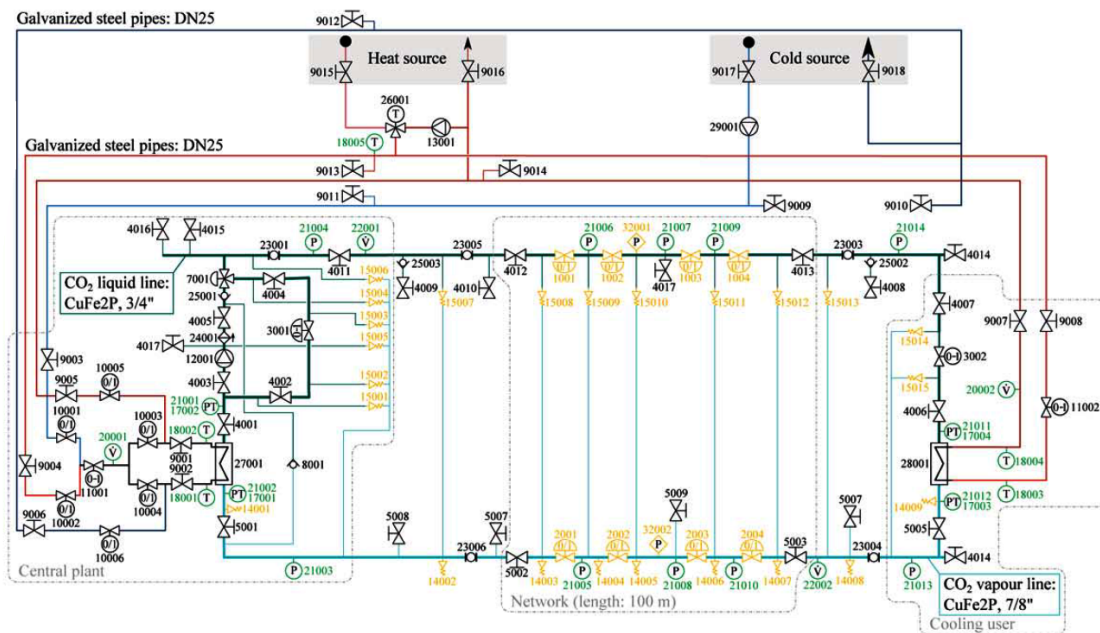


CO₂-based System in NEST

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A CO₂-BASED SYSTEM IN NEST

TECHNICAL REPORT
March 2017



CO₂ heat distribution system, S.Henchoz, LENI-EPFL, 2016.

NEST – EMPA

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Feasibility study of a CO₂-based system in NEST

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Nomenclature

4GDH	4 th Generation District Heating
CO ₂ /R744	Carbon Dioxide
COP	Coefficient of Performance
DH	District Heating
DHC	District Heating and Cooling
DHW	Domestic hot water
DN	Nominal Diameter
F	Flow, flow meter
HP	Heat Pump
HT	High temperature water network (7–28/2–18°C)
HX	Heat Exchanger
LT	Low temperature water network (60–90/45°C)
MPC	Model Predictive Control
MT	Medium temperature water network (35–38/28°C)
P	Pressure
P2G	Power to Gas
PED	Pressure Equipment Directive 2014/68/EU
PEM	Proton exchange membrane fuel cell
PS	Maximum allowable Service Pressure
PT	Pressure and temperature sensors
PV	Photovoltaic system
R1234yf	2,3,3,3-Tetrafluoropropene refrigerant
SFW	Solar Fitness and Wellness
SN	Swiss Norms
T	Temperature
V	Volume

c	Space cooling
el	Electricity
h	Space heating
A_e	Energy floor area
A_u	Useful floor area
P_c	Cooling power
P_h	Heating power
P_{dhw}	Domestic hot water power
P_{h+dhw}	Heating and domestic hot water power

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1 Introduction

The NEST¹ building laboratory of Empa and Eawag is a modular research and innovation demonstrator where new technologies, materials and systems are tested, researched, honed and validated in realistic conditions.

In the NEST concept, only the supporting structure is permanent and all the habitable units are interchangeable. Moreover, the site is hosting an energy research and technology transfer platform (ehub²) aiming at optimizing energy management at district level and a demonstrator for future mobility working without fossil energy (move³).

Therefore, the NEST research platform seems to be an appropriate place for the implementation of a demonstrator of advanced 4th Generation District Heating and Cooling systems (4G-DHC).

