



THERMAL CLEANING,
NO ALTERNATIVE BUT A BETTER WAY
TO CLEAN EQUIPMENT

HOW IT ALL STARTED 20 YEARS AGO: THERMAL “POPCORN” REMOVAL FROM A HEAT EXCHANGER



Before: Only HP cleaning

Result:

- Still popcorn parts left
- Fast rebuilding of the fouling
- Short running cycles (2-3 months)
- High maintenance costs



Before

After: Thermal + HP cleaning

Result:

- No popcorn parts left
- Slow rebuilding of the fouling
- Long running cycles (2 years)
- Low maintenance costs

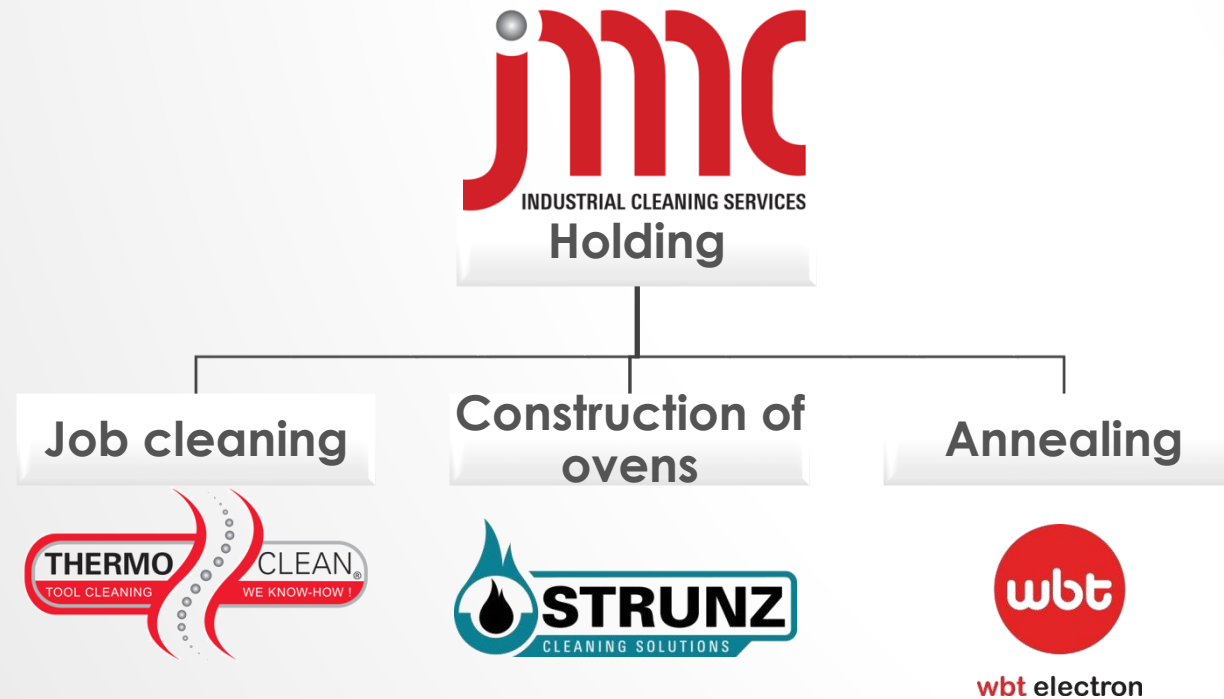


After

(before HP cleaning)

COMPANY INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION



COMPANY INFORMATION

THE THERMO-CLEAN GROUP TODAY



- Established in 1989
- Today: 10 cleaning sites in Europe
- +/- 200 employees
- Total turnover of € 22 million in 2018
- Thermal, chemical & mechanical cleaning of equipment and parts fouled with (partially) organic contaminations





Since January 1st 2015 also a member of JMC Company



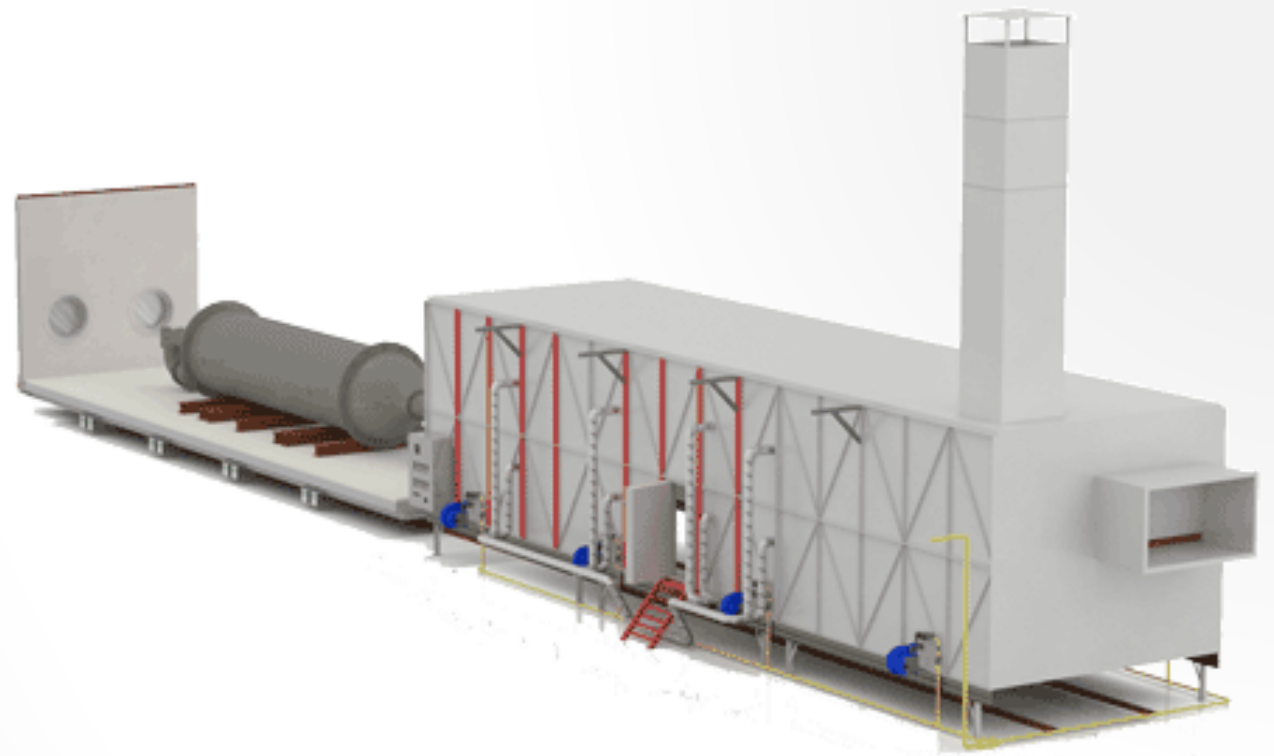


wbt electron

WBT Electron offers a complete portfolio of different heat treatments at nearly any required temperature:

- preheating
- stress-relief annealing
- normalizing annealing
- solution annealing
- hydrogen-free annealing
- water, fog or air quenching
- drying, curing or sintering of fire-resistant materials

