

ENGINEERING
TOMORROW

Danfoss

Next Generation Decarbonized Data Center

System Design

Future Data Summit

Danfoss Climate Solutions



The Excess Heat Opportunity

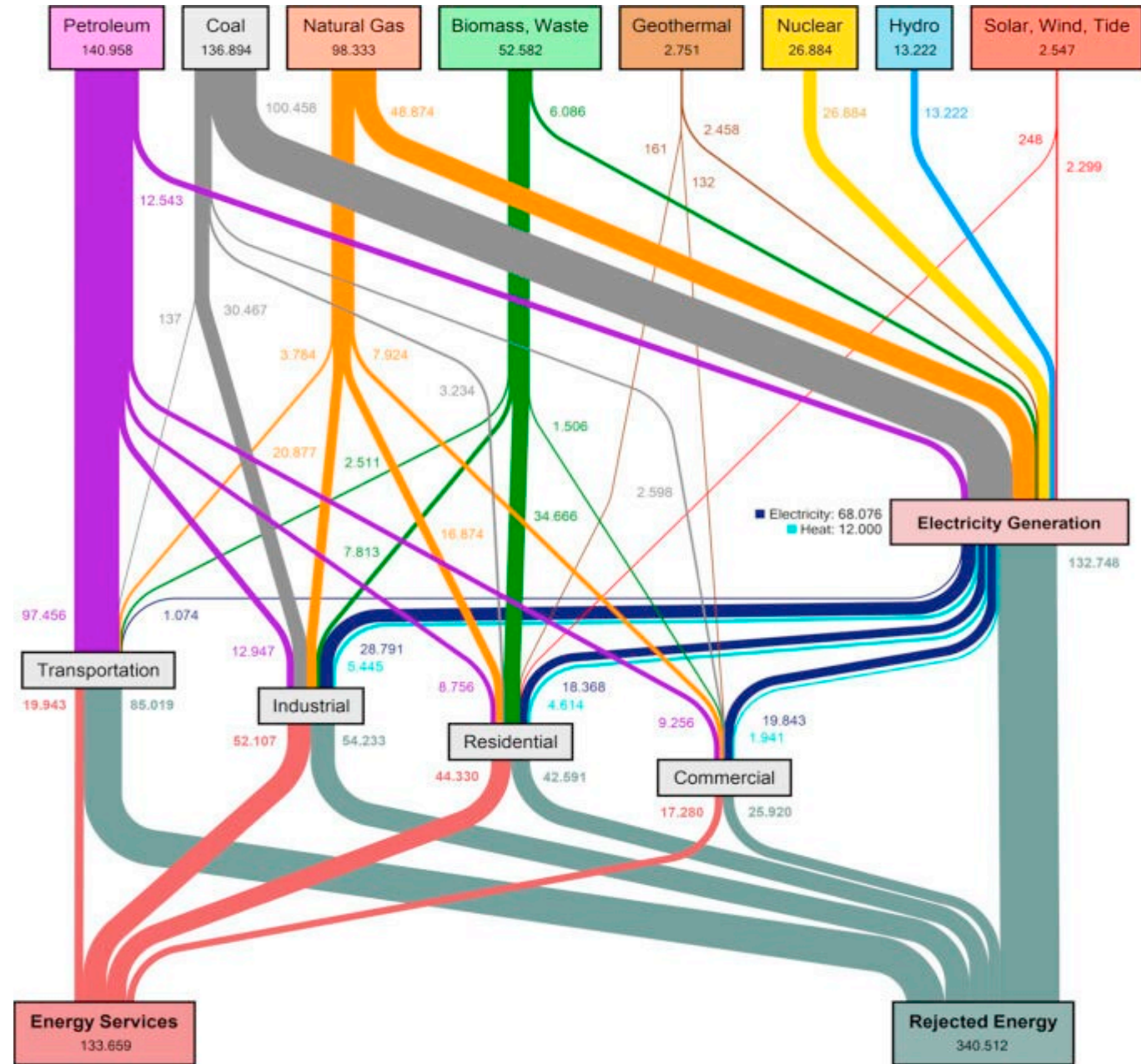
"72% of the global energy input (consumed primary energy carriers) is currently lost after conversion.

The future energy system will look radically different and use a lot less primary energy.

Such a system will be characterised by:

- a) "electricity-only" renewables (mainly solar and wind),
- b) electrification of many end uses that currently rely on burning fossil fuels,
- c) reusing unavoidable waste heat,
- d) much improved end-use efficiency
- e) enhanced flexibility"

[Estimating the global waste heat potential - ScienceDirect](#)

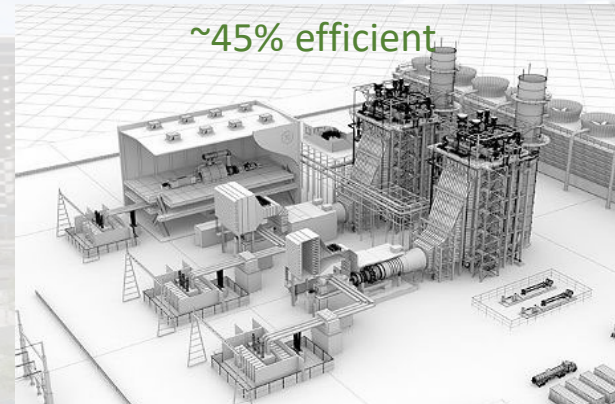
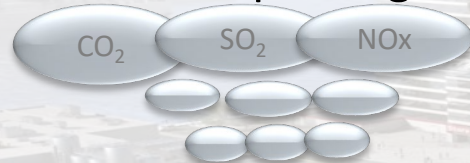


Why is the market focused on Heating Electrification Efficiency & Decarbonization

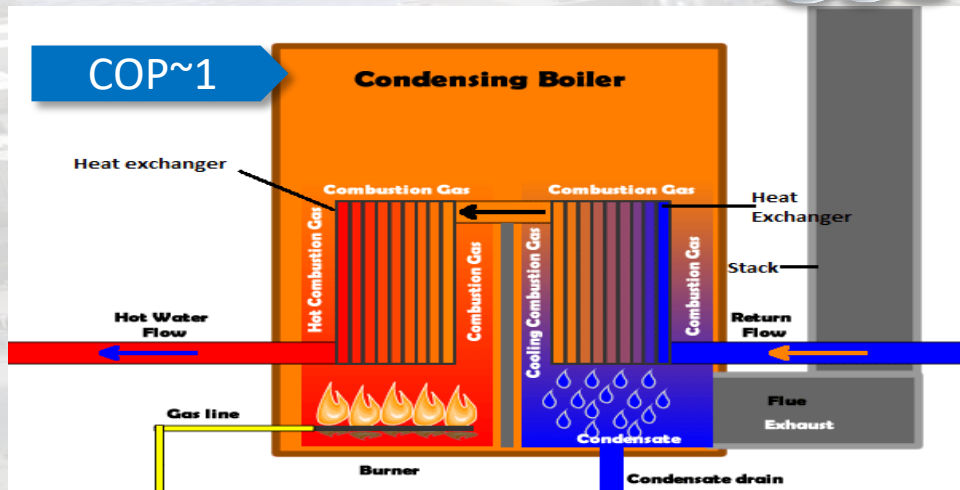
Fossil fuels

Heat pumps

- Inefficient
- Drive CO₂ & other gas emissions impacting environment



Transmission & Distribution



COP~1

Condensing Boiler

~35% operating cost reduction
~60% emissions reduction

- More efficient
- Efficiency increases at part-load/lift
- Goal is to *exceed spark spread*

