



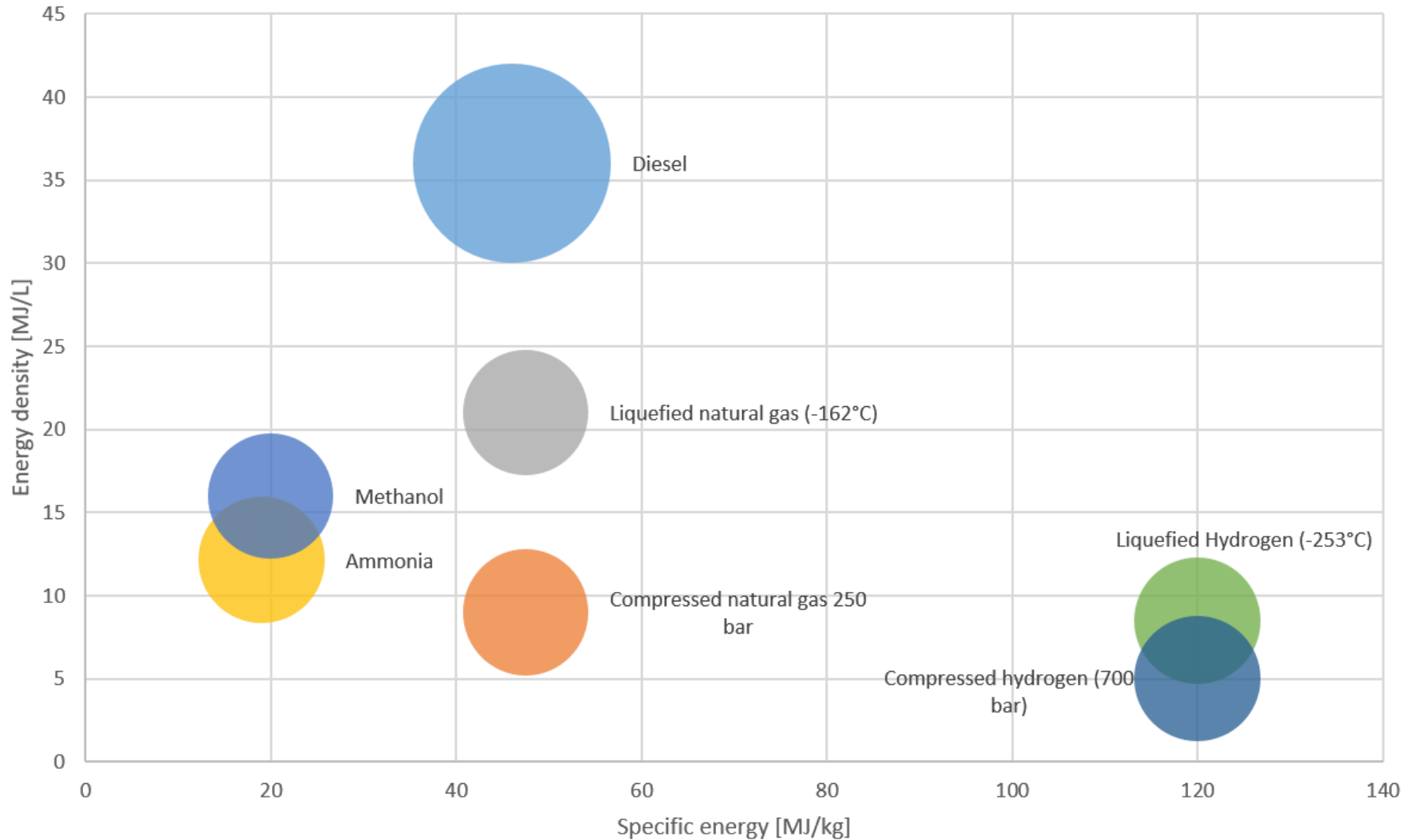
INDUSTRIAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT

ALTERNATIVE FUELS – NATURAL GAS

Dr. Davide Pivetta

AY 2024 – 2025

Fuel characteristics



Natural gas composition

General indications					
	Chemical formula	Italian gas	Russian gas	Dutch gas	Algerian gas
Methane	CH_4	99,2%	92,0%	88,85%	83,0%
Ethane	C_2H_6	0,4%	3,2%	4,3%	7,5%
Prophane	C_3H_8	0,14%	0,85%	0,9%	2,0%
Butane	C_4H_{10}	---	0,2%	0,3%	0,8%
Pentane	C_5H_{12}	---	0,1%	0,1%	0,3%
Hexane	C_6H_{14}	---	0,05%	0,05%	0,3%
Carbon dioxide	CO_2	0,11%	0,3%	1,3%	0,2%
Nitrogen	N_2	0,25%	3,3%	4,2%	6,0%

Wobbe index

Wobbe index: is the main index of the interchangeability of natural gas at the same pressure. It is defined as the ratio of a gas gross calorific value (GCV) to the square root of its relative density with respect to the density of air under standard conditions (ρ).

$$I_W = \frac{\text{GCV}}{\sqrt{\rho}}$$

Methane

GAS	Density (kg/Nm ³)	Relative Density
Ammonia	0.771	0.597
Carbon Dioxide	1.997	1.529
Air	1.293	1.000
Nitrogen (pure)	1.251	0.967
Butane	2.703	2.091
Hydrogen	0.0899	0.0695
Oxygen	1.429	1.105
Propane	2.019	1.562
Methane (pure)	0.71	0.551 = (0.713/1.293)

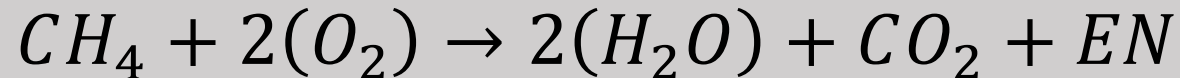
Reference density is defined per Normal cubic meter (Nm³), that is, evaluated at an absolute pressure of 1 bar and a temperature of 0°C.

Relative density is the ratio of gas density to air density (under Normal conditions).

Methane

Methane is a hydrocarbon that is part of the paraffins. It is colorless, odorless, nontoxic and non-corrosive.

Oxidation reaction:



Calorific value: amount of heat developed by the complete combustion of a normal cubic meter of a gas.

$$HHV = 9.530 \text{ kcal/Nm}^3 = 13.284 \text{ kcal/kg}$$

$$LHV = 8.570 \text{ kcal/Nm}^3 = 11.946 \text{ kcal/kg}$$

$$15.44 \text{ kWh/kg}$$

Methane



Stoichiometric air volume: volume of air technically required for complete combustion of 1 Nm³ of gas;



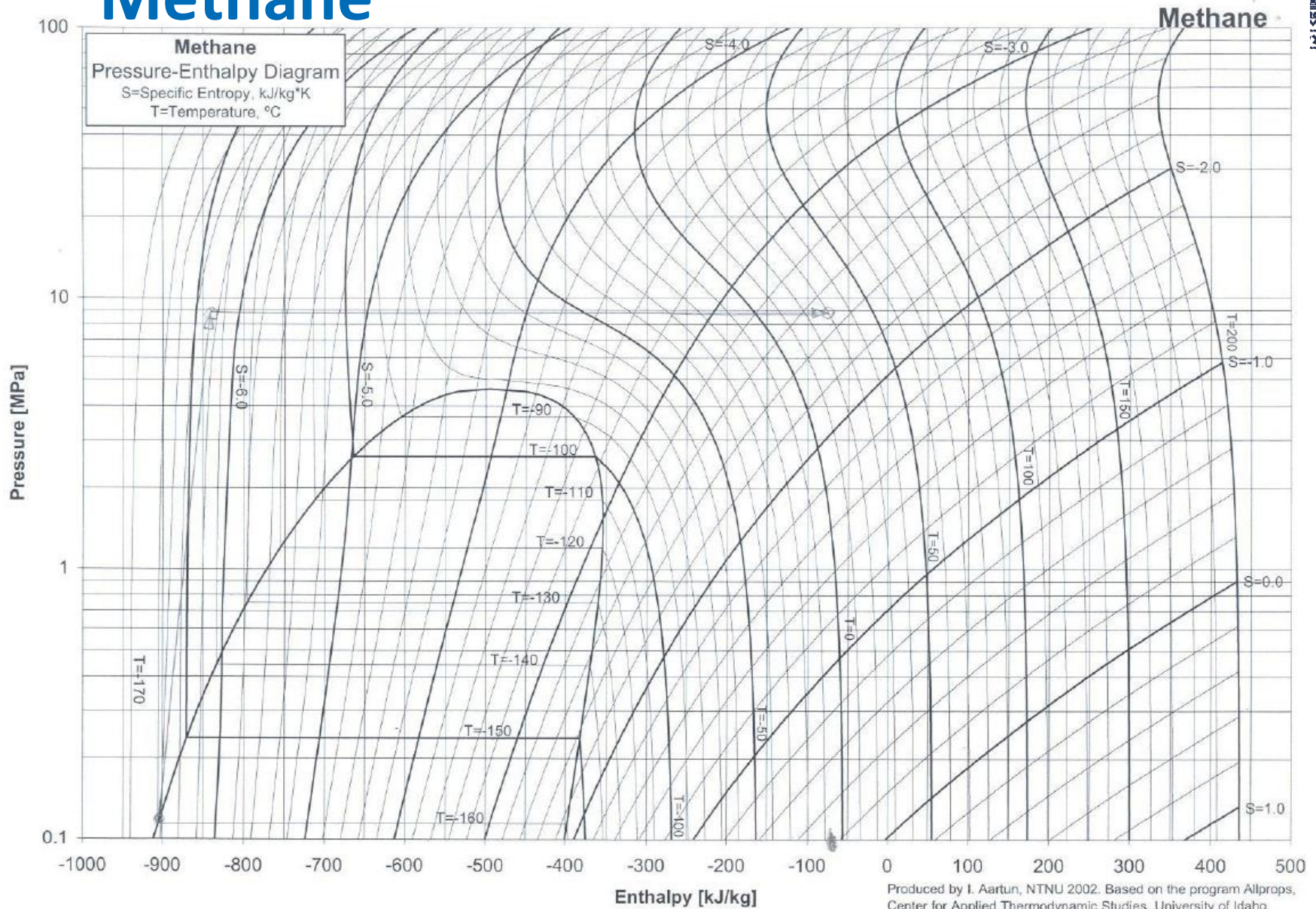
For methane → 10 Nm³ of air

Flammability limit: defined as the ratio, by volume, of a gaseous fuel in a mixture of gas and air, below or above which the mixture will not ignite or continue to burn.

