

1st Saudi Renewable Energy Conference & Exhibition

# Solar Thermal Energy For Cooling and Refrigeration : Status and Perspectives



Dahran, Saudi Arabia, 20/02/2012

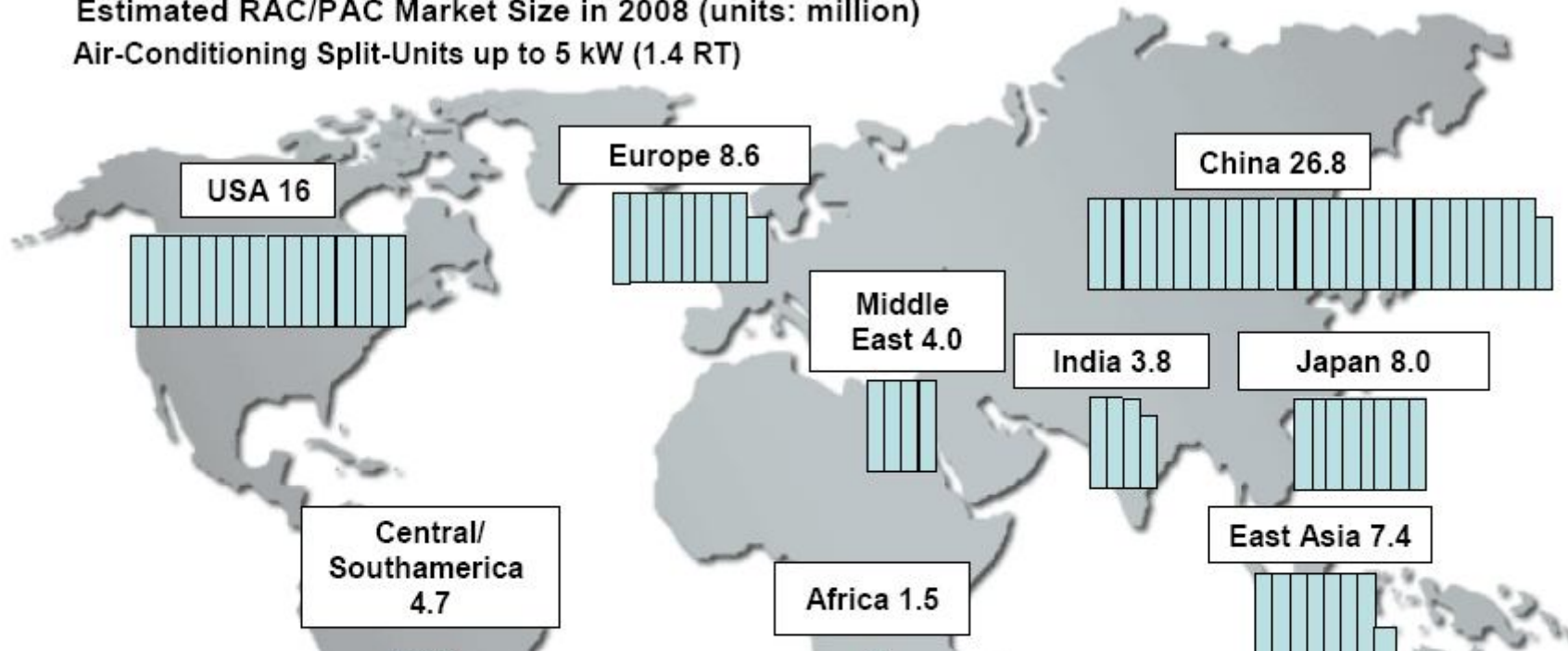
Daniel Mugnier  
TECSOL

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3. Energy performance
4. Market status
5. Economic viability
6. Perspectives and R&D challenge
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# Introduction

Estimated RAC/PAC Market Size in 2008 (units: million)  
Air-Conditioning Split-Units up to 5 kW (1.4 RT)



Even now with a -10% market decrease market in 2009 and stagnation in 2010 and 2011

The World market is representing... **70 000 000 000 US\$**

Source: JARN

World total 2008: 82.3 million units

Source : Uli Jakob, SOLARNEXT 2009

## Introduction

### Overall approach to energy efficient buildings in Europe

- Assure indoor comfort with a minimum energy demand

1. *Reduction of energy demand*

Building envelope; ventilation

2. *Use of heat sinks (sources) in the environment*

Ground; outside air (T, x) directly or indirectly; storage mass

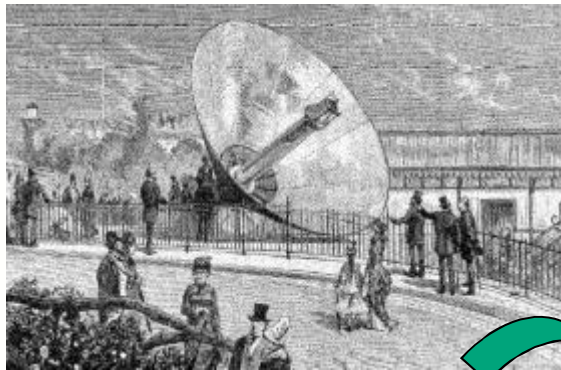
3. *Efficient conversion chains (minimize exergy losses)*

HVAC; combined heat, (cooling) & power (CH(C)P); networks; auxiliary energy

4. *(Fractional) covering of the remaining demand using renewable energies*

Solar thermal; PV; (biomass)

# Introduction on Solar Cooling Evolution



From World exhibition in  
Paris : First ice block  
through solar energy  
(1878)

Source : Olynthus Verlag

**SCIENCE**

To Banyuls sur Mer ...  
(1991)  
Europe  
52 kW – 130 m<sup>2</sup>  
Still running nominally