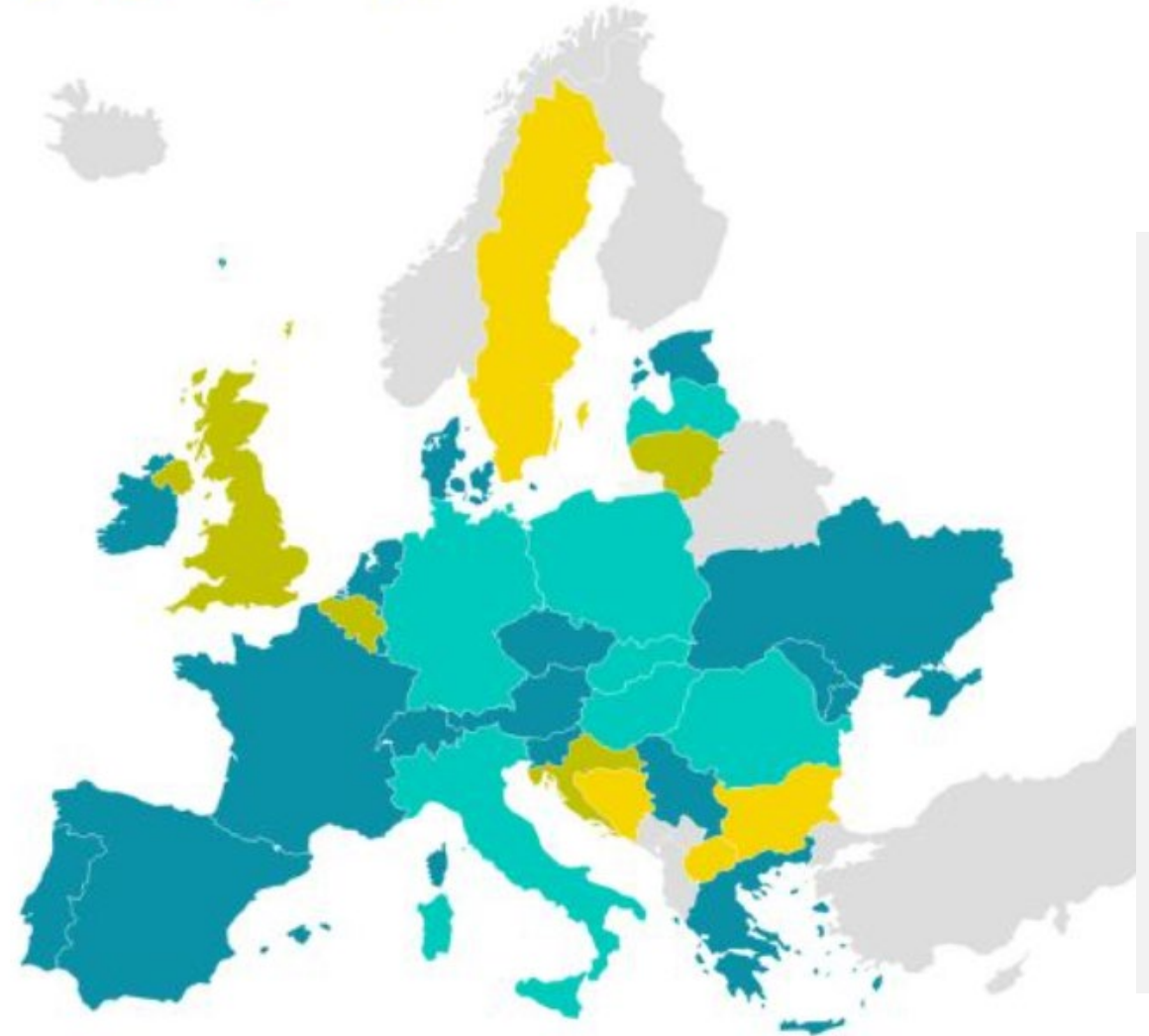
Heat Pump
Part Load
Efficiency

Spark Spread –

EUR 1st Half 2023

Electricity to gas price ratio

<1.5 1.5-2.5 2.5-3.5 >3.5



➤ Electrification COP > spark spread = payback

➤ Ratio driven by both electricity and gas cost

➤ Wide variation by country

➤ Variation also in real-time vs average

[\(3\) European Heat Pump Association: Overview | LinkedIn](#)



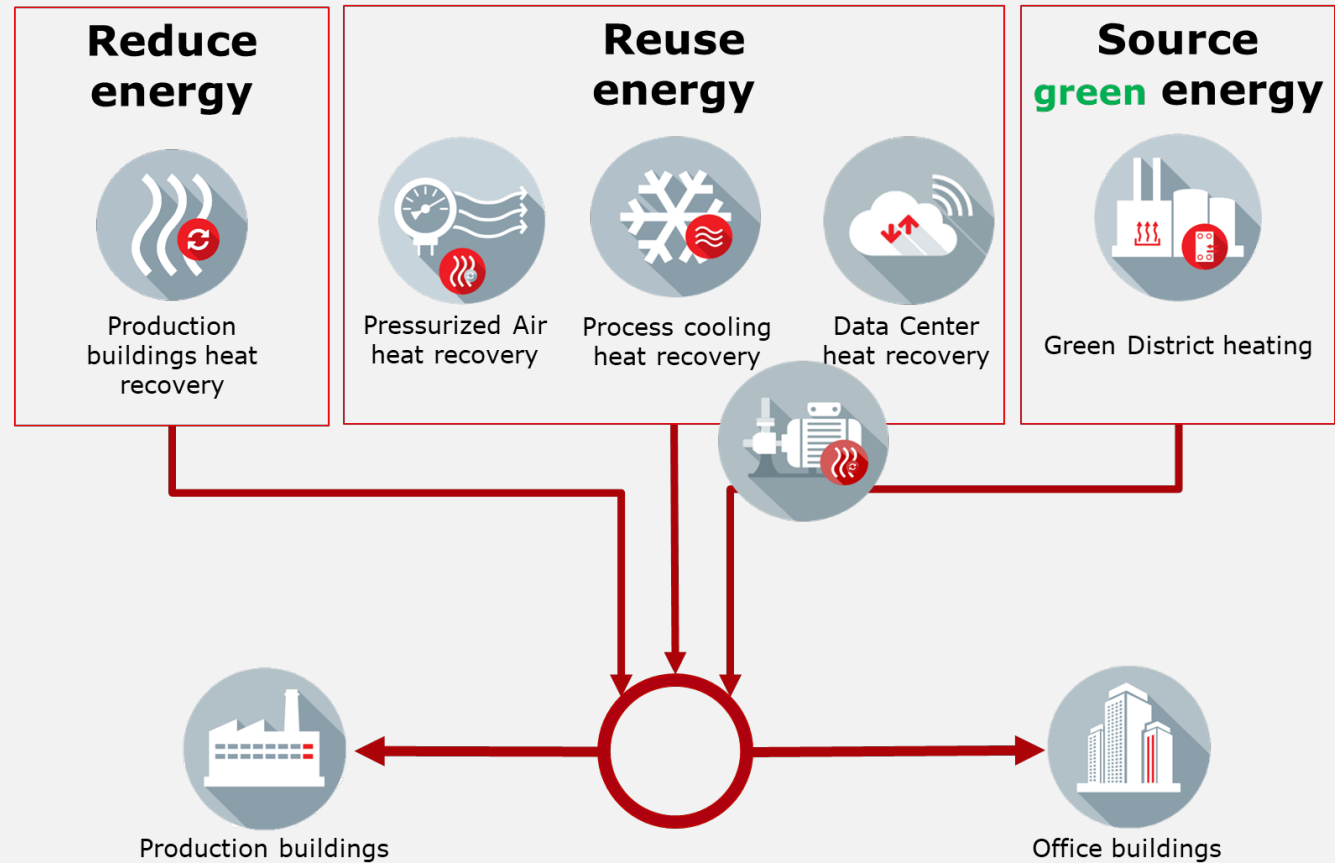
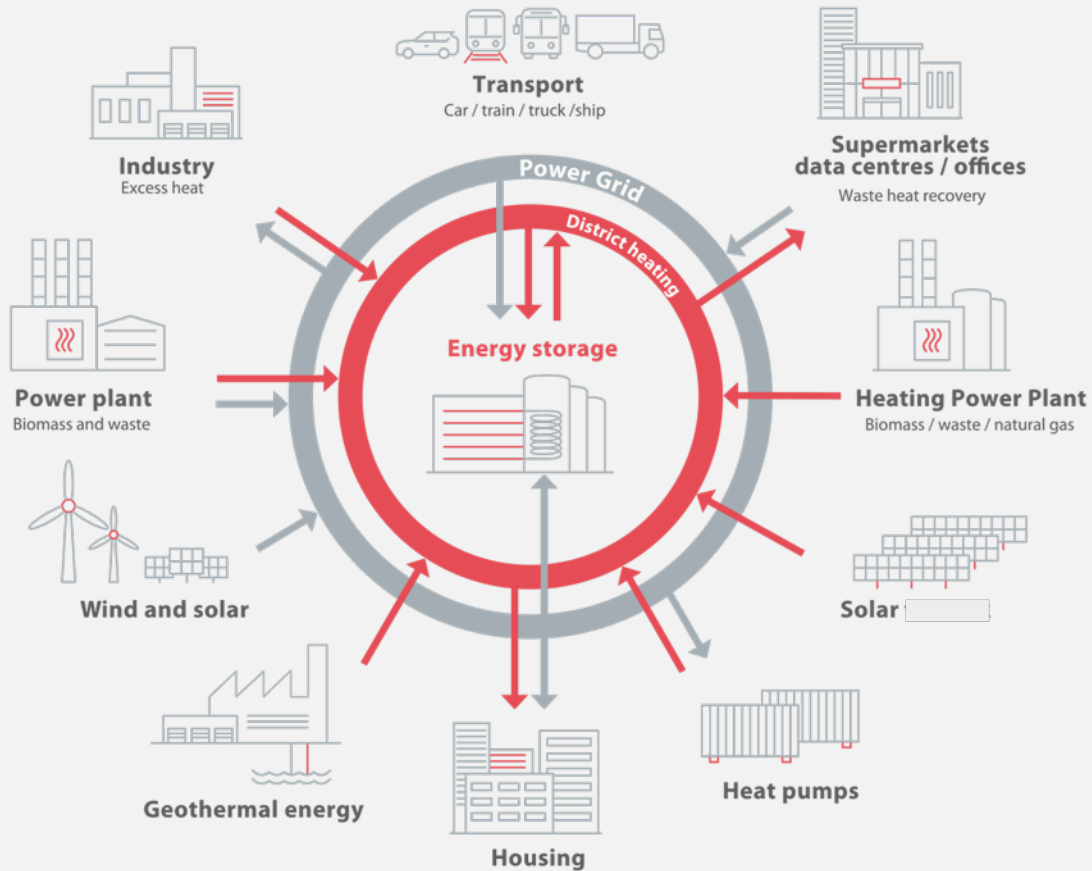
Sector coupling is the process of optimizing the combination of at least two different sectors of energy demand and production

- Can happen on a small scale through urban planning, or it can happen on a larger scale through district energy networks.
- Large synergies can occur when a producer of excess heat, for instance a data center, is located close to entities that can buy and use large amounts of the excess heat (e.g. horticulture).
- Smart urban planning should consider these synergies between energy producers and users in, for example, industrial clusters. Smart urban planning and sector integration play a vital role in decarbonizing our energy system.

