



THE FUTURE OF COGENERATION

Future-proof business models for cogeneration

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Prepared for the future?

2007

E.On decides to build two CCGT blocks in Bavaria



Irsching Power Plant, Bavaria

2011

Inauguration

2015

Decision to close

Highest efficiency did not help. Why?

60.75% (net)

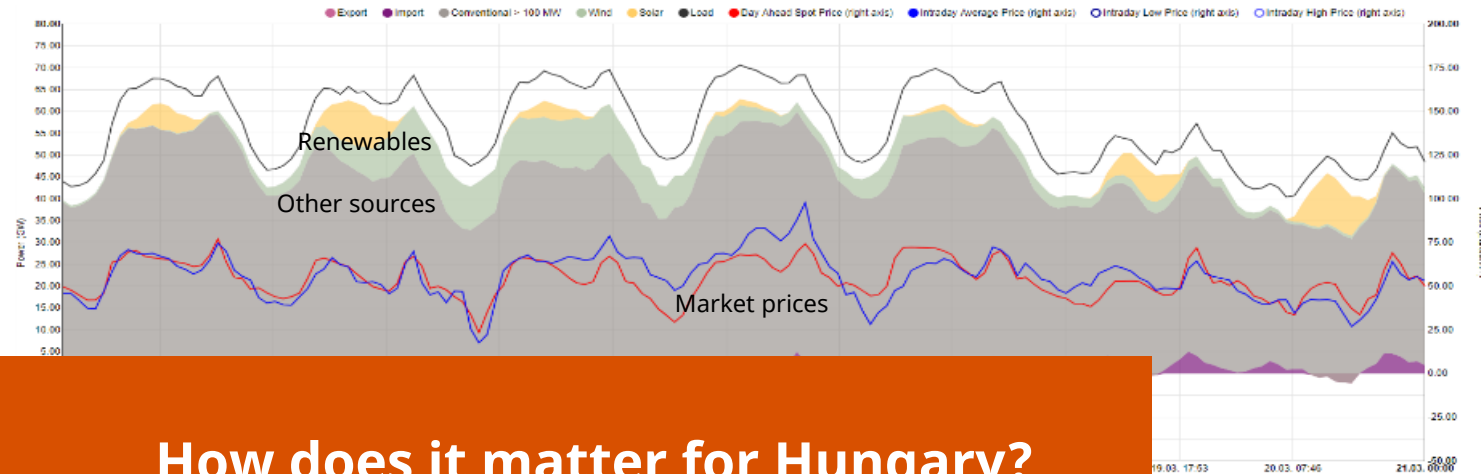
...the plant demonstrates that climate protection, low-cost power generation, and flexible operation using fossil fuels can be attained simultaneously.”

E.ON Energy Group 
 N_SE_en
 ...nic prospects: Owners of the
 #Irsching 4 and 5 gas-fired power stations
 announce their closure
 eon.com
 Press releases: Our media room for latest news | E.ON
 12:04 PM · Mar 30, 2015

This is what happened

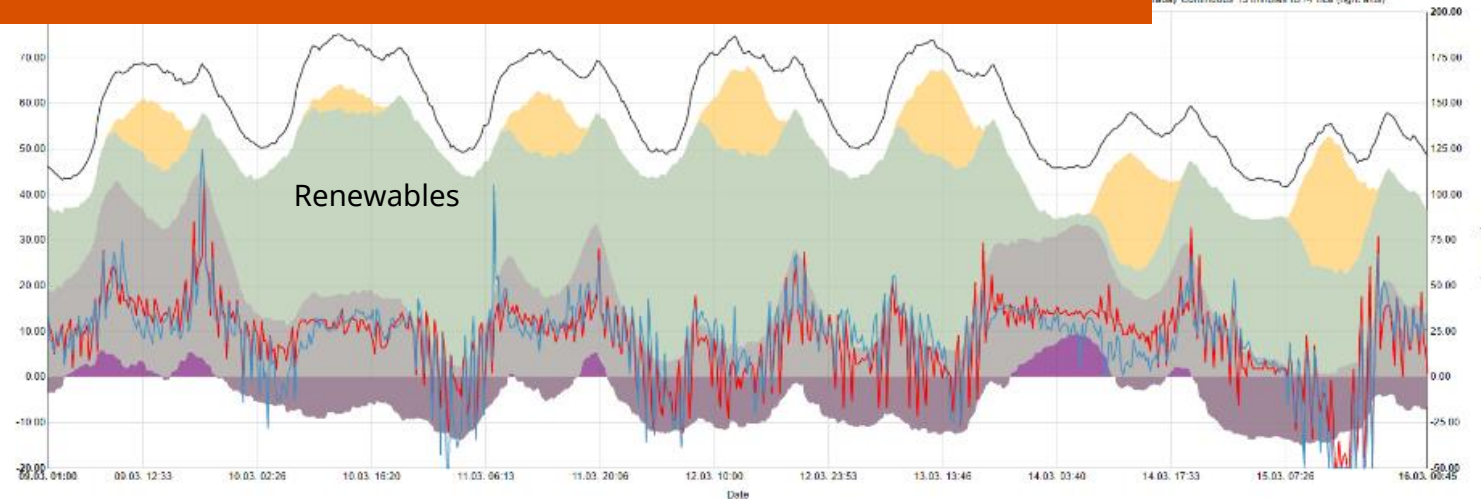
Germany: generation, import/export, prices

2011
Week 11



How does it matter for Hungary?