Source: TECSOL

**MARKET**



To UWCSEA in Singapore ...  
(2011)  
1500 kW – 4 000 m<sup>2</sup>

Asia

Source : SOLID

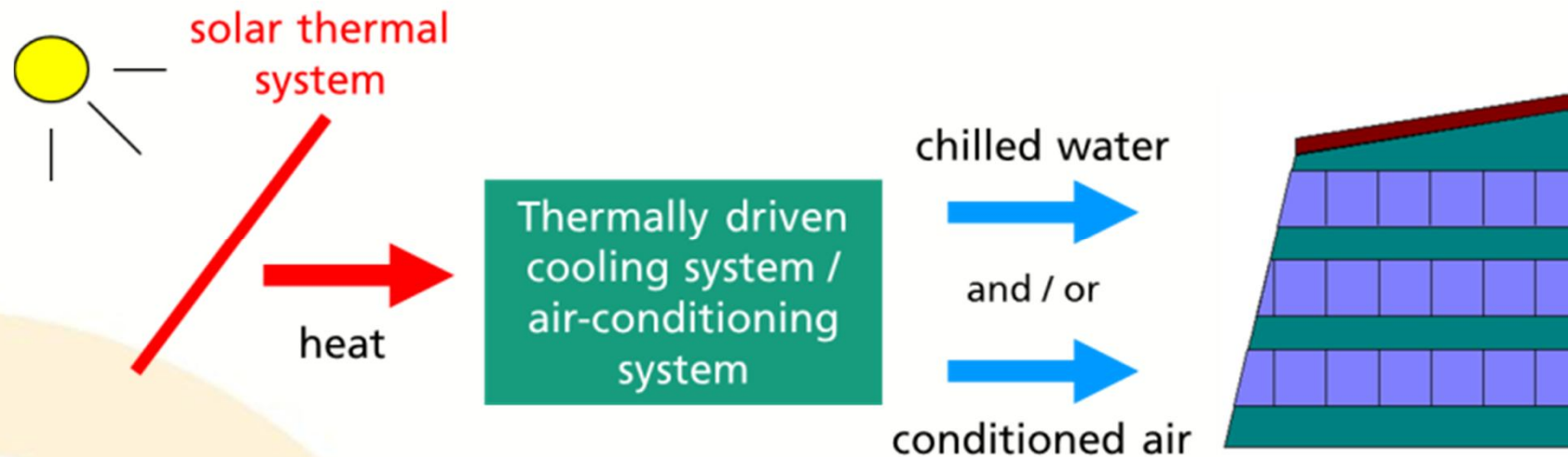
**TECHNOLOGY**



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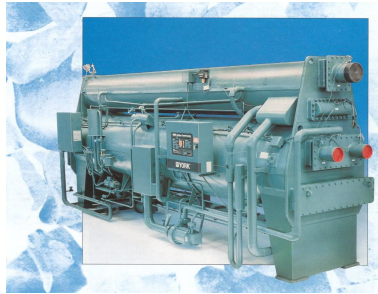
## Solar thermal cooling - basic principle



### Basic systems categories

- Closed cycles (chillers): chilled water production
- Open sorption cycles: direct treatment of fresh air (temperature, humidity)

## Closed cycles – water chillers or ice production



- Liquid sorption: Ammonia-water or Water-LiBr (single-effect, double-effect, future triple-effect)



- Solid sorption: silica gel – water, zeolite-water

- Ejector systems



*Turbo Expander/Compressor  
AC-Sun, Denmark in TASK 38*

- Thermo-mechanical systems



source: website Kawasaki  
Heavy Industries Pte Ltd



# Open sorptive cycles – desiccant air handling units




## Air treatment in an open cycle

- Solid sorption
  - Desiccant wheels
  - Coated heat exchangers
  - Silica gel or LiCl-matrix, future zeolite
- Liquid sorption
  - Packed bed
  - Plate heat exchanger
  - LiCl-solution: thermochemical storage possible



## Technical status

- **Mature components available** (both solar and refrigeration, A/C)

Driving temperature	Collector type	System type
Low (60-90°C)		Open cycle: direct air treatment
		Closed cycle: high temperature cooling system (e.g. chilled ceiling)
Medium (80-110°C)		Closed cycle: chilled water for cooling and dehumidification
		Closed cycle: refrigeration, air-conditioning with ice storage
High (130-200°C)		Closed cycle: double-effect system with high overall efficiency
		Closed cycle: system with high temperature lift (e.g. ice production with air-cooled cooling tower)

# Sorption cooling

Type of system	Water chillers (closed thermodynamic cycles)						Direct air treatment (open thermodynamic cycles)		
Physical phase of sorption material	Liquid			Solid			Liquid	Solid	
Sorption material	Water	Lithium-bromide			Zeolite	Silica gel	Lithium-chloride	Lithium-chloride	Silica gel, zeolite, cellulose / lithium-chloride
Refrigerant	Ammonia	Water			Water	Water	Water	Water	Water
Type of cycle	1-effect	1-effect	2-effect	3-effect	1-effect	1-effect	1-effect	Cooled sorption process	Desiccant rotor
COP range	0.5 - 0.75	0.65 - 0.8	1.1 - 1.4	1.6 - 1.8	0.5 - 0.75	0.5 - 0.75	0.5 - 0.75	0.7 - 1.1	0.6 - 0.8
Driving temperature range, °C	70 ... 100 120 ...180 <sup>(1)</sup>	70 ... 100	140 ... 180	200 ... 250	65 ... 90	65 ... 90	65 ... 90	60 ... 85	60 ... 80
Solar collector technology <sup>(2)</sup>	FPC, ETC SAT <sup>(1)</sup>	FPC, ETC	SAT	SAT	FPC, ETC	FPC, ETC	FPC, ETC	FPC, ETC, SAHC	FPC, ETC, SAHC

1: high temperature lift

2: FPC = flat plate collector; ETC = evacuated tube collector; SAT = single axis tracking collector; SAHC = solar air heating collector

# Technical status

- Mature components available (both solar and refrigeration, A/C)



**BROAD AIR CONDITIONING**  
远大空调有限公司



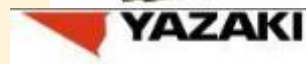
Dunham Bush  
(Russia) 85 RT



Thermax  
(India)  
no claim on completeness



**YAZAKI**  
YAZAKI (Japan)



Nishyodo (20-140 RT) (Japan)  
Maekawa (14-100 RT)



## Technical status

- **Mature components available** (both solar and refrigeration, A/C)
- **Main progress made in last decade**
  - *Small scale heat driven chillers*
  - *Increasing number of high efficient double and – recently – triple effect absorption chillers*
  - *Development of systems using single-axis tracking solar collectors*