max. 18,650 x 4,500 x 4,250 mm;
1,300°C; 60 tons



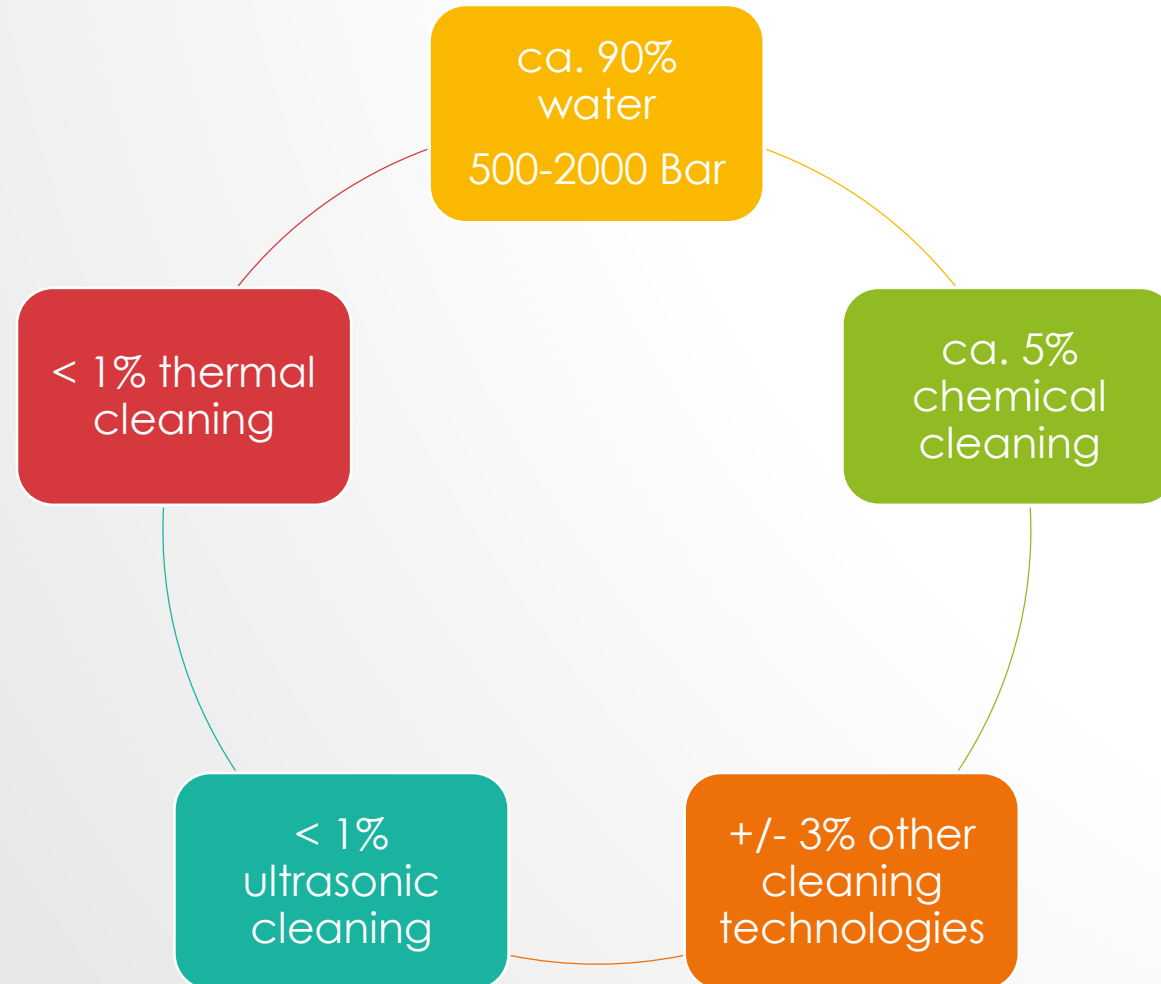


THERMAL HEAT EXCHANGER CLEANING



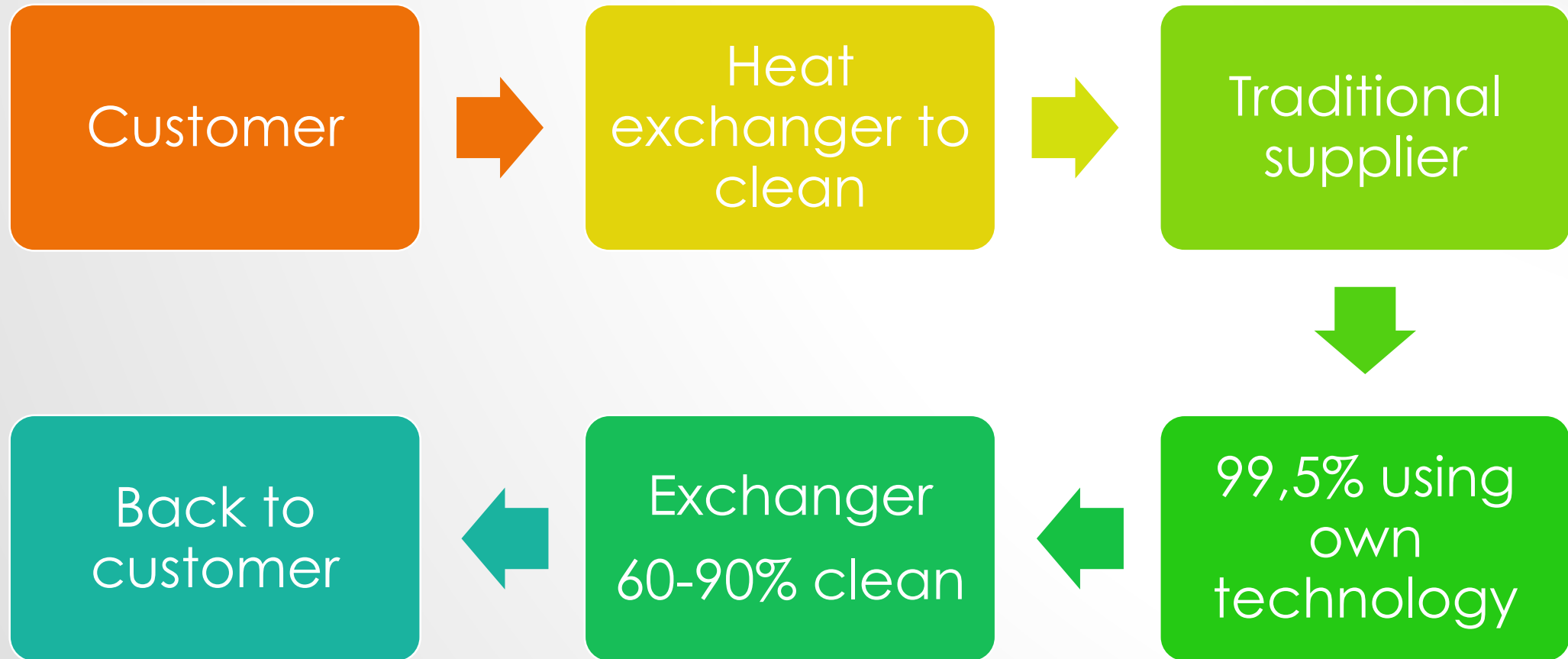
HEAT EXCHANGER CLEANING TODAY

CHOSEN CLEANING SOLUTIONS

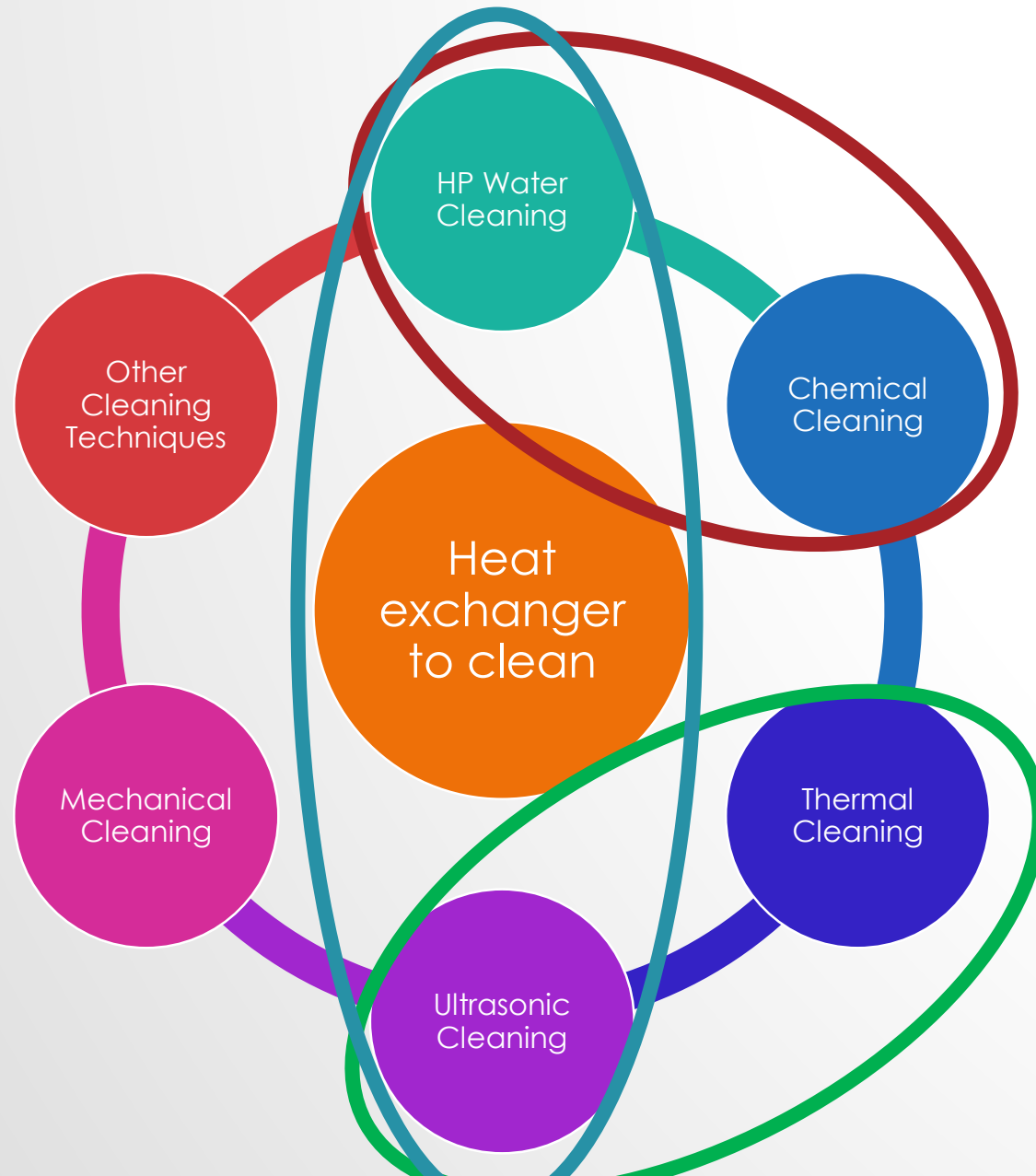


Alternative technique:
Re-tubing

HEAT EXCHANGER CLEANING TODAY



THE MOST EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY

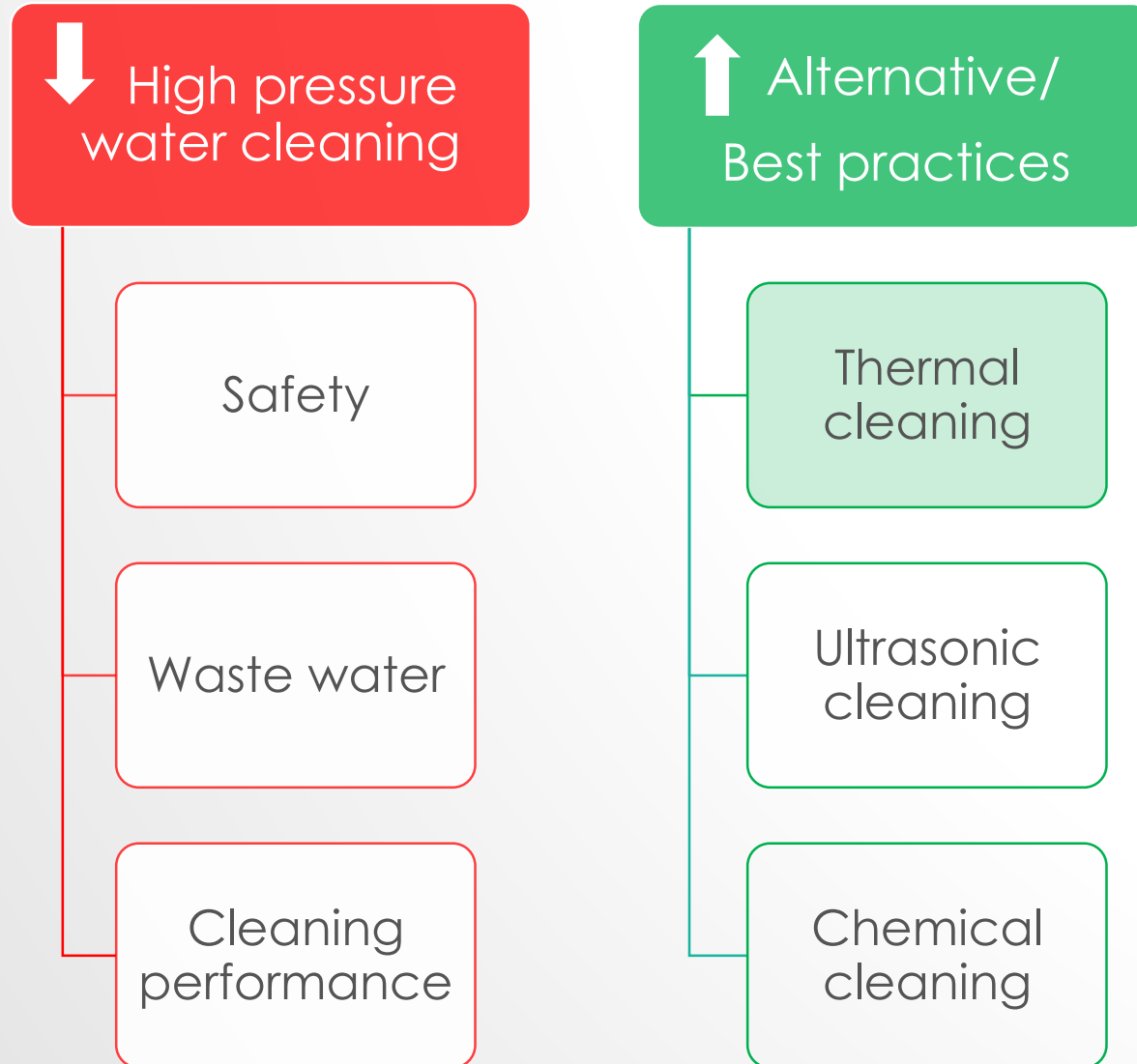


Choose the most efficient technology based on:

- Safety
- Dimensions
- Fouling
- Availability
- Cleanliness / Performance
- Waste
- On-site or not
- Costs / Savings
- Time
- Etc.

→ Goal: Prescribe the cleaning technology to use.

CLEANING POSSIBILITIES TOMORROW



LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

- A thermal conversion of organic materials in an oxygen-poor environment.
- At a temperature of 400-450°C, the organic materials are converted into smaller molecules.
- The macromolecules are decomposed, resulting in pyrolysis gases (ethane, ethene, propane, propylene), pyrolysis oil - which contains aromatic components - & a carbon-rich residue.
- The pyrolysis gas and oil are transformed into carbon dioxide and vapor, by means of partial oxidation.
- The gases released during this process are reused to decompose the organic material.

Thermal cleaning reduces 1 kilogram of fouling to only 50-100 grams of dust, which is easy to remove.

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

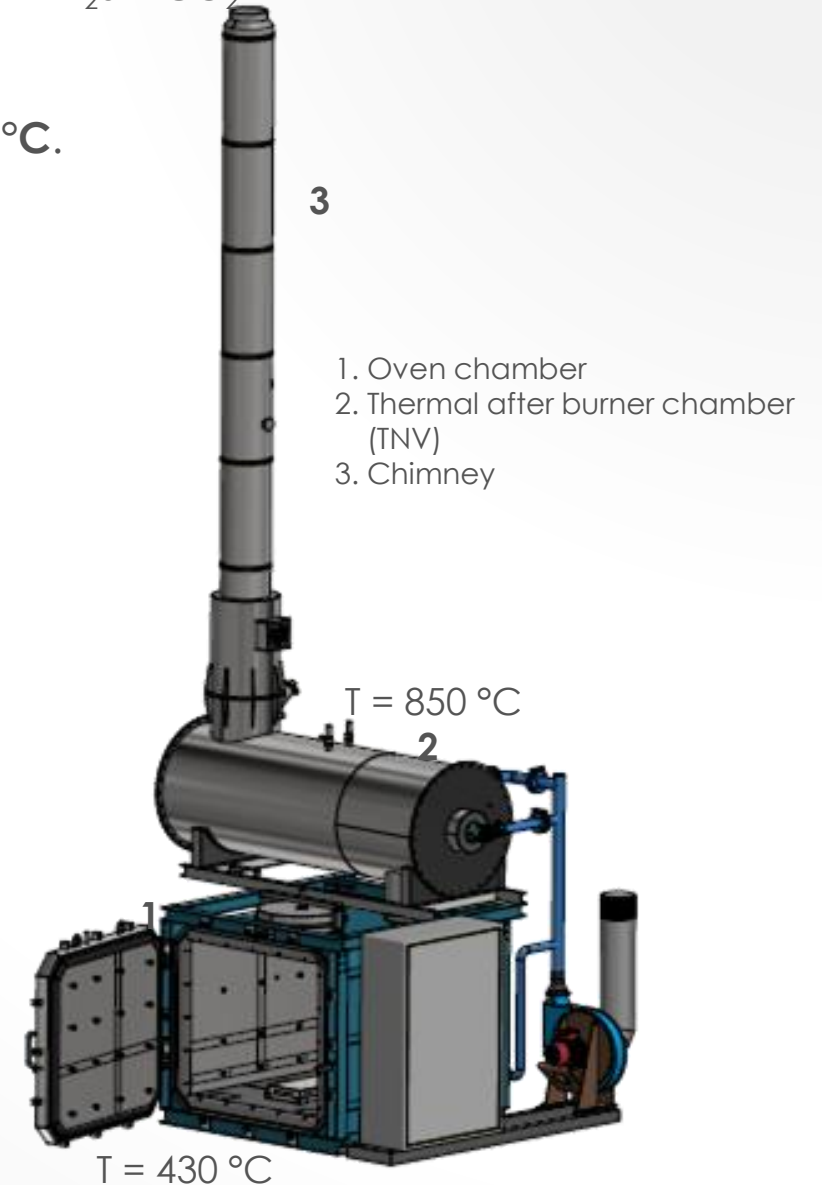
Exhaust = $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$

The process takes place at operating temperatures of approx. **430 °C**.



