

Desalination using the PBMR DPP as heat source

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Outline



- **Introduction**
 - Water Scarcity
 - Desalination
- **PBMR**
- **Desalination Overview**
 - Multistage Flash Distillation (MSF)
 - Multi Effect Distillation (MED)
 - Reverse Osmosis (RO)
- **Desalination with the PBMR Demonstration Power Plant (DPP)**
 - Multi Effect Distillation (MED)
 - Reverse Osmosis (RO)
- **Challenges**
- **Summary**

Introduction - Water Scarcity



- **Fresh water is a key element to all societies**

- Agricultural use
- Drinking water
- Process water for industrial use



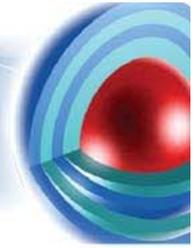
- **World wide limitations in the availability of fresh water**

- 97.5% of all water is represented by the oceans
- Bulk of the remaining 2.5% is locked up in the ice caps
- Less than 1% is available for human use
- It is forecasted that two thirds of world population will face water shortages by 2025

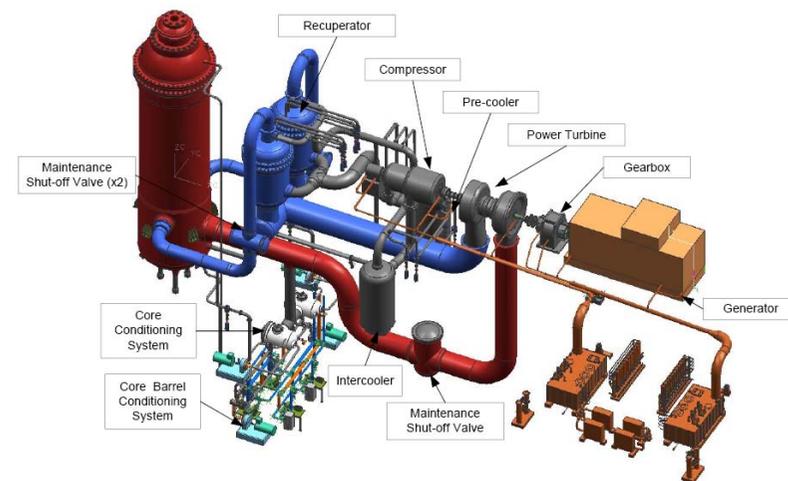
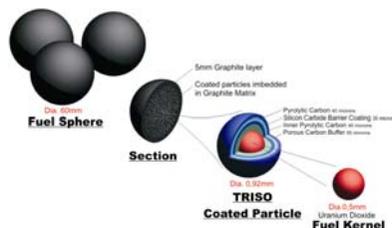


- A total of approximately 34 million m³/day of desalted water is produced by 12,500 plants world wide
- Capacity is increasing annually by 1 million m³/day
- Most of the existing plants use fossil energy sources
- Interest in nuclear desalination has grown worldwide in the past decade for a variety of reasons:
 - Increased water scarcity
 - Economic competitiveness
 - Energy supply diversification
 - Environmental protection – carbon emissions
- **No commercial HTR desalination plant exist**
- **PBMR DPP very well suited for desalination**