Sector Coupling

Holistic Approach to Efficiency and Decarbonization via Integrated Systems

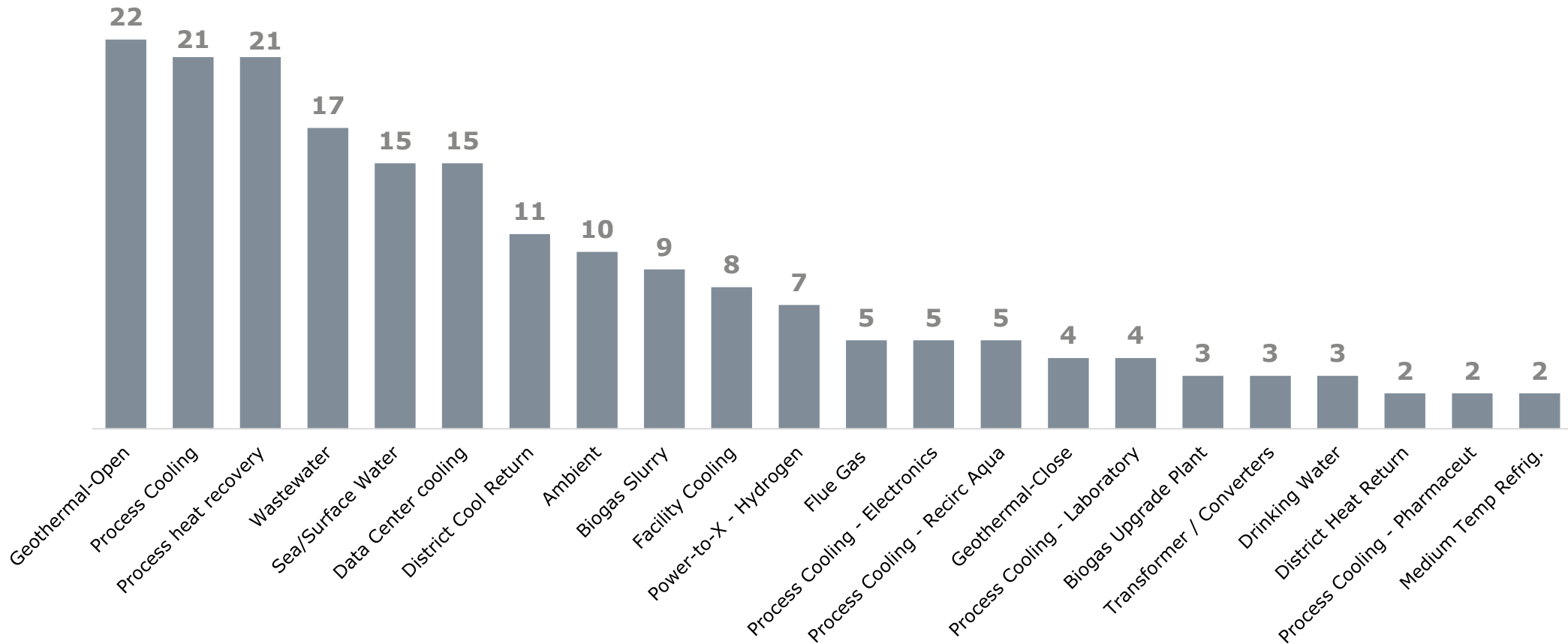
Sector integration



Source, Heat Pump and Demand Analysis

Heat Sources - Projects

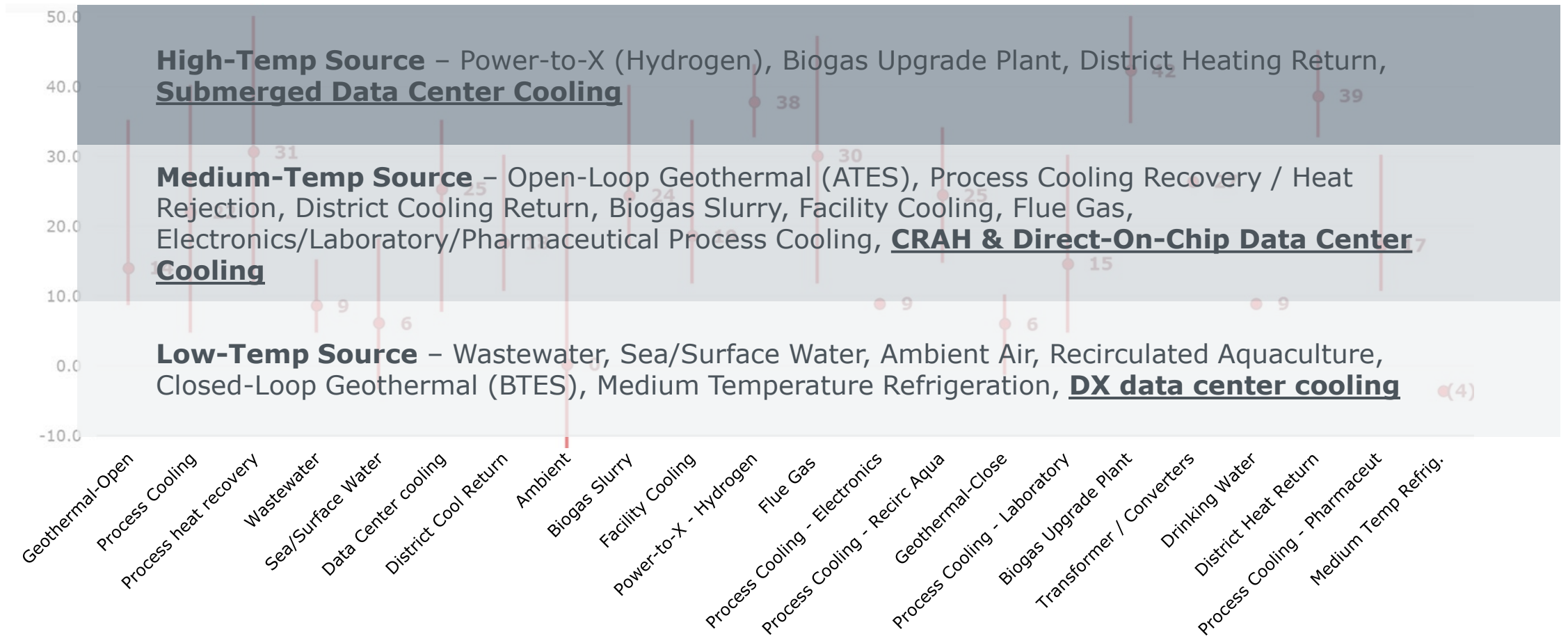
Opportunities by Heat Source (# of projects)