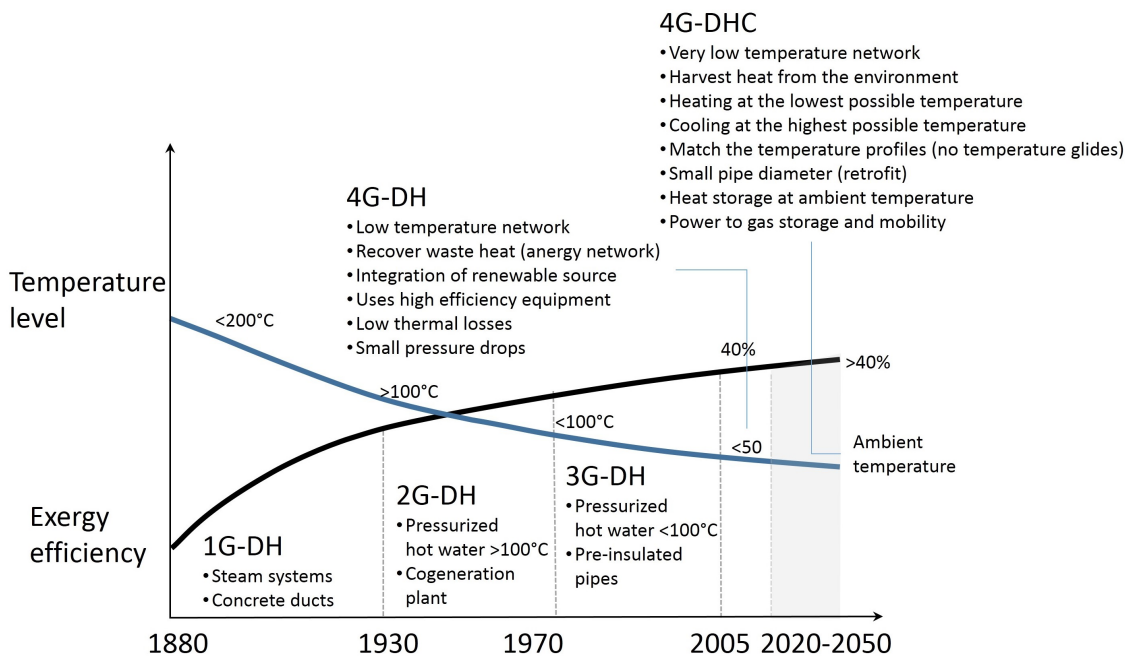


Figure 1: Evolution toward advanced 4G-DHC concepts.

This study demonstrates the feasibility of a CO₂-based district energy network in NEST. The report includes a concise project plan (§9, p.23) and budget positions for the concept, planning, installation and operation phase (§8, p.29).

¹Empa-Eawag NEST <https://www.empa.ch/web/nest>

²Empa EHUB <https://www.empa.ch/web/energy-hub>

³Empa MOVE <https://www.empa.ch/web/move>

2 Grounds and objectives for a CO₂ system in NEST

2.1 Motivations

A growing part of the population worldwide will live in cities. Due to the difference of investments between building owners, the level of renovation of buildings is often very diverse, resulting in energy and temperature levels that tend to differ within a given part of city. Moreover, cooling loads tend to increase in central city districts with a large share of shops, offices and data centers. District Heating and Cooling networks (DHC) are therefore growing in already crowded city undergrounds (Figure 2).

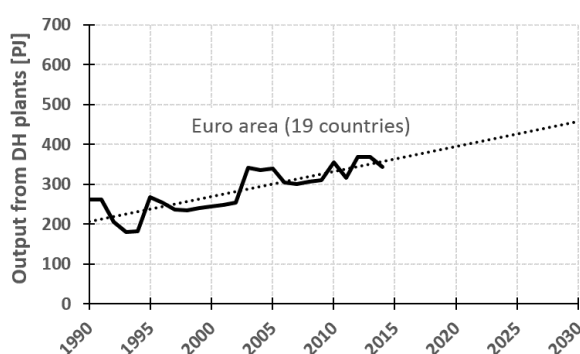


Figure 2: Trend of growth of district heating in EU-19 countries [5]

In line with the design of future 100% renewable energy systems and autonomous cities [19], advanced concepts of district heating and cooling (DHC) systems have recently been proposed [10, 12]. These concepts are built around a "smart thermal grid" connecting buildings, centralised plants and distributed heating and cooling producing units, including individual contributions from the connected buildings. To fulfill their role in the future renewable energy systems, advanced DHC concepts have to meet the following challenges:

