



# Grosskraftwerk Mannheim AG

## Operating a coal fired power plant in a flexible market environment

**Dr Matthias Meierer**

Seminar on Adaption of Thermal Power Plants to Fluctuating Renewable Energies

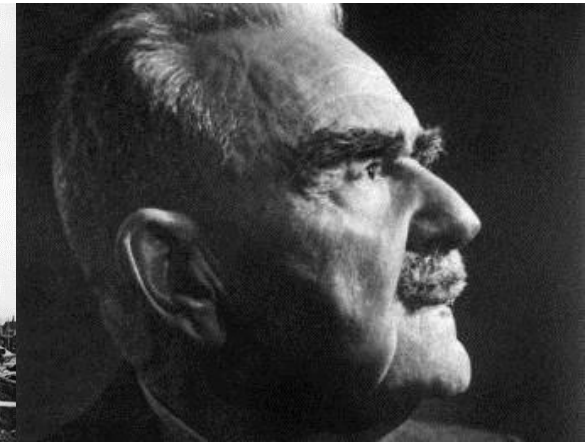
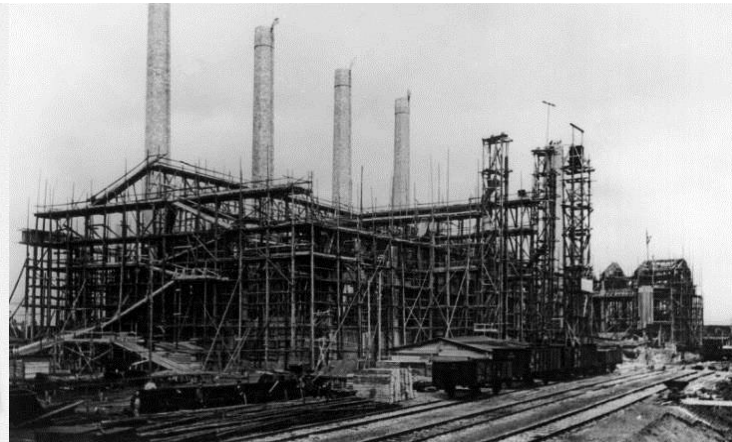
The German Experiences (VGB POWERTECH / IGEF / EEC / CEA)

16 December 2016, New Delhi

# Contents

1. Introduction / GKM Power Plant
2. Actual situation in Germany („Energiewende“)
3. Optimization of the GKM Power Plant
4. Conclusions

# GKM history: the beginnings



**1921**

GKM is founded on  
8<sup>th</sup> of November

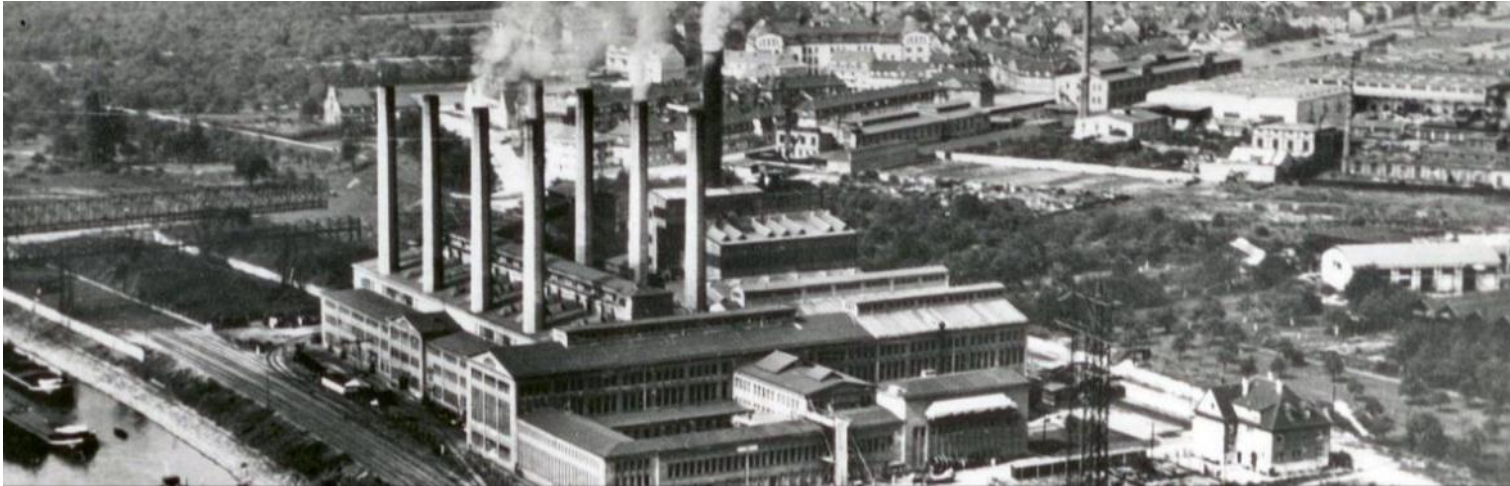
Start of construction work at a good location: close to town of Mannheim and directly sited at river Rhine; start of electricity generation in 1923

Mastermind: Dr. Karl Friedrich Marguerre,  
Executive Direktor



# GKM founded 1921...new unit 9 in erection (2013)...

1926



2013

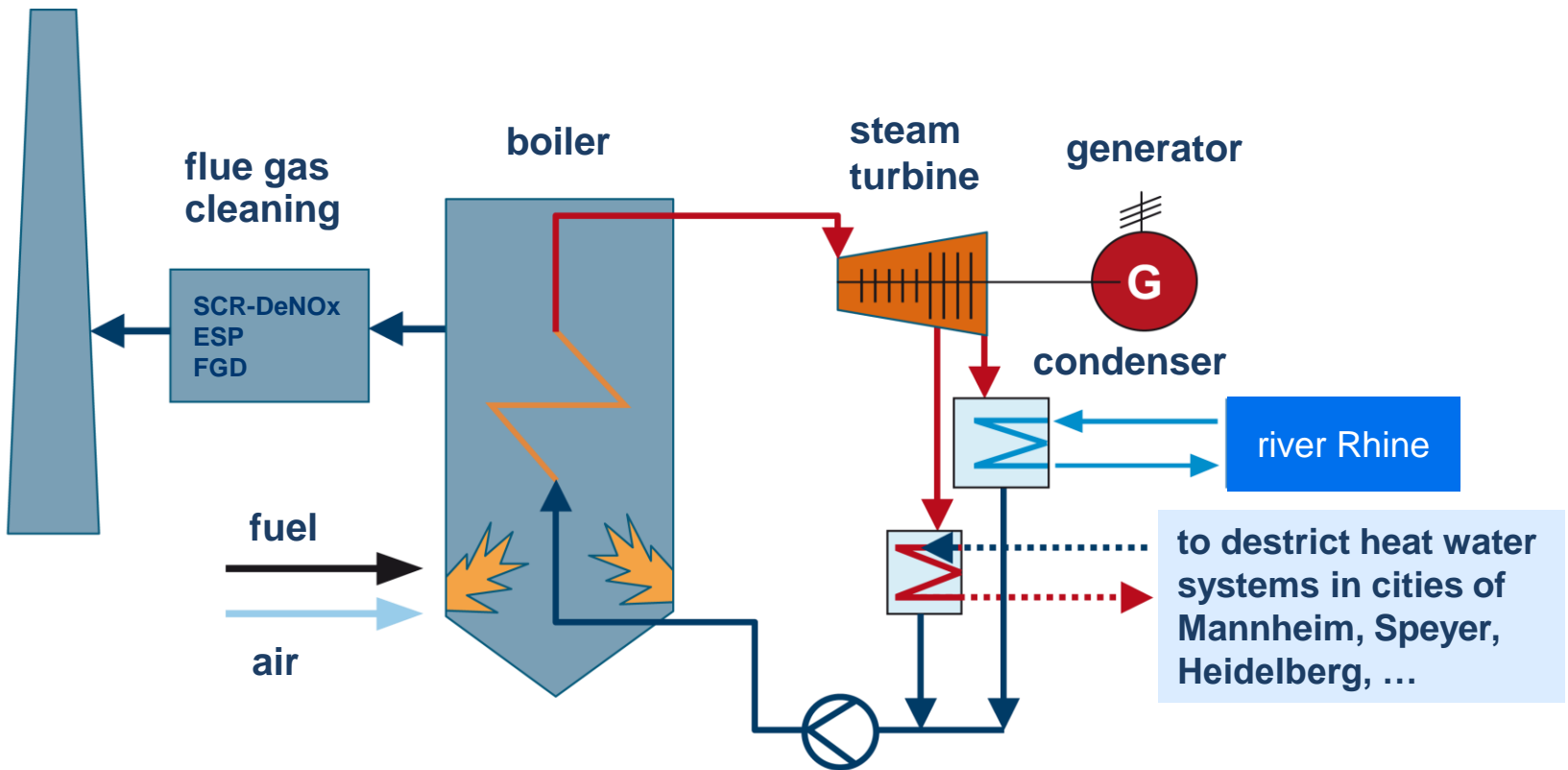




# GKM plant today

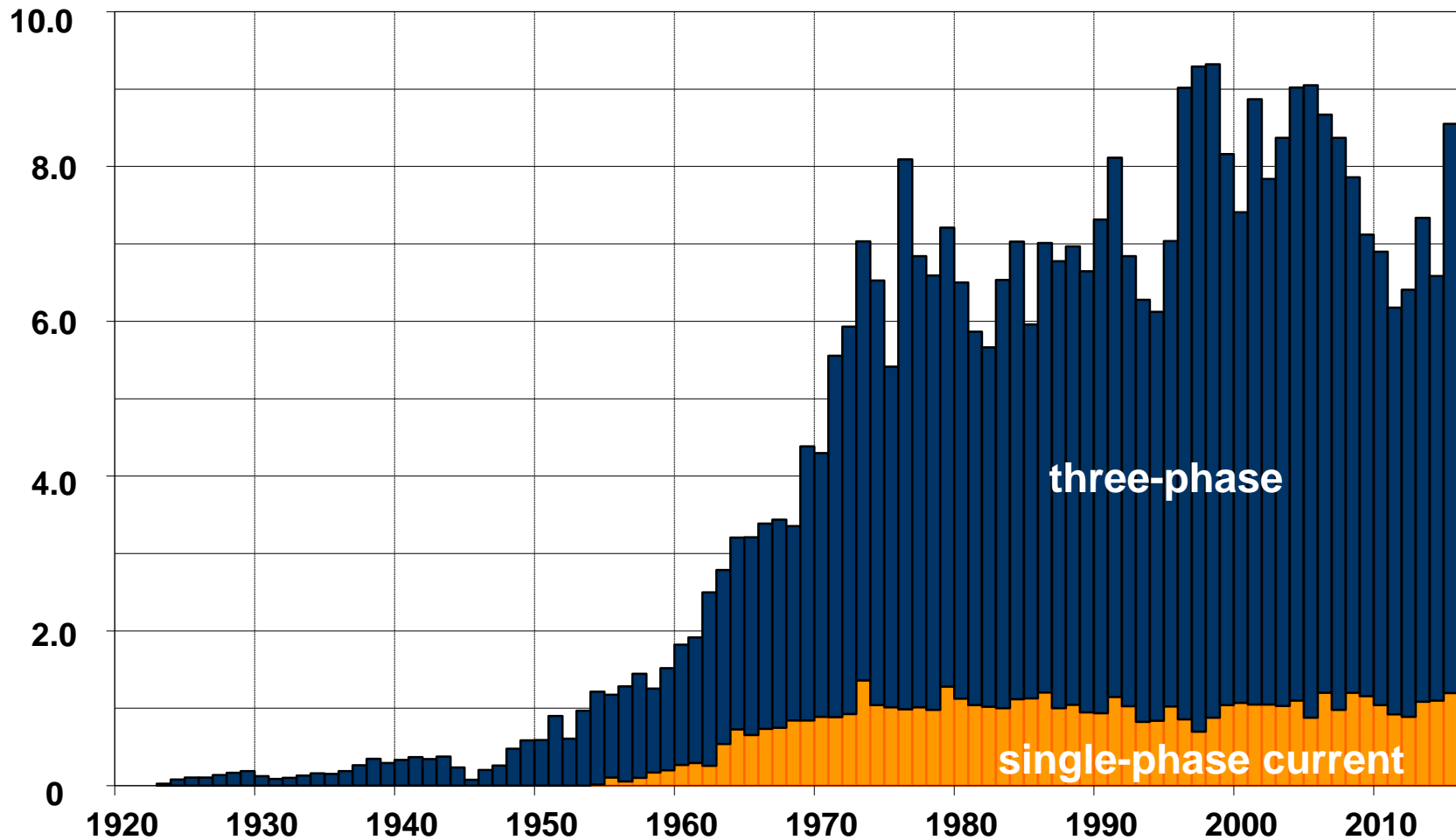


# CHP process (combined heat and power) in GKM



# GKM power generation (electricity) since 1923

TWh



# Efficient generation of electricity and district heat



## energy for share holders and German Railway: reliable, cost-effective and friendly to environment

### 50 Hz three-phase alternating current

(to the share holders of GKM AG)