Source, Heat Pump and Demand Analysis

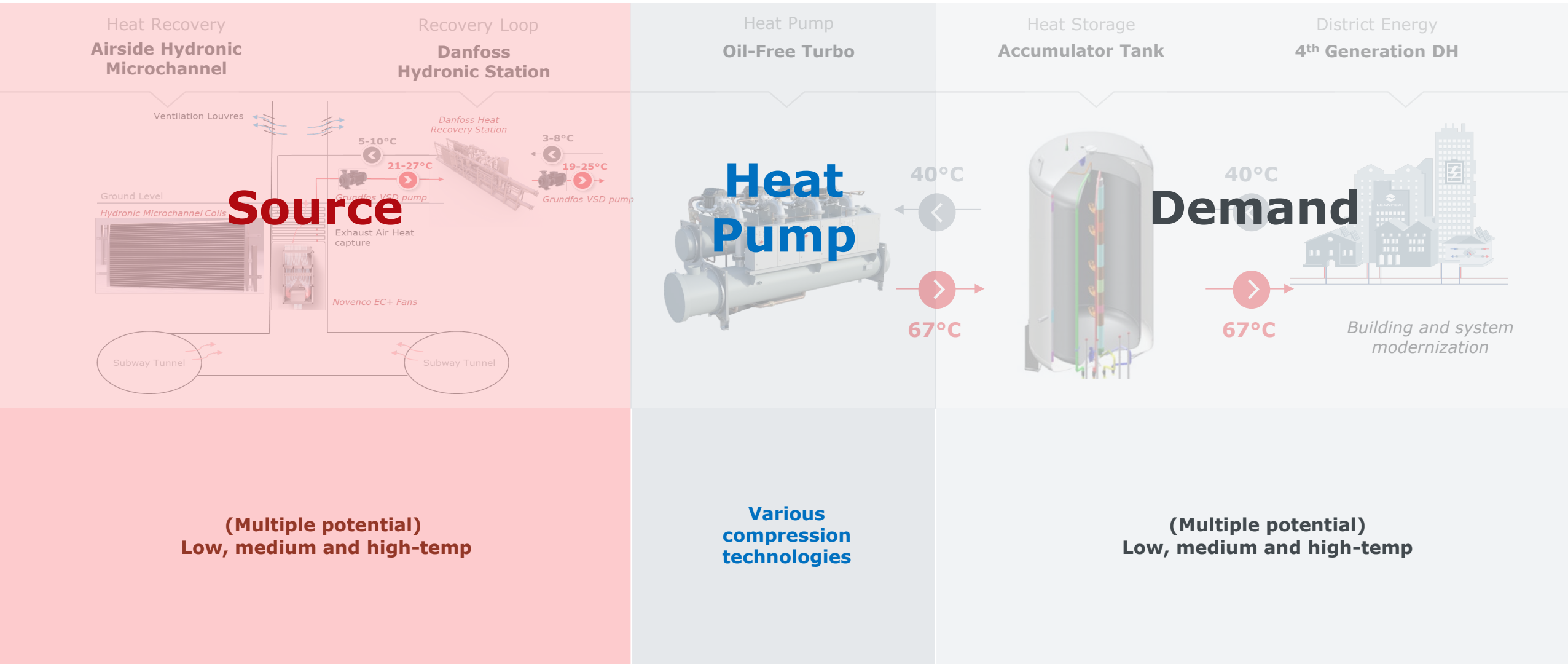
Heat Sources - Quality Grouping

Source Temperature Average/Range



Source, Heat Pump and Demand Analysis

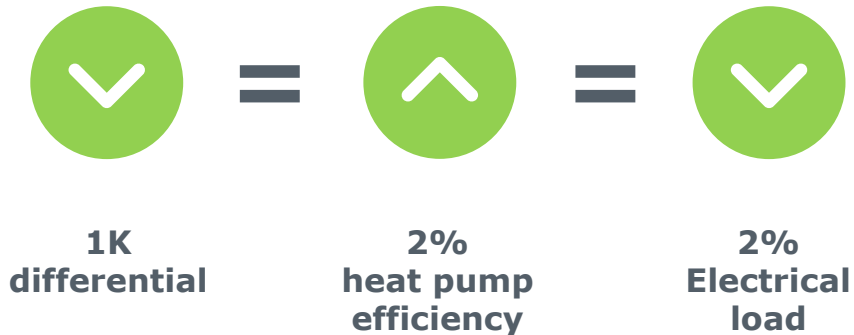
System Design Example – Subway Recovered to District Energy



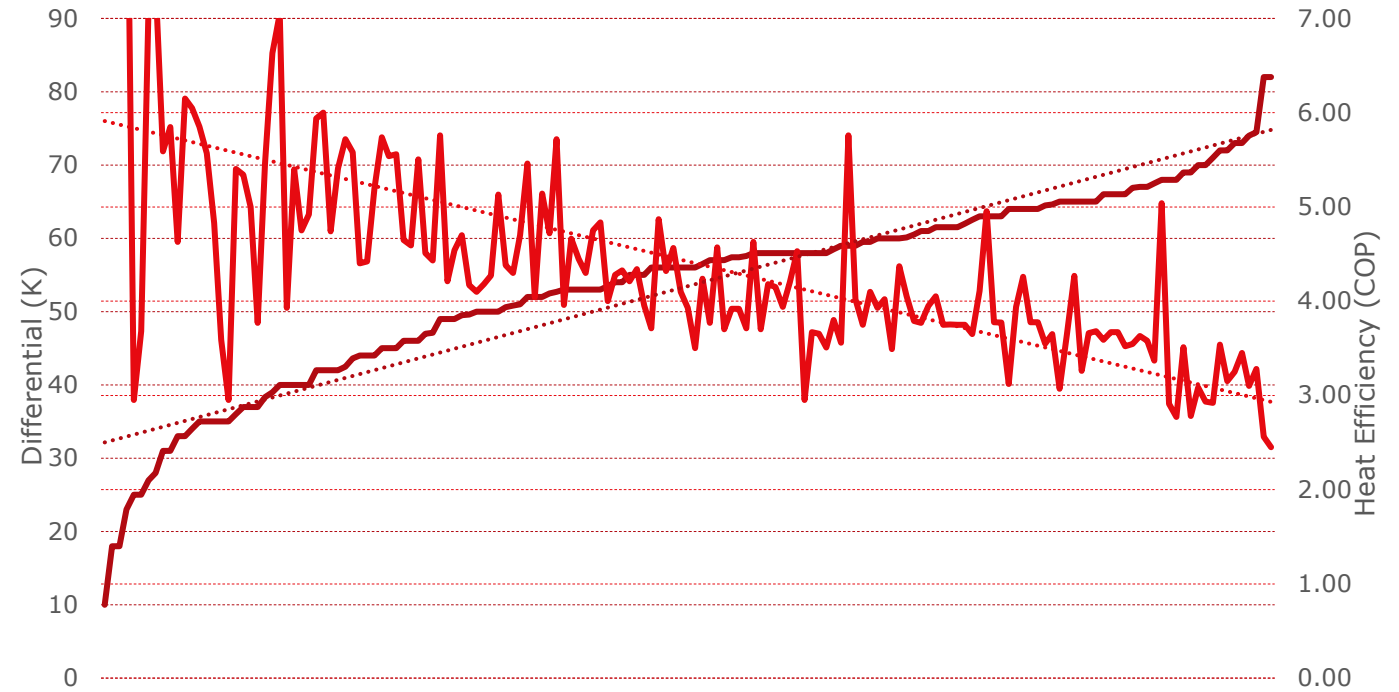
Sector Coupling

Efficiency & Electrical Load are Critical

- > Range of heat source to heat supply differential (K)
- > Corresponding heat pump system efficiency (COP)
- > 0.3-60MW+ systems



Heat Pump – System Differential and Associated Efficiency



Source, Heat Pump and Demand Analysis Variations

Source

High temp (>45C) –

- > Power-to-X (hydrogen)
- > Biogas upgrade plant
- > District heating return
- > Very High Temp. Air process
- > **Data center cooling - Immersion**

Medium temp (20-45C) –

- > Open loop geothermal
- > Hydronic process cooling
- > Hydronic process rejection
- > **Data center cooling - Direct-on-chip**
- > **Data center cooling - CRAH**
- > Facility cooling
- > Biogas slurry
- > High Temp. Air process
- > Subway exhaust recovery

Low temp (<20C) –

- > **Data center cooling - DX**
- > Wastewater
- > Seawater
- > Recirc. Aqua.
- > Med. Temp. Air process
- > Medium temperature refrigeration

Heat Pump / Station

- ❖ Industrial High-Temp
- ❖ High Lift Heat Pump
- ❖ Medium Lift Heat Pump
- ❖ Low Lift Heat Pump

- Heat Recovery Station – Industrial Heat Pump

- Heat Recovery Station – High Lift Heat Pump

- Heat Recovery Station – Medium Lift Heat Pump

- Heat Recovery Station – Low Lift Heat Pump

- Heat Recovery Station - Standalone

Demand / Heat User

> High temp (>80C) –

- > F&B pasteurization
- > F&B cooking
- > Process hot water
- > 3rd gen District Heat
- > Power-to-X
- > High Temp Drying

Medium temp (50-80C) –

- > 4th gen District Heat
- > Fan coil / AHU
- > Radiator
- > Domestic water
- > Boiler feedwater
- > Process wash water
- > Process pre-heat
- > Med temp drying
- > Fresh water generation

Low temp (<50C) –

- > Greenhouse
- > Underfloor heating
- > 5th gen District Heat

DC - Brewery

DC - District Energy

DC - Greenhouse

DC - Brewery

DC - District Energy

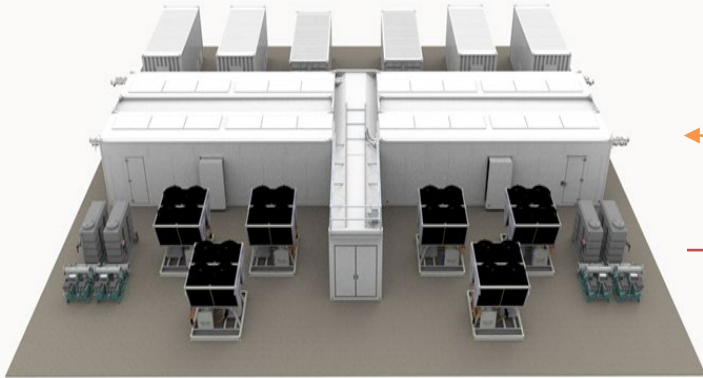
DC - Greenhouse

Sector Coupling Retrofit Options

Baseline - Data Center Cooling / Heat Recovery

Data Center

Chilled Water / Air Cooling



Heat Pump

Centrifugal Water-Water



District Energy

4th Generation Heating



4.0 COP
Cooling

250k€/MW Heat

5.0 COP Heating

Retrofit Data Center with Water-Water Heat Pumps

Danfoss data center cooling & heat recovery system digital twin

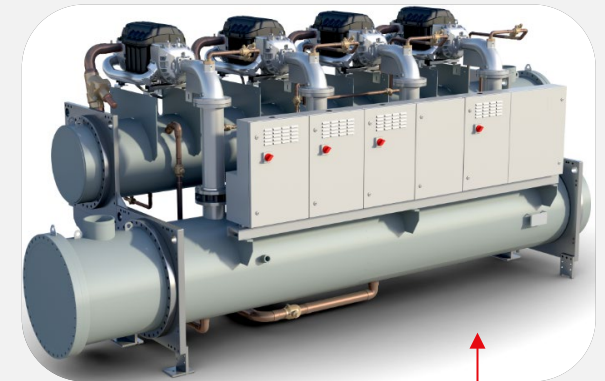


Retrofit to heat recovery heat pump system, tied to district heating with existing cooling backup