1. supply space heating (SH), cooling (SC) and domestic hot water (DHW) at the appropriate temperature level;
2. distribute heat with low grid losses and low pressure drops;
3. recover waste heat;
4. recycle heat from low-temperature sources and harvest renewable heat sources from the environment, such as solar and geothermal heat;
5. integrate high efficiency equipment (compressors, expanders, pumps);
6. implement heat and power to gas storage at ambient temperature;
7. implement model predictive control (MPC) strategies;
8. integrate multi-energy systems (heat, electricity, gas, mobility);
9. realize a cost effective transition from existing to future energy-autonomous systems.

To face the temperature heterogeneity of building requirements, a concept of very low temperature (DHC) systems has been proposed [20, 9, 6]. The transfer fluid acts as cold network for cooling purposes and supplies evaporator heat to decentralized heat pumps heating the different buildings. Individual heat pumps have the advantage of better efficiency since they supply just the temperature level needs of the individual buildings and consist of a 2 pipe rather than a 4 pipe system (Figure 3).

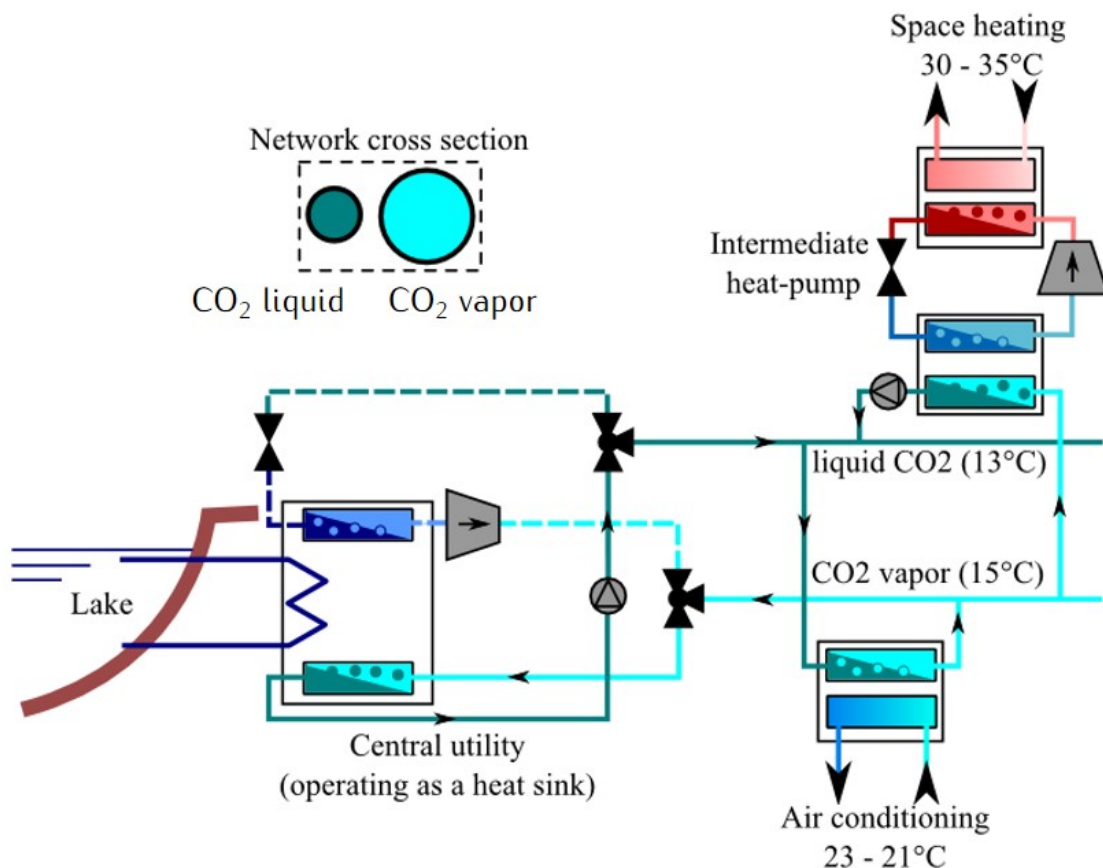


Figure 3: Flowheet of a typical CO₂ district heating and cooling network [9, 20].