# New developments of small capacity water chillers



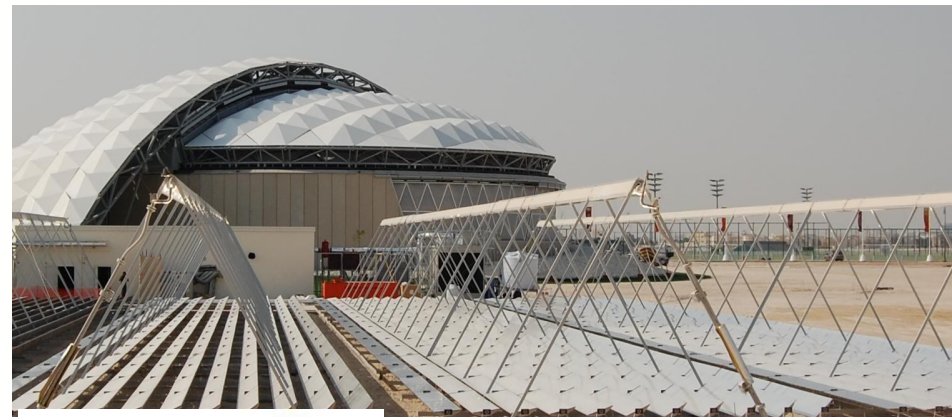
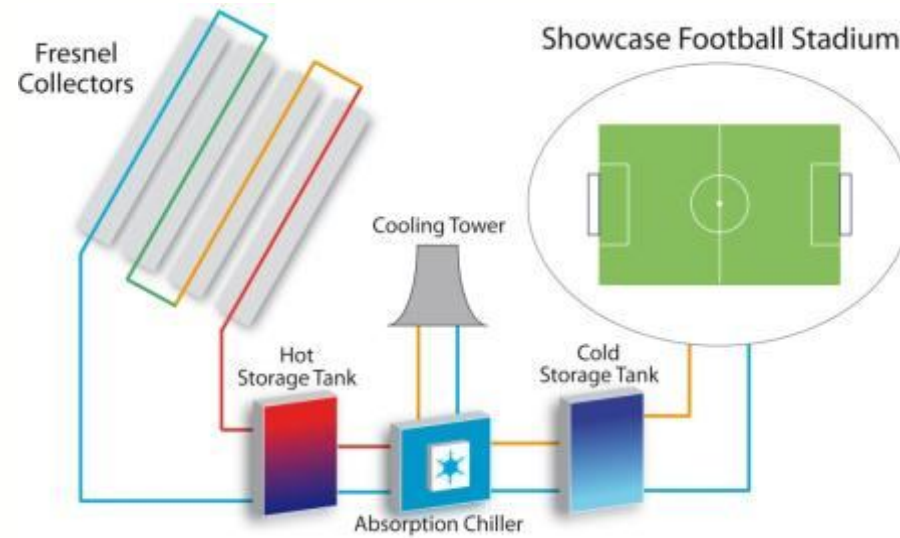
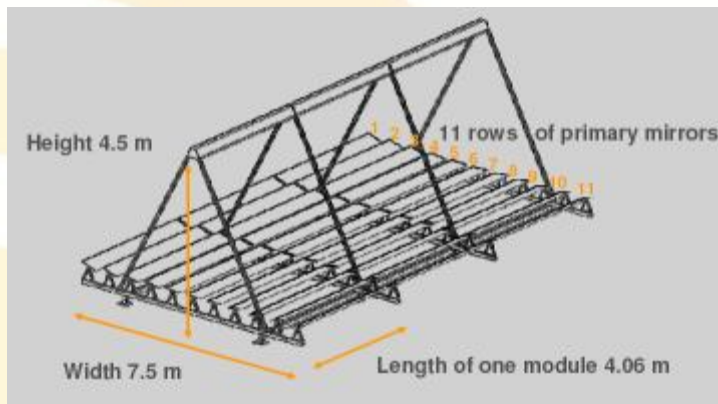
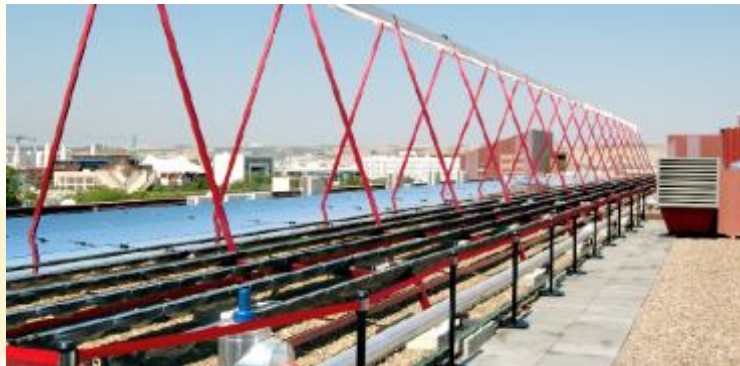
## High-temperature applications



- **Increasing number of systems using single-axis concentrating collectors** (parabolic trough, Fresnel) in combination with thermally driven chillers (150°C ... 200°C)
  - *Double-effect chiller with high conversion efficiency (Coefficient of Performance COP 1.1...1.3)*
  - *Single-effect chiller with high temperature lift for low cooling temperatures (e.g. ice production) and high heat rejection temperatures (dry cooling towers)*
- **Application in sunny regions for buildings** (e.g. hotels) or industrial application (e.g. cooling of food, ice production)

# High-temperature applications

**Example** : Footbal Stadium  
in Dubai





## Technical status

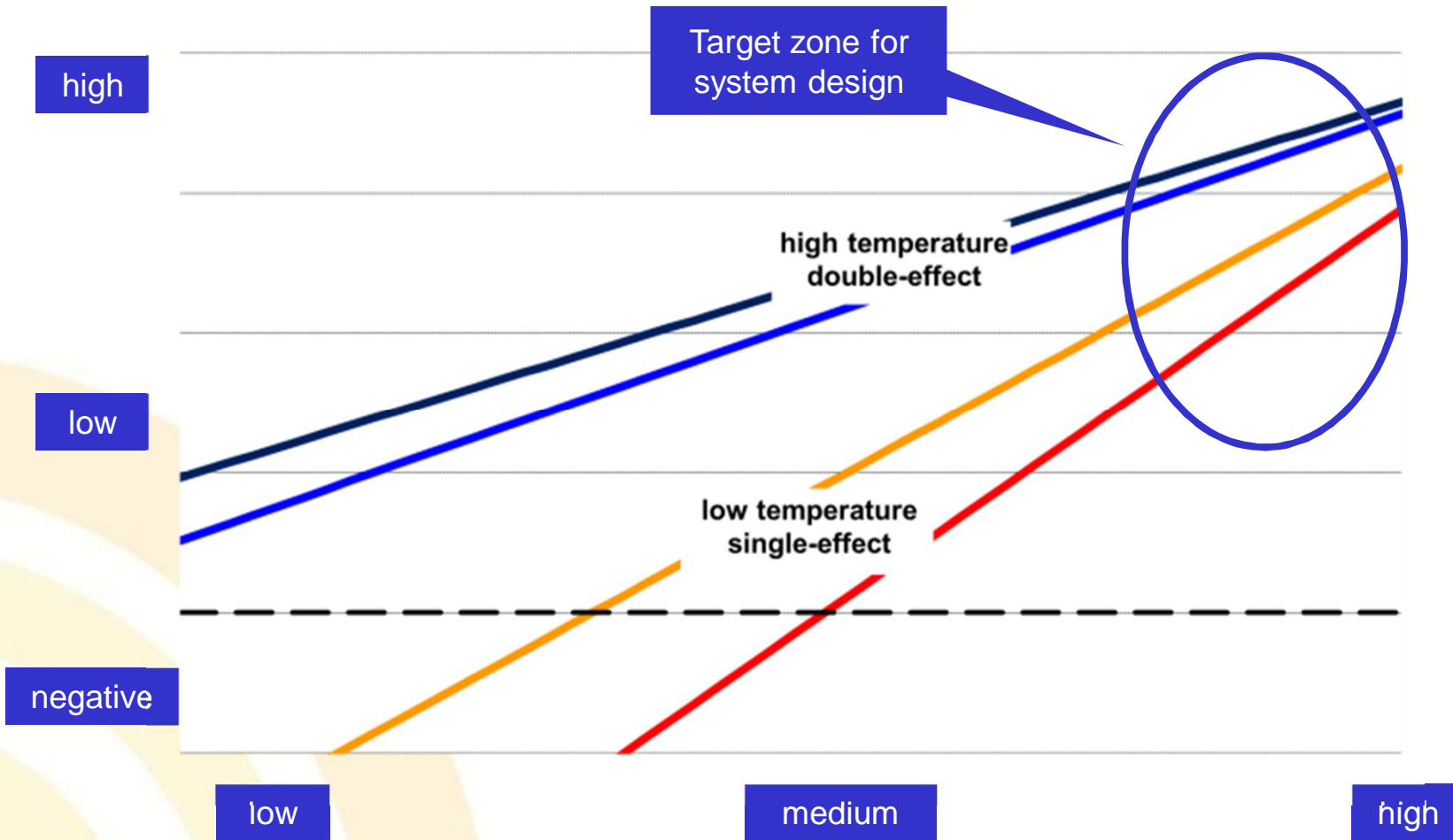
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- **Main progress made in last decade**
  - *Small scale heat driven chillers*
  - *Increasing number of high efficient double and – recently – triple effect absorption chillers*
  - *Development of systems using single-axis tracking solar collectors*
- **Main technical shortcomings are still on system level**
  - *Energy efficient heat rejection system*
  - *Energy management*
  - *Bottleneck: good trained technical staff almost not available*