RWE Generation SE (40 %)

EnBW AG (32 %)

MVV RHE GmbH (28 %)

### 16.7 Hz single-phase alternating current

DB Energie GmbH  
(German Railway)

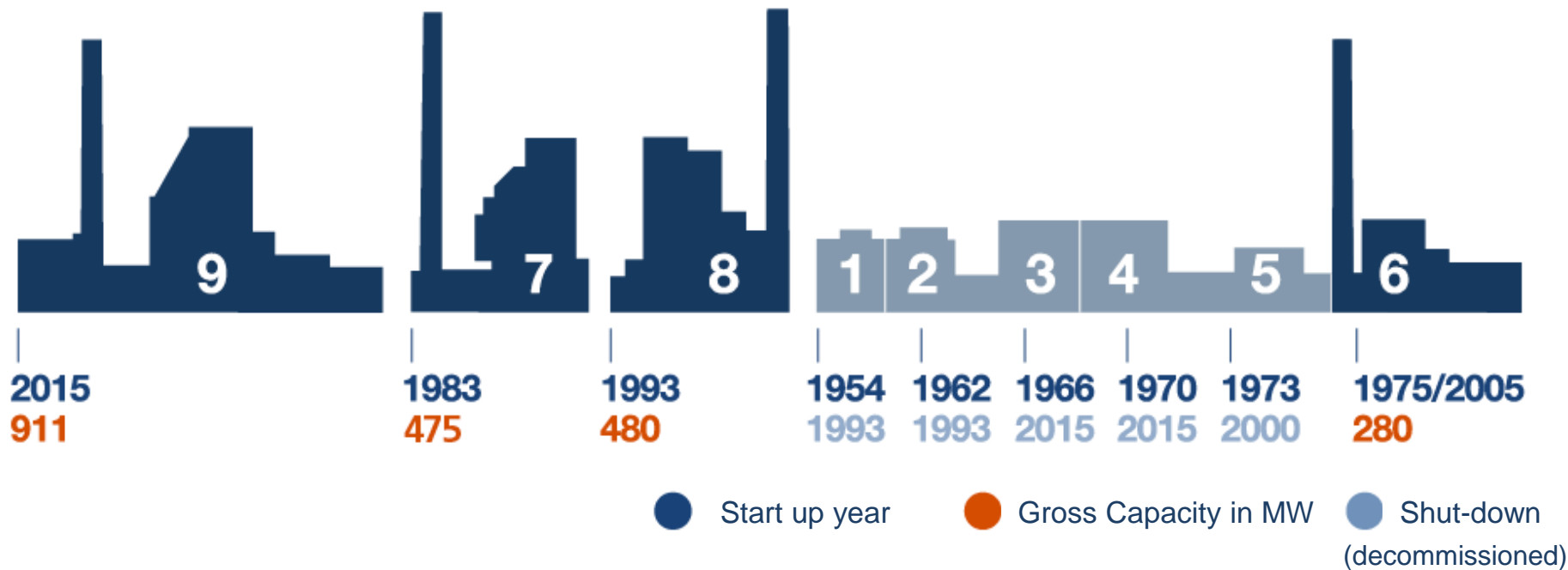
### District heat (hot water)

MVV RHE GmbH  
Mannheim

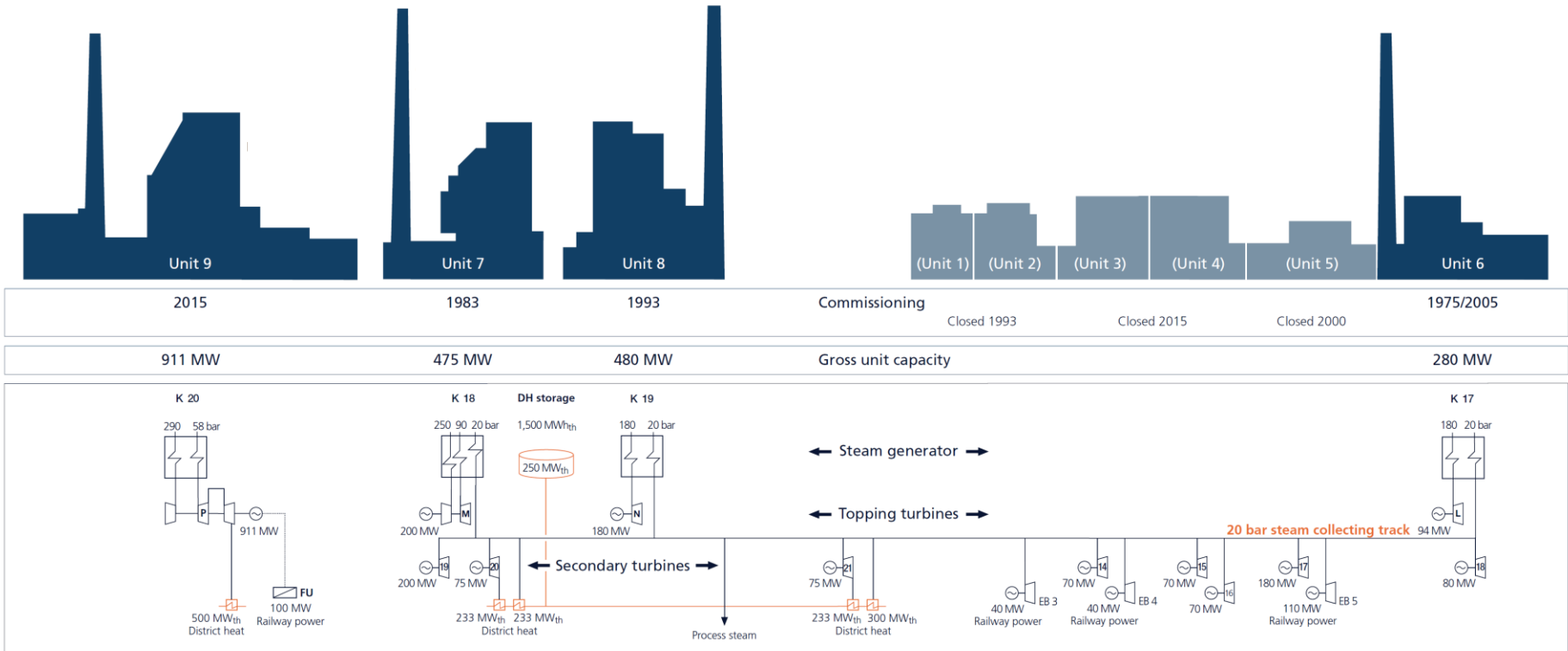


# GKM plant in 2016

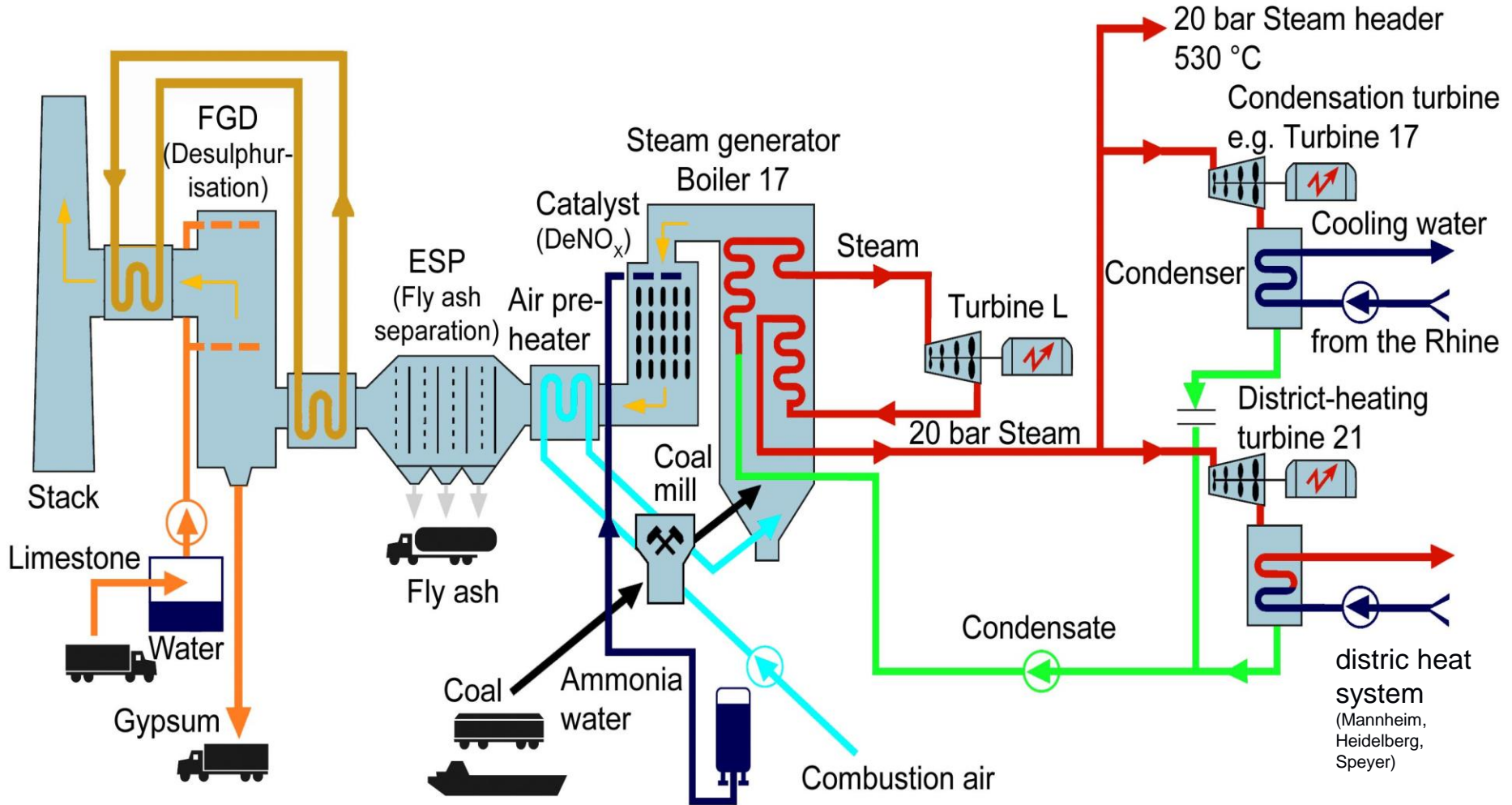
**GKM plant: installed capacity: 2.146 MW<sub>el</sub> (units 6,7,8,9)**