Such compact district energy networks, in a temperature range of 10 to 16°C, have a great potential for energy savings, by providing a heat source for decentralized heating heat pumps, a cold source for air-conditioning, and a heat sink for refrigeration or cogeneration units.

The energy balance of the network is done by a central plant equipped with a heating heat pump for winter operation and a heat dissipater for summer operation. They typically facilitate the synergy between users and allow the concept of a city without chimneys or cooling towers in the various buildings. One such concept is based on using the latent heat of the transfer fluid (CO₂), with one saturated CO₂ vapor pipe and one saturated CO₂ liquid pipe, in which the flow is bidirectional in the function of the predominance of the heating or cooling demands.

2.2 State of the Art

In Switzerland, 373 CO₂ refrigeration units have been installed from 2002 to 2013 and since 2010, CO₂-only refrigeration systems have been the standard in all new and retrofitted stores[14]. In a SPAR supermarket in Schüpfen¹ (Bern), a fully integrated system allows to recover the heat from the refrigeration process and transports it around the entire store to cover the full annual heating requirements.

In Schlachtbetrieb Zürich², the largest CO₂ heat pump system in Switzerland (800 kW_{th}) is used to produce hot water at 90°C for the slaughterhouse, based on waste heat from refrigeration systems.

These installations circulate evaporating CO₂ at high pressure (20–40 bar) inside fridges and freezers out of which customers are taking food. So far, to the best knowledge of the author, no major accident has been reported.

The working principles of the CO₂ district energy network of Figure 3 has been demonstrated in 2015 using a modular lab scale experimental facility designed at EPFL-Lausanne [9]. The test bench (Figure 4) is currently hosted at SIG³ in Geneva and it comprises:

- a central plant working in cooling and heating mode;
- a network with 100m of pipes packed into a volume of 16m³;
- a free cooling user at the other end of the network.

An important part of the tests was dedicated to assess the dynamic behaviour of the CO₂ network, to determine the reliability of the automatic control system, and to verify the dynamic stability and reliability of the refrigerant based network.

In spite of the relatively high pressures required by the CO₂ network, the experiments at reduced scale did not show any major pressure surge concerns: even if hydro-acoustic phenomena of liquid hammer type can occur in a CO₂ based DHC, the magnitude of the phenomenon should not raise special difficulties [9, 6].

2.3 Merits and objectives of a CO₂ system in NEST

The CO₂ system of Figure 3, p.9 is believed to perform better than the conventional water network [11]. It allows to recover internally the residual heat from space cooling using the heat pumps for space heating and hot water production with a COP of 9. Combining the CO₂ network, solar panels, electrical and thermal storage with model predictive control (MPC) [15, 18] allows to implement a residential energy-autonomous house with 4m² of PV per capita.

Implementing a CO₂ system demonstrator in NEST would mean making a step towards the development of larger scale urban CO₂ district networks. It will push the CO₂ network concept tested inside the Geneva laboratory, at the demonstrator level.

The objectives of a demonstrator in NEST would be to:

¹SPAR supermarket in Schüpfen - CO₂OLtec®

²Slaughterhouse of Zurich - thermeco₂

³Services Industriels de Genève <http://www.sig-ge.ch/en>



Figure 4: Modular lab scale experimental facility developed at EPFL and hosted in SIG¹-Geneva (source: LENI-EPFL, 2011–2015).

- demonstrate the deployment of vertical CO₂ networks on the different units of the NEST building;
- demonstrate the combined production of heating and cooling services by integrating heat recovery heat exchangers;
- demonstrate the integration of a decentralised heat pumps for unit heating;
- investigate control strategies for the CO₂ network management;
- investigate the integration of a CO₂ network for the high temperature heat supply of the unit Solar Fitness and Welness (SFW);
- investigate the integration of a decentralized heat pump for producing hot water.

Moreover, the project will contribute to develop a technical knowledge in mounting techniques in a domain where standards equipments are not yet on the market. Finally, the design of the CO₂ system should contribute to the development of norms and standards for the sizing procedures of CO₂ urban systems.

2.4 Research strategy

The synergies between the existing experimental facilities in Geneva and a future demonstrator in NEST are given in Table 2. The table clearly shows the complementarity and mutual benefit among the projects in terms of objectives, design and operation of equipments.

Table 2: Complementary research fields between laboratory facility and real scale CO₂ system demonstrator in NEST.