2020
Week 11



Source: <https://www.energy-charts.de/price.htm>

Hungary: a challenge for CHP plants

When the share of renewables grows

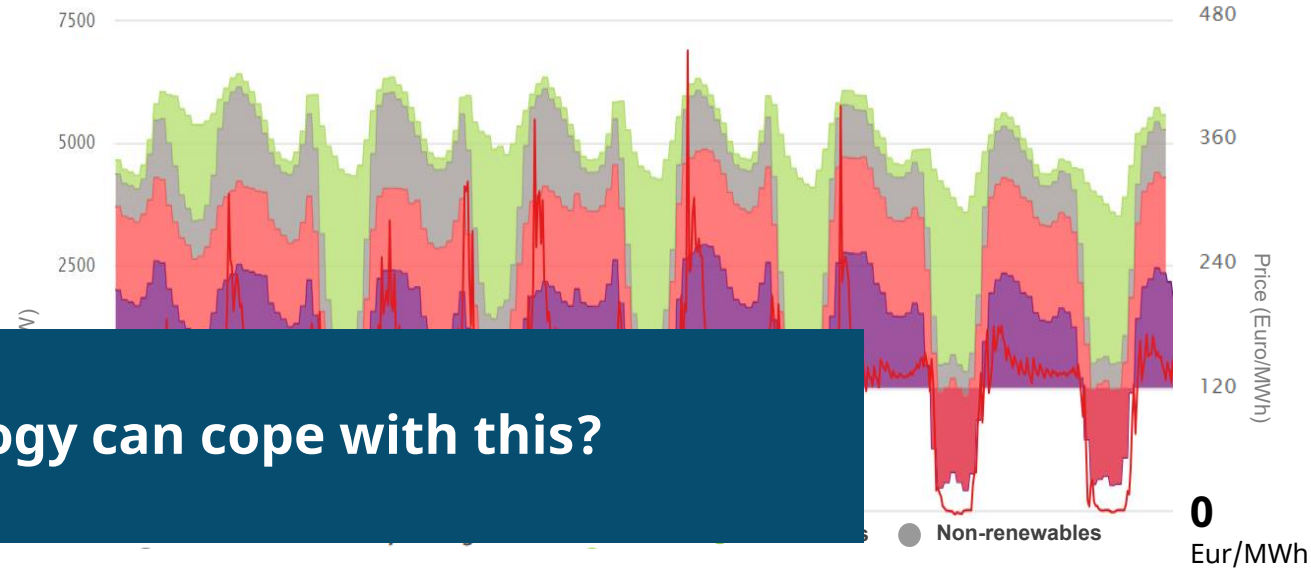
- Prices fluctuate with renewables' output

So, what gas technology can cope with this?

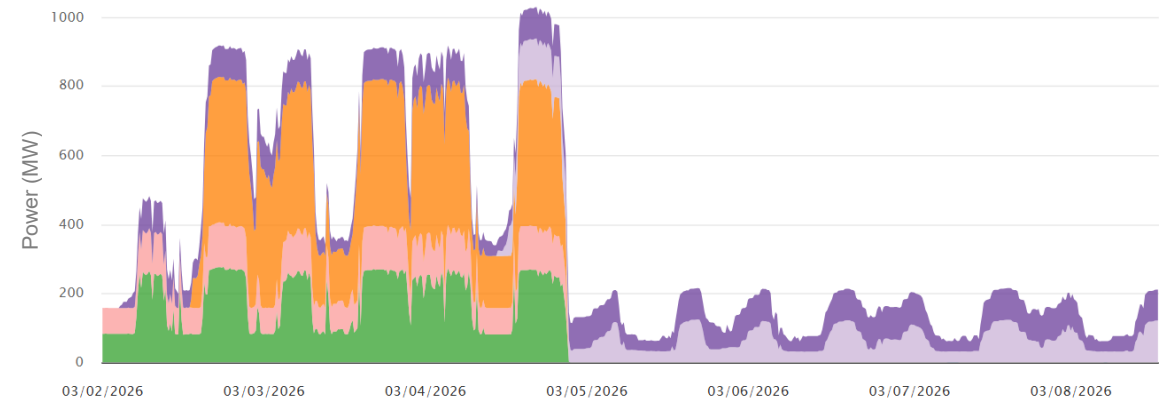
- Gas CHP plants are forced to cycling
- They need to start 1..3 times every day or they are out of operation

BASE LOAD is no longer a viable mode

Electricity Production and Prices, Hungary Week 10 2026



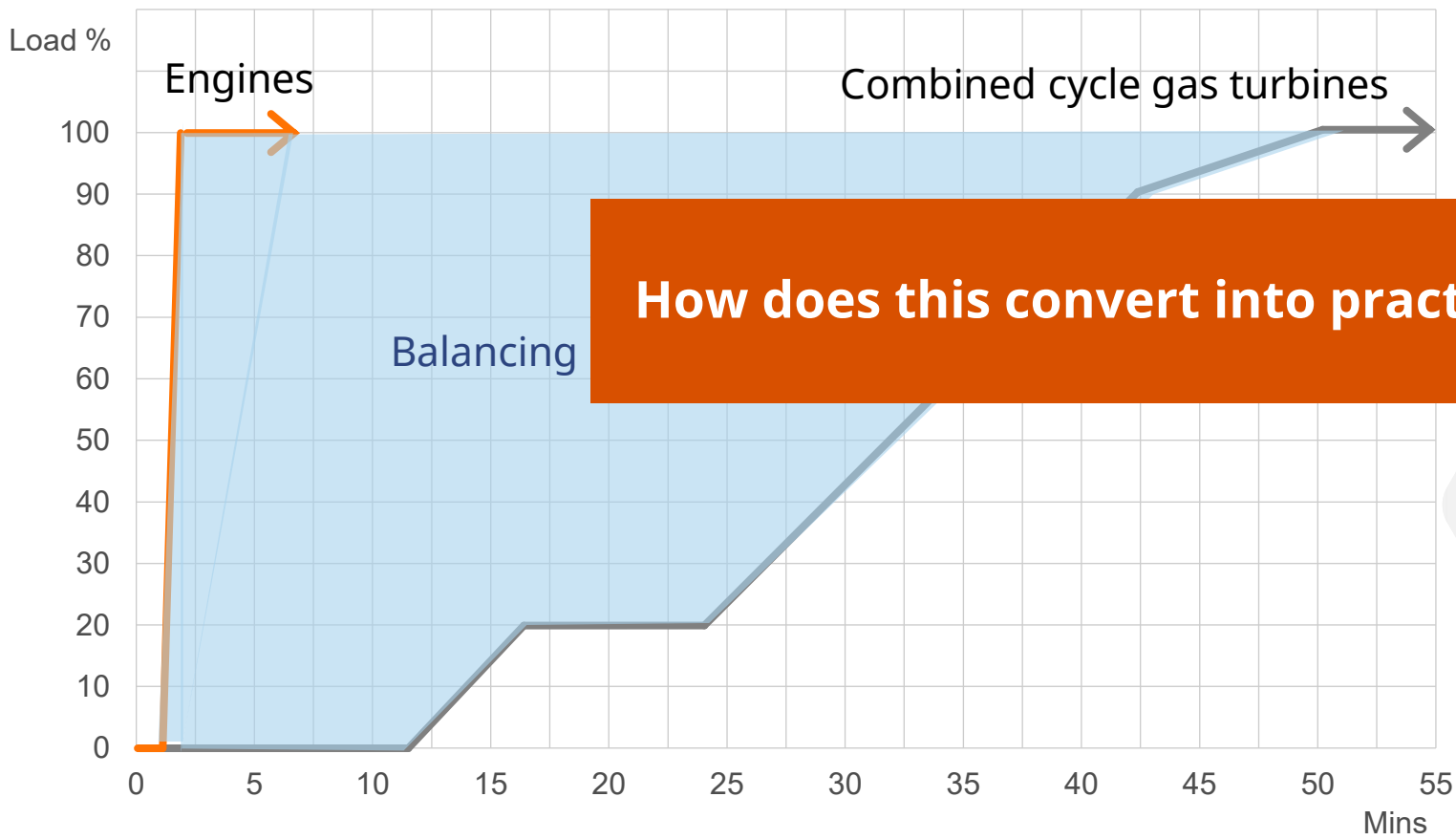
Gas plants generation, Hungary Week 10 2026



