

## Efficient operation at part load – The need of hour

Sandeep Chittora, Power Generation Services, Siemens Limited

# Plant Optimization

Flexibility is the new efficiency

## Reduced Electricity Production Cost and Increased Competitiveness \*



Reducing technical  
minimum plant  
load

Down to **30%**

Improved I&C and  
combustion for stable  
operation at lower loads



Increasing  
Efficiency and  
Performance (MW)

**16 MW** more

@ 75% load, including  
aging recovery effects by  
new hardware in HP and  
LP turbine at constant  
coal consumption



Improved  
Ramp Rates

**3X** higher

Higher ramp rates up to  
15MW/min



Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>  
Emissions

Up to **5%** lower

An improved efficiency  
leads to lower CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions!



Reduced Costs for  
Starting and earlier  
Power Production

**>60min** earlier

Reduced startup-times  
and earlier power  
productions by improved  
I&C and hardware  
measures

**A Balance of Plant (BoP) Optimization makes a significant contribution to economic values**

# Plant Optimization

Total Plant Evaluation is key for successful operation in deep part load

## Balance of Plant (BoP) Assessment for Boiler, Condenser, Steam Turbine & Auxiliaries

### Boiler

Fuel Supply  
Instrumentation & Controls  
Combustion Concept & Operation  
Thermal Design  
Fans and Pumps