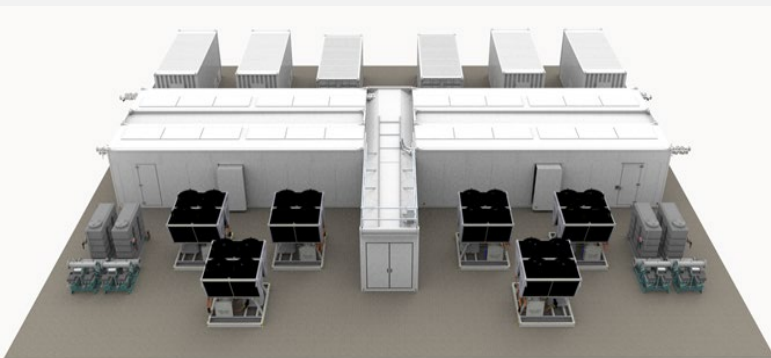


43°C

67°C



Original data center cooling system



20°C



28°C

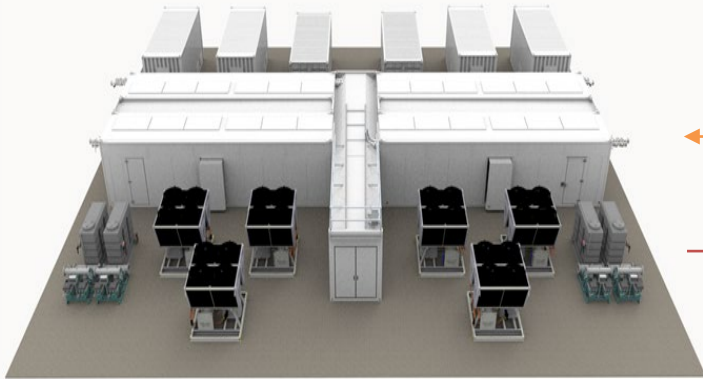


Sector Integration Retrofit Options

Lower Heat Demand Return Temps Enable Higher Heat Pump Efficiency

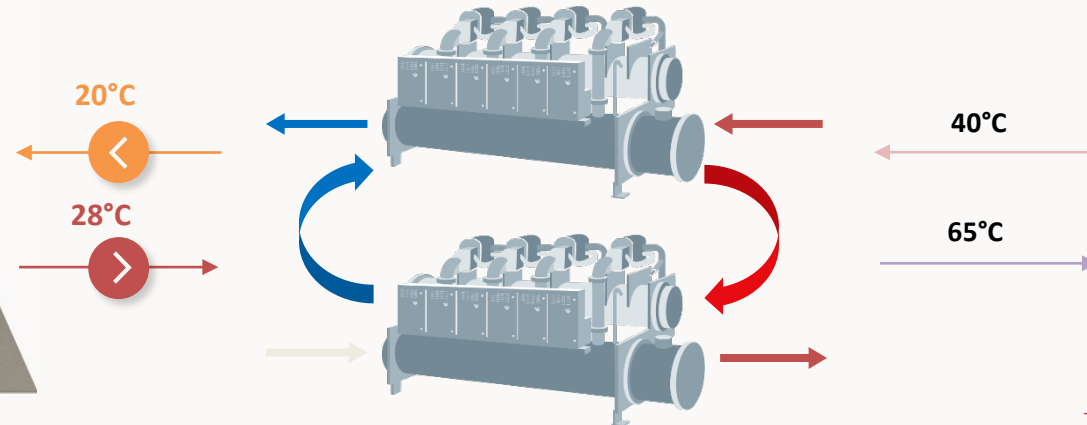
Data Center

Chilled Water / Air Cooling



Heat Pump

Centrifugal Series-Series Water-Water



District Energy

*4th Generation Heating
Lower Return Temp*



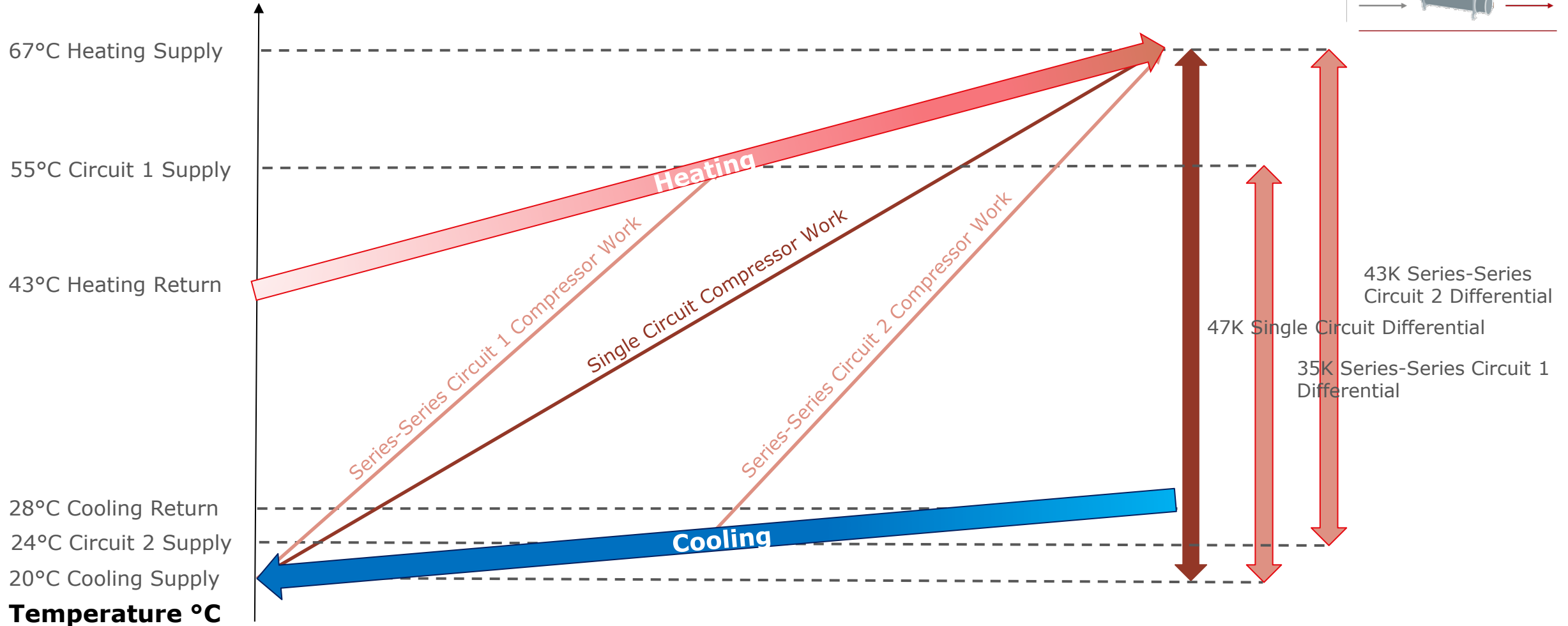
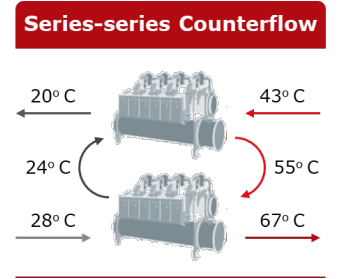
4.8 COP
Cooling

- > Lower return temp from variable flow, 2-way PICV and AI control software optimization
- > In-turn allows series-series counterflow heat pump - 20% efficiency increase

5.8 COP Heating

Performance

Why Is Series-Series Counterflow More Efficient?



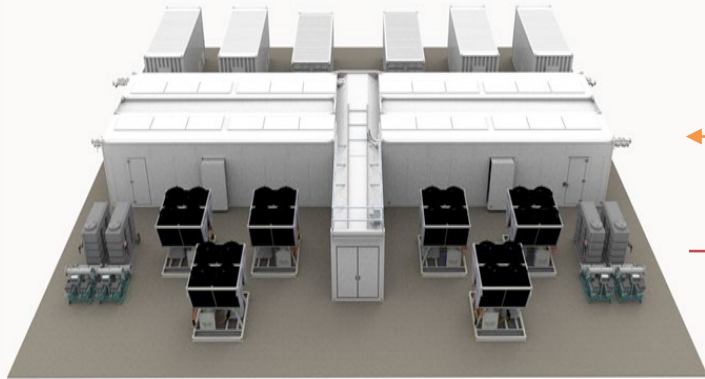
Dividing system into two circuits lowers work and increases efficiency (18% in this case)

