# SOLAR PAYBACK - TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SOLAR HEAT FOR INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

#### **System Components**



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www.ise.fraunhofer.de



#### Content

#### Main Components of a SHIP System

- Technologies of Solar Thermal Collectors
  - General Principles
  - Flat Plate Collectors
  - Evacuated Tube Collectors
  - Parabolic Trough Collectors
  - Linear Fresnel Collectors
  - Other Concepts
  - Comparison
- Thermal Storage
- Summary



#### Main Components of a SHIP system Overview of main solar components

- Solar collectors
  - Flat Plate
  - Evacuated Tube
  - Parabolic Trough
  - Linear Fresnel
  - And other concepts
- Thermal storage for SHIP
  - Water
  - Steam
  - Phase change materials

- Heat transfer fluid
  - Water / Glycol (up to 120 °C)
  - Oil (up to 390 °C)
  - Molten salt (over 500 °C)
  - Air
  - Steam
- Important auxiliary components
  - Pumps
  - Heat exchanger
  - Valves
  - Pipes
  - Controller and sensors



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### Main Components of a SHIP system System components and levels

- Solar irradiation is converted into heat in a solar collector field
- Heat is transported by Heat Transfer Fluid (HTF)
- Stored in a Thermal Energy Storage (TES)

- Direct or indirect delivery through heat exchangers (HX)
- Pumps, valves and piping
- Control according to an implemented operation strategy

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### Main Components of a SHIP system Solar Collector

- "Heat exchanger" which convert solar irradiation into heat
- Surface absorbing irradiation is called *absorber*
- Collected solar energy is carried from heat transfer fluid (HTF) to the process or to an energy storage tank to be used later
- Heat is transferred to the working fluid (air, water, or oil) circulating through the process system
- Different technologies for different operating temperature levels



5 © Fraunhofer ISE FHG-SK: ISE-INTERNAL [1] Solar collectors, <a href="https://www.solar-payback.com/technology/">https://www.solar-payback.com/technology/</a>, Accessed October 2019



### Main Components of a SHIP system Thermal Energy Storage (TES)

- Heat storage is required for mismatch between thermal energy supply and energy demand
- Commonly used TES are based on water:
  - Relatively inexpensive
  - Inconvenient when large volumes are required (static water pressure)
- Different types of TES are available:
  - Pressurized or non pressurized (atmospheric)
  - With internal or external heat exchanger







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### Main Components of a SHIP system Heat Exchangers

- Heat exchangers as heat transfer surfaces between two independent hydraulic circuits (often with different HTF)
- Plate heat exchangers (especially 2 fluids) and tube-shell heat exchangers (fluid–air or fluid–steam) are widely used
- Characterizing parameters are:
  - Heat transfer coefficient UA [W/K]
  - Heat exchanger efficiency depends on:
    - Mass flows (cold and hot side)
    - Geometry and fluid properties
    - Flow principle (parallel flow, cross flow, counter flow)



### Main Components of a SHIP system Controller

- Key function:
  - Monitoring and controlling temperatures with pumps and valves
  - Ensuring optimized way of delivering solar energy to the heat system
- Control strategy must be tailored according to the specific heat demand and might include the control of:
  - Mass flow and temperature level at the solar loop side
  - Heat delivery point and rate
  - Standard operation or safety operation modes
- Due to the variety of industrial processes: no standardized controllers for SHIP systems





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- Tilting the collector surface increases the area able to collect the radiation
- Depending on location, optimal tilt angle for collector increases solar gain
- At radiative balance, the temperature of an ideal absorber surface (black body) would rise to maximum 91.3 °C (neglecting convection and conduction)
- In order to rise the temperature, heat flux must be increased → Concentration
- However: increase of concentration reduces the acceptance angle
- Need of tracking systems with solar concentrators

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[1] Horta P. (2015): State of the Art of process heat collectors, IEA/SHC TASK 49 Technical Report A.1.3.



