

# 30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development

*Author:  
Mario Gaia*

# First International Seminar on ORC Power Systems

## *30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development*



Prof. Gianfranco Angelino,  
Politecnico di Milano  
during meeting for the Almeria Solar  
Platform, S.José, California 1978.

- Started Research on ORC in mid sixties
- Envisaged many of the future developments of ORC concept

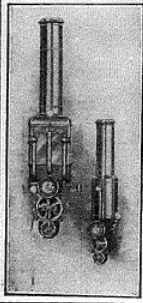
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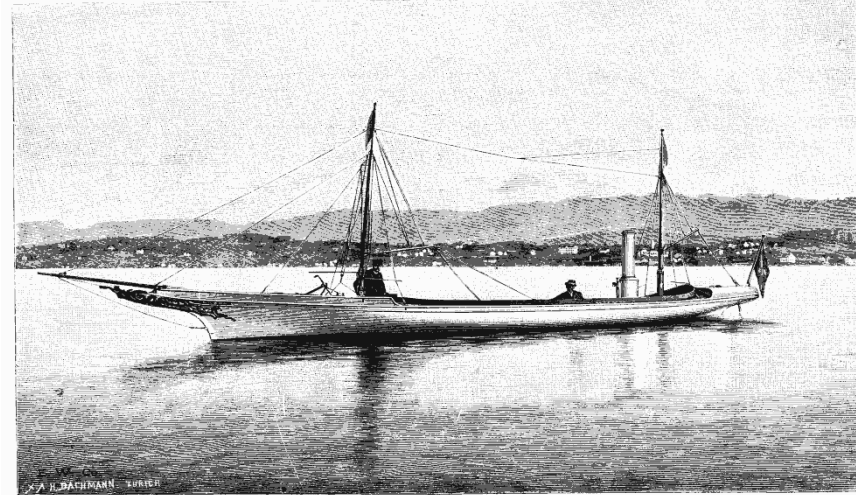
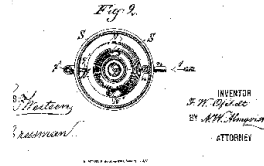
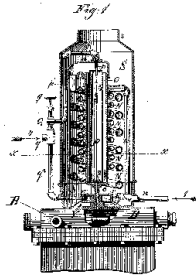
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CHICAGO OFFICE, 115 DEARBORN STREET



(See Model.)  
F. W. OFELDT.  
PUMPING OVERBOARD FOR WATERPUMP ENGINE.  
No. 559,420. Patented Jan. 10, 1897.



Aluminium-Yacht „Mignon“ des Hr. Nobel (Erfinder des Dynamits).

The first ORC, featuring a reciprocating expander, fed by a hydrocarbon (naphta) vaporizer  
Patents of Frank W. Ofeldt, 1886 – 1887  
The Alfred Nobel aluminium “Mignon” boat in Zurich 1982



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**1970 – 80:** Angelino  
Macchi  
Gaia et al.

Studies on many ORC configurations (for primary generation/ automotive/ heat recovery) and many working fluids, including CO<sub>2</sub>.

Consultants to Ansaldo, mainly for the Almeria Solar Platform and other solar applications

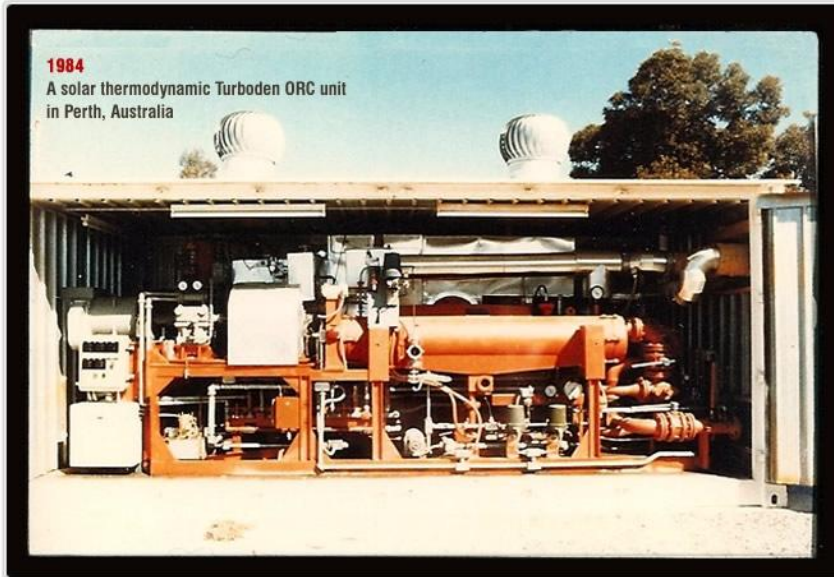


← 3 kW ORC for flat plate solar collectors field of Ansaldo, Genoa – featuring gravity circulation

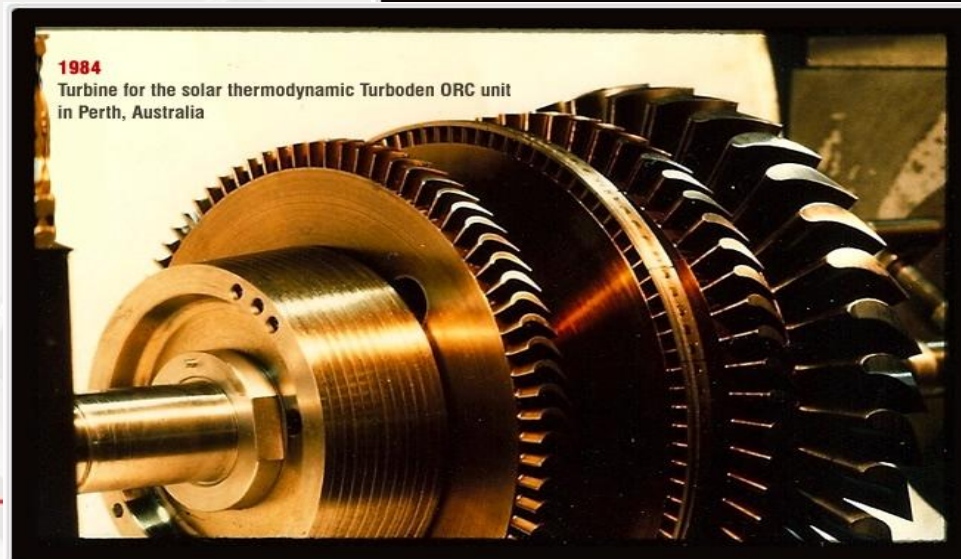


← 3 kW Turbine, single stage

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35 kW Solar,  
Perth, Australia  
4 stage turbine

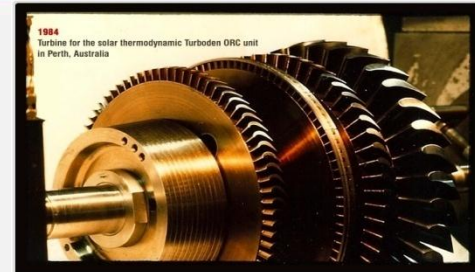
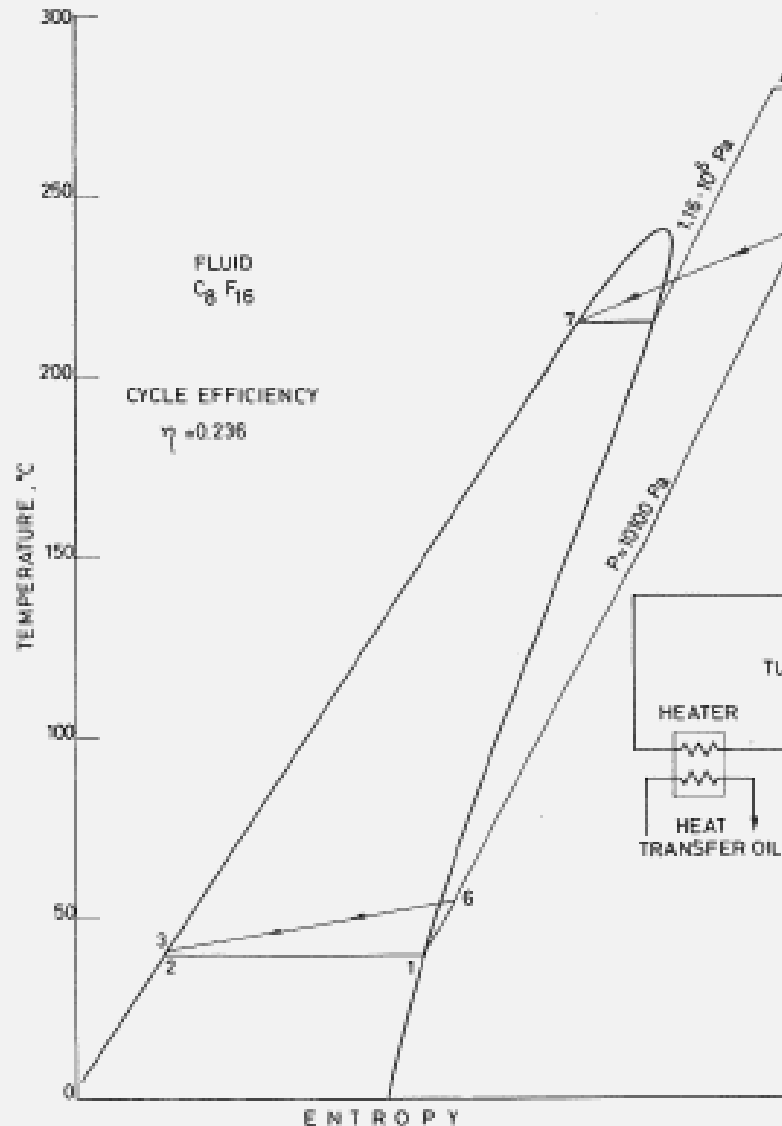