Sector Coupling Retrofit Options

Liquid Cooling / Higher Source Temps Allows Max Efficiency

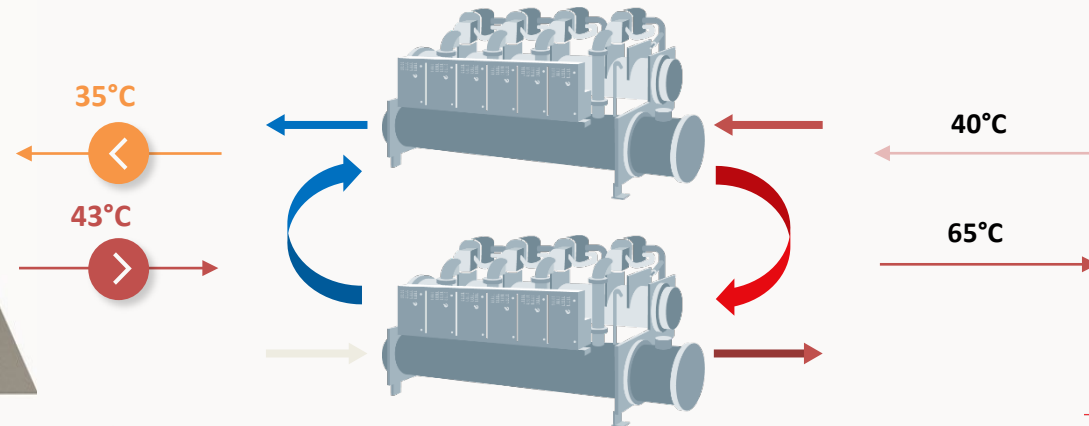
Data Center

Liquid / On-Chip Cooling



Heat Pump

Centrifugal Series-Series Water-Water



District Energy

4th Generation Heating



6.2 COP
Cooling

15K
differential
decrease

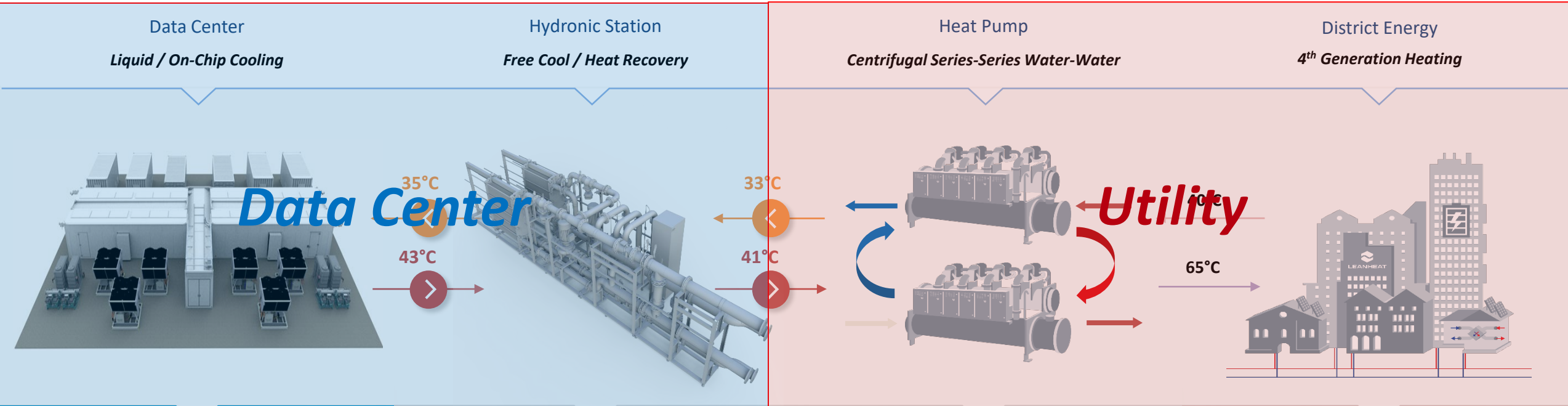
=

30%
efficiency
increase

7.2 COP Heating

Sector Coupling Retrofit Options

Data Center Free Cooling / Heat Reuse – Business Model



Free Cooling

~20 COP

- > Data center heat station enables free cooling / heat recovery at 40% heat pump applied cost with minor system heat efficiency impact
- > Cooling power limited to supply pumps, driven by recovered heat
- > Scenario suited for different data center cooling and heating ownership model

7.0 COP Heating

Source, Heat Pump and Demand Analysis

Source Variation – Data Center

39K Differential =
6.8 COP

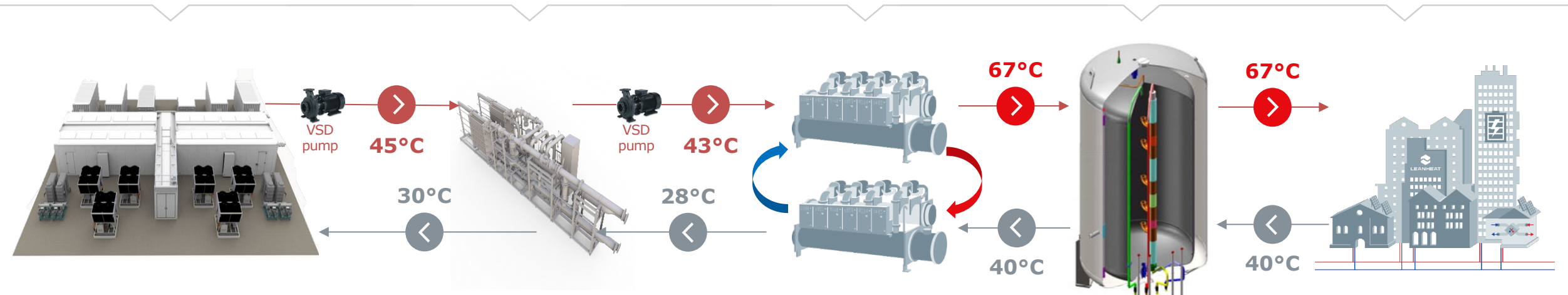
Heat Recovery
Treated Wastewater

Recovery Loop
Danfoss Station

Heat Pump
Oil-Free Turbo

Heat Storage
Accumulator Tank

District Energy
4th Generation DH



- > Data Center direct-on-chip liquid cooling
- > Recovered heat to custom hydronic station
- > Custom Station data center cooling system isolation
- > Supplied to evaporator loop of water-water heat pump

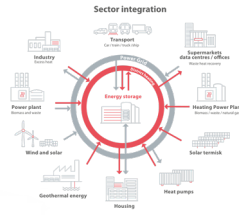
- > Centrifugal series-series counterflow heat pump
- > Boosting recovered heat directed from custom station
- > Boosted to loop for heat accumulator tank

- > Heat accumulator tank to store heat at temperature supplied by heat pump
- > Storage to district energy per demand / loading
- > Supplied to existing district heating network