Theme	Topics	Demonstrator (EMPA NEST/EPFL)	Laboratory test bench (HES-SO/SIG-Geneva)
Design	Topology Conception Modularity Assembly techniques	Vertical Robust Building space and services constraints Leading to future industry standards	Horizontal Lightweight / Experimental No space or fonctionnal constraint Plant design standards
Operation	Working load Operation mode Operation time	Steady state Safe Regular operation Continuous operation	Steady state and transient Extrem / Outside regular operation conditions Discontinuous (per demand) operation
Equipments	Grid connected devices Central plant	Regular user demand Regular operating conditions	Simulated demand Simulated operating conditions
Objectives	Intended purpose Proof of concept Performances	Deployment in building Combination of proved technologies Long term real condition test	Deployment in district and cities Test of new technologies Lab test (specific conditions)

3 Methodology

In a first phase, the available NEST unit geometrical and energy data are presented. In order to identify the most appropriate configuration for a CO₂-based demonstrator in NEST, the monthly thermal energy/temperature requirements and sizing power of the planned NEST units are first estimated. This evaluation relies on monthly simulation reports, or on the annual energy from the technical and architectural concept plan. The resulting values are applied to forecast the overall energy demand when all the NEST platforms are occupied.

The CO₂-distribution network lines are designed according to the nominal power and location of the NEST units. The energy consumption, operating mode and size of the connected equipments are obtained by simulating the CO₂ system using process integration techniques[13] to minimise the annual operating cost

For the deployment of a CO₂ system in NEST, a step by step scenario including basic and advanced configurations is given together with the budget positions for the concept. The basic scenario includes at least a central plant, a CO₂ distribution line through the upper floors and a decentralized heating and cooling system. The performance of the integrated system is estimated using energy integration techniques and a thermodynamic model for the network lines, heat pumps and heat exchangers.

Finally, the investment, operating and maintenance cost allocation are estimated based on the previous results.

4 Space allocation of the NEST units

4.1 Floor area

The useful floor area (A_u) and the energy floor Area (A_e , as defined by the standard SIA 380/1 [1]) of the planned and future NEST units are reported in Table 3. As shown in Figure 5, the units are defined by planning phase (planned/existing versus future platforms, see Figure 6), floor level (1-3) and orientation (North-South) corresponding to the two technical galleries in the NEST-Core building.

For units with unknown ratio of construction (A_e/A_u-1), a fraction of 20% is applied by default. The detailed list of room utilisation according to SIA2024[17] are given in Annex B, p.35. The useful area is used later in §5 to obtain a preliminary estimation of the nominal power required according to SIA standard 2024 [17].

Table 3: Planned and future units area on the NEST platforms.

Unit	Level	Orientation	Au	Ae
Meet2Create	1	South	291 m ²	350 m ²
Vision Wood	2	South	119 m ²	152 m ²
SFW	3	North	266 m ²	275 m ²
Hilo	3	South	141 m ²	180 m ²
Urban Mining	2	North	162 m ²	194 m ²
SolAce	2	North	79 m ²	94 m ²
Total planned platforms (Construction floor ratio)			1'058 m²	1'244 m² (17.6%)
Future platforms North	1-3	North	524 m ²	616 m ²
Future platforms South	3	South	116 m ²	136 m ²
Total Future platforms			640 m²	753 m²
Total NEST units			1'698 m²	1'997 m²

The total energy area of the planned units is 1'244m², with a construction floor ratio of 17.6%. This allows to estimate the energy floor area of the future units (753m²), based on the their useful area (640m²).



Figure 5: Planned and future units of the NEST platforms with "North" and "South" technical galleries in the middle (black) – Source: Empa.

Date	Unit	2016	2017	2018
January 1, 2016	NEST Core	█		
May 1, 2016	Meet2Create	█		
May 1, 2016	Vision Wood	█		
December 1, 2016	Solares Fitness & Wellness (SFW)	█		
October 1, 2017	HiLo			█
December 1, 2017	Urban Mining			█
December 1, 2017	SolAce			█
December 1, 2017	AAL			█
January 1, 2018	Digitale Fabrikation			█

Figure 6: NEST units planning

4.2 Conclusion

With 1'244 m², the existing/planned NEST unit represents 62% of the floor energy area available on the NEST platforms. This constitutes a representative basis for the characterisation of the future units as well, providing a baseline for the design of the CO₂ system in NEST. In the existing/planned NEST units, meeting rooms are occupying almost 1/3 of the space, offices 1/5 and sleeping rooms 1/10 (Figure 7).