### Turbine

Blading  
Operation  
Steam Seal  
Drains

### Condenser

Terminal  
Temperature  
Difference (TTD)  
Condensate Pump

**Boiler Feed Pump  
(incl. Motor or  
turbine drive)**

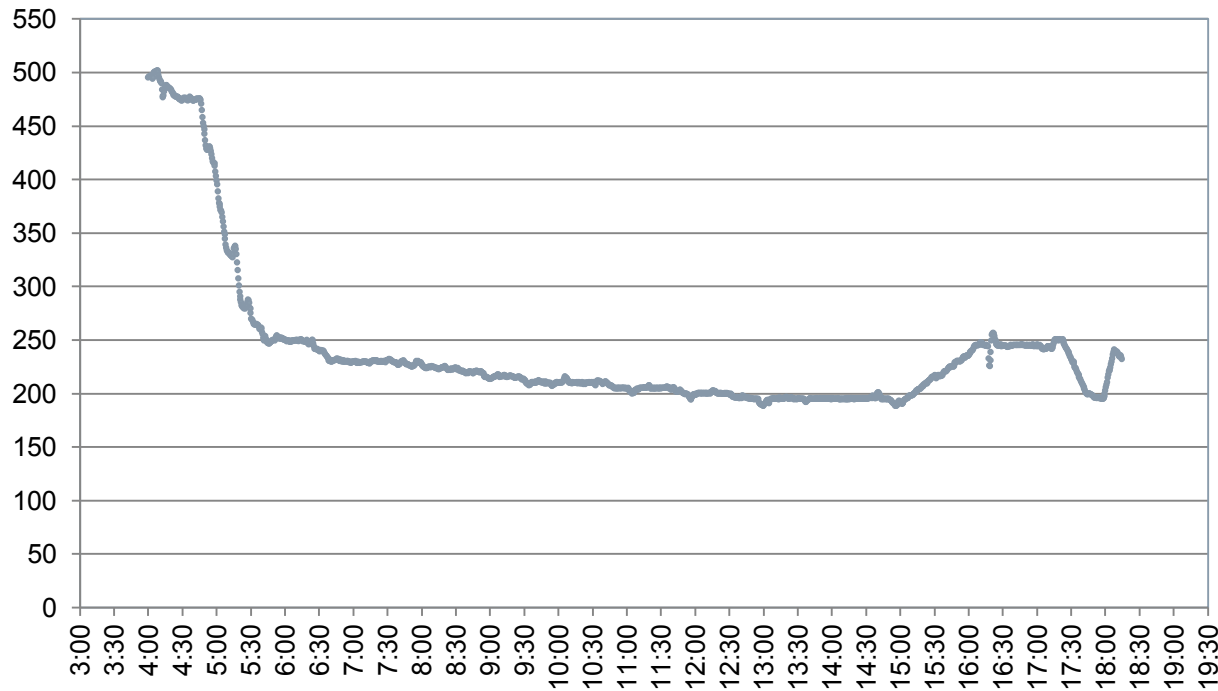
**Feed Water  
Heaters**

**Steam Piping  
System**

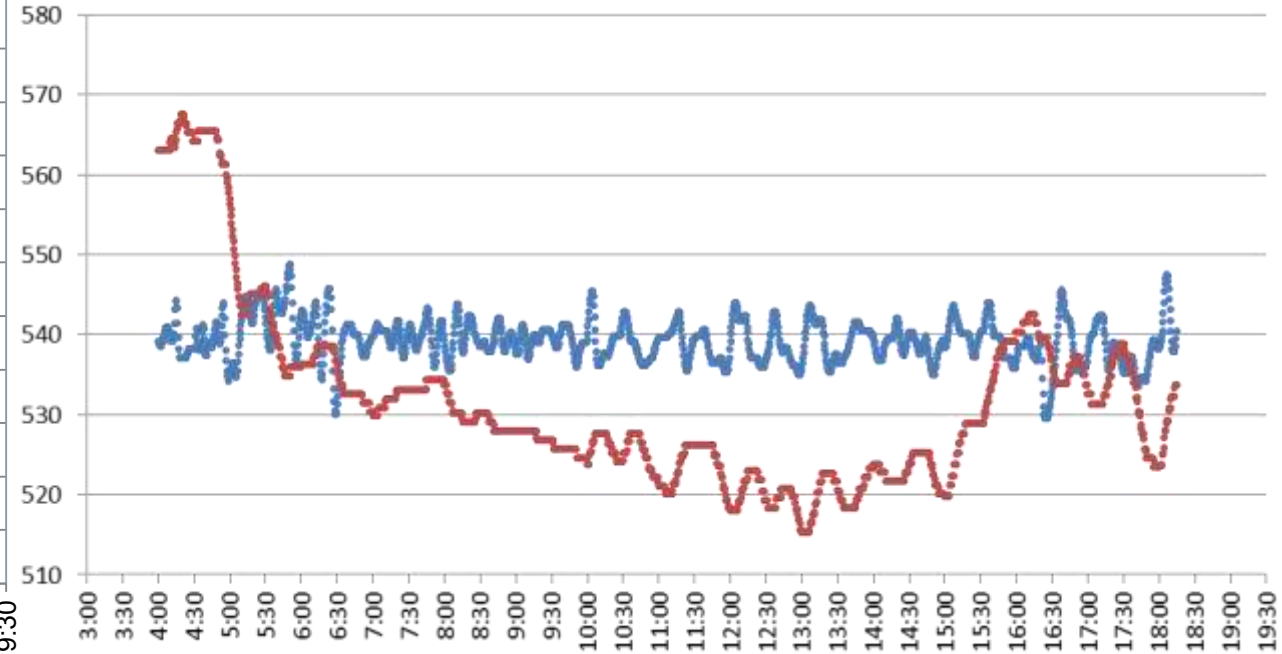
**Cooling Water  
System**

# 40% Technical Minimum is Possible – NTPC Dadri

## UNIT LOAD



## MS TEMP & RH TEMP

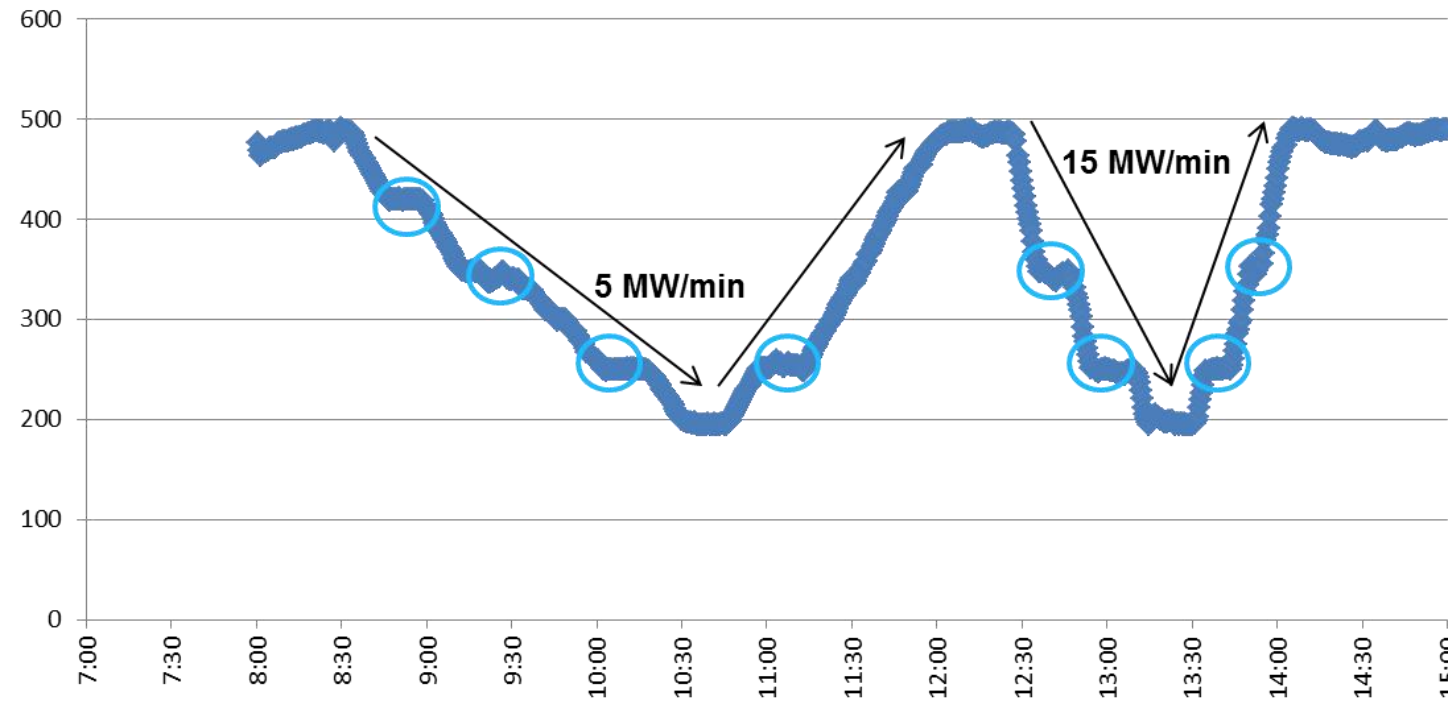


Cond.	M %	Ash%	C %	H %	N %	S %	O %
Air dried	4.03	37.29	43.63	3.26	1.01	0.35	10.43

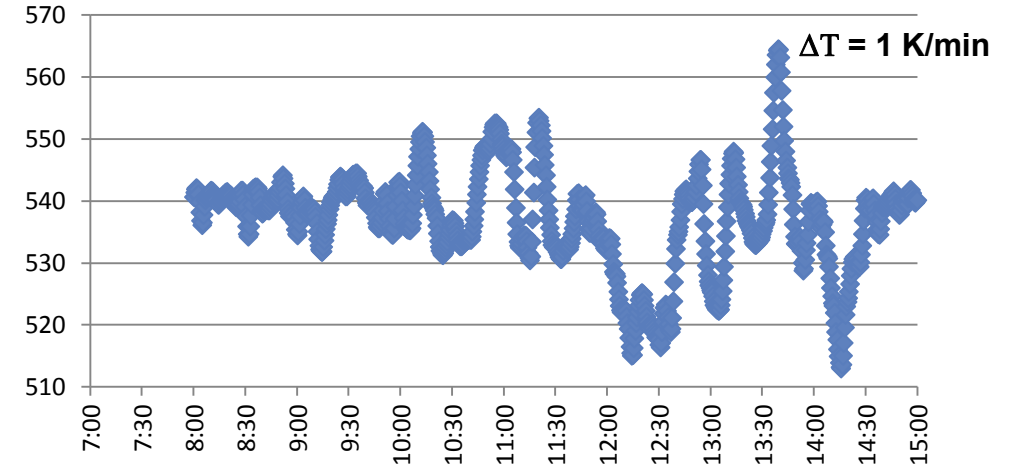
GCV (kcal/kg)	VM%	Ash %
3000	22%	35%

# Influence on Ramps on Temperature Transient

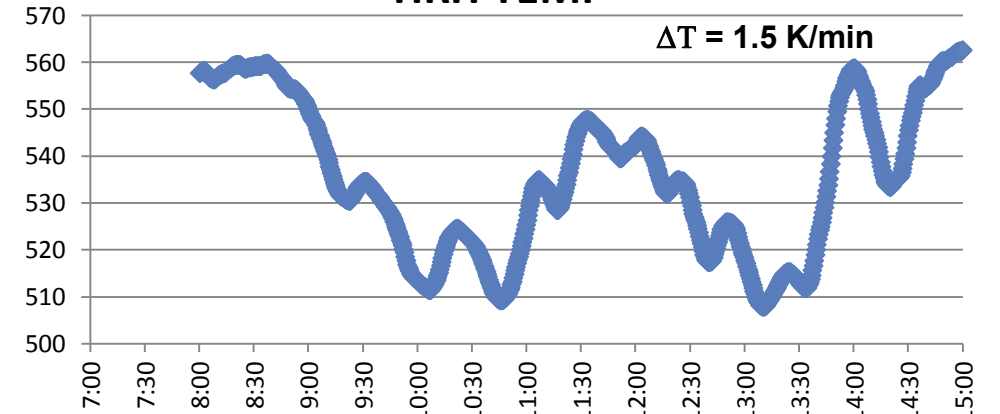
**UNIT LOAD**



**MS TEMP**



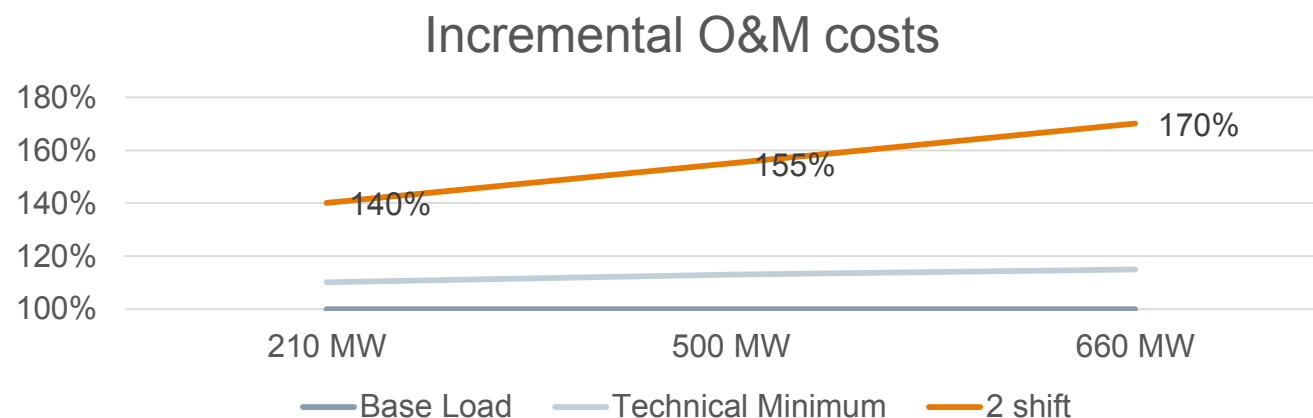
**HRH TEMP**



## Lower technical minimum is better than two shift operation

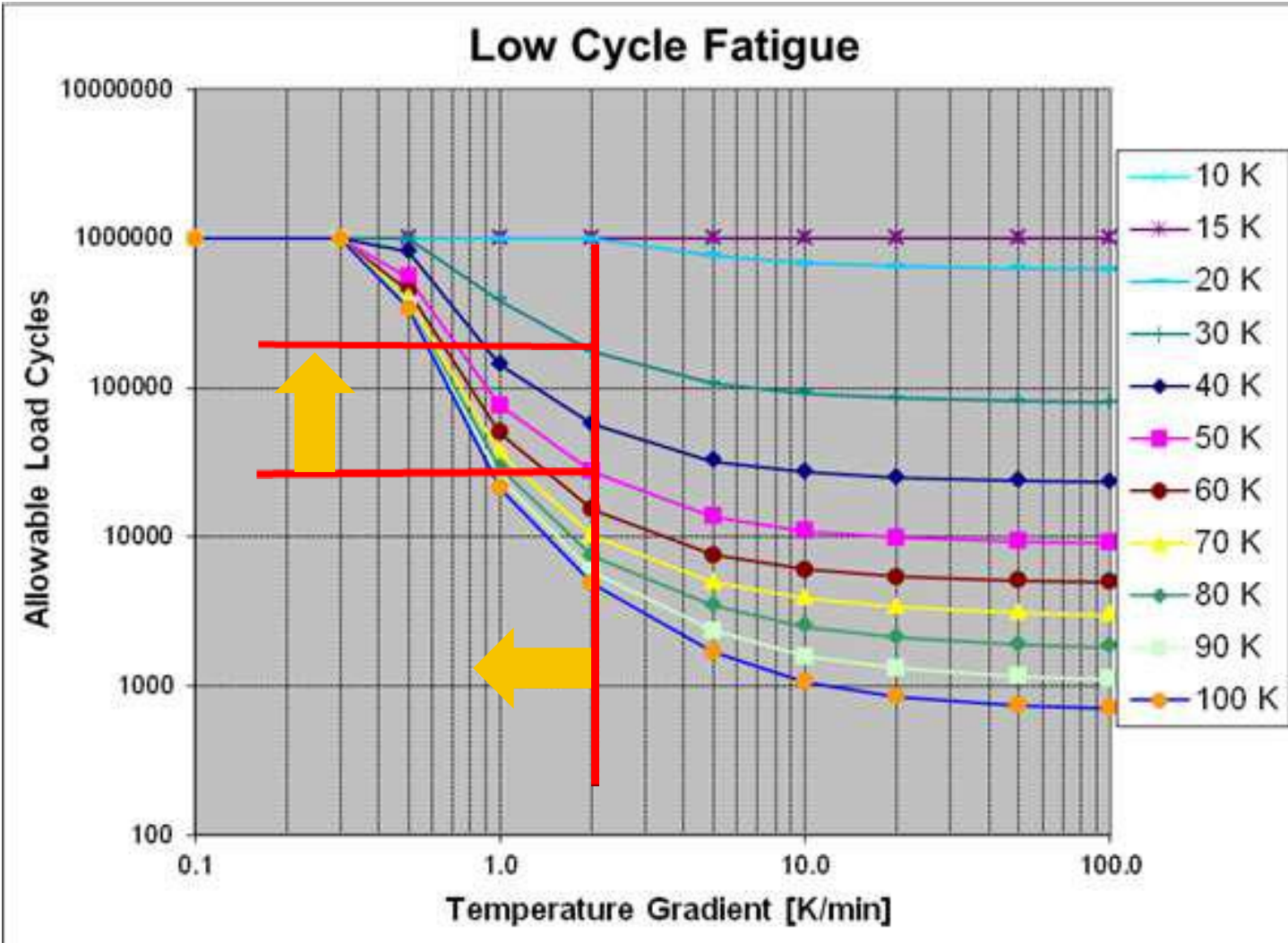
Comparison of life consumption based on cold, warm and hot start