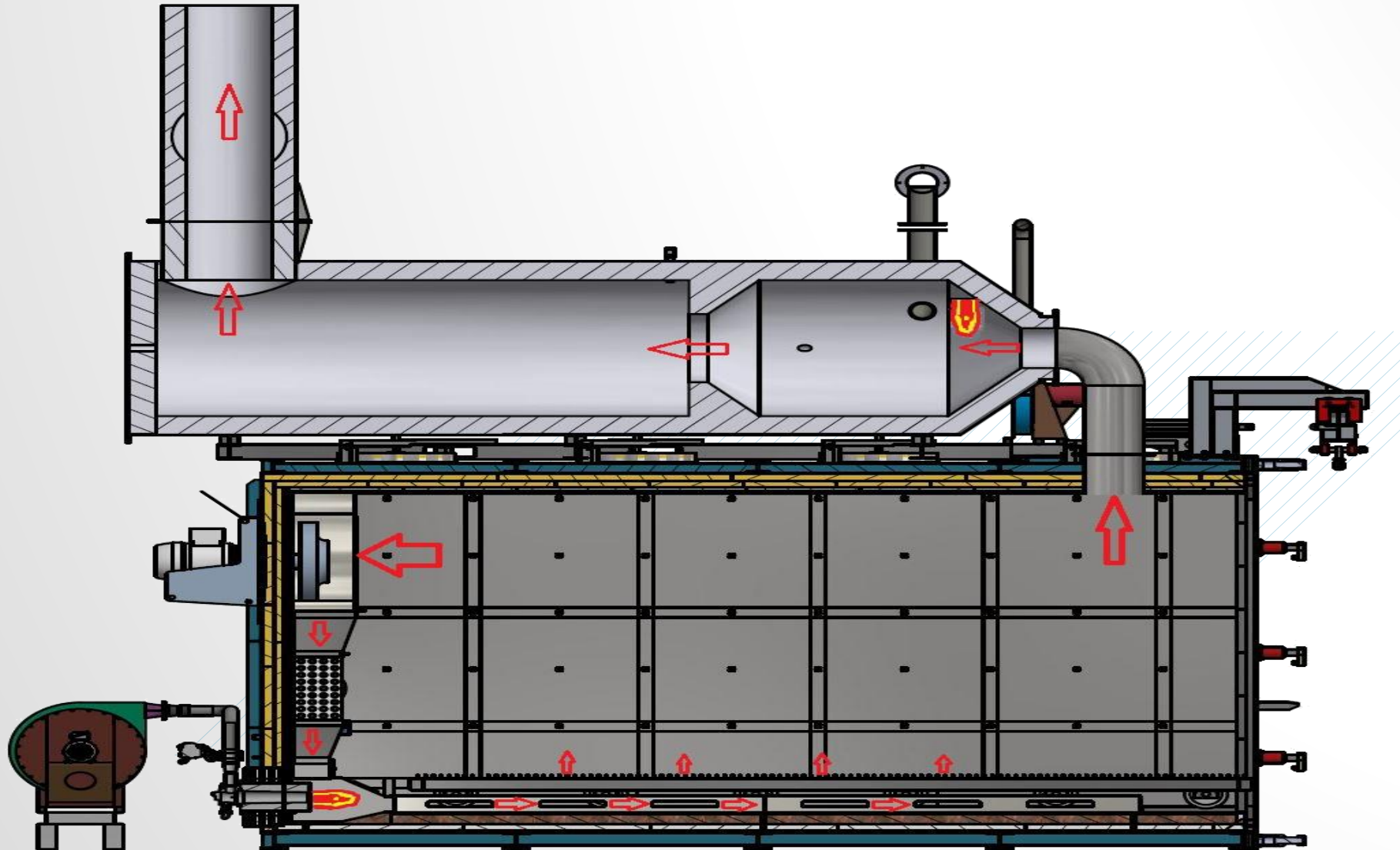
pyrolysis gas = $\text{H}_2 + \text{CO} + \text{CH}_4 + \text{C}_n\text{H}_m + \text{dust}$