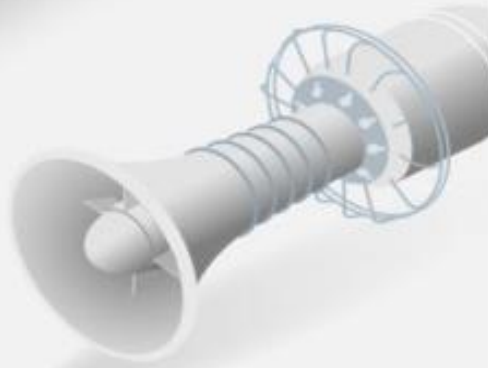
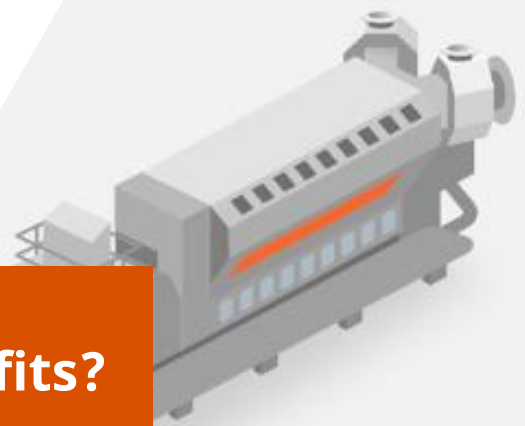
Source: Fraunhofer ISE <https://energy-charts.info>

Flexibility of different technologies

Start-up time



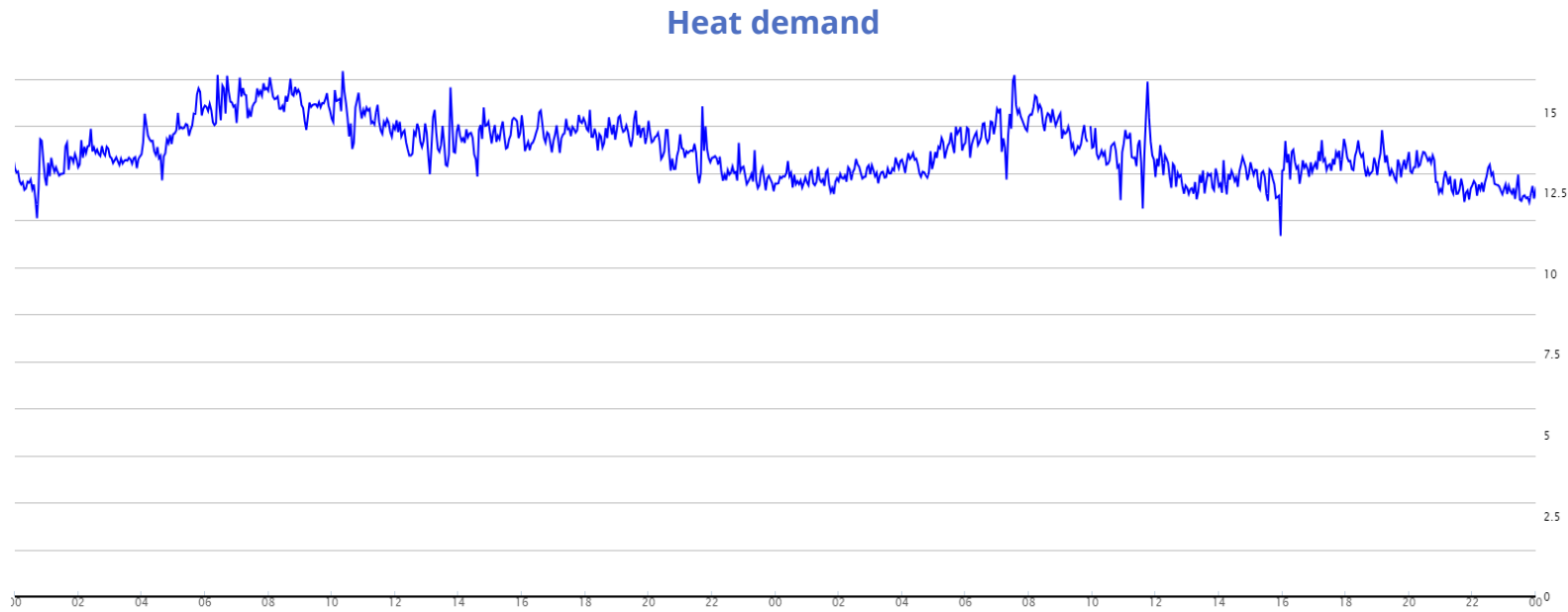
How does this convert into practical benefits?



Case: District heating in Denmark



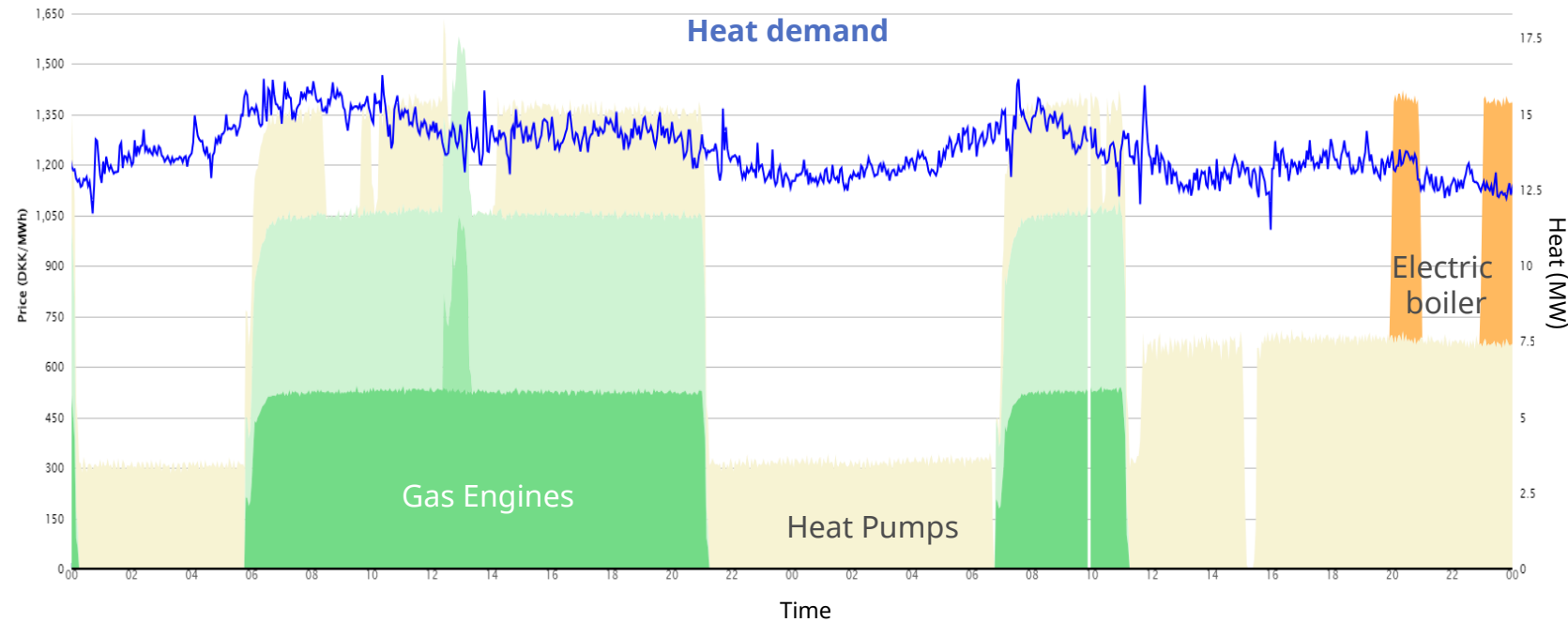
Skagen district heating, two days in February



