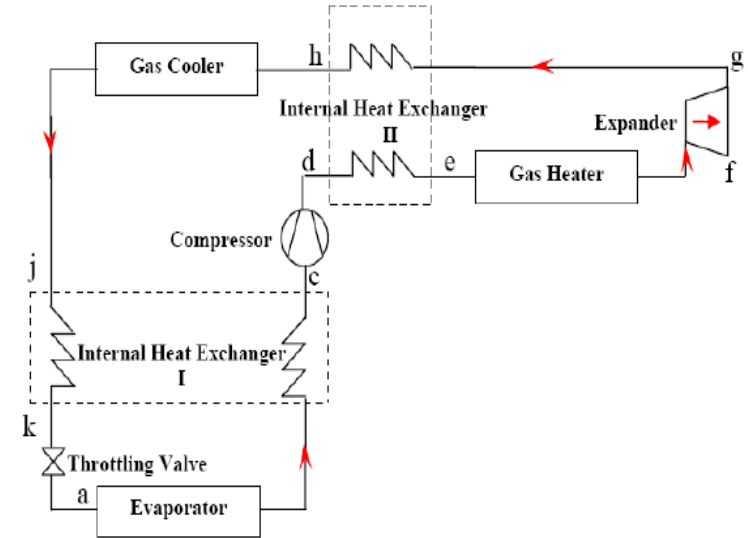
# Other Advanced SCO<sub>2</sub> power cycles include

CSP closed-loop recompression Brayton cycle with thermal storage



Modular power tower design

Cooling and power Combined cycles

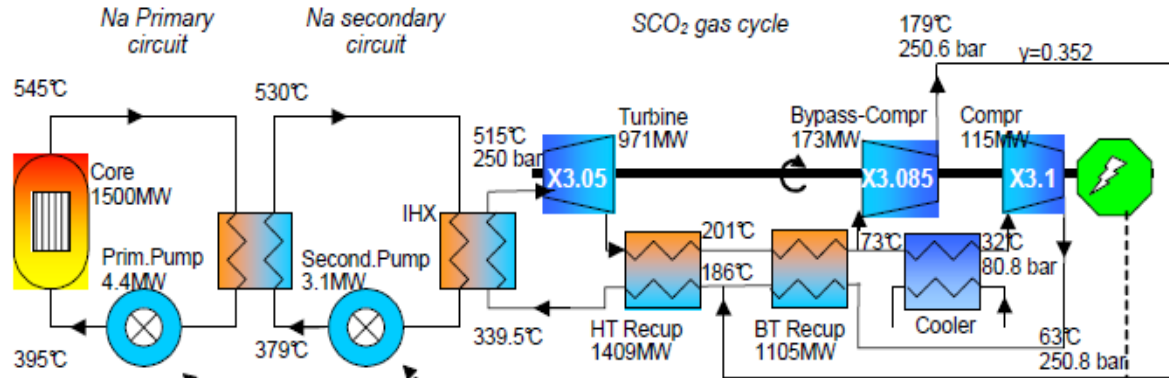


Tri-generation if the gas cooler provides heating service

The lower thermal mass makes startup and load change faster for frequent start up/shut down operations and load adaption than a HTF/steam based system

# S-CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Power conversion for SFRs

CEA Astrid test program- research shows significant efficiency increase using SCO<sub>2</sub> (43.6%) compared to existing (180 bar) N<sub>2</sub> cycle (37.8%)



N. Alpy et al. (2011)

Electrical grid  
Net efficiency **43.6%**

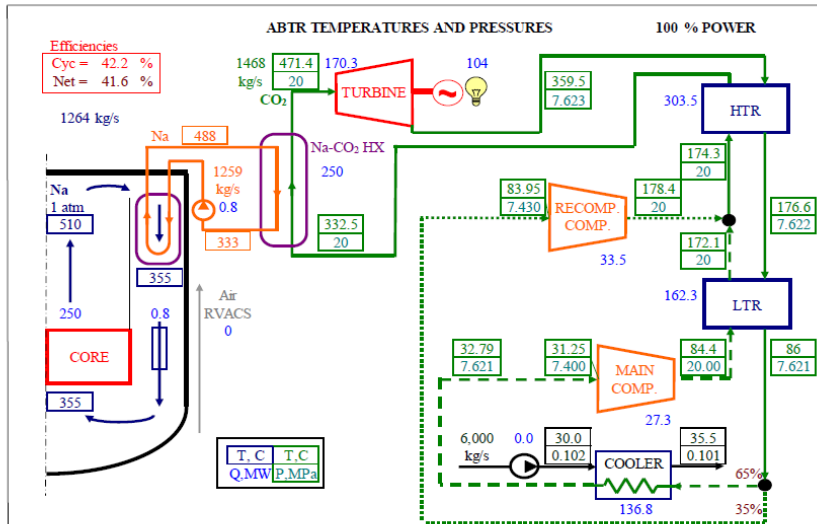
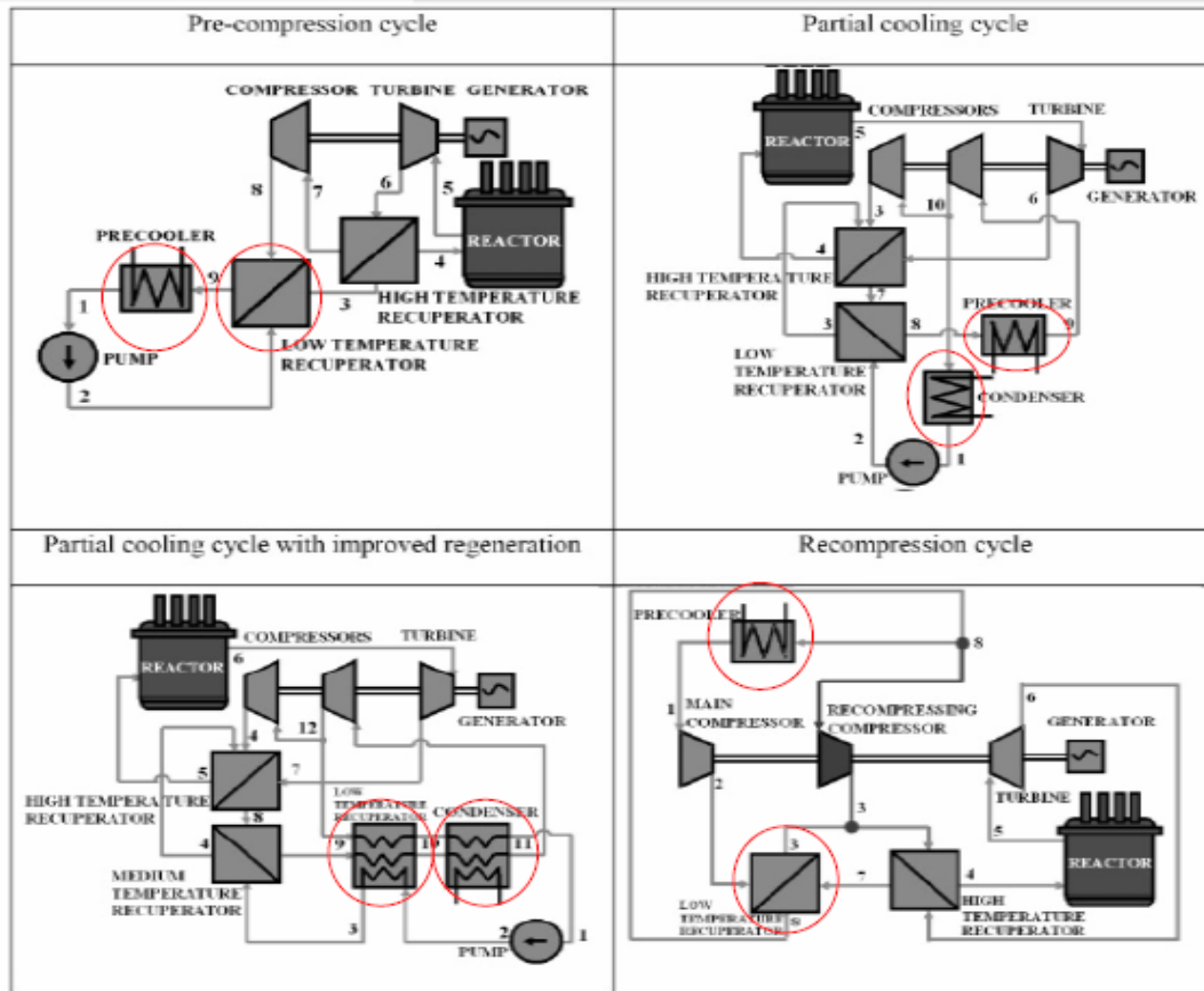


Figure 21. S-CO<sub>2</sub> Cycle Performance with "Ideal" Heat Exchangers.

Advanced Burner Test Reactor (ABTR) concept design study by ANL.  
Potential efficiency increase to 45%

ANL-GenIV-103 report

# Future modifications to advanced cycles will require more heat exchanger applications



(Dostal et al. 2006)



# System Optimisation for Heat Exchangers

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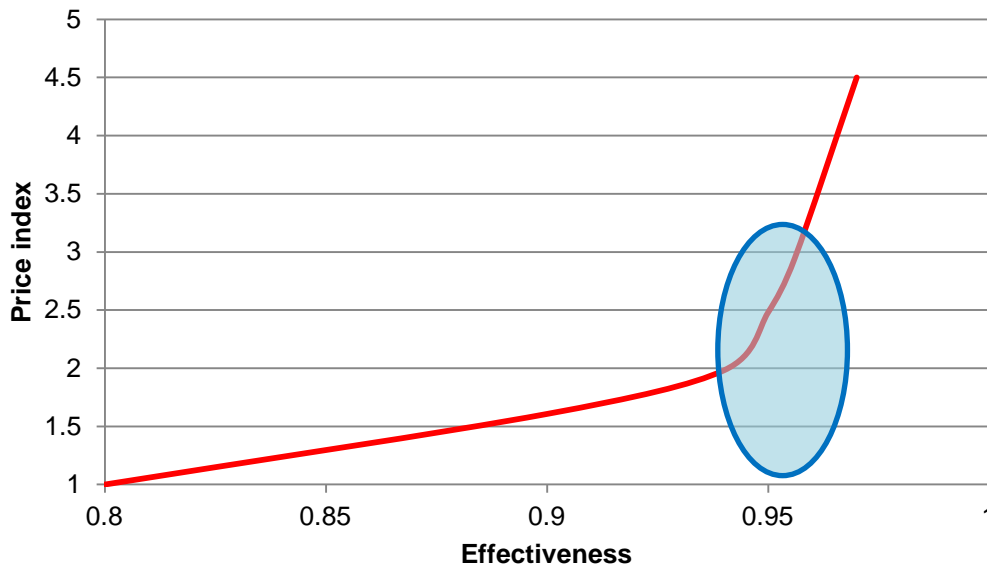
# Heat exchanger design considerations

- Plant efficiency vs CAPEX
  - Close temperature approach requires high effectiveness recuperators
  - Higher design temp requires high nickel alloy
- Large property changes require sensitivity checks
  - Operating conditions
  - Pressure levels
- Off design points including turn-down conditions needs to be analysed for avoiding pinch point and reversal

# Heat exchangers currently form a large part of the overall system cost

CAPEX vs OPEX studies are required to find optimum operating point of the system

- Temperature approach and pressure drop both greatly affect price

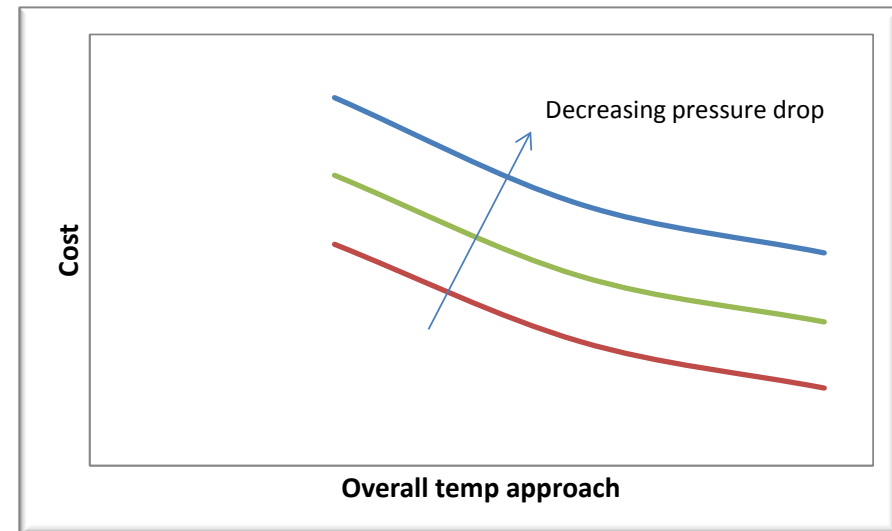


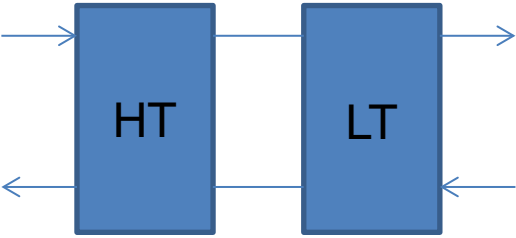
$$Eff = 1 - \frac{\Delta T}{T_{hi} - T_{ci}}$$

Where  $\Delta T$  = minimum temperature approach

Pinch point varies per technology type. Graph shown for PCHE.