# GKM plant overview



# Flow sheet of GKM unit 6



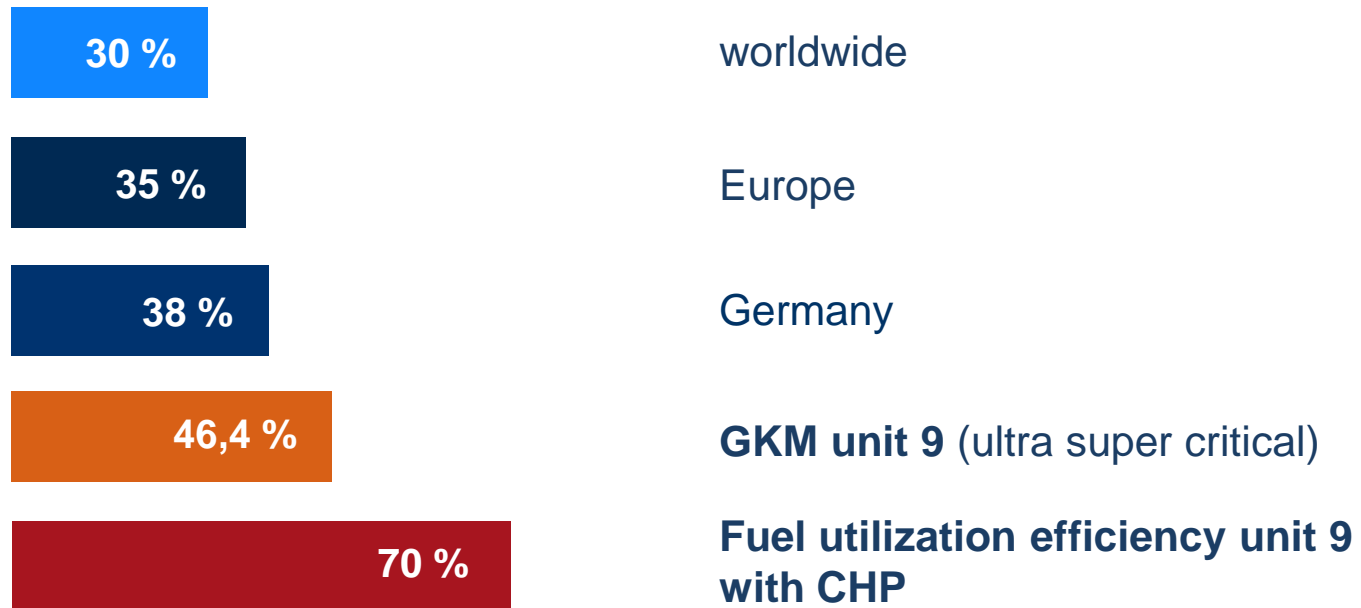


# New unit 9



Energy for Mannheim  
and the Region

## net efficiency of coal-fired power stations

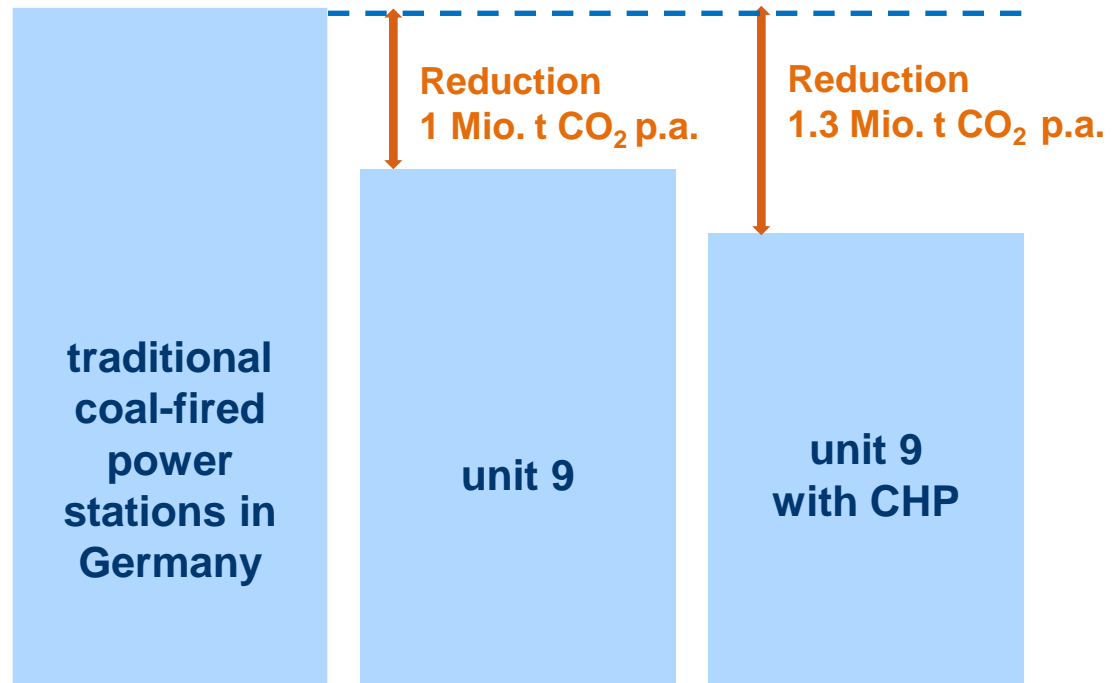


## Unit 9 – contribution to CO<sub>2</sub>-reduction

### CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions of old and new bituminous coal-fired power stations

#### new unit 9

essential  
contribution to  
reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-  
emissions in  
Germany





# Unit 9

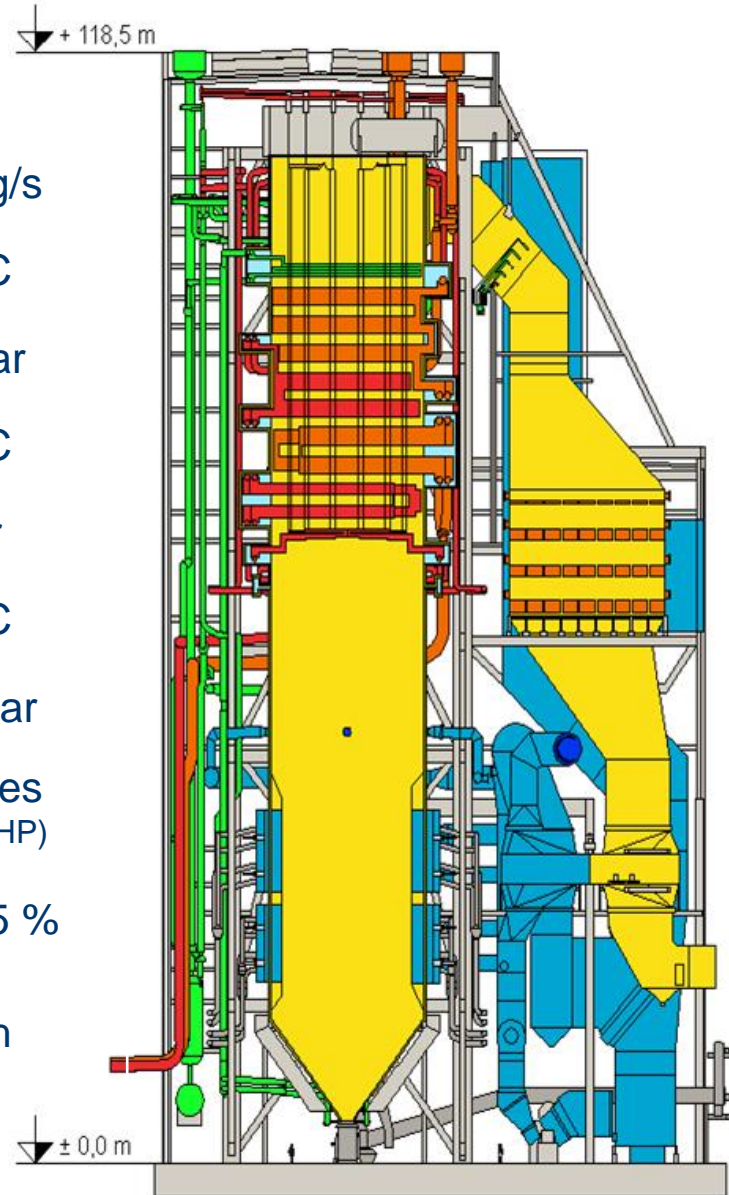
## Facts and figures

Commissioning / start of commercial operation	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2015
Investment volume	1.2 bil. €
Gross output	911 MW <sub>el</sub>
Electrical net efficiency	46.4 %
District heat generation with CHP	500 MW <sub>th</sub>
Fuel utilization for CHP	70 %
Railway electricity (16.7 Hz) (per transverter)	100 MW

# Boiler of unit 9 / SCR DeNOx / air preheater

## Design data

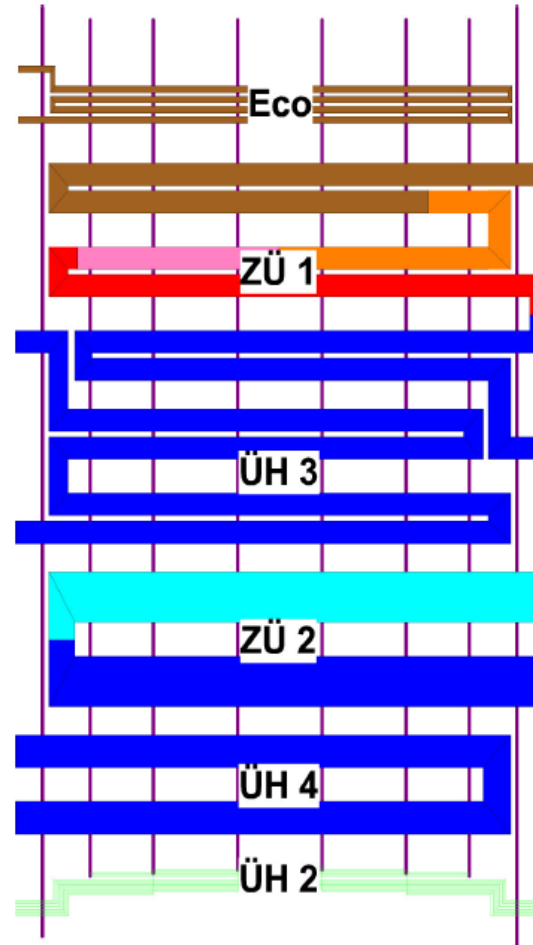
Life steam flow	663 kg/s
Life steam temperature	600 °C
Life steam pressure	290 bar
Reheat steam temperature	610 °C
Reheat steam pressure	58 bar
Feedwater temperature	309 °C
Condenser pressure	31 mbar
Preheater	9 stages (6 LP 3 HP)
Bowl mills	4 x 25 %
Coal amount	240 t/h



# Boiler unit 9 / material concept / heating surfaces

## Heating surfaces

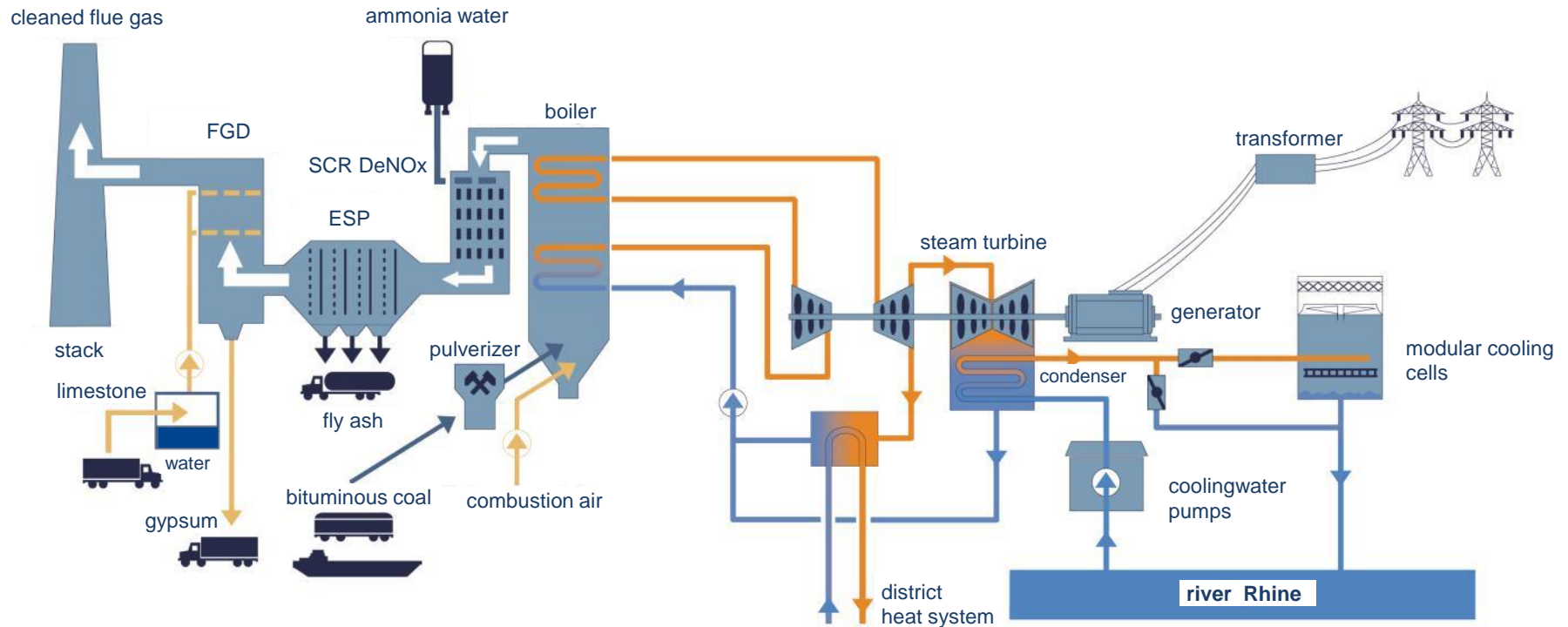
- 16 Mo 3
- 13 CrMo 4-5
- 7 CrMoVTiB 10-10
- 10 CrMo 9-10
- X 10 CrMoVNb 9-1
- VM12-SHC
- Super 304 H  
Shot blasted
- HR3C





