
KOMMERZIALISIERUNG VON SAUERSTOFF-GENERATOREN AUF BASIS GEMISCHT LEITENDER MEMBRANEN

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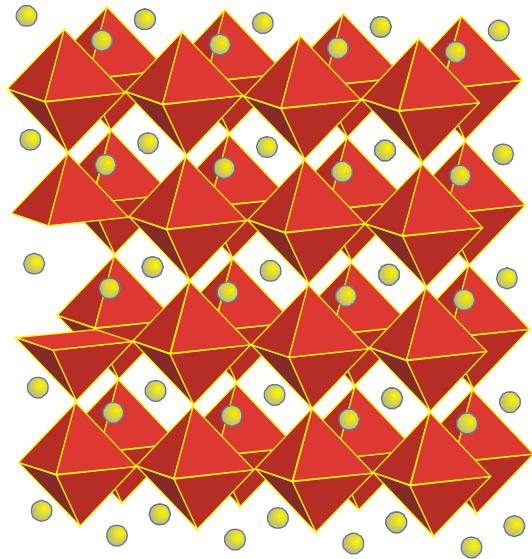
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4. Aachener Ofenbau- und Thermoprozess-Kolloquium,
17. – 18. 10. 2023

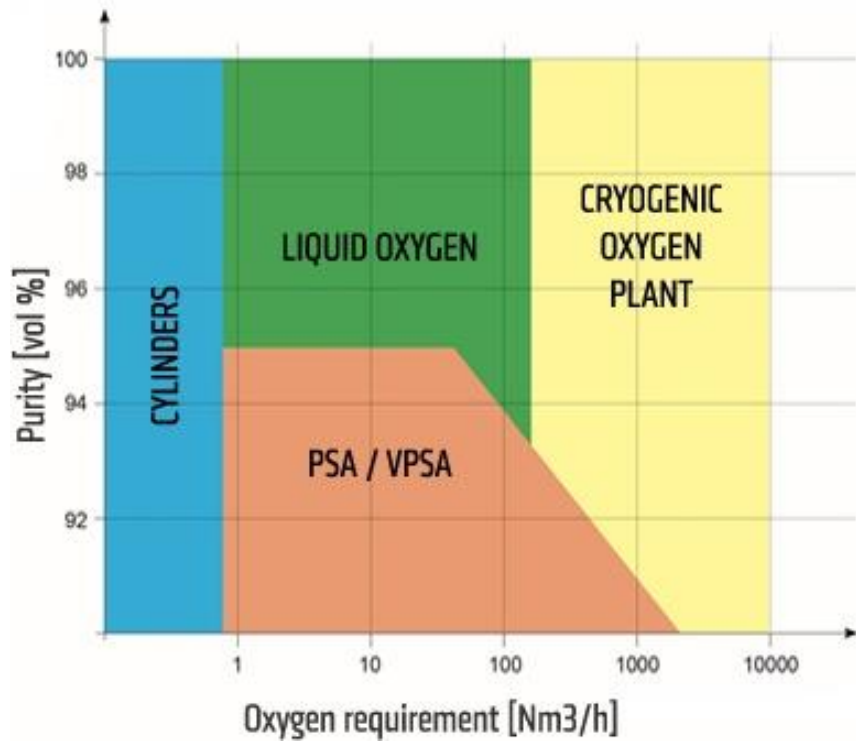
OUTLINE

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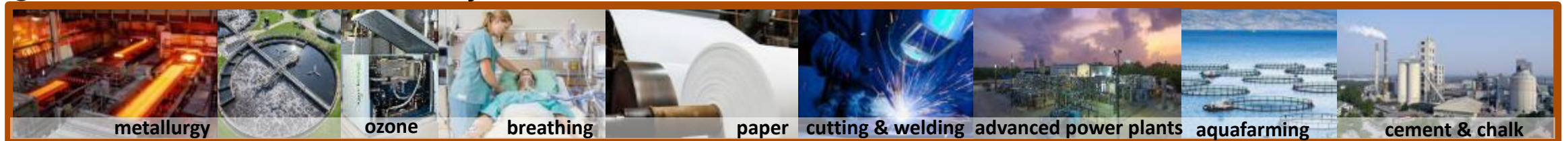
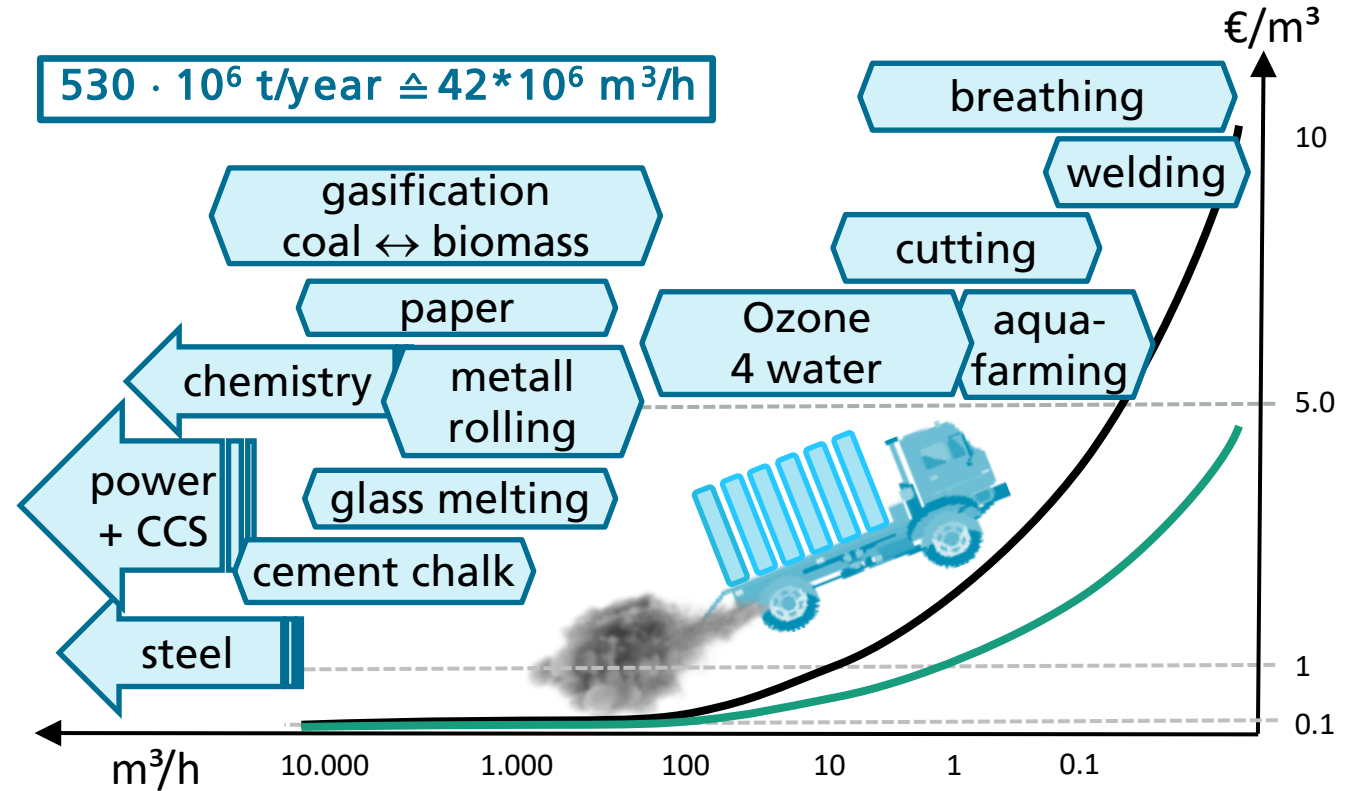


Introduction:

Oxygen: Comparison of Production Technologies



global market size: ~34 billion €/year

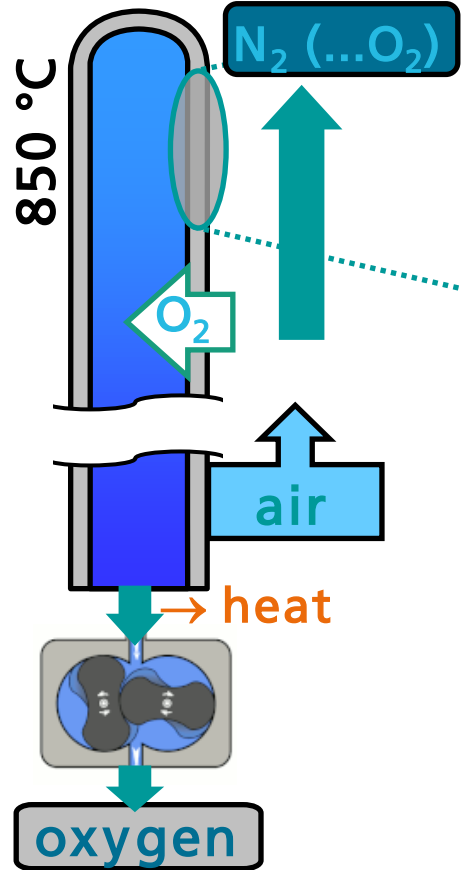


MIEC (Mixed Ionic Electronic Conductor) Membranes: How it works ...