Optimum point varies depending on process conditions and technology type used

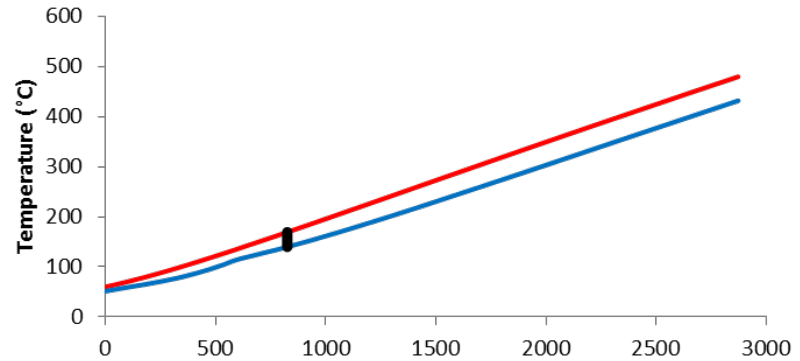




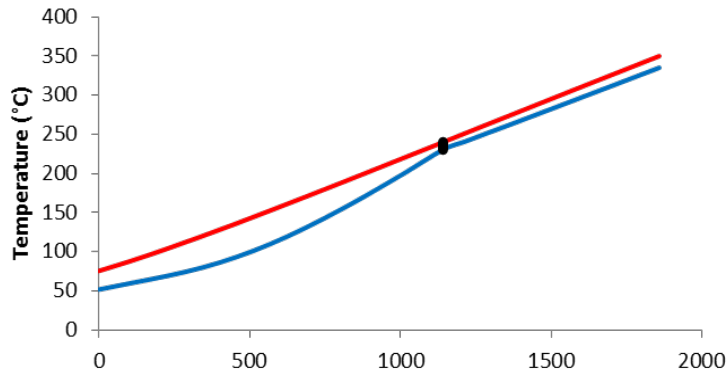
# Design Cases need careful consideration

Reducing the inlet temperature away from the designed operating temperature can drastically change heat curve.

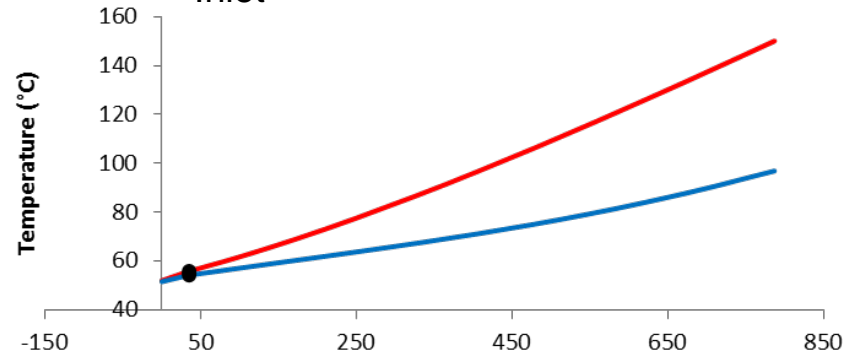
If lowered to much will cause pinch point in HT exchanger. Leaving LT exchanger redundant.



Design conditions: 480°C Inlet



350°C Inlet



150°C Inlet

# HEXs suited for s-CO<sub>2</sub> applications

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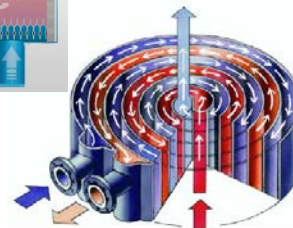
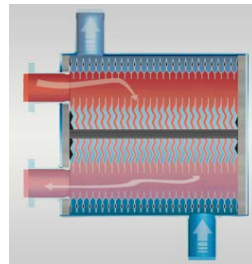
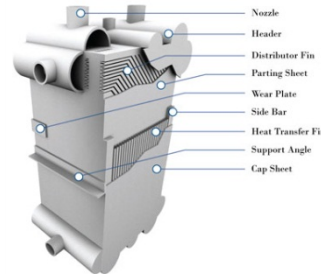
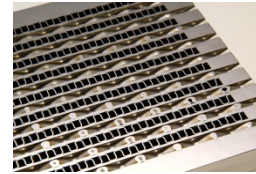
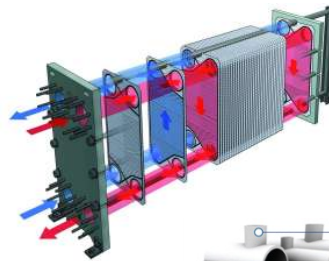
[Renaud.lepierres@meggitt.com](mailto:Renaud.lepierres@meggitt.com)

# Exchanger Categories

## Shell and Tube



## Compact



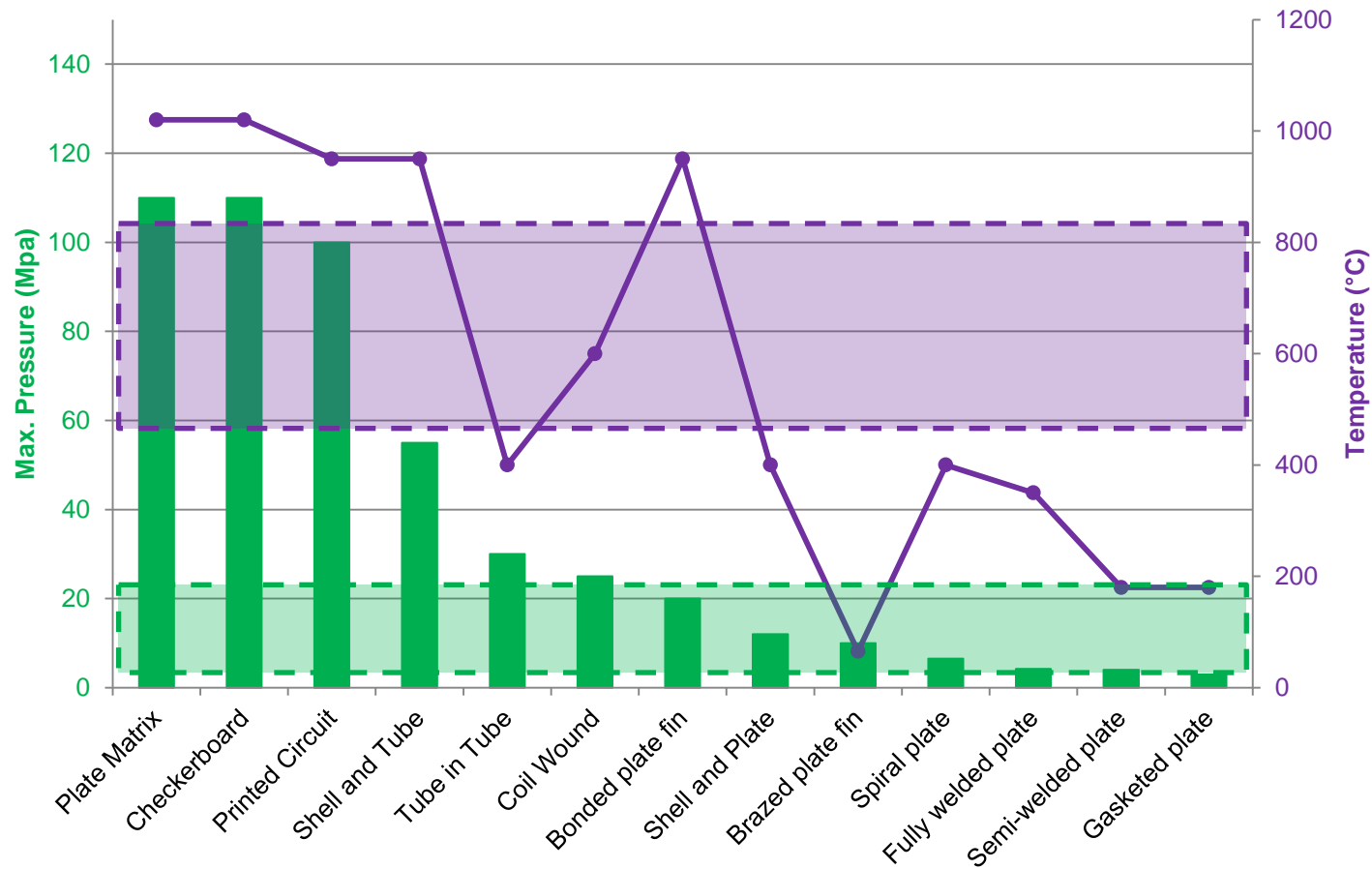
## Air Cooled



# General Overview

Exchanger type	Advantages	Disadvantages
Shell & Tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Most commonly available</li><li>- Wide range of design conditions</li><li>- Versatile in service</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Lower thermal efficiency</li><li>- Subject to vibration issues</li><li>- Large overall footprint</li></ul>
Compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Low initial purchase cost</li><li>- Multiple configurations available</li><li>- High thermal efficiency</li><li>- Small overall footprint</li><li>- Wide range of design conditions</li><li>- High mechanical integrity</li><li>- Thermo-mechanical strain tolerance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Low mechanical integrity</li><li>- <i>Small flow channels*</i></li><li>- Single source (mfg)</li></ul>

# Temperature and Pressure ranges of different Heat Exchanger types



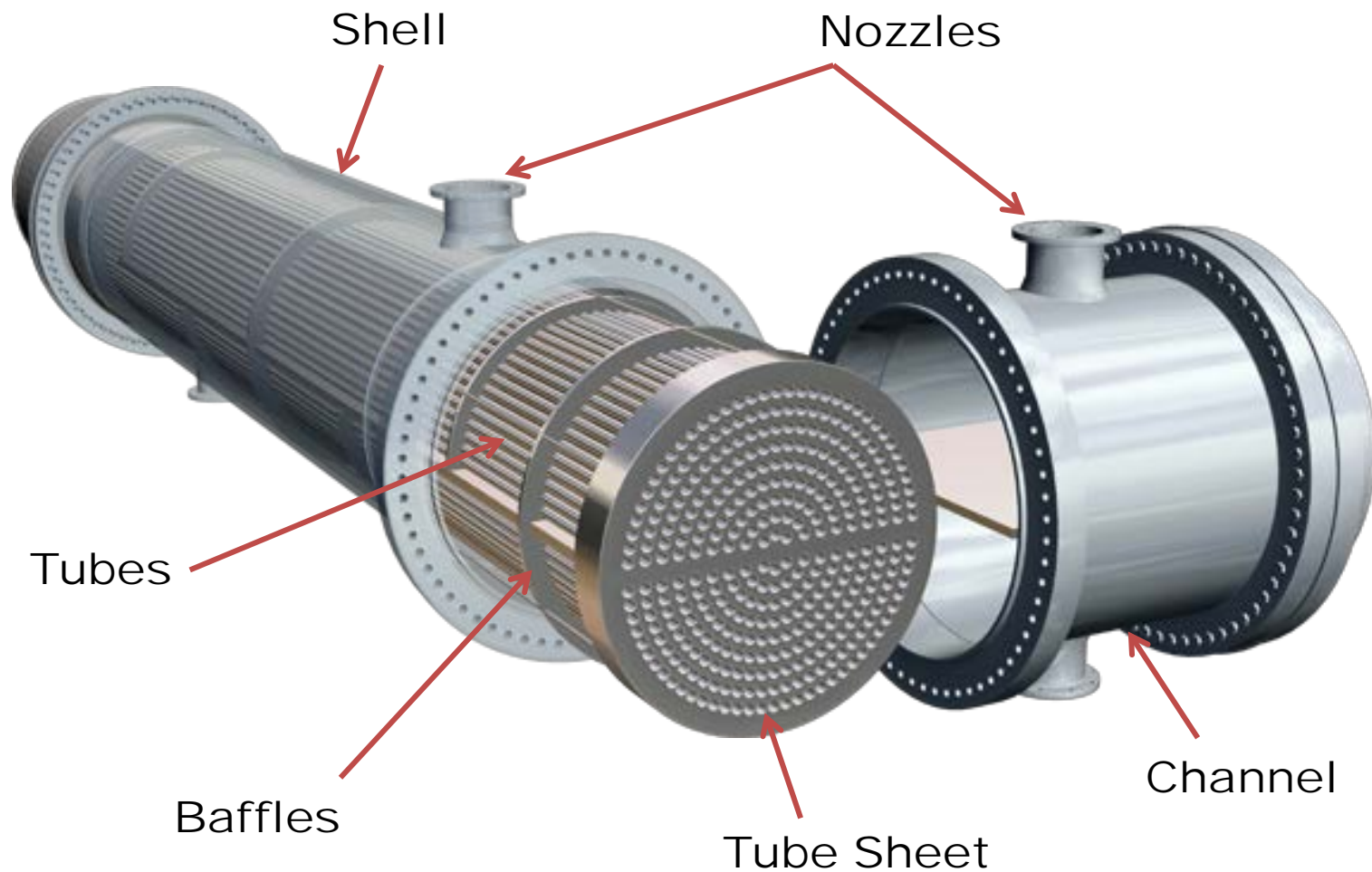
Data gathered from heat exchanger manufacturers websites. Note temperature and pressure are listed as separate items, it is not normally possible to achieve both these values together.