# Unit 9 – flow sheet

## combined heat and power unit 9 (CHP)



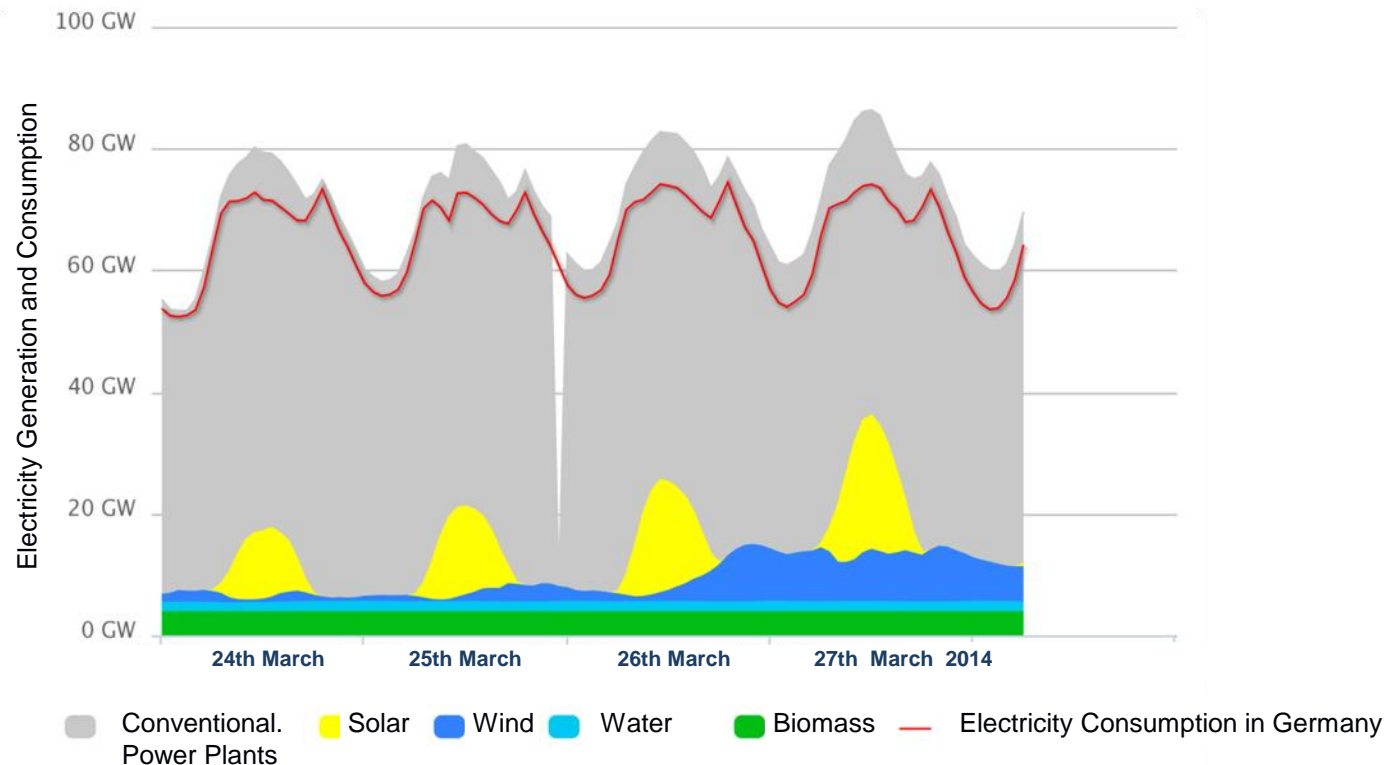
# Unit 9



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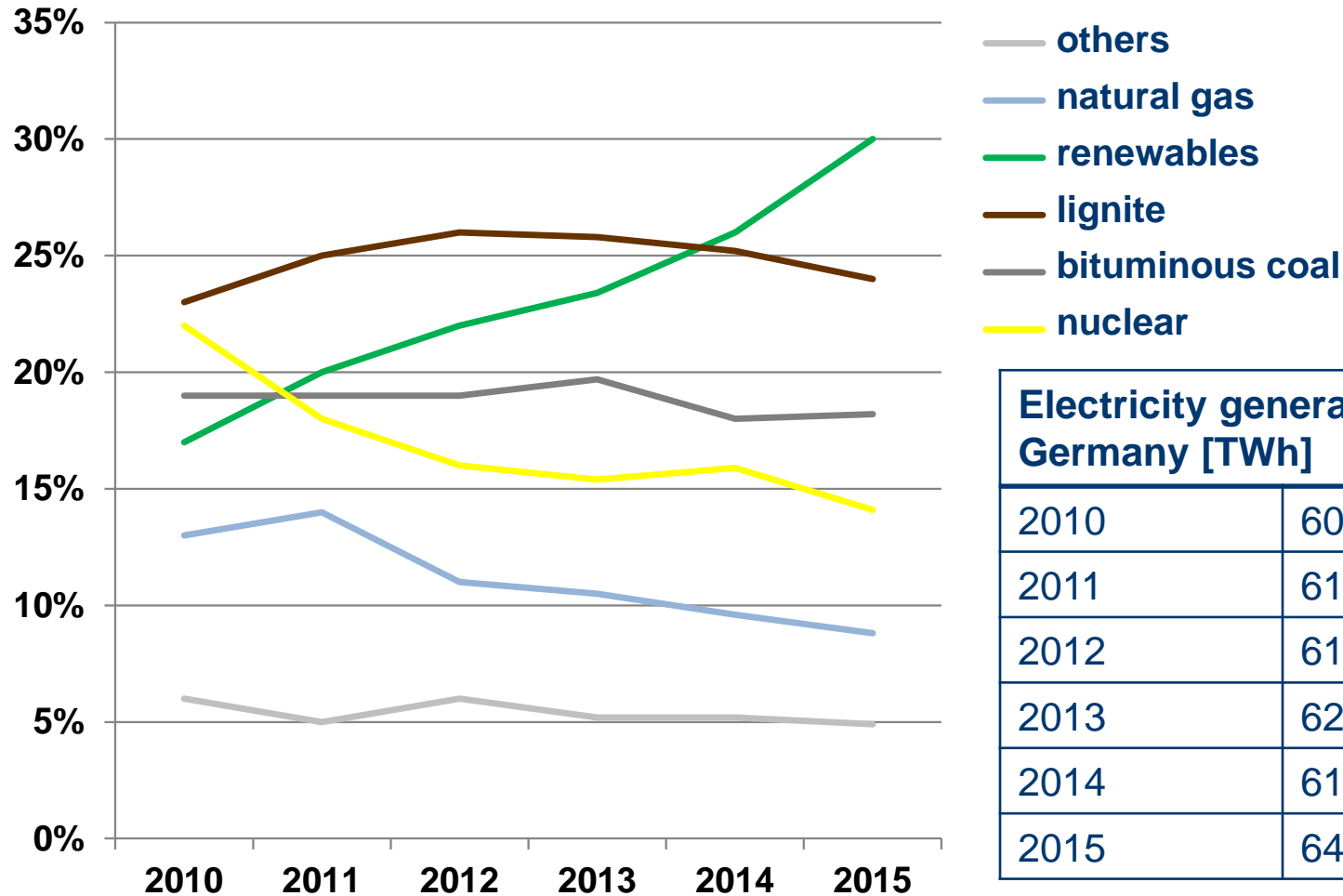
# Electricity generation / actual situation in Germany (example)



- **fluctuating generation of renewable energies (RES)** here wind and solar (PV)
- remarkable **export of electricity from Germany to neighbour-countries** during high generation of wind- and solar-power („surplus/excess energy“)



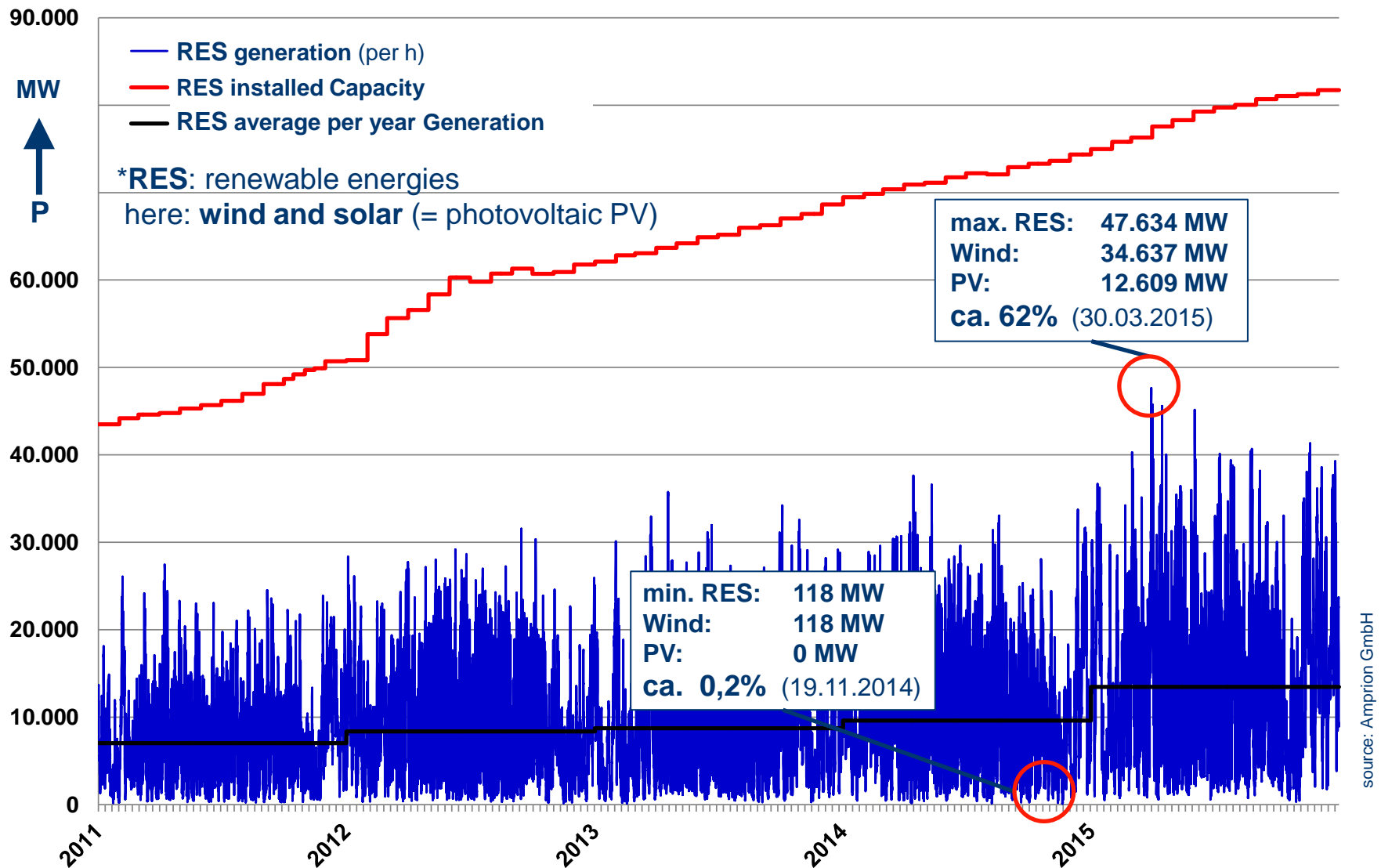
# Electricity generation in Germany since 2010