→ O. Ravkina: 14:45 im Ford-Saal

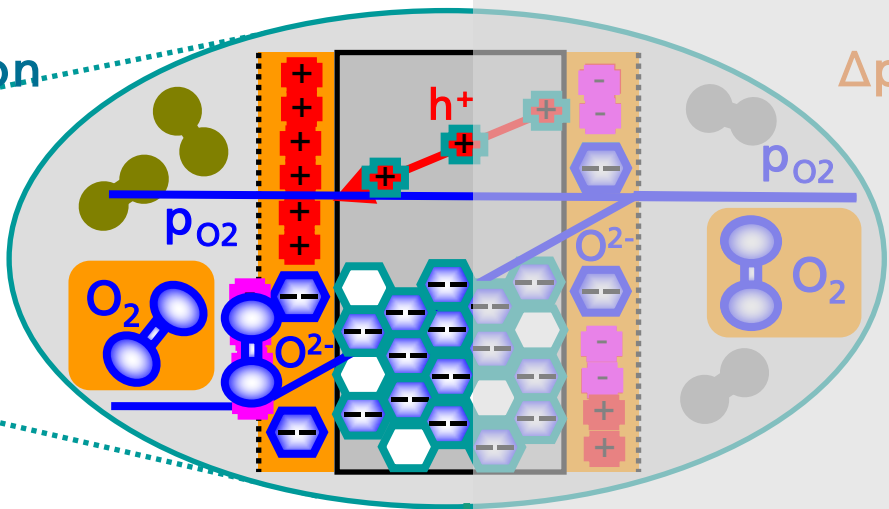
Membrane Separator

$\Delta p(O_2)$ by gas compression



indirectly heated by a thermal process
(needs energy)

needs power for generation of $\Delta p(O_2)$

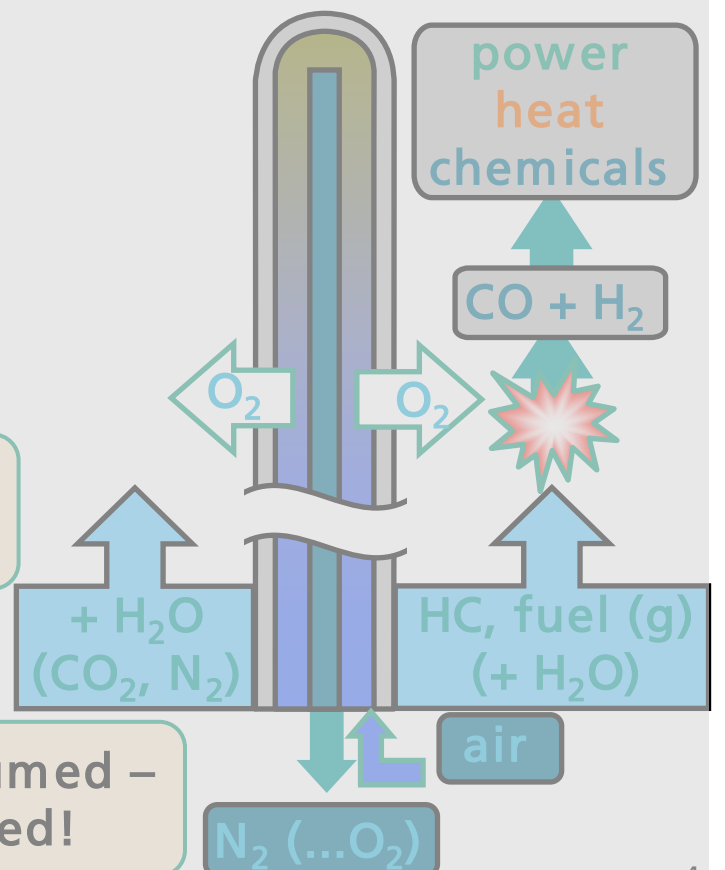


directly heated by reaction enthalpy
(delivers energy)

$\Delta p(O_2)$ by O_2 consumed – no power needed!

Membrane Reactor

$\Delta p(O_2)$ by an O_2 consuming reaction



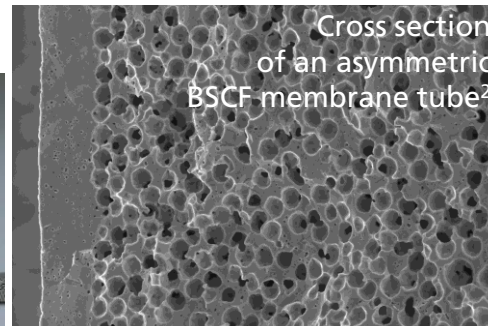
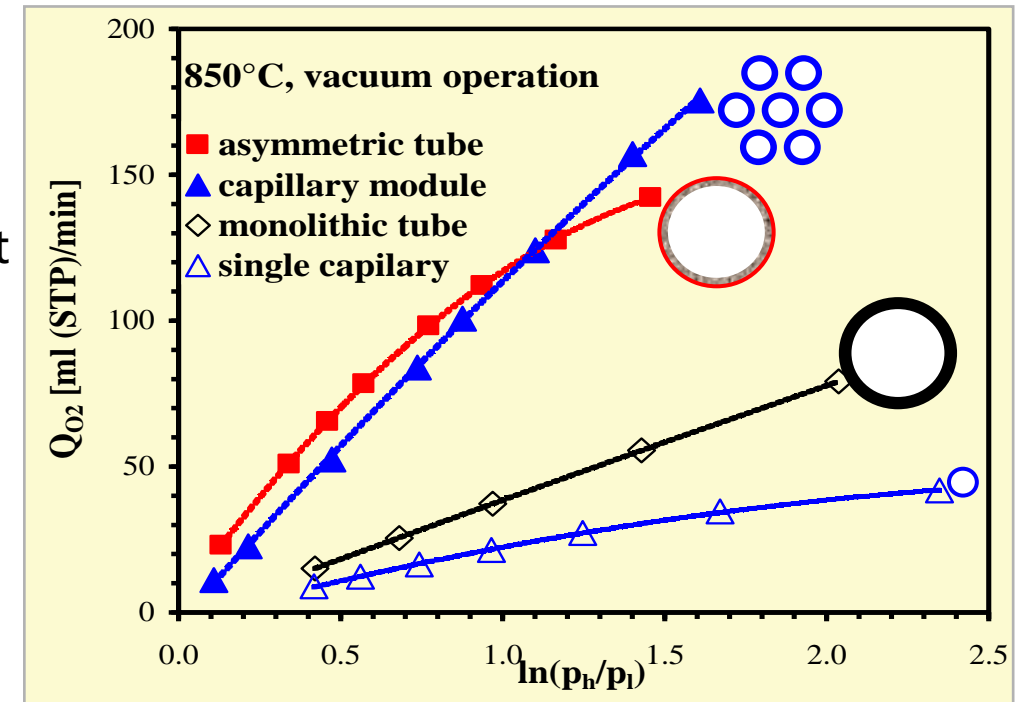
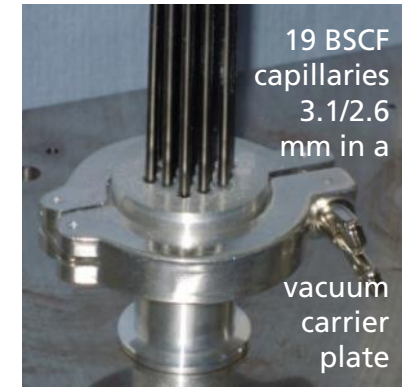
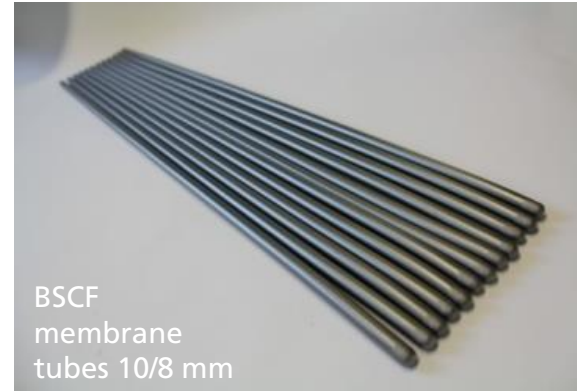
MIEC Membranes: Performance for O₂ Production

State of the art (@ Fraunhofer IKTS):

- stiff-plastic extrusion: monolithic tubes, **capillaries**
- **C**: high shock tolerance, cheap at mass production

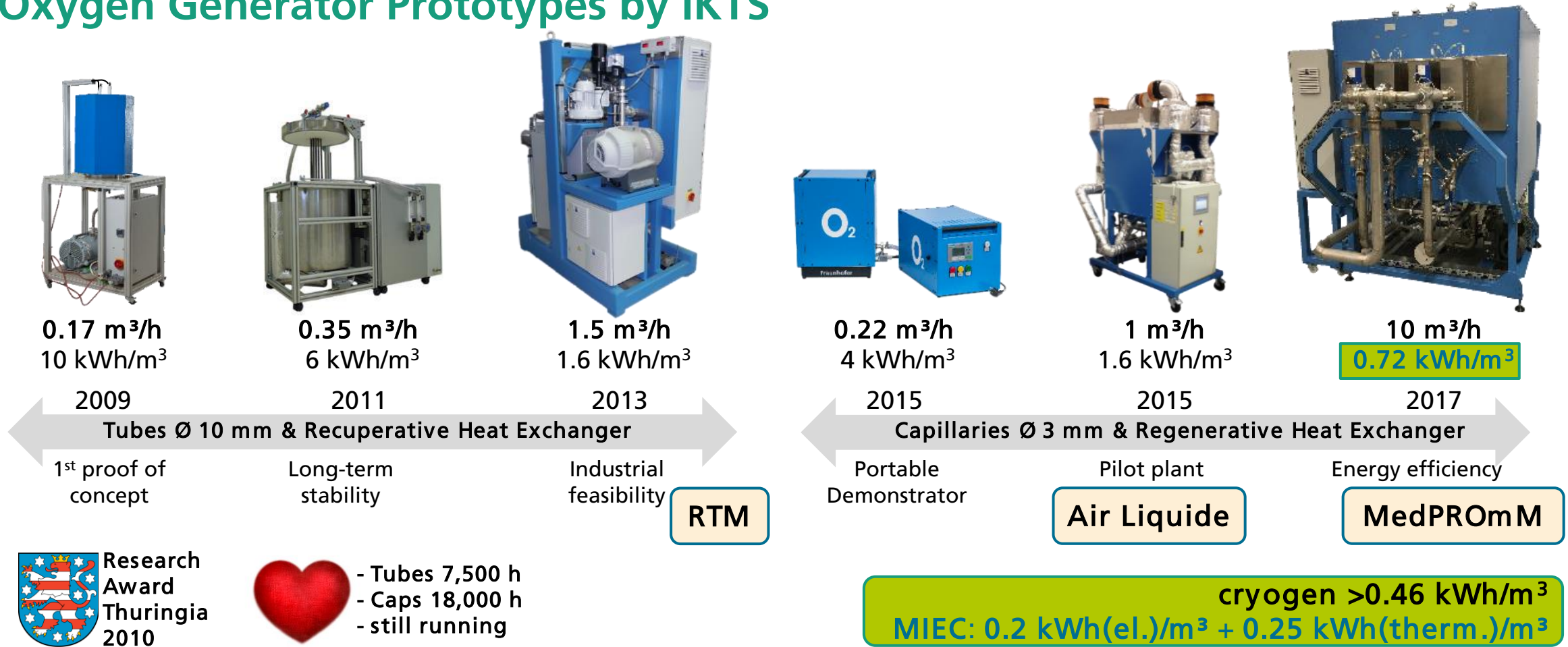
R&D: Advanced membranes:

- higher O₂ flux and **packaging density**
- **asymmetric**: thin separation layer on porous support
- multichannel tubes and capillary bunches
- **combinations thereof**



¹ Schulz, M., Pippardt, U., Kiesel, L., Ritter, K., Kriegel, R., AIChE J. 58 (2012) 10, 3195 – 3202; ² Pippardt, U., Böer, J., Kiesel, L., Kircheisen, R., Kriegel, R., Voigt, I.: AIChE J. 60 (2014) 1, 15 - 21

Oxygen Membrane Plants: Oxygen Generator Prototypes by IKTS

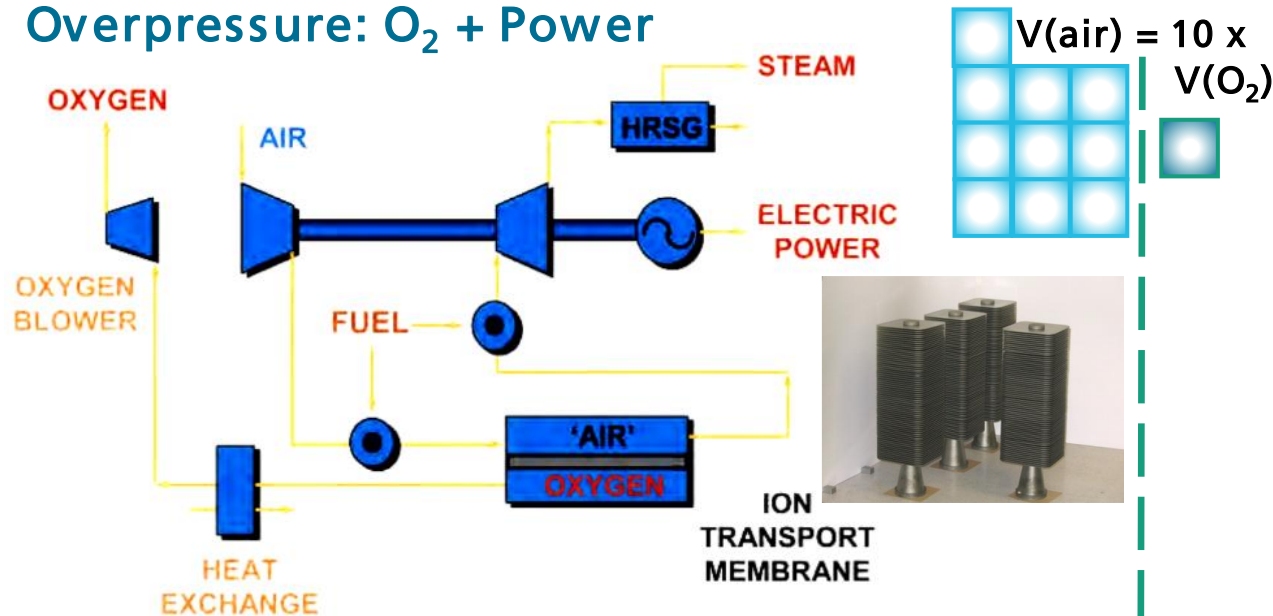


USP: Patented Vacuum Operation Route - Continuous Improvement

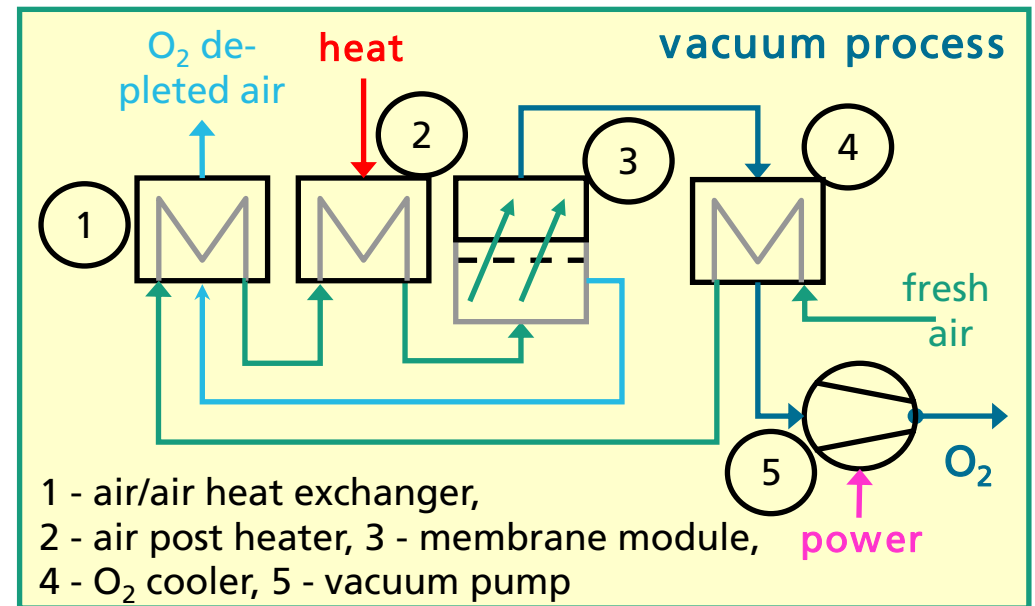
Oxygen Membrane Plants: Overpressure vs. Vacuum for O₂ Production

Expert opinion: A stand-alone MIEC plant producing O₂ only is **not competitive!**

Overpressure: O₂ + Power



Air Products and Chemicals: O₂ + Power
expensive pressure vessel, very efficient turbo components, recovery $w_{\text{co}} \rightarrow$ **large scale only**
terminated in **2015** by management decision



IKTS¹: producing O₂ only by heat exchangers & vacuum pump
 \rightarrow **very small to large scale** 😊
unique patented solution

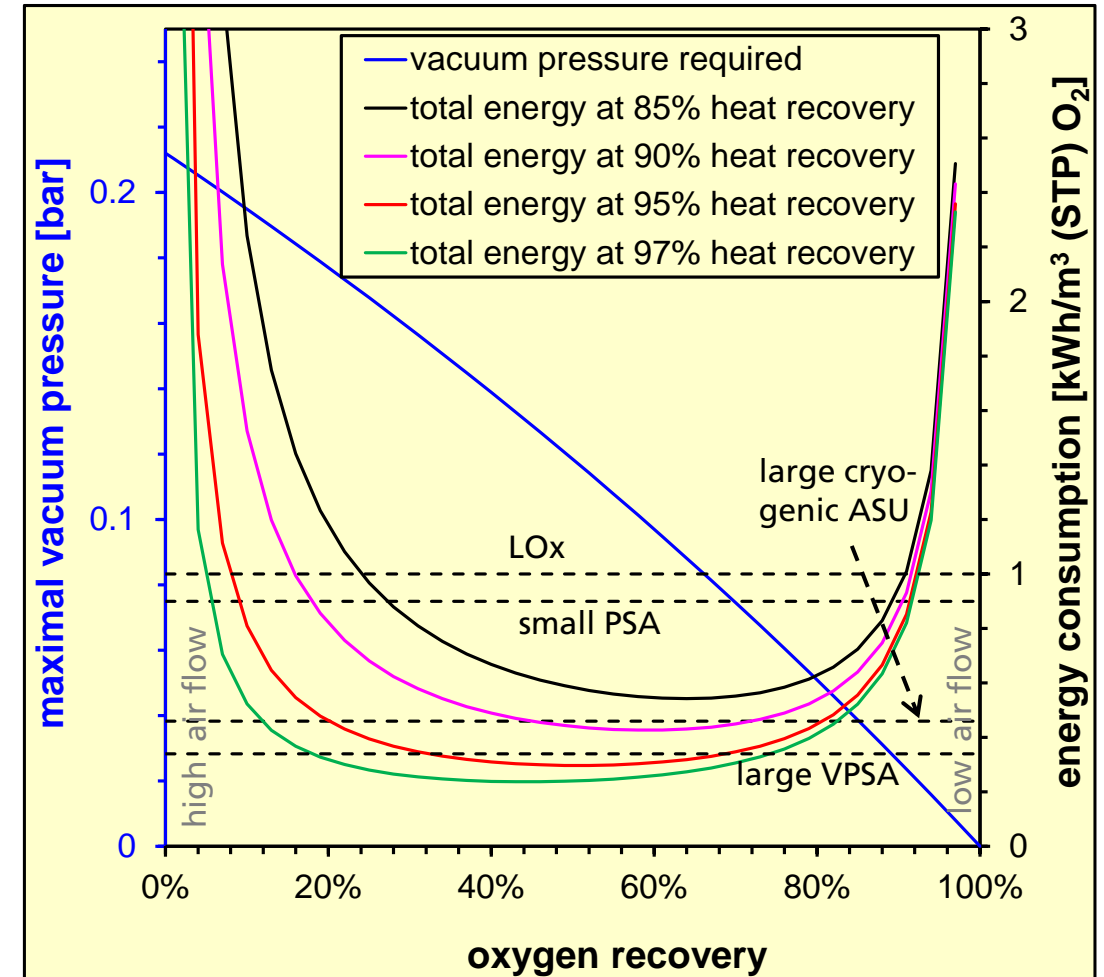


¹ Kriegel, R., DE102013107610A1, EP3022152B1, US9901866B2

Oxygen Membrane Plants: Total Energy Demand of Vacuum Process

Calculation of energy demand for:

- BSCF membranes @850°C, vacuum pump with 0.018 kWh/m³, varying heat recovery
- energy demand caused by:
 - 1) equilibration of heat losses (~ air flux),
 - 2) O₂ compression (~ 1/air flux)
- coupling of 1 / 2 by O₂ recovery
- conditions for efficient operation:
 - 30 % – 70 % O₂ recovery, > 92% heat recovery!
 - ▶ efficient stand-alone O₂ production¹
 - ▶ cost-cutting potential by substitution of electricity by gas combustion, waste heat



¹ Kriegel, R., DE102013107610A1, EP3022152B1, US9901866B2

Oxygen Membrane Plants: OPEX: Energy Demand and CO₂ Emissions

Energy costs and CO₂ emissions:

- mature processes need **electricity**¹ only
- MIEC plants use also cheap **thermal energy**²
- transport to customer ($\approx 70 \text{ g CO}_2/\text{m}^3 \text{ O}_2$) is not included (average distance 18.7 km/t_{gas})
- **cryo ASU (= 100 %)**

vs.