#### Stationary collectors (C < 2)

- Flat Plate Collectors FPC
  - (selective) flat absorber with optional flat glazing cover
  - T < 100 °C
- Evacuated Tube Collectors ETC
  - Vacuum absorber tubes
  - T < 120 °C
- Compound Parabolic Concentrator
  - Stationary line-focus concentrator
  - T < 100-200 °C



#### Tracking collectors (C > 10)

- Parabolic Trough Collectors PTC
  - Line-focusing concentrator
  - One-axis tracking, parabola
  - (Non-)evacuated absorber
  - 100 °C < T < 250/550 °C
- Linear Fresnel Reflector
  - Line-focusing concentrator
  - One-axis tracking
  - Fresnel principle: Dividing a parabola into segments
  - (Non-)evacuated absorber
  - 100 °C < T < 250/550 °C





[1]

[1] Images: Solar collectors, <u>https://www.solar-payback.com/technology/</u>, Accessed October 2019

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Selection of a specific solar collector technology is intrinsically related to the required temperature at the heat delivery point

DUSTRY	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
	Below 150 °C	150 to 400 °C	> 400 °C
Chemical	·Boiling	• Distilling	E .
Food and beverage	Drying · Boiling  Pasteurising · Sterilising		
Machinery	Cleaning · Drying		1
Mining	Copper electrolytic refining  Mineral drying processes	Nitrate melting	
Textile	Washing · Bleaching	• Dyeing	
Wood	Steaming • Pickling  Cooking	Compression · Drying	
	100 °C 150	°C 250 °C 350 °C	
		Concentrating dish Large parabolic trough / linear Fresnel with evacuated receiver	[1]



© Fraunhofer ISE FHG-SK: ISE-INTERNAL [1] IEA TASK 49, https://www.solar-payback.com/markets/, Accessed October 2019



- Collector efficiency depends on:
  - Optical losses depending on incidence angle
  - Thermal losses depending on operating temperature



- η [-] collector efficiency
- $\eta_0$  [-] zero-loss efficiency
- $a_1 / a_2$  [W/m<sup>2</sup> K] heat loss coefficients
- $T_m$  [°C] mean fluid temperature
- $T_a$  [°C] ambient temperature
- G [W/m<sup>2</sup>] total solar irradiance on collector plane



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Measures to increase the efficiency of solar thermal collectors:

#### Selective Absorber Surfaces

- Spectrally selective absorber surfaces
- Development of special coating materials
  → Shifting of absorptivity and emissivity spectral distributions
- Aim: Achieve high absorptivity and low emissivity
- Emittance: 0.05 0.15
- Absorptance: 0.9 0.95

#### Vacuum

- Notable enhancement of thermal performance of solar collectors
- Evacuation of volume between absorber surface and surrounding glass
- Thus, limitation or elimination of thermal losses by means of convection
- Nowadays also available for flat plate collectors



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Commonly used for temperatures in the range of 30 °C to 100 °C



- Absorber tubes through which working fluid flows covered by absorber sheet and a transparent cover
- Coating on the absorber converts the solar irradiation to heat which is transferred to the working fluid in the tubes
- Usual fluid is water/glycol mixture (with some additives) in order to avoid corrosion and frost damages
- Simple to use, little maintenance and relatively cheap



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- Improved Medium Temperature Flat-Plate Collectors
  - Reduced heat losses
    - double glazed, AR coatings
    - CPC flat plate
    - honeycomb collector
  - Operation temperature
    - up to 80°C for flat-plate
    - up to 100°C for honeycomb and double glazed collectors
  - Improvement of optical efficiency difficult
  - Can heat loss be further reduced? Other possibilities?



Efficiency for Irradiation 850 W/m<sup>2</sup>, IAM=1



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- Double Glazed Flat Plate Collectors  $\rightarrow$  Operating temperatures up to 120°C
- Supplier:
  - Schüco CTE 524 DH 2 double AR-glazing
  - Arcon HT-SA 28/10 AR-glass+ETFE-film
  - Solid "Gluatmugl HT" AR-glass+ETFE-film



Desalination system for capacities up to 2000 l/day, 90 m<sup>2</sup>, Gran Canaria



- Flat plate collectors with internal reflectors
  - Aosol (PT) standard product
    - Operating temperatures up to 120°C
    - Stationary concentration 1.15 X
  - Aosol (PT) development
    - Operating temperatures up to 120°C
    - Stationary concentration 1.5 X
    - Dimensions 1427 x 4020 x 180 mm<sup>3</sup>
    - ETFE-film as convection barrier
  - SolarFocus (A)
    - Dimensions 1155 x 2400 x 65 mm<sup>3</sup>





- Development of high efficiency FPC with reduced heat losses
  - External reflector
  - Working temperatures 80 °C to 150 °C (medium temperature range)

Prototype on tracker facility at Fraunhofer ISE





Visualisation of RefleC-Concepts

Bundesministerium

für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit

> Simulation of collector for Würzburg, Germany. Based on measured thermal efficiency and IAM-values.