1 kilogram of fouling (organic material) → 50-100 grams dust



LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

WORKING PRINCIPLE OF A PYROLYSIS OVEN



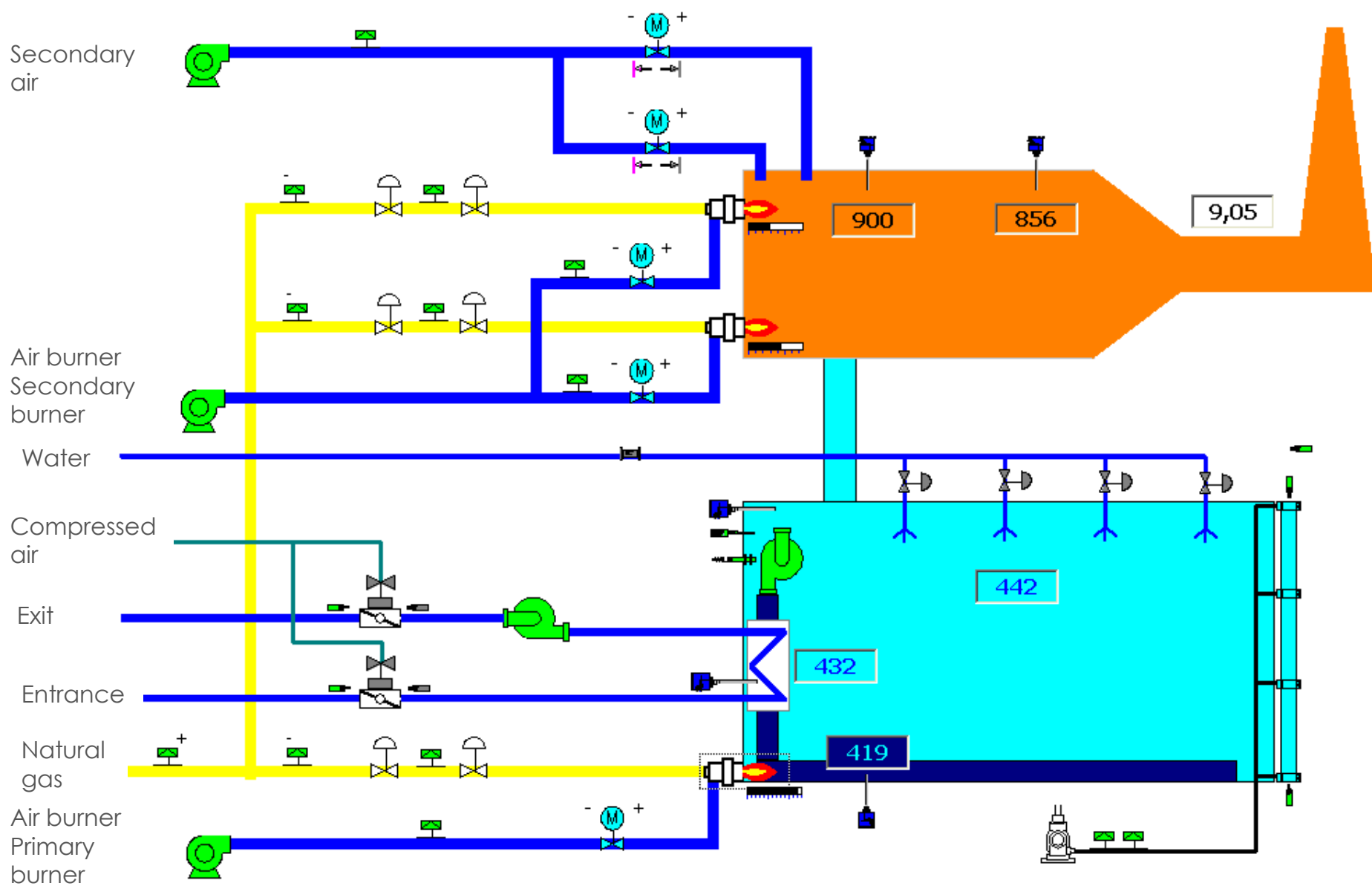
23/05/2006

THERMO-CLEAN

Wallonie-France Nord S.A. Four 3

Four en marche

11:29:16



Brûleur secondaire A3

00:09:28

Restzeit für den Anlauf der Anlage

Betriebszeit

12

0

0

0

+3277 °C

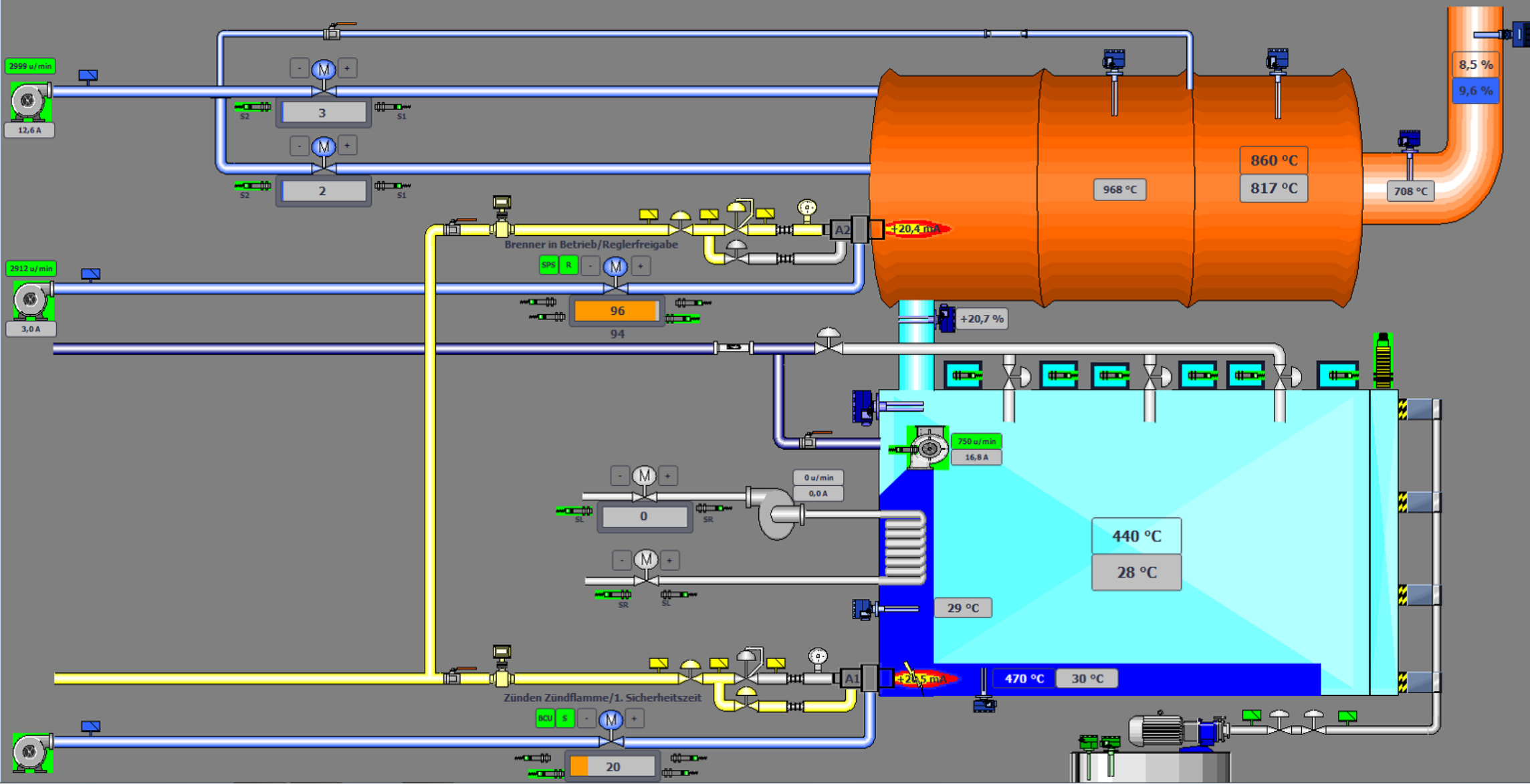
+3277 °C

+3277 °C

+3277 °C

+3277 °C

+3277 °C



LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

INSIDE OF A PYROLYSIS OVEN

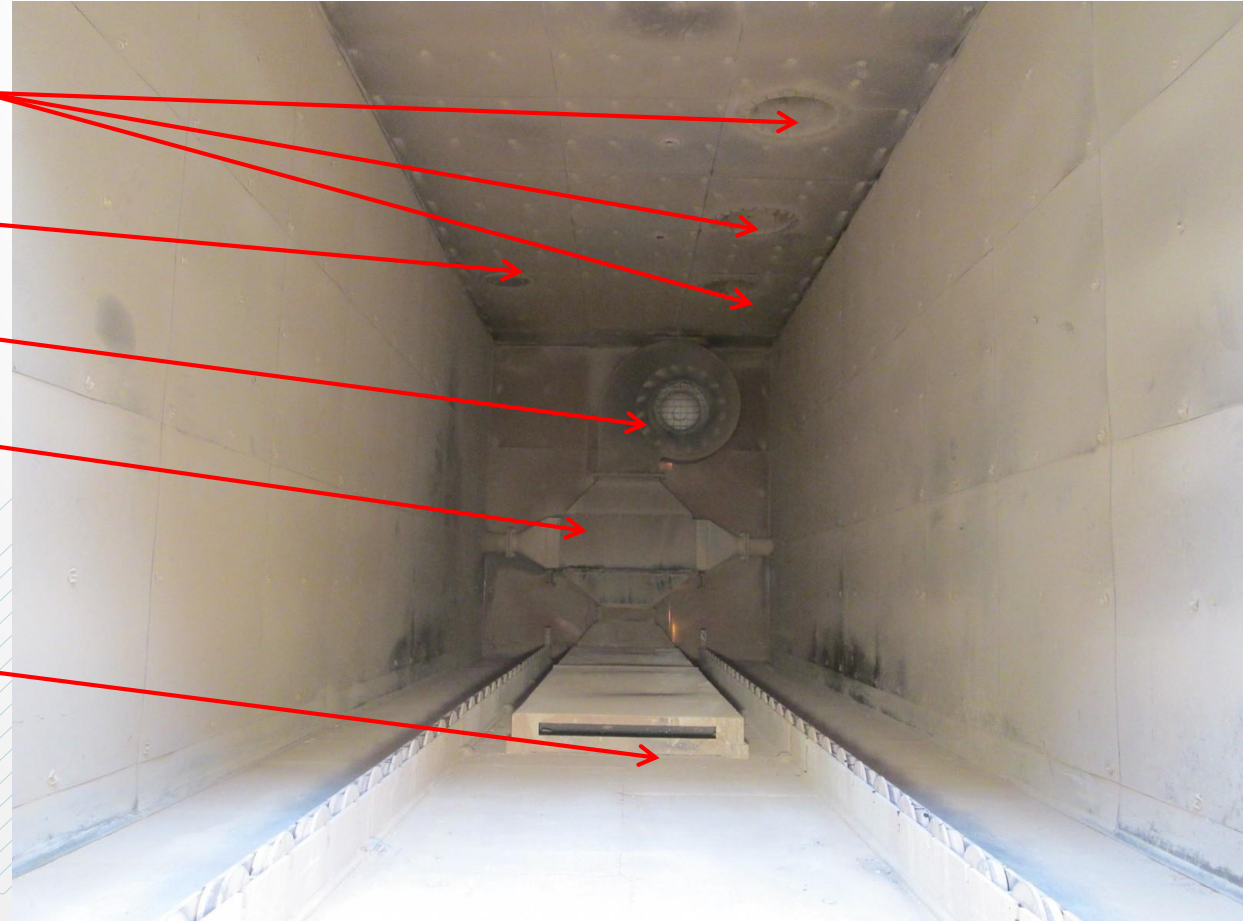
Pressure relief valves

Flue gases to
afterburner

Circulation fan

Heat exchanger

Air distribution



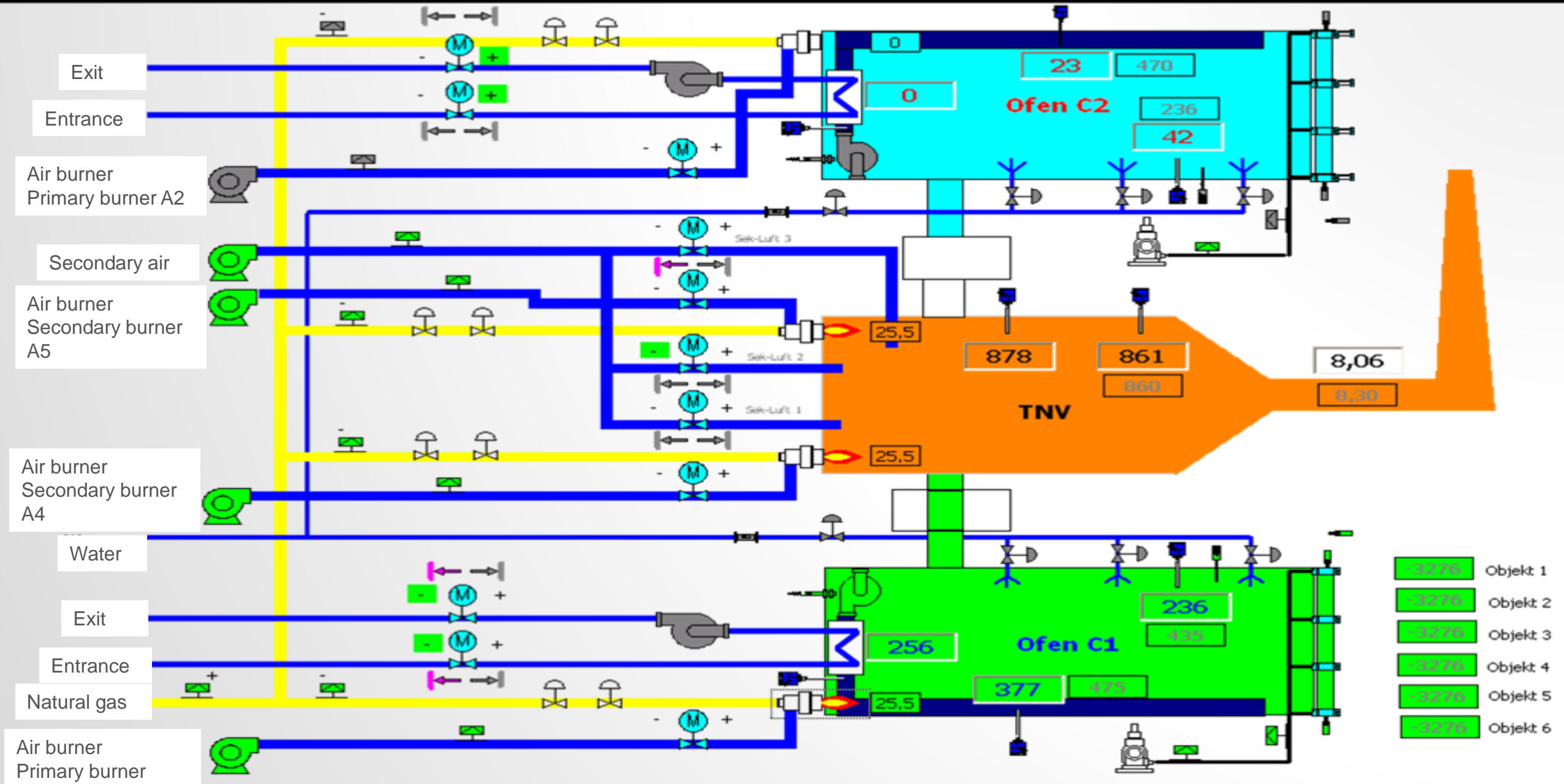
11.02.2013

Ofen C1
Anlage in Betrieb

TMC
Thüringen

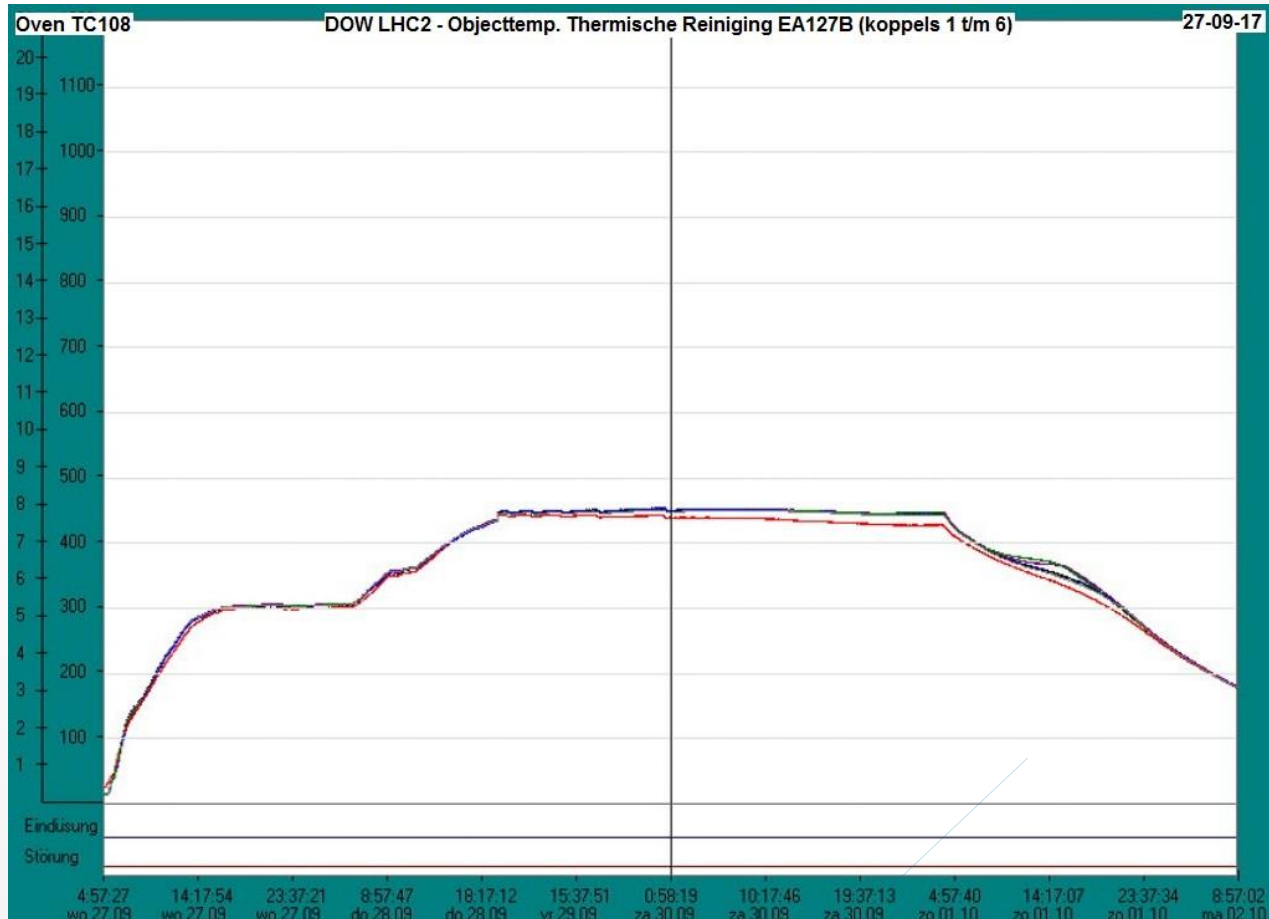
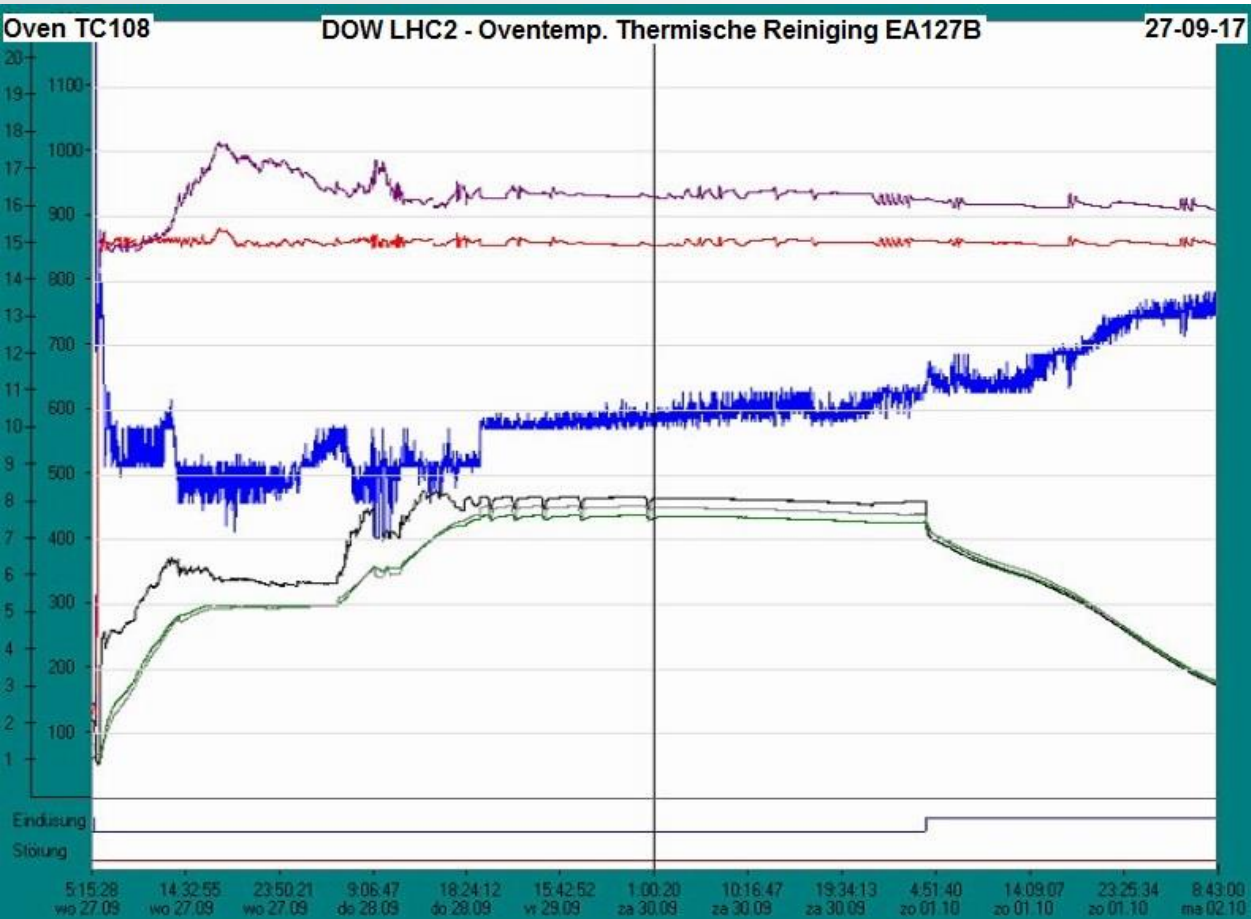
Ofen C2
Betrieb Ende