MIEC plants
heated by

energy costs

CO₂ emissions

N.G combustion

- 43 %

- 50 %

waste heat

- 56 %

- 66 %

electricity (Germany 2019): 0.10 €/kWh, 468 g CO₂/kWh¹
natural gas combustion: 0.025 €/kWh, 202 g CO₂/kWh²

O ₂ production process		energy demand		energy costs [€-Ct./m ³ O ₂]	CO ₂ total [g/m ³ O ₂]
		electr. [kWh _{el.} /m ³ O ₂]	therm.		
cryo ASU		> 0.46		4.6	215
liquid O ₂		> 1.00		10.0	468
PSA		> 0.90		9.0	421
VPSA		> 0.34		3.4	159
polym membr.		> 0.35		3.5	164
MIEC membrane	el./el.	> 0.45		4.5	211
	gas/el.	> 0.20	≈ 0.25	2.6	144
	wh/el.	> 0.20	w.h.	2.0	94

in 2018: competitive regarding to OPEX but not for CAPEX!

(CAPEX \geq 8 fold compared to PSA)

¹ Germany, 2019 (UBA): <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/entwicklung-der-spezifischen-kohlendioxid-6>; ²AGFW FW 309-1 A2016/6 – CO₂ emissions of heat delivery.

Competitiveness: CAPEX Decrease by improved Membrane Manufacturing

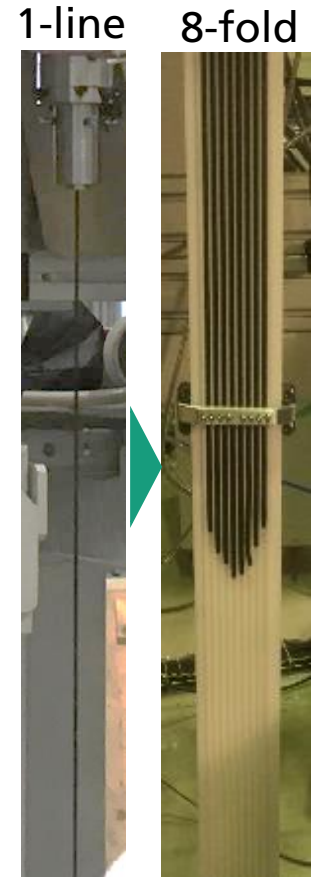
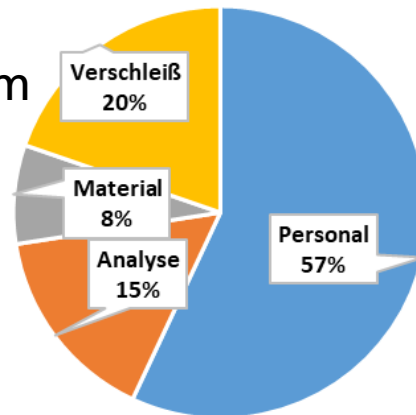
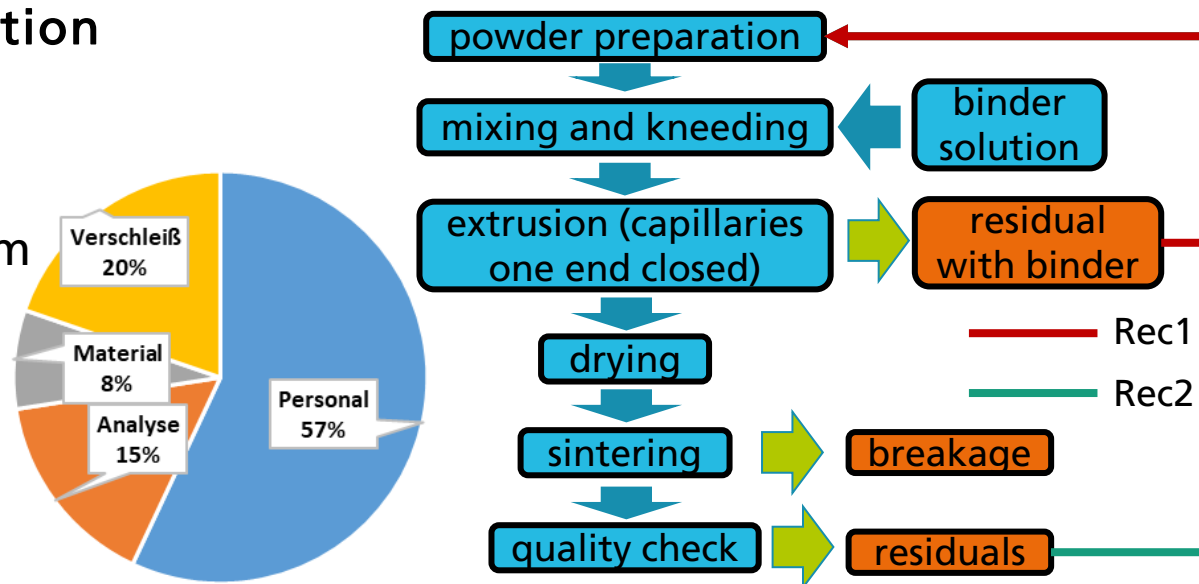
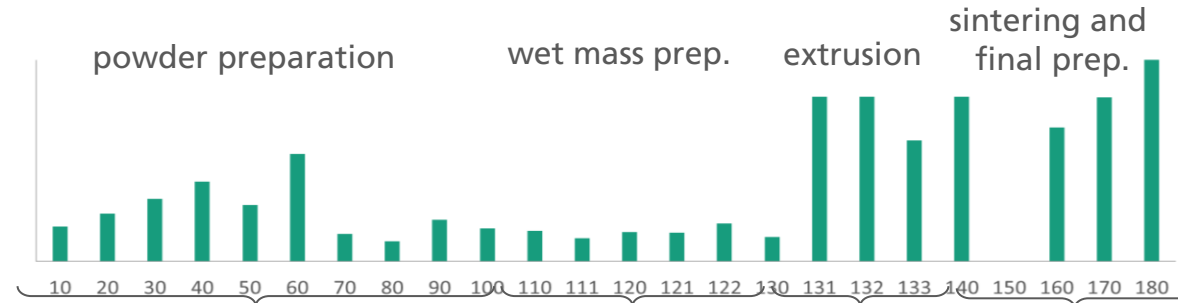
Analysis of manufacturing:

- high powder costs: 200 €/kg
- various expensive work steps

Cost decrease by:

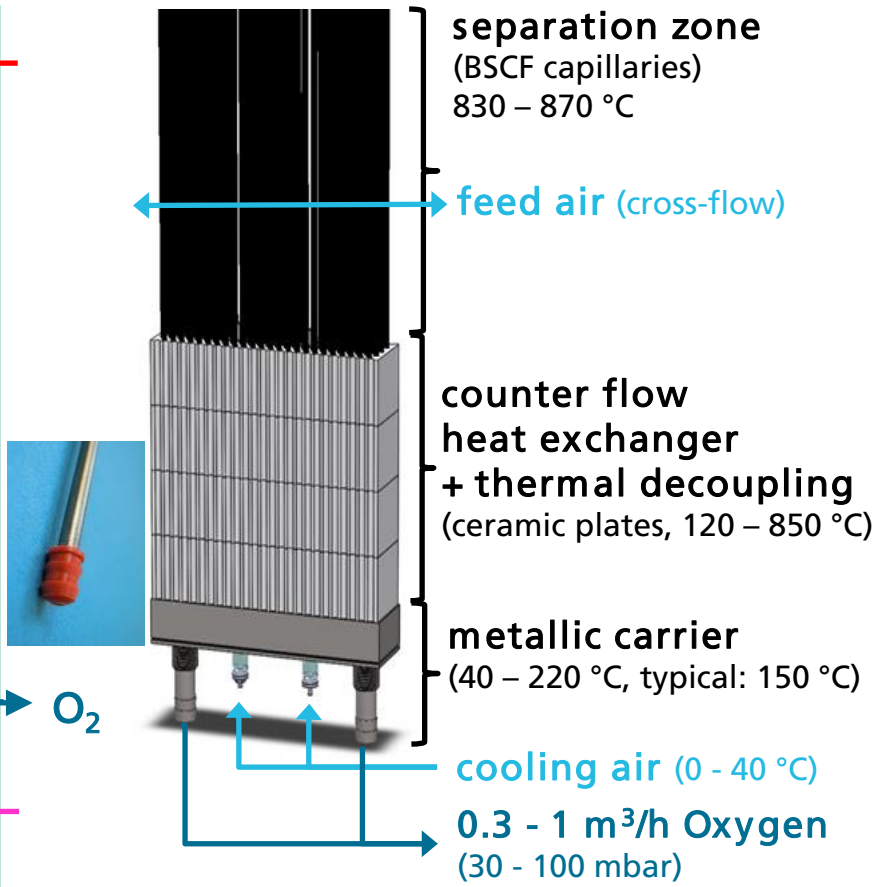
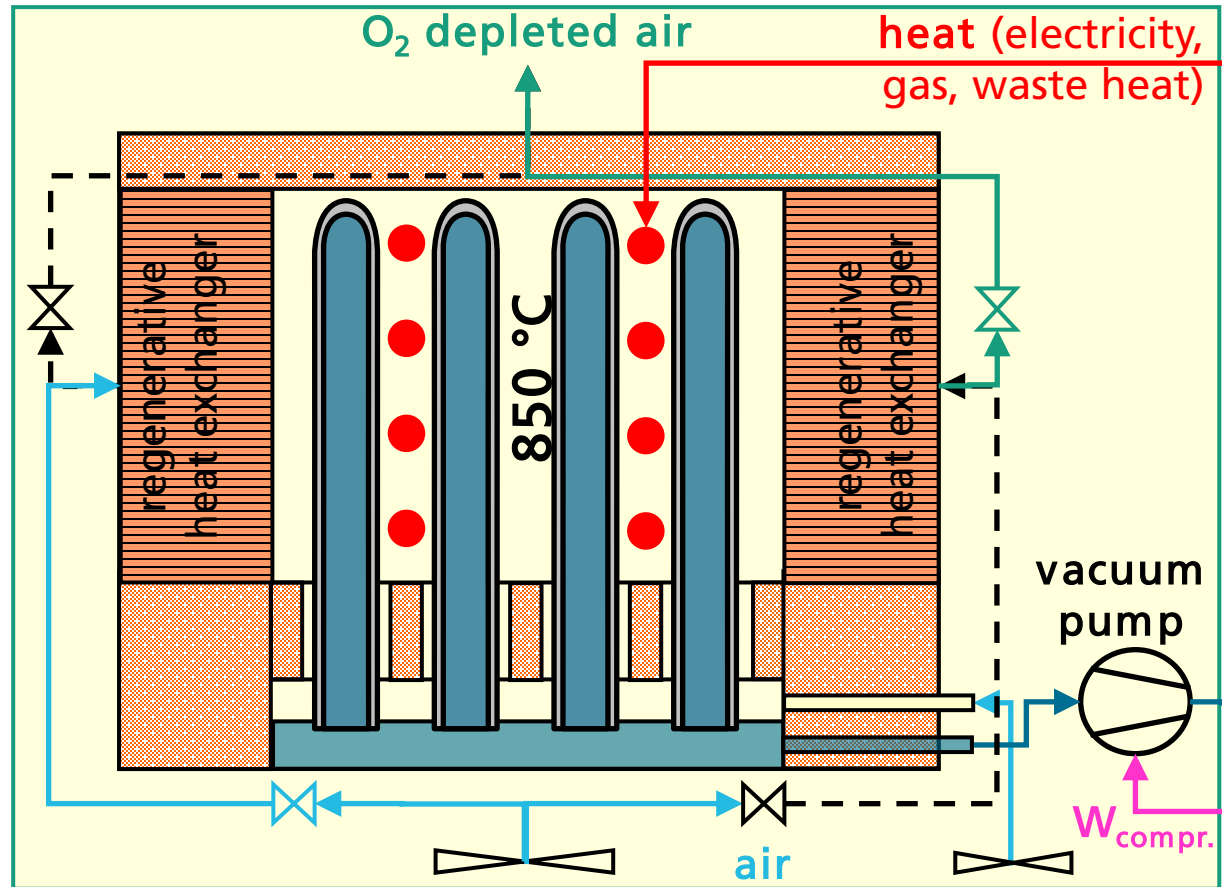
- large batch powder preparation for $Ba_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}O_{3-\delta}$
- full recycling of all residuals
- crushing, jet milling to 2 - 3 μm
- 1-line to 8-fold extrusion
- increase sintering capacity