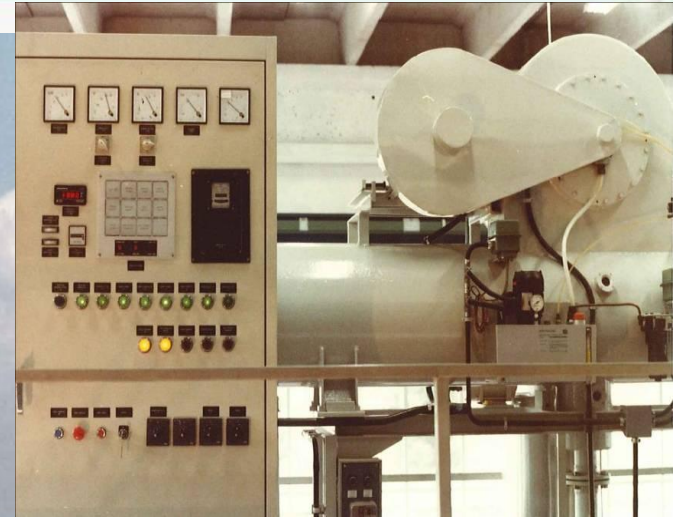
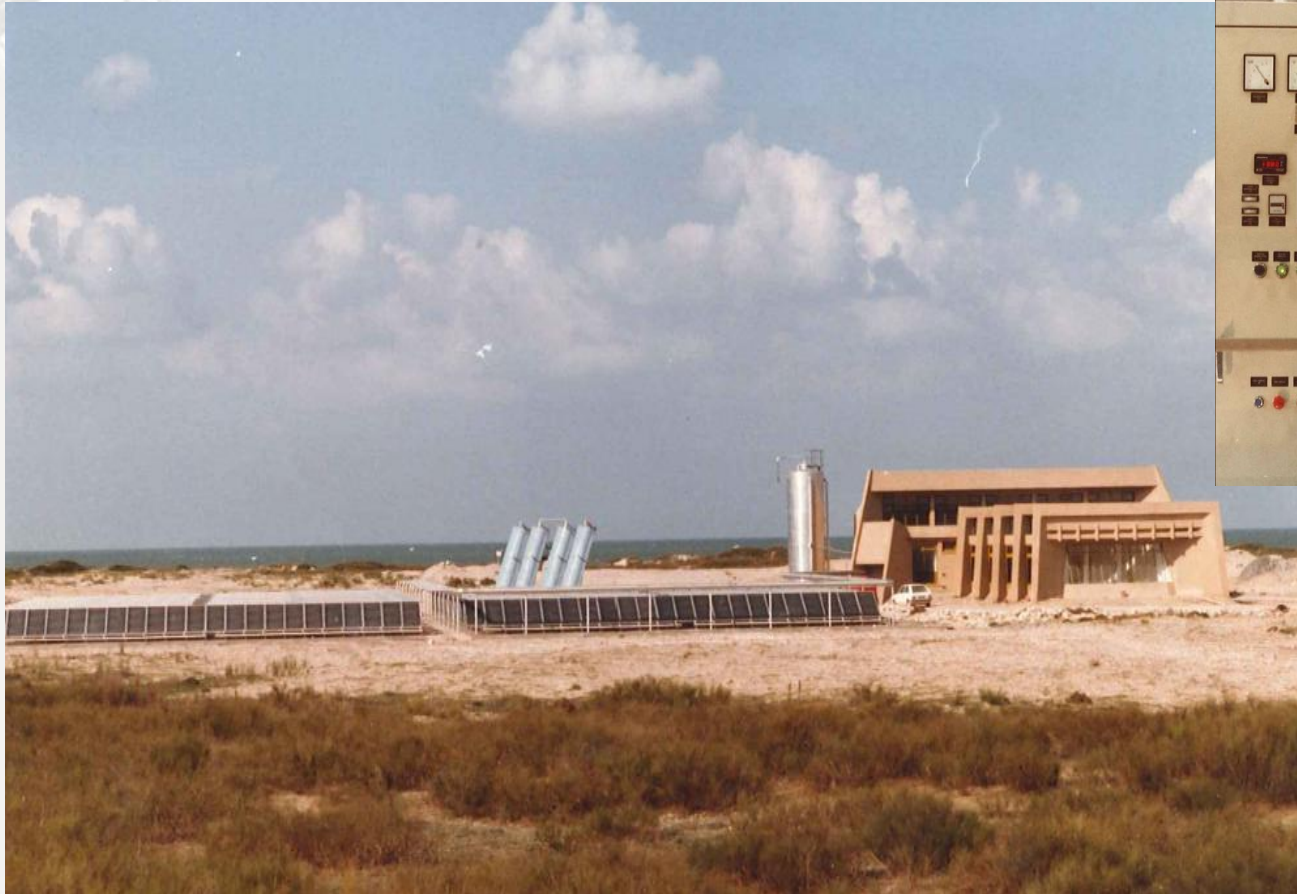
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## 30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development

- Working Fluid:  $C_8F_{16}$   
(Perfluoro-Dimethylcyclohexane)
- Thermal Oil max temperature: 300 °C
- Cycle Efficiency: 0.236



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16 kW ORC for the Borj Cedria site in Tunisia, 1982

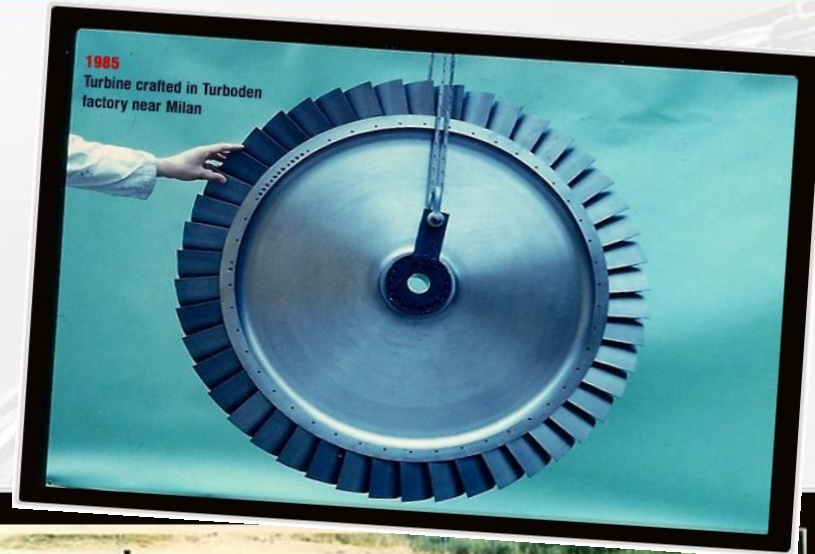
Heat source: Flat plate solar collector field at 98° C



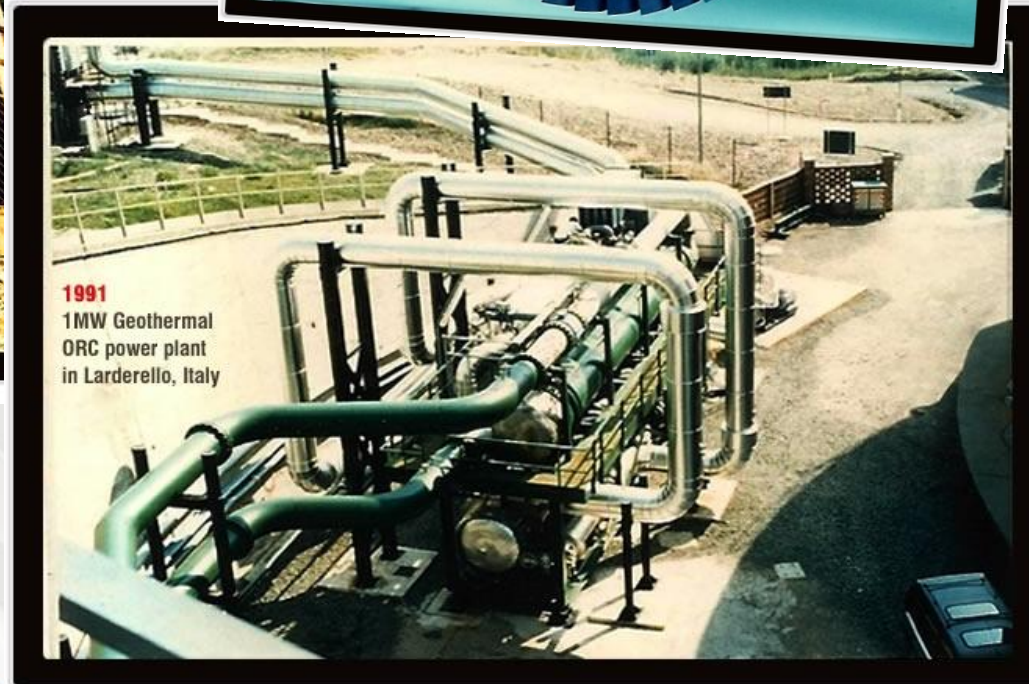
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## *30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development*