# Shell & Tube



# Main Components



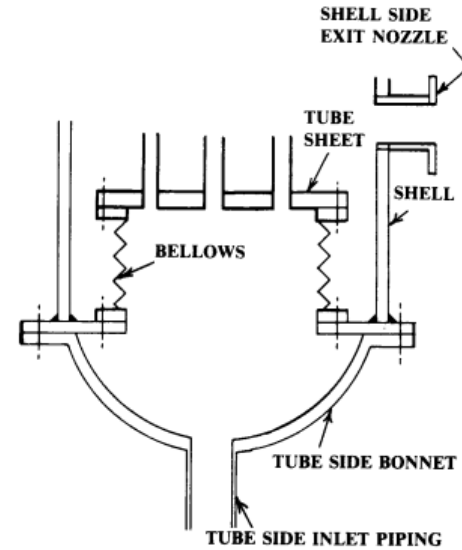
# Spiral Wound

- Components/construction
  - Spiral tube bundle
  - Tube spacers
  - Headers and piping to tubes
  - Shell
  - Headers and nozzles
  - Centre pipe (Mandrel)

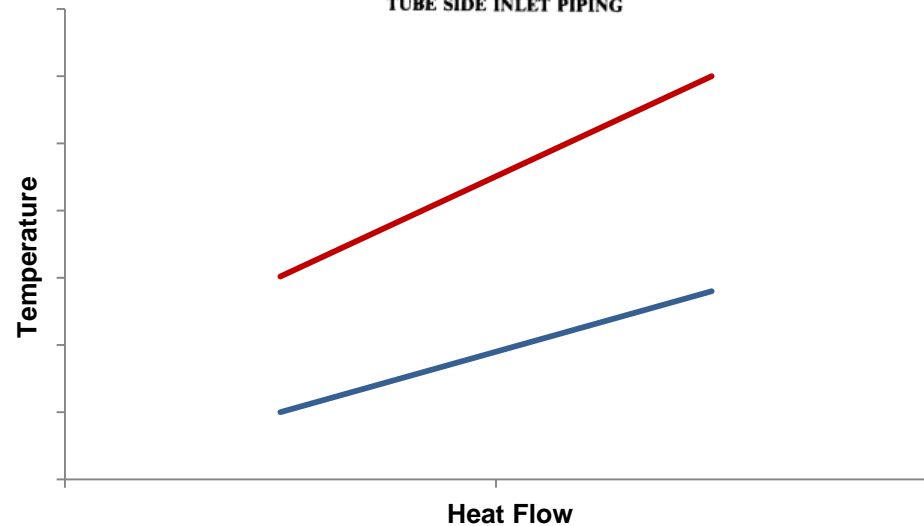


# Design considerations for sCO<sub>2</sub> application

- High Temp - Thermal Stress
  - Expansion Joint
  - Internal Bellows
  - U-Tube design
  - Floating Head
- Temperature approach
  - Baffles
  - Multiple Shells



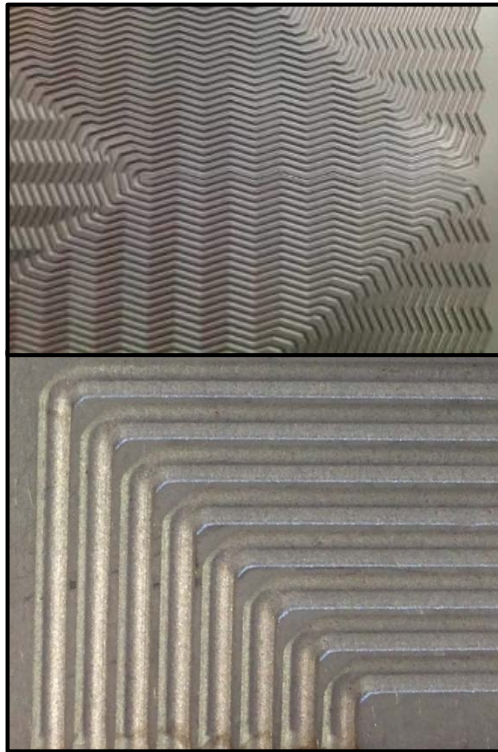
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Heatric

Heatric PCHE

MEGGITT



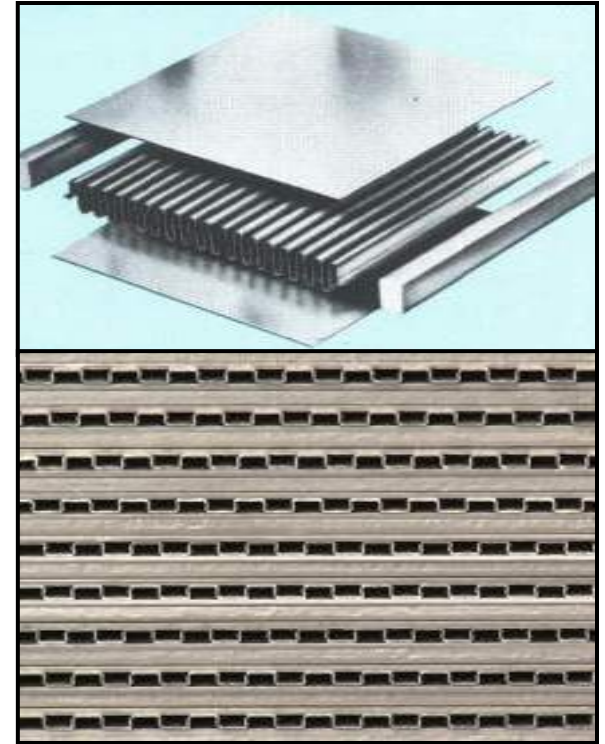
PCHE

Printed Circuit Heat Exchanger



H<sup>2</sup>X

Hybrid



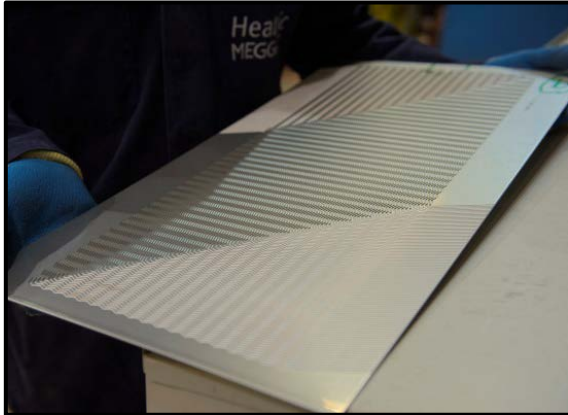
FPHE

Formed Plate Heat Exchanger

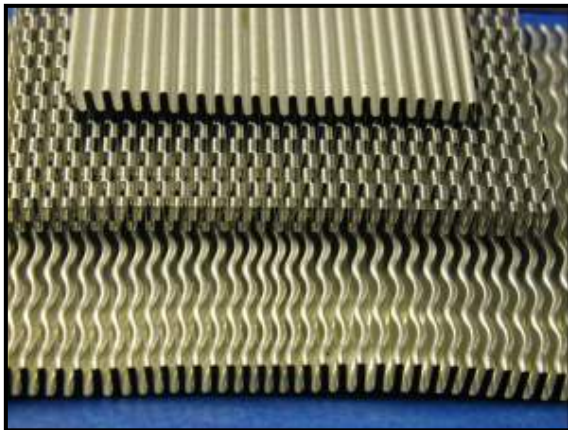


Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Symac 111

# Main Components



Etched plates  
Or  
Formed plates

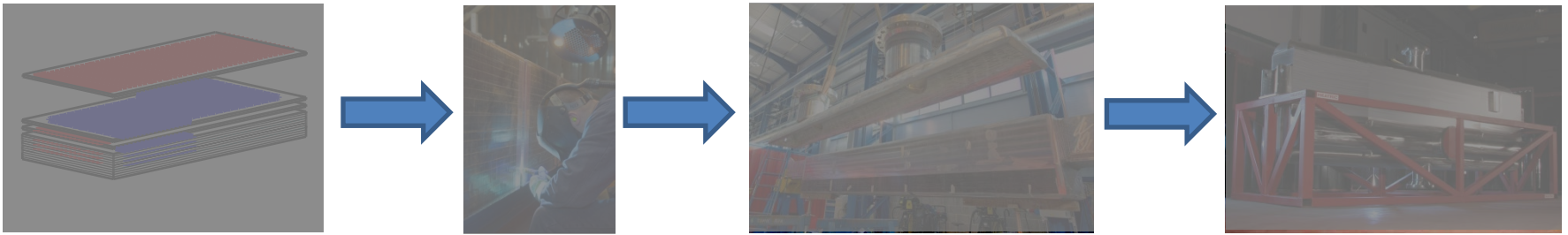


Diffusion  
bonded core

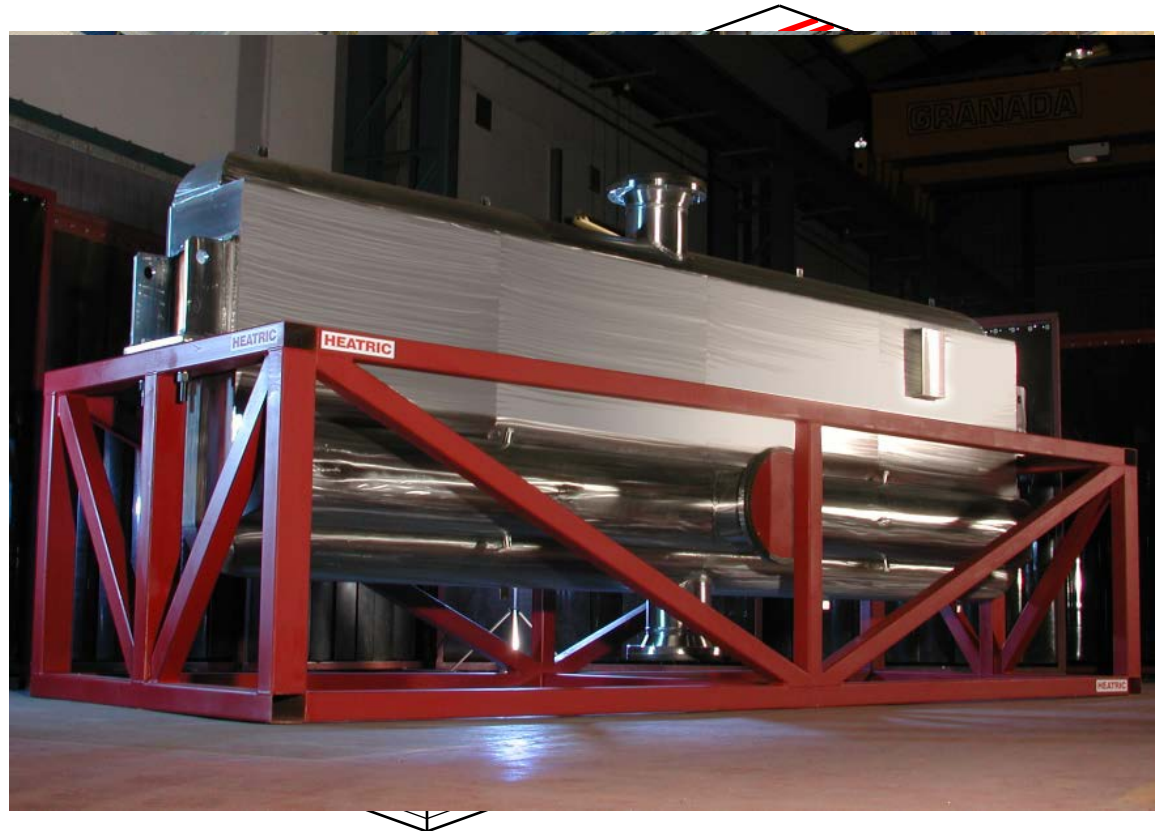


Headers,  
nozzles,  
flanges

# Construction



1. Stack and Diffusion Bond Core
2. Block to block joints
3. Assemble headers, nozzles and flanges
4. Weld headers, nozzles and flanges to core



# Core Details

## Current Typical Dimensions

Channel Depth – 1.1 mm

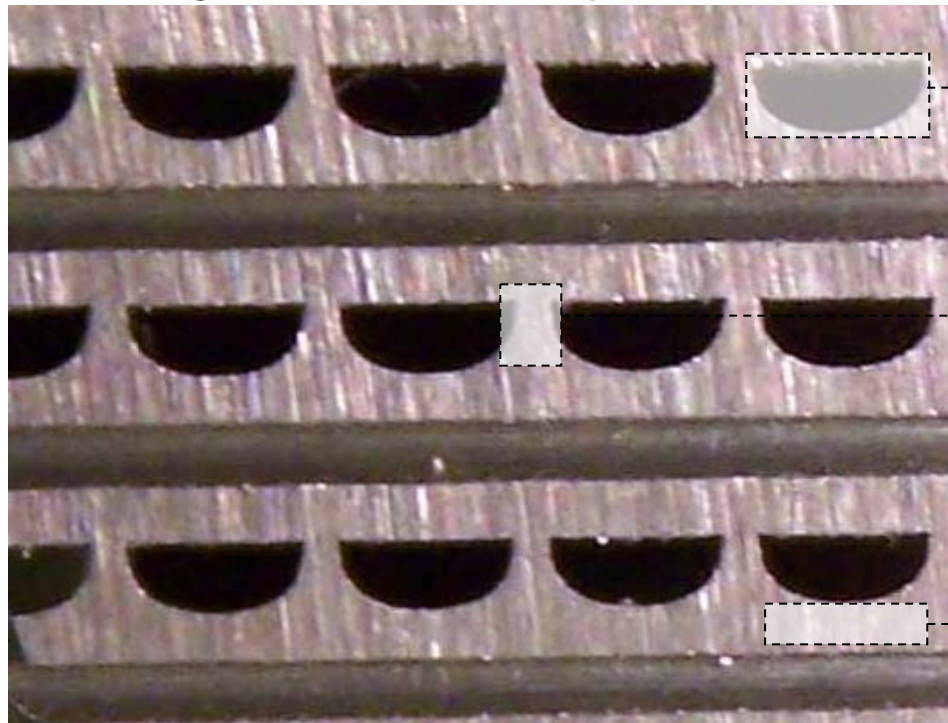
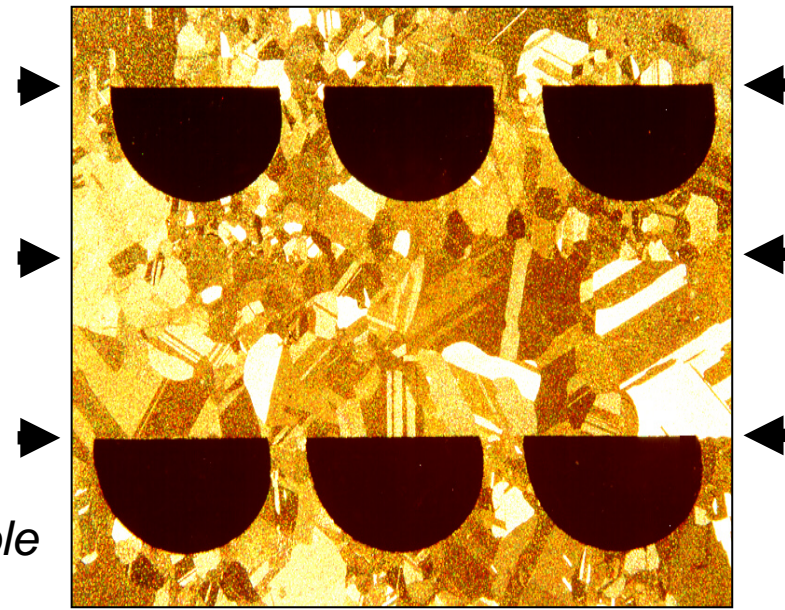
Plate Thickness – 1.69 mm