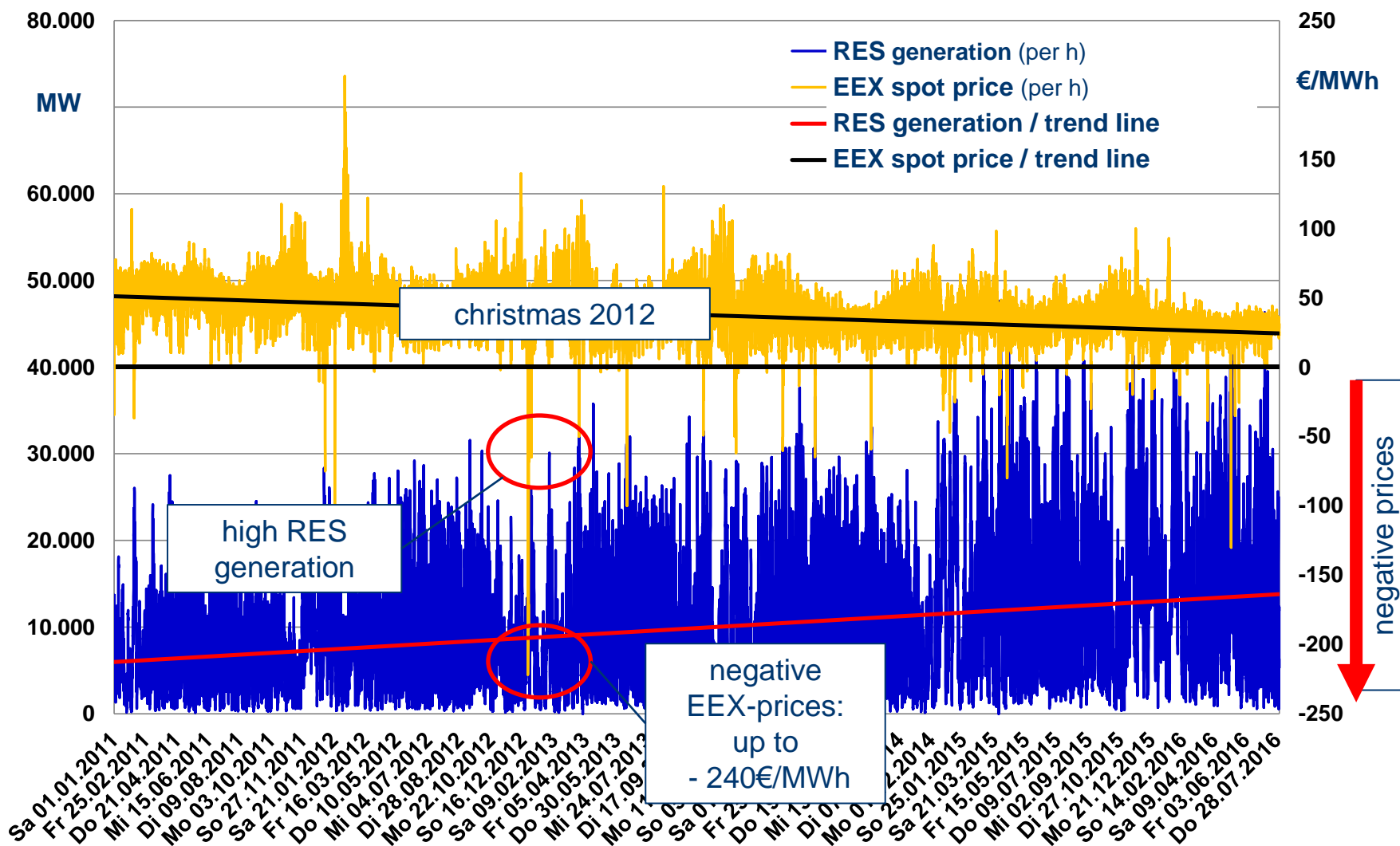
2010	605
2011	612
2012	617
2013	629
2014	610
2015	647

source: Amprion GmbH

# RES\*: installed capacity und generation in Germany since 2011 (here: wind and solar power)

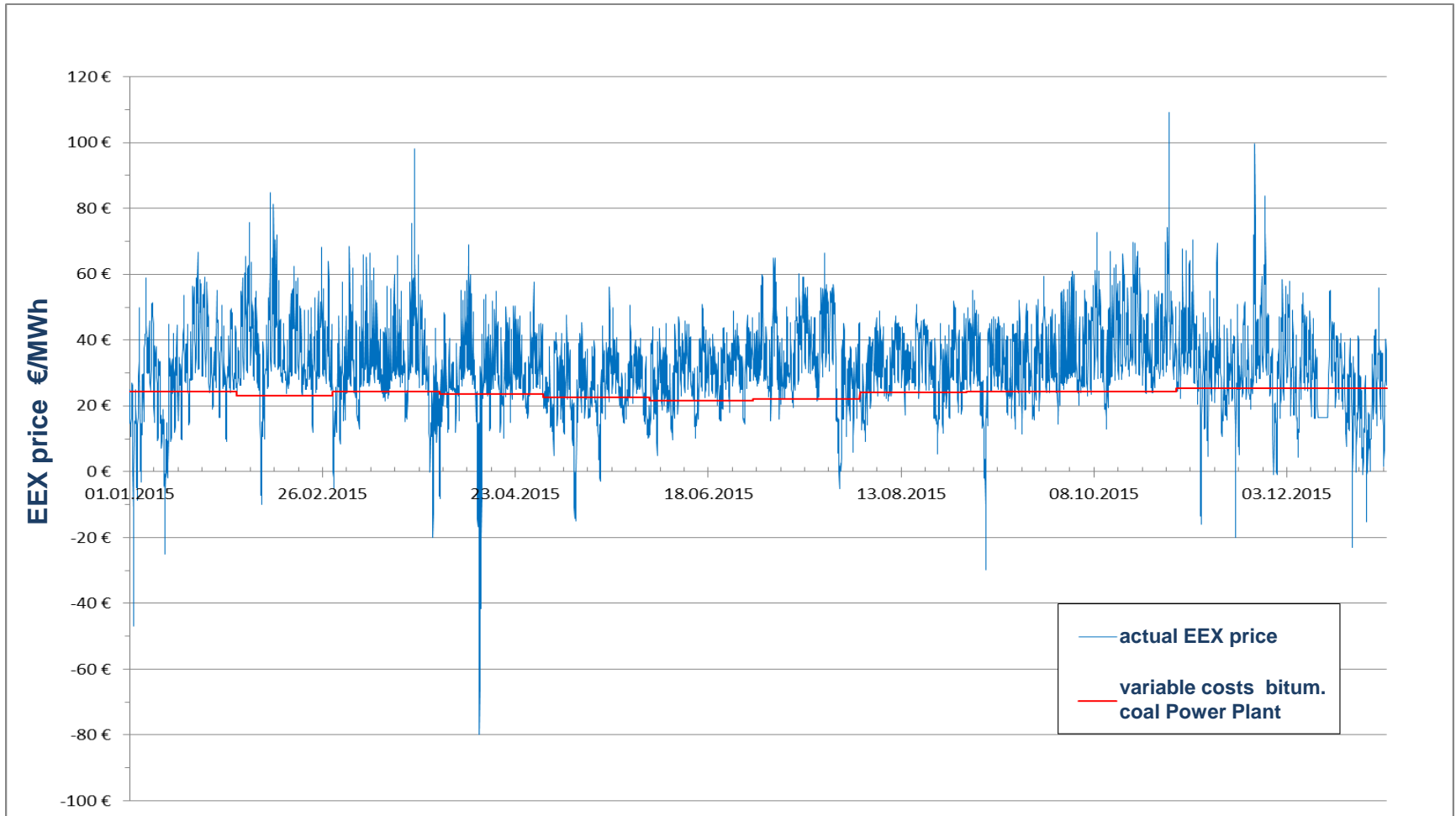


# Development of EEX-prices vs. RES generation in Germany since 2011



source: Amprion GmbH

# EEX-price 2015 for electricity (hourly) in Germany (wholesale / spot market)





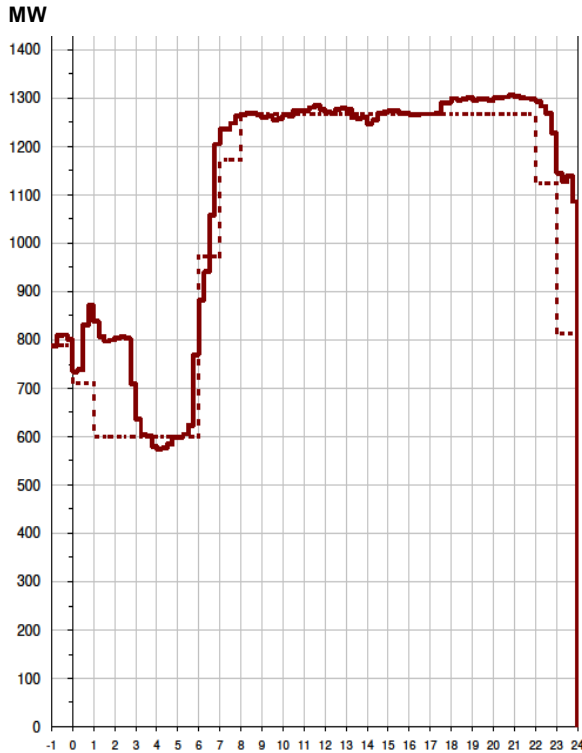
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# GKM plant / daily operation in 2007 vs. today