15:03:31



THERMAL CLEANING

EXAMPLE GRAPHS



Current data **Actual**Date 23/01/2018
Time 9:02:22

TNV-Austritt	852.8
TNV-Mitte	934.0
O2-Gehalt TNV	10.0
Primärbrenner	272.4
Ofen	35.6
Kanal	50.6
Eindüsung	0
Störung	0
Heizb. Klappe A01	100.0
Nachb. Klappe A11	93.2
TNV Klappe 1	1.8
TNV Klappe 2	2.7
Abluftklappe	0.0
O2-Gehalt Kamer	16.4
Nachb. Winkel luft...	0.0

	C*	Dt	C*
Objekt 1			327...
Objekt 2			327...
Objekt 3			327...
Objekt 4			327...
Objekt 5			327...
Objekt 6			327...
Ofen			0.0

Eindüsung **Off**Störung **Off**

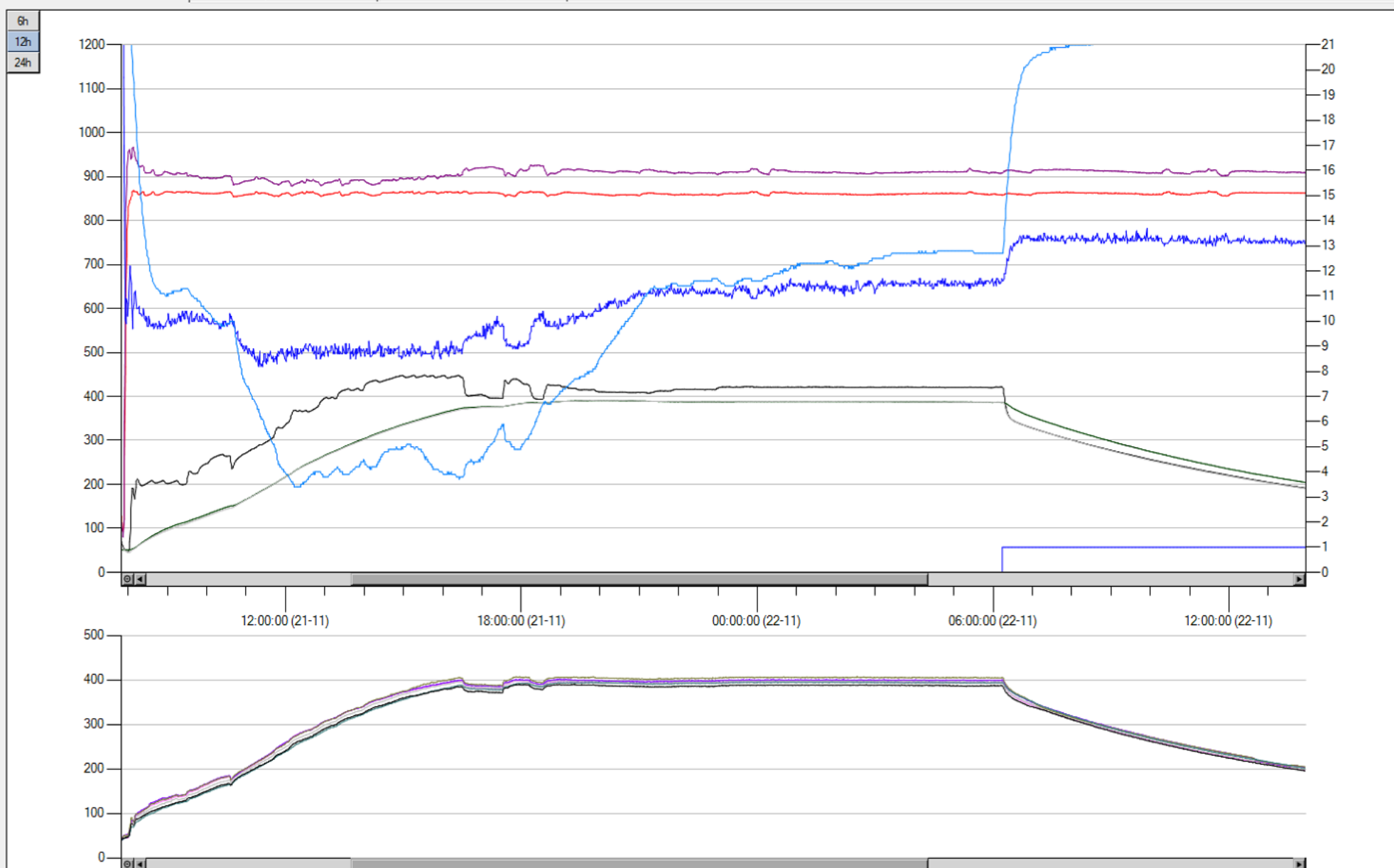
Settings

Print preview

Graphic

Object Alerts

Alarm History



Visible in graphic

Default 1 Default 2 Default 3

- ☒ TNV-Austritt
- ☒ TNV-Mitte
- ☒ O2-Gehalt TNV
- ☒ Primärbrenner
- ☒ Ofen
- ☒ Kanal
- ☒ Eindüsung
- ☒ Störung
- ☐ Heizb. Klappe A01
- ☐ Nachb. Klappe A11
- ☐ TNV Klappe 1
- ☐ TNV Klappe 2
- ☐ Abluftklappe
- ☒ O2-Gehalt Kamer
- ☐ Nachb. Winkel luftklappe

- ☒ Objekt 1
- ☒ Objekt 2
- ☒ Objekt 3
- ☒ Objekt 4
- ☒ Objekt 5
- ☒ Objekt 6

Selections

☐ Current data☒ Selection date/time

From 20/11/2017 21:01

Till 23/11/2017 09:01

Show selection

Alerts

☒

Timeout 60 seconds

Reset

Comment

Current data Actual

Date 22-01-2018
Time 22:39:00

TNV-Austritt	860,5
TNV-Mitte	909,7
O2-Gehalt TNV	10,4
Primärbrenner	457,2
Ofen	427,2
Kanal	429,7
Eindüsung	0
Störung	0
Heizb. Klappe A01	23,2
Nachb. Klappe A11	74,4
TNV Klappe 1	2,9
TNV Klappe 2	3,1
Abluftklappe	0,0
O2-Gehalt Kamer	11,3
Nachb. Winkel luft...	0,0

	C°	Dt	C°
Objekt 1			327...
Objekt 2			327...
Objekt 3			327...
Objekt 4			327...
Objekt 5			327...
Objekt 6			327...
Ofen			0,0

Eindüsung Off
Störung Off

Settings

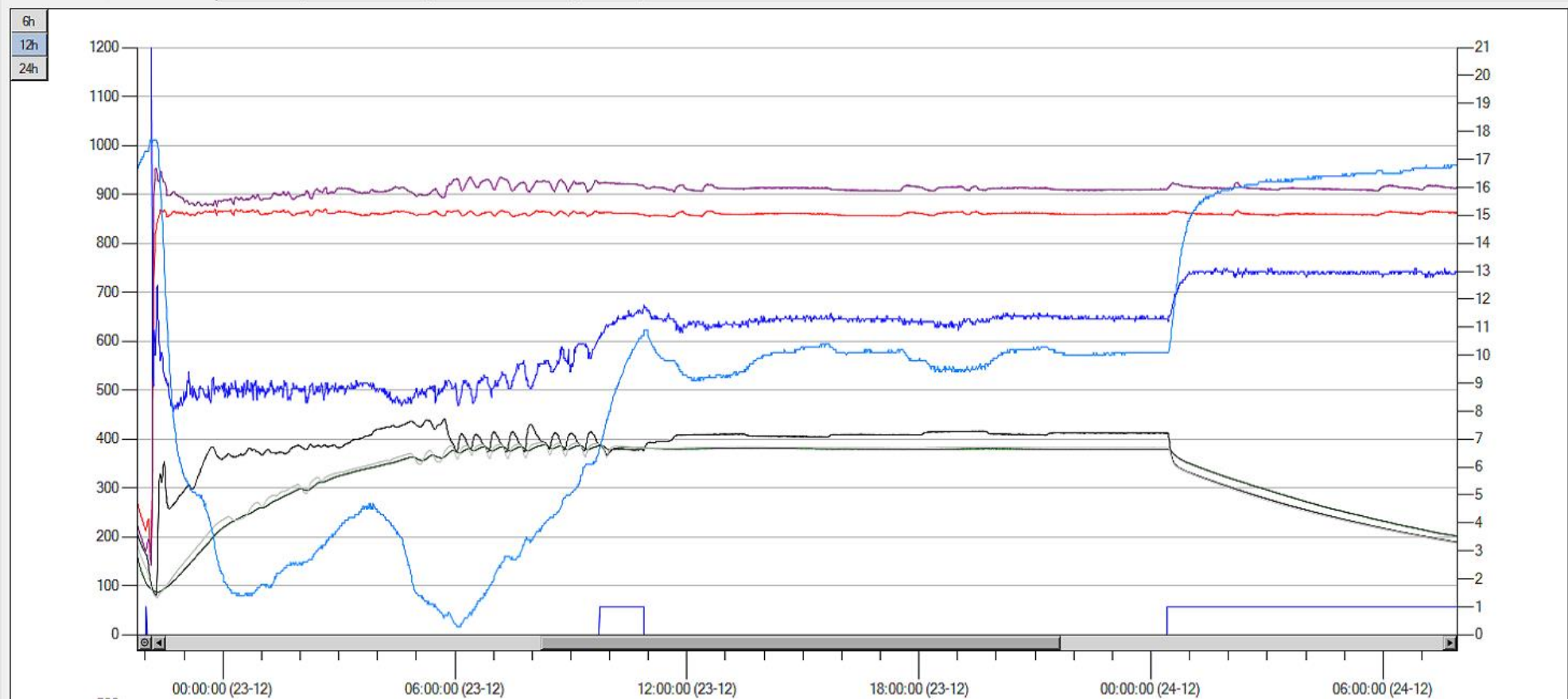
Print preview

Graphic

Object Alerts

Alarm History

6h
12h
24h



Visible in graphic

Default 1 Default 2 Default 3

- ☒ TNV-Austritt
- ☒ TNV-Mitte
- ☒ O2-Gehalt TNV
- ☒ Primärbrenner
- ☒ Ofen
- ☒ Kanal
- ☒ Eindüsung
- ☐ Störung
- ☐ Heizb. Klappe A01
- ☐ Nachb. Klappe A11
- ☐ TNV Klappe 1
- ☐ TNV Klappe 2
- ☐ Abluftklappe
- ☒ O2-Gehalt Kamer
- ☐ Nachb. Winkel luftklappe

- ☒ Objekt 1
- ☒ Objekt 2
- ☒ Objekt 3
- ☒ Objekt 4
- ☒ Objekt 5
- ☒ Objekt 6

Selections

☐ Current data

☒ Selection date/time

From 21/12/2017 21:04

Till 25/12/2017 09:04

Show selection

Alerts

☒ On Timeout 60 seconds Reset

Comment

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

CLEANING STEPS



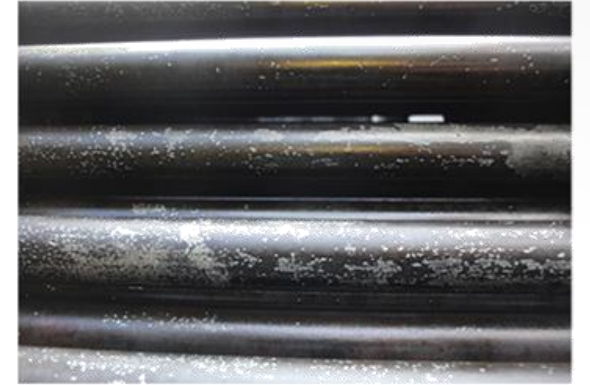
BEFORE THERMAL CLEANING



AFTER THERMAL CLEANING



+/- 1 HOUR HP CLEANING



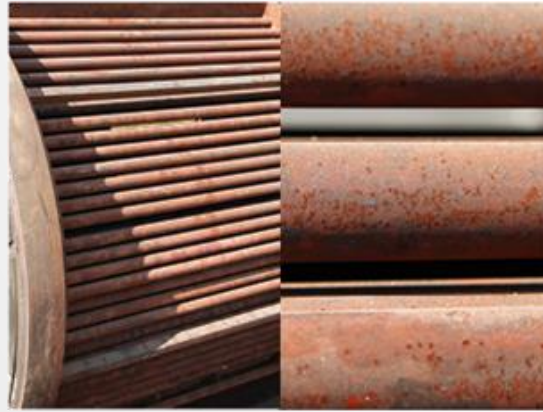
FINAL RESULT

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

THERMAL CLEANING MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO CLEAN EVERYWHERE!