2 X 100 kW Geothermal  
KAPISYA – Zambia 1988, source liquid  
water 83°C ↓



1.3 MW Geothermal plant for  
Enel Castelnuovo V.C. 1991, →  
source liquid water 114°C





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## *30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development*

1996

Heat Recovery ORC power plant by Turboden  
near Brescia, Italy



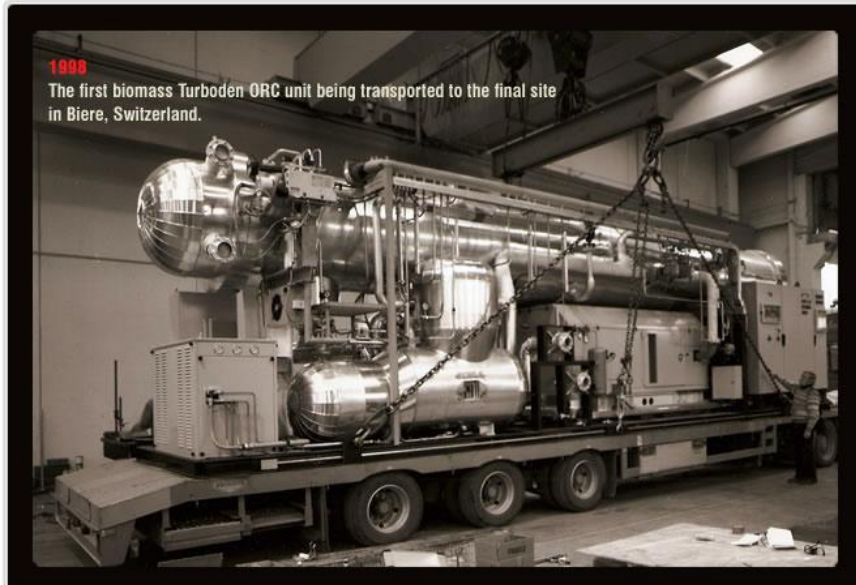
1996-Heat recovery unit in Torbole, Italy  
Source: exhaust gas from a Cupola Furnace.

A cascaded ORC concept with Siloxane  
and Perfluoropentane working fluids

1997- Biomass unit for the  
Swiss Army, 300 kW, in  
Bière, Switzerland,  
source: 300°C Thermal Oil

1998

The first biomass Turboden ORC unit being transported to the final site  
in Bière, Switzerland.

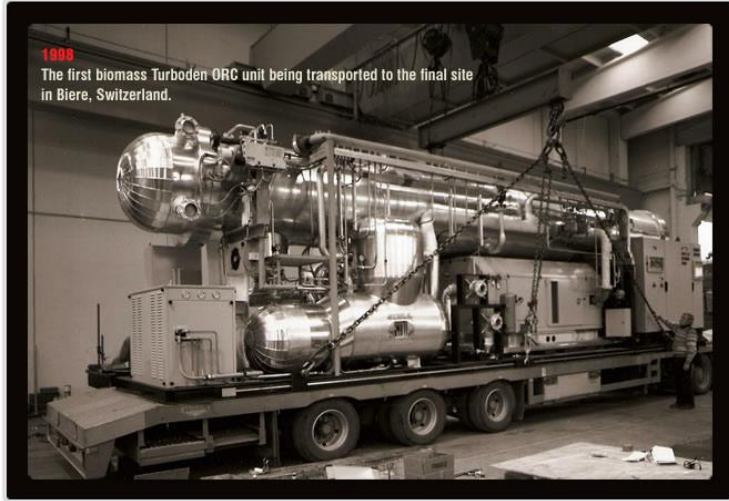


2000

The  
in B

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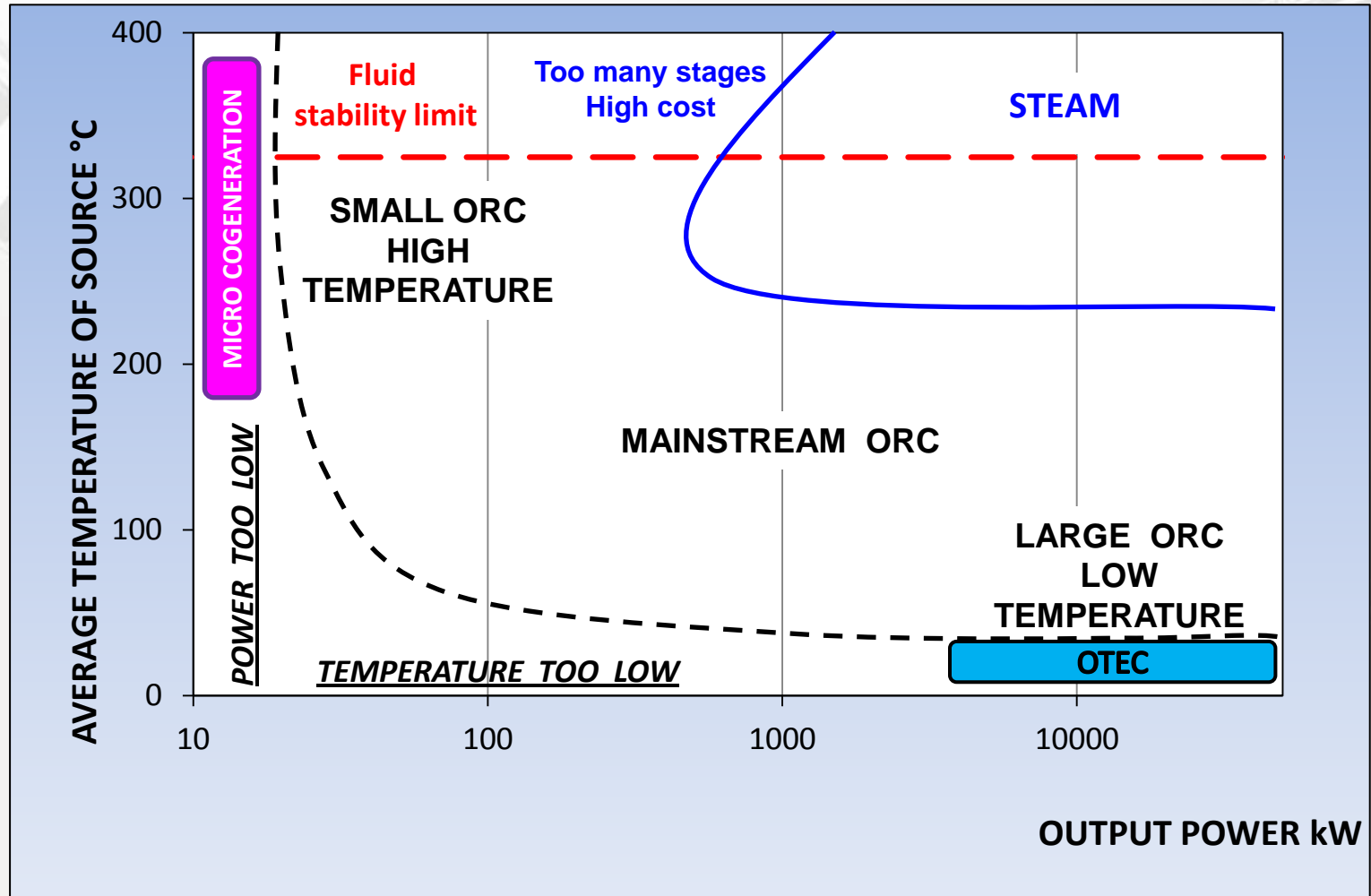
1997- Biomass unit for the Swiss Army

**M. Kurt R. Scheidegger, ingénieur-conseil, Lausanne, valued the ORC solution and took the risk of adopting a technique yet to be proven.**