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# Influence of solar fraction of driving heat

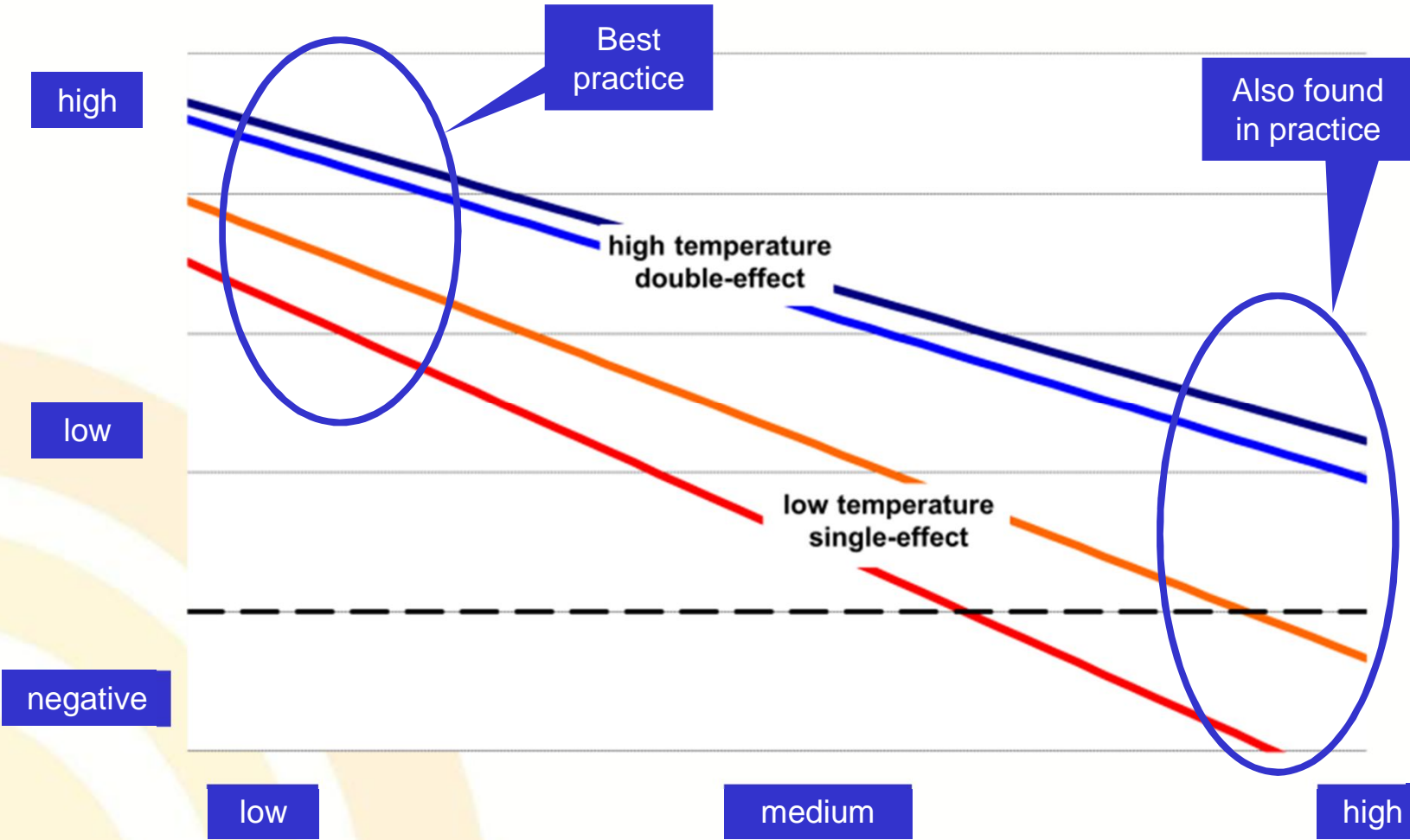
energy saving compared to conventional system



SAREC&E, Dhahran – 20/02/2012

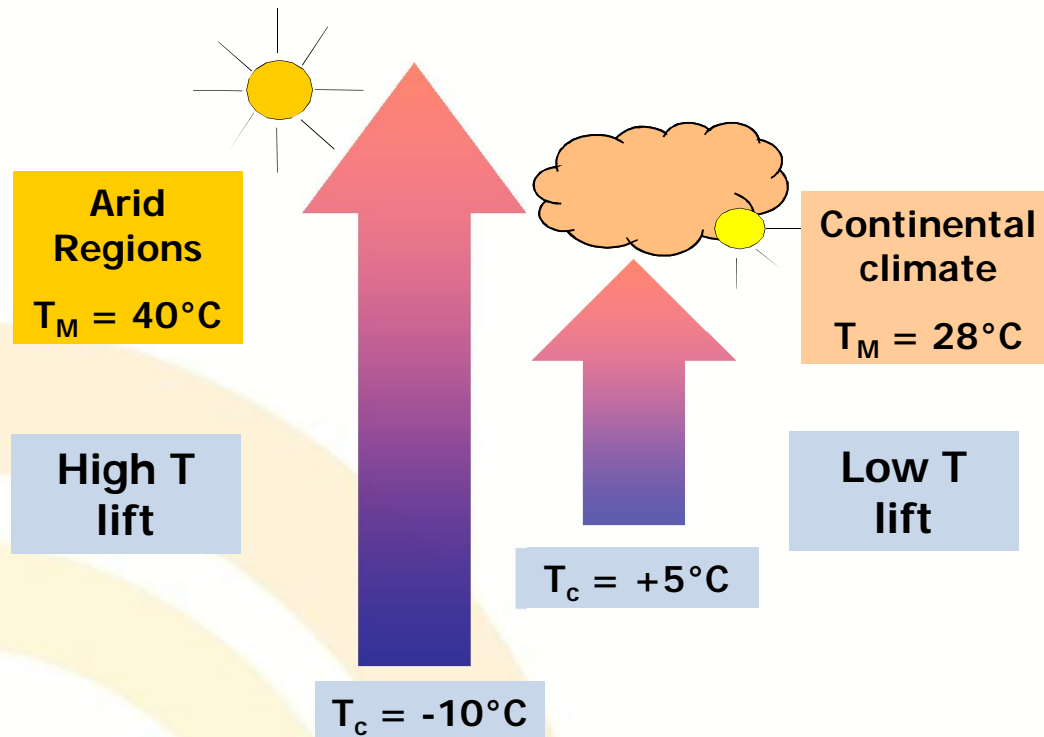
# Influence of electricity consumption of auxiliary components