Wagner & Co



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### Technologies of Solar Thermal Collectors Evacuated Tube Collectors

ETC can achieve higher temperatures than FPC ranging from 50 to 130°C



- Consists of a row of parallel vacuum glass tubes
- Absence of air highly reduces convection and conduction losses
- 2 categories of ETC:
  - Direct flow principle: the heat transfer fluid of the collector loop flows directly through the absorber via a co-axial tube
  - Heat pipes principle: the heat of the absorber is transferred to the heat transfer fluid of the collector loop via a heat pipe system (Figure 5 right)

Source: gef, UNEP, ome; Technical Study report on SHIP, State of the art in the Mediterranean region





### Technologies of Solar Thermal Collectors Evacuated Tube Collectors

- Compound Parabolic Concentrator ETC
  - Low concentration CPC (C < 2)</p>
    - Evacuated tubes CPC collectors which can deliver up to 200°C
    - Stationary collector CPC is designed in a way that all solar positions during a year a accepted by the concentrator
  - Bridges the gap between the lower temperature application FPC (<80°C) to the higher temp. applications of concentrators (T>200°C)



CPC solar collector

[1]





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- Thermal Vacuum Power Charged<sup>™</sup>
  - TVP charged panels allow for the first time to take full advantage of high vacuum insulation in a planar layout at low cost
  - TVP panels can operate at high temperature with high efficiency, without requiring any concentration (using direct AND diffuse light)





### Technologies of Solar Thermal Collectors Comparison ETC vs FPC

- Flat plate vacuum collector TVP MT-Power 3rd prize INTERSOLAR 2012
- Vacuum tube collector for process heat Paradigma AQUA PLASMA
- Vacuum reduces heat losses substantially → operation temperatures 160°C – 200°C feasible dependent on collector



Efficiency for Irradiation 850 W/m<sup>2</sup>, IAM=1 (Values for TVP based on manufacturers data)



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Parabolic mirrors focus only direct sunlight onto an absorber tube



- Designed to track the sun along one axis oriented in the north-south or east-west direction
- Reflecting surface normally a curved glass mirror or an aluminium sheet
- Water or thermal oil usually used as working fluid
- Receptor consists of an absorber tube of an area usually 25 to 35 times smaller than the aperture

© Fraunhofer ISE FHG-SK: ISE-INTERNAL Source: gef, UNEP, ome; Technical Study report on SHIP, State of the art in the Mediterranean region [2] http://www.homepower.com/sites/default/files/articles/ajax/docs/12\_HP133\_pg70\_Marken-6.jpg



PolyTrough 1200 and 1800 – NEP Solar



[1] http://www.nep-solar.com/

Aperture width 1.2 or 1.8 m

- Operating temperature 250°C
- Standard 1200 collector is 24m long and 1.6m high
- Composite carrier reflectors
- Torque tube approach
- Lower cost in shipping and installation
- Ease of operations & maintenance
- Scalable Design
- Various receiver options



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#### Project NEP Solar: 230kW Solar Cooling, Australia



- Aperture: 345m<sup>2</sup> (PolyTrough 1200)
- Peak Thermal Power: 200kW
- Outlet Temperature: 180°C
- HTF: Water
- Application/End Use: Air conditioning
- Commissioning: April 2011



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Solitem (Germany) – Trough PTC1800



[1] www.solitem.com

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- Soltigua (Italy) PTM parabolic trough collector
  - Technical features
    - Modular design
    - Surface = 13.5 m<sup>2</sup>/module
    - Length = 6.2 m/module
    - Cord = 2.4 m
    - Peak power = 570 W/m2 (7.7 kW/module @DNI of 1000 W/m<sup>2</sup>, T<sub>amb</sub>= 30°C, T<sub>out</sub> = 200°C)
    - Up to 4 modules driven by the same motor (n.1 PTM24):
    - 25 m long / 54 m² / 31 kWpeak

#### **TECHNOLOGICAL EXCELLENCE**

In 2010 PTM has been awarded the "Towards the A-class building" prize at the at MCE2010, Europe's largest trade fair for heating and air conditioning. The prize was given to the best innovations for building energy systems.