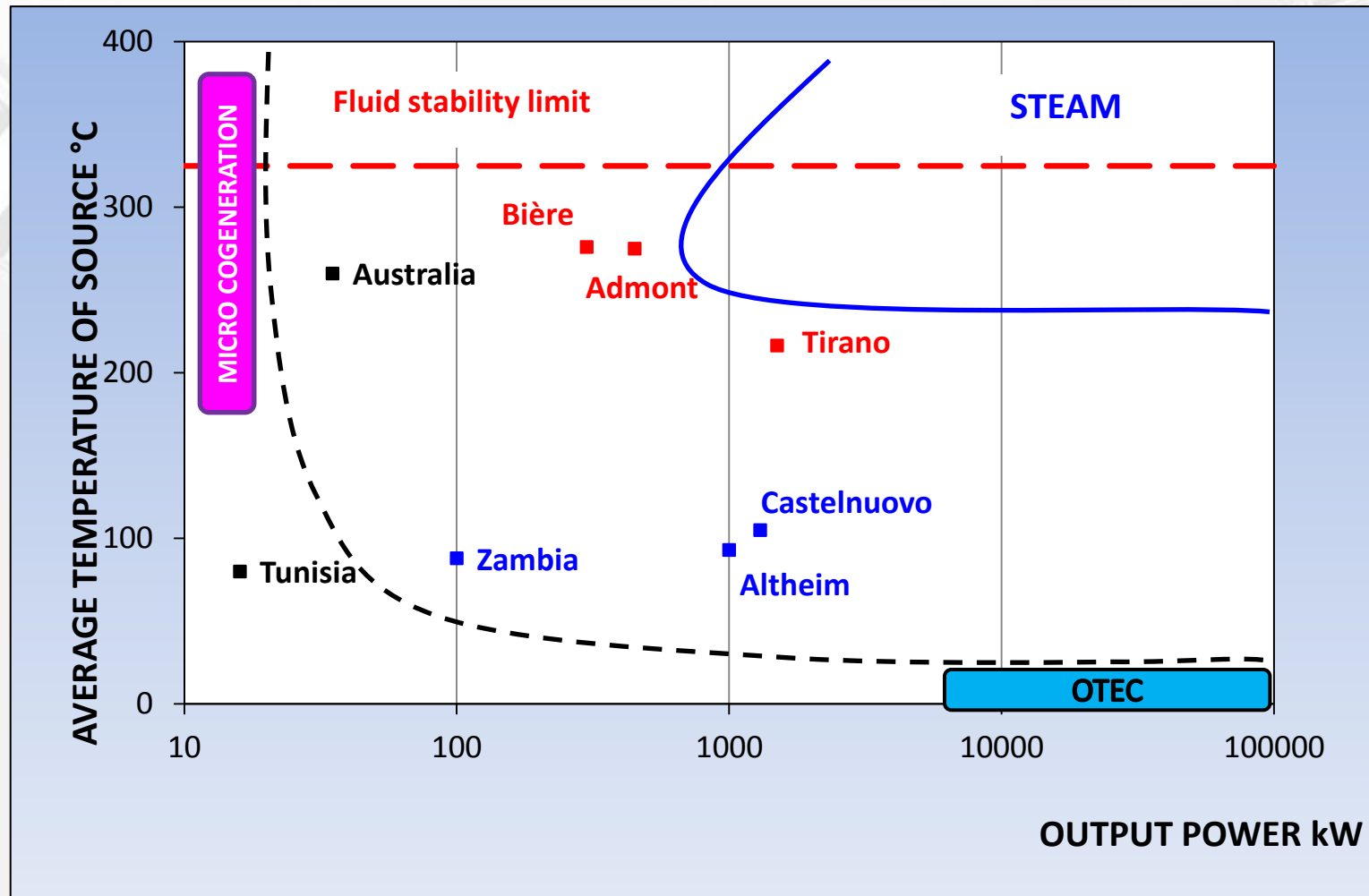


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# First International Seminar on ORC Power Systems 30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development

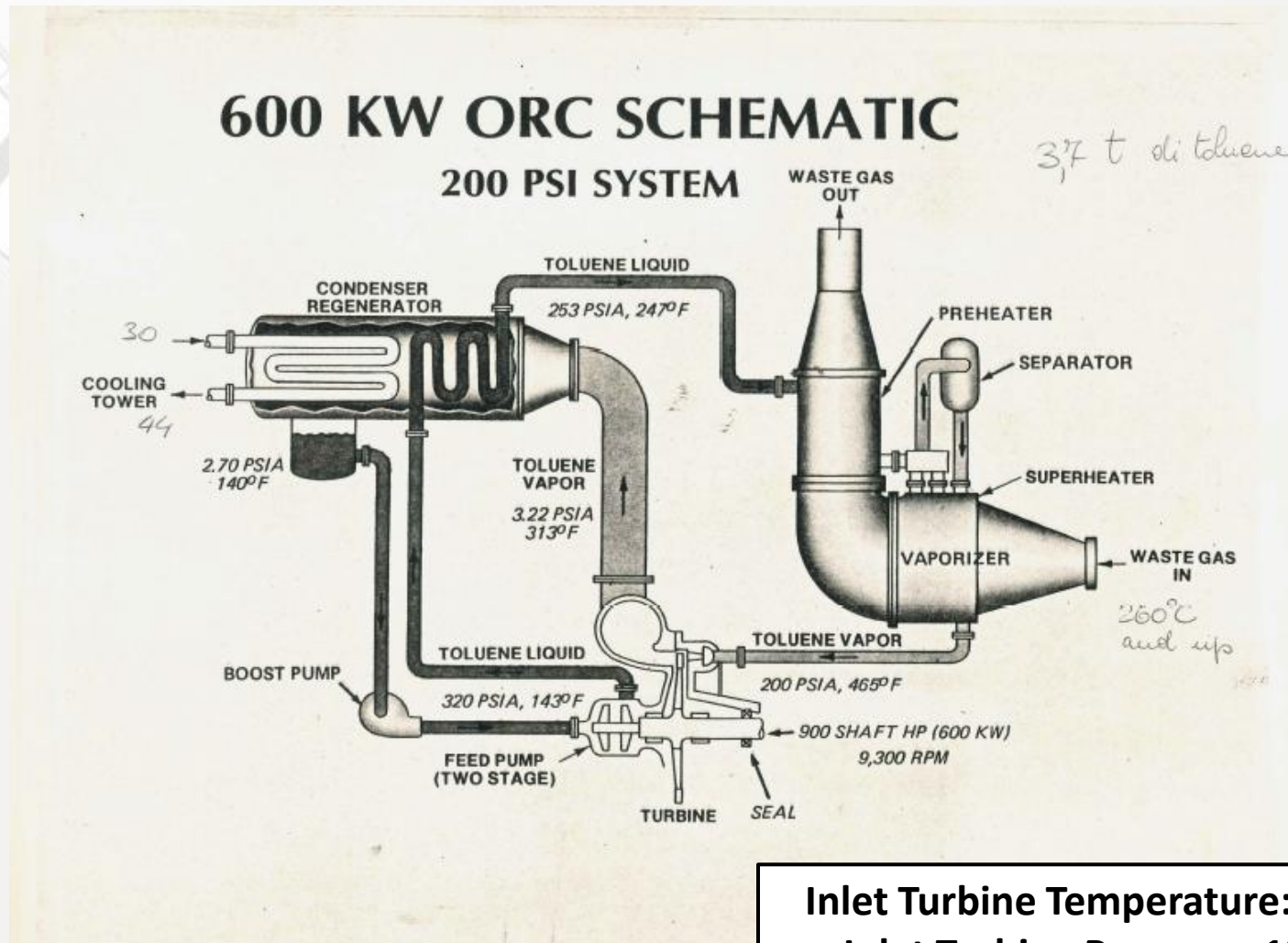




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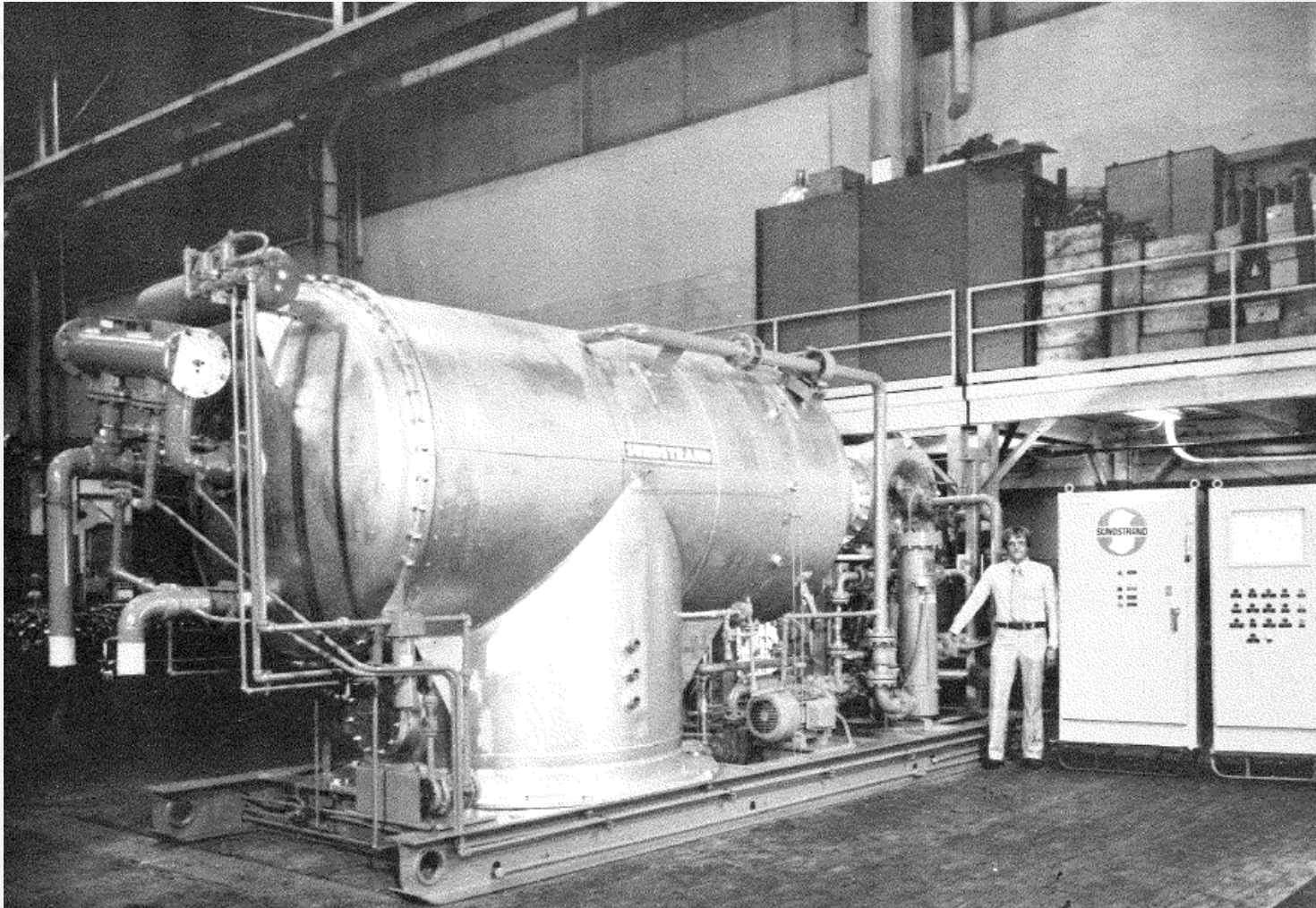
ORC by Sundstrand, 1978