energy saving compared to conventional system

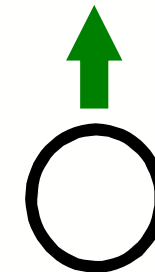


SAREC&E, Dhahran – 20/02/2012

# Cold production and Temperature "lift": arid regions



Heat rejection  
Medium  
temperature,  $T_M$



Heat supply  
High  
temperature,  $T_H$

Cold production  
Low temperature,  $T_C$



## Energy performance

- **Many systems lead to measurable energy savings** when compared to a best practice conventional reference solution
- **Best values of overall electric COP range up to 6-8**, which means that 6-8 kWh of useful cooling are produced with 1 kWh of invested electricity
- **Target value for electric COP > 10**
- **However:** also many systems do not achieve these values in practice due to
  - *Non-optimal design*
  - *Non-optimal operation (e.g. control, part load)*

## Example of performing concept in 2011

Building block in Montpellier, France

2 parts : building A & B (mini district)

Building A : 11 000 m<sup>2</sup> for offices and shops

Building B : 10 600 m<sup>2</sup> with 167 dwellings



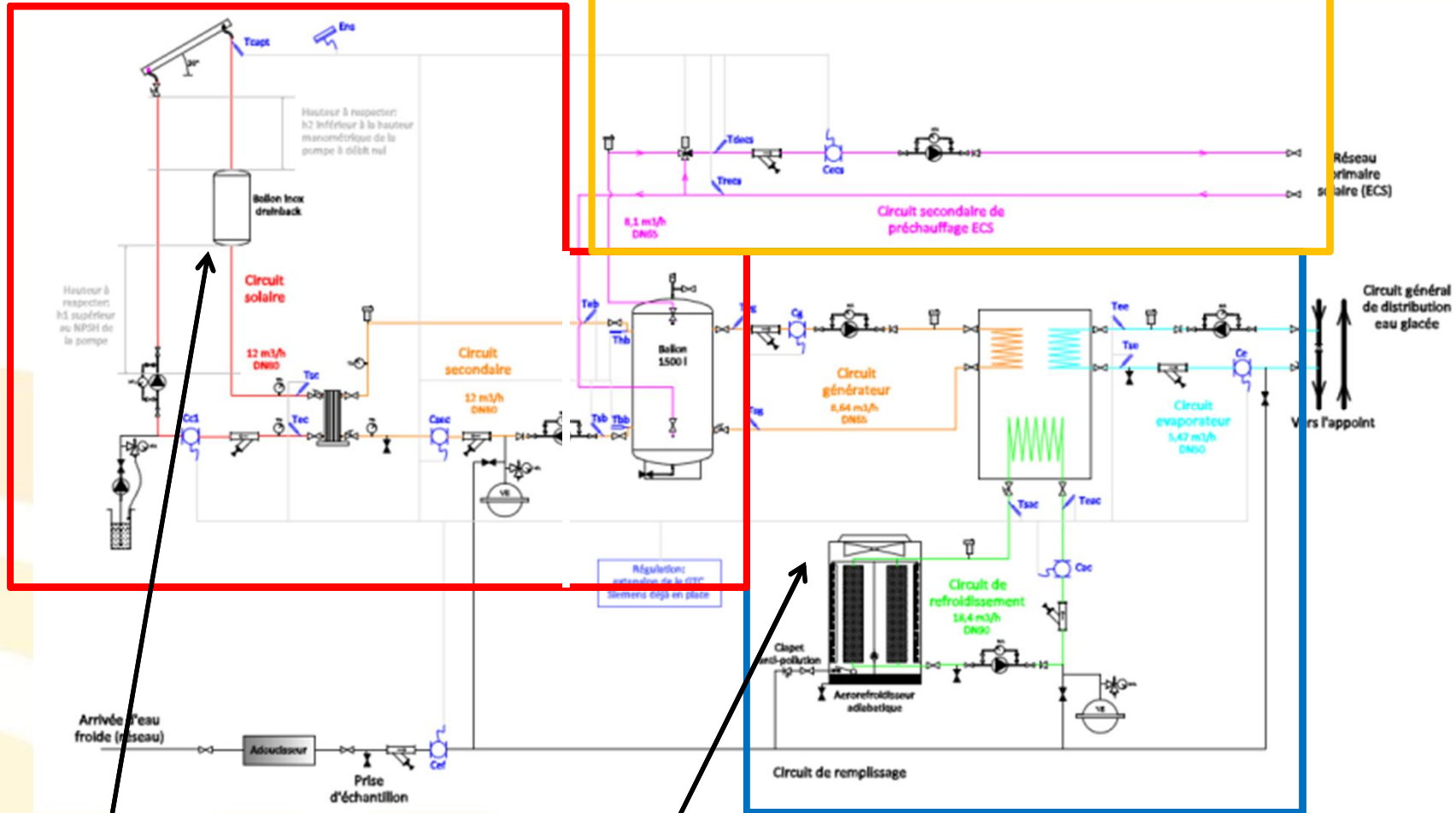
### Both production of Domestic Hot Water and Cooling