Skagen Varmeværk,
Denmark



Skagen district heating, two days in February

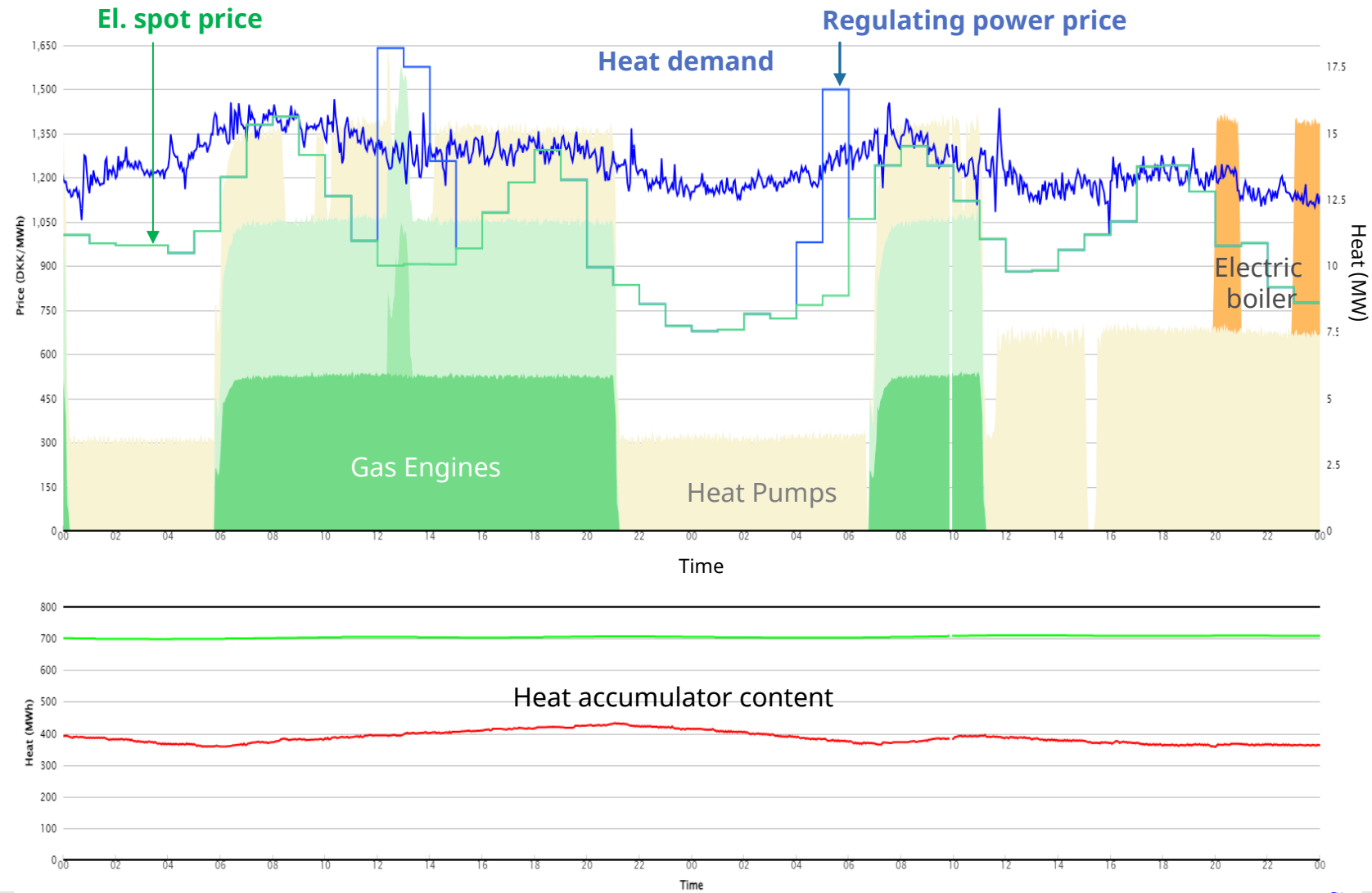


Main sources of heat: CHP gas engines, Heat Pumps, Electric Boiler

Why is heat dispatched in pulses?