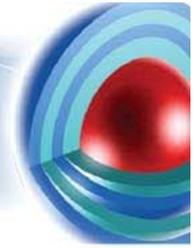




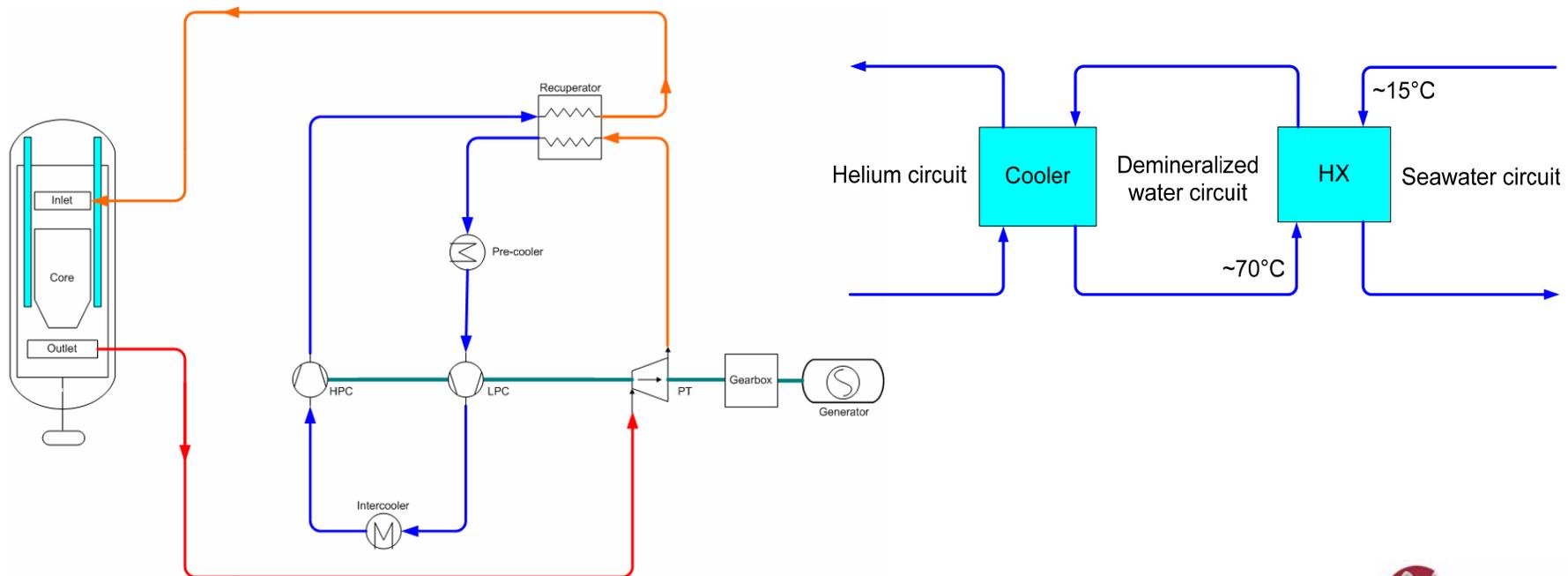
- South Africa, Western Cape, Koeberg
- Construction starts during 2008
- Commissioning 2012/13
- 400 MWt (900°C ROT)
- 165 MWe
- $\eta = \sim 41\%$
- German based fuel design
- Helium as working fluid
- Direct recuperative Brayton cycle



TOP-WORD



- PBMR DPP pre-cooler and inter-cooler reject ~220 MWt of waste heat at ~70°C (suited for thermal desalination)
- LWRs reject waste heat at ~35°C (not suited for thermal desalination)





Current status of desalination



- **Thermal desalination**

- Multistage Flash Distillation (MSF) (from 1950s)
- Multi Effect Distillation (MED) (from 1960s, gained wide acceptance during the 1990s)
- Vapor Compression (VC) (not common for large scale commercial applications)

- **Membrane Filtration**

- Reverse Osmosis (RO) (started to gain momentum during 1970s)
- Consumes electricity rather than heat
- Fastest growing desalination technology world-wide