## GKM Operation in 2007

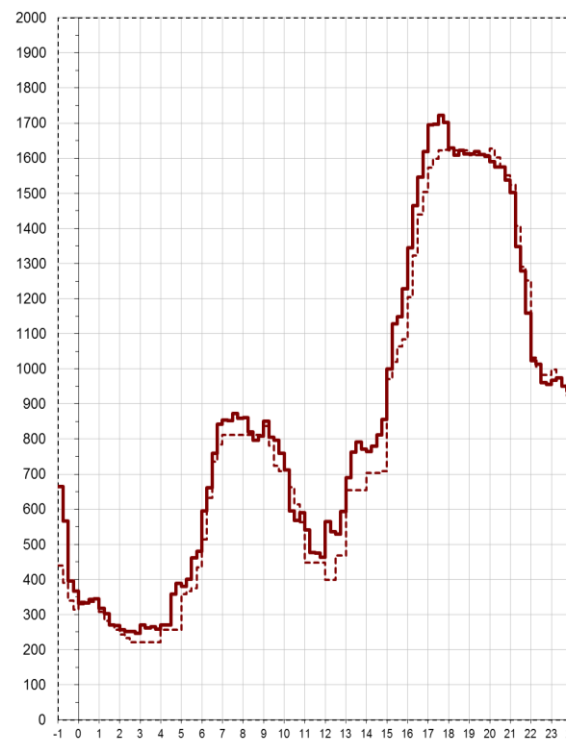
Wednesday, March 21, 2007



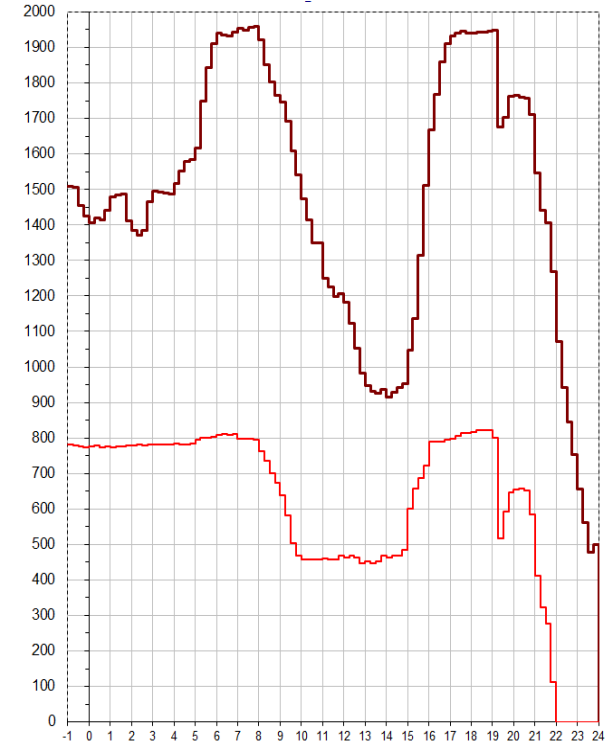
— real output

## and today (planned and real output)

Monday, March 16, 2015



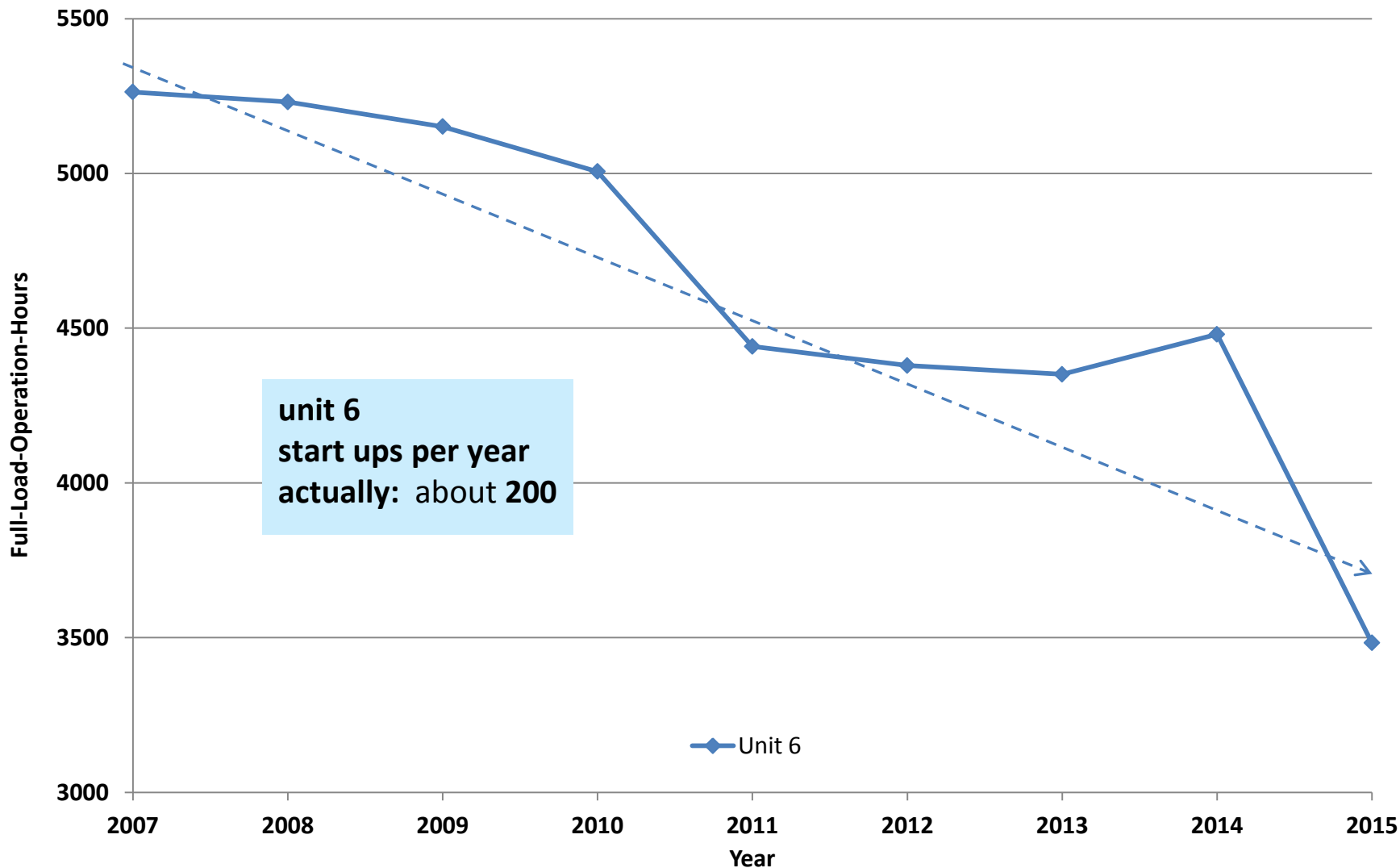
- - - planned output („day ahead“)



— generation of unit 9

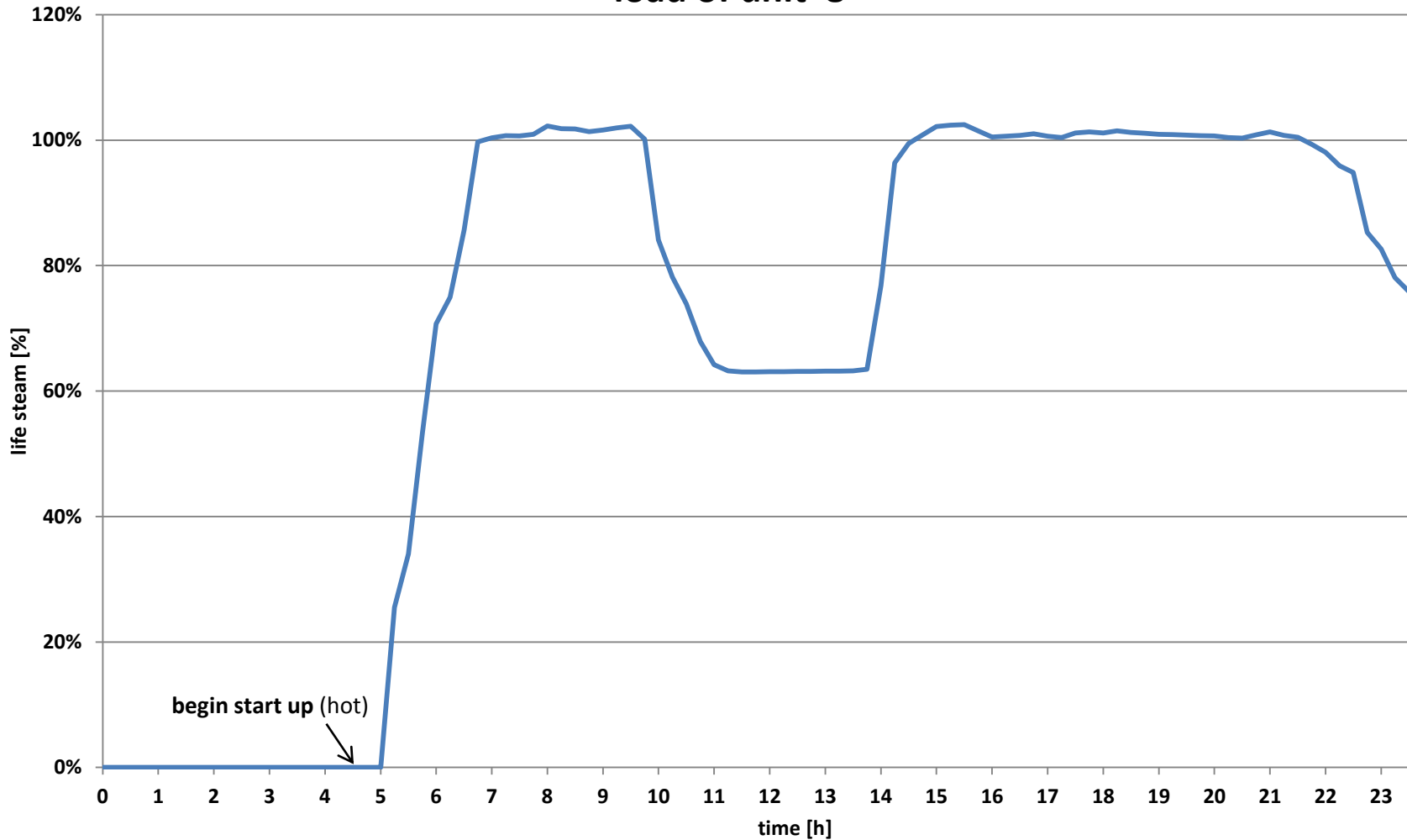
today's requirements in electricity market mean high demands on equipment and personell in GKM: high flexibility in load changes and timing