Start	Life Consumption	IEC 45 permissive
Cold Start	23 – 75 hours	100
Warm Start	15 -17 hours	700
Hot Start	<u>10 -12 hours</u>	3000
Load Change	3 hours	-

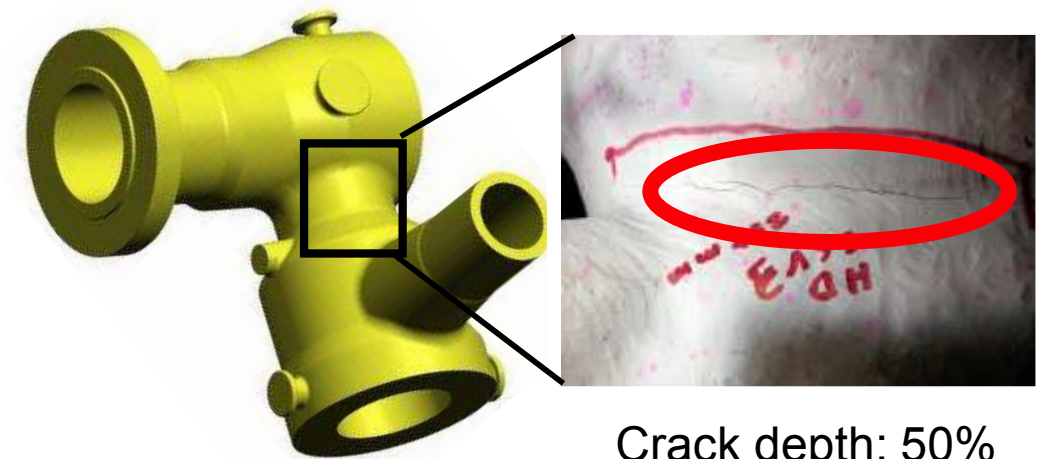


# Transient Operation (Ramp Up / Ramp Down)

increased temperature gradient results increased life consumption

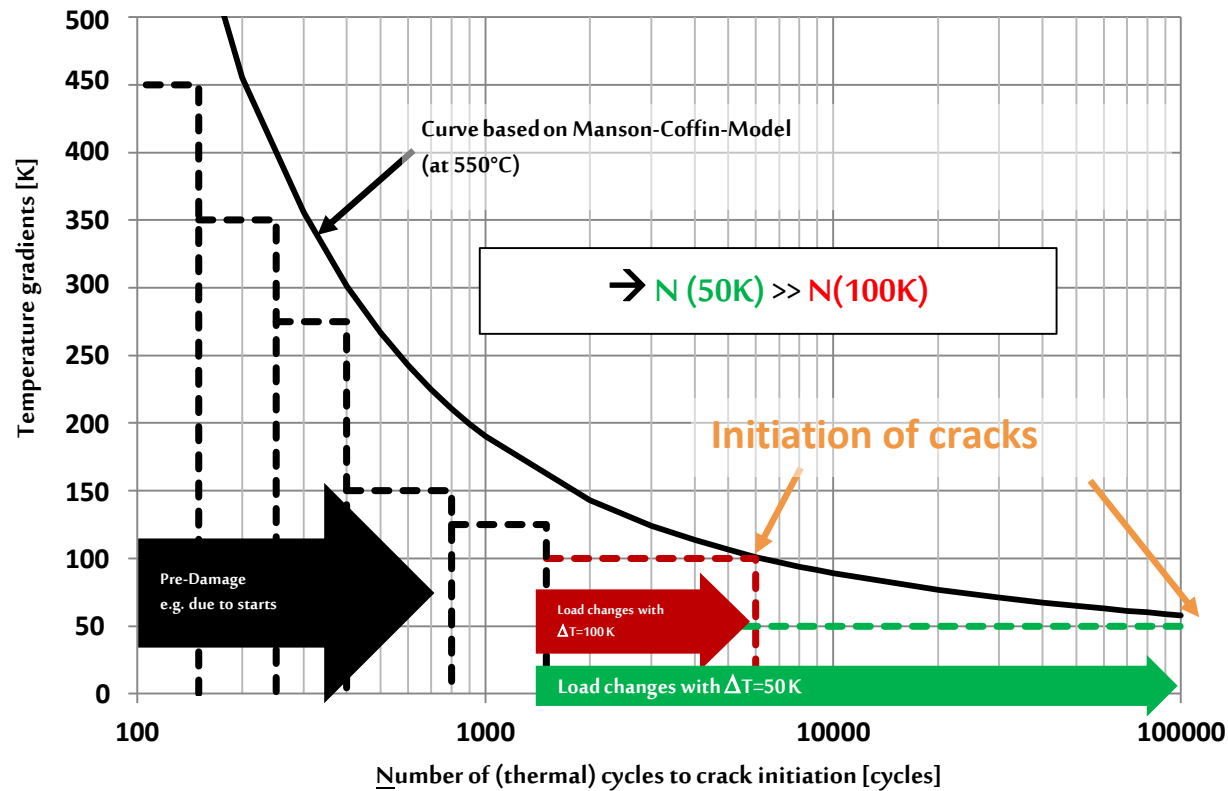


Main steam valve



Crack depth: 50%  
wall thickness

# Time for crack initiation



## Operational Strategy

- Part load may lead to steam temperature changes, especially hot reheat temperature
- Thermal stresses due to temperature changes across thick wall components are detrimental to life consumption
- Careful analysis and suitable modification would lead to improved fatigue behavior and reduce maintenance requirements