Individual core block – 600 x 600 x 1500 mm

Total unit length – 8500 mm

Hydraulic Diameter – 1.5 mm

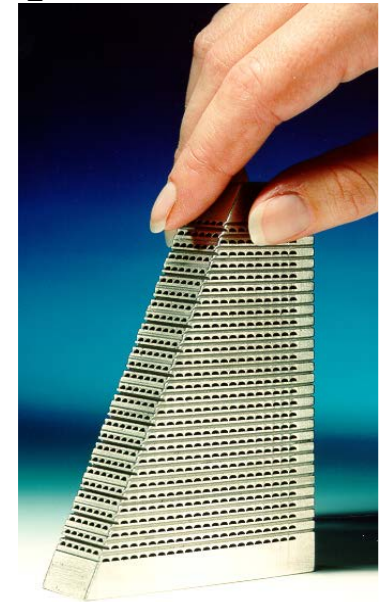
*Cores are bespoke designed and values are variable depending on thermal and hydraulic requirements*



Channel/Passage

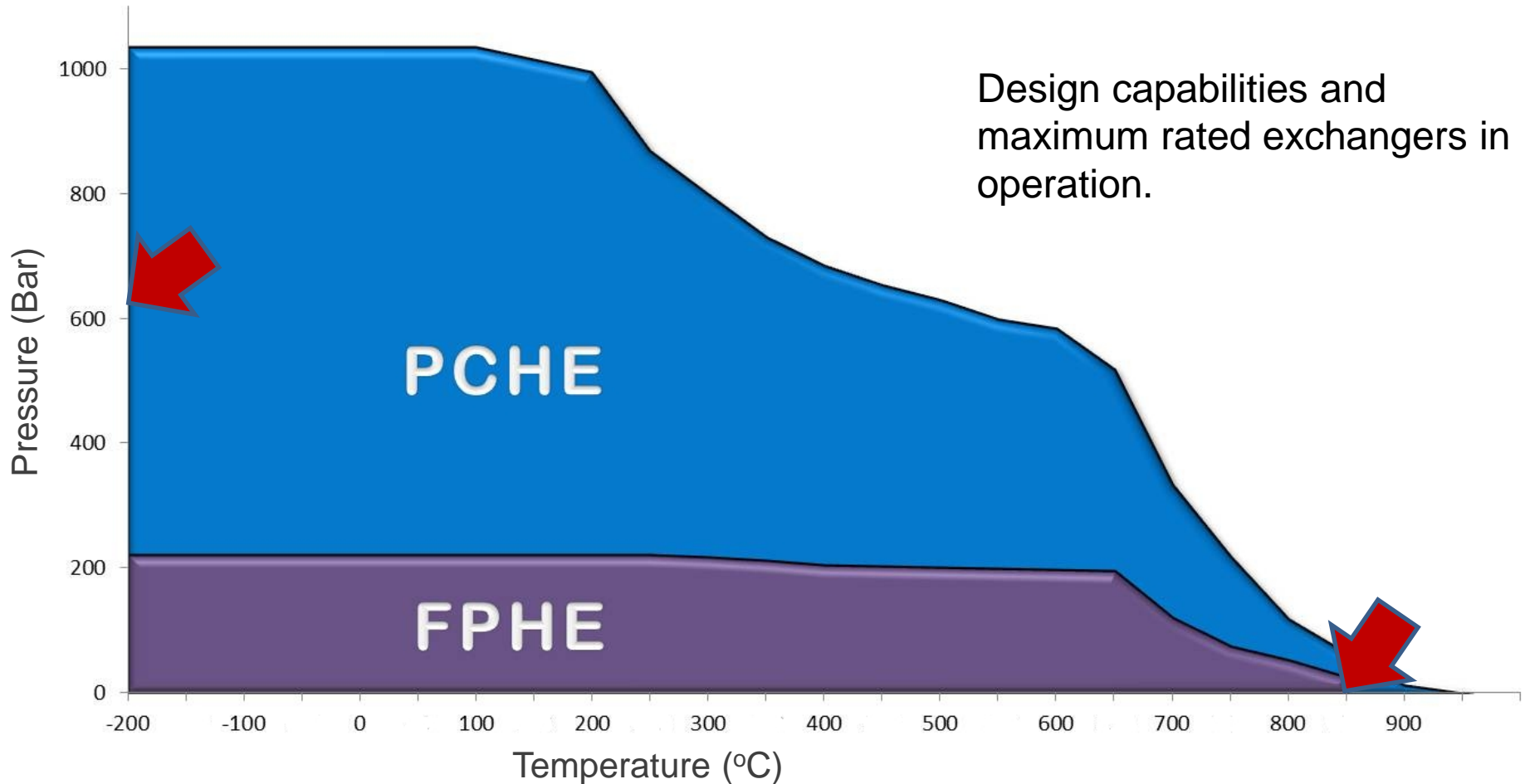
Ridge

Wall





# Operating Conditions



# Heat Exchanger Types

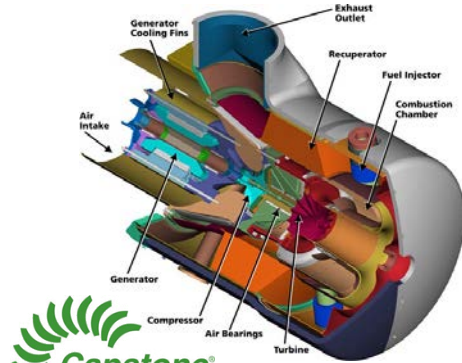
## *Continued*

James Nash

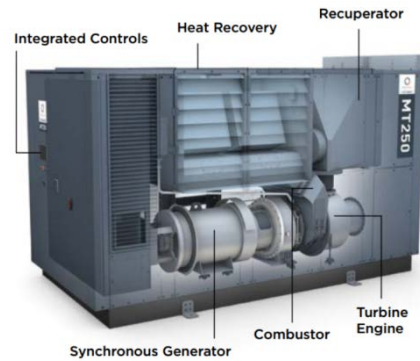


[Nash@braytonenergy.com](mailto:Nash@braytonenergy.com)

# Plate-Matrix Heat Exchangers – An Overview



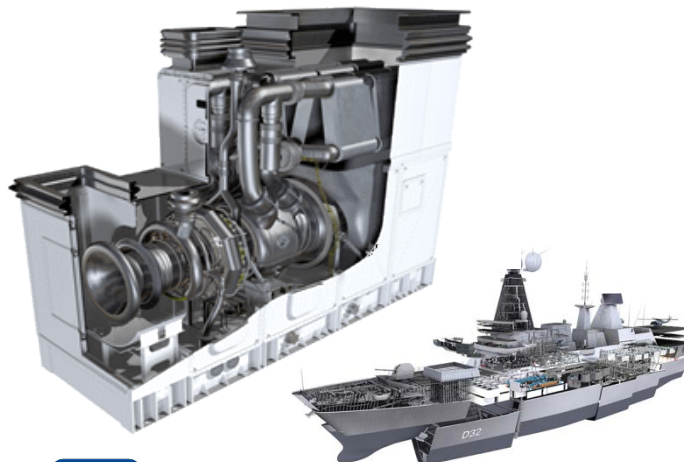
**Capstone**  
(30, 65, and 200 kW)



**FLEXENERGY**  
(250 and 333 kW)



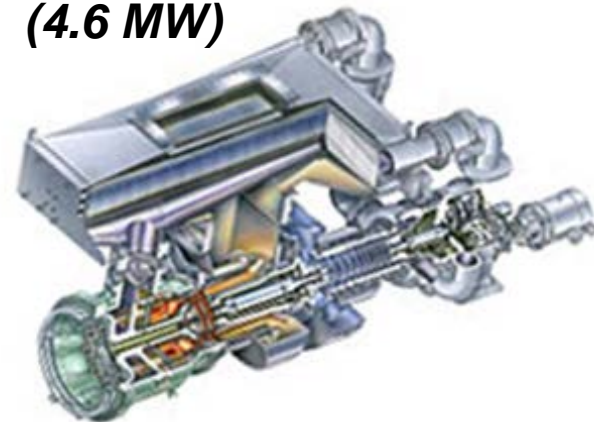
**IR Ingersoll Rand**  
(70 and 250 kW)



**Rolls-Royce**  
WR-21 (25.2 MW)

**Solar Turbines**  
A Caterpillar Company

**Mercury-50**  
(4.6 MW)



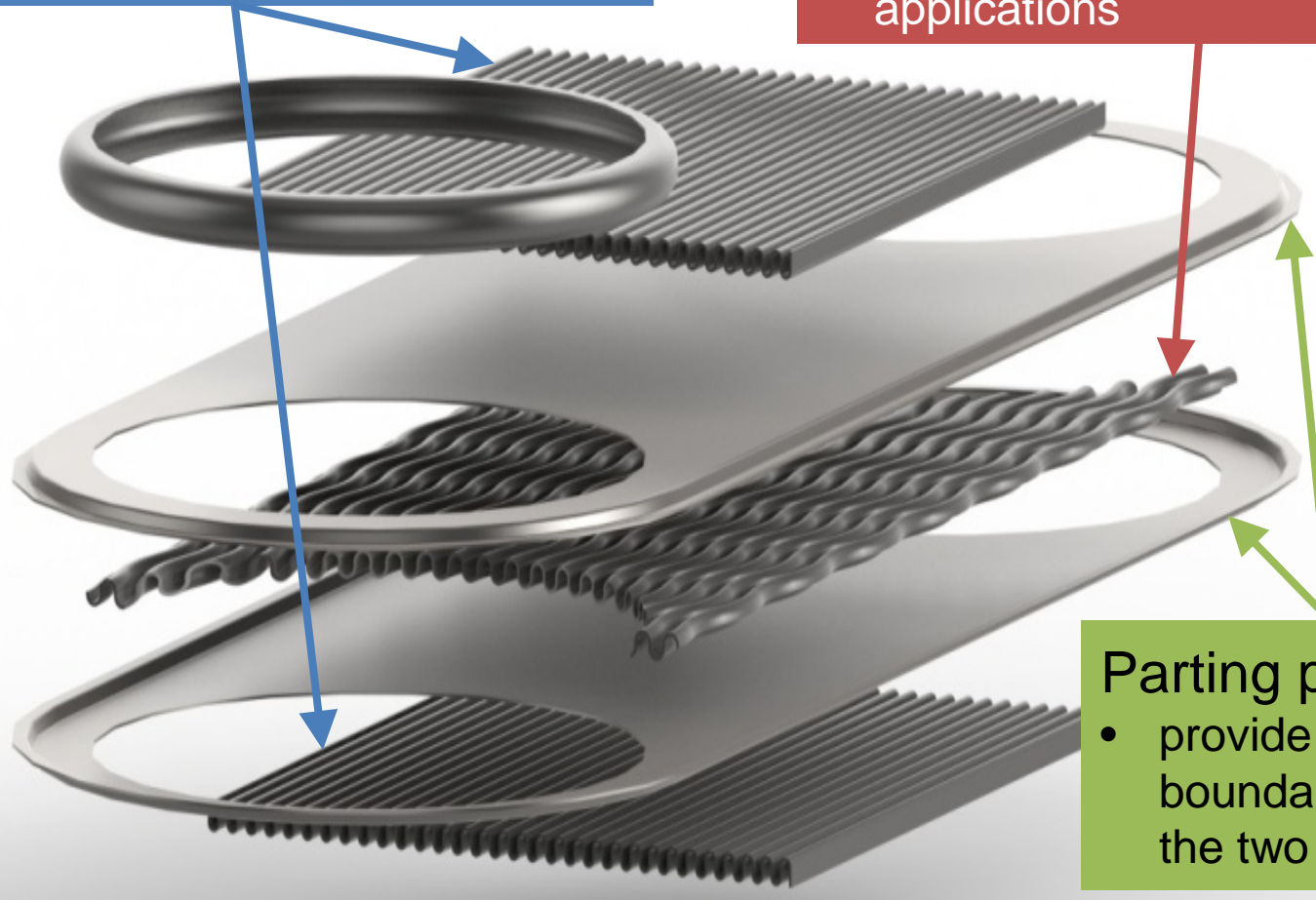
# The Plate-Matrix Unit Cell

## External low-pressure matrices

- Enhances the heat transfer of the low-pressure fluid as it flows between adjacent unit cells