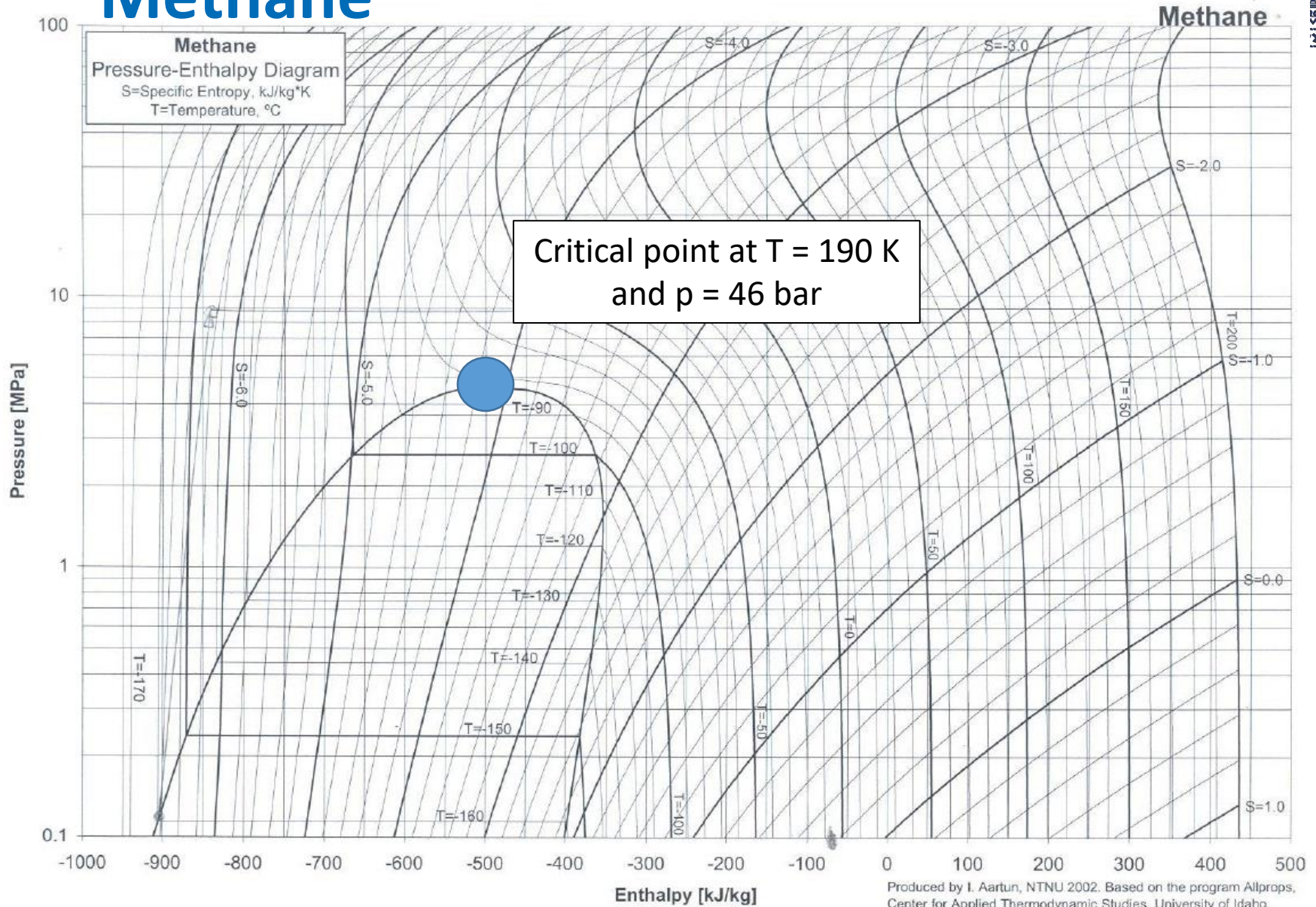


For methane → 4.5 - 15%

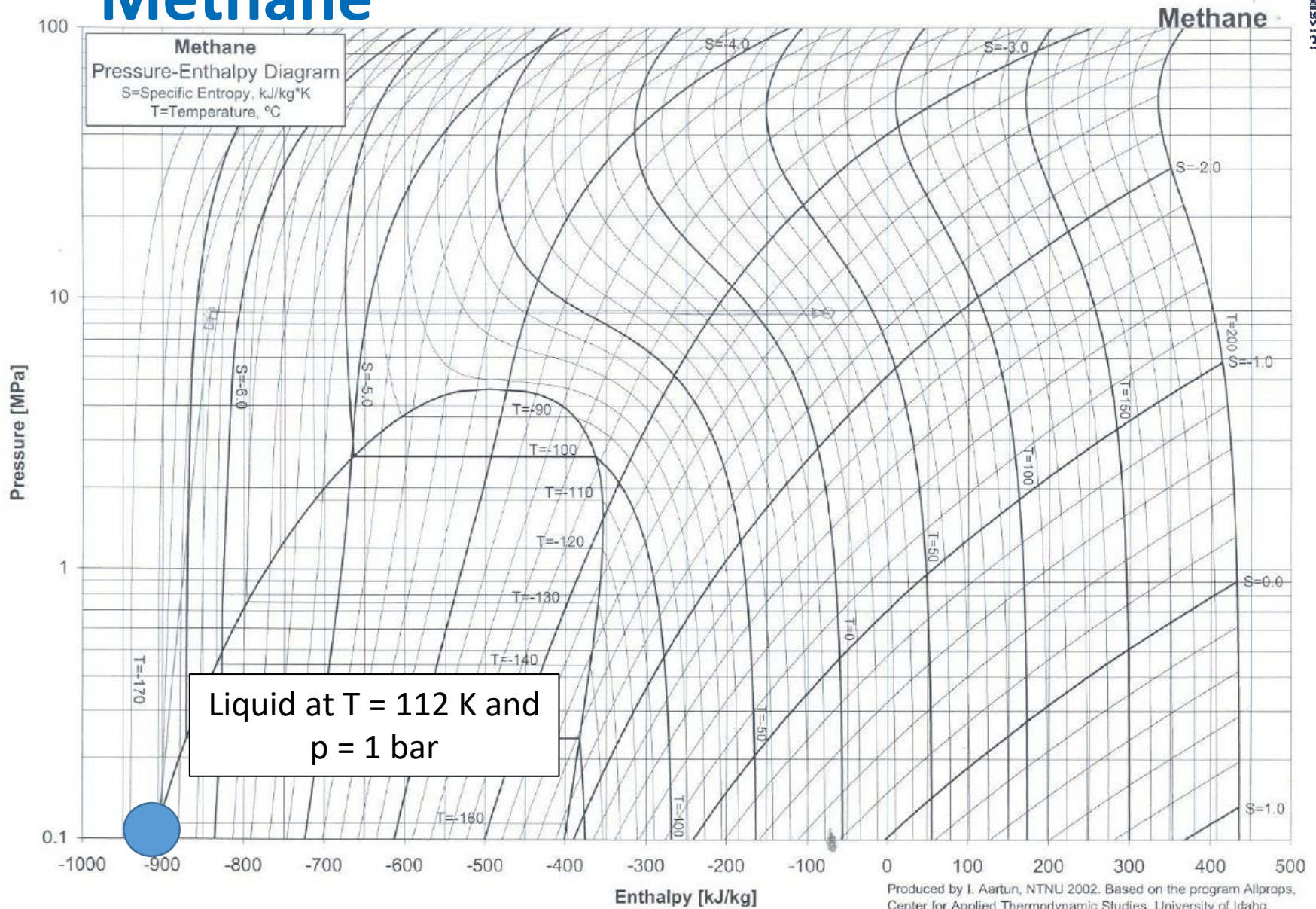
Methane



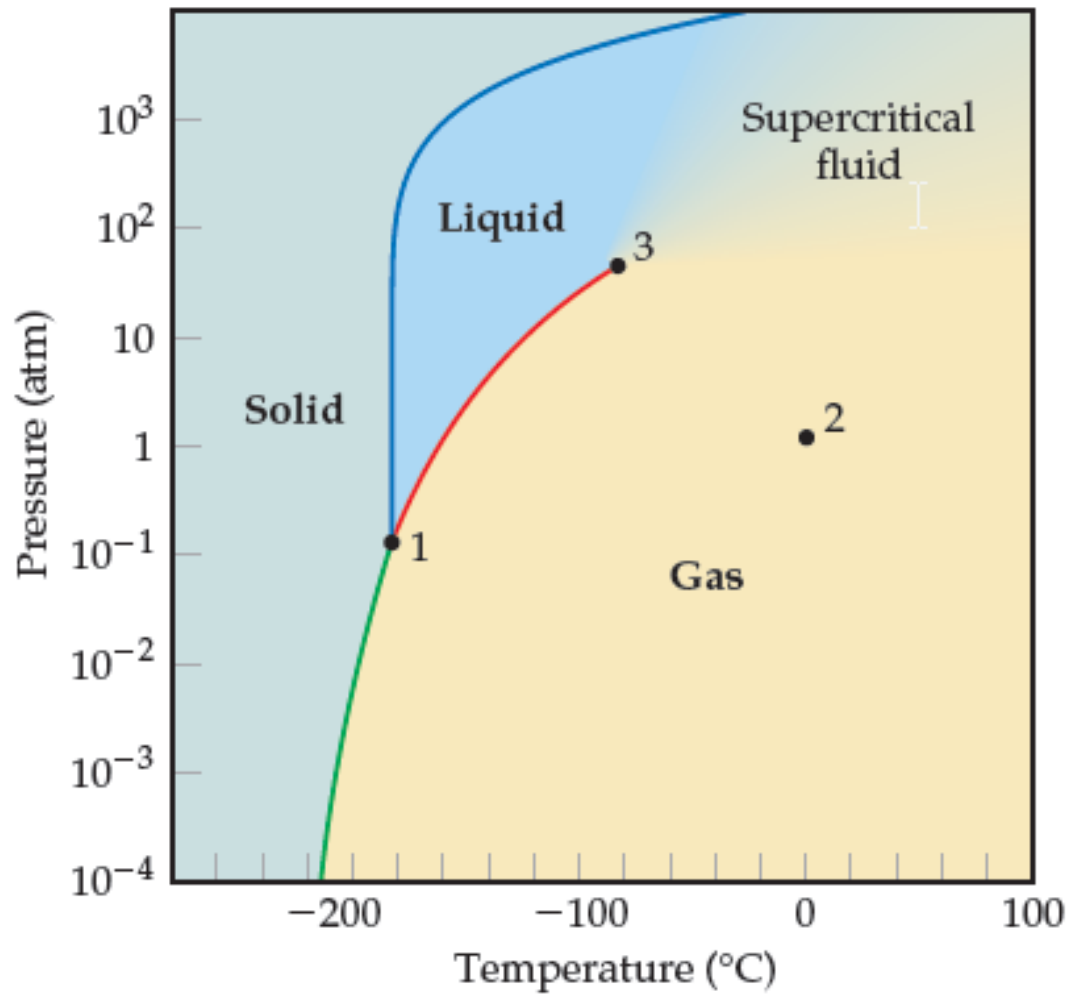
Methane



Methane



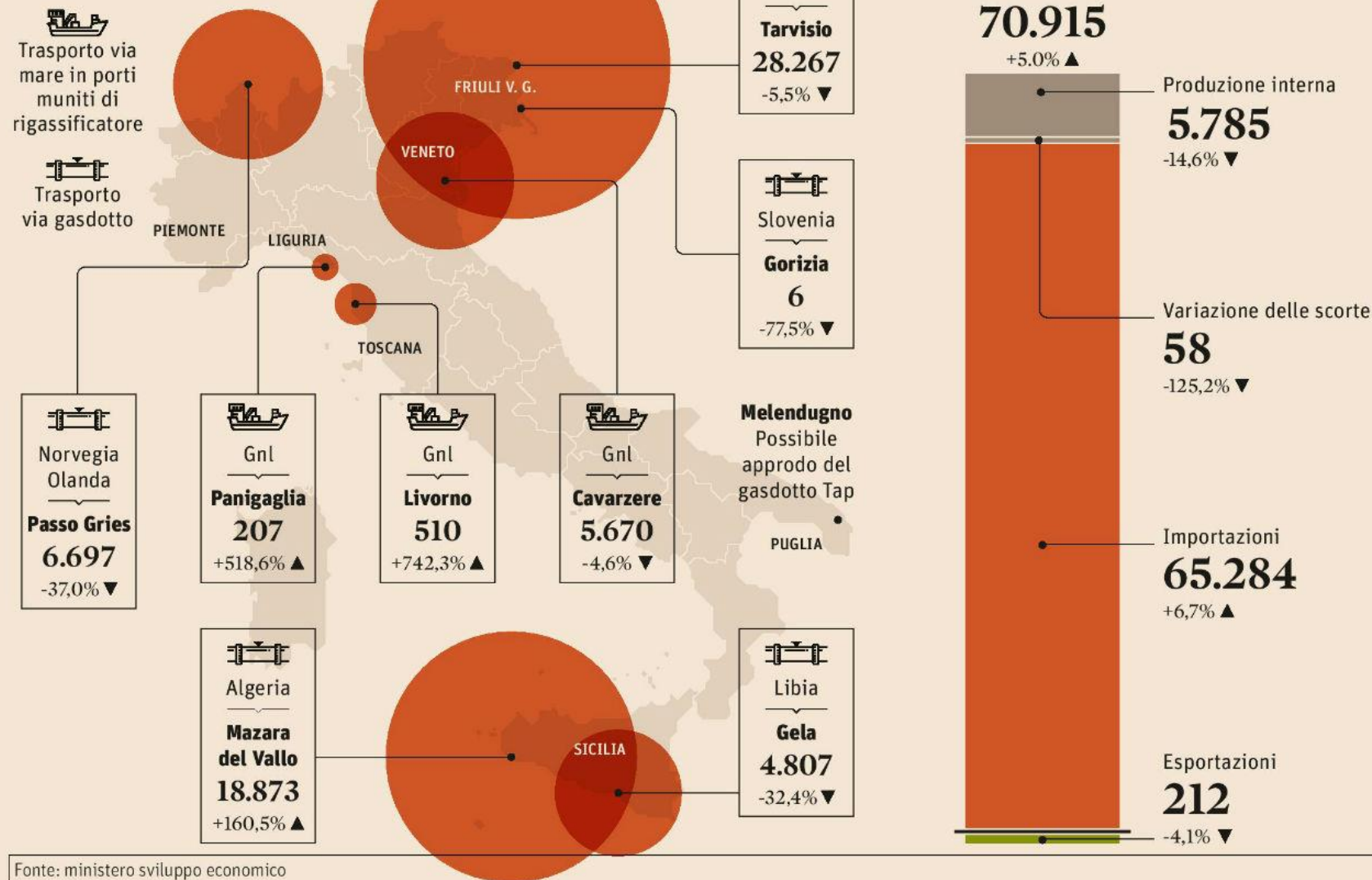
Methane phase diagram



Il bilancio del gas naturale in Italia

I PRINCIPALI PUNTI D'INGRESSO

Dati gennaio-dicembre 2016 in milioni di metri cubi e variazione % sul 2015

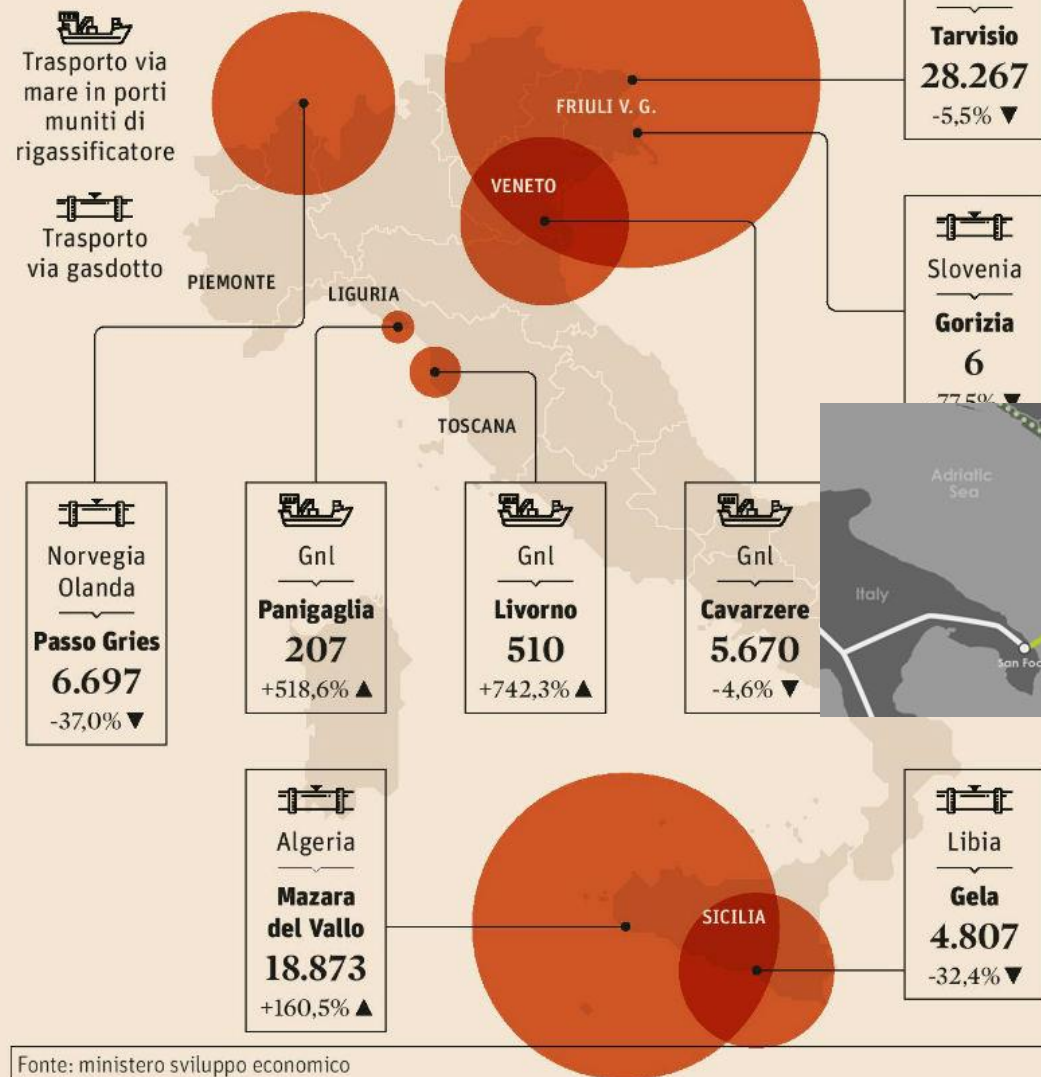


Fonte: ministero sviluppo economico

Il bilancio del gas naturale in Italia

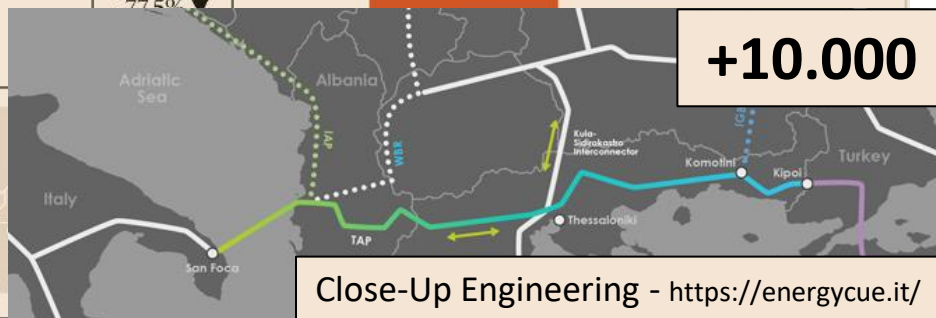
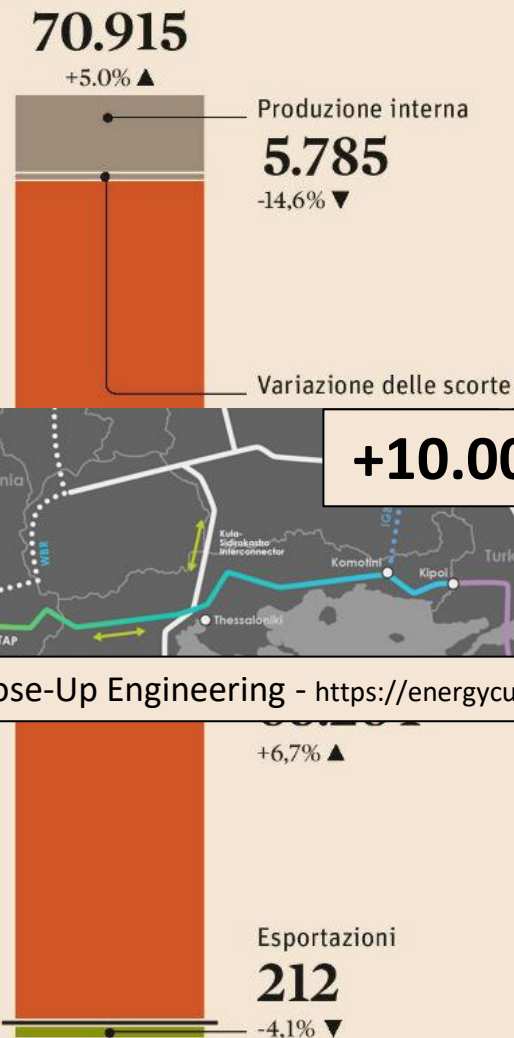
I PRINCIPALI PUNTI D'INGRESSO

Dati gennaio-dicembre 2016 in milioni di metri cubi e variazione % sul 2015



IL CONSUMO INTERNO

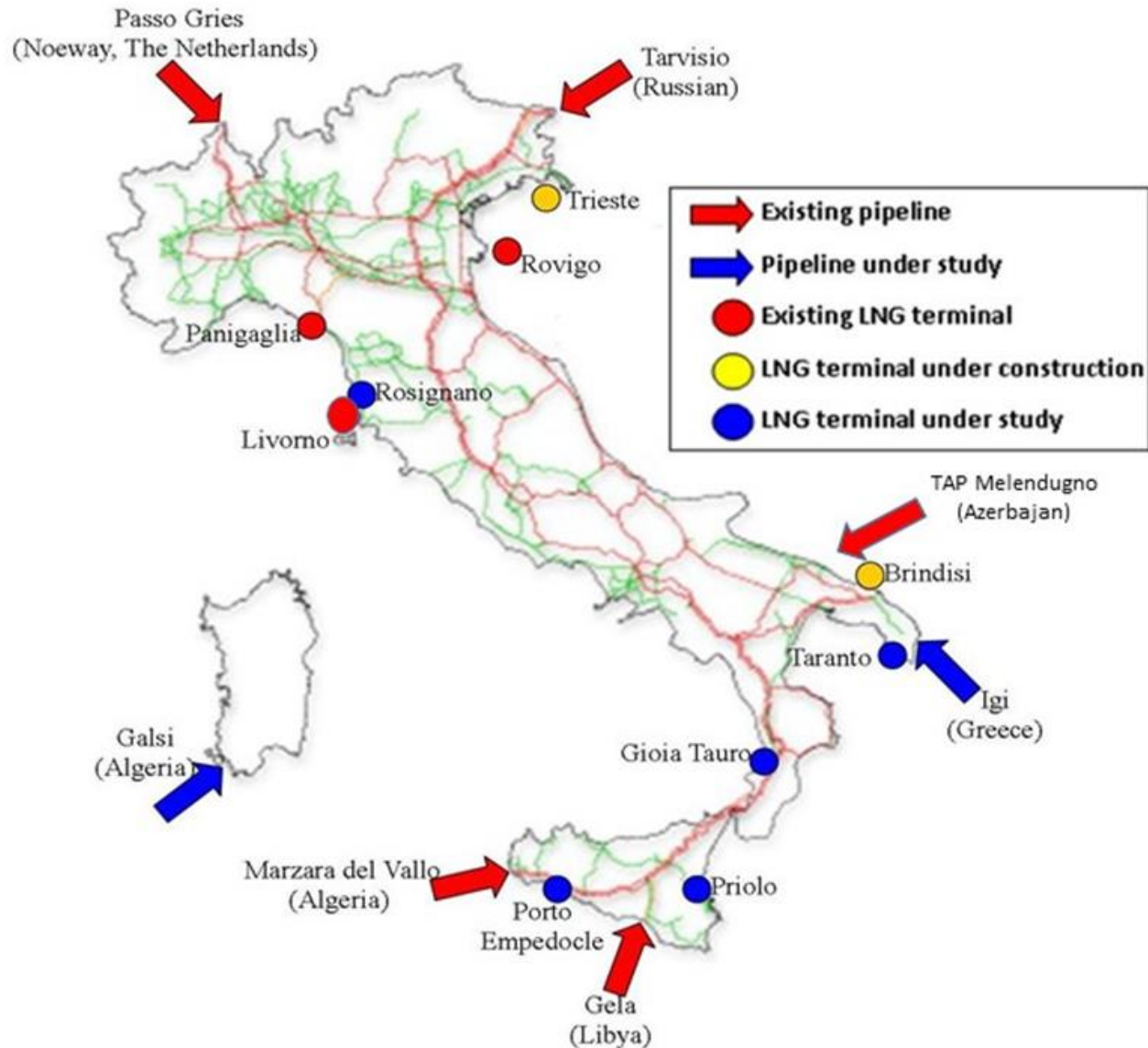
Dati gennaio-dicembre 2016 in milioni di metri cubi e variazione % sul 2015



Close-Up Engineering - <https://energycue.it/>

Fonte: ministero sviluppo economico

Natural gas transport in Italy



[HOME](#)[PUBBLICAZIONI](#) ▾[OPEN DATA](#)[RILEVAZIONI](#) ▾<https://sisen.mase.gov.it/dgsaie/bilancio-gas-naturale>

BILANCIO MENSILE DEL GAS NATURALE								
ITALIA (1)								
(Milioni di Standard metri cubi a 38,1 MJ/m3)								
			Dicembre			Gennaio-Dicembre		
			2024	2023	Variaz. %	2024	2023	Variaz. %
a)	PRODUZIONE NAZIONALE (2)		322	240	34.3%	2,940	2,988	-1.6%
b)	IMPORTAZIONI		5,421	4,836	12.1%	59,163	61,604	-4.0%
	per punto di ingresso	MAZARA DEL VALLO	1,758	1,782	-1.4%	21,068	23,040	-8.6%
		GELA	88	167	-47.2%	1,406	2,522	-44.2%
		TARVISIO	556	223	149.2%	5,607	2,844	97.1%
		PASSO GRIES	564	322	75.2%	6,005	6,567	-8.5%
		MELENDUGNO	932	804	16.0%	10,315	9,988	3.3%
		PIOMBINO (2)	392	359	9.4%	3,612	1,238	191.7%