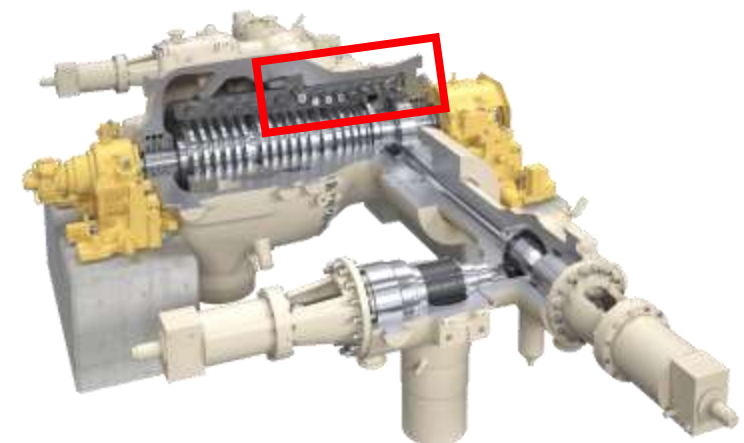
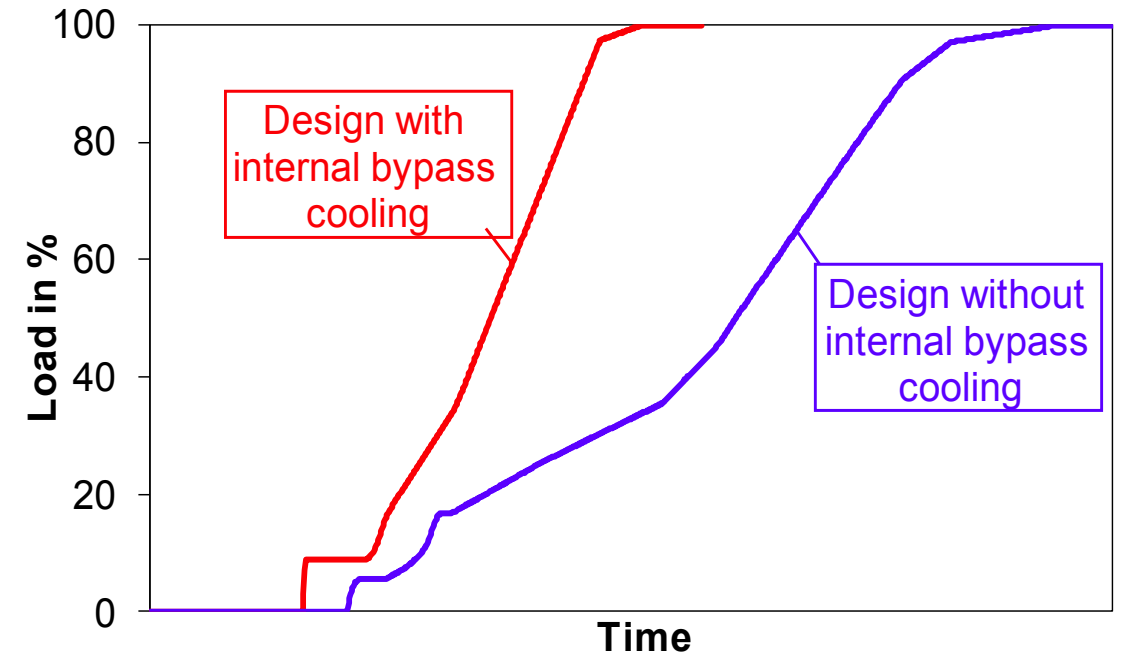
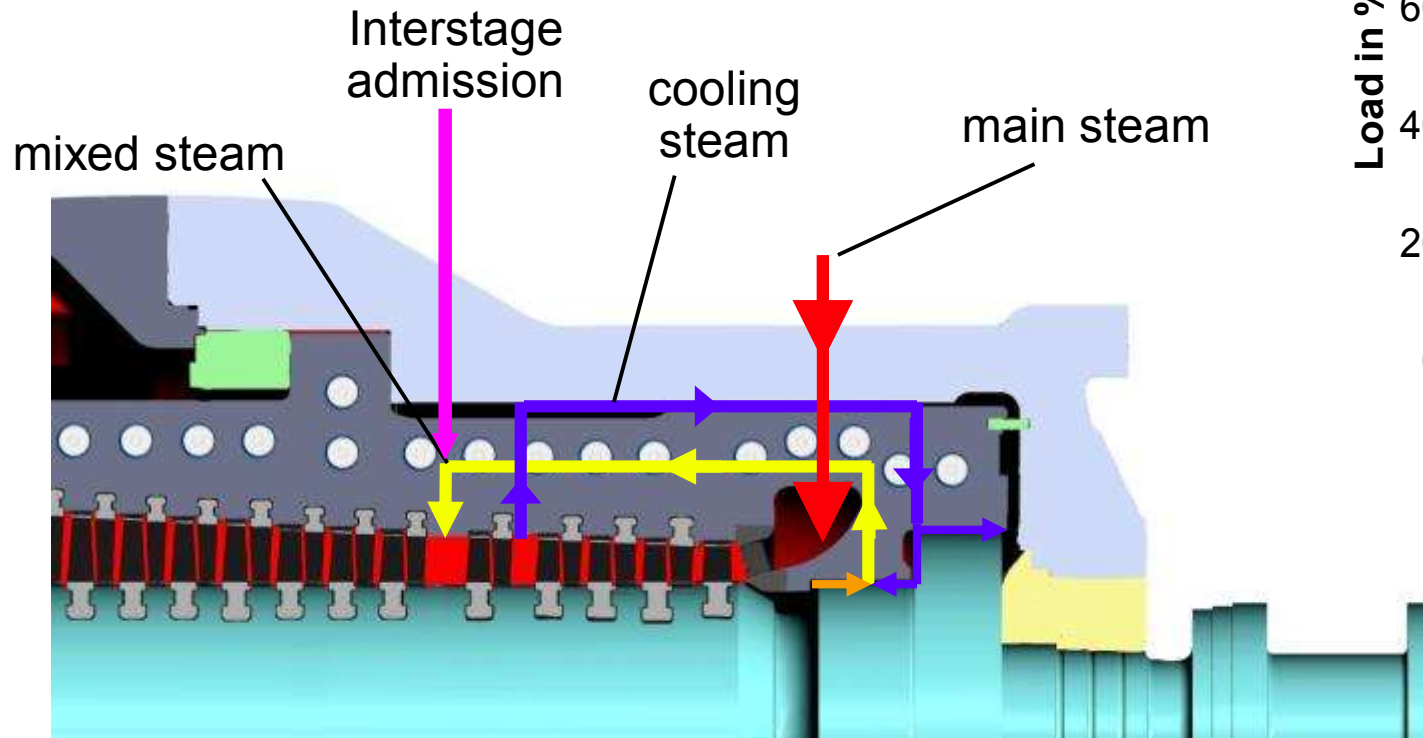


# Power on Demand

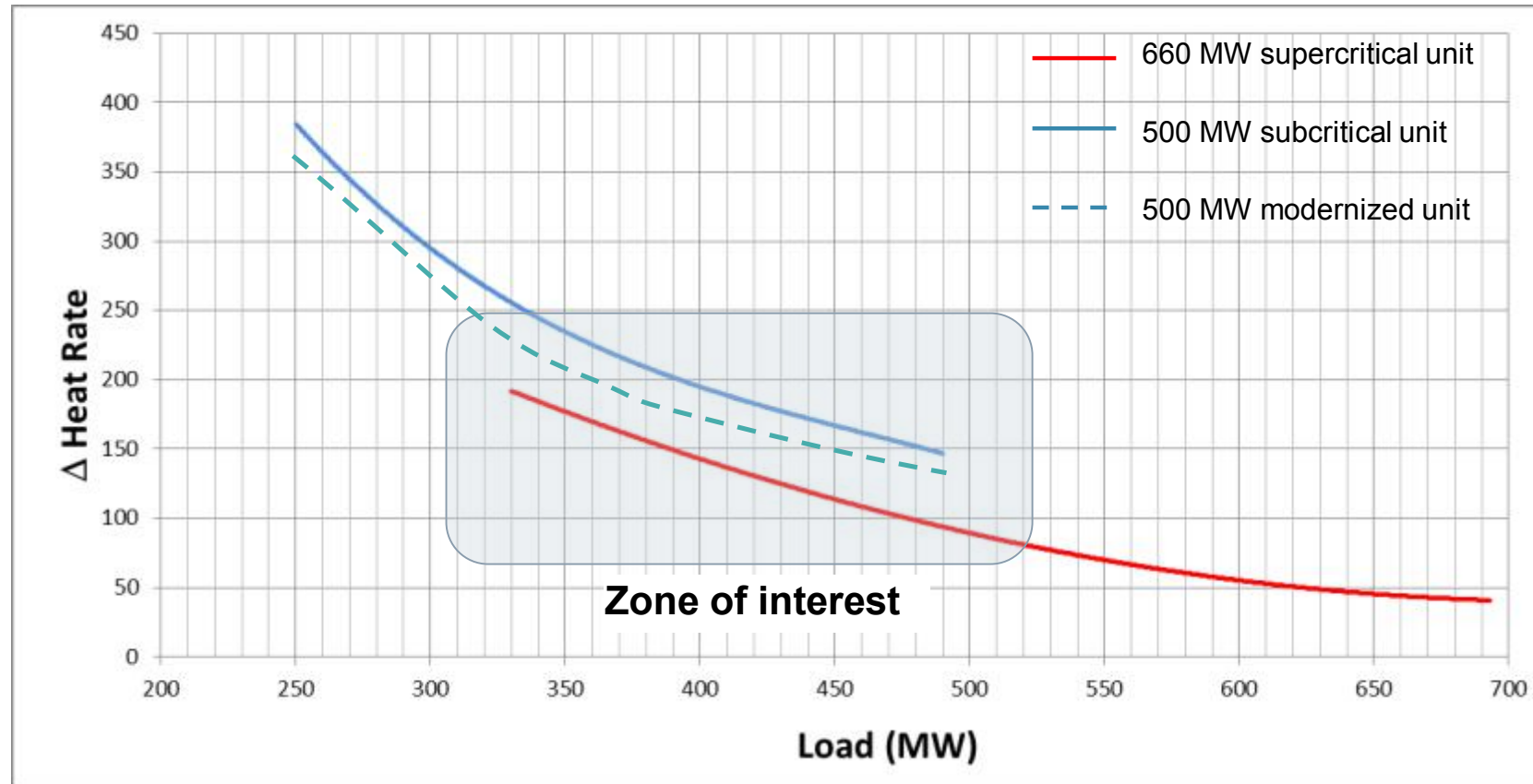
## Reduction of Wall Thickness to Improve Start Up & Cycling Capabilities

