2nd International Conference on Smart Energy Systems and 4th Generation District Heating Aalborg, 27-28 September 2016

Presentation of an innovative thermal loop combining: Phase change Material heat Storage Solar energy Demand side management







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Grenoble DH network and ZAC Flaubert





Compagnie de chauffage le confort durable, tout simplement







The EU FP7 City-Zen project



- City-Zen project deals with the development of the city of the future.
 - One main objective of the project is to showcase to society ambitious pilot projects. Demonstrators in Amsterdam and Grenoble will include:
 - 90 000 m² housing retrofitting
 - Fully functional smart-grid development (10 000 dwellings in Amsterdam)
 - Demonstration of innovative solutions for district heating and cooling



PCM storage (1/2)

Demonstration theme n°1 :

✓ Implementation of PCM storage inside a normal technical room beside the HP/LP heat exchangers







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DIs and Systems

PCM storage (2/2)

Background at CEA :

Prototypes of PCM storage built by CEA for Concentrated Solar Plant application :



Tube and shell technology

POC : MASTIN facility 19 tubes – 200kg of PCM Parrafin wax

Prototype at CEA: 3m³ – 6 tons of PCM → 300 kW.h – 100kW.h/m³ NaNO₃



Current work:

4th Generation District Heating Technologies and Systems

Adaptation of the CSP baseline technology to the Flaubert application:

• Definition of an implementation scheme:



- Selection of a PCM adapted to the melting temperature required for a urban heating network: objective of a PCM at 100kW.h/m³
- Thermal-hydraulic calculations to adapt the internal heat exchanger of the storage to the fluid and the power of a district heating application.







Thermal solar

Demonstration theme n°2 :

- ✓ Integration of Solar Thermal Generation in Low Pressure District Heating
 - Solar thermal plant with high performance solar collectors
 - ightarrow Directly connected to the Low Pressure District Heating
 - → Collector area ~ 200 m²
 - → Solar thermal energy : ~ 100 MWh
 - \rightarrow Annual Solar fraction : ~ 5%
 - Coupling solar energy and PCM storage solutions
 - ightarrow PCM storage used for DH peak shaving in winter
 - \rightarrow PCM storage used for solar energy storage in summer



Example of integration of solar thermal collectors on building roofs in Crailsheim (Germany)









Smart DH control (1/2)

Demonstration theme n°3 : development of a smart management module

Model Predictive Control (MPC) scheme using

- Load prediction
- dynamic simulation
- Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP)
- Production optimization
 Supply temperature optimization
- Demand side management





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Smart DH control (2/2)

Current development work on demandside management module:

- → Initial modelling of buildings and their load shifting capabilities
- → Optimal algorithm for defining demand-side management strategies













Synthesis and Perspectives

An innovative thermal loop, combining PCM storage, solar energy and smart management is currently being designed in Grenoble.

Main challenges are:

Storage module: selection of a PCM
 Installation of Solar Panels: finding available surfaces in a densely populated area
 Demand-side management module: real-time monitoring of end-

user's thermal comfort

Implementation and performance assessment are respectively planned in 2017 and 2018.











Thanks for your attention!

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