		PANIGAGLIA (2)	-	60	-100.0%	962	2,603	-63.0%
		CAVARZERE (2)	754	727	3.7%	9,058	8,873	2.1%
		LIVORNO (2)	375	386	-2.8%	1,084	3,860	-71.9%
		GORIZIA	0	5	-96.5%	25	41	-39.6%
		ALTRI	1	2	-55.0%	21	29	-28.1%
c)	Esportazioni		74	117	-36.5%	619	2,620	-76.4%
d)	Variazione delle scorte (2)		- 2,246	- 2,276	-1.3%	- 381	457	-183.5%
e) = a)+b)-c)-d)	Consumo Interno Lordo		7,915	7,235	9.4%	61,864	61,516	0.6%
Fonte: Ministero dell'ambiente e della sicurezza energetica - Dipartimento Energia - DGIS								
(1) Preconsuntivi al netto dei transiti								
(2) comprende consumi e perdite								

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GAS NATURALE TOTALE DISTRIBUITO PER REGIONE				
ANNO 2023				
Volumi espressi in M Sm ³ ; gas da 10,57275 25-15 kWh/Sm ³ (*)				
REGIONI	INDUSTRIALE	TERMOELETTRICO	RETI DI DISTRIBUZIONE	T O T A L E
PIEMONTE	1,006.4	2,784.2	2,946.1	6,736.7
VALLE D'AOSTA	56.2	0.0	36.1	92.3
LOMBARDIA	2,218.8	5,152.3	7,059.2	14,430.3
TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE	272.0	17.4	627.0	916.4
VENETO	1,198.8	514.8	3,357.9	5,071.5
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA	526.3	691.8	727.7	1,945.8
LIGURIA	206.2	184.7	701.6	1,092.5
EMILIA ROMAGNA	2,343.5	2,800.5	3,359.6	8,503.6
TOSCANA	775.5	1,488.4	1,841.6	4,105.5
UMBRIA	232.5	141.7	419.3	793.5
MARCHE	282.1	2.9	679.5	964.5
LAZIO	474.0	459.1	1,753.6	2,686.7
ABRUZZO	371.5	292.1	597.8	1,261.4
MOLISE	16.3	91.4	121.9	229.6
CAMPANIA	413.4	691.6	1,029.8	2,134.8
PUGLIA	610.7	2,405.6	964.7	3,981.0
BASILICATA	95.8	23.6	217.3	336.7
CALABRIA	34.1	1,740.4	272.5	2,047.0
SICILIA	655.1	1,777.3	595.5	3,027.9
SARDEGNA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
				0.0
T O T A L E	11,789.2	21,259.8	27,308.7	60,357.7