Example: Reduced Casing thickness & reduced thermal piston loading by HP bypass cooling

Significant improvement in LCF



## Performance at lower part load factor

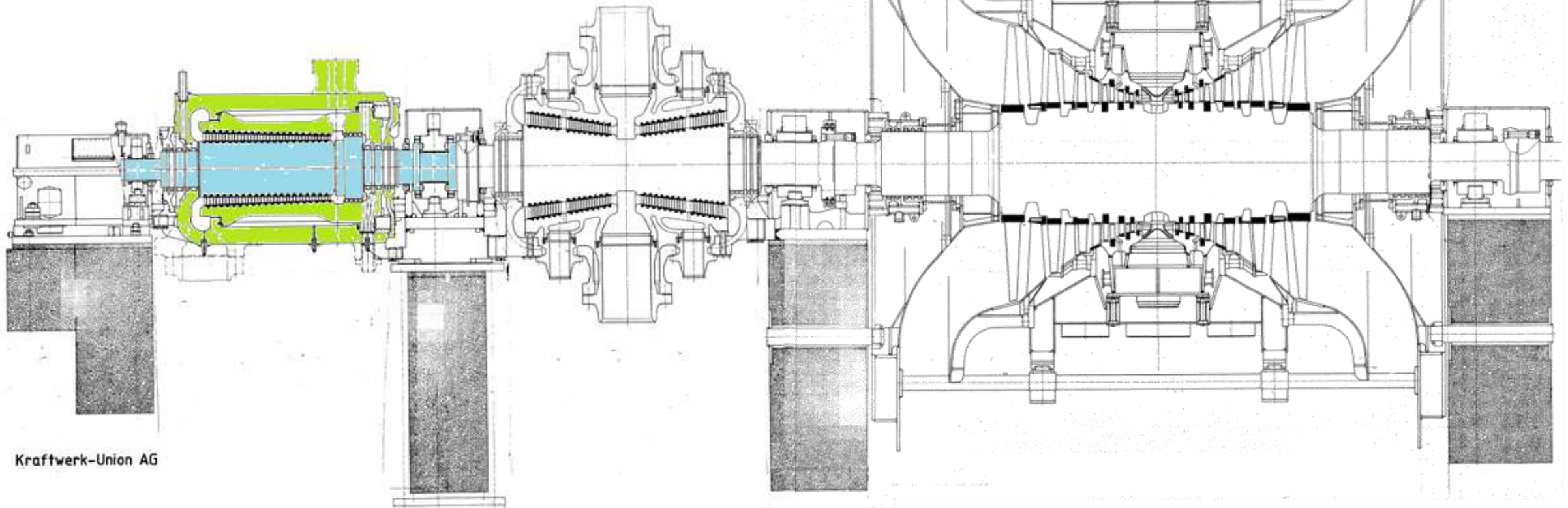


**210 MW modernization leads to 25 paisa savings in cost of generation with payback period of ~3 years**

# Part Load Efficiency: Turbine hardware upgrade

## HP Turbine

Load	50%	75%	Full load
Savings (coal) *	≈ 1.3%	≈ 1.3%	≈ 1.5%



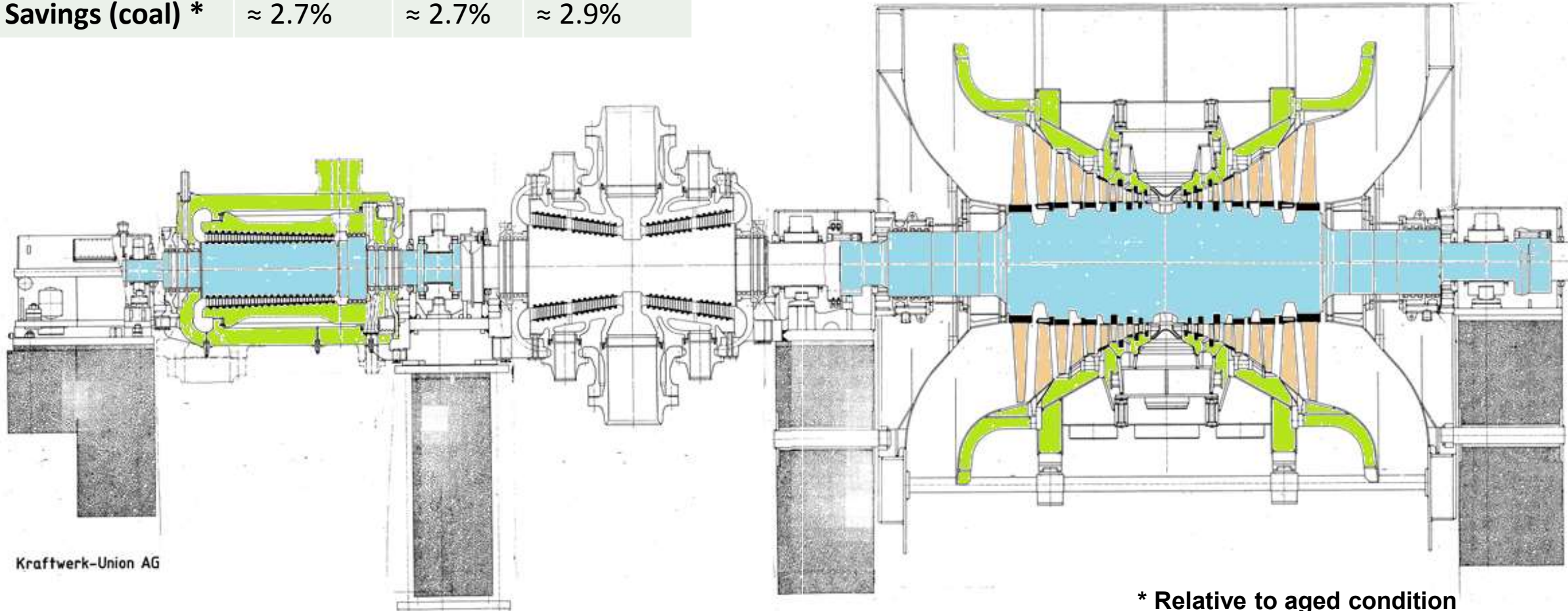
Kraftwerk-Union AG

**\* Relative to aged condition  
(both in fixed pressure operation)**

# Part Load Efficiency: Turbine hardware upgrade

## HP + LP Turbine

Load	50%	75%	Full load
Savings (coal) *	≈ 2.7%	≈ 2.7%	≈ 2.9%

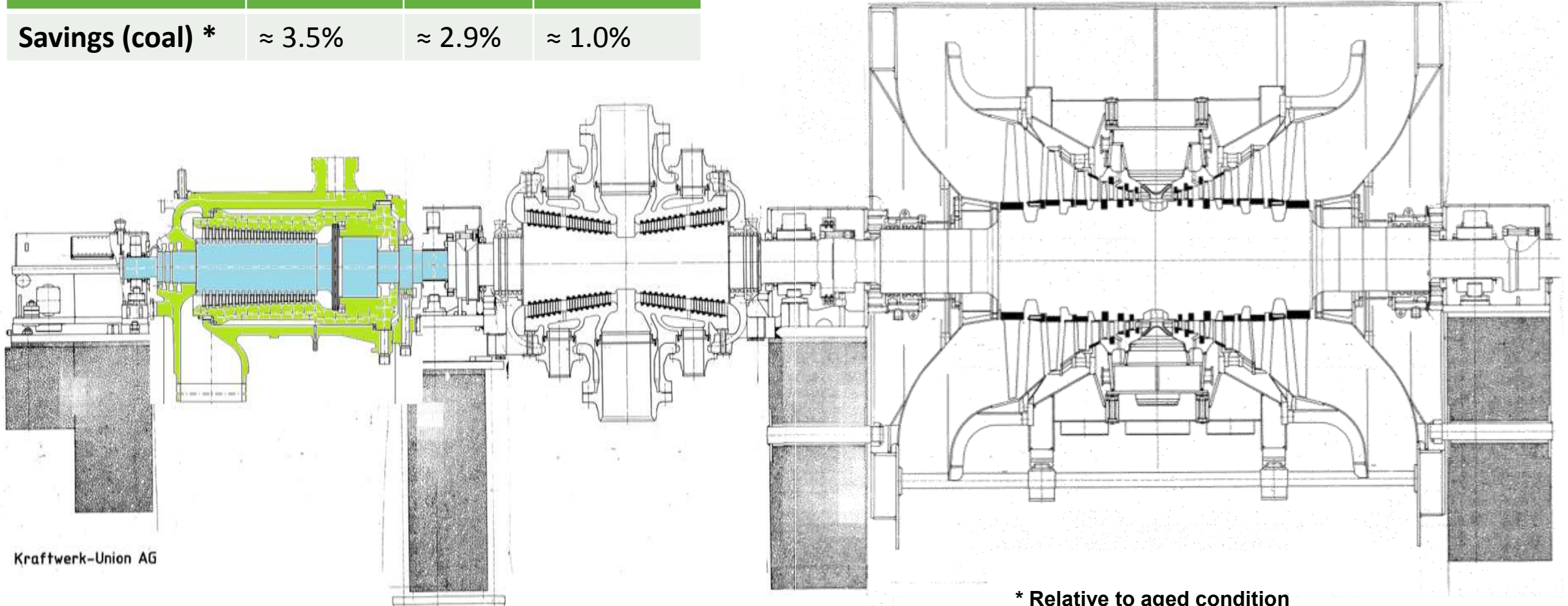


\* Relative to aged condition  
(both in fixed pressure operation)