**Safe** solar production : drainback strategy (freeze & overheating protections)

Energy performance : Electrical COP of... **17 !**

# Solar production

# DHW distribution



Drainback system

Cold production  
Anti legionella adiabatic cooling tower

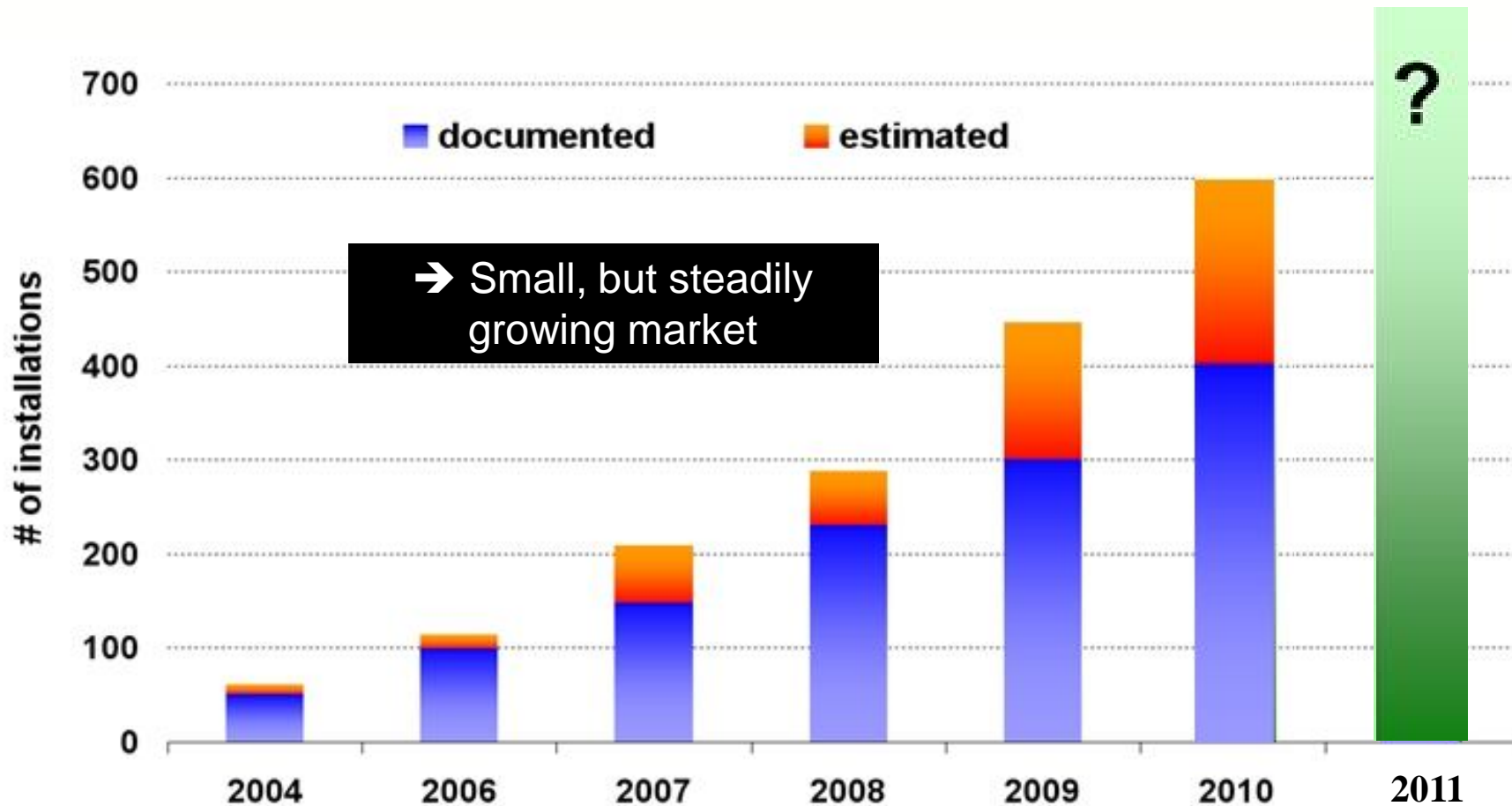




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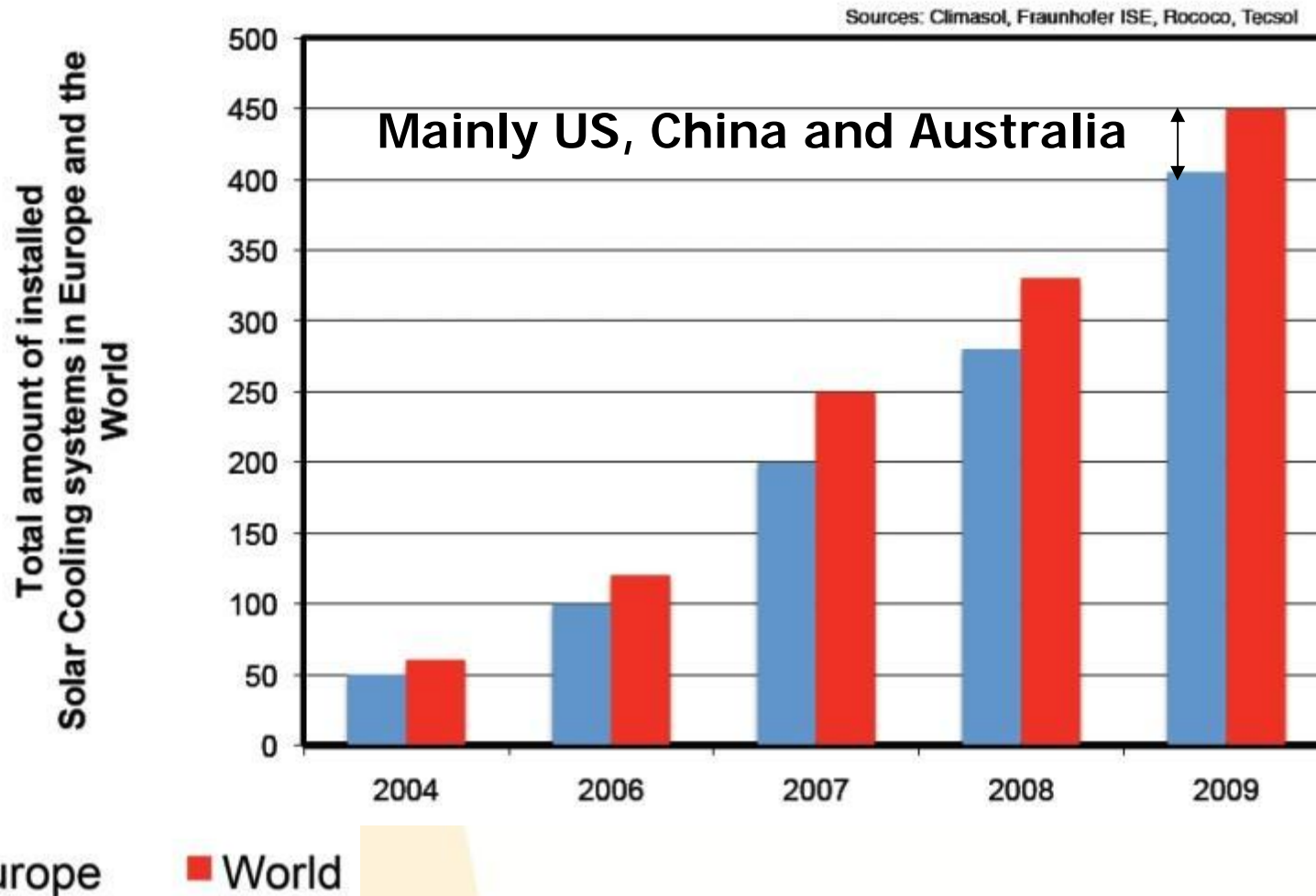
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## Market – estimated > 800 systems worldwide