**Inlet Turbine Temperature: 240.6 °C**  
**Inlet Turbine Pressure: 13.8 bar**  
**Outlet Turbine Pressure: 0.22 bar**

# First International Seminar on ORC Power Systems *30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development*

ORC by Sundstrand, 1978



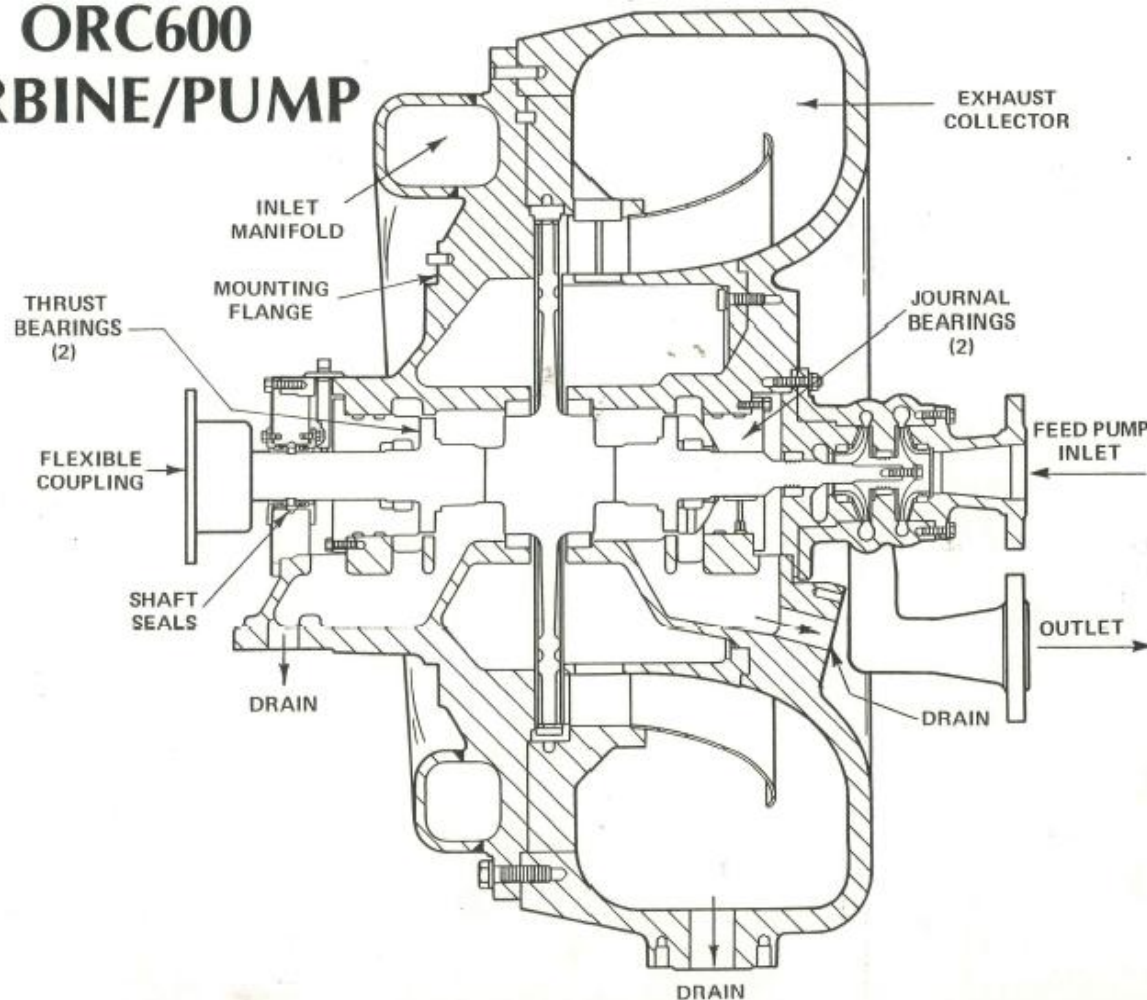


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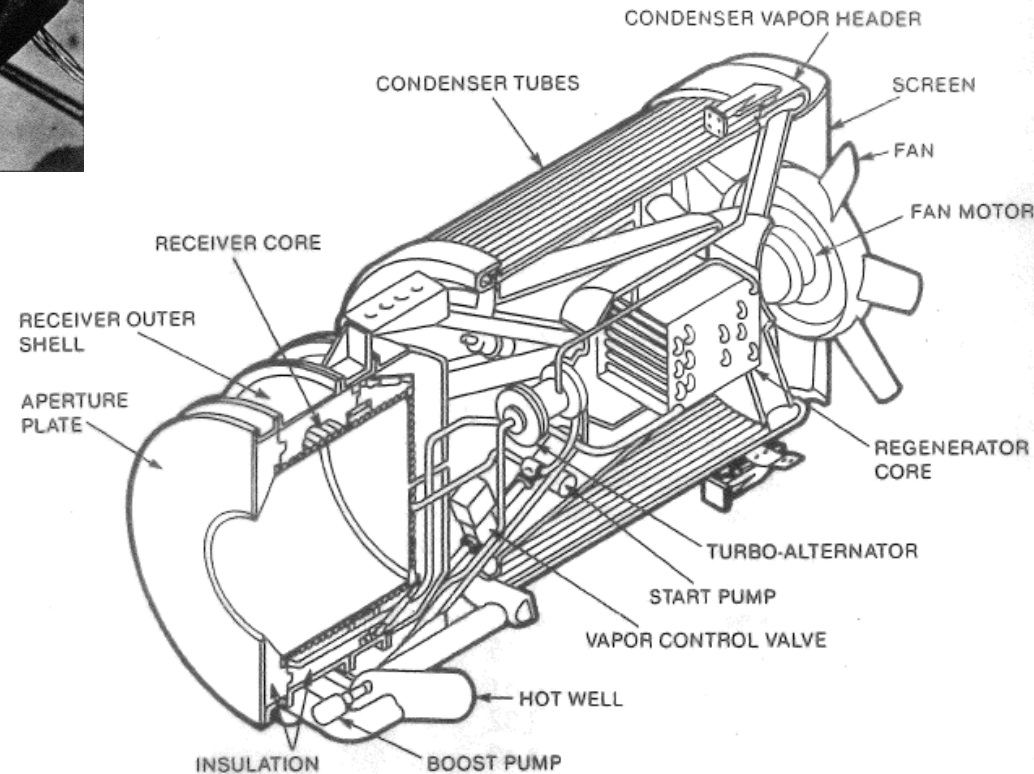
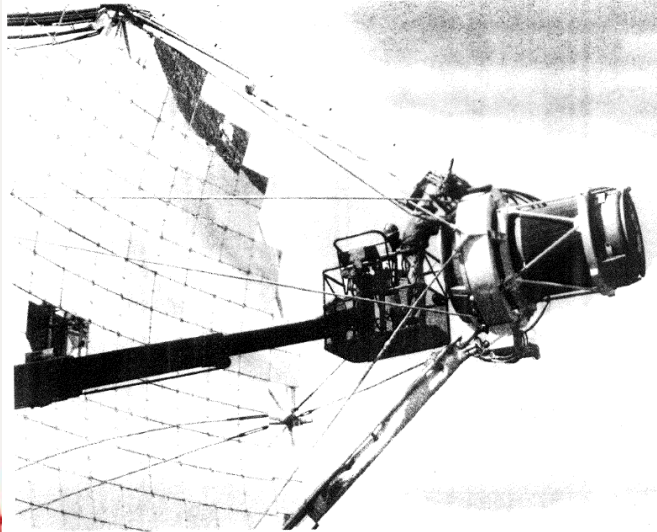
ORC by Sundstrand, 1978