# Part Load Efficiency: Turbine hardware upgrade

## HP Turbine with control stage

Load	50%	75%	Full load
Savings (coal) *	≈ 3.5%	≈ 2.9%	≈ 1.0%



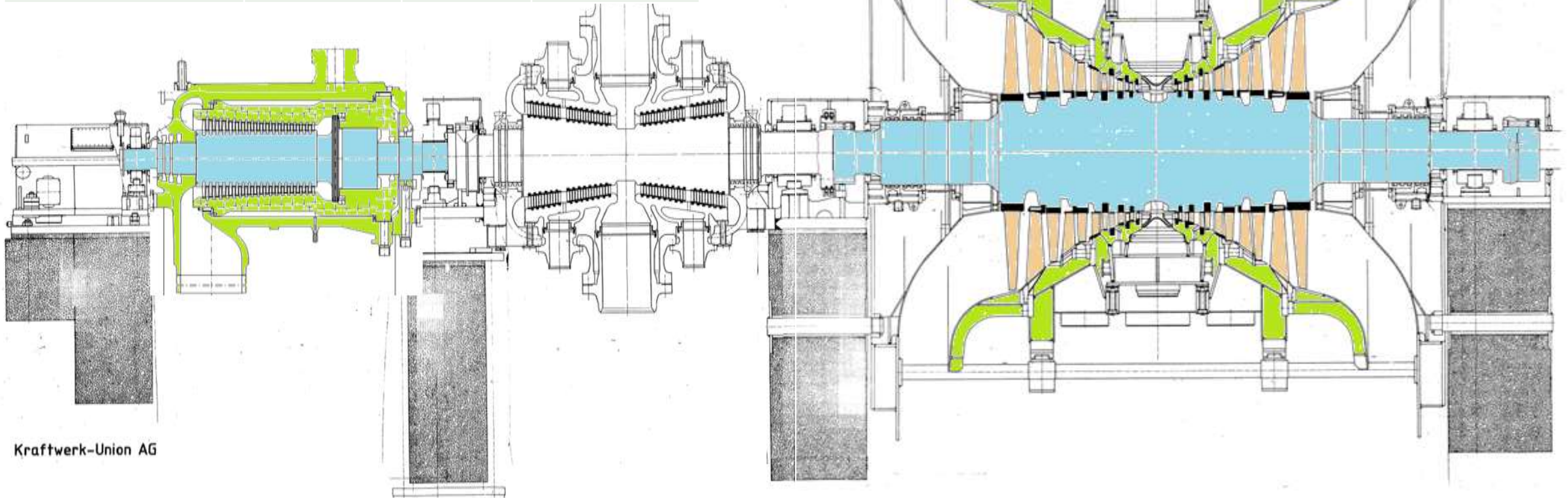
Kraftwerk-Union AG

\* Relative to aged condition  
(both in fixed pressure operation)

# Part Load Efficiency: Turbine hardware upgrade with control stage

## HP + LP Turbine with control stage

Load	50%	75%	Full load
Savings (coal) *	≈ 4.7%	≈ 4.1%	≈ 2.2%
Savings (coal) **	≈ 2.7%	≈ 3.2%	≈ 1.3%

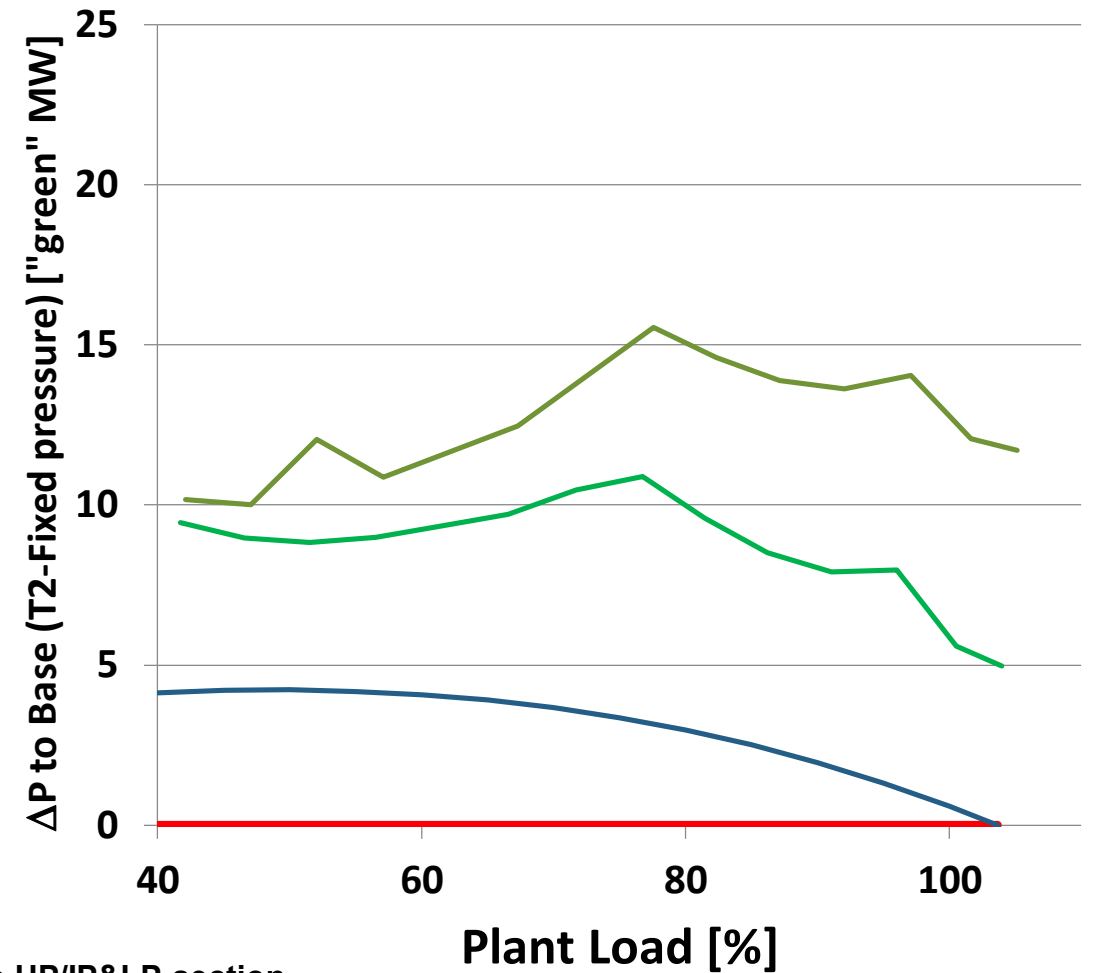
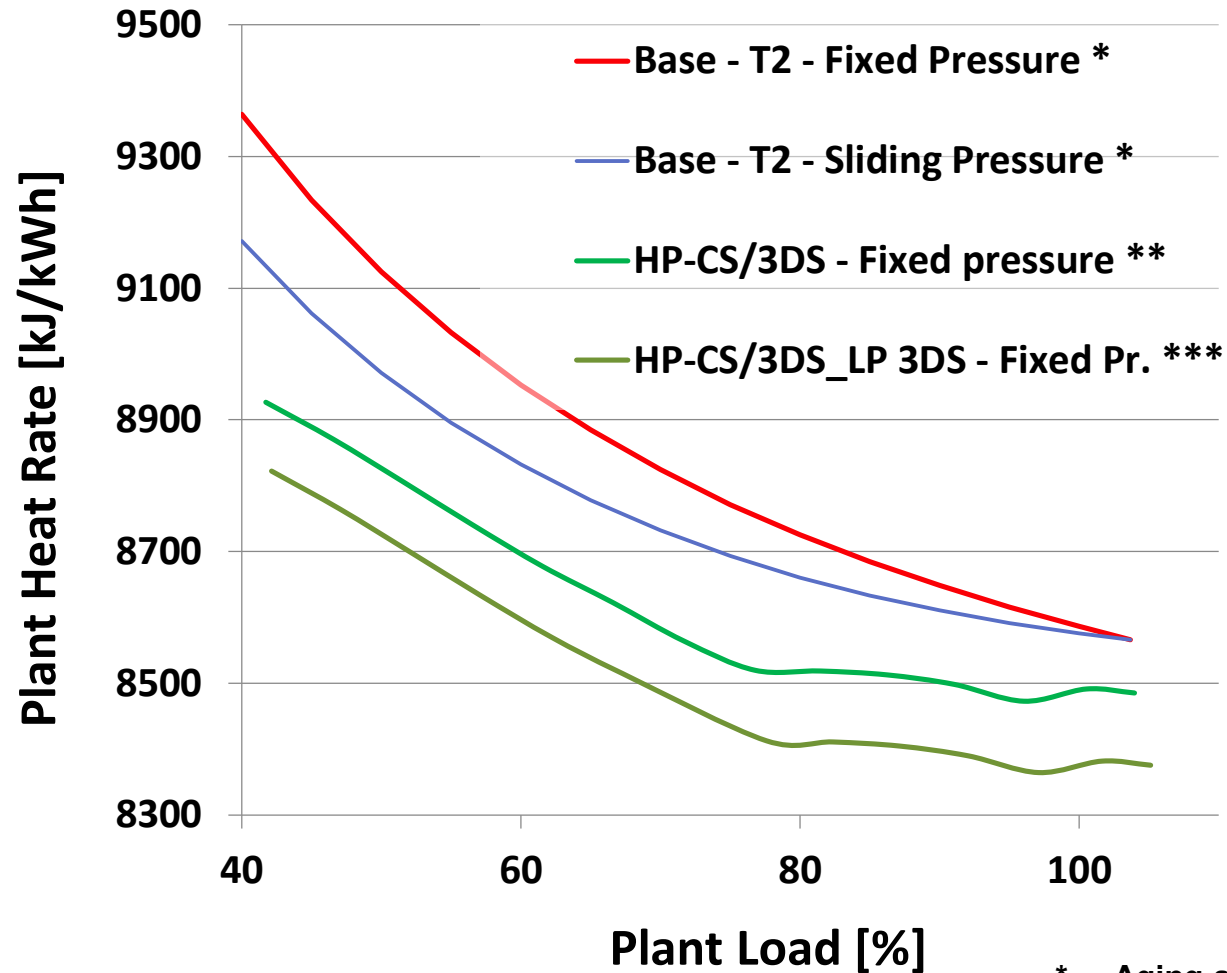