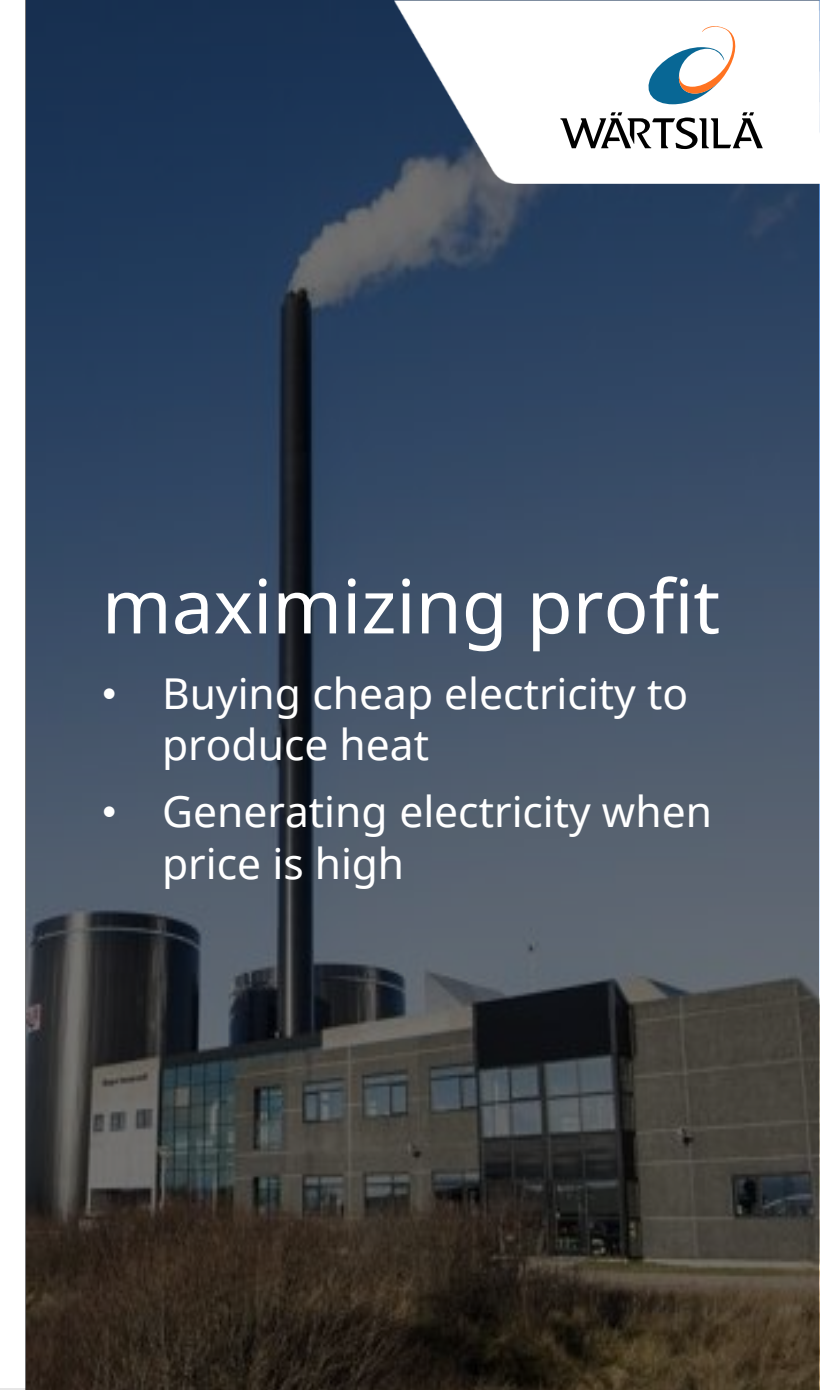


Skagen district heating, two days in February



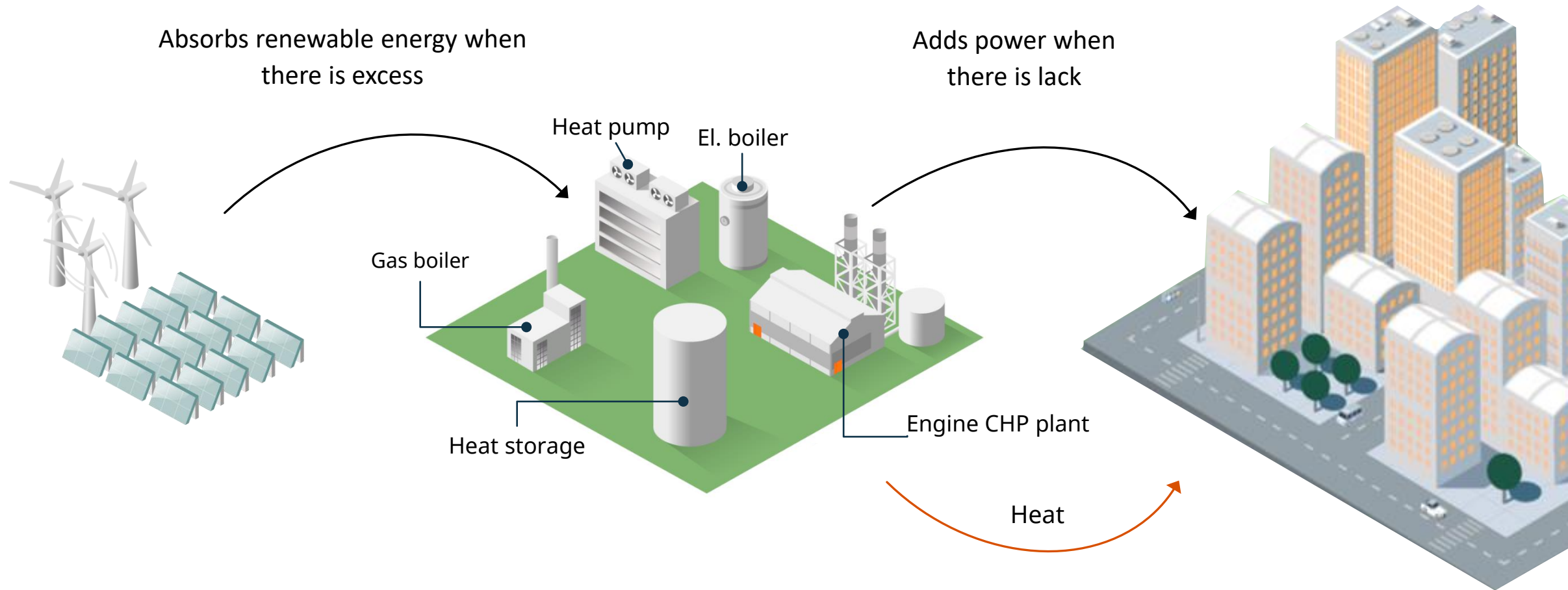
maximizing profit

- Buying cheap electricity to produce heat
- Generating electricity when price is high