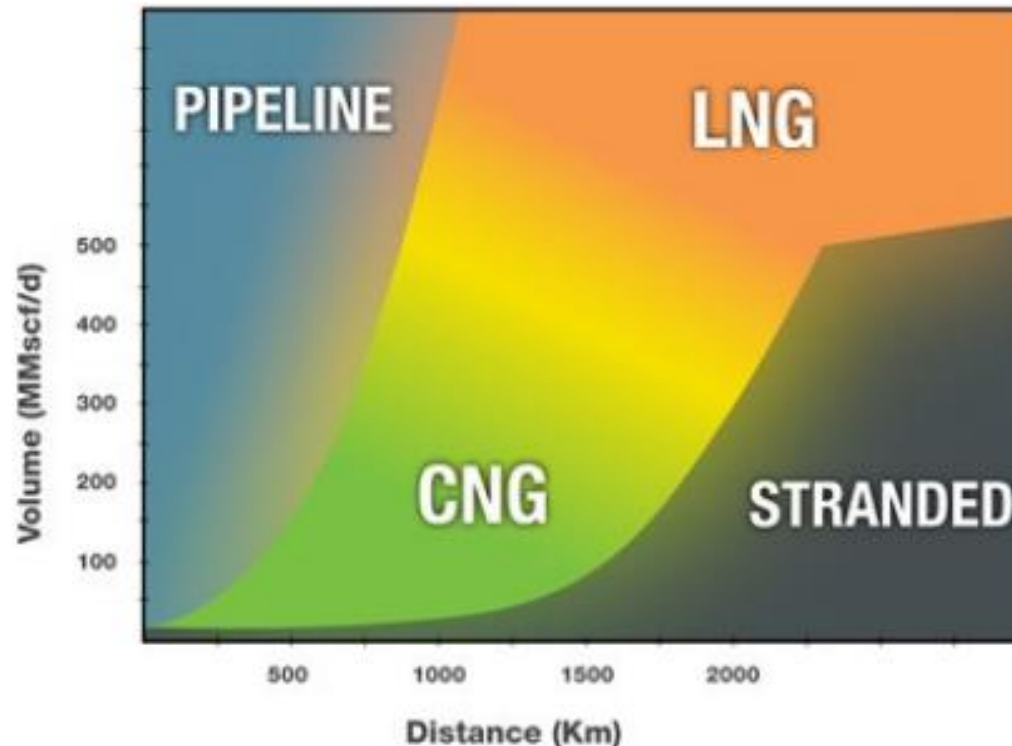
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<https://dgsaie.mise.gov.it/bilancio-gas-naturale>

IMPORTAZIONI DI GAS NATURALE PER PUNTO DI INGRESSO - ANNO 2022- Volumi espressi in M Sm3; gas da 10,57275 ²⁵⁻¹⁵ kWh/Sm ³ (*)															
	MESE														
	Gennaio	Febbraio	Marzo	Aprile	Maggio	Giugno	Luglio	Agosto	Settembre	Ottobre	Novembre	Dicembre	Totale 2022	Peso %	
MAZARA DEL VALLO	2,113	1,977	2,129	2,093	2,247	2,145	1,901	2,148	2,343	2,202	2,120	2,566	25,982	35.8%	
TARVISIO	1,699	1,429	2,381	1,446	1,299	1,015	1,243	1,103	801	317	467	788	13,988	19.3%	
MELEDUGNO	698	674	821	852	847	854	865	750	818	869	816	1,460	10,325	14.2%	
ROVIGO - CAVARZERE	437	406	551	562	694	638	666	566	669	688	731	763	7,372	10.2%	
PASSO GRIES - MASARA	746	495	180	641	805	341	1,250	585	360	432	301	451	6,588	9.1%	
OLT LIVORNO	292	291	414	140	34	334	409	437	355	180	174	582	3,642	5.0%	
GELA	227	111	162	254	239	198	199	194	185	284	272	295	2,619	3.6%	
PANIGAGLIA	26	46	5	96	253	296	207	183	0	267	286	337	2,003	2.8%	
VENTIMIGLIA	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	25	0.0%	
FALCONARA	0	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	24	0.0%	
GORIZIA	10	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	8	23	0.0%	
CAGLIARI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.0%	
CASALBORSETTI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0%	
Totale complessivo	6,249	5,431	6,647	6,087	6,422	5,826	6,746	5,972	5,537	5,245	5,172	7,256	72,591	100.0%	

Natural gas transport

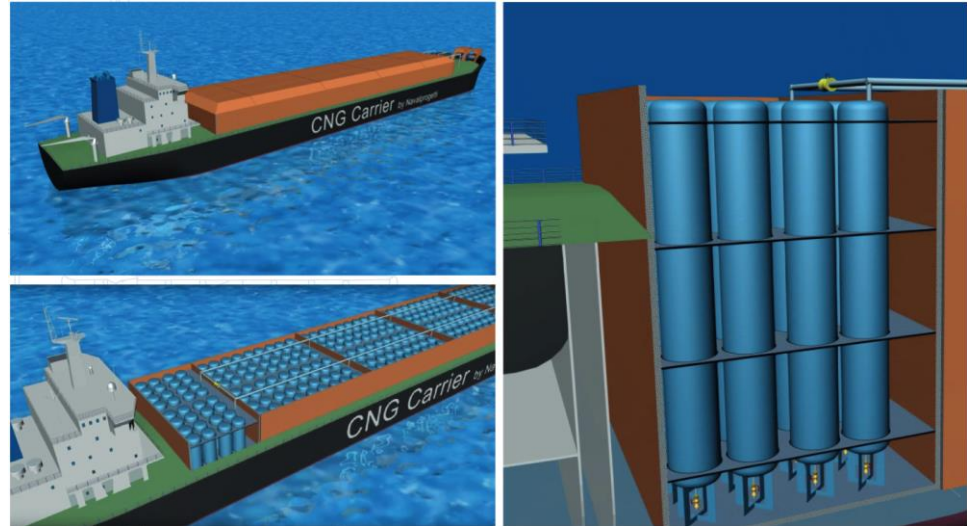
Natural gas transport



GASVESSEL Project - <https://www.gasvessel.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/D2.1-Scenario-Description-and-Characterization.pdf>

CNG

(Compressed Natural Gas)



GASVESSEL Project - <https://www.gasvessel.eu/>

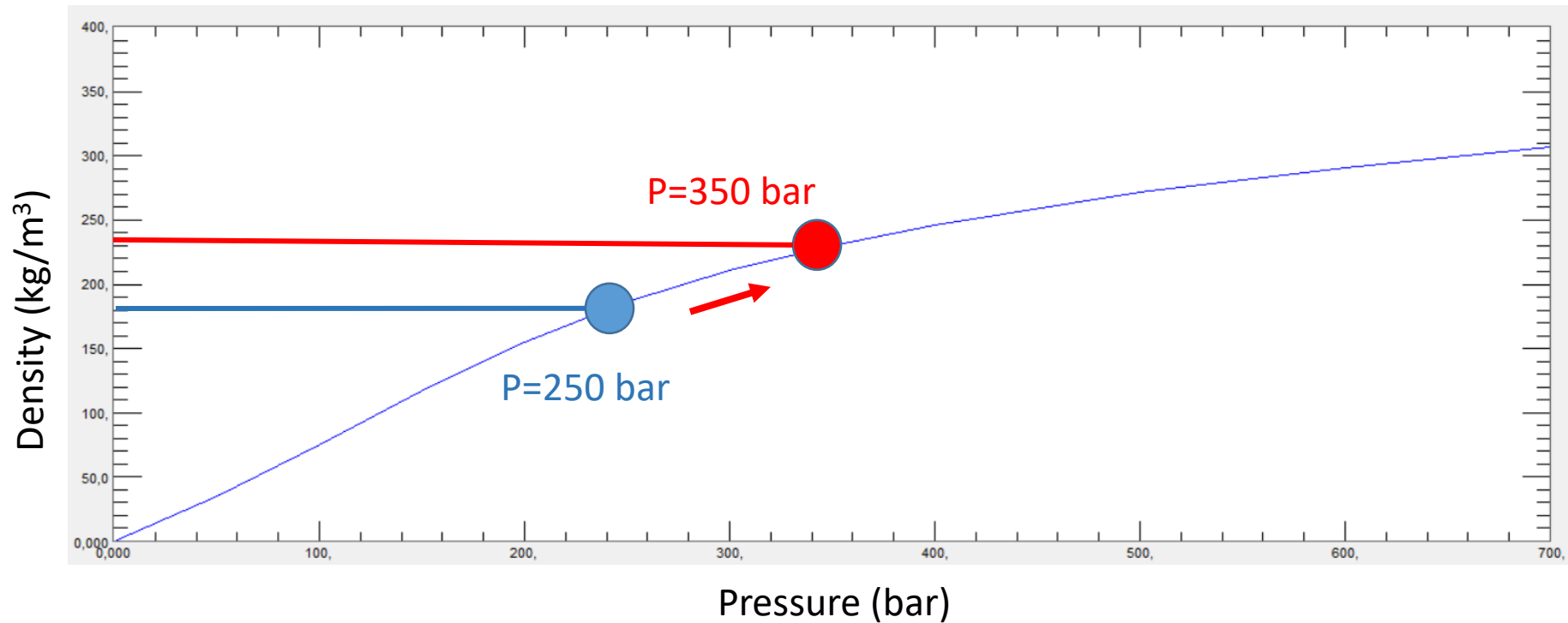
LNG

(Liquified Natural Gas)



Compressed natural gas (CNG)

Density as a function of pressure for methane at $T = 300\text{ K}$



Tanks for CNG

Type 1 CNG Tank



- Made entirely of steel;
- Very heavy.

Type 2 CNG Tank



- Steel construction;
- Rolled composite material;
- 25 % lighter than Type 1.

Type 3 CNG Tank



- Aluminium liner and composite shell;
- Significant weight savings.

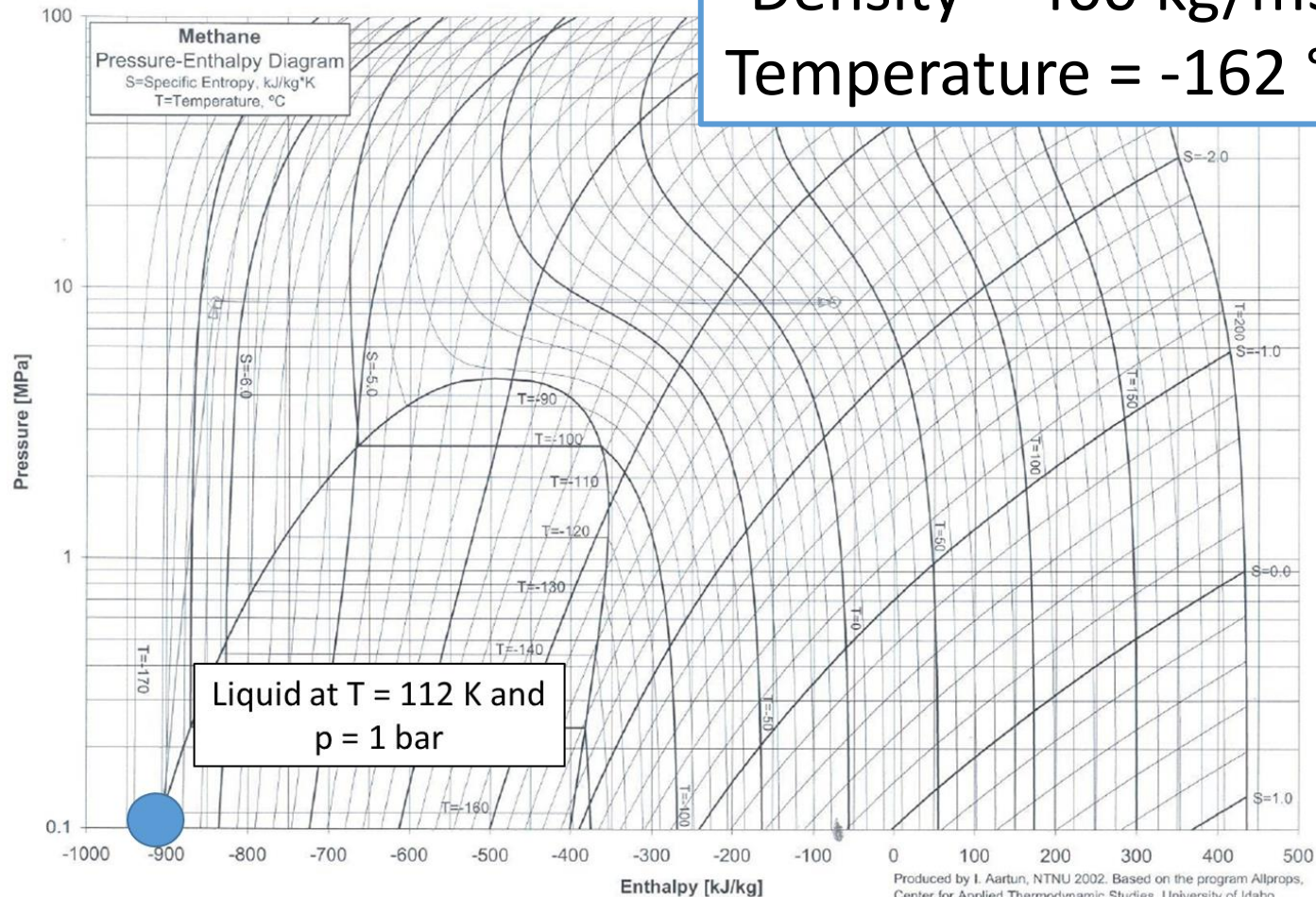
Type 4 CNG Tank



- Polyethylene liner and composite shell;
- Significant weight savings.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG)