## Internal high-pressure matrix

- Enhances the heat transfer of the high pressure fluid as it flows between the two parting plates
- Can serve as structural features for high-pressure (sCO<sub>2</sub>) applications

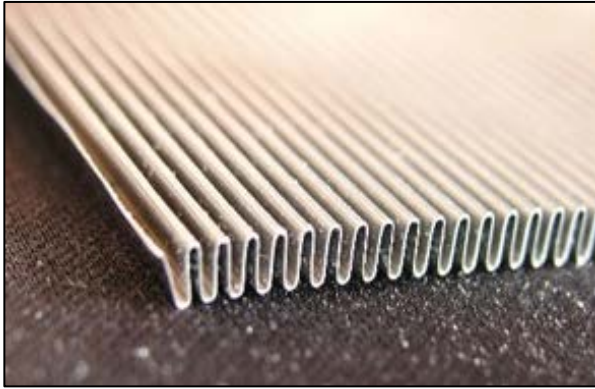


## Parting plates

- provide fluid boundary between the two flows

# Heat Transfer Matrices

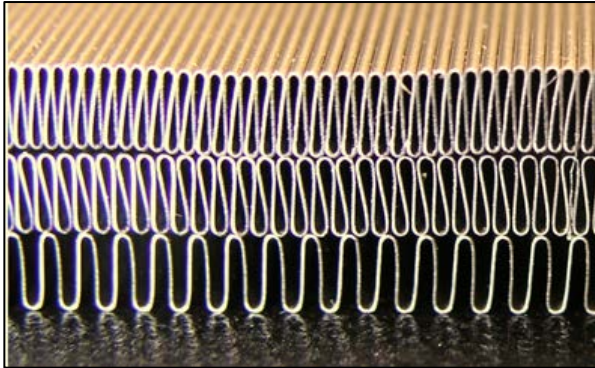
## Straight Fin



## WavyFin



## Wire Mesh

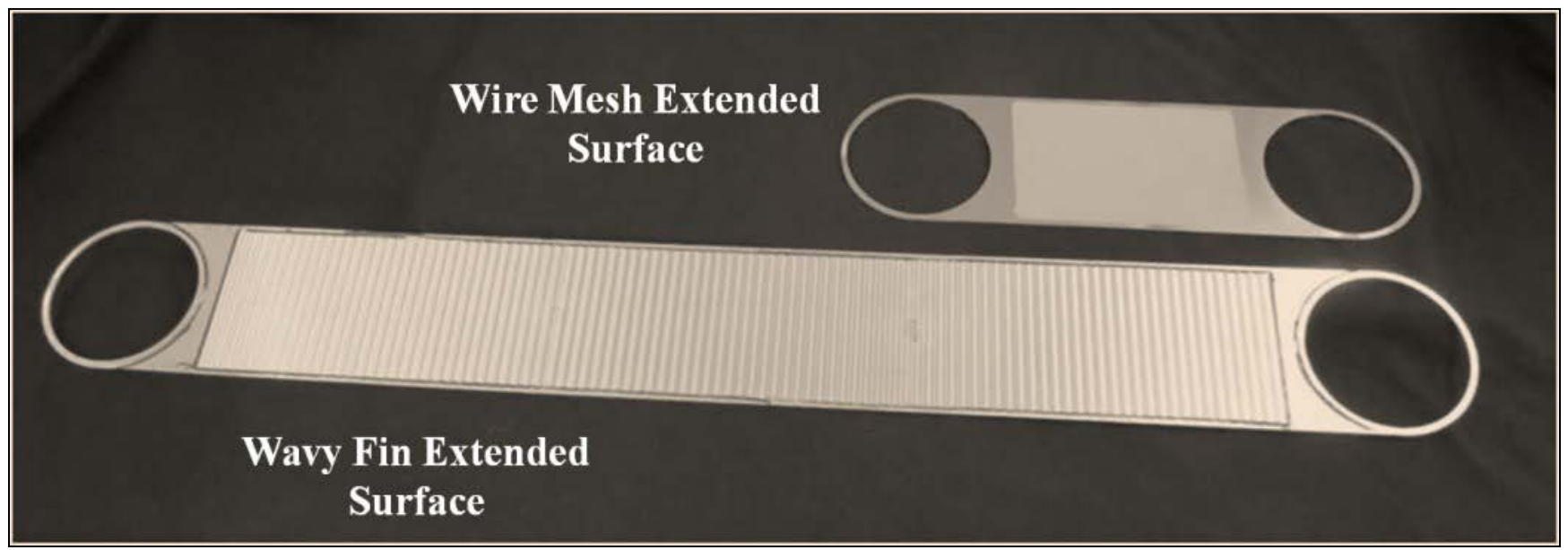


***Plate-Matrix Heat Exchangers***

# Choosing a Matrix

- Cost
- Mass
- Footprint
- Size (Volume)

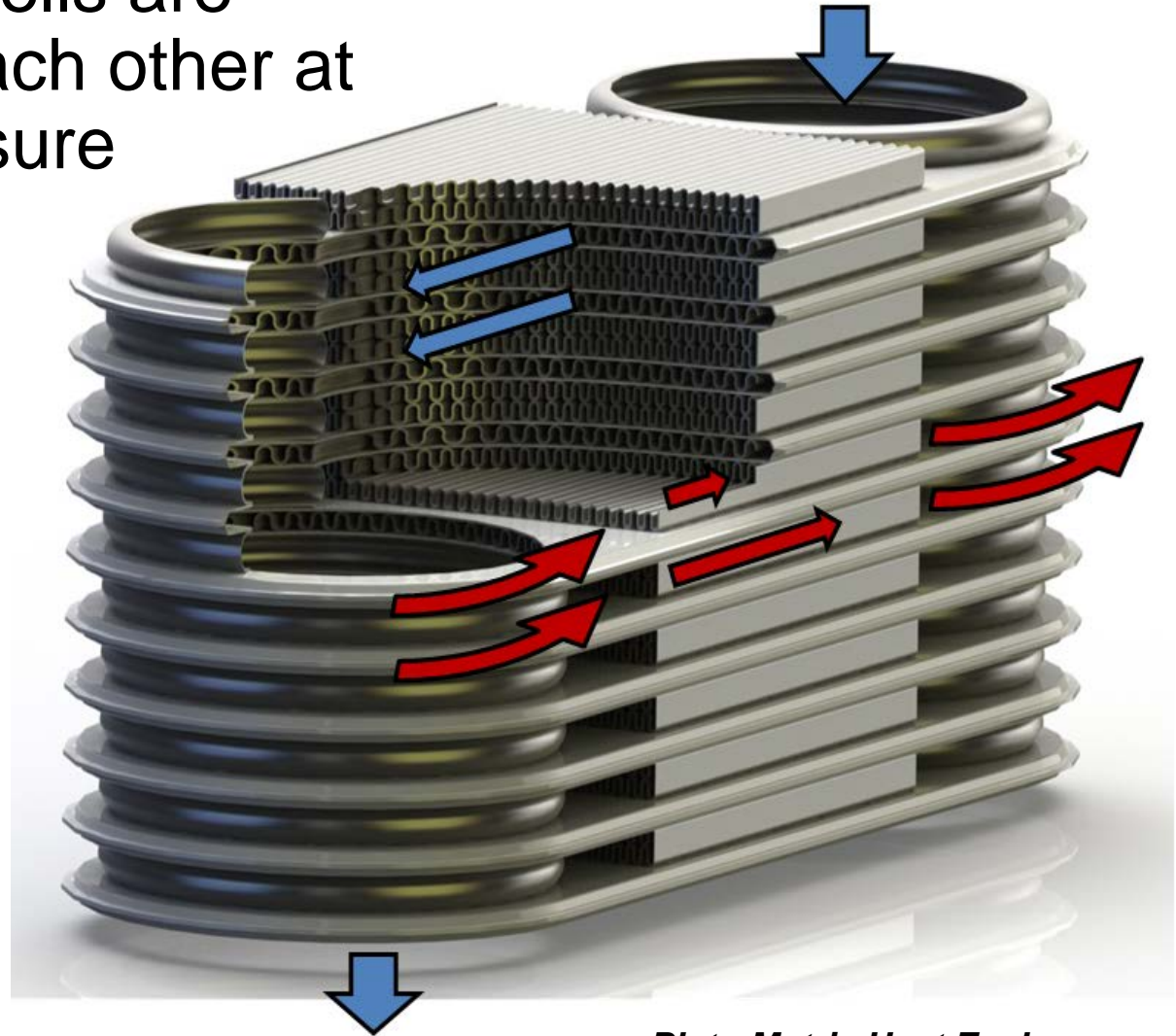
10mm



*Plate-Matrix Heat Exchangers*

# Plate-Matrix Heat Exchanger Cores

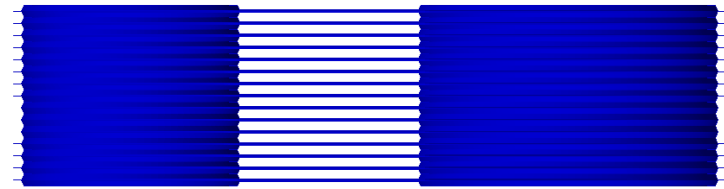
- Multiple unit-cells are attached to each other at the high-pressure manifolds



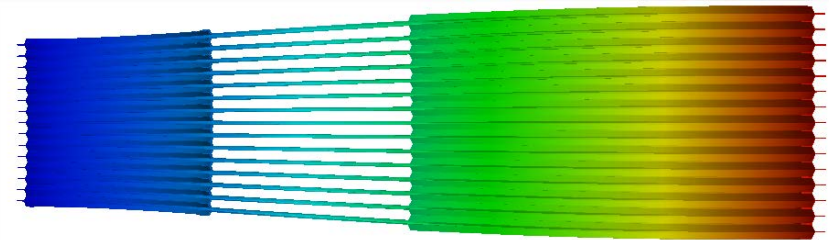
*Plate-Matrix Heat Exchangers*

# Thermo-Mechanical Strain Tolerance

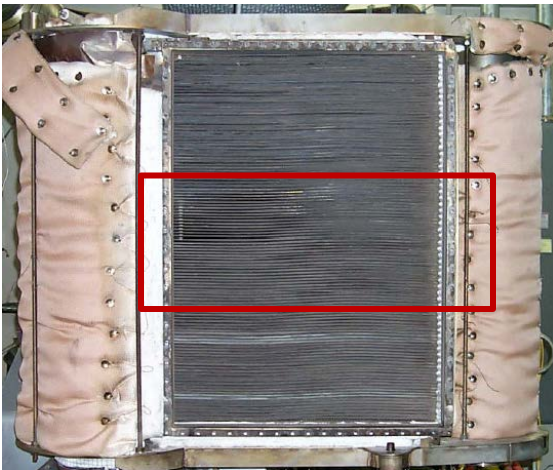
- Non-monolithic construction provides thermo-mechanical strain tolerance
  - Each unit cell represents a unique slip plane within the assembly
  - The associated low mechanical stiffness can accommodate temperature differences without inducing stresses on the assembly



Cold (Isothermal)



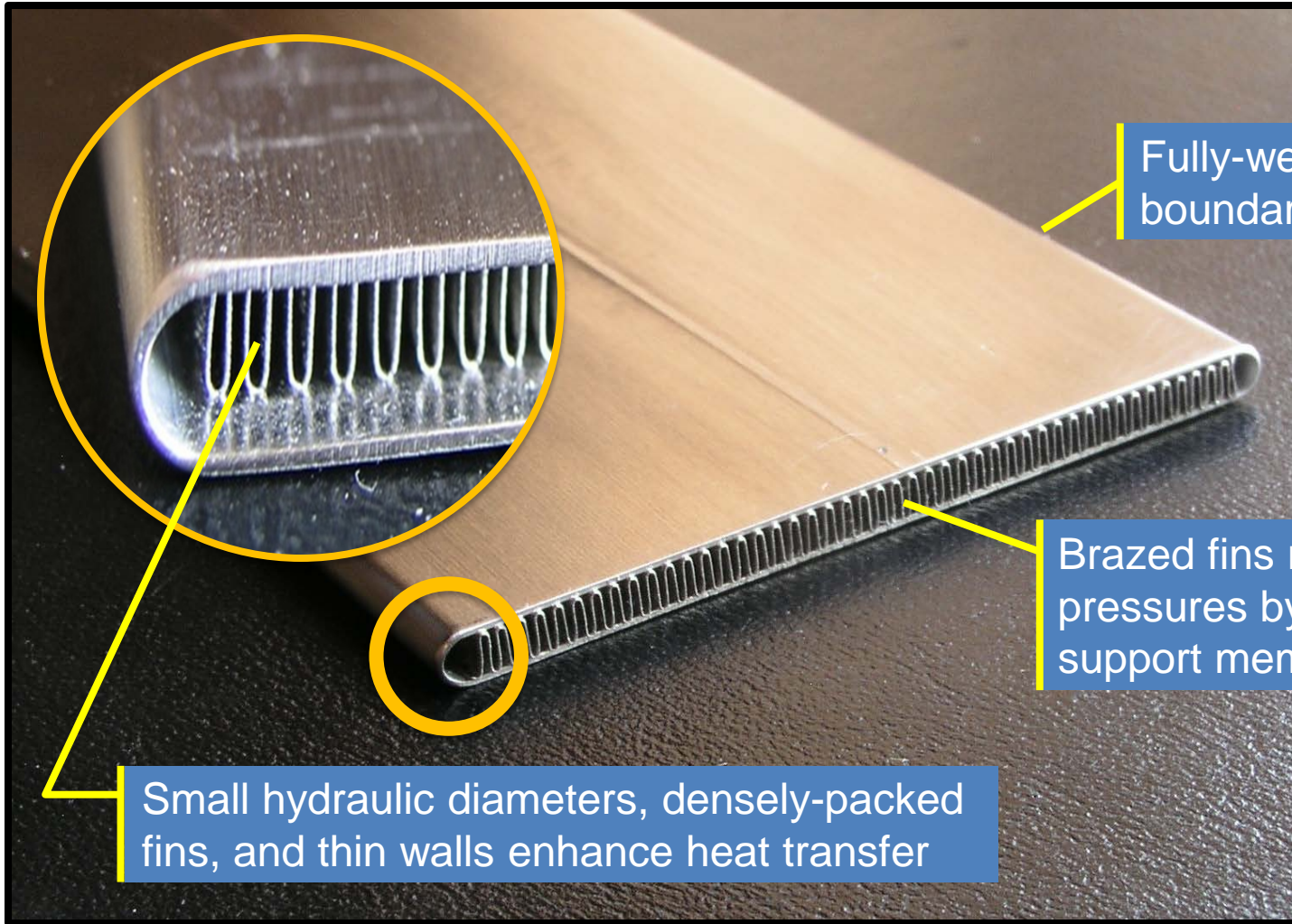
Hot



*Plate-Matrix Heat Exchangers*



# New Panel Cell Design



Fully-welded pressure boundary ensures sealing

Individually tested for quality

Brazed fins react high internal pressures by acting as tensile support members

Customizable fin geometry

Small hydraulic diameters, densely-packed fins, and thin walls enhance heat transfer