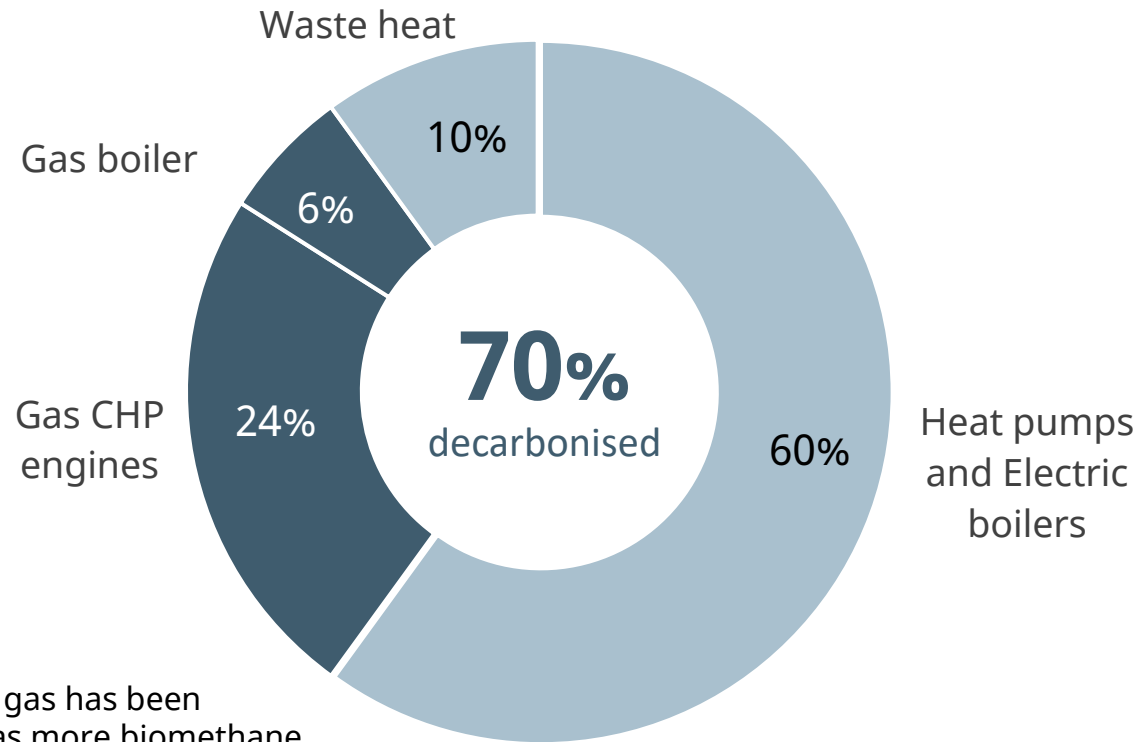
Two-way sector coupling:

Flexible district heating system generates heat while balancing the power system



Meanwhile, Skagen gradually decarbonises district heat

Heat generation mix GWh, 2022




The share of natural gas has been steadily decreasing as more biomethane is injected into the pipeline



Skagen Varmeværk,
Denmark

Wärtsilä is an expert in modelling of energy future for cities and countries



 = PLEXOS study conducted by Wärtsilä

190+

Country and system
studies made by Wärtsilä
with PLEXOS software

PLEXOS
by Energy Exemplar

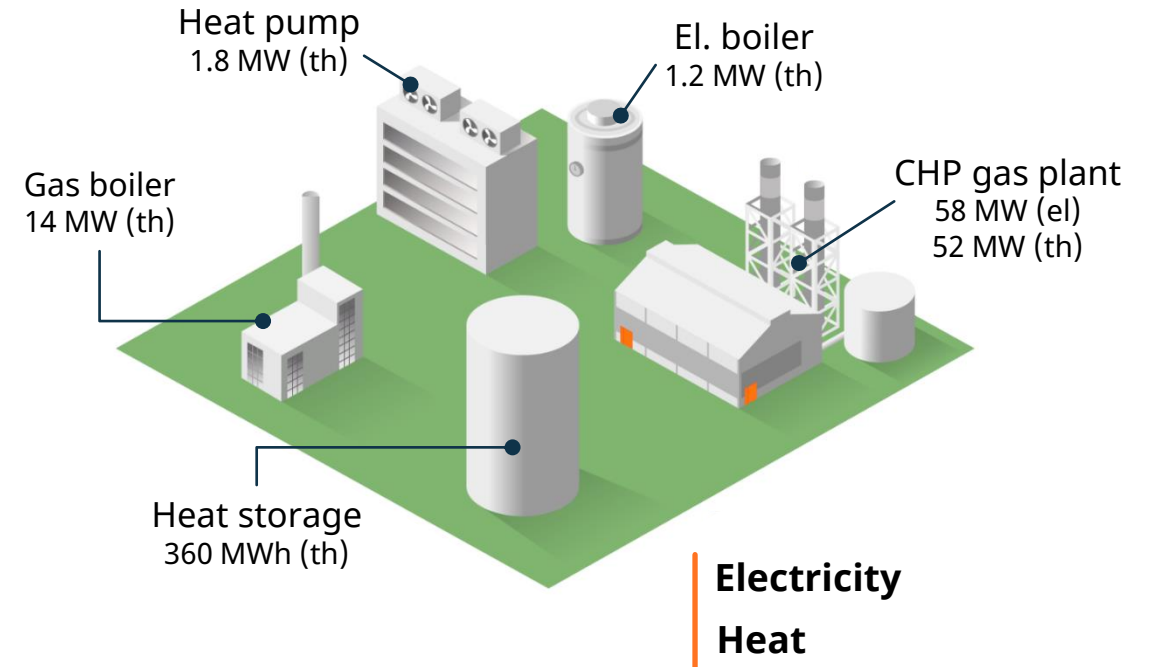
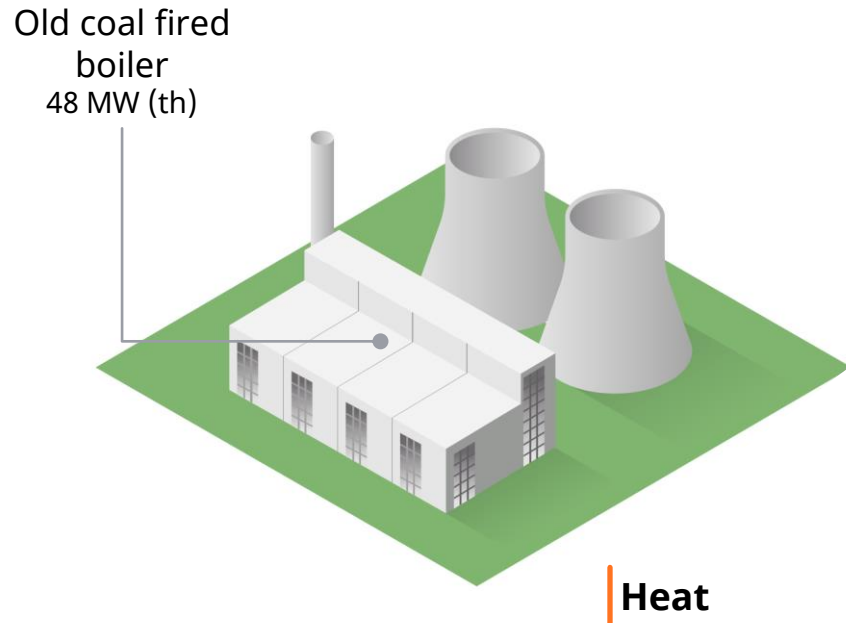