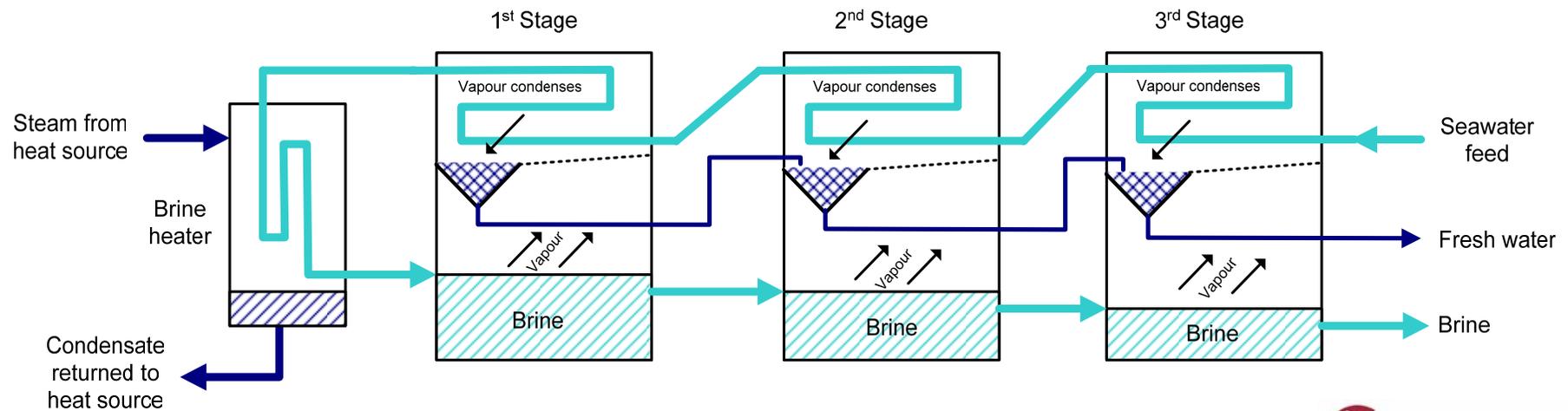
- **Nuclear desalination experience**

- Nuclear desalination plants in Japan and Kazakhstan operating for ~20 years
- Nuclear desalination experience exceeds 150 reactor-years with an exceptional safety record as of 2000



● Multistage Flash Distillation (MSF)

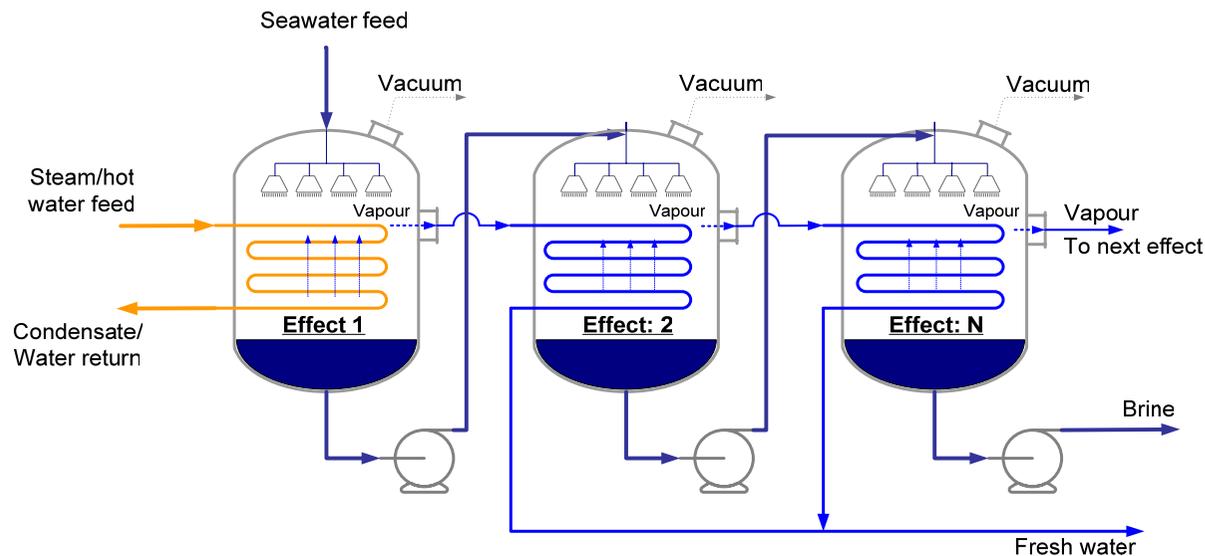
- Thermal driven process
- Leading thermal desalination process
- Proven technology
- Requires steam as heat source at $\sim 110^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Can produce water with 5-25 ppm TDS
- \$1,000 to \$3,000 per m^3/day installed capacity [1]
- Units of up to 60,000 m^3/day have been built





● Multi Effect Distillation (MED)