Density = 400 kg/m³
Temperature = -162 °C



LNG composition

Terminal	Methane	Ethane	Propane	Butane	Nitrogen
Abu Dhabi	87.07	11.41	1.27	0.14	0.11
Alaska	99.80	0.10	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Algeria	91.40	7.87	0.44	0.00	0.28
Australia	87.82	8.30	2.98	0.88	0.01
Brunei	89.40	6.30	2.80	1.30	0.00
Indonesia	90.60	6.00	2.48	0.82	0.09
Malaysia	91.15	4.28	2.87	1.36	0.32
Oman	87.66	9.72	2.04	0.69	0.00
Qatar	89.87	6.65	2.30	0.98	0.19
Trinidad	92.26	6.39	0.91	0.43	0.00
Nigeria	91.60	4.60	2.40	1.30	0.10

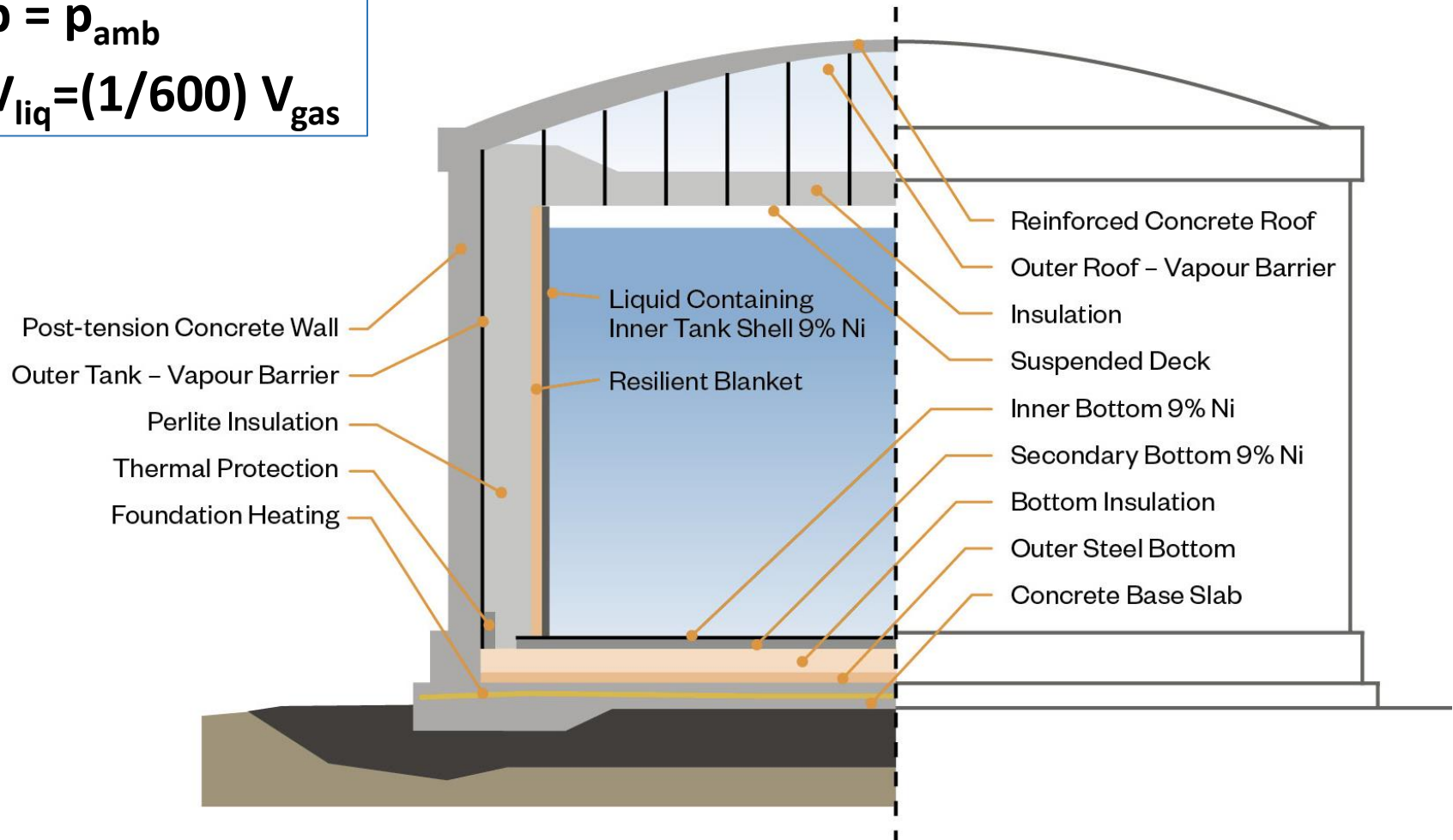
Kanbur BB, Xiang L, Dubey S, Choo FH, Duan F. Cold utilization systems of LNG: a review. *Renew Sustain Energy Rev* 2017;79:1171–88. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2017.05.161>.

LNG tank

$$T = 112 \text{ K}$$

$$p = p_{\text{amb}}$$

$$V_{\text{liq}} = (1/600) V_{\text{gas}}$$



LNG tank

Primary barrier:

Self supporting IMO independent tank type A.

Material Stainless steel of 9% nickel steel.

Secondary barrier:

Liquid tight thermal insulation.

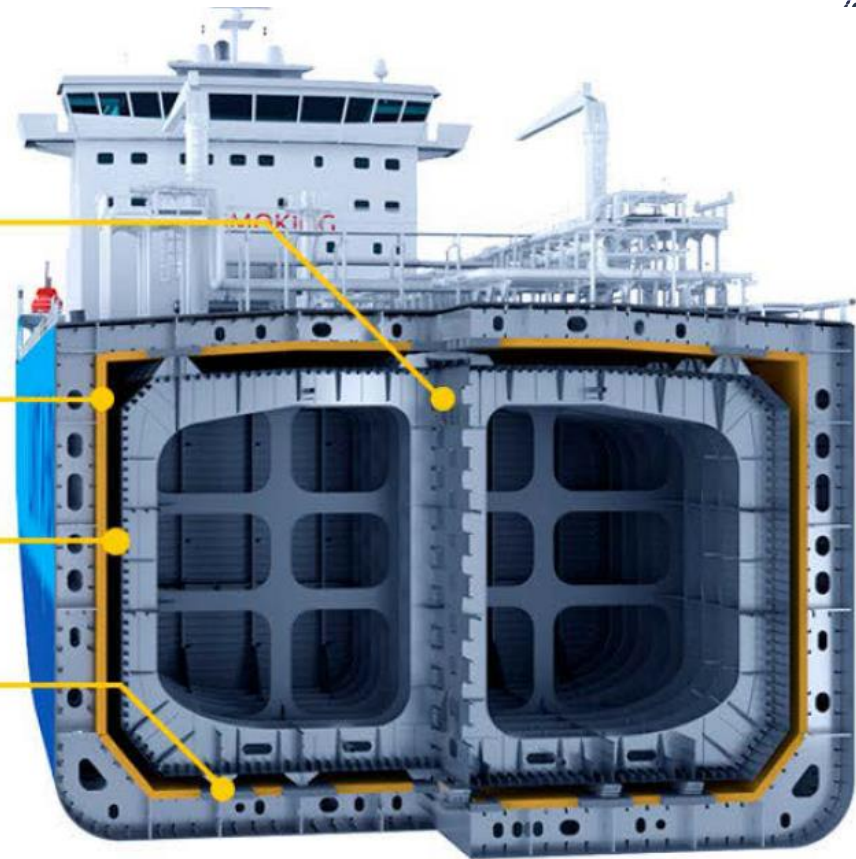
Based on polyurethane foam panels.

Interbarrier space:

Accessible space between tank and insulation.

Cargo tank support:

conventional cargo tank support system.



Phenomena to be controlled:

- **Boil-off gas:** gas produced by evaporation of the cryogenic liquid.
- **Stratification:** natural arrangement of LNG components according to specific density.
- **Roll-over:** phenomenon of abrupt mixing of layers with different densities. It causes an increase in the evaporation rate and consequent increase in pressure.

LNG boil-off

Techniques to reduce boil-off::

1. Mechanical mixing of LNG to avoid stratification phenomena.
2. Adequate tank insulation to minimise heat exchange with the outside.
3. Use of nozzles that atomise part of the LNG in the upper part of the tank in order to cool its contents.
4. Removal of part of the boil-off gas in order to avoid the pressure increase that would further promote the evaporation phenomenon.

Boil-off rate = 0.1 % vol/day

Boil-off gas can be:

- **Used directly** to feed energy conversion units (e.g. engines, boilers, etc.);
- **Re-liquefied.**

The plant configuration depends on the amount of boil-off gas produced during transport