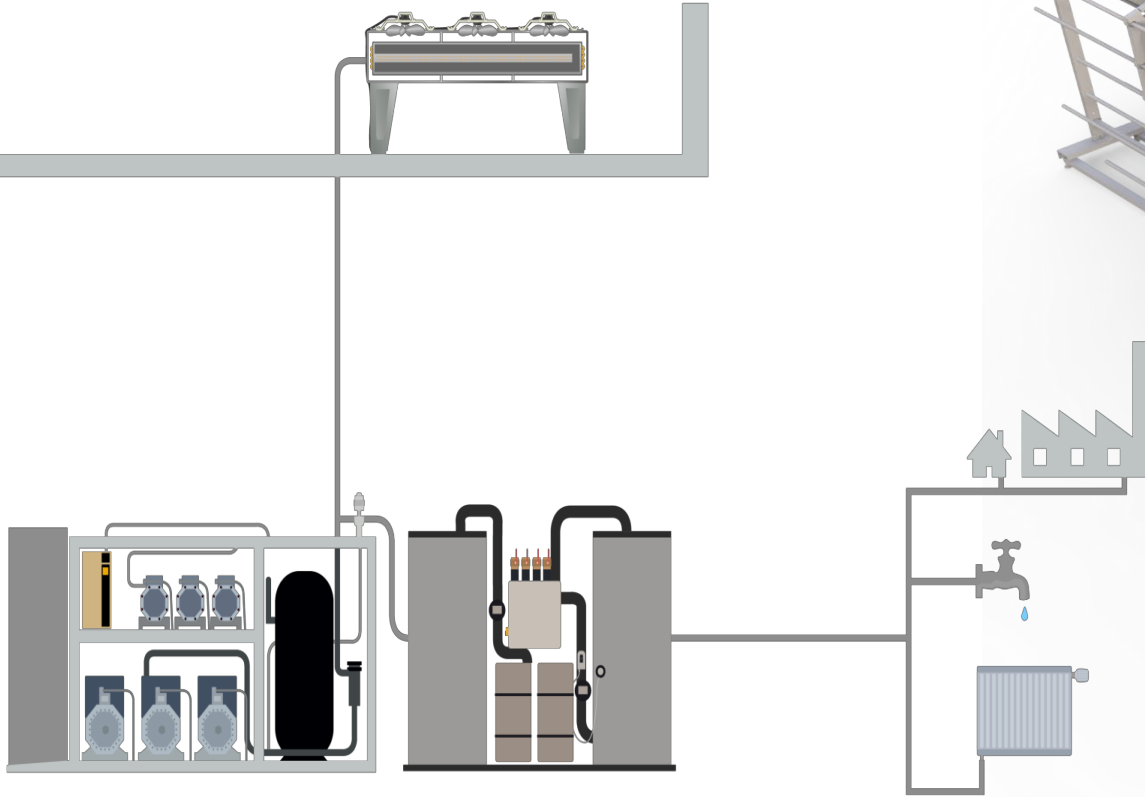


Sector Coupling Retrofits

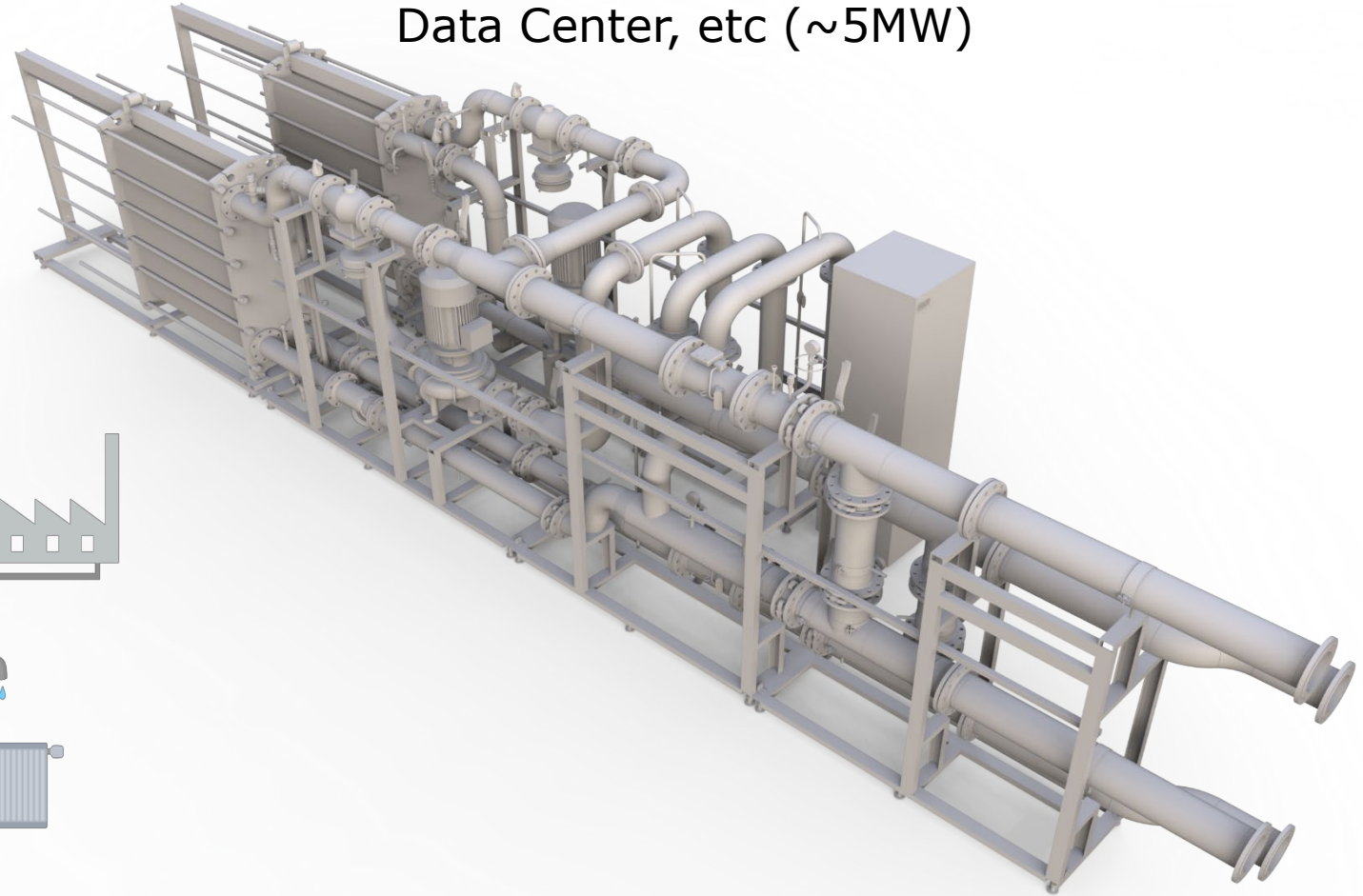
Heat Recovery Stations – What is It?



Small-Scale
Refrigeration (~500kW)

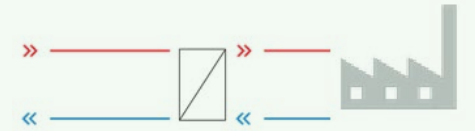


Large-Scale
Data Center, etc (~5MW)



Sector Coupling Retrofits

Heat Recovery Stations – Large Scale



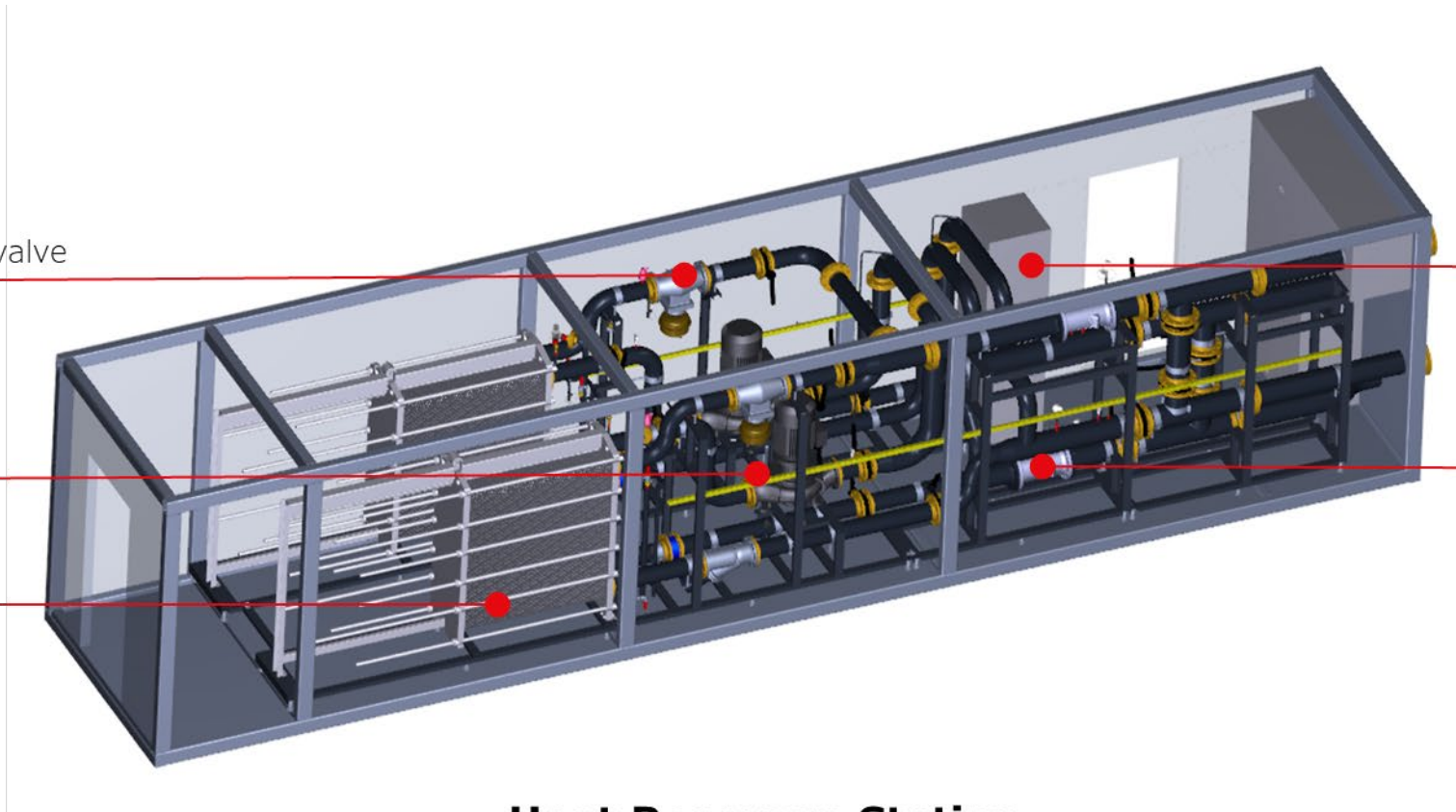
Flow limitation valve

Electronic controller

Pump

Heat meter

Heat exchanger



Heat Recovery Station

Sector Integration Retrofit Options

Data Center Free Cooling / Food Production Heat Reuse

Data Center

Liquid / On-Chip Cooling

Hydronic Station

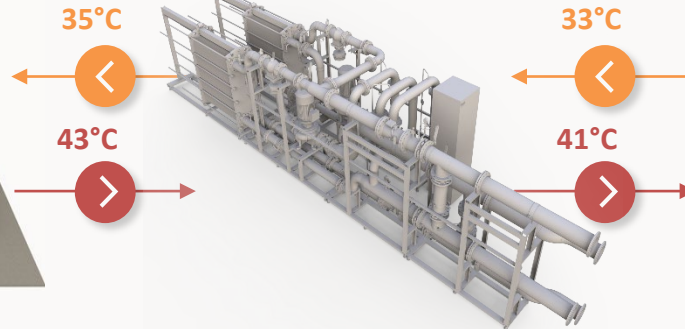
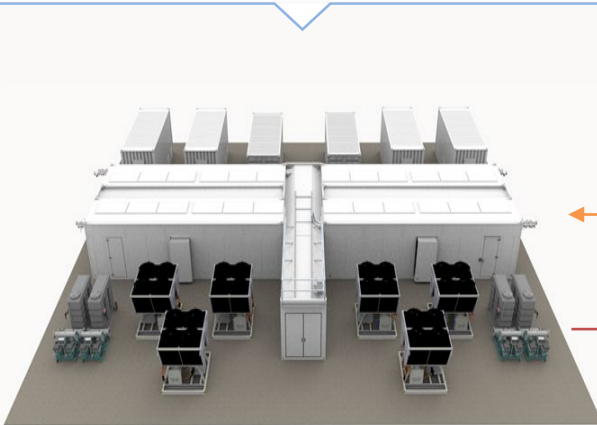
Free Cool / Heat Recovery

Greenhouse Farming

Supply Air Heat

Indoor Fish Farms

Supply Water Heat



Free Cooling

~20 COP

- > Greenhouse farms and indoor horticulture as potential heat recovery customers, collocated with data center
- > Symbiotic efficiency relationship with data center - Directly use available heat without heat pump boost