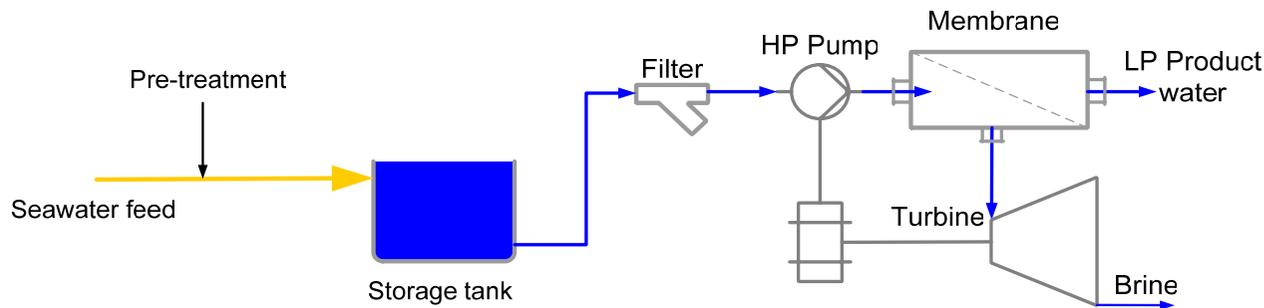
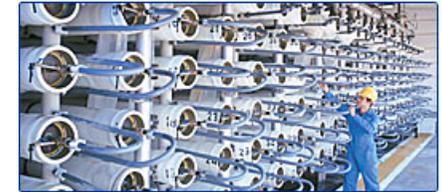
- Thermal driven process
- More efficient evaporation heat transfer than MSF
- Proven technology
- Requires low temperature steam/ hot water $\sim 65^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Can produce water with 5-25 ppm TDS
- \$900 to \$2,000 per m^3/day installed capacity [1]





● Reverse Osmosis (RO)

- Membrane separation process
- Uses electricity rather than heat (for high-pressure pumps 70-80 bar)
- Proven technology
- Requires stringent feed water pretreatment to prevent premature membrane fouling
- Large scale plant can recover 30-40% of the energy from high pressure reject brine by pelton wheels and hydro turbines
- RO plants with energy recovery requires 4-6 kWh/m³ product water
- Elevated feed water temperatures yield increased water flux per area of membrane
- Waste heat can be utilized to pre-heat RO feed water
- Can produce water with ~400 ppm TDS
- \$900 to \$1,700 per m³/day installed capacity [1]





Desalination for PBMR DPP - MSF



● Multistage Flash Distillation (MSF)

- Advantageous where heat is available as low temperature steam at 100-110°C
- Delivers product water with high levels of purity 5-25 ppm TDS from seawater containing 35,000 - 45,000 ppm TDS
- Requires extensive pre-treatment of feed water
- PBMR DPP rejects waste heat at lower temperature ~70°C
- MSF process therefore not ideally suited for coupling with the PBMR DPP



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Desalination for PBMR DPP - MED