***Plate-Matrix Heat Exchangers***

# Heat Exchanger Mechanical Design and Validation for S-CO<sub>2</sub> Environments

James Nash



Nash@braytonenergy.com

# Design Methodology

**Mission Definition**



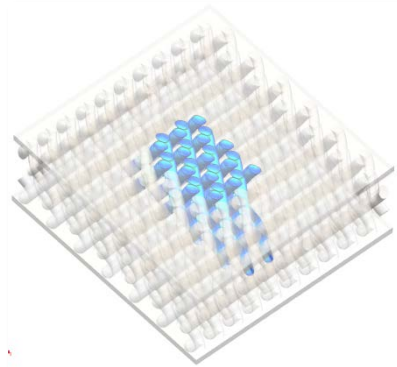
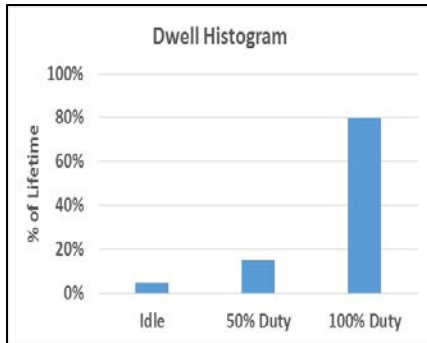
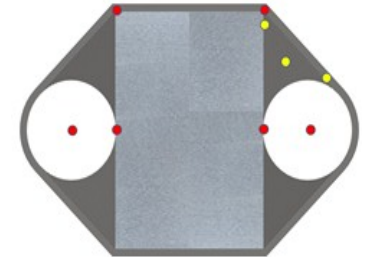
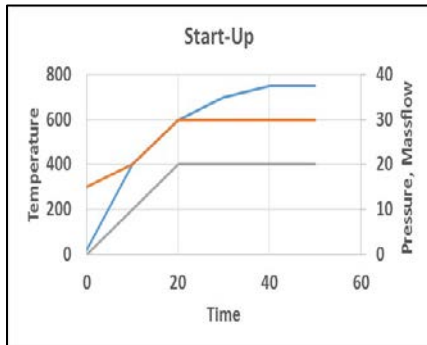
**Mechanical Design and Simulations**



**Configured and Processed Materials Characterization**

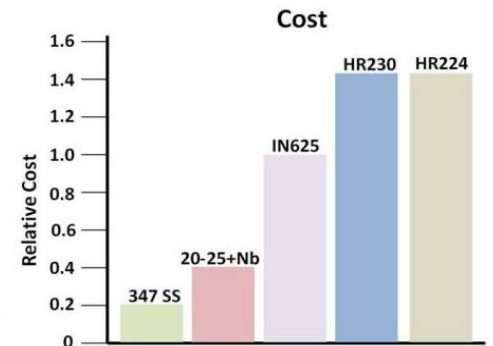
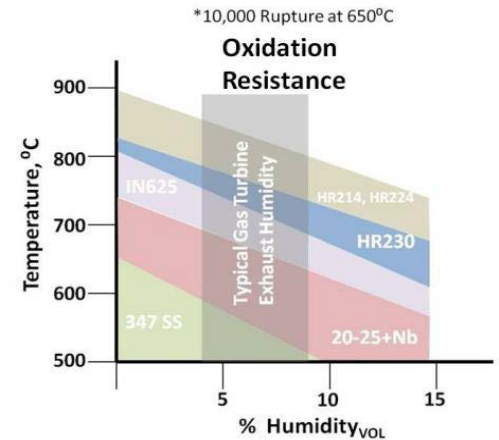
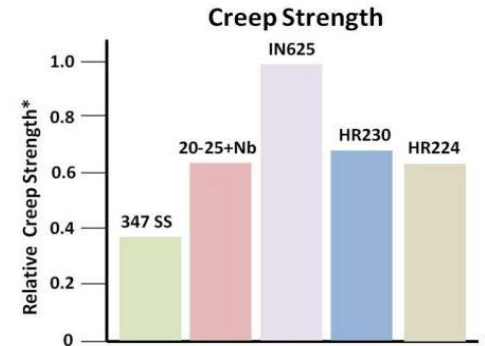
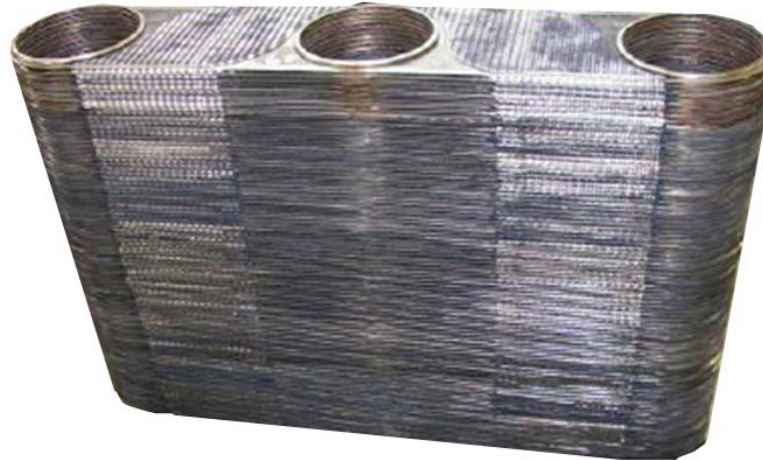


**Thermal and Strain Validation & Endurance**

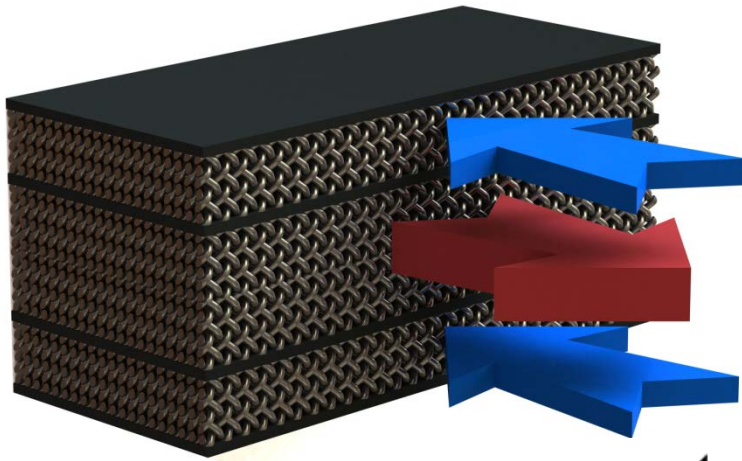


# Requirements-to-Design Validation Method

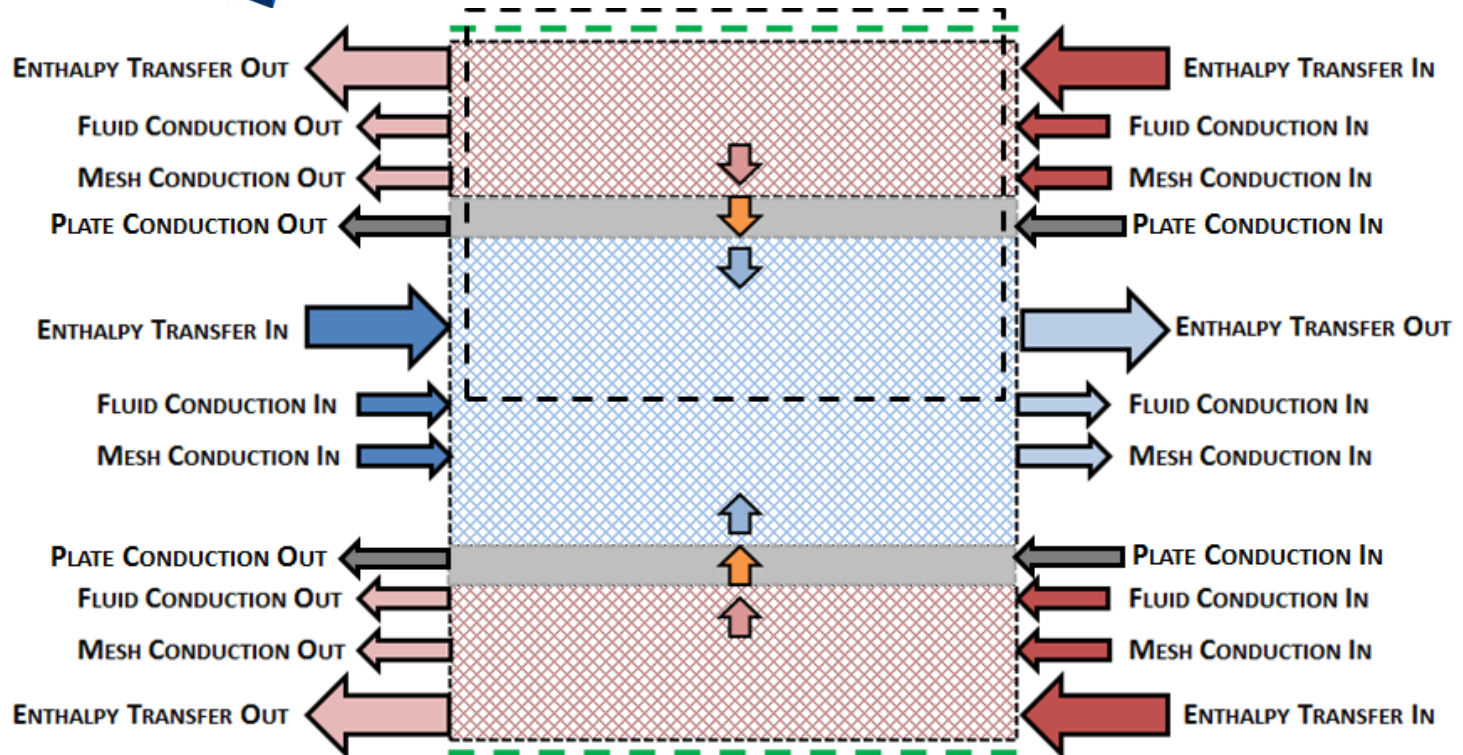
- Specify Requirements in terms of mission profiles
  - Including dwells and transient maneuvers
- Render thermal hydraulic design into mechanical design
- Initial analyses with substrate material properties:
  - temperature
  - stress/strain
  - durability
- Characterize as configured/processed materials as loaded in operation
  - creep
  - fatigue
- Validate/calibrate temperature and strain with actual heat exchanger cells
- Validate design with accelerated endurance testing
  - greater  $\Delta T$
  - greater pressure
  - design temperatures at control points.