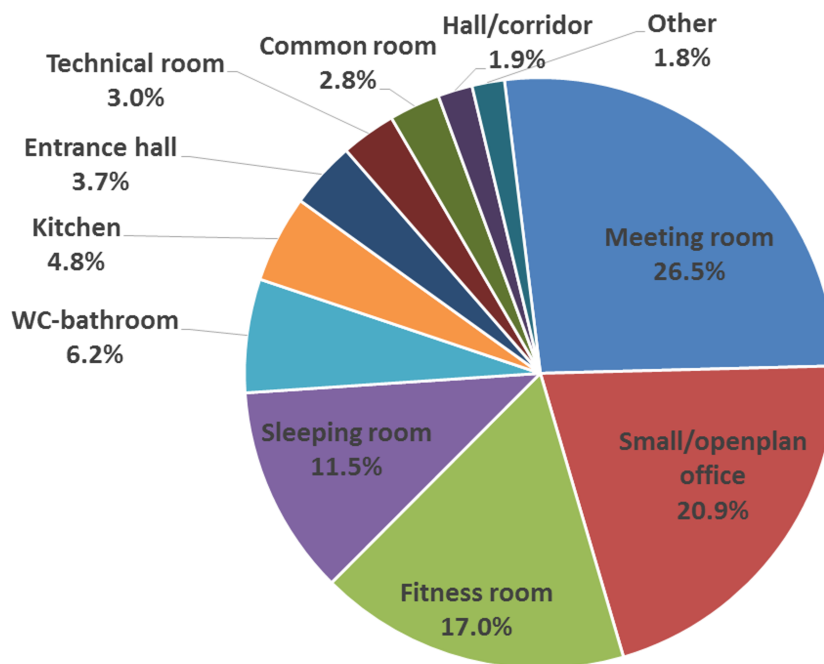


Figure 7: Space allocation of planned/existing unit in NEST

5 Energy requirements in NEST

The annual energy demand of NEST units, obtained from monthly simulation reports or from the technical and architectural concept plan are visible in Figure 8.

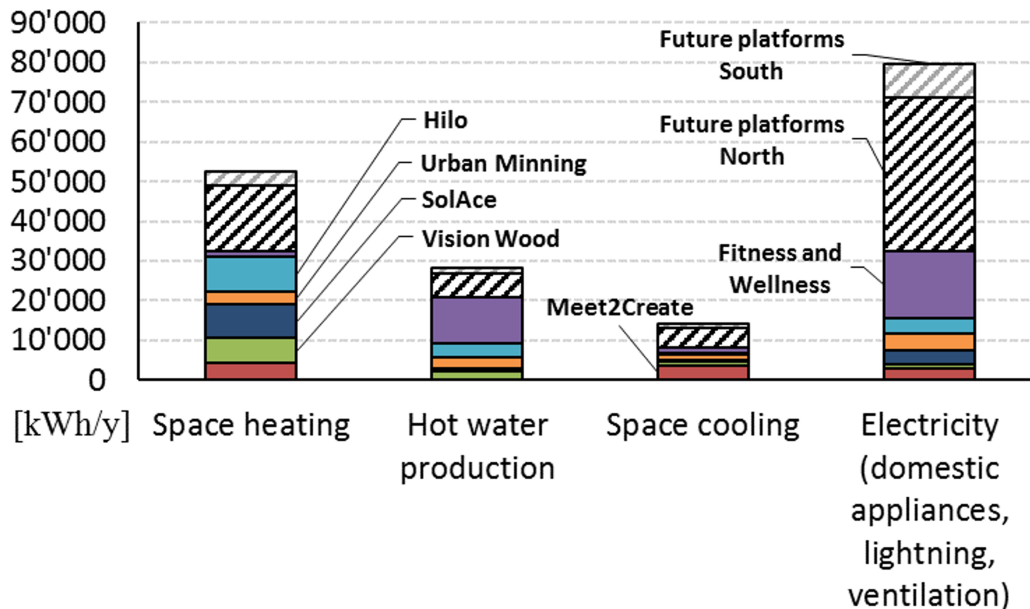


Figure 8: Yearly energy demand of the units in NEST

For each unit, a static Energy Signature model [8] and heating/cooling temperature curves [7] are integrated in order to obtain the monthly mean heating and cooling power. The model is calibrated on a typical meteorological year in Zurich–Kloten (Meteonorm [16]) with nominal sizing power for heating (at -9.9°C) and cooling (at 32.5°C). The cooling and domestic hot water sizing powers are compliant with the target values of the SIA standard 2024 [17]. The heating sizing powers are taken from existing energy simulations reports, or estimated on an annual basis considering a 2000-hour full heating load service per year.