LNG boil-off re-liquefaction



Stirling cryogenics

<https://www.stirlingcryogenics.eu/>

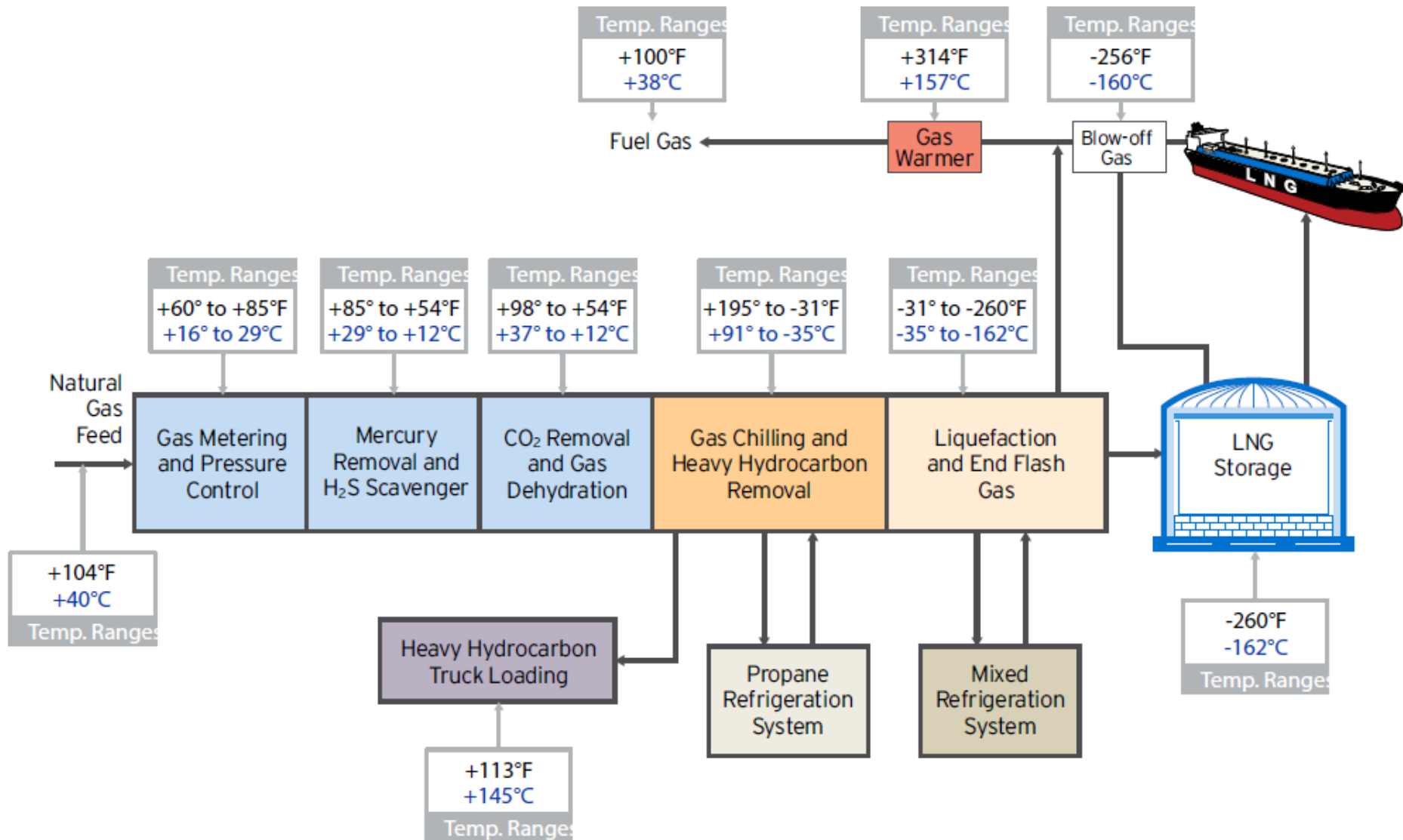


Cryostar

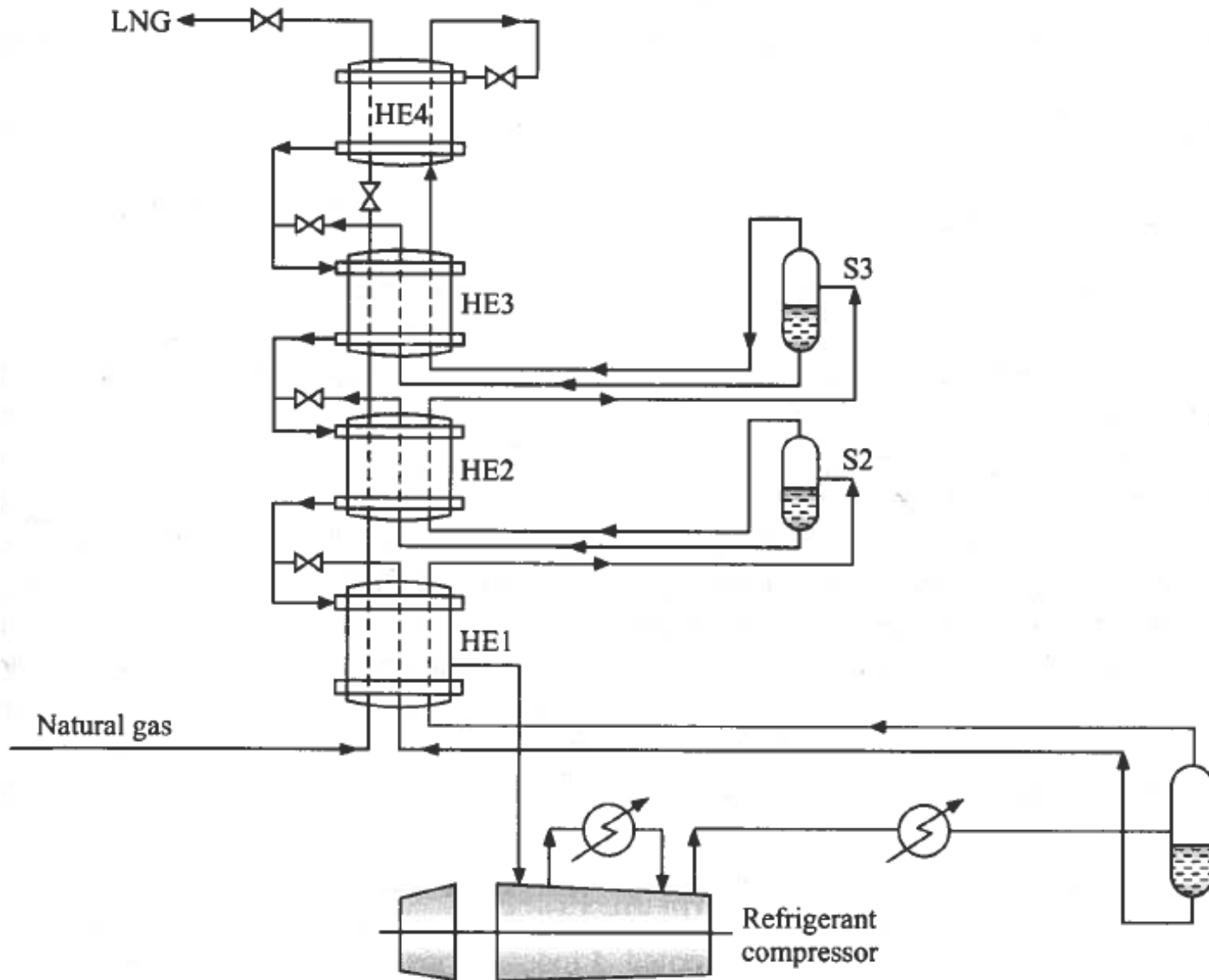
<https://cryostar.com/>

Liquefaction process

LNG liquefaction process



MULTICOMPONENT REFRIGERANT (MCR)



Energy demand < 250
kWh/t_{LNG}

3,5 mtpa < Cap. liq. <
8 mtpa



Cameron LNG - <https://cameronlng.com/>

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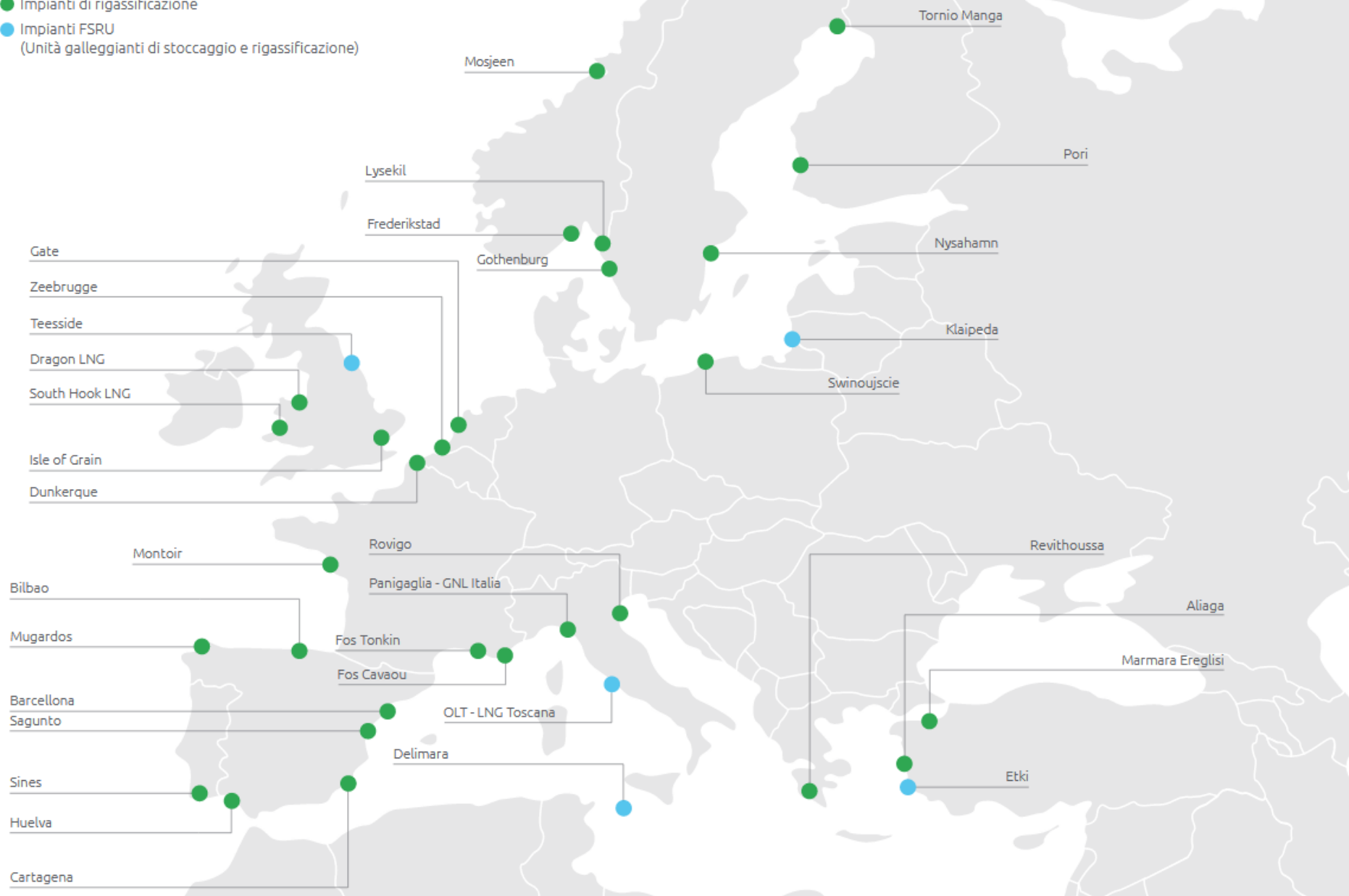
LNG liquefaction process

Processes with a mixed refrigerant cycle and propane pre-cooling account for more than 90 % of natural gas liquefaction plants.

Losses in the LNG value chain	
Process phases	Percentage loss compared to natural gas input
Liquefaction	8 - 10 %
Shipping	0.15 – 0.3 %
Regassification	2 – 2.5 %

Regassification process

- Impianti di liquefazione
- Impianti di rigassificazione
- Impianti FSRU
(Unità galleggianti di stoccaggio e rigassificazione)