Kraftwerk-Union AG

\* Relative to aged condition  
(both in fixed pressure operation)  
\*\* Relative to new and clean conditions

# Part Load Efficiency: Turbine hardware upgrade with control stage

## HP + LP Turbine with control stage



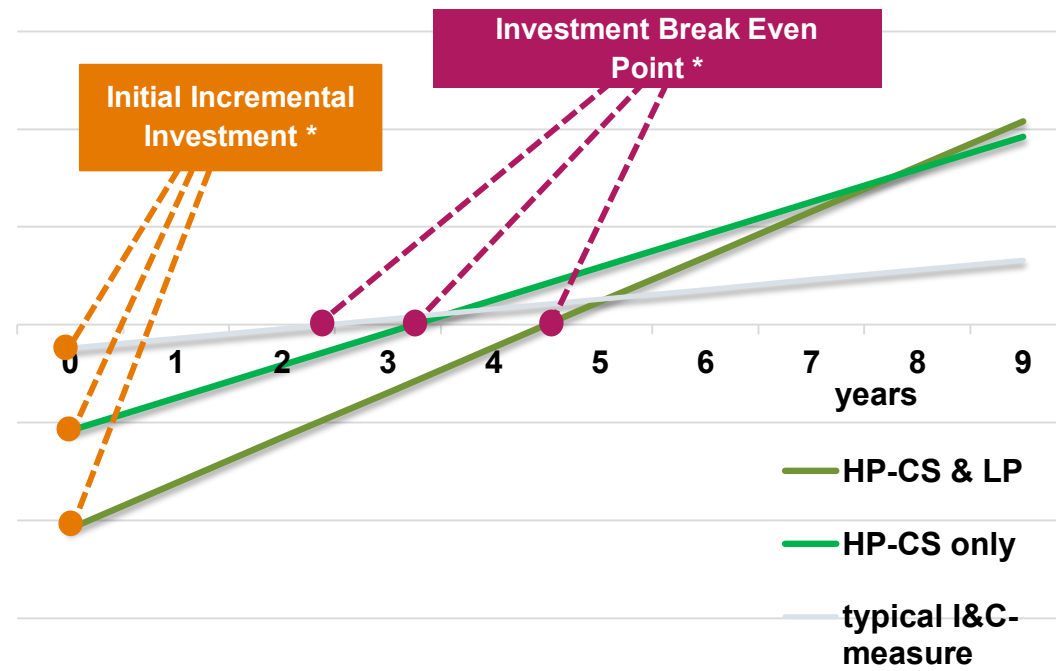
- \* Aging applied to HP/IP&LP-section
- \*\* Aging applied to IP/LP-section
- \*\*\* Aging applied to IP-section

# Return on investment with hardware upgrade

## Potential Benefits

For the corresponding 500MW steam power plant the modernization of the Turbine Hardware (new HP module with control stage / new LP rotor and inner casing) would result in significant savings for coal.

Taking this into account, the return of invest period accounts to 4 - 5 years. Additional benefits like the avoided CO<sub>2</sub> and the enhanced ability for fast load changes are not even considered here.



\* This example is based on a modernization of a 500MW-coal-fired power plant in India (KWU-design)



# Reduced Startup-times: Heating blankets

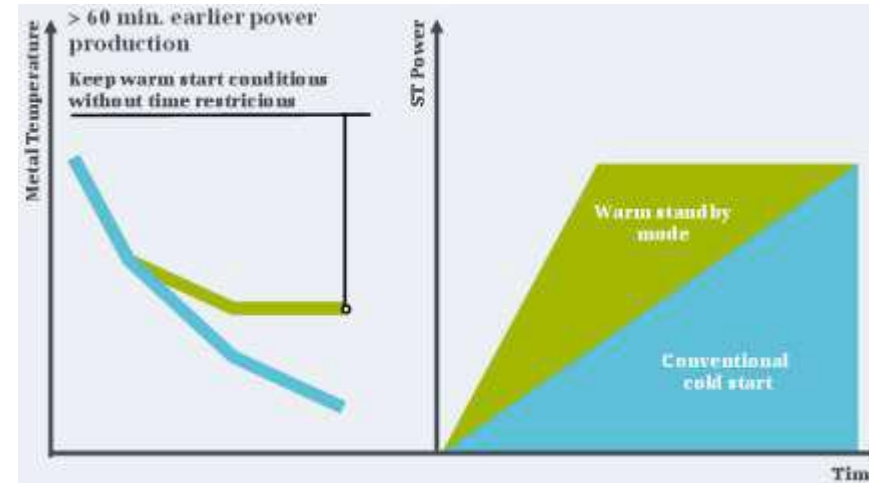
## ST Warm Standby Operation to prepare for fast start-up

### Technology

- Electrical heating system for ST in turning gear
- Maintains rotor shaft temperature at warm startup conditions

### Benefit

- Significant reduction of startup time
  - > 60 min. earlier power production
- Reduction of EOH consumption per start
- Less energy is bypassed to condenser
  - Reduced costs per start up



Electric heating coils to keep HP/ IP Turbine casing and shaft in warm start conditions

## Key Takeaway

- Lower Technical Minimum is better operation than two shift operation
- Subcritical fleet is more suitable for flexible operation with respect to loss in performance
- Lower Technical Minimum with part load performance improvement is possible, unit specific changes needs to be applied
- Means of improving part load efficiency by upto 4% are available
- Need based R&M is the approach for part load performance improvement



## Contact information



### **Sandeep Chittora**

Head – Portfolio Consulting

Siemens Limited, India

Phone: +91 124 2842650

Mobile: +91 9971170337

E-mail: [sandeep.chittora@siemens.com](mailto:sandeep.chittora@siemens.com)

# Power on Demand

## Monitoring of flexibility consequences: steam turbine EOH counter 4.0

### Task

- Part load may lead to steam temperature changes, especially hot reheat temperature
- Thermal stresses during operation are not considered in standard counting of equivalent operating hours (EOH counter)
- Maintenance needs may not be recognized

### Solution

- Evaluation of operational history
- Implementation of a state of the art EOH counter considering load changes

### Benefits

- More accurate EOH counting
- Improved outage planning
- Enhanced operational flexibility