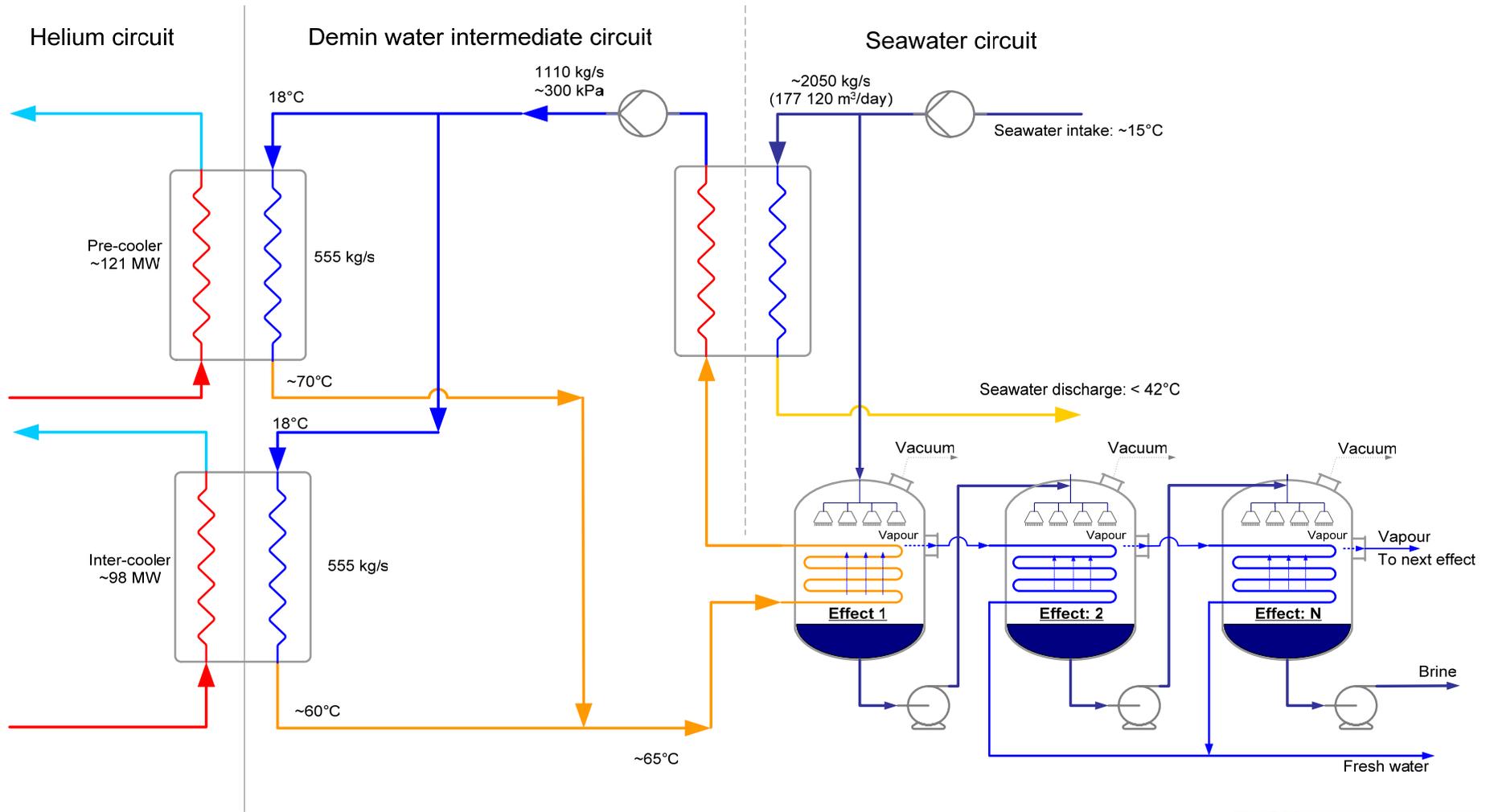


- **Multi Effect Distillation (MED)**

- Recently increased application around the world
- Uses 33% less electric energy than MSF process
- Delivers product water with high levels of purity 5-25 ppm TDS from seawater containing 35,000-45,000 ppm TDS
- In contrast with MSF, MED plants can operate at lower feed water temperatures of $\sim 65^{\circ}\text{C}$ (LT-MED)

- **LT-MED (Low Temperature MED)**

- PBMR DPP rejects heat at $\sim 70^{\circ}\text{C}$ through pre-cooler and intercooler
- LT-MED plant can be coupled to PBMR DPP with only minor modifications
- The amount of waste heat utilized by the LT-MED plant can be varied
- The ultimate heat sink of the PBMR DPP can reject any unutilized waste heat
- The pre-cooler rejects ~ 120 MWt at $\sim 70^{\circ}\text{C}$
- The inter-cooler rejects ~ 100 MWt at $\sim 60^{\circ}\text{C}$