INSIDE TUBES



AROUND TUBES



BETWEEN TUBES & SHELL



INSIDE TUBES WITH STATIC MIXERS

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

PREPARING FOR THE THERMAL CLEANING



Very important:

- To place the heat exchanger properly in the oven
- To place the thermocouples on the right spot to have reliable measurements



LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

WHICH KIND OF FOULING?

- All organic or partially organic fouling can be removed thermally.
- Lime deposit can become more brittle by thermal cleaning and then removed by HP after-treatment (not always!).
- Attention! Compounds such as sulphur, chlorine, fluorine...

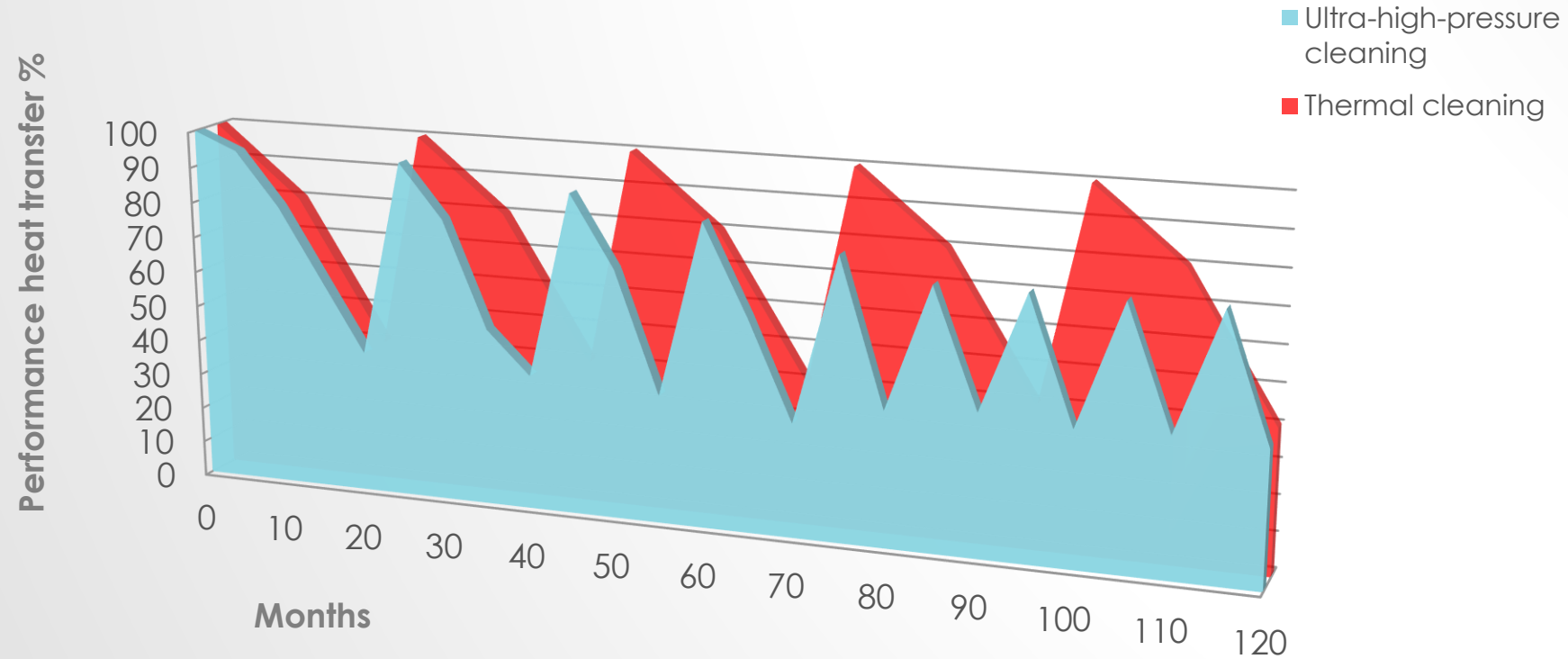
LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

COMPARISON ULTRA-HIGH-PRESSURE ~ THERMAL

	Ultra-high-pressure	Thermal + HP after-cleaning
Typical cleaning results	65-75%	95-100%
Water consumption	50,000-500,000 L	Max. 10,000 L
Risk level	High risk of injury (manual)	Very low risk of injury
Time	4-16 hours, sometimes 1-2 weeks	12-100 hours
Capacity	1 pc.	Possible to clean several pieces simultaneously.
Effective for all types of fouling	Not effective for many contaminants (e.g. lime and hardened plastics are difficult).	Yes. Almost all (organic) contaminants can be removed.
Waste (Water & original fouling)	100% used water+ 100% fouling. Chemical waste.	1%. Is collected.

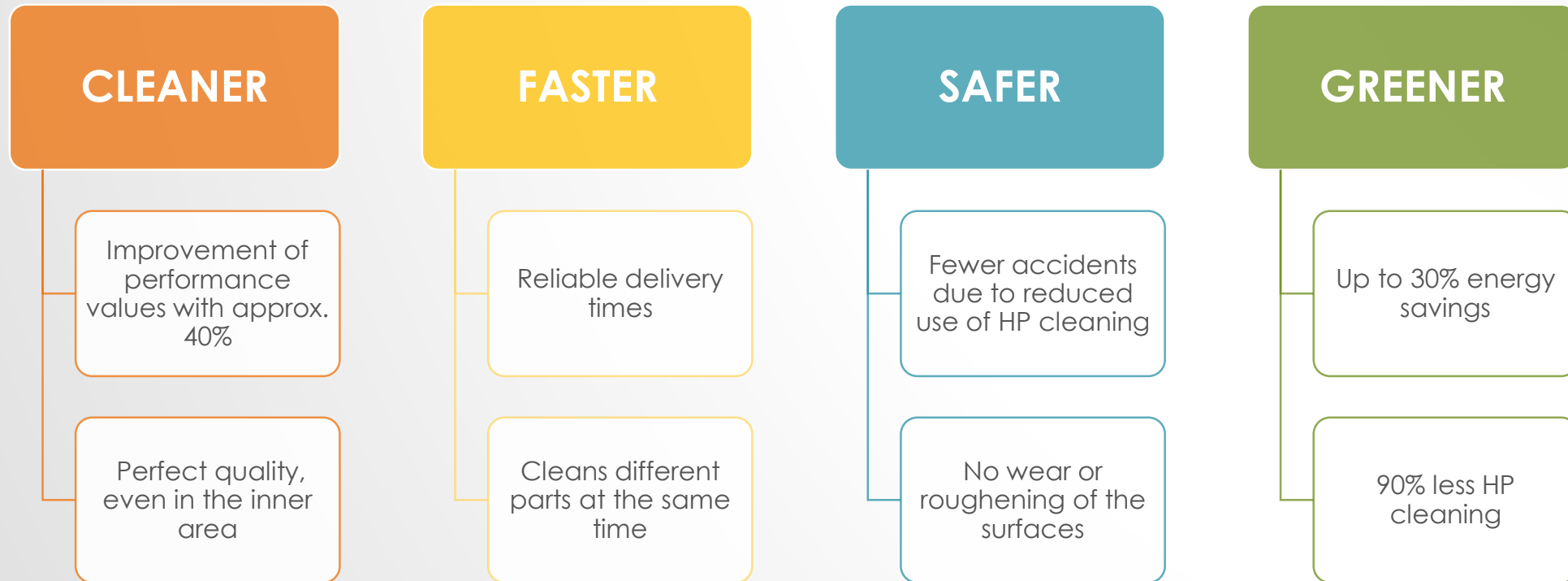
LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

COMPARISON OF FREQUENCY ULTRA-HIGH-PRESSURE ~ THERMAL



LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

ADVANTAGES OF THERMAL CLEANING



**Improved cleaning = Less frequent cleaning
→ Lower operating costs!**

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

DISADVANTAGES OF THERMAL CLEANING



LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

OPTIMAL RESULTS BY COMBINING PROCEDURES



LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE TWO CLEANING TECHNOLOGIES

	High pressure water cleaning	Thermal cleaning + HP after-cleaning
Hourly rate	€€€	€€€€€
Water	€€€	€
Waste water	€€€€€	€
Location	€€	-
Safety engineer from customer	€	-
Lifting costs	€€	€
Transportation costs	€	€€€

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING

- A good preparation of the thermal cleaning is needed.

Your supplier needs:

the weight, type & degree of fouling, dimensions, drawings, materials used to build the exchanger, restrictions of the manufacturer (if available), ...

- Due to steady cleaning cycles, a determined cleaning schedule is possible.
- Duplex and Monel heat exchangers can be cleaned by means of special cleaning programs.
- Some foulings can be cracked or removed at lower temperatures.

→ This cleaning technology is suitable for all equipment fouled with organic or partly organic fouling.

EXAMPLES OF THERMAL CLEANING

U-BUNDLE





Dust particles after
the thermal removal
of a cokes layer
coming from a
cracking unit.



After conventional cleaning the weight was **15,645 kg.**

After thermal cleaning the weight was **14,505 kg.**



So removed by thermal cleaning:
1,140 kg.

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING



These bundles were already cleaned by HP technology and declared clean!

Before thermal cleaning:
6,228 kg.



After thermal cleaning & rinsing:
6,065 kg.

Conclusion:
Thermal cleaning removed
another **163 kg** after being
declared clean!

LOW OXYGEN THERMAL CLEANING



These bundles were also cleaned by HP technology and declared clean!

The removal of the remaining residue has led to significantly longer running times and energy savings!





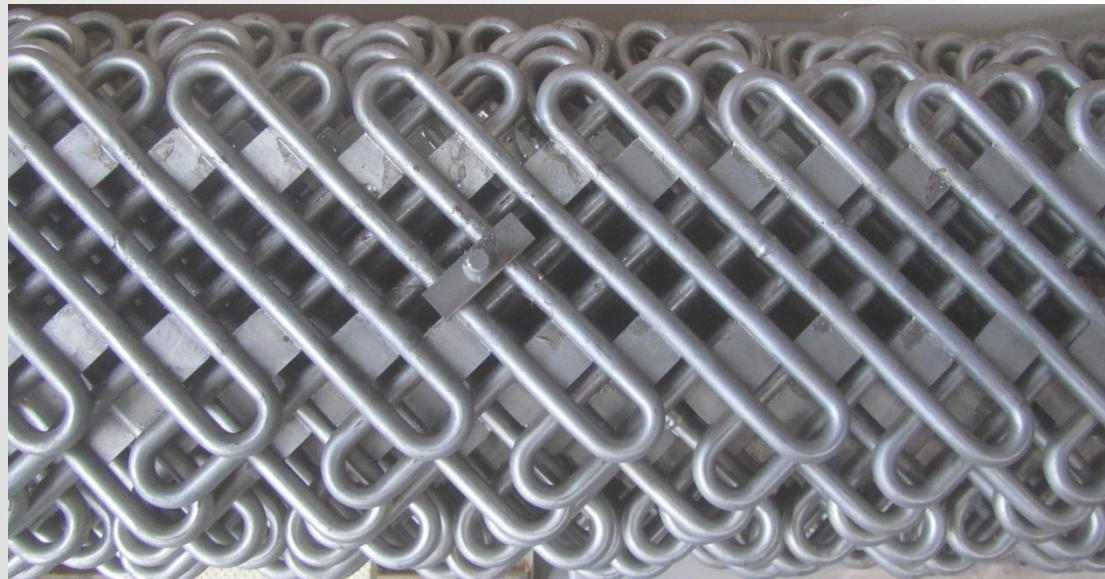
Special bags to transport the fouled heat exchanger in a safe way to avoid possible effluent leaking out.