> **< 100 €/kg BSCF**
< 15 €/m capillary



Competitiveness:

Standard Membrane Modules for simpler Mounting and lower CAPEX



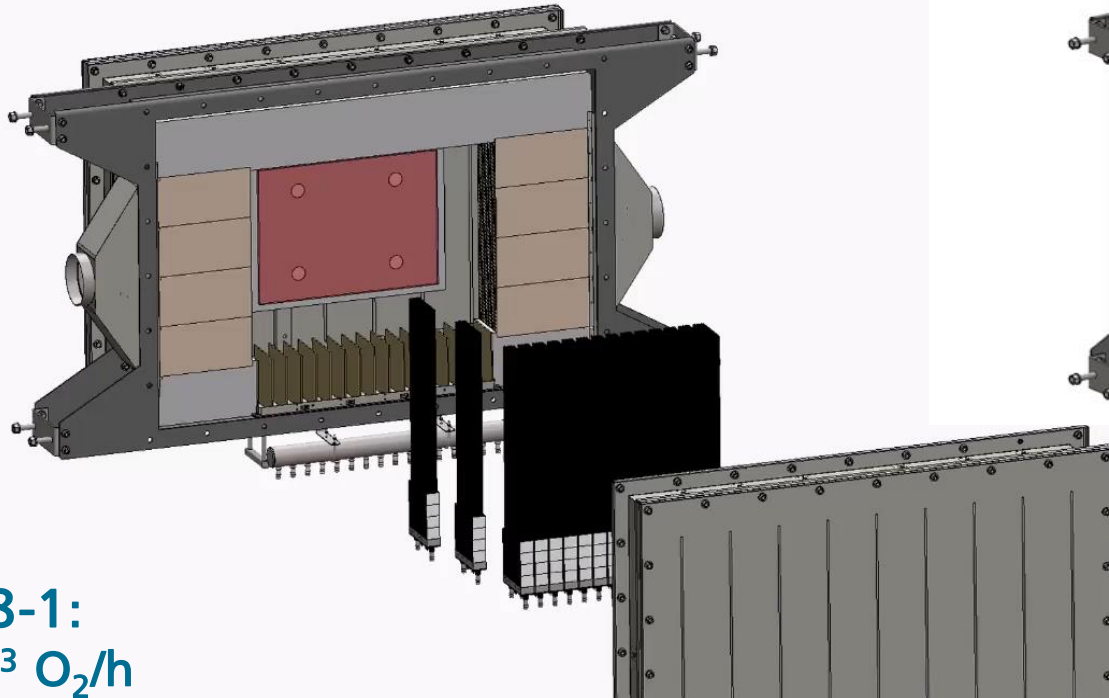
SMU (2019)



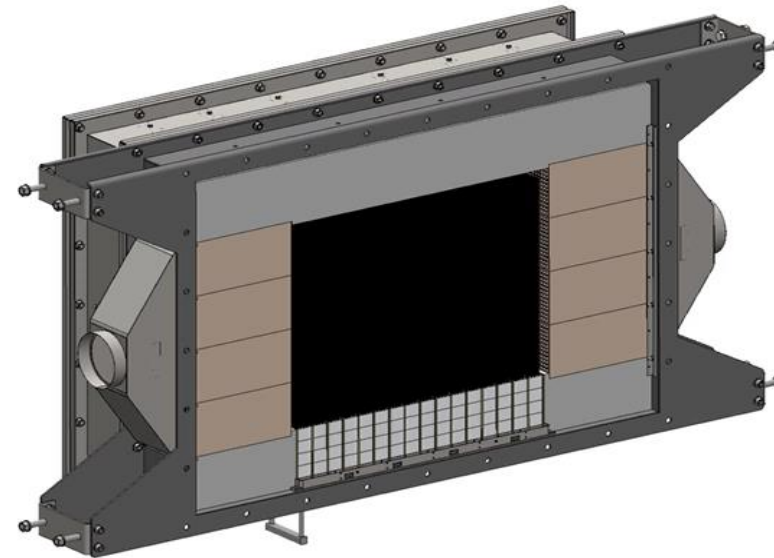
¹ Kriegel, R., DE102013107610A1 (2013), EP3022152B1, US9901866B2

Competitiveness: Further CAPEX decrease by improved Plant Design

- 16 SMU into an optimized Frame – arrangement of uniform Frames → further CAPEX decrease



Typ 16/8-1:
5 – 16 m³ O₂/h



CAPEX↓

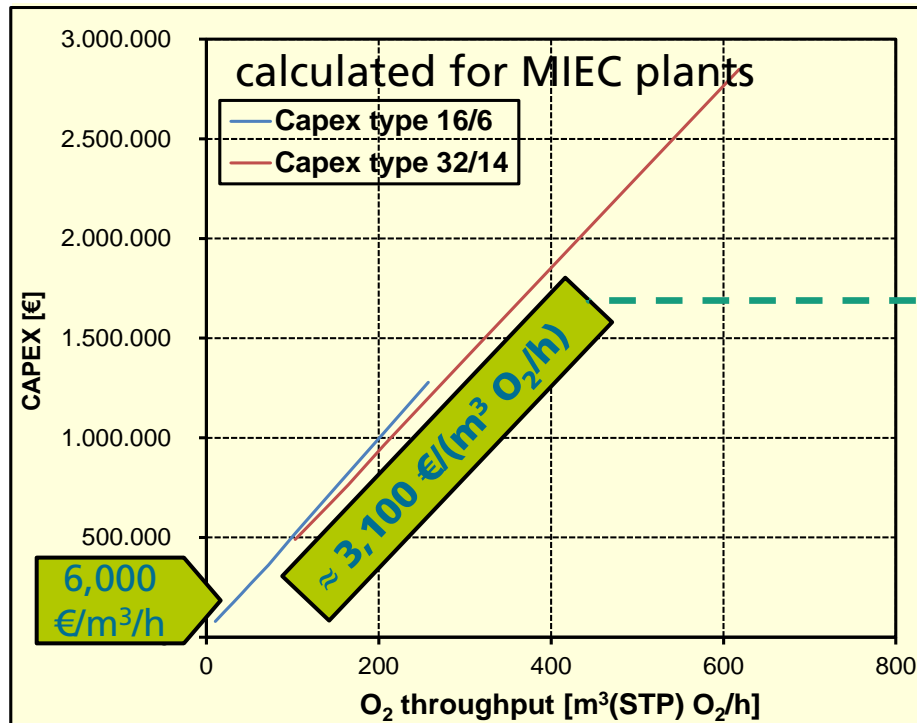
high scalability!