# Heat Transfer Modeling



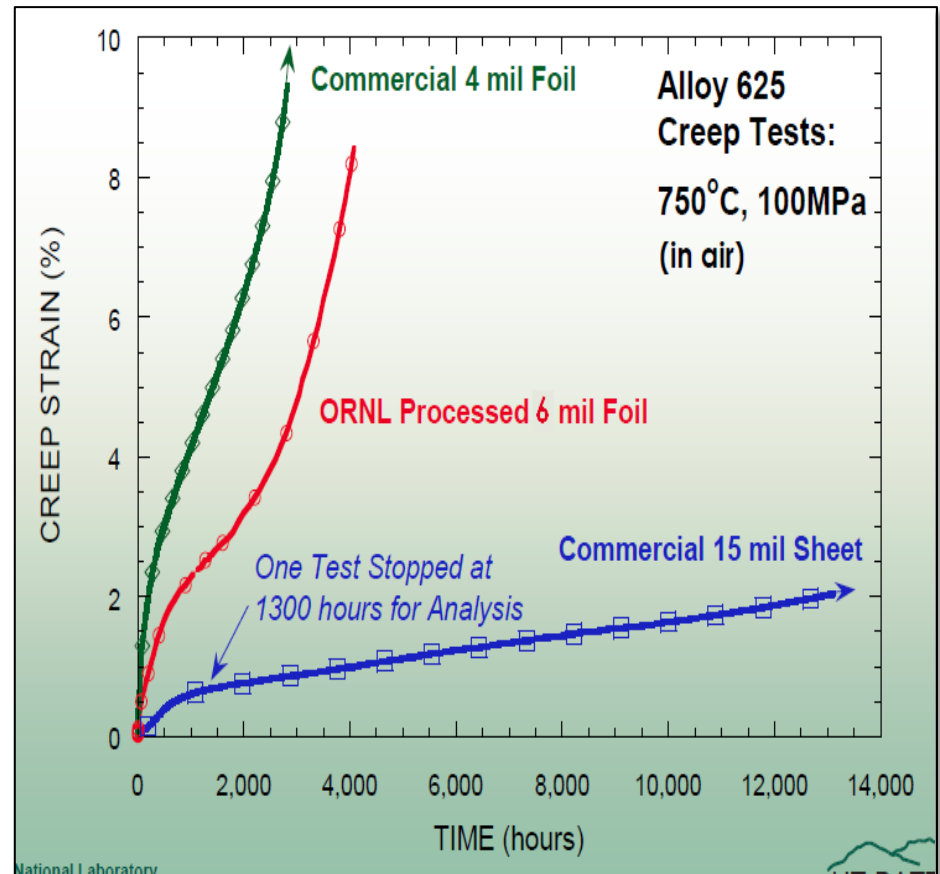
- Finite Difference modeling captures the non-intuitive nonlinear physical properties of supercritical fluids within heat exchangers (particularly in vicinity of critical point)
- Enthalpy change is used to calculate the heat gain (or loss) so as to capture the significant pressure dependence of the internal energy of the fluid
  - $\Delta h(T,P)$  used instead of  $\dot{m}c_p(T)$



- Axial conduction losses – which may be significant in high- $\varepsilon$  designs – are captured for both the parent material and the heat transfer enhancing structures

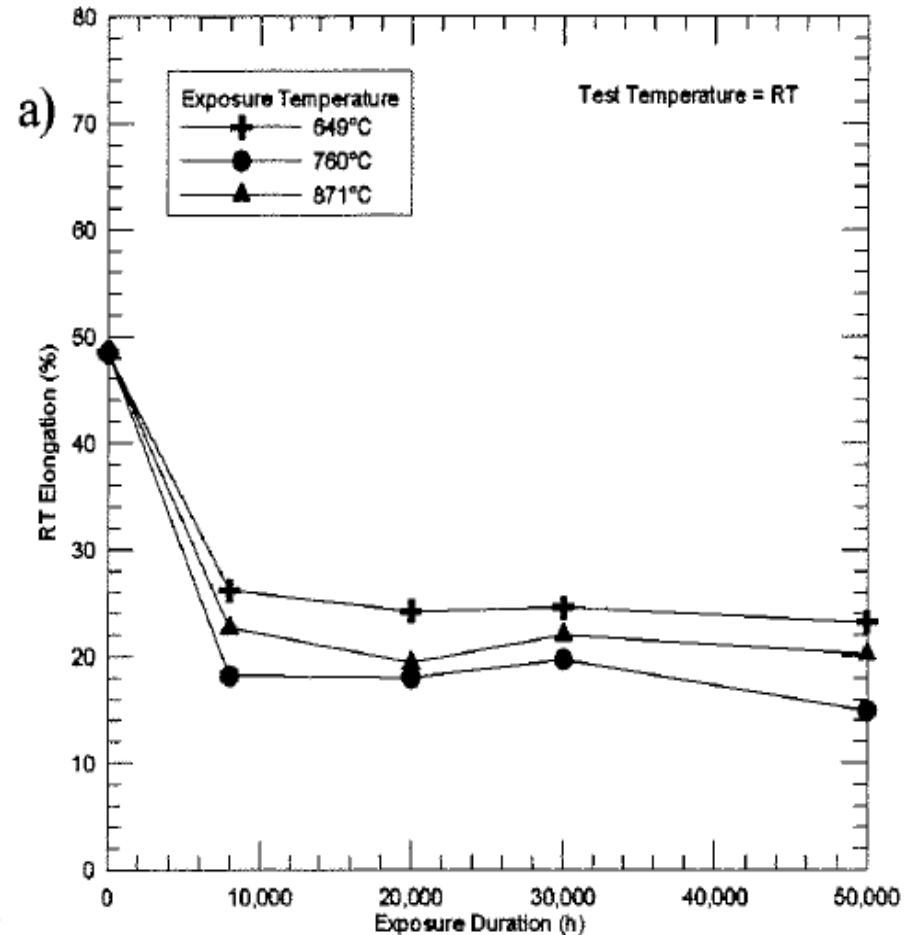
# Creep Considerations

- High solidity structures – thick-walled tubes, dense extended surfaces.
- Ni-Cr alloys with precipitates in grain boundaries
- Choices: Alloy 625, Alloy 617, Alloy 718, Alloy 230, HR214™, HR224™
- Be careful of thickness. Sheet properties may not represent foil. (Grain size vs. thickness?)



# Fatigue Considerations

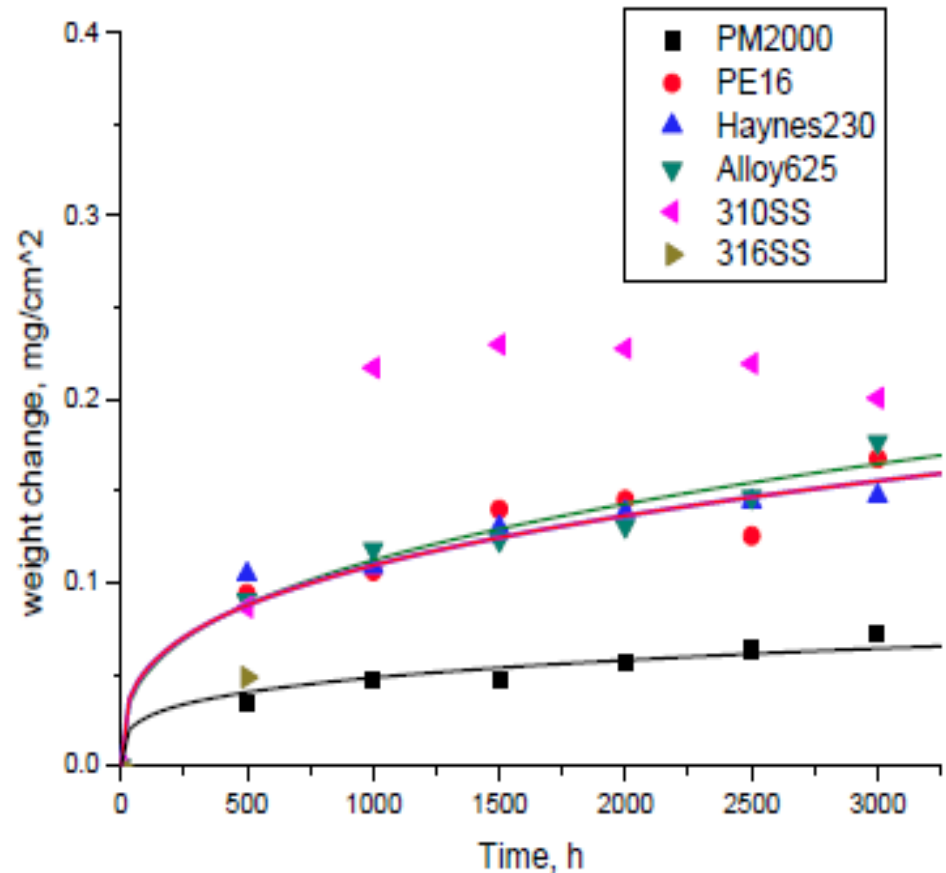
- Highly design dependent gradient selection for  $\Delta T$
- Structural compliance
  - Bigger is NOT stronger!
- Thick-thin avoidance
- Stress in weld-heat affected zones.
- Ductility – as processed, after aging



HR120 elongation with exposure at 649, 760 and 871°C. Source: Pike & Srivastava Haynes Int'l

# Corrosion Considerations

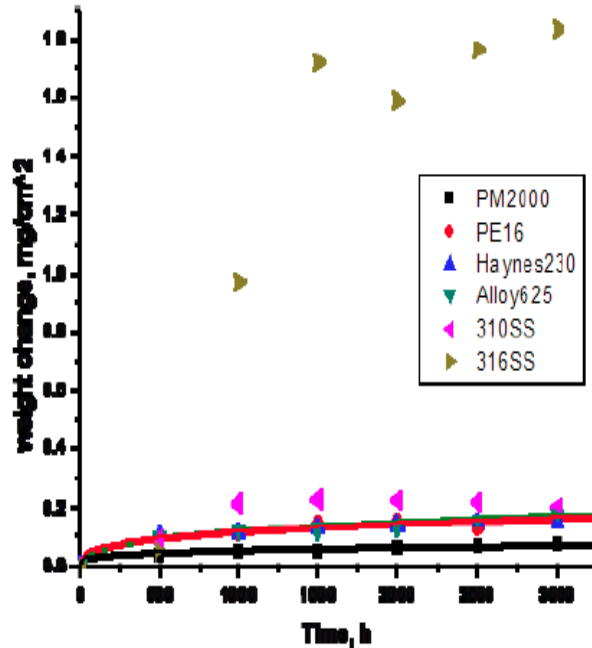
- Oxidation
- Scale evaporation with high temperature and/or humidity addition
- Ni and Cr basic protection
- Rare-earth additions to stabilize scale
- Aluminum addition for very low volatile  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  scale over chromia
- >20% Cr is key to oxidation resistance at  $650^\circ\text{C}$  according to Sridharan et al.



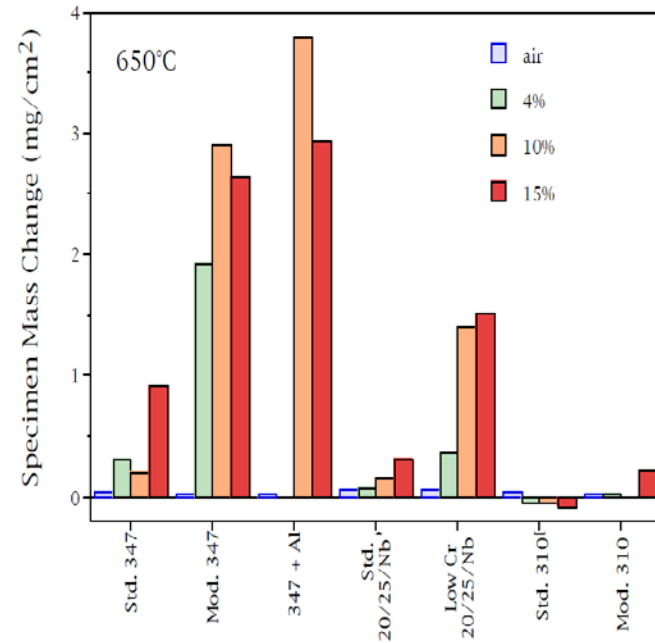
Source: Sridharan, Anderson, et al - University of Wisconsin, sCO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycle Symposium, Boulder, CO 2011



# Type 310SS 650°C Oxidation sCO<sub>2</sub> vs. Air



Sridharan, Anderson, University of Wisconsin, et al, sCO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycle Symposium, Boulder, CO 2011

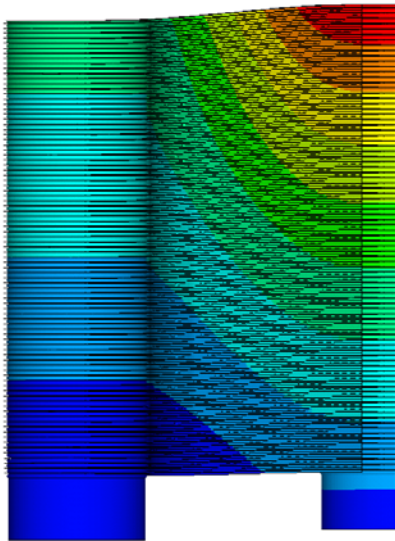
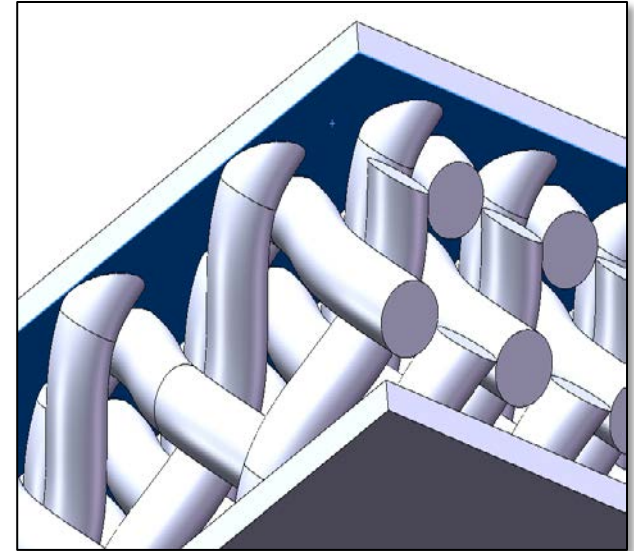


Pint (ORNL) and Rakowski (Allegheny Ludlum), Effect of Water Vapor on the Oxidation Resistance of Stainless Steel

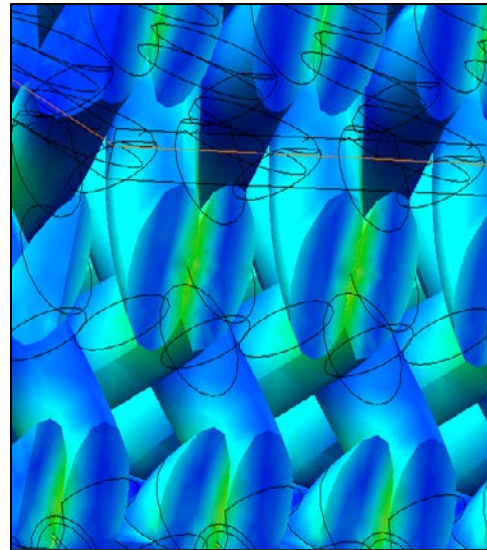
1. 0.25 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> gain in sCO<sub>2</sub> vs. 0.045 in laboratory air after 1,000 hours
2. Aluminum addition with addition of humidity?