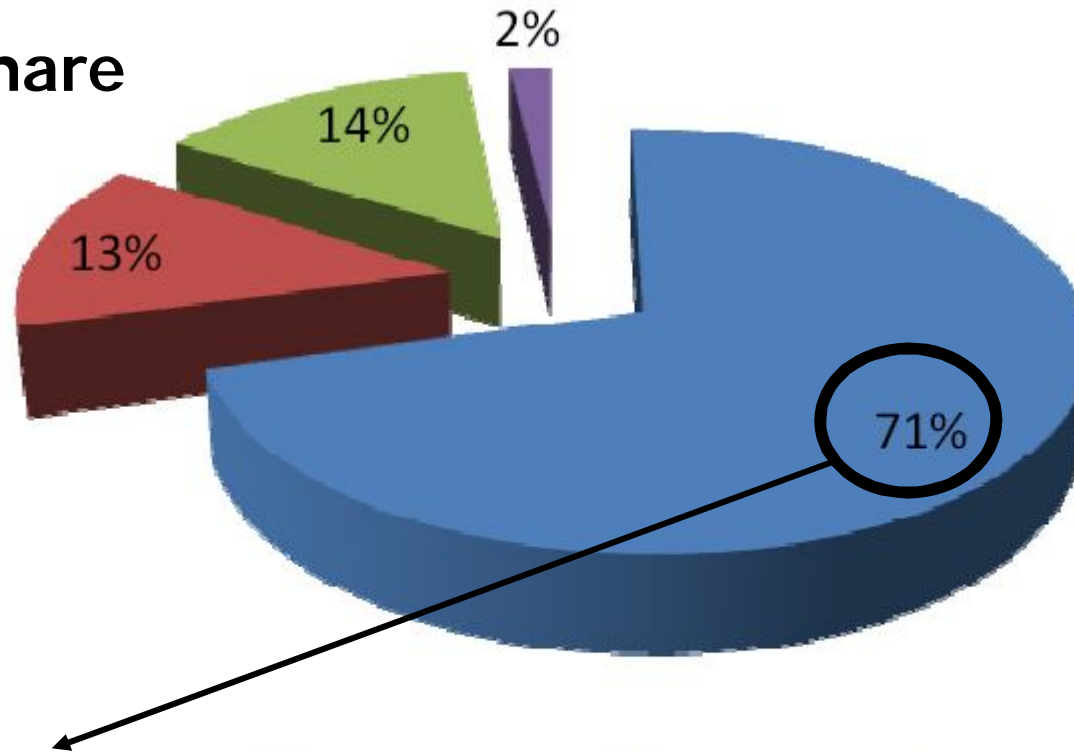


About 150 new installations in 2010 and 2011 (+30%)

## Market analysis : Europe / World



## Market share (2009)



■ Absorption ■ Adsorption ■ DEC solid ■ DEC liquid

- Percentage of use of different technologies for thermally driven chillers within 113 large scale systems.

**Ab/Adsorption representing nearly 85%...**

**Air-conditioning of a production hall in Greece**



**Air-conditioning of a meeting room and cafeteria in Freiburg/Germany**



**Wine cooling in southern France**



**Air-conditioning and process heat production for a hotel in Turkey**



**Wine cooling in Tunisia**



## Recently large and very large installations (examples)



### **CGD Bank Headquarter**

Lisbon, Portugal

1560 m<sup>2</sup> collector area

400 kW absorption chiller

Source: SOLID, Graz/Austria



### **FESTO Factory**

Berkheim, Germany

1218 m<sup>2</sup> collector area

1.05 MW (3 adsorption  
chillers)

Source: Paradigma, Festo



### **United World College (UWC)**

Singapore

3900 m<sup>2</sup> collector area

1.47 MW absorption  
chiller

Source: SOLID, Graz/Austria

# Examples of Custom made system manufacturers

**NEPSOLAR**

(Australia, Europe)



(Middle East, North Africa)



(USA)



(USA)



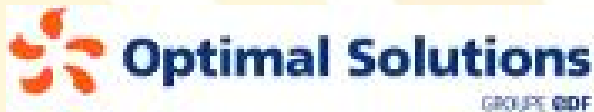
(Middle East, Europe, USA)



(Europe, USA, Caribbean, Asia)



(Europe, Middle East)



(Europe, North Africa, Middle East)

Source : GreenChiller, TECSOL



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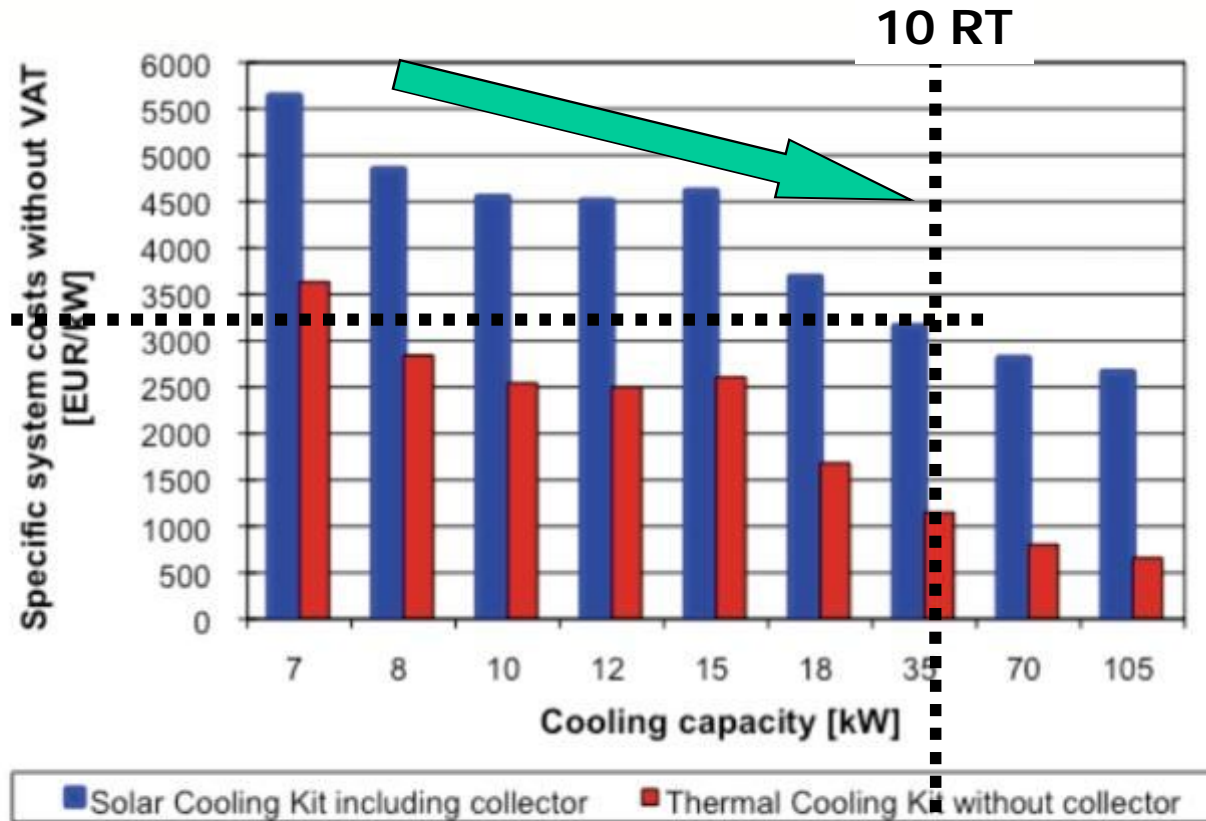