Typ 16/8-5:
25 – 80 m³/h

Competitiveness: Normalized CAPEX - Comparison with mature O₂ Technologies

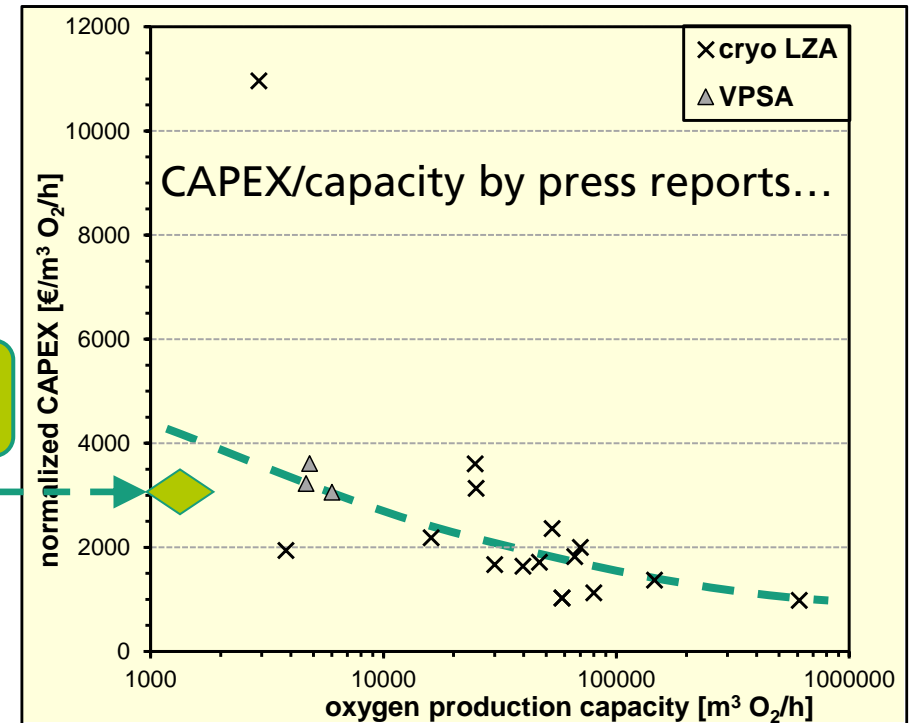
CAPEX normalized to O₂ capacity (by press reports about cryo ASU and VPSA plants)!

- **Costs:** membranes (9.50 €/pc.), SMU, casing, heater, vacuum pump, profit...



normalized CAPEX comparable

MIEC plant is competitive!



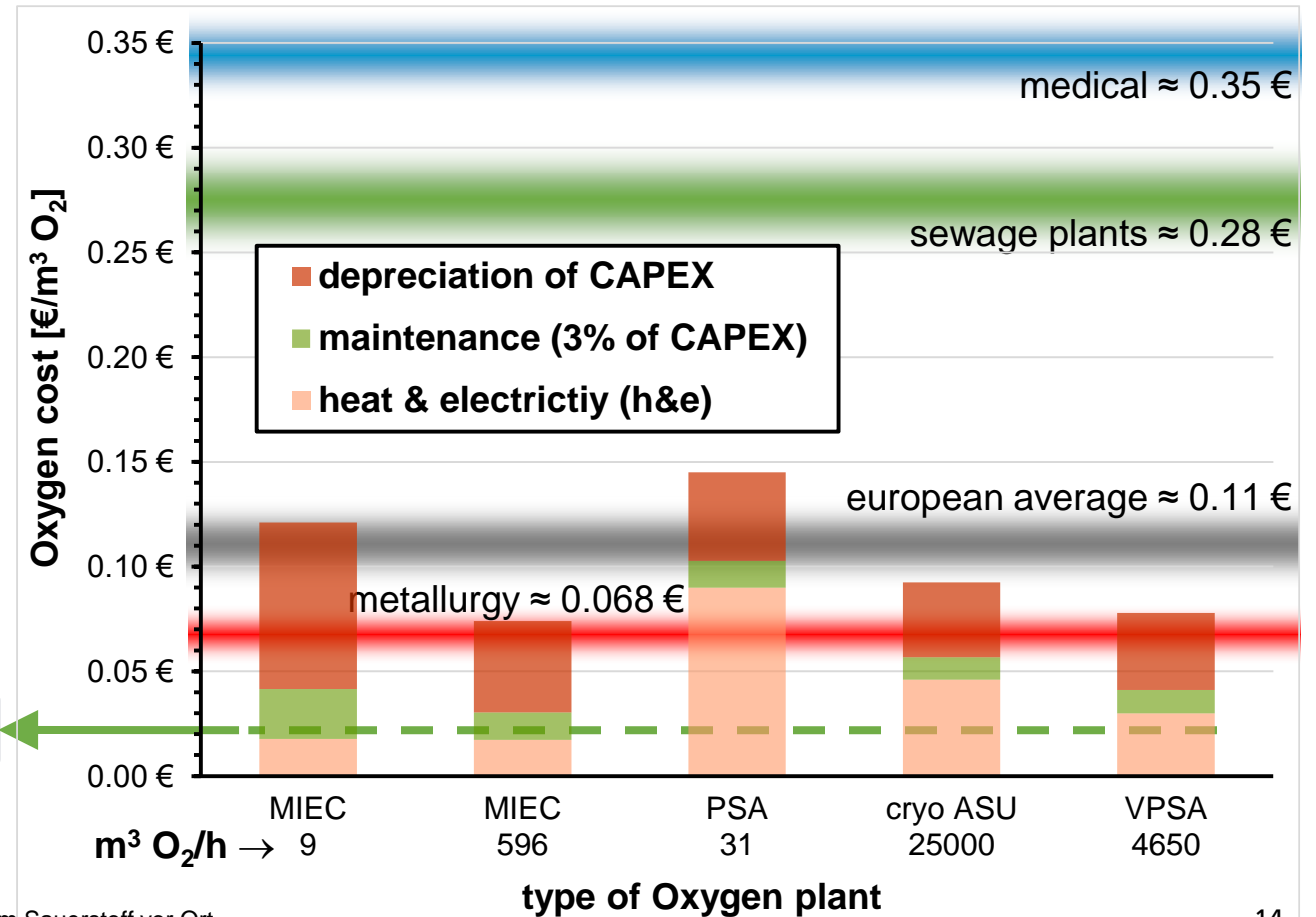
Competitiveness: Comparison of Oxygen Production Costs

O₂ plants based on MIEC membranes:

- depreciation = CAPEX / 10 years
- maintenance = 3% * CAPEX
- h&e costs = electricity (0.1 €/kWh) + heat (0.025 €/kWh)
- 95 % annual utilization
- **very low OPEX** possible!
- undercutting O₂ prices @small scale

lowest energy costs and CO₂ emissions

→ poXGen¹ (04/2022, FKZ: 03EFSTH033)



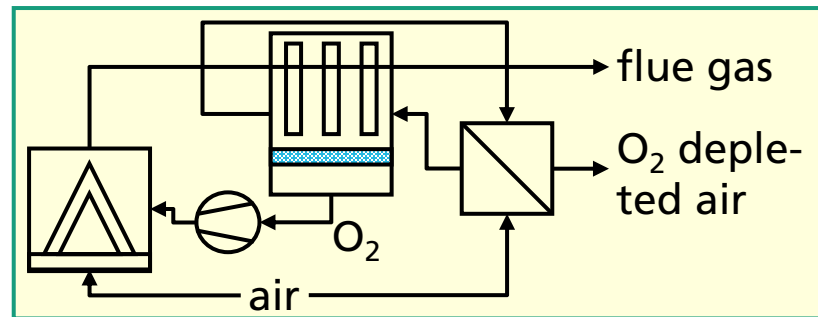
¹ Kommerzialisierung der poXos® - Generatoren für die energieeffiziente Produktion von reinem Sauerstoff vor Ort

Atmospheric Combustion: Air vs. Oxyfuel

O₂ enrichment: thermal loss↓, heat transfer↑, **fuel saving** ≤ 50 % (depends on T_{waste gas}, p_{O2} ...)



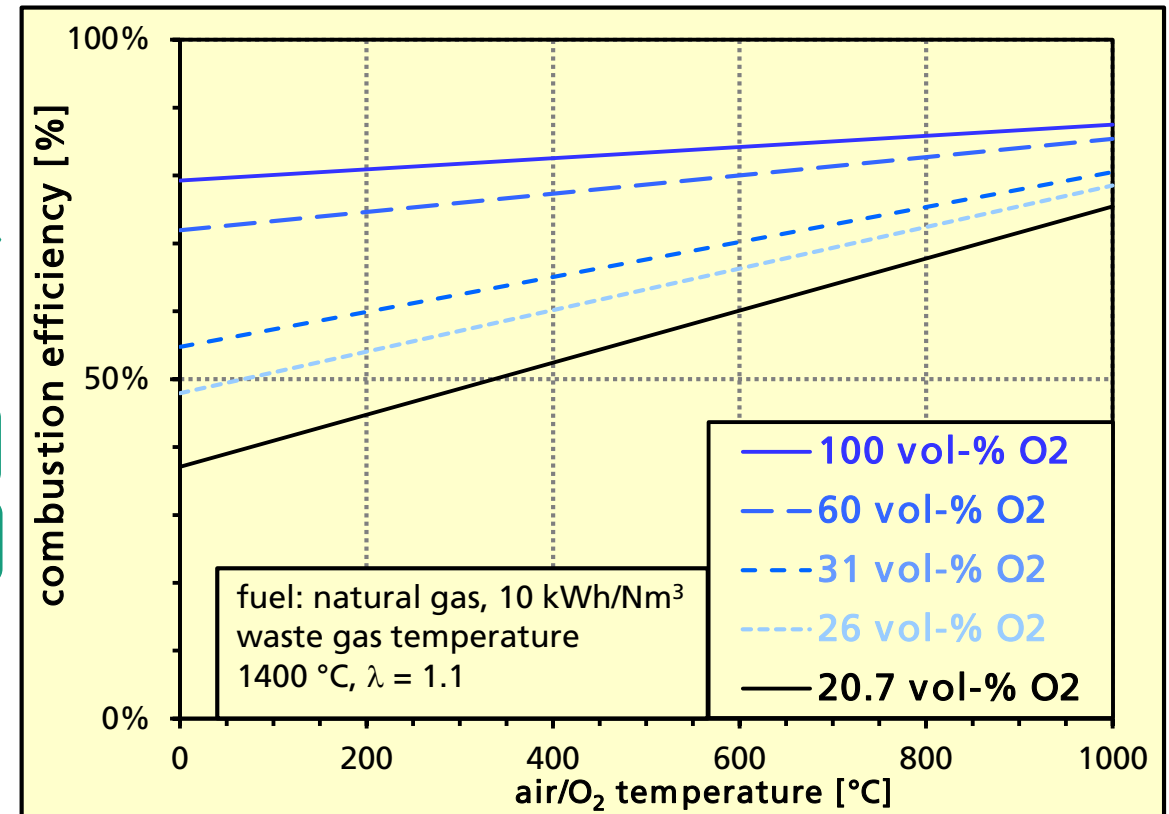
■ thermal integration for T_{waste gas} > 850 °C