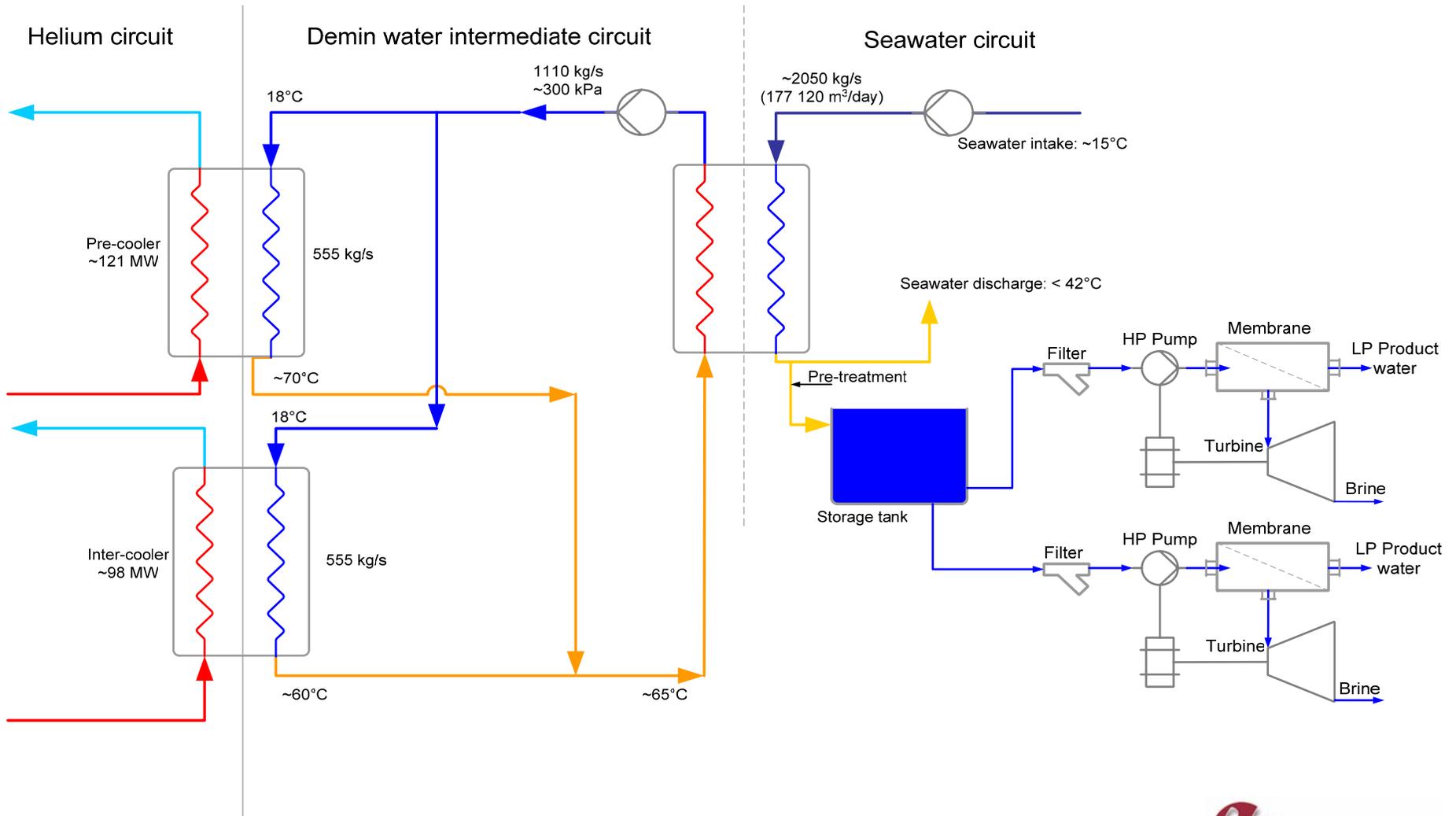




Desalination for PBMR DPP - RO



- **Fastest growing segment of the desalination market due to improved membrane performance and reduced manufacturing cost**
- **Rejected seawater can be used for RO feed water**
- **PBMR DPP provides the RO plant with the required electricity**
- **RO plant can consist of a number of modules, which can be expanded as the market for water grows**
- **RO plant with a 15,000 m³/day capacity would require ~3.8 MWe**
- **Almost no modifications required to PBMR DPP ultimate heat sink**