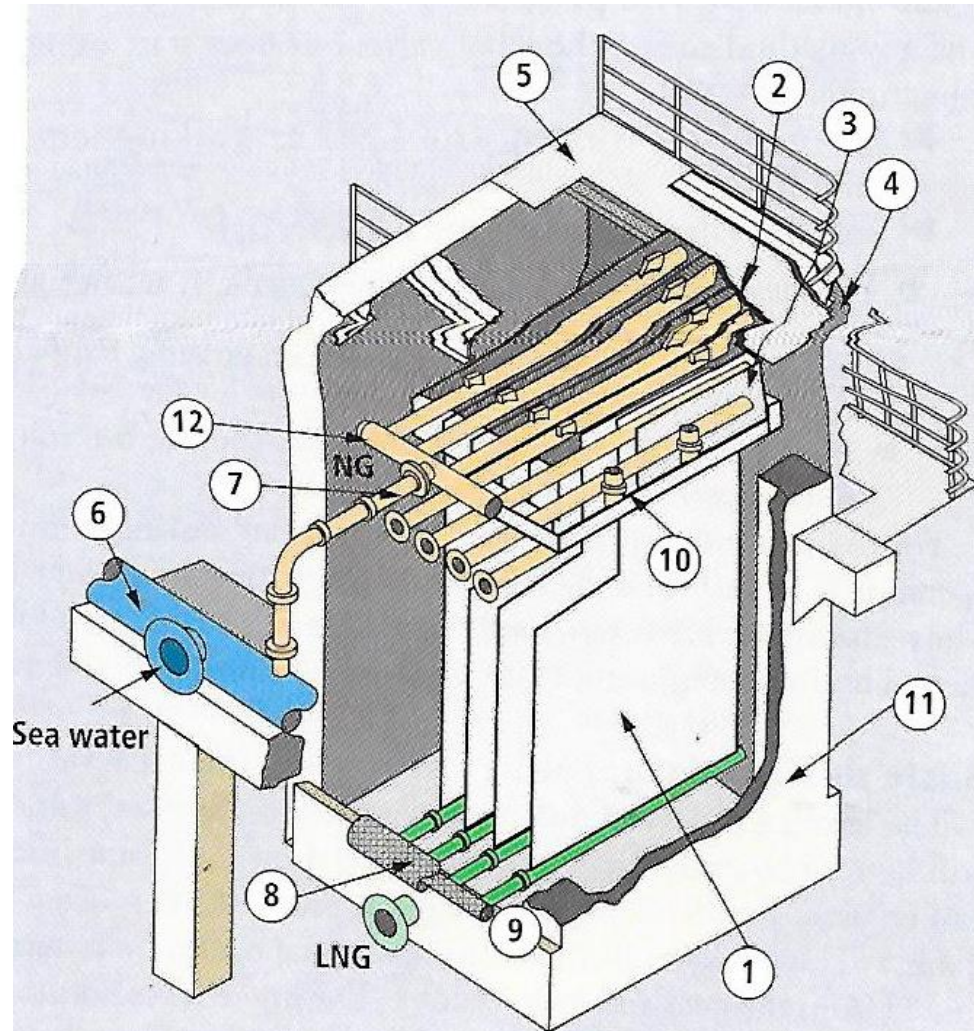


Note: FSRU – Floating Storage Regasification Units

Air vaporizer

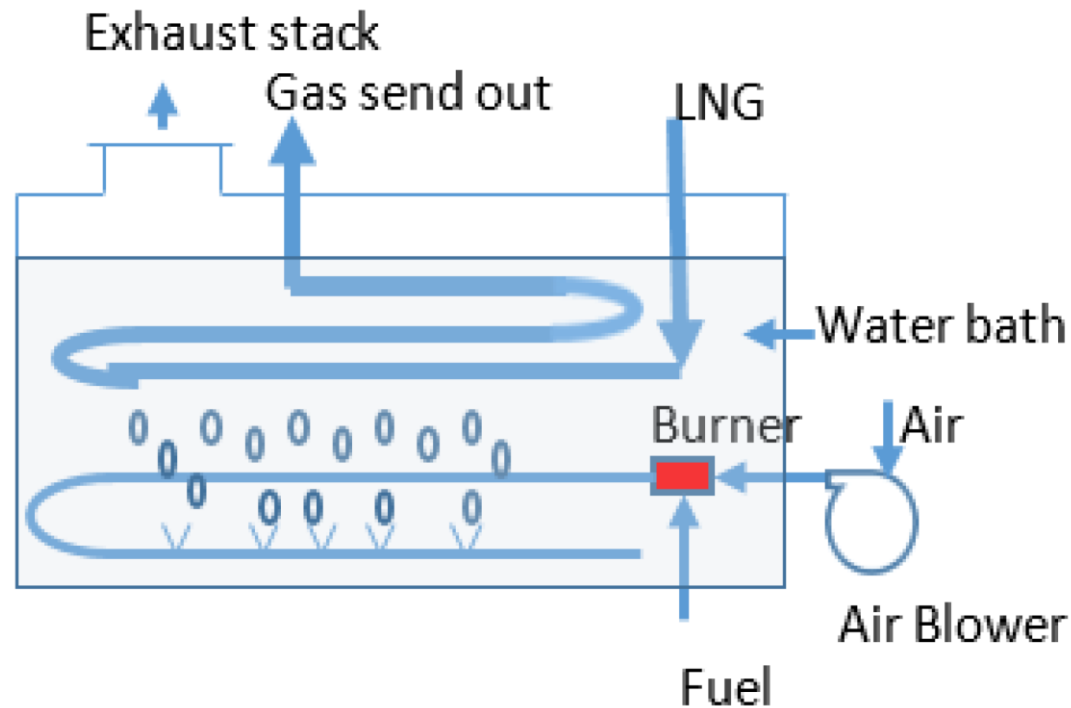


Open-rack vaporizer



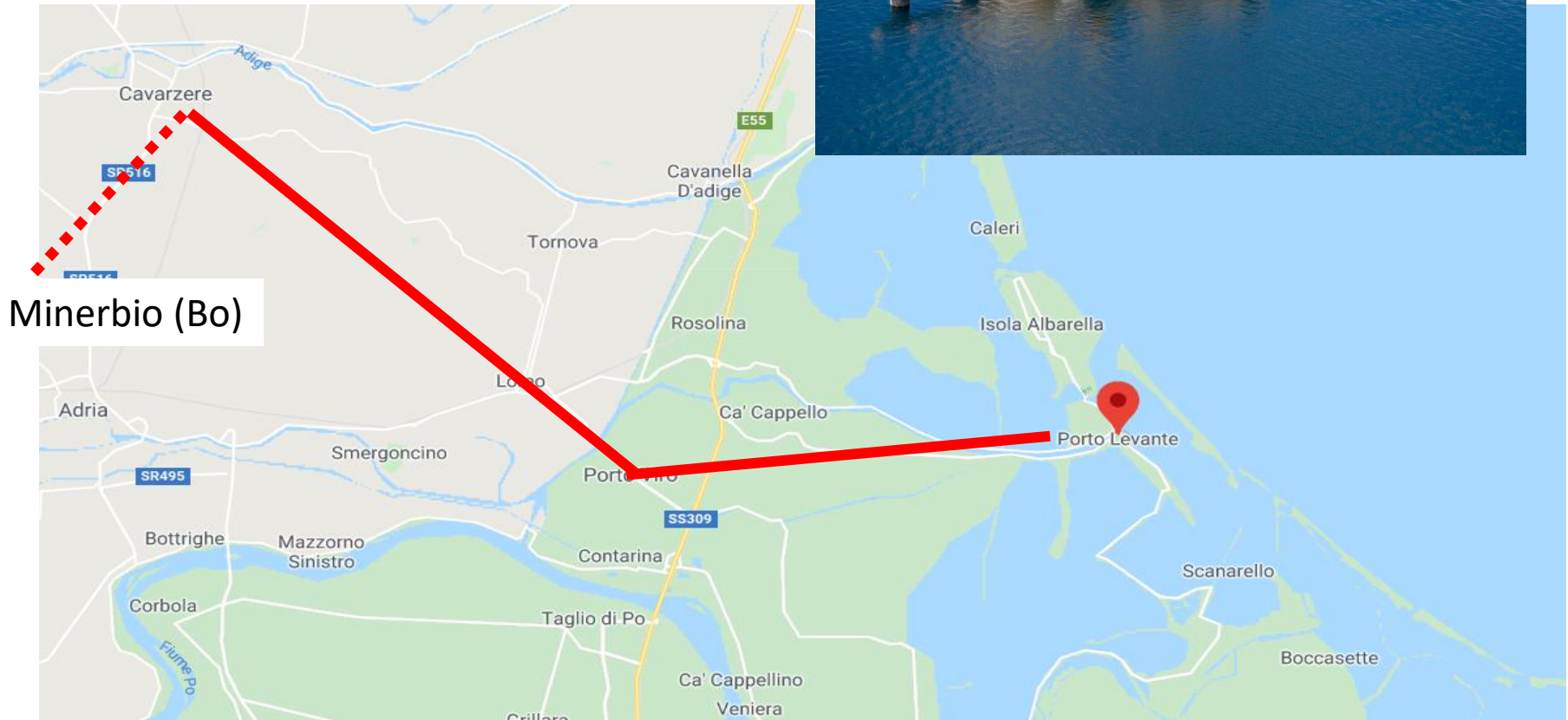
1. Heat transfer tubes;
2. Double-face trickling through;
3. Single-face trickling through;
4. Wind shield;
5. Support structure;
6. Sea water inlet manifold;
7. Sea water header;
8. Insulation;
9. LNG inlet manifold;
10. Sea water header;
11. Concrete foundation;
12. LNG outlet manifold;

Submerged combustion vaporizer



Adriatic Sea LNG terminal

$$C_{\max} = 8 \text{ billion Nm}^3/\text{anno}$$



LNG regassification unit Panigaglia (La Spezia)

$$C_{\max} = 4 \text{ billion Nm}^3/\text{anno}$$



OLT Offshore in Tuscany

$$C_{\max} = 3.75 \text{ billion Nm}^3/\text{anno}$$



FSRU – Ravenna (BW Singapore)

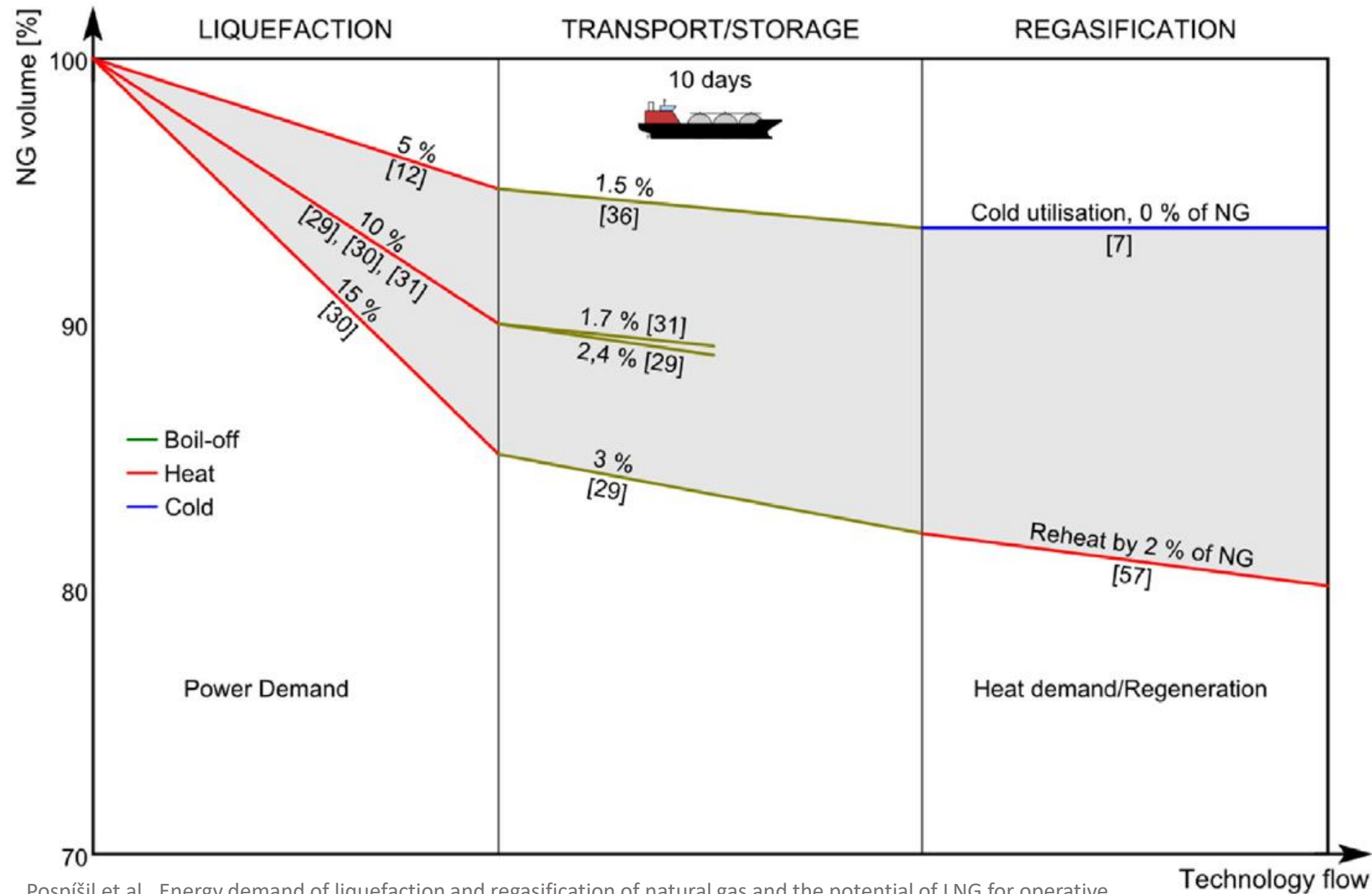
$$C_{\max} = 5 \text{ billion Nm}^3/\text{anno}$$
$$(C_{\text{sto}} = 170,000 \text{ Nm}^3)$$



FSRU – Piombino (Italis LNG – ex Golar Tundra)

$C_{\max} = 5 \text{ billion Nm}^3/\text{anno}$
($C_{\text{sto}} = 170,000 \text{ Nm}^3$)





Additional material

LNG value chain:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uztD_gAfNzA&ab_channel=altabnetvideo

LNG regasification via FSRU:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnClpULVlqw&ab_channel=H%C3%B6ghLNG

Thank you for your attention!



Davide Pivetta – davide.pivetta@phd.units.it

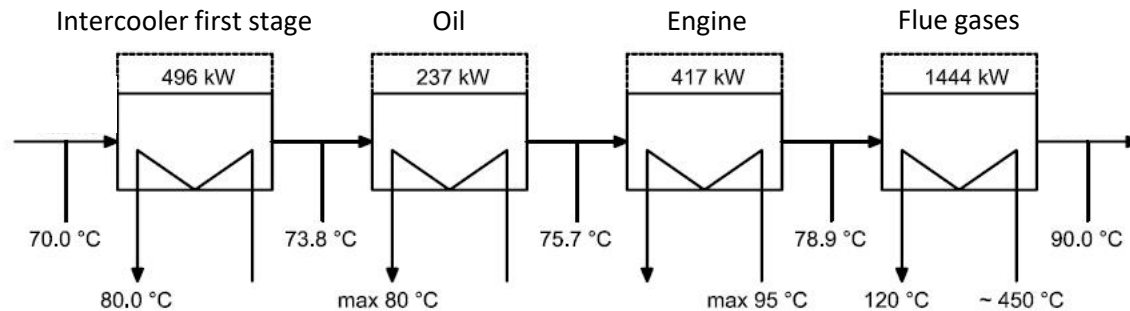
Exercise on Internal combustion engine in cogeneration mode

Example of engines in cogeneration mode

Hot water circuit

Heat recoverable = 2594 kW ($\pm 8\%$)