→ Ibis
→ DeSa

cryo: ≥ 0.46
PSA: ≥ 0.9

▶ 0.15 - 0.3 kWh_{el./Nm³} O₂

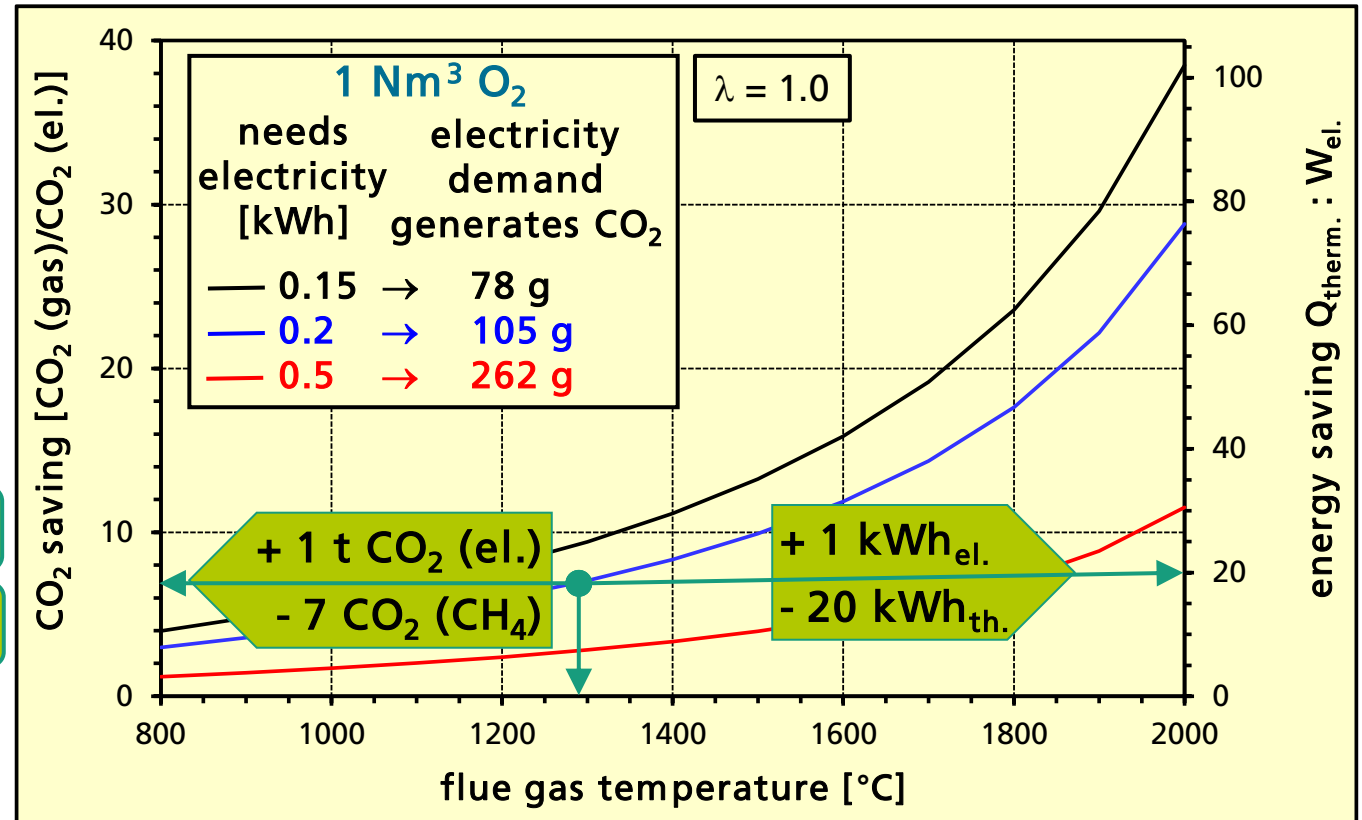


Atmospheric Combustion: Energy demand for Fuel Saving

CCS always increase energy demand?

- $O_2 \uparrow$ enables lower gas throughput and heat losses
 - same heat but less fuel
 - fuel saving = f (T, λ , energy 1 m³ O₂)
- kWh_{el.}/m³ O₂
- cryo ASU: ≈ 0.5 → Ibis
 - MIEC typically: ≈ 0.2 → DeSa
 - MIEC min.: ≈ 0.15
- CO₂ capture with energy saving!
 - most promising CCS route

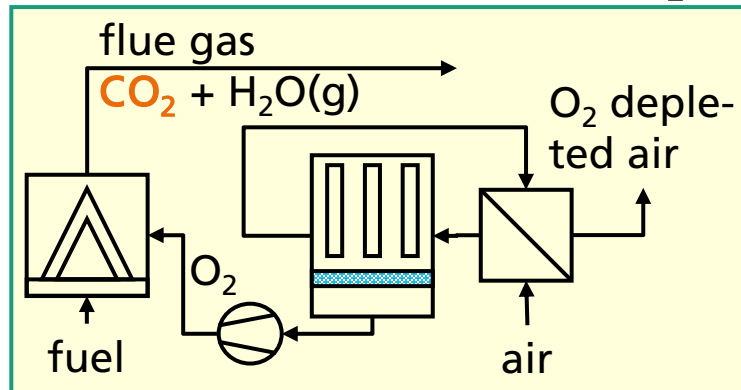
CO₂ emissions (Germany):
by electricity production: 523 g/kWh
by gas combustion: 197 g/kWh



Atmospheric Combustion: Separate MIEC Plant: CO₂ abatement Costs for Oxyfuel

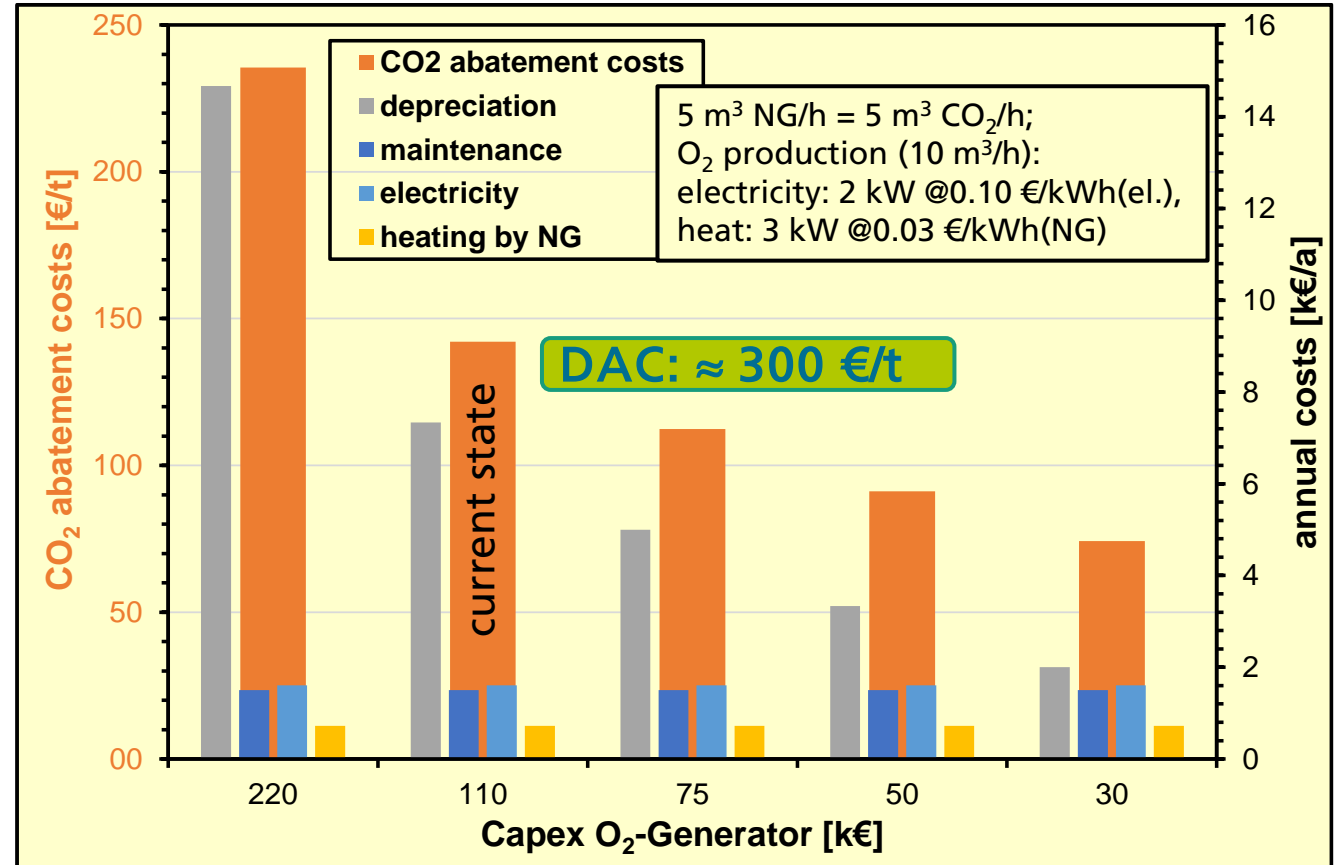
Oxyfuel-CCS with local O₂ production:

- separately, no thermal integration
- depreciation determines CO₂ costs



- further decrease of CAPEX!
- limited capacity for large plants

not yet established



Atmospheric Combustion: Integrated MIEC Plant: Energy Saving & CO₂ Capture

- furnaces for thermal processes use **natural gas**

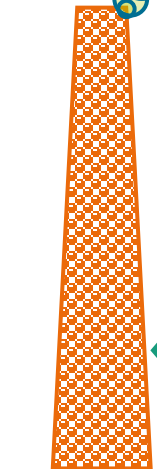
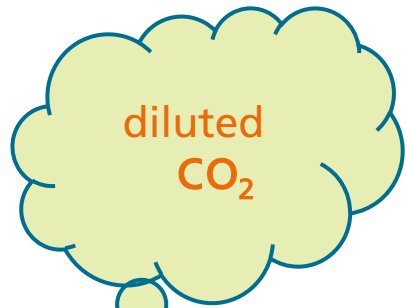
263 m³/h with (preheated) air