# Simulations

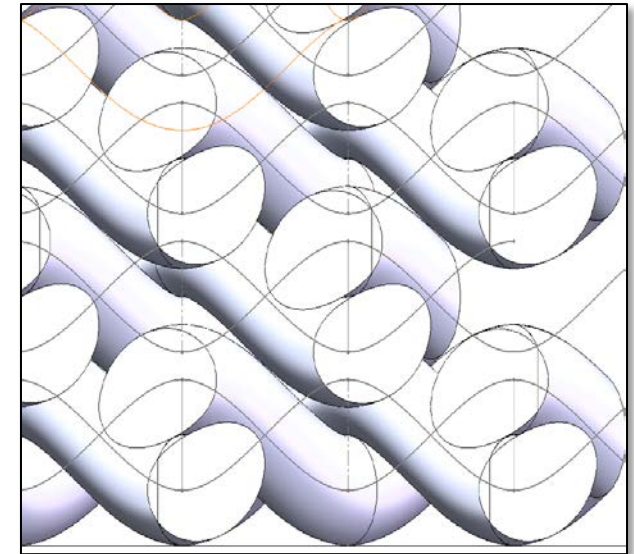
- Conduct thermal and structural FEA to determine temperature, stress, and strain
- Identify 'control points; - details where damage may accumulate
- Perform initial life analyses to quantify creep, and fatigue



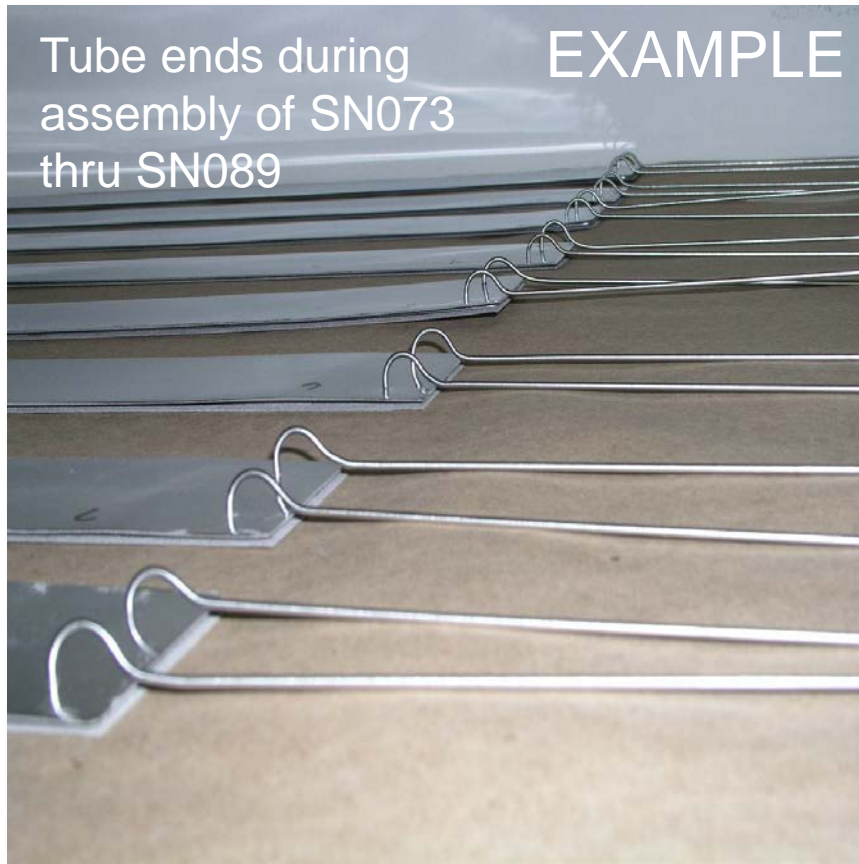
Core strain analysis



Wire-mesh analysis for creep and pressure-fatigue simulation.



# Testing As Configured/Processed Material

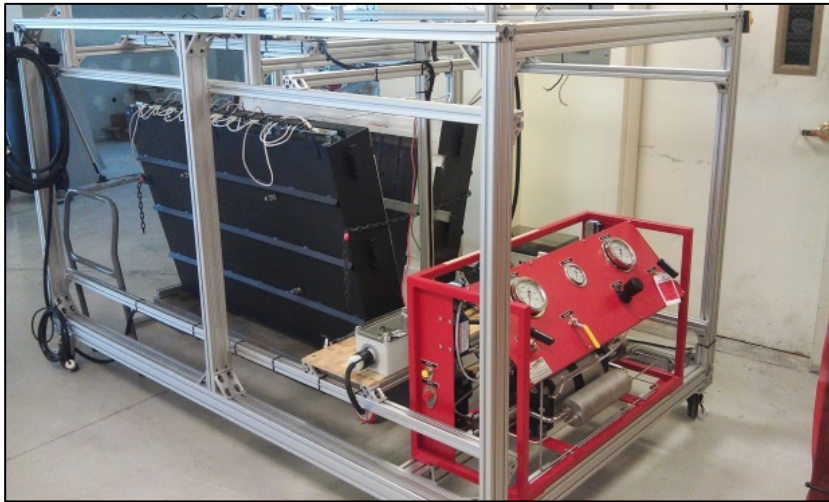


This final batch of heat exchanger cells were of high quality, leak tight and suitable for creep tests

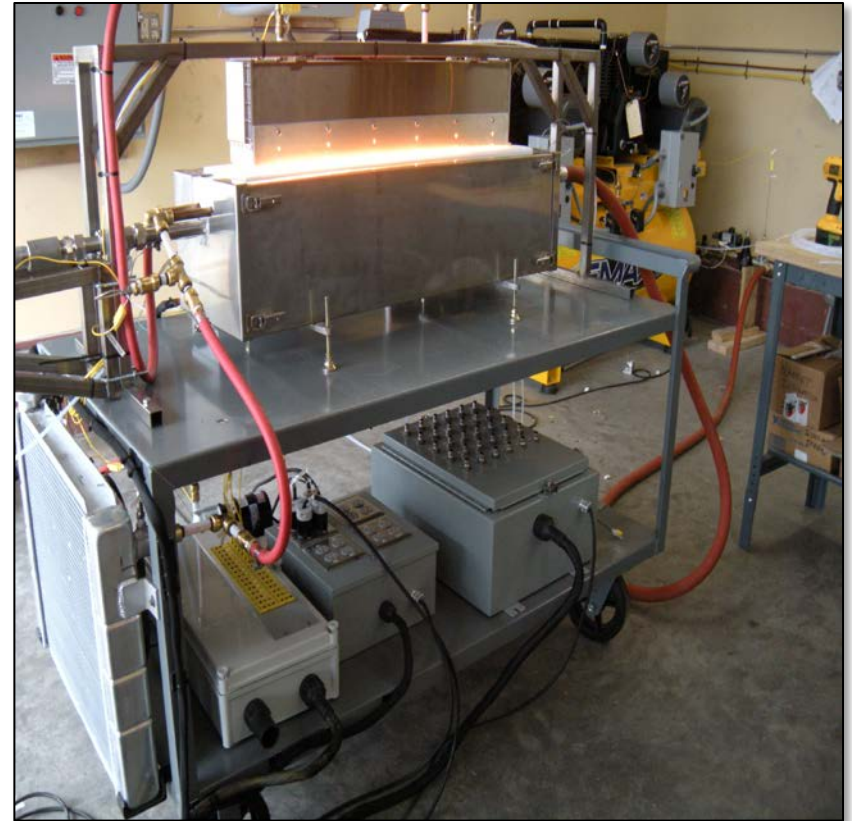
- Example: If pressure is the steady load dominating creep or fatigue, pressure is used in characterization
  - Includes all configuration and processing effects
  - Avoids interpretation of 'like' data and loading.
- sCO<sub>2</sub> pressurization for possible corrosion interaction

# Thermo-Mechanical Fatigue Testing

- If high radiant flux loads produce damage, material is characterized accordingly
- Burner rig or furnace is appropriate for characterization under cyclic convective loading



High Temperature Furnace



Radiant (High Flux) Test Rig

# Hydraulic Design with Supercritical Fluids

James Nash



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# Hydraulic Design – Supercritical Fluids

$$\Delta P_{total} = \Delta P_{inlet\ manifold} + \Delta P_{entrance} + \Delta P_{internal\ flow} + \Delta P_{exit} + \Delta P_{outlet\ manifold}$$

$$\Delta P_{internal\ flow} = f \frac{L}{D_h} \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2$$

$$f = f(e, D_h, V, \rho, \mu)$$

$$V = \frac{\dot{m}}{\rho A_f}$$

**Geometric parameters**  
**Fluid properties and**  
**mass flow**

# Hydraulic Design – Modeling Considerations

- The non-linear behavior of supercritical fluids – particularly near the critical point – makes endpoint calculations risky
  - Finite difference or integrated methods necessary to capture non-intuitive property behavior
- The strong property dependence on pressure makes sensible heat calculations risky
  - Use enthalpy change  $\Delta h(T,P)$  to calculate energy gain or loss, instead of  $\dot{m}c_p$

# Hydraulic Design – Correlations and Calculations

- Internal Flow  $\Delta P = f \frac{L}{D_h} \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2$

–  $f$  may be derived from:

- Moody Chart
- Kays and London (NB: friction factor  $f = 4 \times$  Fanning Friction Factor)
- empirical correlation

- Porous Media  $\Delta P = \frac{Q\mu L}{kA_f}$

$Q$  = volumetric flow rate  
 $k$  = permeability

- Wire-Mesh  $f = \frac{2\rho\Delta P}{G^2\beta t} \left( \frac{1-\epsilon}{\epsilon} \right)^{0.4}$

$G$  = internal mass velocity  
 $\beta$  = surface area/volume  
 $\epsilon$  = porosity

- CFD



# Hydraulic Design – Flow Distribution

## Un-guided Counterflow Headers:

- Rising static pressure along inlet header with deceleration - uniform
- Declining static pressure in discharge header, but exacerbated by non-uniform profile approaching exit plane
- Uniform flow created by proper area ratio accounting for differences in density and velocity profile

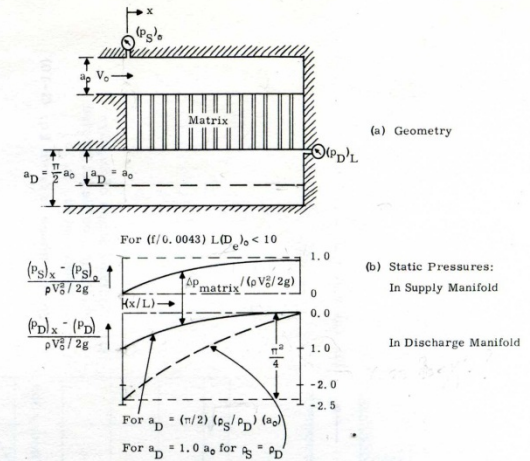
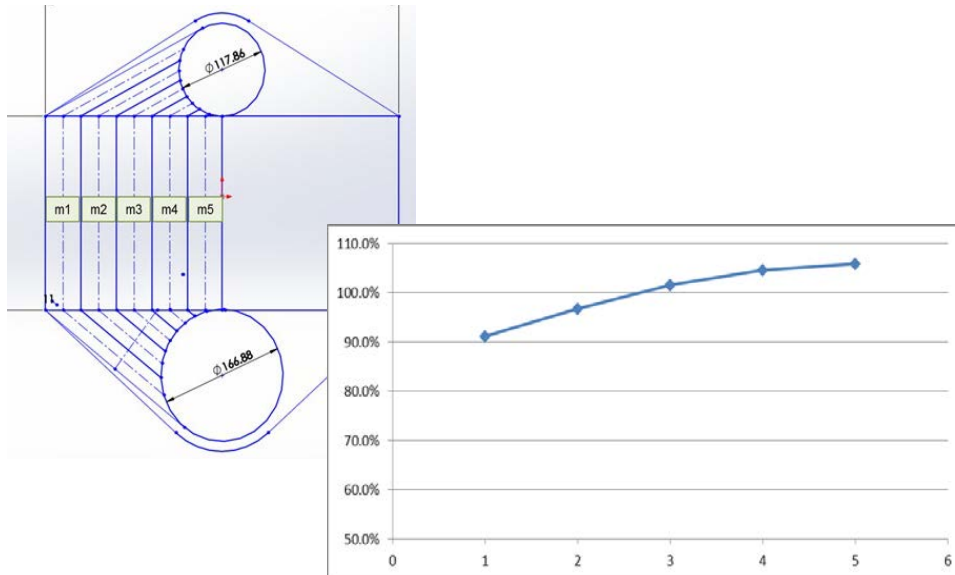


Fig. 3-5. Counterflow Arrangement of Box-Shaped Supply Manifold with Box-Shaped Discharge Manifold



## Guided Headers:

- Unequal lengths imply unequal resistances
- Net pressure loss is same irrespective of path
- Flux adjusted to achieve equal pressure losses for each path
- Heat transfer performance assessed on a mass-averaged basis

**Questions?**

# Thank You

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