PBMR DPP with MED vs. RO



Performance indicator	MED (15,000 m ³ /day)	RO (15,000 m ³ /day)
Daily water sales	\$8,550	\$8,550
PBMR DPP electricity sales (based on 165 MWe)	\$95,040	\$95,040
Electricity sales lost	\$0	\$2,189
Capital cost	~M\$21.75	~M\$19.5
Additional revenue/day	\$8,550	\$6,361
Straight payback	7 years	8.4 years

Assumptions:

- Water production of 15,000 m³/day assumed
- RSA electricity price \$24/MWh (6% growth over the next 6 years)
- MED and RO capital cost assumed to be \$1450 and \$1300 per m³/day capacity, respectively
- Western Cape water sale price \$0.57/m³ (6% growth over the next 6 years)
- Straight payback does not include time value of money



Challenges



- **MED and RO options for the PBMR DPP remains to be assessed in terms of feed water pre-treatment requirements**
- **A detailed economic trade-off study needs to be performed to determine the best suited option**
- **The fresh water market in the surrounding areas of the Koeberg Nuclear Site needs to be assessed**
 - The market will have a significant influence on the choice of the desalination option
 - MED produces industrial quality water
 - RO produces lower quality fit for human use



Summary



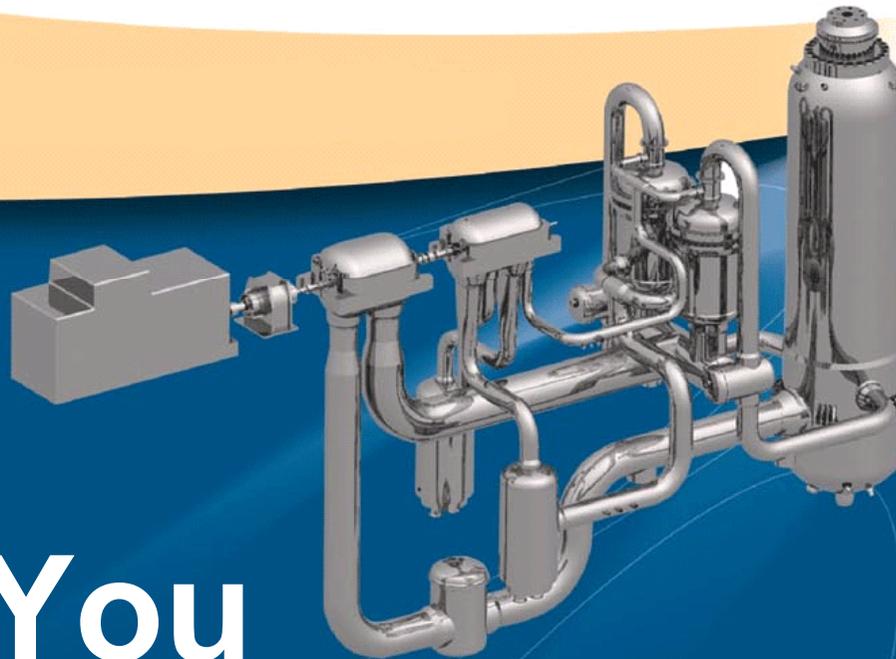
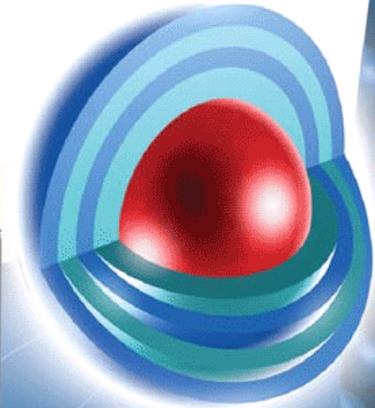
- **PBMR DPP can address water scarcity concerns through desalination**
- **MED and RO are mature and proven desalination technologies**
- **PBMR DPP waste heat is ideally suited for the LT-MED process**
- **LT-MED utilizing 220 MWt waste heat could produce 15,000-30,000 m³/day***
- **Rejected seawater can serve as pre-heated feed water for a RO plant**
- **Size of RO plant a function of electricity available for desalination**

*To be confirmed with detailed thermal-hydraulic model and economic evaluation





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Thank You