128 m³/h with (cold) O₂

CONDRA¹ (2021)

52 kW electricity and
77 kW heat for O₂
(using MIEC membranes)

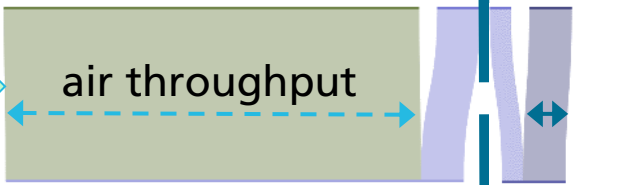
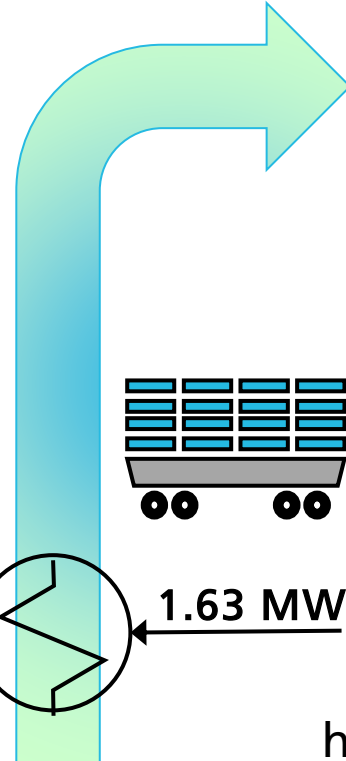
51 % NG saving
pure CO₂
no NO_x



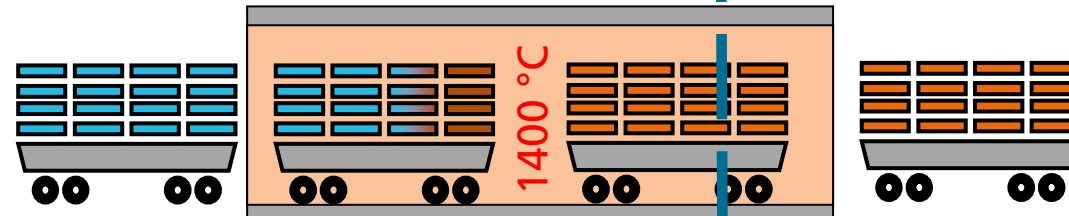
adblu

SCR cat

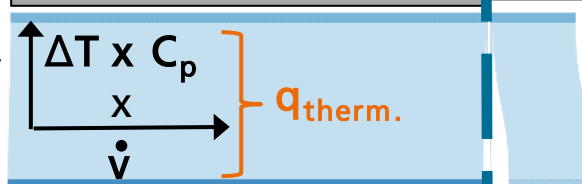
H₂O (g), N₂,
CO₂, NO_x



1 MW useful heat

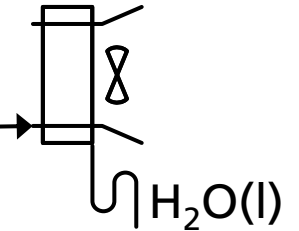


1.63 MW



heat loss with flue gas

0.28 MW
CO₂ + H₂O(g)

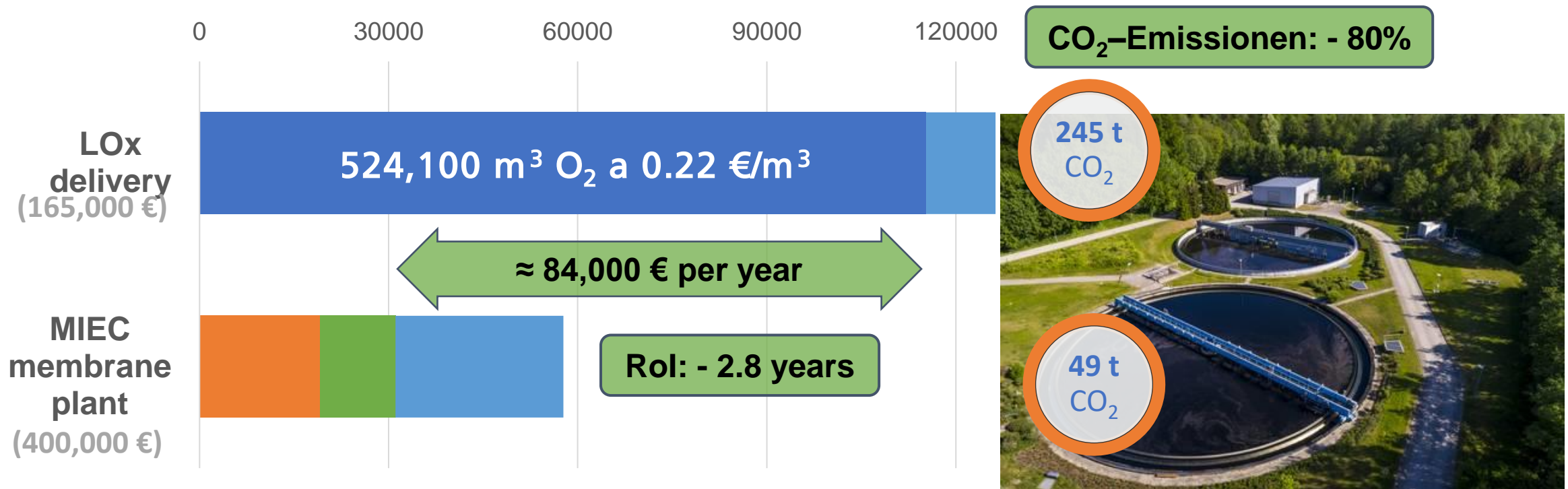


¹ CONDRA, BMWI FKZ 020E-100418104, 09/2021 – 08/2024

Market Entry:

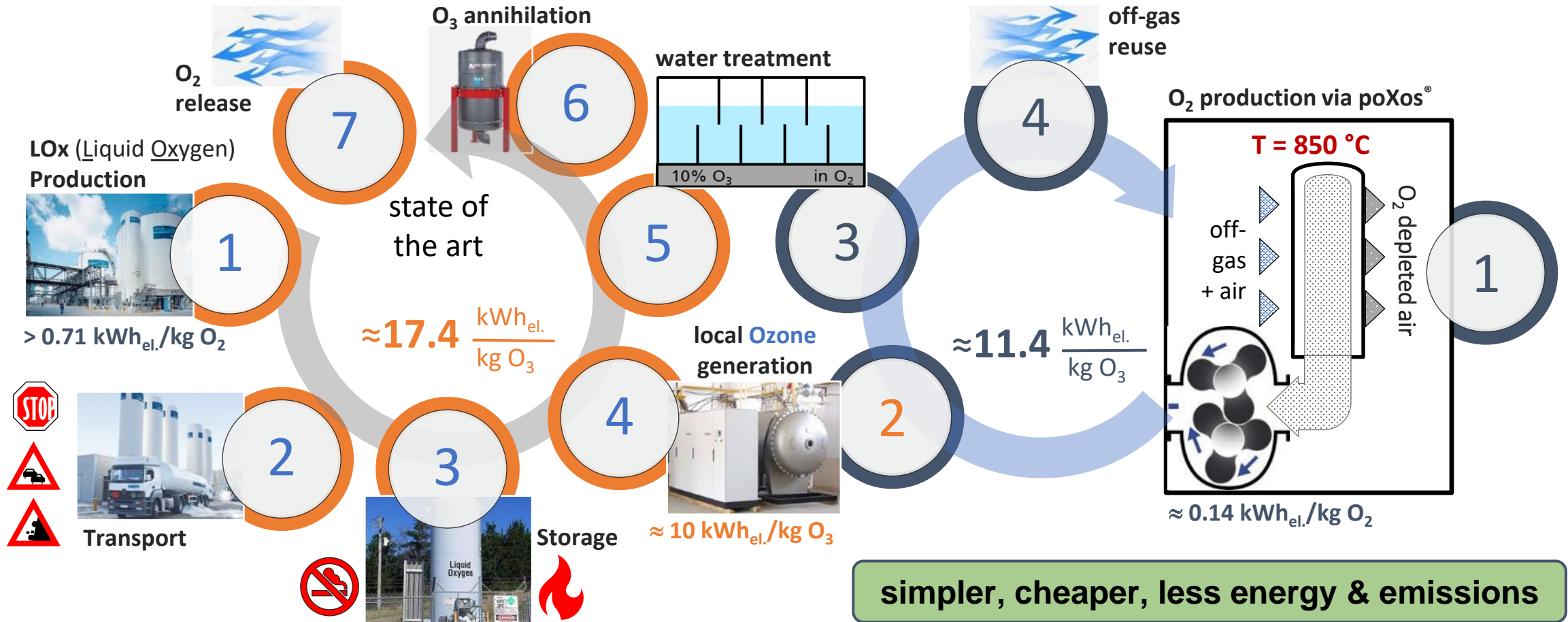
Sewage Plants: Ozone Post Treatment – Economic Benefit

■ Sewage Plant Aachen-Soers¹ - annual LOx costs:



¹Brückner, I.: Großtechnische Umsetzung einer Ozonung zur Vollstrombehandlung auf der Kläranlage Aachen-Soers. 28.11.2017. 43. Berliner Wasserwerkstatt

Market Entry: Sewage Plant: Ozone Treatment – Process Comparison



Spin-Off Company POXOS®: The Best of both Worlds

Cryogenic ASU (best of Linde):
0.46 kWh/m³ @ >30,000 Nm³ O₂/h



high CAPEX, relatively low
energy demand, pure O₂

pure Oxygen,
but transport

POXOS®

best of both worlds!

cheap heat + less electricity

OPEX ↓

on-site

O₂ purity ↑

less CO₂: 50 ... 100 %

patented process

unique material and components

✓ **Freedom to Operate**

PSA generator:
0.9 kWh/m³ @ < 0.1 Nm³ O₂/h



high OPEX, low
purity < 95 % O₂

on-site, but high
electricity costs

Customer benefit increases with decreasing O₂ costs.
Competitiveness benefits from lower energy demand, scalability and reduced CO₂ emissions.