Modelling case: Grudziądz, Poland

Portfolio optimisation outcome

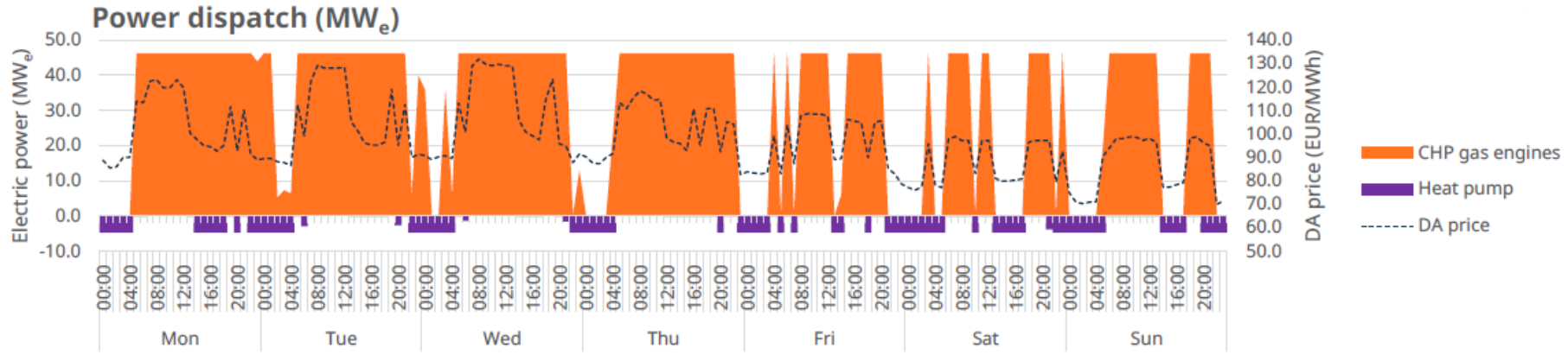
€ Investment is feasible with **20%** lower heat tariff

CO₂ ↓ 42% lower CO₂ emission



*Assumptions (one of 12 reviewed scenarios): Prices: coal 26 EUR/MWh; gas 54 EUR/MWh; average annual electricity 103 EUR/MWh; carbon cost 100 EUR/t of CO₂; CHP-bonus 41.9 EUR/MWh

One-week example of co-optimised dispatch simulation



↑ Engines produce electricity when market price is high

Scenario assumptions: gas price 54 EUR/MWh_{fuel}, elec. av. 97.5 EUR/MWh_e

Not all engine technologies are equally feasible

Medium-speed vs. High-speed engines



Higher electrical efficiency
i.e. more electricity from the same amount of fuel



lower heat rate
to achieve

or



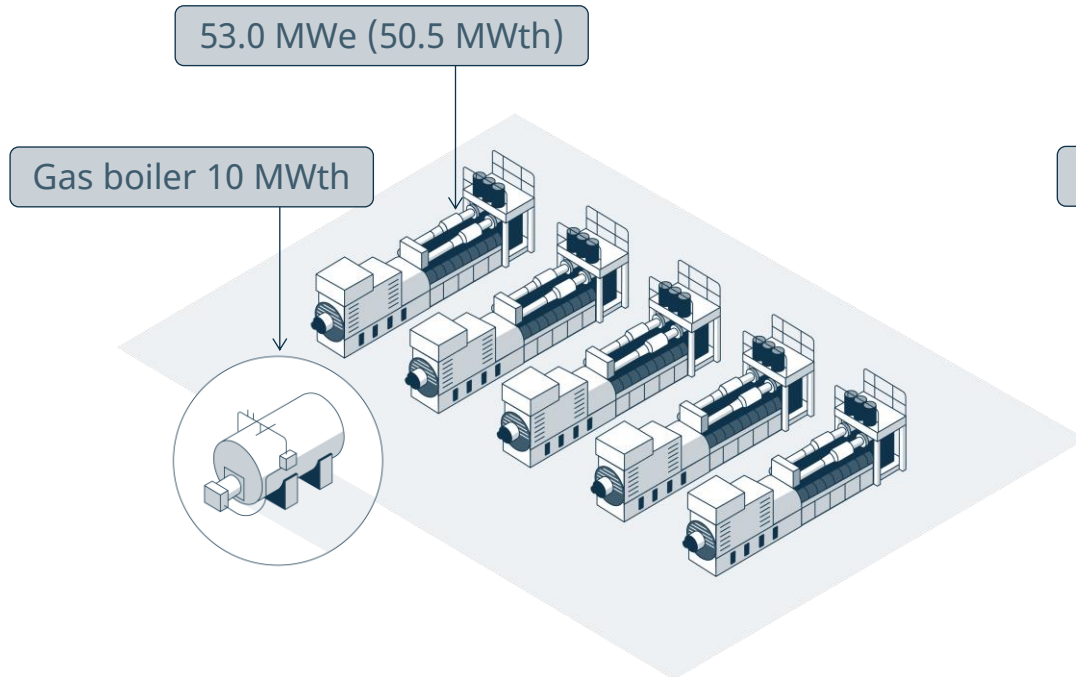
shorter payback period
with the same heat tariff

Electrical efficiency matters!