# Full-Load-Operation-Hours of unit 6 (decreasing operation time because of increasing generation of RES in Germany)



# unit 8 / load diagram (typical example)

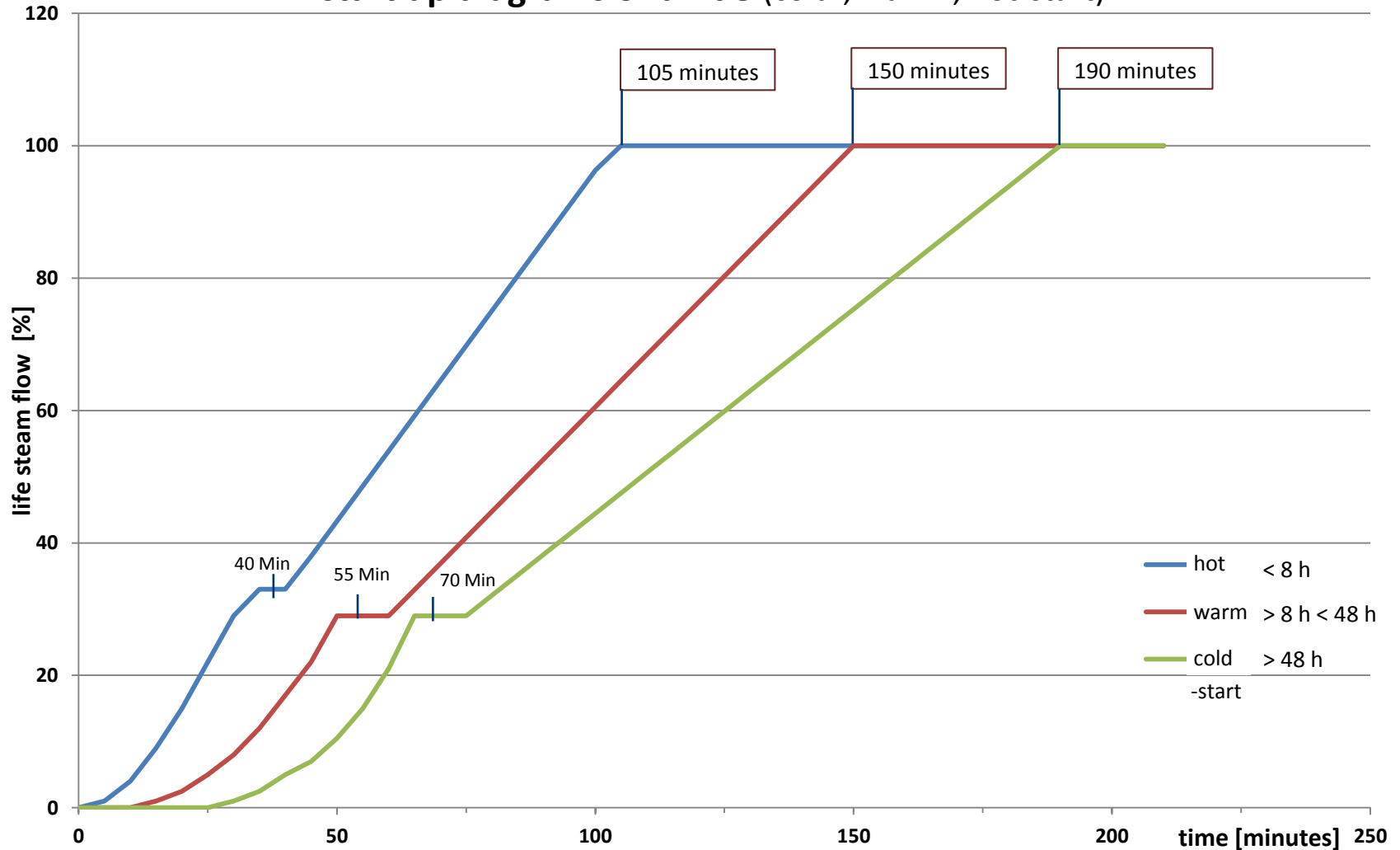
**load of unit 8** February 17, 2014





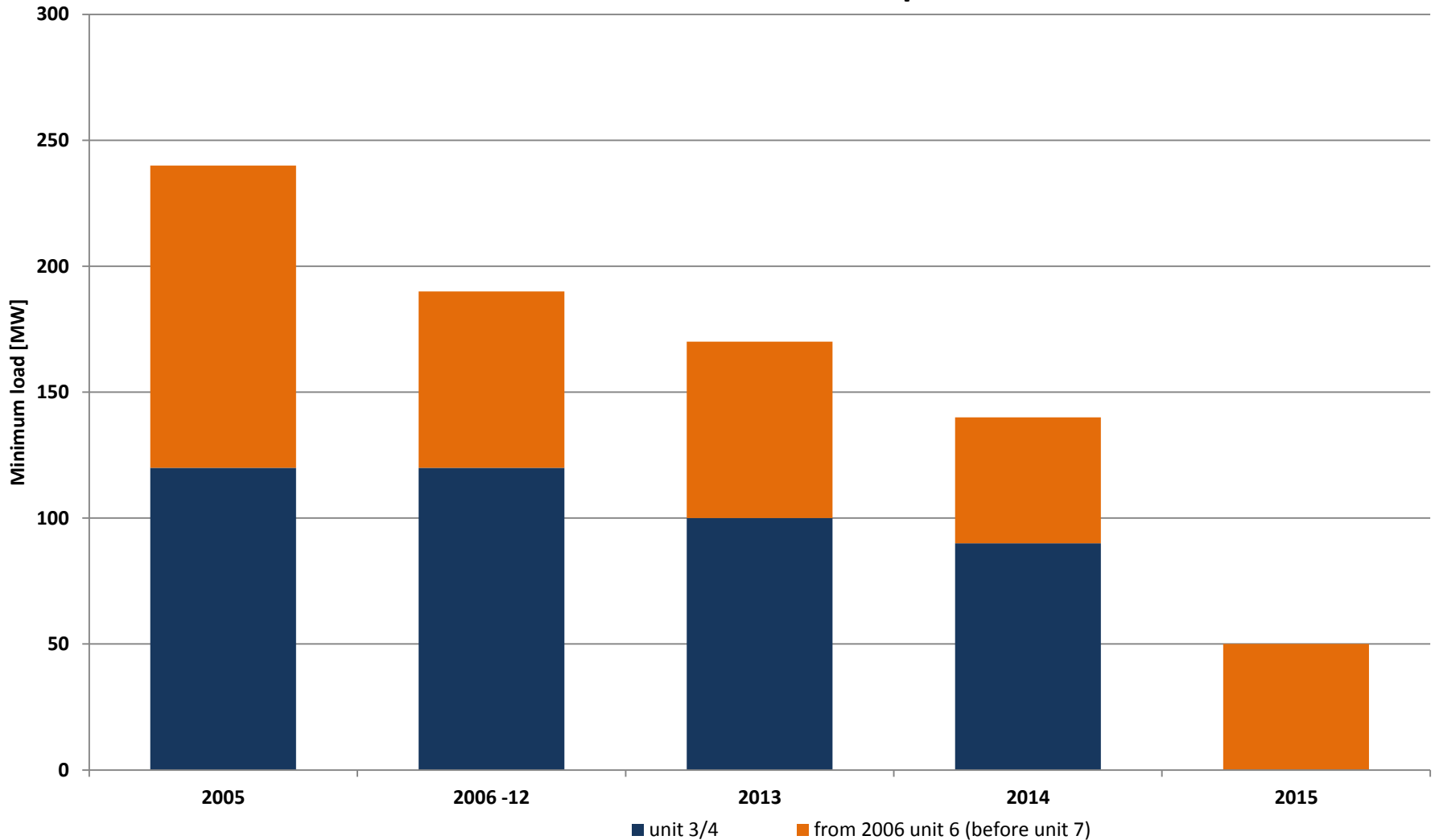
# typical start up diagrams of unit 8

## start up diagrams of unit 8 (cold-, warm-, hot-start)

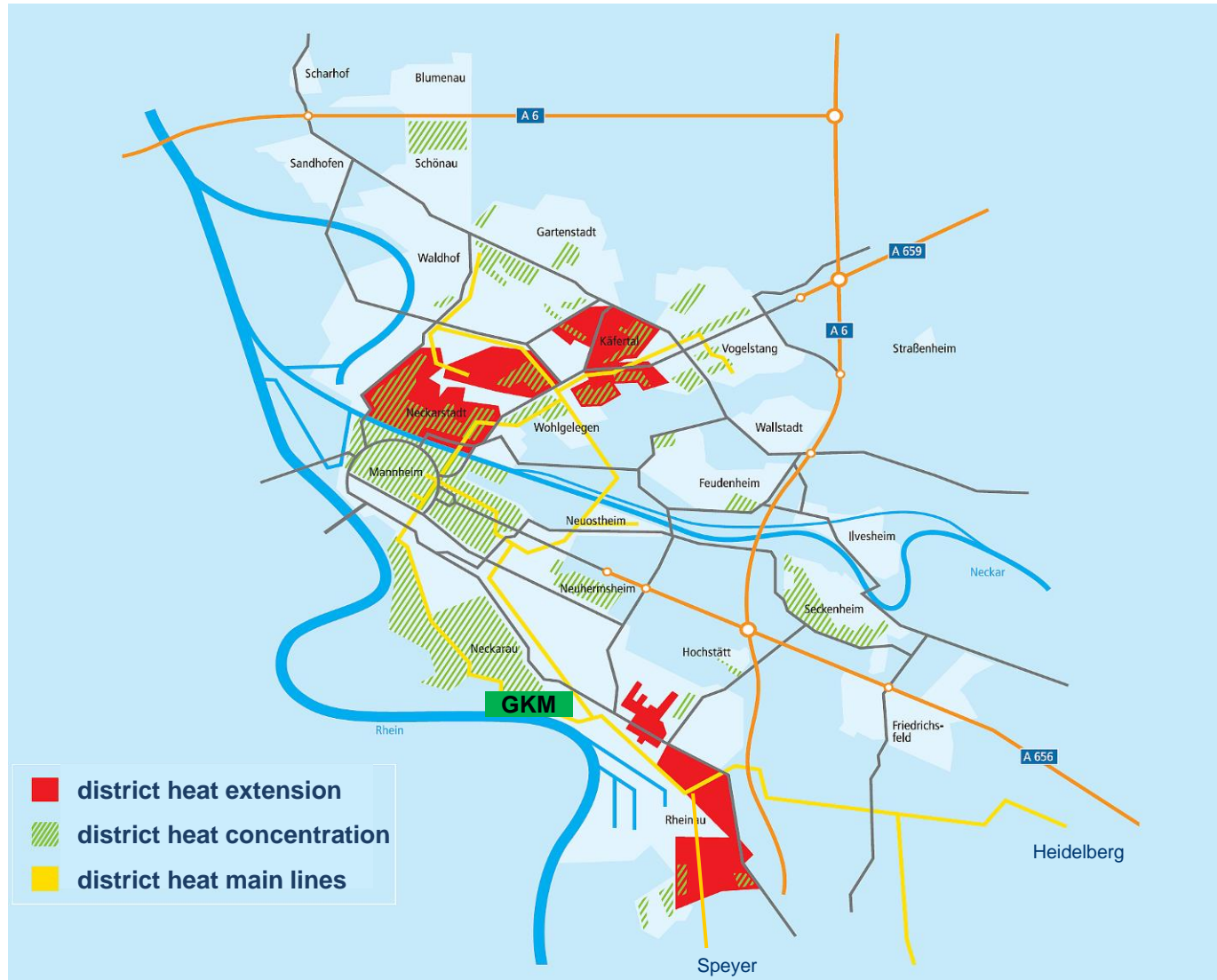


# GKM / reduction of minimum load 2005 vs. today

## stable minimum load GKM plant

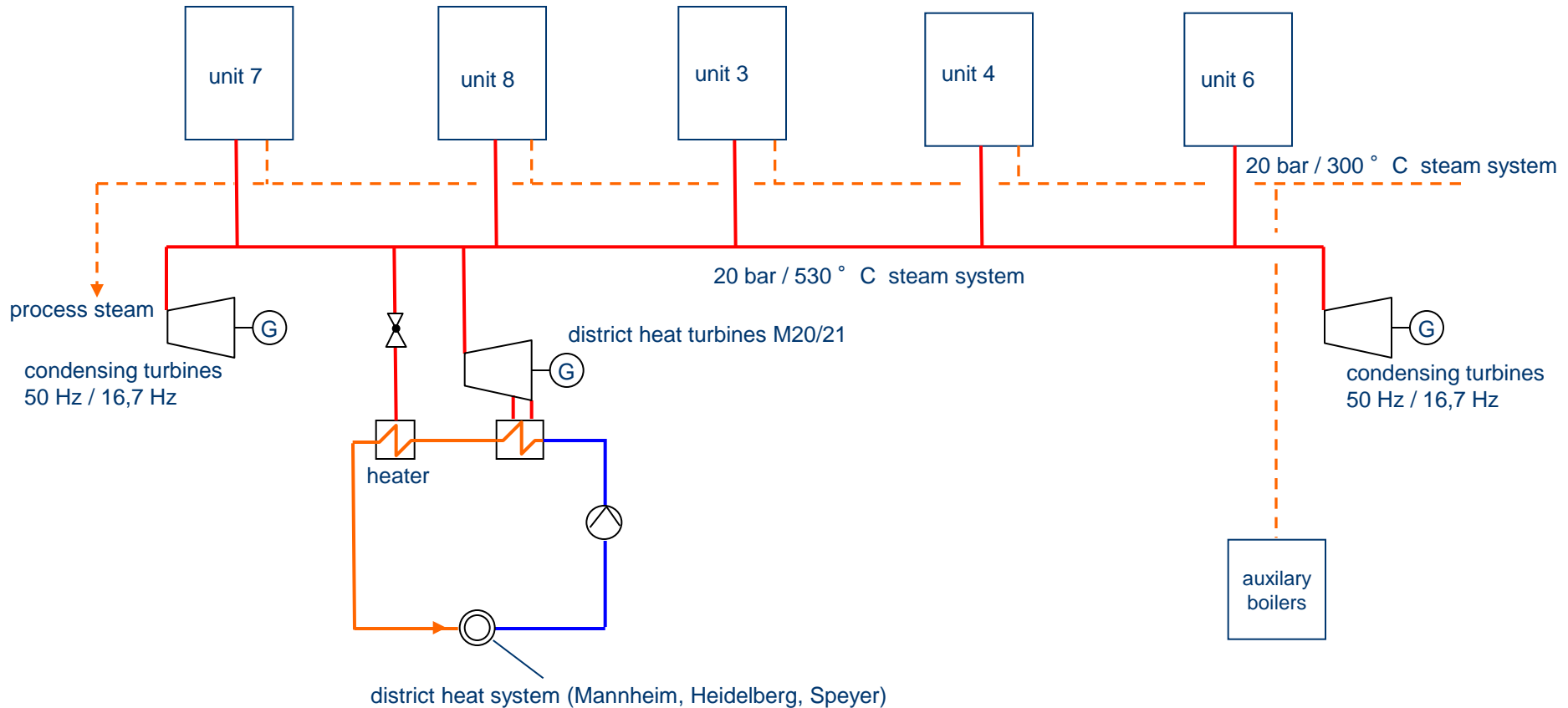


# Mannheim district heat system / GKM CHP Plant



# GKM Plant / district heat system until 2013

**GKM „2-units-operation“ necessary at minimum load because of need for secure supply of district heat system (until end of 2013)**