### ORC600 TURBINE/PUMP

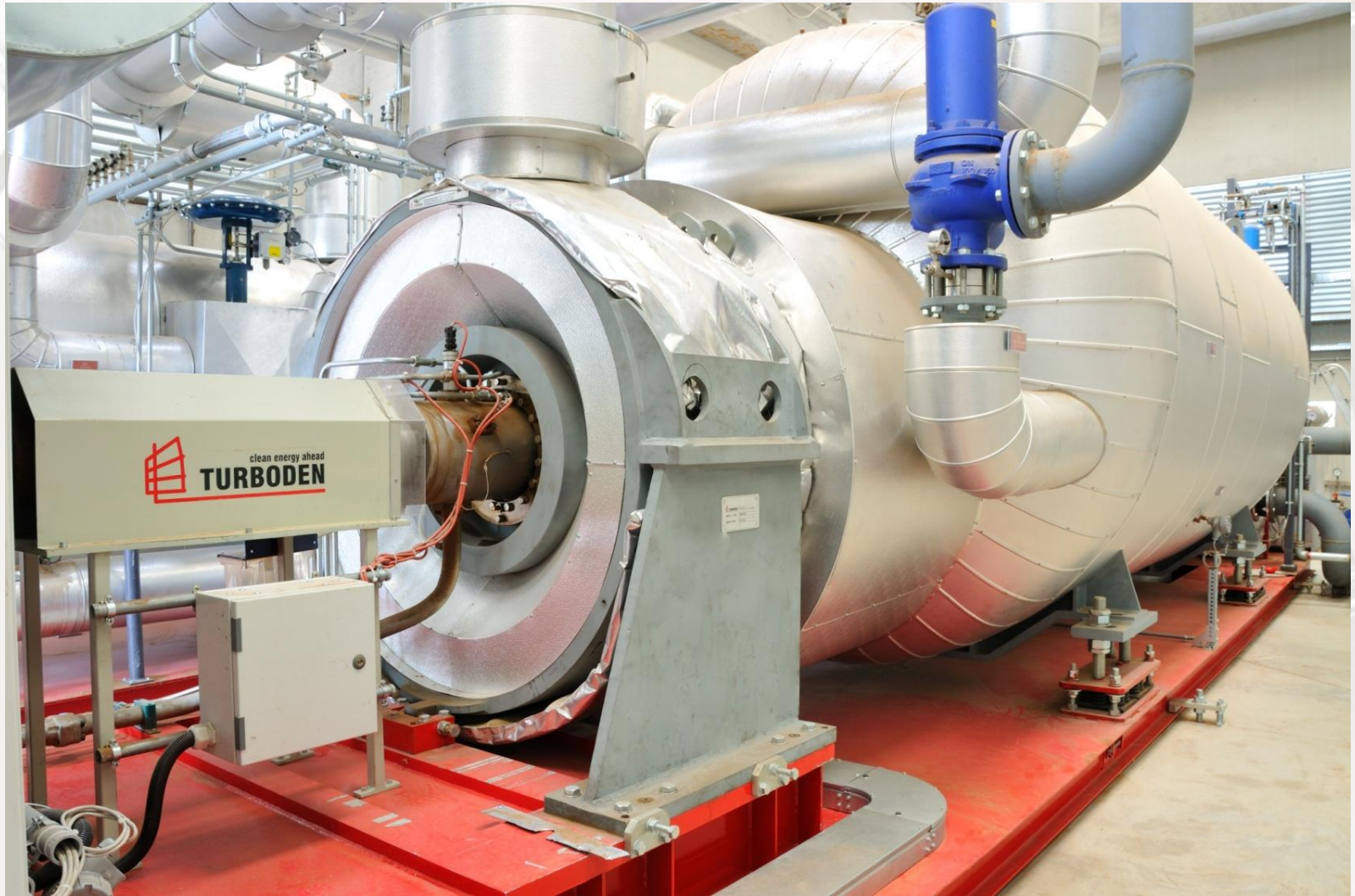




Barber and Nichols, Colorado, USA  
High speed generator: 60000 rpm  
Electric Power: 25 kW  
Working Fluid: Toluene  
Efficiency: in excess of 20%

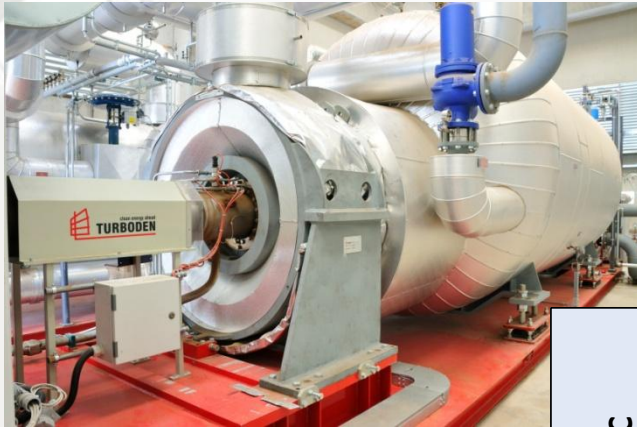




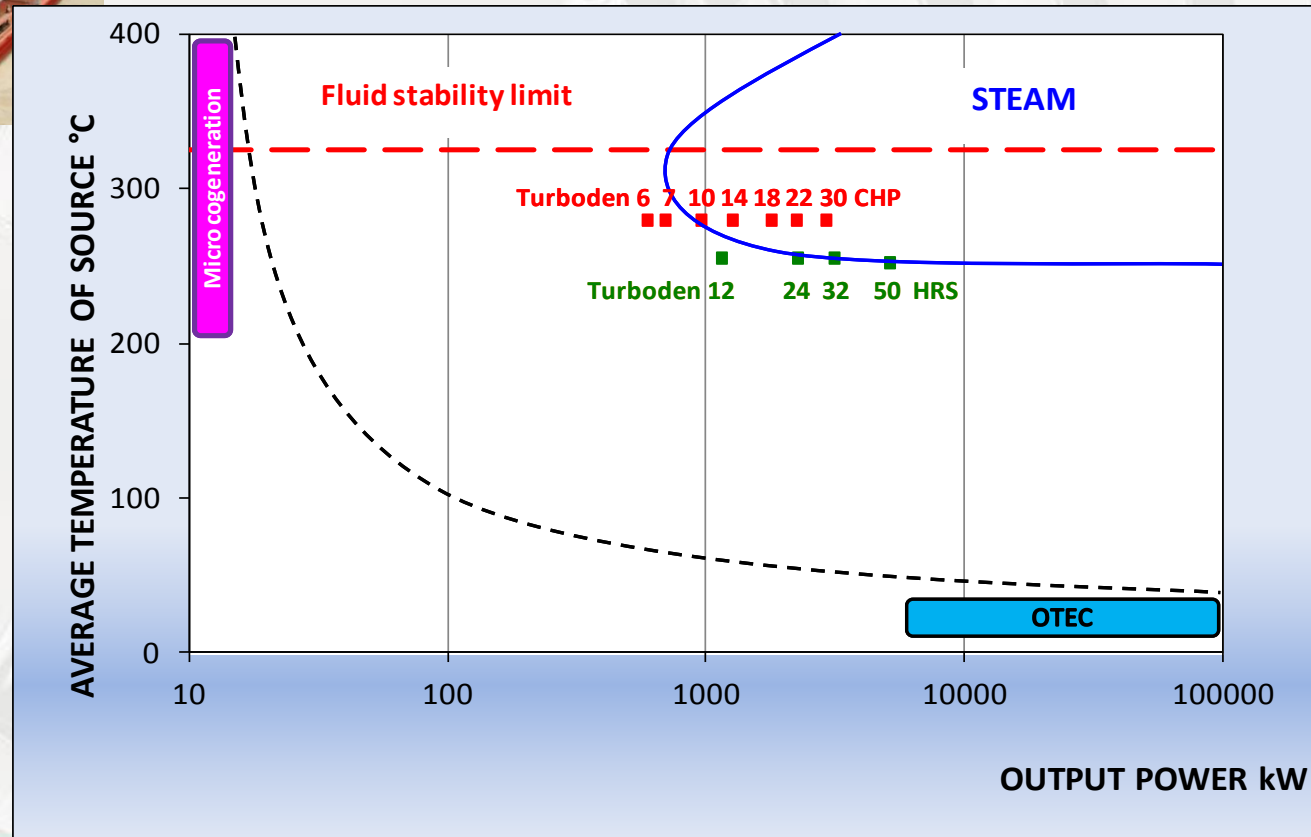


# Turboden biomass units

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#14 Frames from 400 kW to 5 MW  
Energy source: thermal oil 310/240  
and 240/130 °C







# Heat Recovery – Reference Case study

Example of **Turboden** tailor-made ORC plant for heat recovery from hot water: **3 MW** installation in Roeselare (B)

**Plant type:**

Heat recovery from pressurized water boiler in waste incinerator

**Customer :**

MIROM (Roeselare-Belgium)

**In operation since:**

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2008

**Heat source:**

hot water at 180 C (back 140 C)