Soltigua (Italy) - PTM parabolic trough collector



Installation in Gambettola (Italy): solar cooling system with concentrating collectors and double effect absorptions chiller



- Solarlite (Germany)
  - Production of PTC collectors 2300 and 4600 for:
    - process heat
    - concentrated solar thermal power
  - 2.3 m and 4.6 m aperture
  - Operation up to 400°C / 55 bar
  - 12m segment
  - Variable size of plant
  - Costs comparable with larger CSP collectors instead of small plant size





- Sopogy (USA) SopoNova 4.0
  - Geometrical features
    - Length: 3.66 m
    - Width: 1.52 m
    - Center to Center Spacing: 2.59 m
    - Reflector Aperture Area: 5.07 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Reference installation
    - Masdar cooling project





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Thermax (India) – Trough PT500



Parabolic trough pilot at Shive Village





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- Many nearly flat mirror facets instead of one parabolic mirror
- Receiver/Absorber is above mirror rows, which track the sun



- High concentration ratio and temperatures up to 400°C
- Thermal capacity from 50 kW up to several MW
- Easy to mount on flat roofs as a result of good weight distribution and high wind resistance
- Water/steam or thermal oil usually used as working fluid
- High surface coverage, efficient land use







Source: Industrial Solar Gmbh

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- Industrial Solar GmbH (Freiburg, Germany)
  - Geometrical features
    - Length: modular in steps of 4 m
    - Total width: 7.5 m
    - Aperture width: 5.5 m
    - Height: 4 m
  - Weight: 27 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Peak power: 560 W/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Max. temp.: 400 °C







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- Industrial Solar GmbH (Freiburg, Germany)
- Monitoring of collector field: Precise temperature control





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- New developments
  - Further development: Soltigua (Italy), SUNCNIM(France), Thermax (India), Lotus (Egypt), KG Group (India), others...



DSG Pilot Plant in La Seyne Sur Mer, France





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### **Technologies of Solar Thermal Collectors Other Concepts**

- Tecnologia Solar Concentrador CCStar Collector (Spain)
  - **Reflector: Aluminum**
  - Receiver: 32 evacuated tubes
  - Working fluid: Water
  - Width: 5.2 m
  - Length: 8.4 m
  - Gross Area: 43.7 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Net area: 37.1 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Optical efficiency: 71.8%
  - Max. temperature: 200°C



modifier [-]

incidence



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### **Technologies of Solar Thermal Collectors Other Concepts**

Absolicon (SE)

#### Hemab:

- Installation to provide hot water for district heating and electricity for the grid
- 200 m<sup>2</sup> X10 PV/T
- 20 kWp electricity
- 80 kWp hot water



#### Mohali: Two installations

- Hot water and electricity
- Solar Cooling (not completed) 115 C.
- 100 m<sup>2</sup> X10 PV/T
- 10 kWp electricity
- 90 kWp heat





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### Technologies of Solar Thermal Collectors Comparison

Classification

Motion	Collector type	Absorber type	Concentration	Indicative temperature range (°C)
Stationary	Flat Plate Collector (FPC)	Flat	No	30-80
	Evacuated Tube Collector (ETC)	Tubular	No	50-130
	Compound Parabolic Concentrator (CPC) Collectors	Tubular/Flat	Yes	80-200
Single axis tracking	Linear Fresnel Reflector (LFR)	Tubular	Yes	60-400
	Parabolic Trough Collector (PTC)	Tubular	Yes	100-450
Two axes tracking	Parabolic dish reflector (PDR)	Point	Yes	100-500
	Heliostats Field collector (HFC)	Point	Yes	150-2000



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#### Thermal Storage Overview

Available Concepts





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### Thermal Storage Water Storage

- Unpressurized Tmax < 90°C</p>
- Pressurized Tmax > 90°C
- Steel vessels with insulation
- The standard solution for Solar Process Heat Systems (SPHS) is water storage
- Other fluids are thermal oilt and molten salt for higher temperatures





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#### Thermal Storage Water Storage

- Example: Copper mine "Gabriela Mistral", Chile, non-pressurized water storage
  - Volume: 4300 m<sup>3</sup>
  - 39,300 m<sup>2</sup> FPC
  - 85-100% solar fraction
  - electro winning of copper
  - electrolyte kept at 50°C
  - cleaning processes