## Economic viability

- **First cost 2-5 times higher than for conventional technology**
- **Total first cost found in realized installations:** 2000 – 5000 € per kW of cold production (for entire system including solar collector field)
- **Payback time depends strongly on boundary conditions**
  - *Annual numbers of use (cooling, heating, hot water, ...)*
  - *Conventional energy cost*
  - *Climatic conditions*
- **Best conditions: payback < 10 years possible**

## Example of specific total costs of solar cooling kits in Europe

17 000 USD/ton



Source: SolarNext

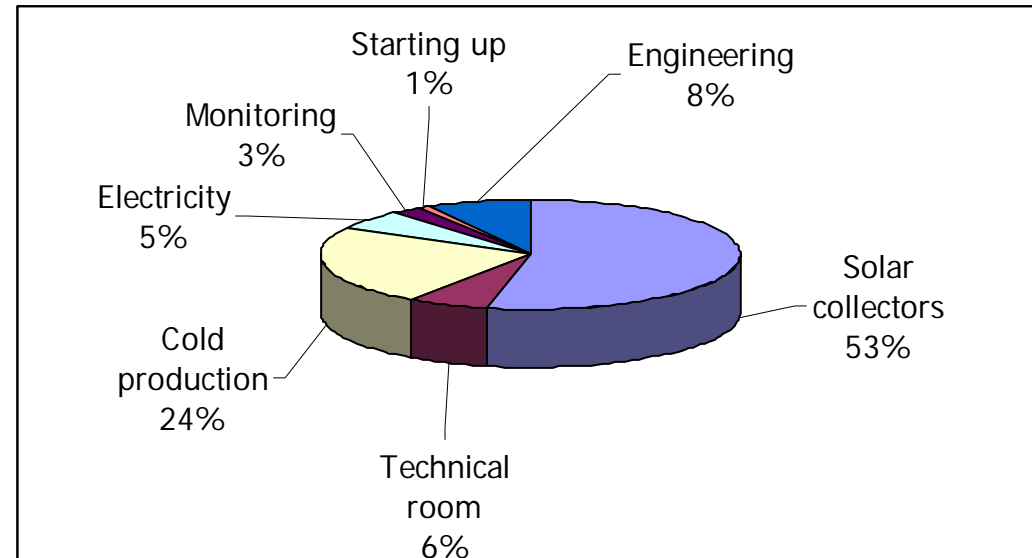
\* Solar cooling kits generally include : solar thermal collectors, hot water storage, pump-set, chiller, re-cooler, cold water storage, system control.

The specific costs are without cold distribution and installation costs.

## System costs : example

Solar cooling installation – 10 tons abs. – France - 2009

	\$ (w/o tax)
Solar collectors	130 000
Technical room	15 080
Cold production	57 200
Electricity	13 000
Monitoring	6 500
Starting up	1 950
Engineering	19 500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>243 230</b>
\$/ton	24 323

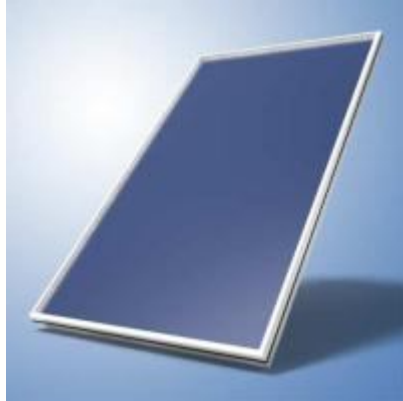


Source : TECSOL

## Cost Reduction Potential of Solar Cooling Kits

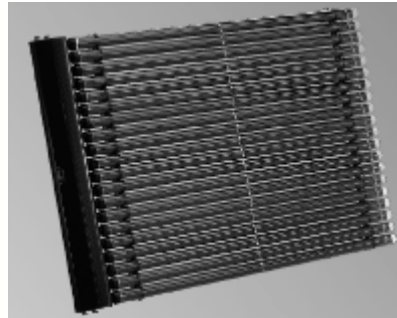
- **Solar Plant (Collectors and Storage):**  
max. 10% Cost Reduction Potential in the next 2-3 years
- **Small-Scale Sorption Chillers:**  
max. 20% Cost Reduction Potential till 2013, from 2011 up to 50% if Serial Production is started (Production Capacity larger than 500 Units)
- **Recooler:**  
Cost Reduction Potential between 40-50%
- **Control:**  
min. 60% Cost Reduction Potential, Increasing of the System Performance
- **Installation:**  
10-30% Cost Reduction Potential through Standardized Solar Cooling Kits

## How do reduce costs ?



Source : Schüco

High performance flat plate collectors + drainback



Performing, safe and cheap  
Evacuated Tube collectors

Source : Viessmann



Source : Broad

Compact packages  
solutions



Source : EDF Optimal  
Solutions

And above all...

Large scale production

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## Perspectives (1/2)



### ➤ Systems using non-tracking solar collector technology

- Solar heating & cooling (+ DHW) → summer use of large collector fields
- Application in buildings: residential, tertiary sector
- Significant cost reductions in particular for small scale thermally driven chillers (> 50 % possible)
- Increasing level of standardization
- Pre-fabricated systems for small capacity
- Custom-made systems for commercial buildings
- Desiccant systems in particular for air dehumidification in humid climates

## Perspectives (2/2)



### ➤ Systems using single-axis tracking with optical concentration

- Medium and large capacity range in regions with high direct solar radiation
- Applications with dominant use of cooling (e.g. industrial refrigeration)
- Installation either on the ground or large flat roofs of industrial buildings
- High efficient cooling cycles using double- or triple-effect
- Applications which require a high temperature-lift (e.g. food conservation with dry cooling tower)



## R&D challenges

- **Heat rejection:** full integration, lower O&M costs => application as add-in for residential buildings for 100% solar houses in Southern European countries
- **New and small capacity open cycles** to be integrated in ventilation systems for residential sector
- **Demonstration activities for large solar cooling packaged systems** (more than 100 kW) => cost reduction and guarantee results. Application : industry, cooling networks and large buildings.
- **Quality assurance measures for solar cooling** (T48 SHC-IEA), among others:
  - *Automated failure detection & monitoring*
  - *Systems testing & characterization*
  - *Control strategies optimization*

# Quality assurance & support measures for Solar Cooling

Duration : 3,5 years (October 2011 – March 2015)

**Subtask A:** Quality procedure on component level

**Subtask B:** Quality procedure on system level

**Subtask C:** Market support measures

**Subtask D:** Dissemination and policy advice



**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES** :Australia, Austria, Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and USA (*no claim for completeness*)

**PARTICIPATING MANUFACTURERS AND COMPANIES** : Aiguasol, Climatewell, Industrial Solar GmbH, Invensor, Sortech, SOLEM, SOLID, TECSOL, Thermosol (*no claim for completeness*)

<http://www.iea-shc.org/task48/>

## Conclusion & outlook

- **Solar heating and cooling (SHC) systems will play a significant role in our future energy system**
- They provide an energy saving solution on the demand side without negative (possibly positive) impact on the electricity grid
- **Main challenge** is to assure **high quality of installations in broad market**
- From **technology** companies toward **sales companies & powerful lobbies...**

**Thank you for your attention !!!**

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