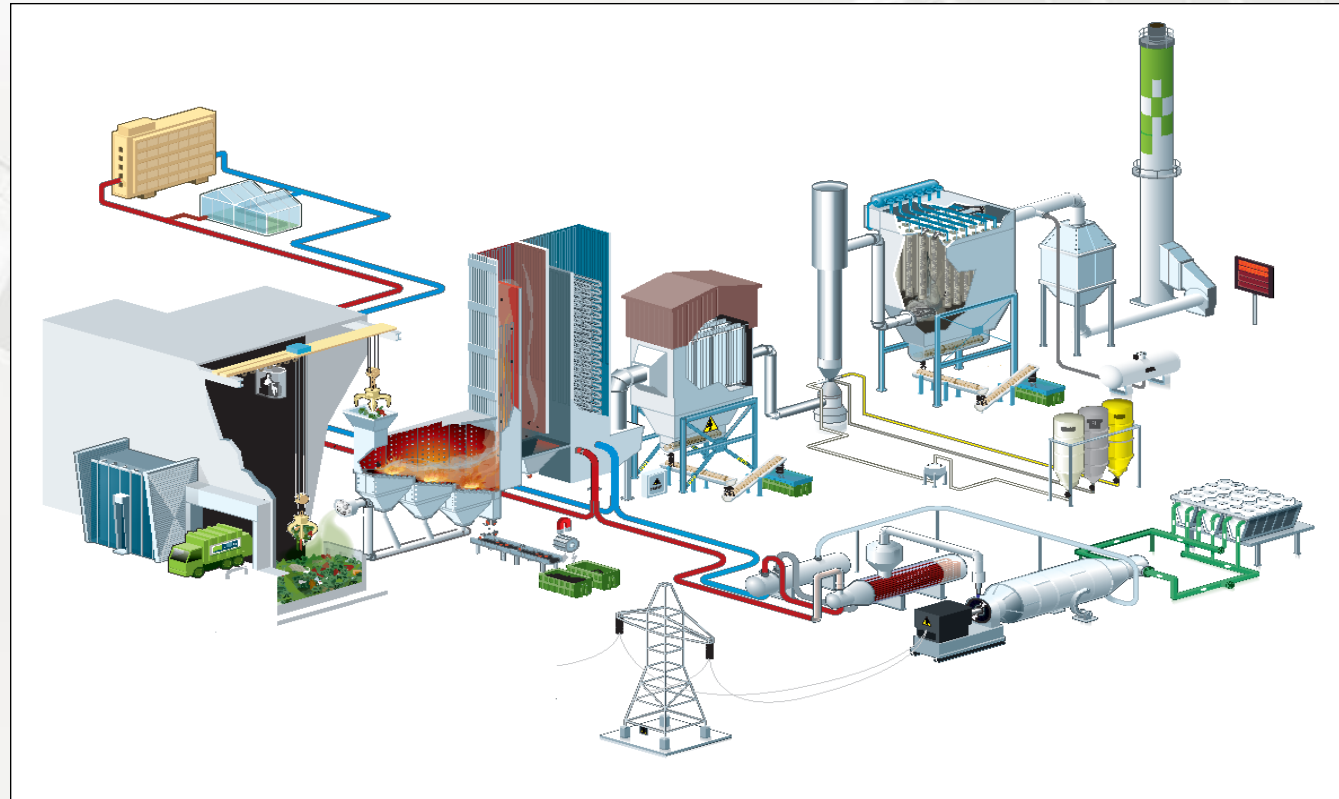
**Cooling source:**

water/air

**Total electric power:**

3 MW<sub>el</sub>

**Net electric efficiency:** 16,5%



# United Technologies Corporation

A *Fortune 50* corporation  
\$ 54.3 bn turnover 2010  
operating in 195 nations  
210.000 employees



**United Technologies**



UTC Power



UTC  
Fire & Security



Hamilton  
Sundstrand



Carrier



Research  
Center



Sikorsky



Otis



**Pratt & Whitney**  
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Service



Large  
Engines



After  
market



Marine



Mobile  
Power



Wind  
Power



ORC  
Technology



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# The PureCycle® Power System



- **280 kW Gross Power**
- **Renewable baseload power generation**
- **195°F – 300°F resource range**
- **Modular for larger plants**
- **Short lead times**
- **24/7/365 remote monitoring**
- **High availability**

**PureCycle®**

## Turboden ORC plants in the world

BIOMASS	HEAT RECOVERY	GEOTHERMAL	SOLAR	TOTAL PLANTS
in operation 124	in operation 8	in operation 3	in operation	in operation 135
under construction 54	under construction 13	under construction 3	under construction 1	under construction 71
TOTAL 178	TOTAL 21	TOTAL 6	TOTAL 1	TOTAL 206

CZECH REP	3
biomass	3
heat recovery	
geothermal	

DANMARK	1
biomass	1
heat recovery	
geothermal	

FINLAND	2
biomass	1
heat recovery	1
geothermal	

FRANCE	2
biomass	2
heat recovery	
geothermal	1

GERMANY	75
biomass	69
heat recovery	3
geothermal	3

ITALY	54
biomass	45
heat recovery	8
geothermal	1

LATVIA	7
biomass	7
heat recovery	
geothermal	

MOROCCO	1
biomass	
heat recovery	1
geothermal	

NETHERLANDS	1
biomass	1
heat recovery	
geothermal	

POLAND	4
biomass	4
heat recovery	
geothermal	

ROMANIA	2
biomass	1
heat recovery	1
geothermal	

RUSSIA	1
biomass	
heat recovery	1
geothermal	

SPAIN	4
biomass	4
heat recovery	
geothermal	

SWEDEN	1
biomass	1
heat recovery	
geothermal	

SWITZERLAND	4
biomass	4
heat recovery	
geothermal	

TURKEY	1
biomass	1
heat recovery	
geothermal	

UNITED KINGDOM	3
biomass	3
heat recovery	
geothermal	

UNITED STATES	2
biomass	
heat recovery	1
geothermal	
solar thermal power	1

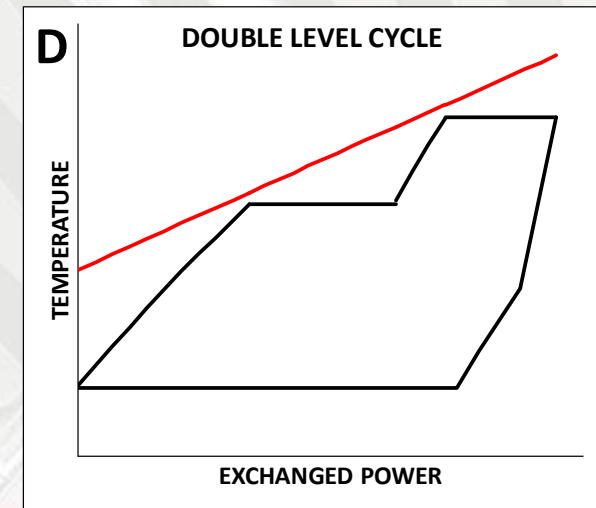
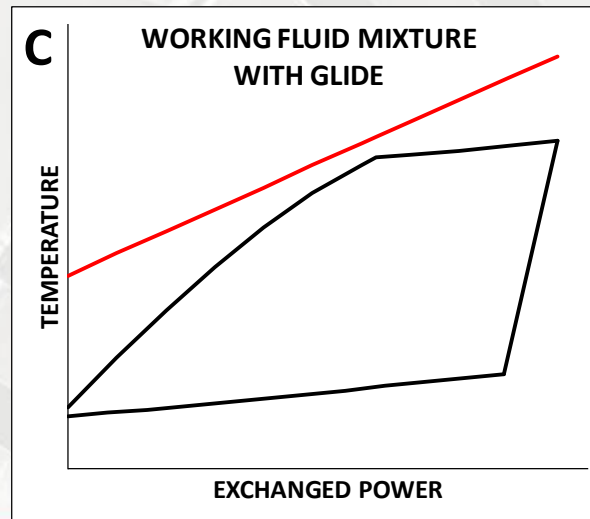
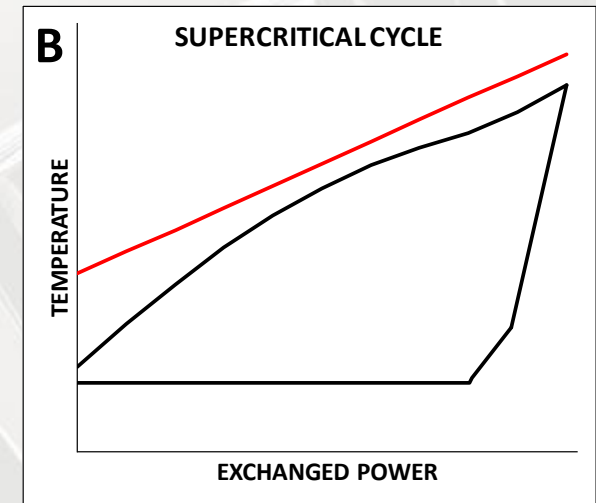
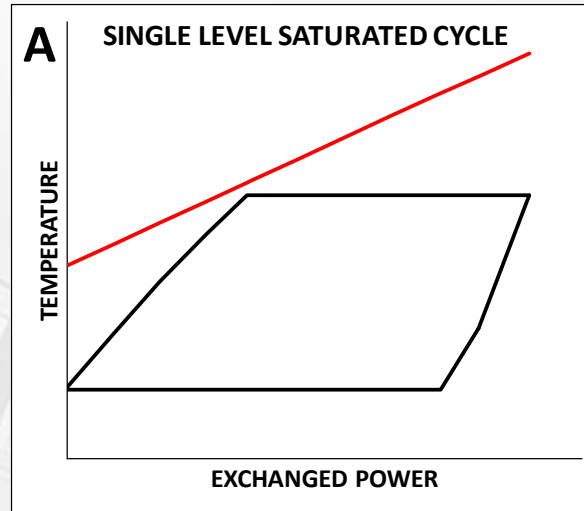
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Turboden together with Pratt & Whitney Power Systems currently has more than 280 ORC units all over the world.



### SOLUTIONS FOR VARIABLE TEMPERATURE HEAT SOURCES

- LIQUID GEOTHERMAL FLUID
- HEAT RECOVERY
- .....