COPPER CATHODES



#### Thermal Storage Water Storage

 Example: Brewery Göss, Austria, large pressurized water storage (200 m<sup>3</sup>)









### Thermal Storage Steam Storage

- Ruths Storage
  - Pressurized water for water-steam systems
  - Thermal capacity is proportional to ΔT
  - High investment cost due to expensive pressure vessel
  - No option for large-scale / high-pressure applications









### Thermal Storage Steam Storage

- Latent heat storage with Phase Change Material PCM
  - Traditional approach: Sandwich configuration
  - = Heat transport from HTF into PCM with low conductivity ( $\lambda$ =0,5 W/mK )
  - Lamellae from graphite / aluminum
  - Large heat exchanger area
  - high costs, further R&D necessary







## Thermal Storage Charging Concepts

Direct charging without heat exchanger

- Cheap and robust
- Collector fluid is storage fluid
- Discharge of storage by solar loop difficult to avoid

#### External heat exchanger with stratification valve

- Different media in collector field and storage
- More complex
- Stratification valve controls storage inlet height by charging flow temperature (optional)





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## Thermal Storage Charging Concepts

**External heat exchanger** with mixed charging return flow (M = mixing valve)

- Prioritizes fast process supply
- Beneficial for higher integration temperatures
- Charging return flow is mixed to reach set charging temperature
- Variable speed pumps can be applied to reach target storage charging (and process supply) temperature
- Total volume only charged if load is covered
- Storage acts as hydraulic separator, when process return flow also has a stratified inlet





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### Thermal Storage Interconnection Concepts

#### Single buffer storage

- Recommended, if possible
- Low heat losses and piping effort
- Temporal reduction of active storage volume possible, when concepts "mixed charging return flow" and "stratified process return flow" are combined

#### Parallel storages

- Only for low ceilings
- Exact hydraulic balance important for uniform flow
- Maximum 2 storages parallel



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### **Thermal Storage** Interconnection Concepts

#### Serial

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- Only for low ceilings
- Forced stratification
- Possible destruction of exergy by heat entrainment

#### **Priority circuit**

- Seasonally adaptable active storage volume
- Separate charge and discharge possible
- Different processes can be supplied at different temperature levels

#### **Return flow bypass**

- Hot process return flow can be bypassed
- Beneficial if process return flow is colder than bottom storage temperature
- Collector loop can operate at process temperature

[1] Muster B. et al.: Integration Guideline, IEA TASK 49, Technical Report B2, 2015 FHG-SK: ISE-INTERNAL



## Thermal Storage Discharging Concepts

#### Direct

- Storage medium is process medium
- Storage is integration point

#### Indirect with stratified process return flow (optional)

- Process medium and storage medium can differ
- Variable heights for discharge flow and return flow possible (stratification for high return flow temperatures indicated)





### Thermal Storage Discharging Concepts

#### Indirect with **fresh water station** (M = mixing valve)

- Return flow addition limits integration flow temperature to a maximum or allows to deliver a set temperature
- This temperature level is never exceeded

#### Indirect with pre-heating storage

- Suitable for batch processes with high peak demand of process medium
- Discharge can also be realized by external heat exchanger

#### Indirect with via **evaporator**

- For high-temperature storages only
- Evaporator is integration point

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[1] Muster B. et al.: Integration Guideline, IEA TASK 49, Technical Report B2, 2015



### Thermal Storage Steam Generation

#### Indirect steam generation

- For collectors with liquid HTF
- Steam generation in kettle type boiler
- Three-way valve is integration point



#### Direct steam generation

- For steam generating collectors
- Steam drum for phase seperation acts as small storage
- Three-way valve is integration point



system

[1]



[1] Muster B. et al.: Integration Guideline, IEA TASK 49, Technical Report B2, 2015

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#### Summary

- Although the market for SPH is still small, many companies have developed new collector products suitable for a medium temperature range 100°C – 250°C or even higher
- Non-concentrating standard collectors are suitable for temperatures below 80°C (flat-plate) / 150°C (evacuated tube collectors with CPC)
- Standard storage solutions are large water storages, storage solutions for steam and higher temperatures are in development
- If operating temperatures are higher than for solar water heating are needed special care has to be given to other components (temperature stability, etc.)
- Systems and component development and testing is an important task for R&D organisations



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### Thank you for your Attention!



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