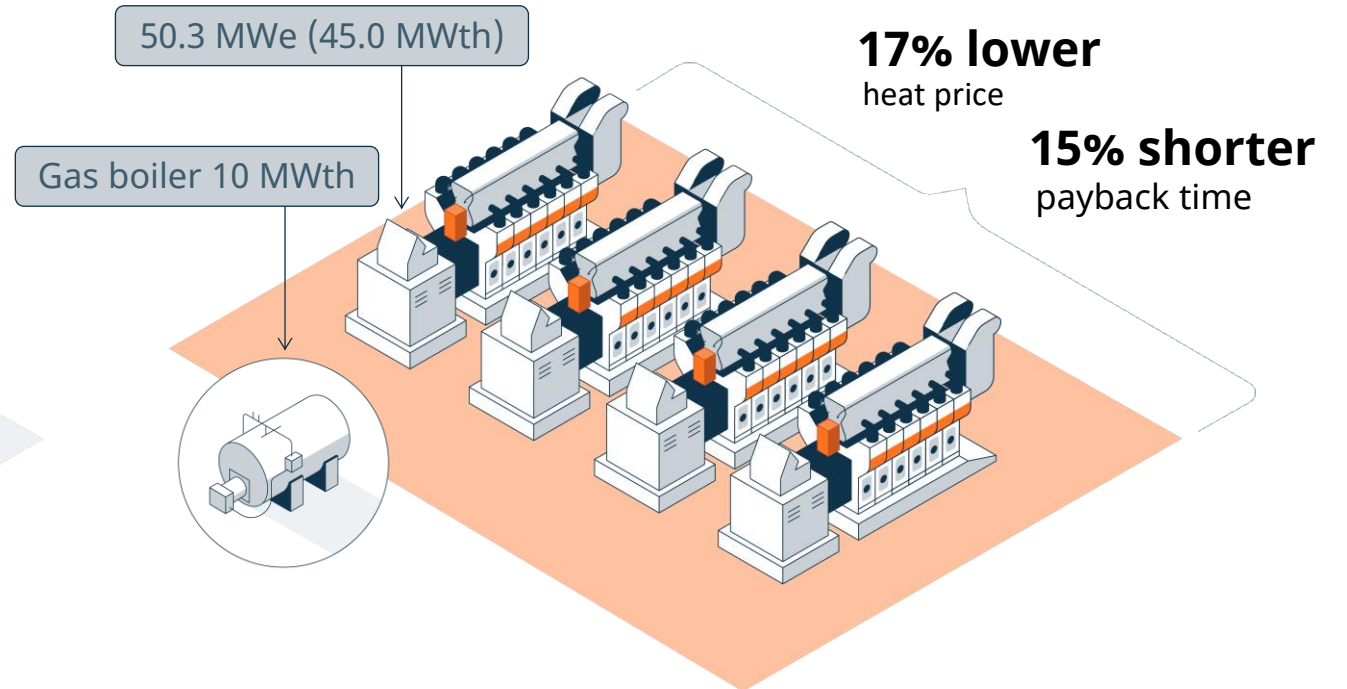
Impact of electrical efficiency

Real life case comparison for a district heating system with 50 MW_{th} peak demand

1. Engine CHP plant
42% electrical efficiency



2. Engine CHP plant
48% electrical efficiency



We conducted numerous district heating Plexos studies

PLEXOS

Enefit

NAFTOGAZ
GROUP

opec

PGE
Energia Ciepła

Grupa GPEC

OPEC
GRUDZIĄDZ

CIEPŁOWNIA
SIEMIANOWICE


The outcome was consistent throughout all cases

Viable combination: **renewable energy and flexible gas**

 Heat pumps produce clean heat

What about Germany then?

 CHP engines produce balancing power and heat

 Heat storage balances heat supply

Business models of CHP Plants in Germany

Dresden: ~4000 h/year Flexible baseload

8x12MW CHP units



Mainz: ~1000 h/y
Selling Ancillary services

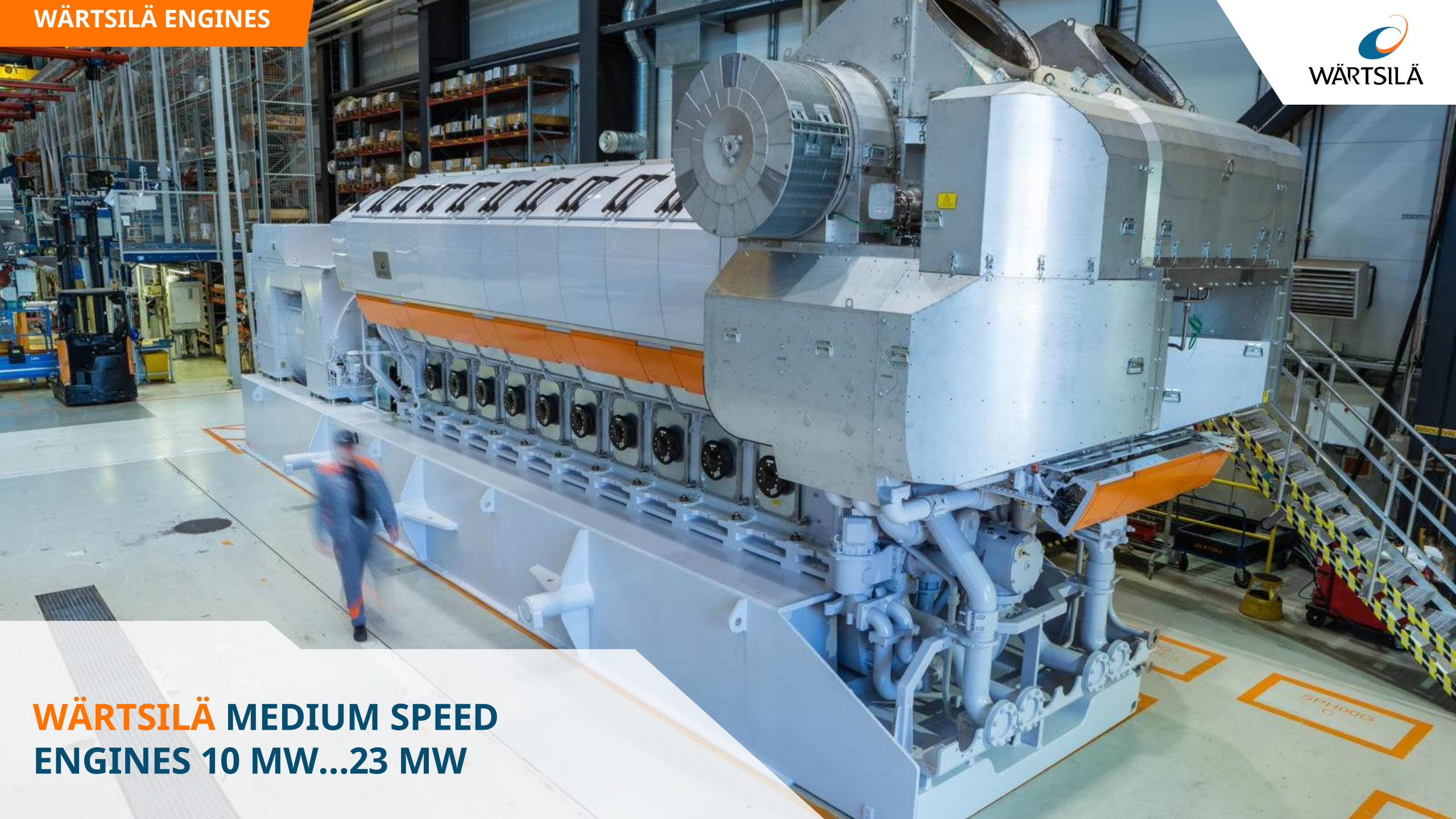
10x10MW CHP units



Bremen: ~2000 h/year
Optimized for multiple starts

9x12MW CHP units





**WÄRTSILÄ MEDIUM SPEED
ENGINES 10 MW...23 MW**



WÄRTSILÄ