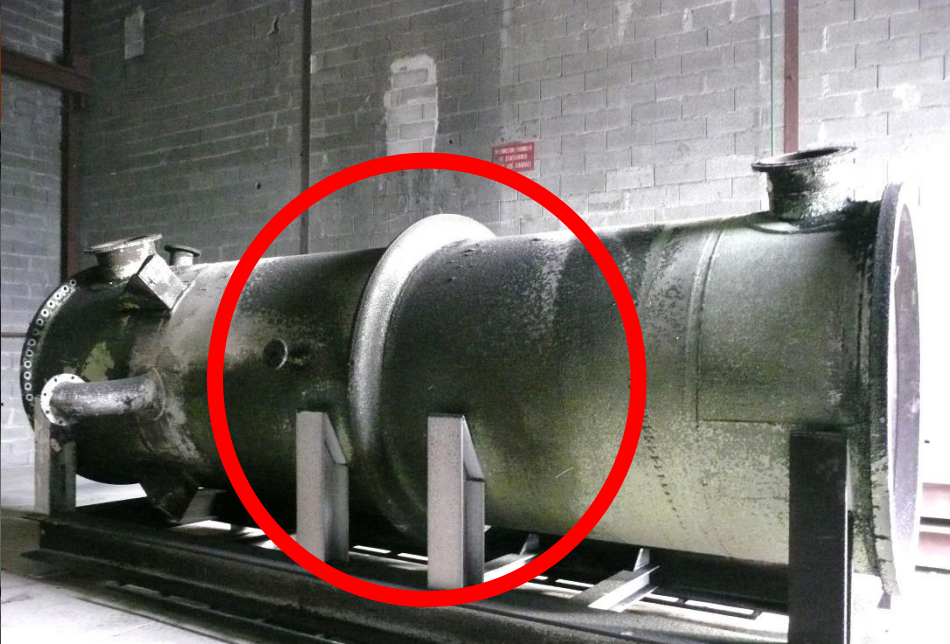
DIFFERENT TYPES

STRAIGHT BUNDLES



DIFFERENT TYPES





total weight 23 T; 3,300 kg fouling between tubes & shell

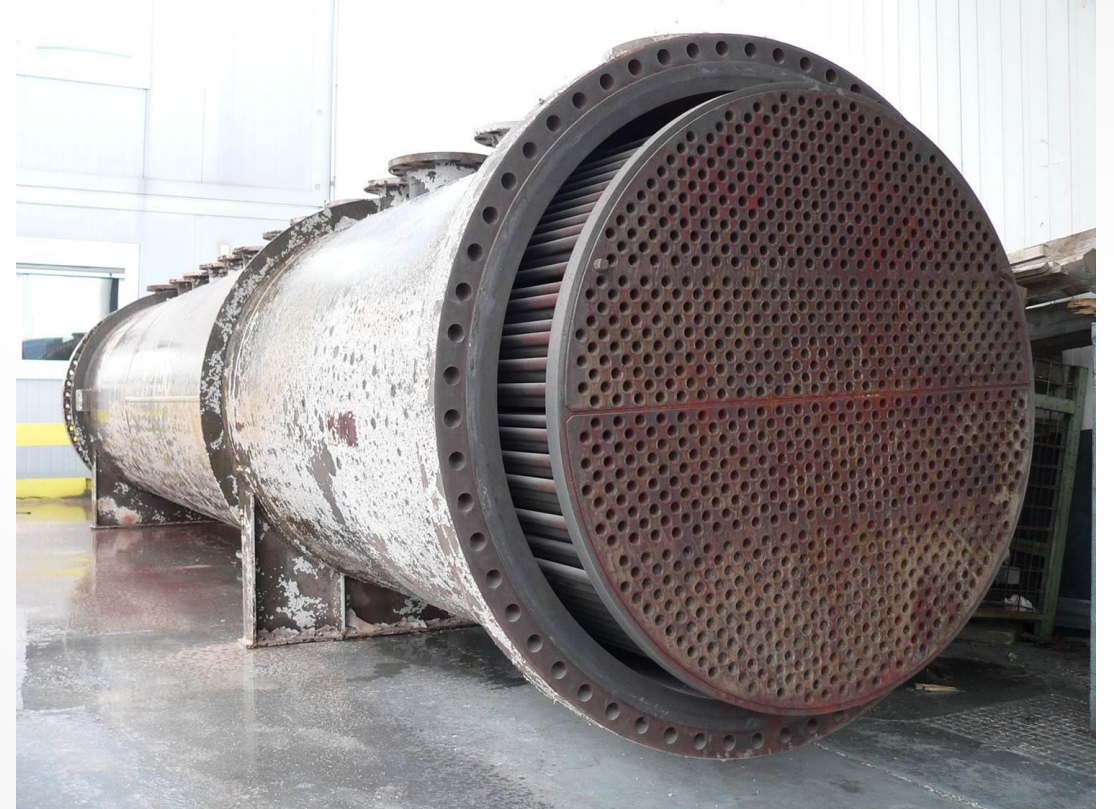


Important:

To support the exchanger before & during thermal cleaning to avoid deformation due to strength loss at 400°C.