## Load demands on CHP Plant GKM

- 50 Hz Electricity Generation for RWE, EnBW, MVV
- 16,7 Hz Electricity Generation for DB Energie
- District Heat Generation and **secure supply** of Mannheim, Heidelberg and Speyer

## Situation at German Electricity Market

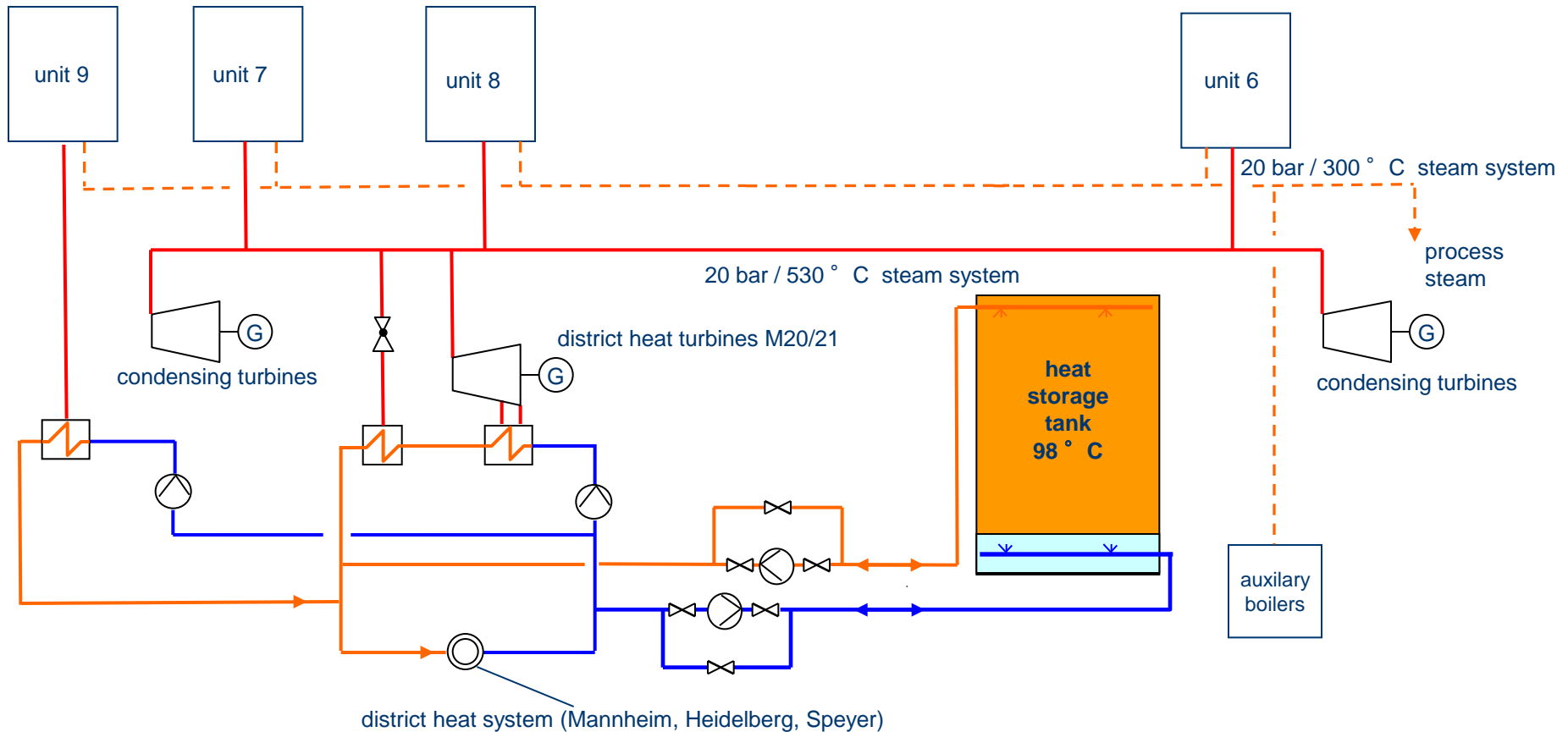
- GKM Plant Load corresponding to EEX Prices (Spot-Market „day-ahead and intraday“): volatile and often not fitting to district heat energy consumption

## Functions of new heat storage system in GKM

- in times of low EEX Prices the GKM Electricity Generation must be as low as possible (minimum technical load)
- **the new heat storage tank enables GKM to operate only 1 unit during minimum load (instead of 2 units before)**
- during minimum load the heat content in the tank is sufficient to supply the district heat nets at least for 2 hours
- additionally the heat storage tank is used to optimize the plant operation depending on EEX Prices (e.g. **charging at night, discharging by day**)

# GKM Plant / district heat system since 2015

**GKM „1-unit-operation“ possible at minimum load / if district heat load < 250 MW** (since heat storage system finished: end of 2013)



**new heat storage system enables GKM CHP plant to reduce the minimum load significantly**



## Heat storage tank ("system Dr. Hedbäck")

diameter tank	m	40
cylindric height tank	m	36
storage capacity	m <sup>3</sup>	43.000
max. flow to / from tank	t/h	6.200
max. storage water temperature	°C	98
effective heat storage capacity	MWh	1500
max. load (water flow)	MW	250

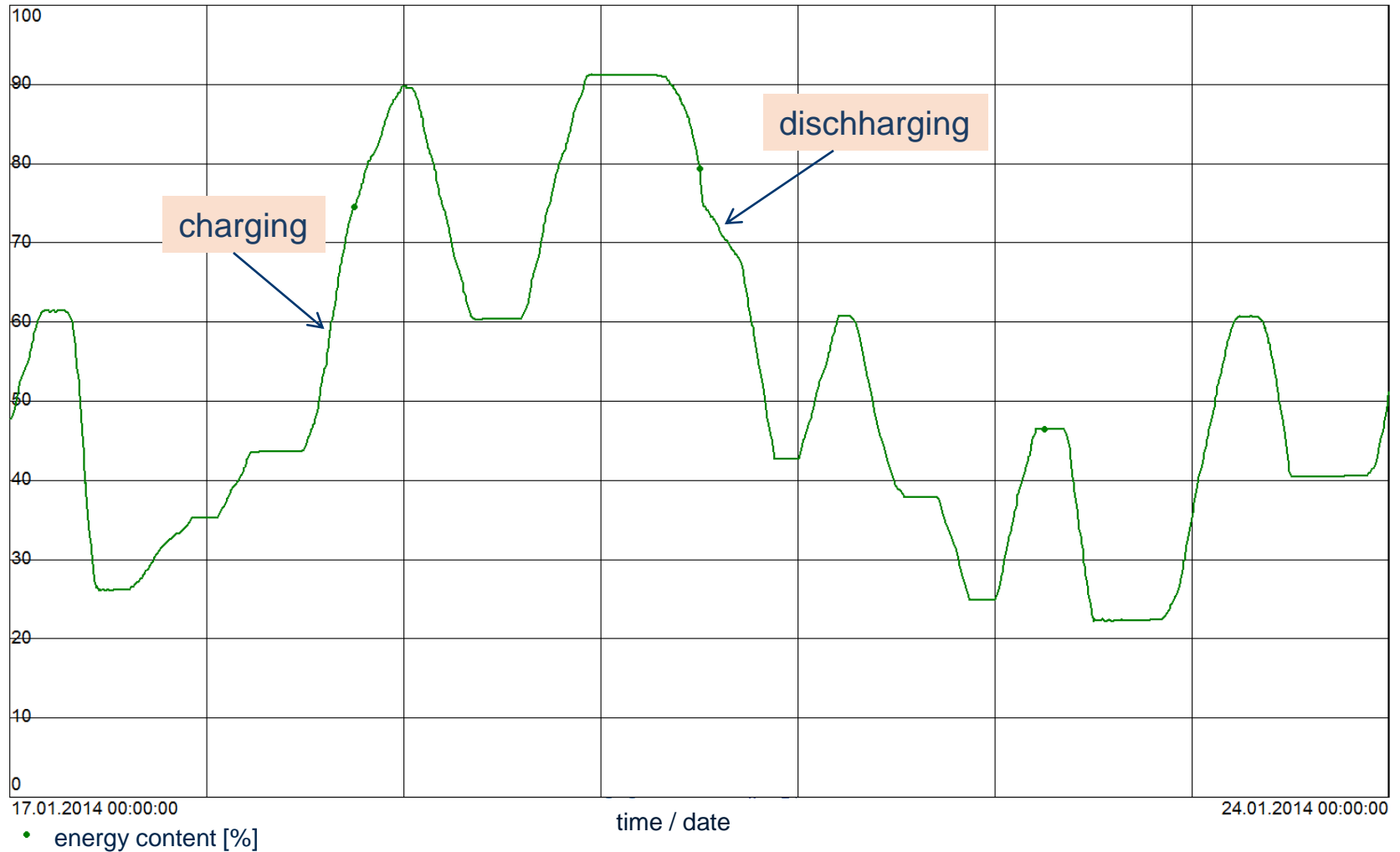
Hedbäck storage system can also be used for **cold water storage**

# GKM heat storage tank completed (September 2013)



# operation of heat storage tank (7 days, example)

energy content [%]



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## Actual situation of conventional Power Plants in Germany / „Energiewende“

- increasing and high capacities of „renewables“ **RES** (esp. solar (PV) and wind) for electricity generation with **fixed and governmental guaranteed compensation**
- since more than 4 years **decreasing and volatile EEX Prices**

## Situation at GKM

- GKM Plant **load is corresponding to EEX Prices** (Spot-Market „day-ahead and intraday“), production volume and operation hours of units are decreasing
- need for permanent District Heat Generation and **secure supply**
- power plants „**struggle with economics**“
- new heat storage system enables GKM to operate **only 1 unit** during minimum load (instead of **2 units before**)
- significant **reduction of minimum load** of all GKM units and „**must run**“ **generation**
- increase of efficiency by **new unit 9** and **decommissioning of old units 3 and 4**
- permanent measures to **improve load flexibility**

# Technical quality and reliability

## basic needs for Conventional Power Plants

- good and proven **design** in detail
- proper **equipment** / components
- adequate **erection** and installation
- realization of **high automatization with electronic/digital control systems** for each unit and the whole plant
- **commissioning by qualified teams** including checks of all systems / functions
- **process optimization** under real operational conditions, esp.
  - training of start up (cold, warm, hot) and stops of the units
  - load changes in the complete range (min. to max. load, quick start and stop)
  - tests of all types of failures
  - defined conditions during time when „plant is not in operation“
- **highly qualified and motivated staff for operations, maintenance, optimization** and different supporting tasks (purchase, finances, contracts, insurance, risk-management, personnel, ....)



# Operations and maintenance aspects

- realistic, professional **planning of power plant operation and maintenance** including outages/overhauls
- **qualified dispatching (load/generation planning)** „day ahead“, „intraday“, **redispatch measures,...** till the „last moment“ (= time of production)
- **highest flexibility to fulfill the needed functions („market driven“)**

## Criteria / Monitoring

- high **efficiency** / low energy losses
- **low emissions** (i.e. good work in „Environmental-Health-Safety“ fields)
- secure, good **technical functions**, high reliability in operations
- **availability to the right time** (looking after the „market situation“: esp. EEX prices and customer´s demands)
- **economic aspects** (remaining competitive)

Thank you for  
your attention.

[matthias.meierer@gkm.de](mailto:matthias.meierer@gkm.de)

[WWW.GKM.de](http://WWW.GKM.de)