### IV. Generation

EOH counting also considering load changes

### III. Generation

EOH consumption is a function of actual thermal stress

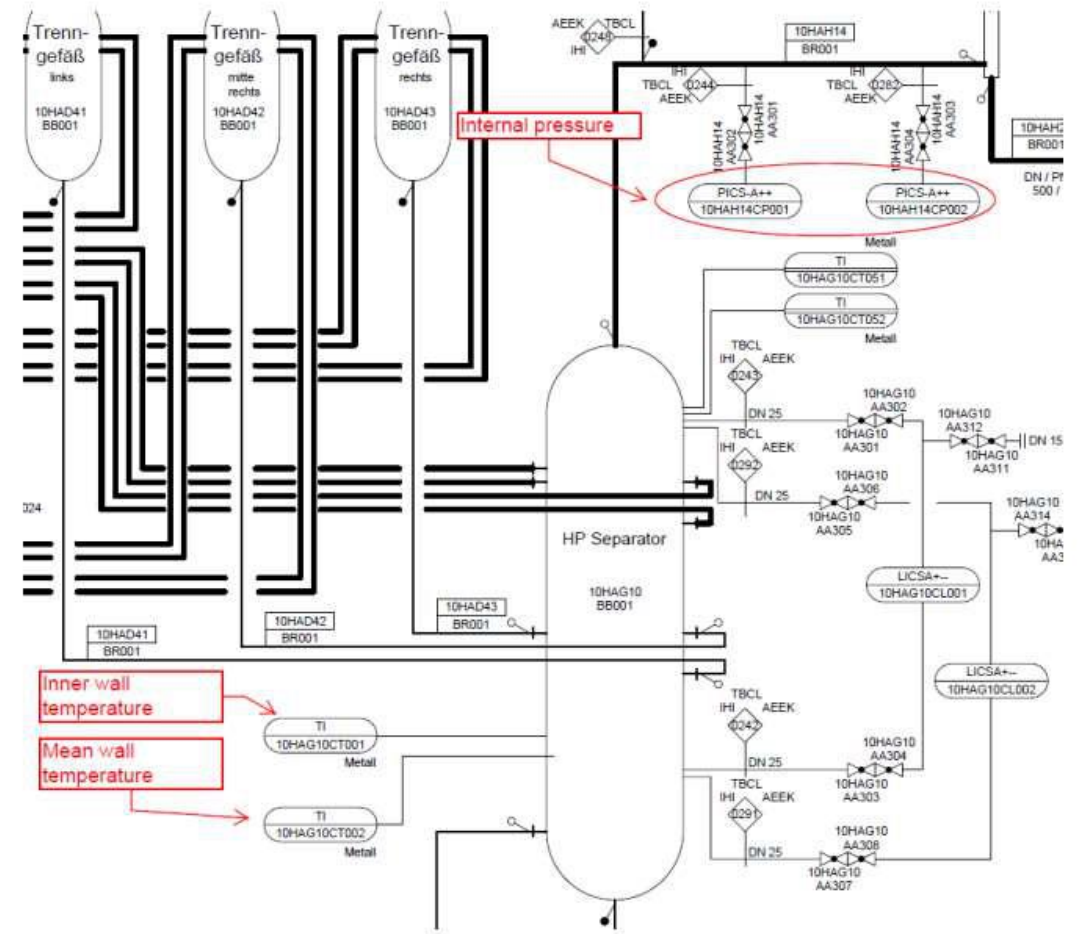
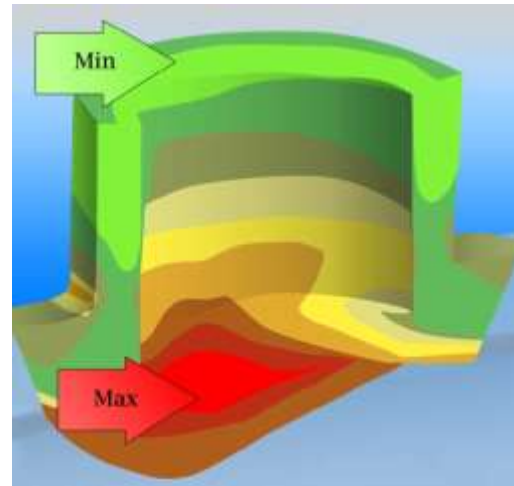
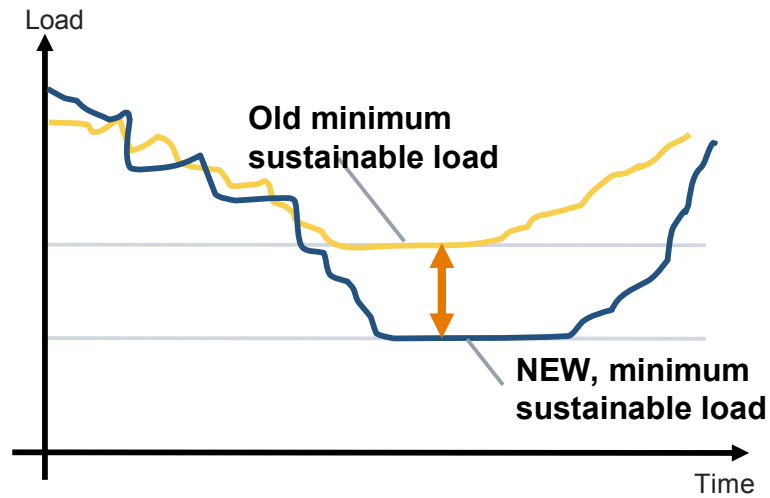
### II. Generation

Introduction of three start-up modes with fixed EOH consumption

### I. Generation

Maintenance interval defined by operating hours and number of starts

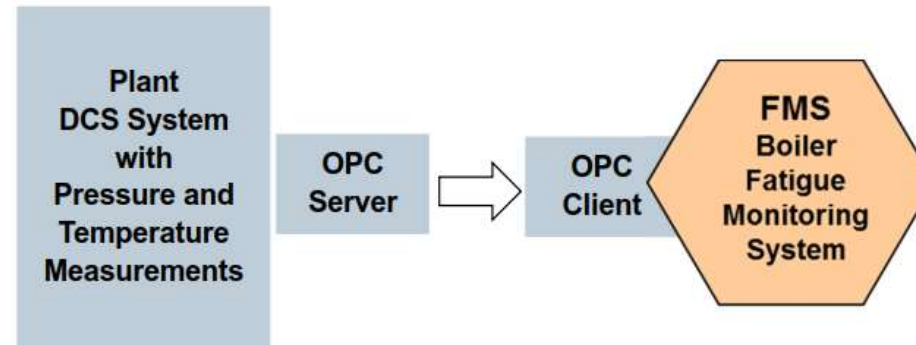
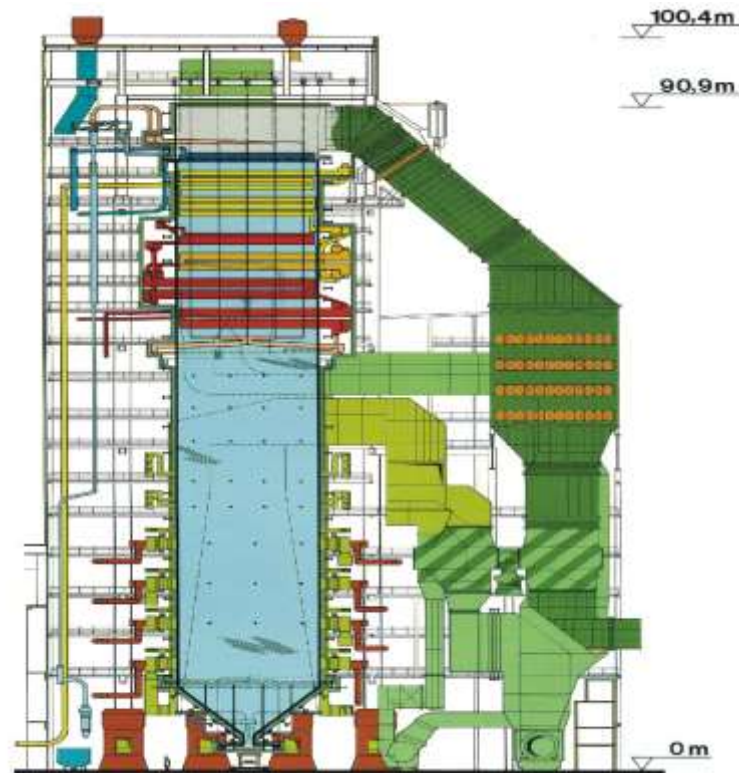
# Maintenance Flexibility Fatigue Monitoring System



How much fatigue is it?

Don't Guess when you can actually measure it

# Maintenance Flexibility Fatigue Monitoring System



### Typical components:

- Headers, Manifolds (HP superheater, Reheater)
- Drums
- Separators
- Piping (e.g. elbow after HP / HRH final stage attemperator)
- T-Pieces (e.g. HP bypass station)
- Y-Piece (e.g. before HP turbine)

**Online calculation of Boiler Fatigue Components is possible**

**Both Creep Fatigue and Low cycle fatigue calculated**

**Depending upon the actual operating mode, residual life of critical components is determined**