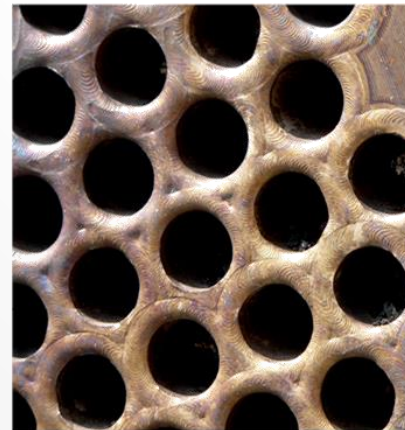
DIFFERENT TYPES

WITH FIXED HOUSINGS



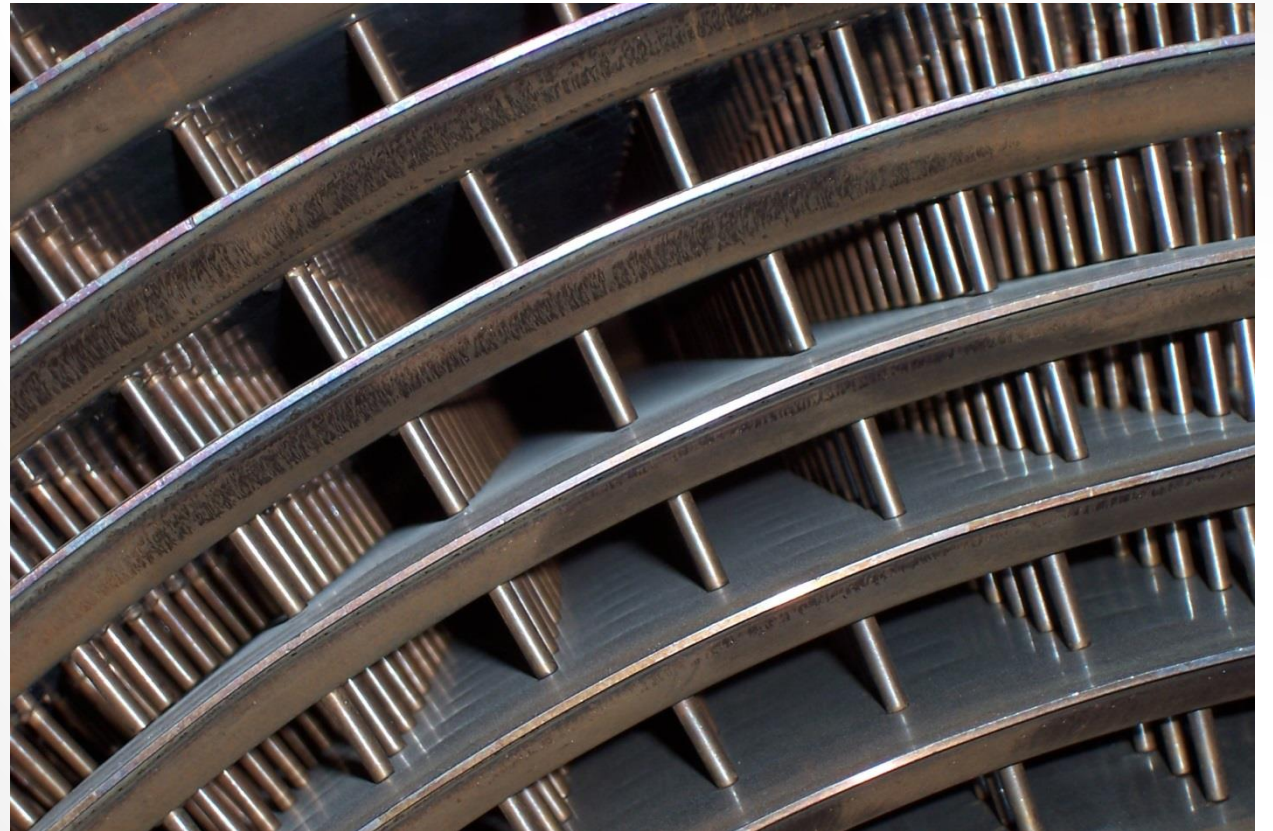
DIFFERENT TYPES

WITH FIXED STATIC MIXERS



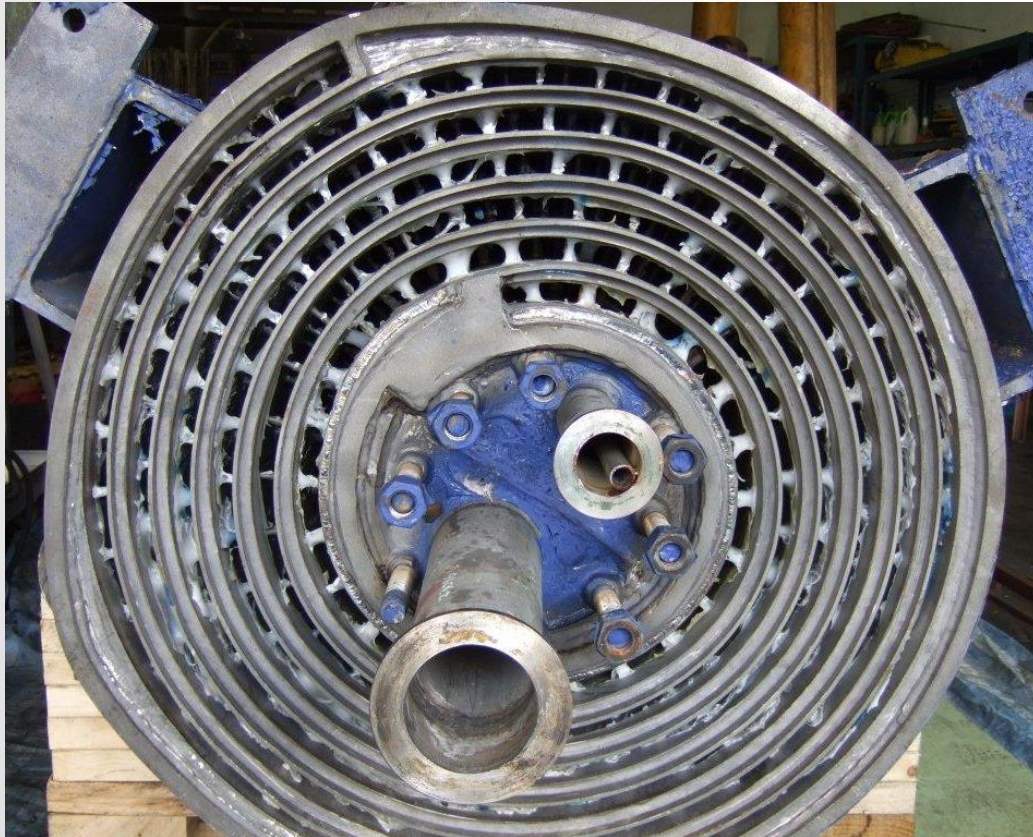
DIFFERENT TYPES

SPIRAL HEAT EXCHANGER



DIFFERENT TYPES

SPIRAL HEAT EXCHANGER



DIFFERENT TYPES

COMPABLOCS



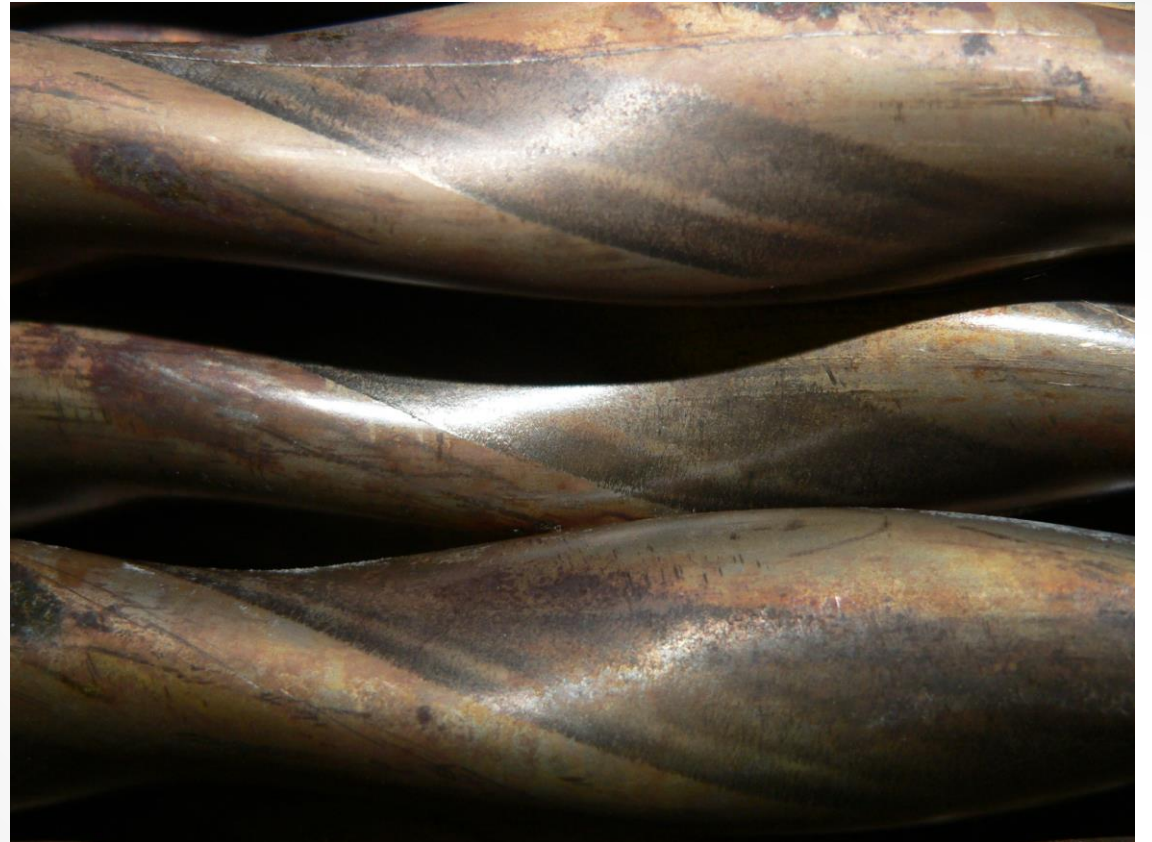
DIFFERENT TYPES

REACTOR WITH
HEAT EXCHANGER



DIFFERENT TYPES

WITH TWISTED TUBES

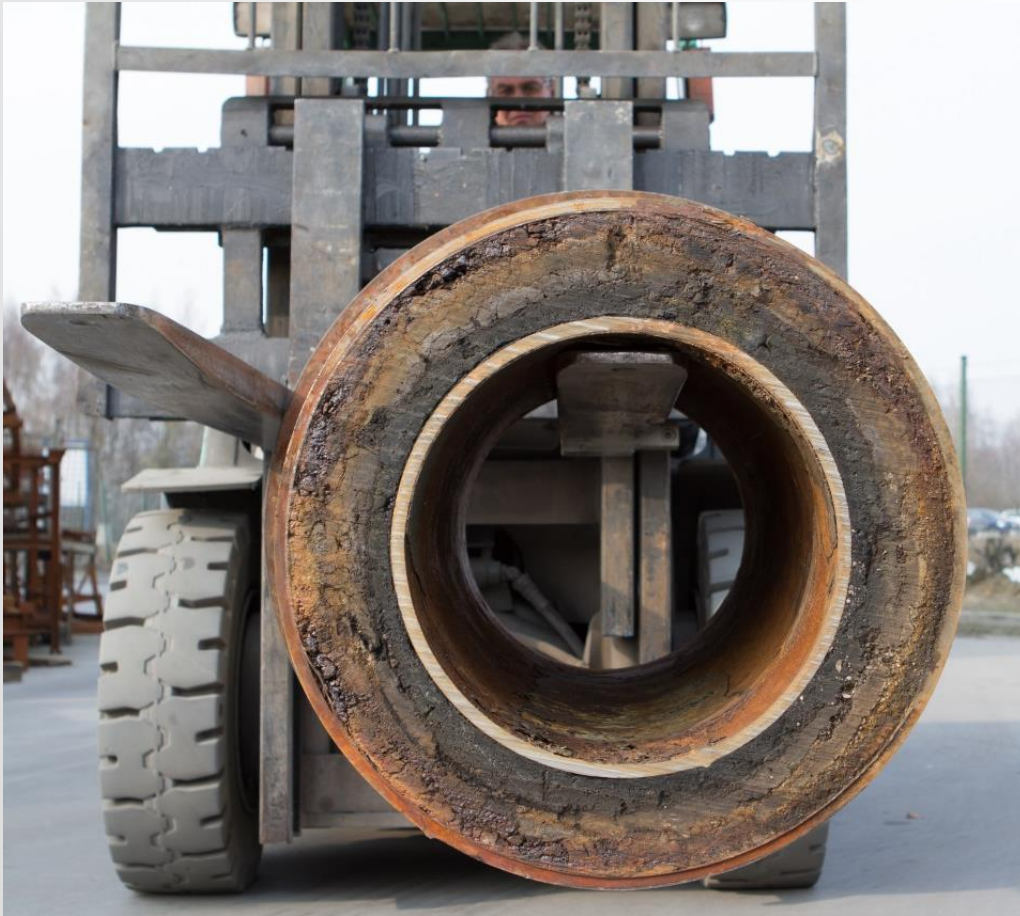


EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER



EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

SULPHUR CONCRETE REMOVAL



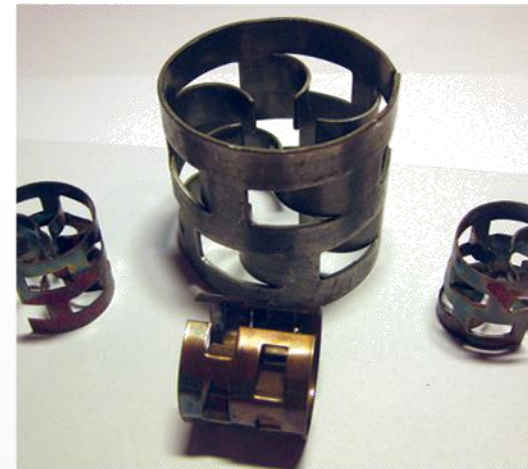
OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

CATALYST CLEANING



OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

CLEANING RASHIG RINGS

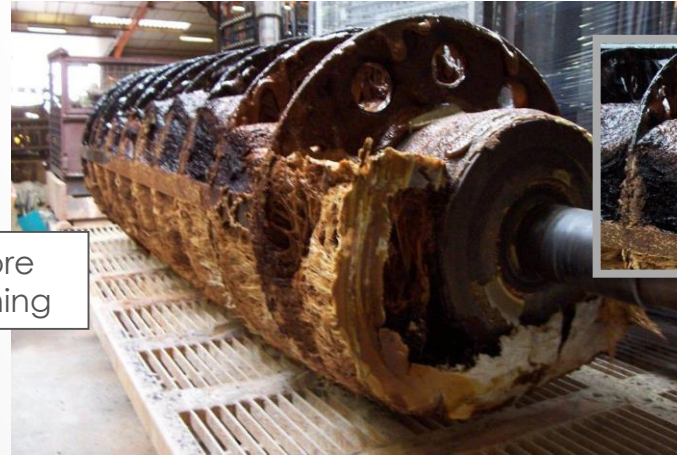


OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

REACTOR PARTS



before
cleaning



after
cleaning



OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

REACTOR PARTS



At the customer's premises



At Thermo-Clean

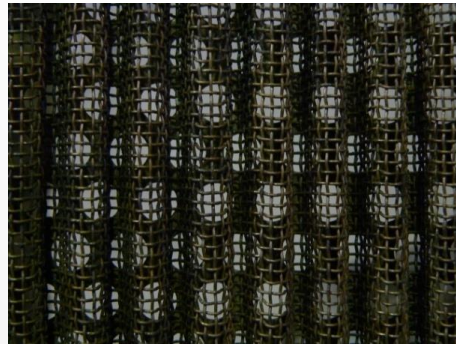
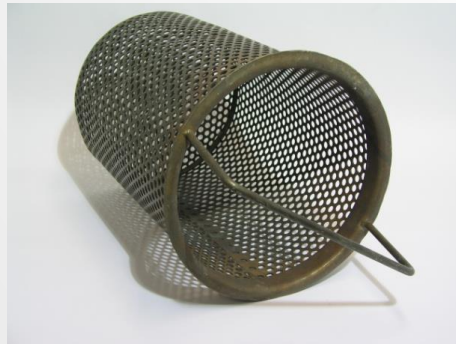
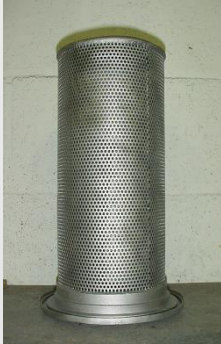


Cleaning in 2 phases:

- Melt off: -90% of the fouling
- Thermal cleaning as after-cleaning

OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

VARIOUS METAL FILTERS



OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

DEMISTERS



before
cleaning



after
cleaning

OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

FLAME ARRESTORS



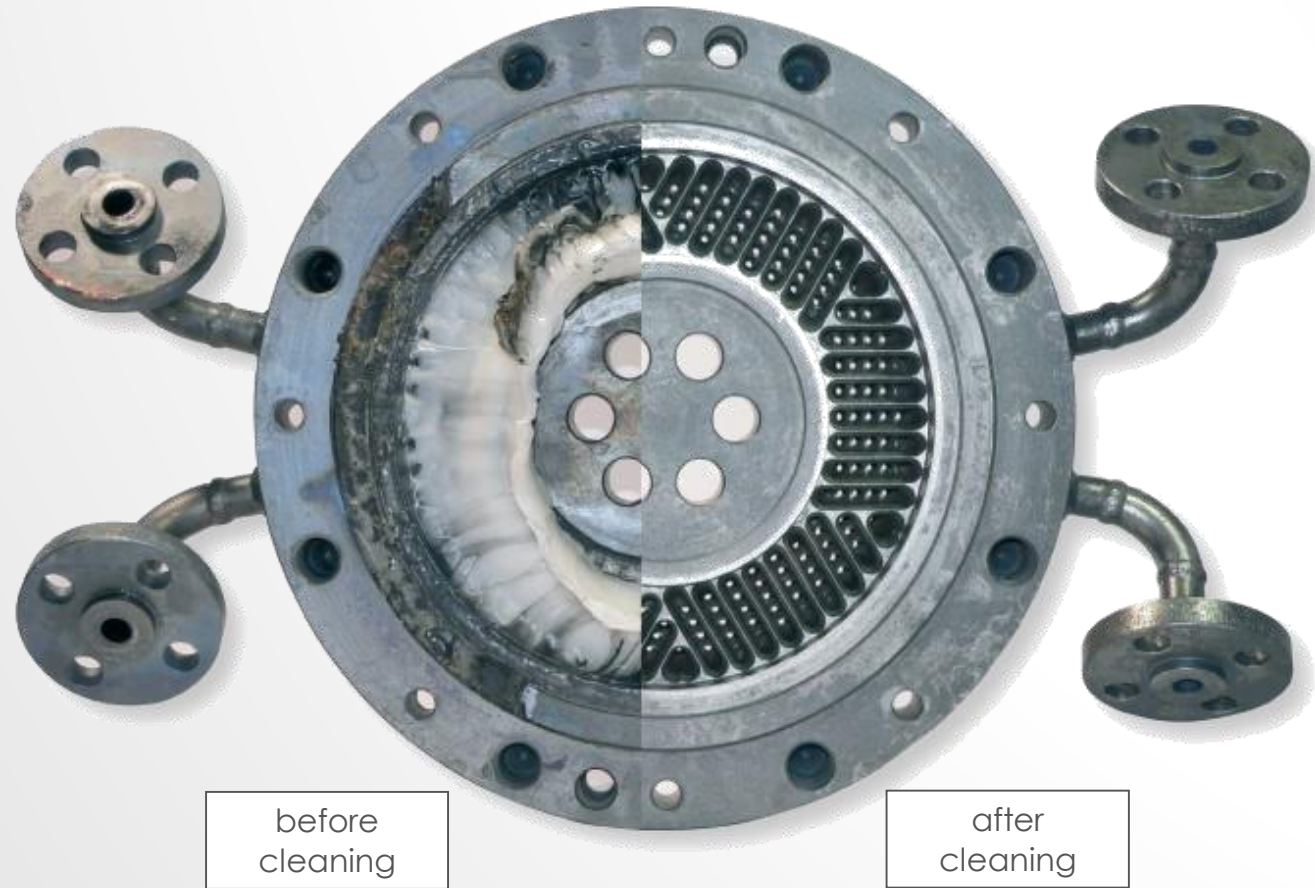
OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

MATERIAL OUT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY



OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

DIE PLATE CLEANING



thermal cleaning and
wet glass bead blasting

OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

PUMPS & HOUSINGS



before
cleaning



after
cleaning



OTHER EXAMPLES BEFORE & AFTER

RUBBER REMOVAL



WHAT CAN BE CLEANED?

SOME EXAMPLES

- Heat exchangers with fouling in & or between tubes;
- Heat exchangers with fixed shell & fouling between tubes & shell;
- Compablocs, heat exchanger plates, spiral heat exchangers;
- Vane decks, demisters, mellow packs;
- Pipe work (also with static mixers);
- Extruder screws & parts;
- Polymer & refinery pumps;
- Flame arrestors, sieve packs, valves;
- Filters, spin packs, die plates, hot runners...

REFERENCES FROM THE PLASTICS & REFINERY INDUSTRY

- BASF
- Borealis
- Covestro
(Bayer)
- Trinseo (Dow)
- DuPont
- ExxonMobil
- Rhodia
- Arkema
- BP
- Esso
- Lanxess
- Mineraloelraffinerie
Oberrhein
- Q8
- Raffinerie Heide
- Sabic
- Total Polymers
- Lanxess
- Shell
- Total Additifs
Carburants
- Total Petrochemicals