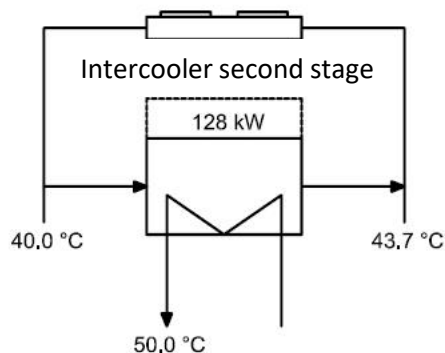
Mass flow rate = 111.5 m³/h



Low temperature circuit

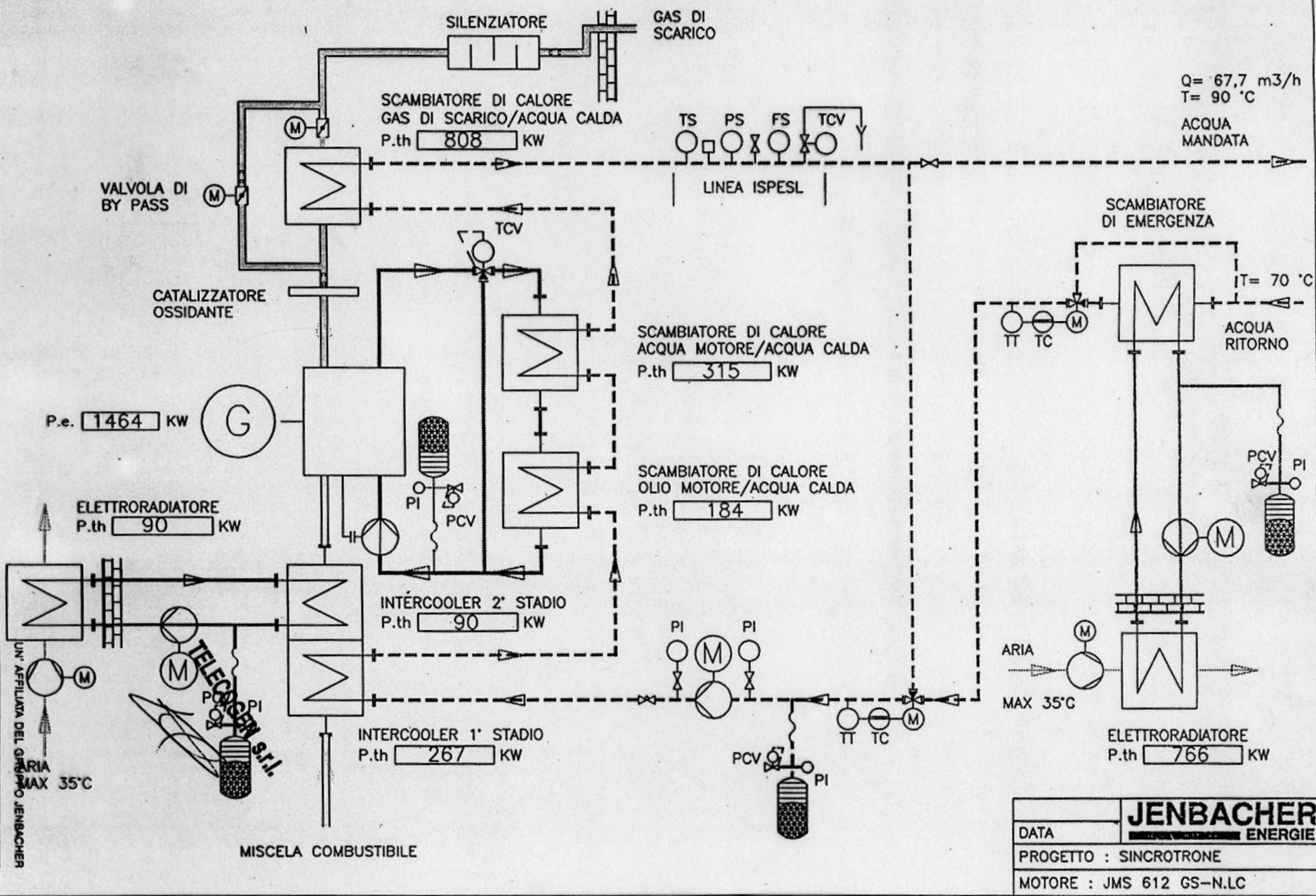
Heat recoverable = 128 kW ($\pm 8\%$)

Cooling water mass flow rate = 30.0 m³/h



GE Jenbacher J616 GS-E12 (4 strokes)

Cylinders	16 (V 60°)
Bore (mm)	190
Stroke (mm)	220
Engine displacement (l)	99.8
Power (kWel)	2,433
Nominal speed (rpm)	1,500
Weight (kg)	10,000
Length (mm)	4,894
Width (mm)	1,886
Height (mm)	2,503



Exercise



Jenbacher JMS 612 GS-N.LC

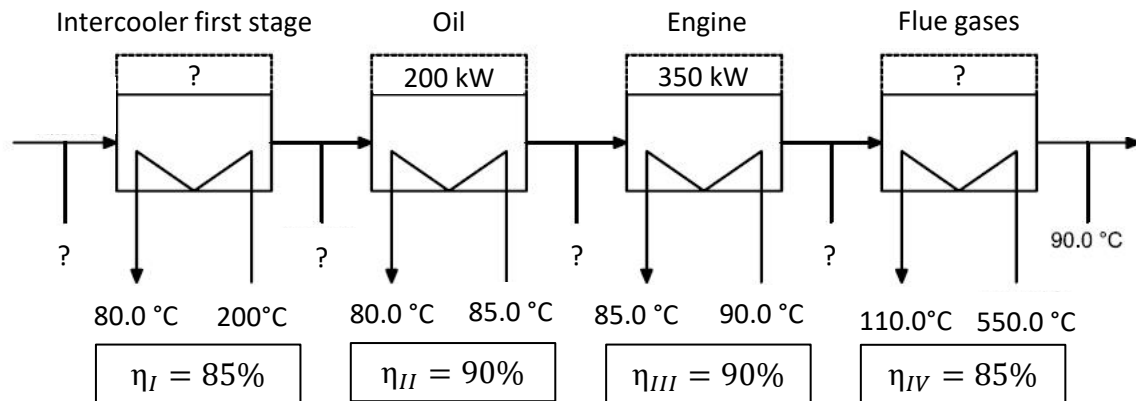
Assumptions

Water circuit:

- Mass flow rate $\rightarrow \dot{m}_w = 67.7 \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{h}}$
- Water is heated to $T_{w_{out}} = 90^\circ\text{C}$
- Pressure = 4 bar (pressure losses are considered negligible)
- The intermediate temperatures are assumed to be the same as those of J616 GS-E12

Other circuits:

Heat generated by engine operation is recovered based on actual data from the plant schematic shown on the previous slide. Temperatures, heat exchanger efficiencies and fluid characteristics are assumed.



Exercise

Water circuit

Mean values of water density ($970 \frac{kg}{m^3}$) and of specific heat capacity ($4.19 \frac{kJ}{kgK}$) are considered.

$$\dot{m}_w = 67.7 \frac{m^3}{h} * 970 \frac{kg}{m^3} * \frac{1}{3600} \frac{h}{s} = 18.24 \frac{kg}{s}$$

Heat exchange for the j-th stage (I, II, III and IV).

$$\dot{Q}_j = \dot{m}_w * c_{P_w} * (T_{in_j} - T_{out_j})$$

$$\rightarrow T_{in_j} = T_{out_j} - \frac{\dot{Q}_j}{\dot{m}_w * c_{P_w}}$$

- $T_{in_I} = 74.4 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$
- $T_{in_{II}} = 76.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$
- $T_{in_{III}} = 78.6 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$
- $T_{in_{IV}} = 83.2 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$

Exercise



Assuming ICE electric efficiency at nominal power equal to 45% and methane lower heating value (LHV) equal to 15.4 kWh/kg, methane mass flow rate is calculated as follow:

$$P_{ICE} = \dot{m}_{CH_4} * LHV_{CH_4} * \eta_{ICE}$$
$$\rightarrow \dot{m}_{CH_4} = \frac{P_{ICE}}{LHV_{CH_4} * \eta_{ICE}} = \frac{1464}{15.4 * 0.42} \frac{1h}{3600s} = 0.059 \text{ kg/s}$$

1) Heat recovery from intercooler first stage

It is assumed that the specific heat capacity of air is equal to 1.006 kJ/kgK. Following it is calculated the air mass flow rate and the input temperature.

$$\dot{m}_{air} = \dot{m}_{CH_4} * AF = 0.011 * 19.47 = 1.143 \text{ kg/s}$$
$$\rightarrow \dot{Q}_I = \eta_{air} * \dot{m}_{CH_4} * c_{P_{air}} * (T_{in_{air}} - T_{out_{air}}) = 59.3 \text{ kW}$$

Exercise

2) Heat recovery from oil

It is assumed that the specific heat capacity of oil is equal to 2.0 kJ/kgK. Following it is calculated the air mass flow rate and the input temperature.

$$\rightarrow \dot{m}_{oil} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{II}}{\eta_{II} * c_{P_{oil}} * (T_{in_{oil}} - T_{out_{oil}})} = 19.3 \text{ kg/s}$$

3) Heat recovery from engine

It is assumed that water is assumed to cooling the engine with a specific heat capacity assumed equal to 4.19 kJ/kgK.

$$\rightarrow \dot{m}_{water} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{III}}{\eta_{III} * c_w * (T_{in_{cw}} - T_{out_{cw}})} = 18.6 \text{ kg/s}$$

Exercise

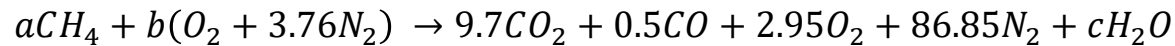


4) Heat recovery from exhaust gases

It is assumed to have an engine fuelled by methane ($T=20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$; $p=1\text{ atm}$; $c_p = 38 \frac{\text{kJ}}{\text{kmol}\cdot\text{K}}$) and atmospheric air ($T=20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$; $p=1\text{ atm}$). Combustion products have the following composition in molar fractions on a dry basis:

$$CO_2 = 9.7\%; \quad CO = 0.5\%; \quad O_2 = 2.95\%; \quad N_2 = 86.85\%;$$

Combustion equation:



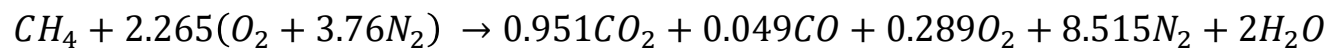
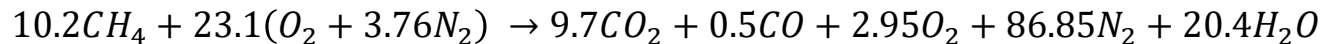
$$\text{Balance of C} \rightarrow a = 9.7 + 0.5 = 10.2$$

$$\text{Balance of H} \rightarrow 2c = 4a \rightarrow c = 20.4$$

$$\text{Balance of O} \rightarrow 9.7 * 2 + 0.5 + 2.95 * 2 + c = 2b \rightarrow b = 23.1$$

$$\overline{AF} = \frac{23.1 * (1 + 3.76)}{10.2} = 10.78 \rightarrow AF = \overline{AF} \left(\frac{MM_{aria}}{MM_{fuel}} \right) = 19.47$$

Chemical reaction of combustion is:

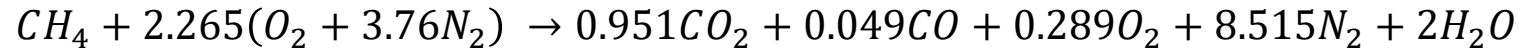


Exercise



4) Heat recovery from exhaust gases

Chemical reaction of combustion is:



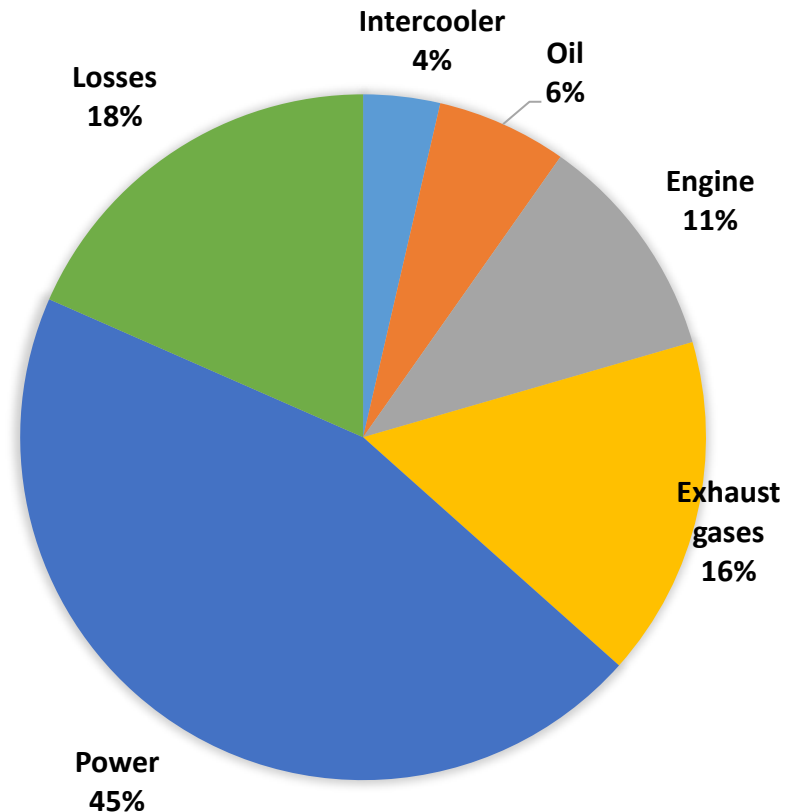
$$c_{P_{eg}} = \frac{\sum c_{P_j} * n_j * MM_j}{\sum n_j * MM_j} = 1.16 \text{ kJ/kgK}$$

$$\dot{m}_{eg} = \dot{m}_{CH_4} + \dot{m}_{air} = 1.20 \text{ kg/s}$$

$$\rightarrow Q_{IV} = \eta_{IV} * \dot{m}_{eg} * c_{P_{eg}} * (T_{in_{eg}} - T_{out_{eg}}) = 522.7 \text{ kW}$$

Exercise: Main results

HEAT		Power and heat (kW)
	Intercooler	118
	Oil	200
	Engine	350
	Exhaust gases	523
	Power	1464
	Losses	599



Electric efficiency = 45%

Thermal efficiency = 82%



Thank you for your attention!

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