5.1 Space heating and domestic hot water

The annual energy demand for space heating and domestic hot water with and the corresponding sizing powers are given in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Space heating and domestic hot water demand of existing and future units in NEST

Unit	Ae	Space heating			Domestic hot water	
		Q_h kWh/y	$T_{h,c}$ °C	P_h kW	Q_{dhw} kWh/y	P_{dhw} kW
Meet2Create	350 m ²	4'263	13.2	2.1	253	0.1
Vision Wood	152 m ²	6'245	12.4	3.3	2'111	0.7
SFW	275 m ²	2'266	13.3	1.1	15'687	5.0
Hilo	180 m ²	8'690	16.5	3.5	3'583	1.1
Urban Minning	194 m ²	3'359	13.2	1.7	2'782	0.9
SolAce	94 m ²	8'463	14.5	3.9	653	0.2
Total planned platforms (Mean values)	1'244 m²	33'285 (26.7 kWh/m ²)		15.6 (12.5 W/m ²)	25'069 (9.7 kWh/m ²)	8.0 (3.1 W/m ²)
Future platforms North	616 m ²	16'479	14.1	7.7	5'963	1.9
Future platforms South	136 m ²	3'648	14.1	1.7	1'320	0.4
Total Future platforms	753 m²	20'127		9.4	7'283	2.3
Total NEST units	1'997 m²	53'412		25.0	32'352	10.4

5.2 Solar Fitness and Wellness – Sauna, steam bath and shower

Power, temperature levels and monthly operating time of the Solar Fitness and Wellness (SFW) Sauna, steam bath and shower of Table 5 and 6) are obtained from report [3].

Table 5: Sauna and steam bath installed power and temperature levels.

Services	Finnish Sauna		Bio Sauna		Steam bath		Shower
	liquid		liquid	vapor	liquid	vapor	
Installed Power [kW]	1.5		0.5	1.7	0.5	1.7	1.5
Supply [°C]	120		70	85	60	85	50
Return [°C]	60		40	40	40	40	10

Table 6: Wellness – opening hours per Month.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
100 h	120 h	120 h	120 h	80 h	40 h	40 h	0 h	80 h	120 h	120 h	100 h

5.3 Space cooling

The annual energy demand for space cooling with the corresponding sizing power is given in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Cooling demand of existing and future units in NEST

Unit	Ae	Space cooling		
		Q_c kWh/y	$T_{c,c}$ °C	P_c kW
Meet2Create	350 m ²	3'554	17.9	8.3
Vision Wood	152 m ²	1'065	17.1	2.1
SFW	275 m ²	2'898	13.3	3.2
Hilo	180 m ²	412	21.1	2.0
Urban Minning	194 m ²	1'377	17.5	3.0
SolAce	94 m ²	375	22.6	2.8
Total planned platforms (Mean values)	1'244 m²	9'680 (7.8 kWh/m²)		21.6 (17.4 W/m²)
Future platforms North	616 m ²	4'793	14.1	10.7
Future platforms South	136 m ²	1'061	14.1	2.4
Total Future platforms	753 m²	5'853		13.1
Total NEST units	1'369 m²	10'646		23.8

5.4 Monthly energy demand

The aggregated monthly demand of the NEST units resulting from the simulation is shown in Figure 9.