## Solar ORC (medium temperature applications) perform well with

- **Low cost** solar collectors, efficient at moderate temperature
- **Low cost** thermal oils
- **Non toxic**, non harmful thermal oils (according to 67/548/CEE and 1999/45/CE)
- **Simple plant configuration**, thermal oil used both as heat transfer fluid and as thermal storage medium





## Reference plant

### 5.5 MW solar plant under construction

**Plant type:** Solar thermal power plant with thermal oil storage

**Developer:** Sopogy

**Location:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Commissioning expected:** 2012

**Net solar collector surface:** about 75.000 m<sup>2</sup>

**Heat transfer fluid:** mineral oil at 270 C nominal

**Heat rejection:** wet cooling tower

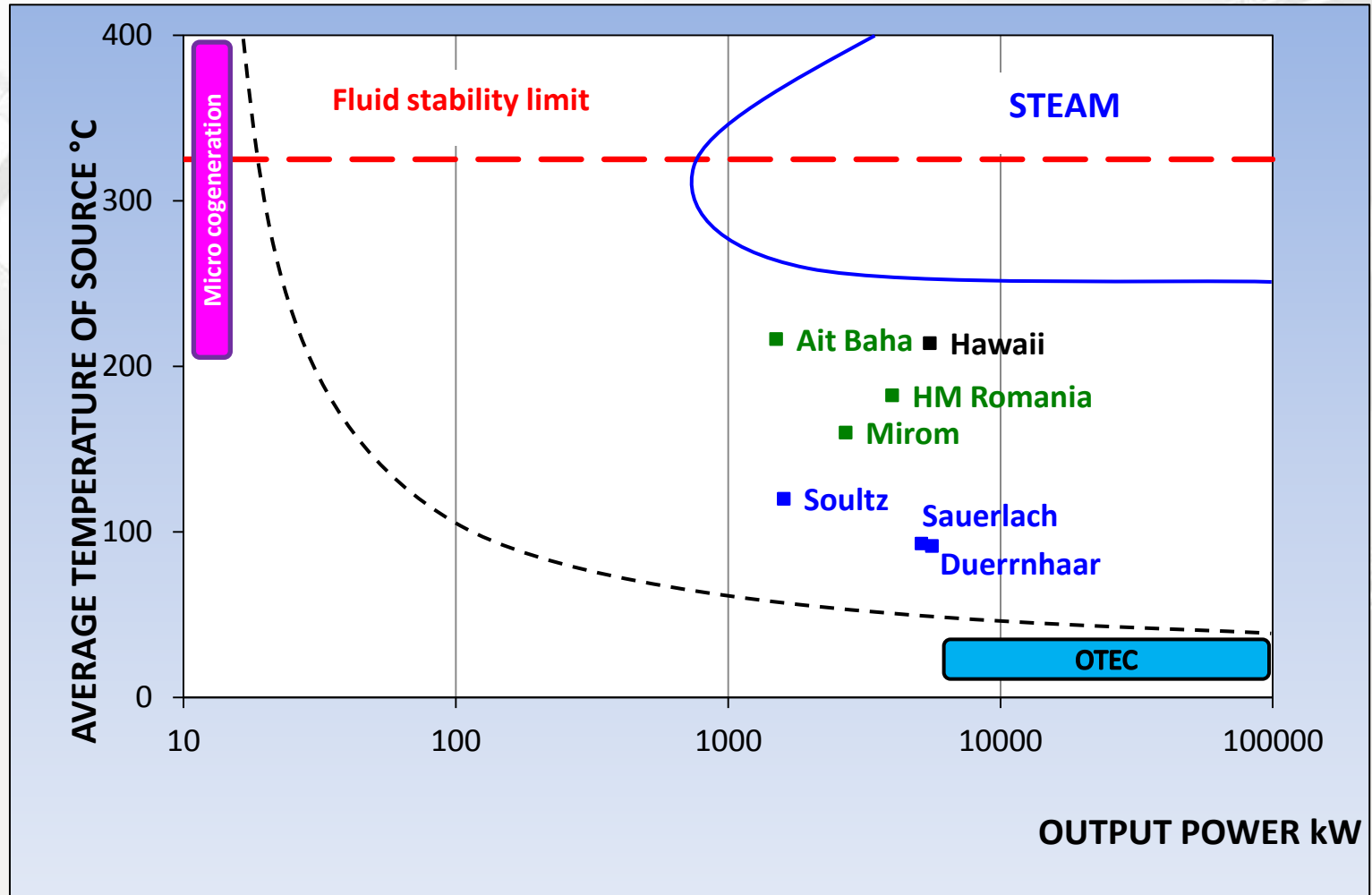
**Thermal storage:** single-tank storage with thermal oil

**Total gross electric power:** 6 MW

**Gross electric efficiency:** 20.5%



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# First International Seminar on ORC Power Systems

## *30 Years of Organic Rankine Cycle Development*

### ORC: LARGE GROWTH POTENTIAL

A few companies believed in ORC  
Now many follow the track.

We are proud to be among the pioneers

### **Primary Generation & Cogeneration**

Domestic Cogen ( few kW range)  
Biomass (Residual & Energy Crops)  
Difficult Fuels (Syngas, Flare gas etc)  
Solar thermodynamic (CSP)

### **Heat Recovery**

Industrial Process  
Gas Turbines  
Reciprocating Engines  
Glass, Steel, Cement  
Automotive & Marine  
Cryogenics

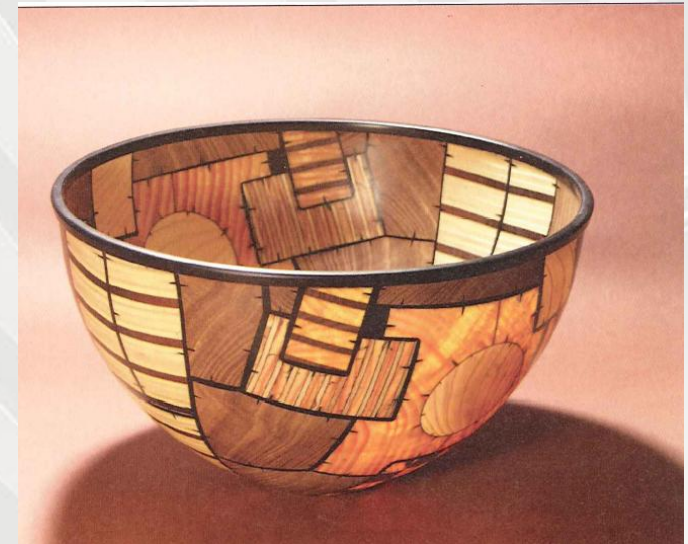
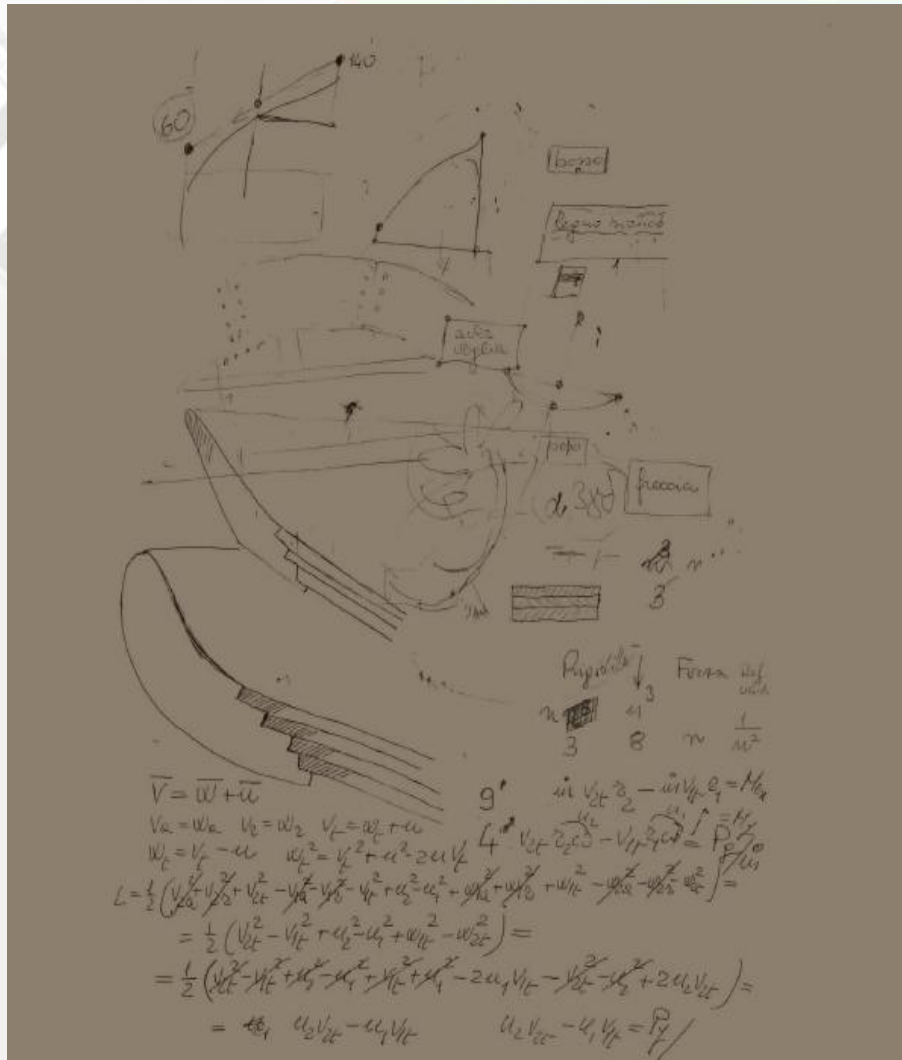
### **Geothermal**

**Otec**

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Prof. Angelino, a Scientist,  
a Guide and a wood Artist







**Thank you for your attention**

and thanks to the many persons  
within and outside Turboden which  
made development possible

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