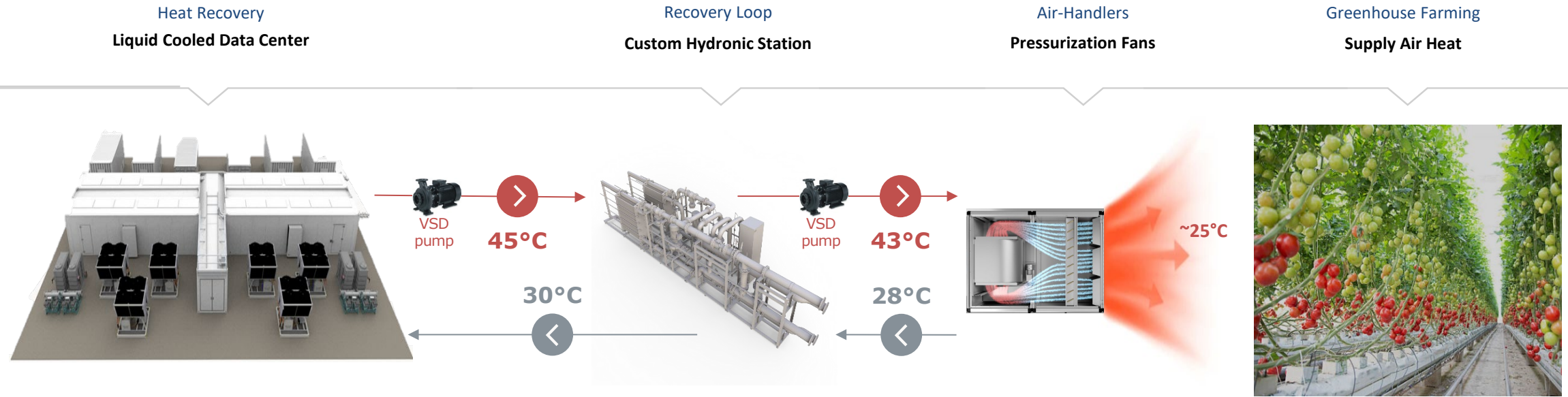
Free Heating

~20 COP

Source, Heat Pump and Demand Analysis

Source Variation - Greenhouse

Negative Differential =
20+ COP



- > Data Center direct-on-chip liquid cooling
- > Supplied direct to custom station with no heat pump boost – True symbiosis system
- > Data center cooling backup air-cooled chillers or dry cooler heat rejection (when not recovered)

- > Recovered heat to custom hydronic station
- > Custom Station data center cooling system isolation

- > Recovered heat supplied to air-handler for heating of outdoor air
- > Heated outdoor air supplied to greenhouse to maintain year-around optimal growing temperature

Source, Heat Pump and Demand Analysis

Heat Pump and Demand Variation – Brewery

57K Differential =
4.7 COP

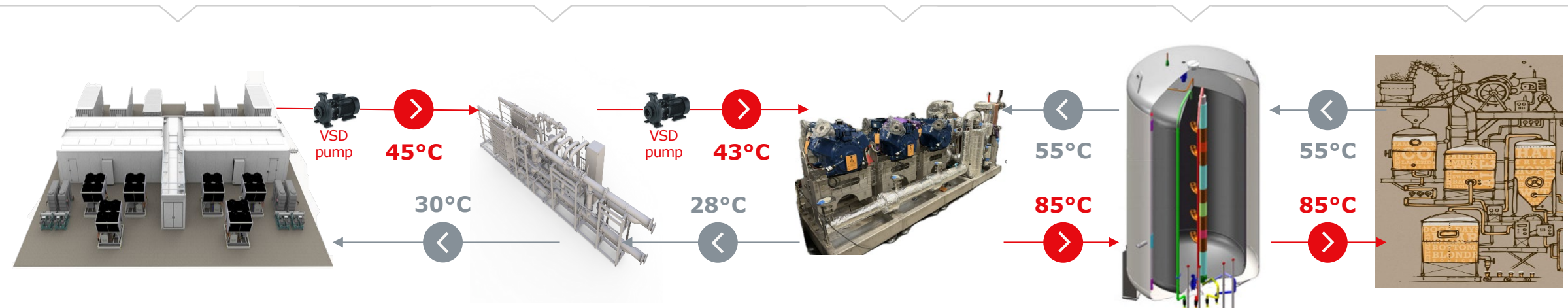
Heat Recovery
Liquid Cooled Data Center

Recovery Loop
Custom Hydronic Station

Heat Pump
Piston-Based

Heat Storage
Accumulator Tank

Brewery
Ferment./Pasteur.



- > Data Center direct-on-chip liquid cooling
- > Recovered heat to custom hydronic station
- > Custom Station data center cooling system isolation
- > Supplied to evaporator loop of water-water heat pump

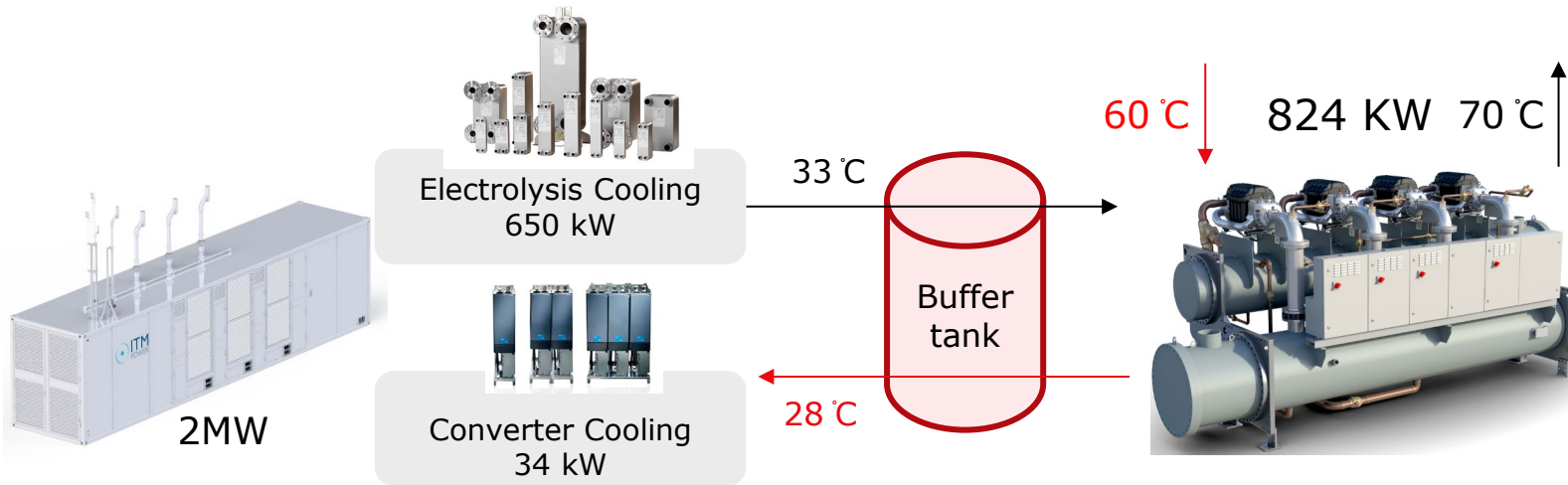
- > Piston-based water-water heat pump
- > Boosting recovered heat directed from hydronic station
- > Boosted to loop for heat accumulator tank

- > Heat accumulator tank to store heat at temperature supplied by heat pump
- > Storage to brewery fermentation and pasteurization per demand

Additional Heat Recovery Opportunity

Data Center Backup Power & Hydrogen Production

Water-Water Heat Pump	Cooling capacity	Heating capacity	Power input	COP Cooling	COP Heating	Chilled water leaving Temp	Chilled water enter Temp	Hot water return Temp	Hot water supply Temp	Minimum load
	kW	kW	kW	W/W	W/W	°C	°C	°C	°C	
Full load, 28-20C	650	824	174	3.74	4.74	33	28	60	70	18.8%



2MW PEM electrolyzer

70% electrolysis efficiency /
30% waste heat recovered

Electrolysis degrades / recovered
waste heat increases over time

Recovered waste heat increases
further when paired with hydrogen
fuel cell for onsite power

Why Water-Water Heat Pump & High Heat Recovery Temperature are Critical

- Multiple heat source choices
- Large air-water heat pump ~3-3.5 COP
- Oil-free water-water recovery heat pumps ~6-7 COP, based mainly on higher source temperature
- High electricity price fluctuation
- From efficiency & resulting operating cost / heat price
 - Air-water heat pumps operate when electricity price < 600 DKK/MWh (~300 hours this year)
 - Oil-free heat pumps operate when electricity price < 1200 DKK/MWh (>80% of the year)



Daily electricity price fluctuation – One day (10/21)

Low

~100€/MWh

High

~300€/MWh

For DHU, difference between low-cost baseload heat source with quick payback and peaking plant backup

Conclusions

- Energy system excess heat presents a significant opportunity for efficiency and decarbonization
- Baseline energy transition discussions to current and alternative solutions critical to showing the best path
- The magnitude of efficiency exceeding spark spread ratio governs financial return
- Sector coupling, or tying energy systems together increases efficiency, resiliency, payback and decarbonization
- We can learn a lot and simplify a complicated system by segmenting it and understanding alternative applications
- Increasing data center cooling temperature with new cooling technologies significantly increases the return also for heat reuse
- Hydronic separation of data center cooling from heat recovery system eliminates much of the separate business model complications
- “Heat reuse-ready” data center system design enables ambient-independent free cooling and removes barriers to building new data centers
- Data centers are an optimal source for electrification of not only district energy systems, but any application electrifying their heat source
- The resiliency of the data center and critical facility system from their backup power enables reuse resiliency
- **Critical facility cooling systems, including data centers are the future baseload source for a decarbonized and resilient electrified energy system**



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