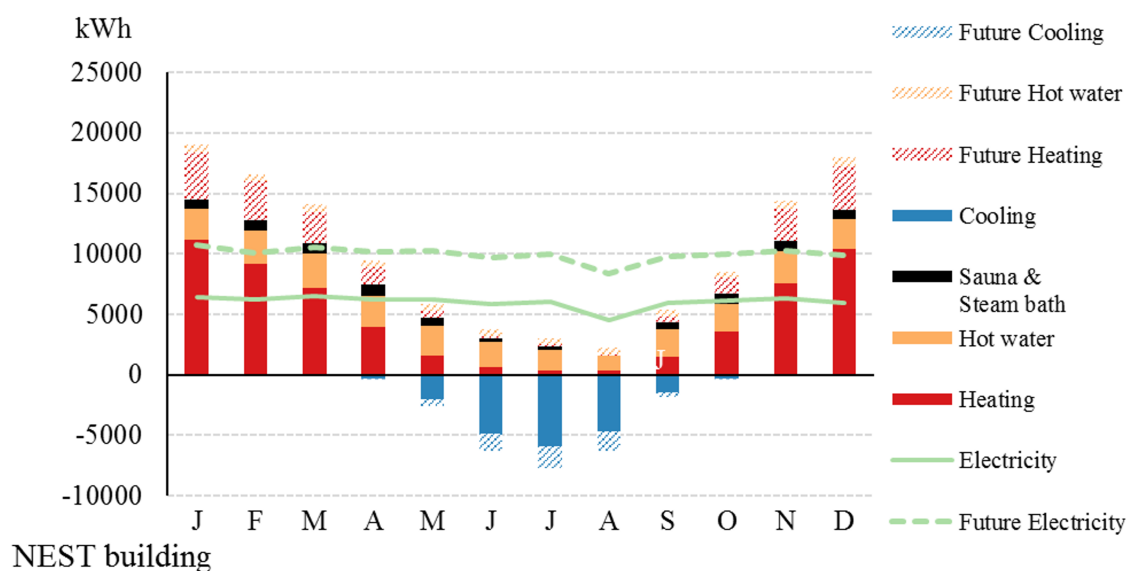


Figure 9: Aggregated monthly energy demand of the units in NEST

6 Scenario for the deployment of a CO₂ system in NEST

The CO₂ system demonstrator in NEST should be deployed through the technical galleries located on both sides of the NEST-Core building (Figure 10).

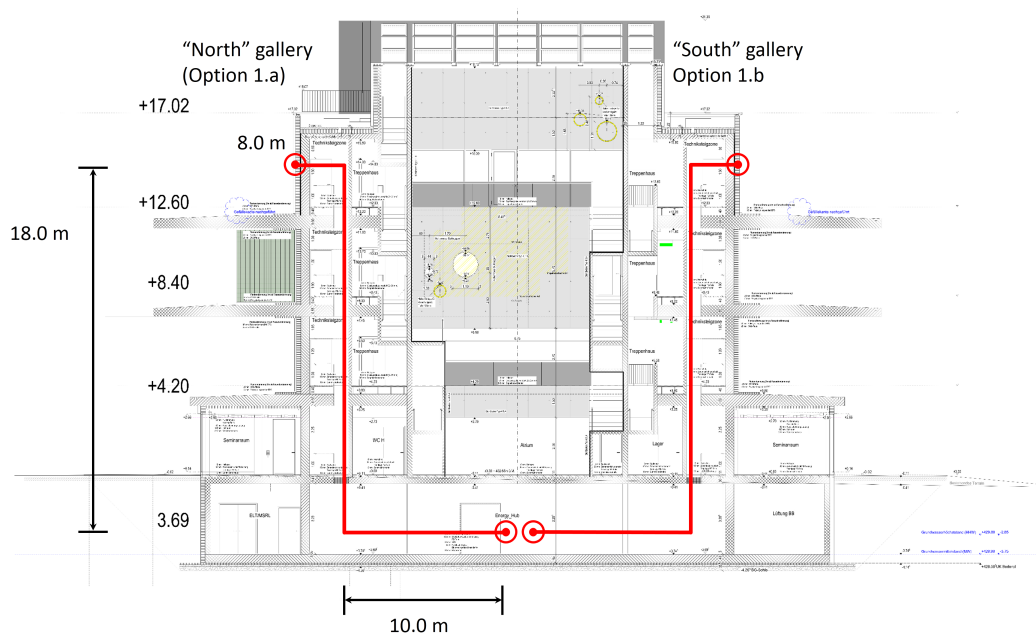


Figure 10: CO₂ distribution network in NEST with two options, through technical gallery "North" or "South".

6.1 Sizing thermal power

The sizing power for the "North" and "South" group of units is reported in Table 8.

The two basic scenarios consider the connection of the greatest heating and cooling consumers on each side of the building. On the "North" wing, it includes the "SFW" sauna, steam bath and associated shower for heating and a future unit (to be determined) for cooling (allegedly the one with the biggest floor area). On the "South" side it includes the unit "Solace" for heating and "Meet2Create" for cooling.

For each scenario the design power of the network is given by the overall sizing power requirements of planned and future units. On the "North" wing, this would represent 23.2 kW for heating and domestic hot water production through the CO₂ vapor line and 17.3 kW for cooling through the CO₂ liquid line. On the "South" wing, this would represent a total of 17.2 kW for heating and domestic hot water production in the CO₂ vapor line and 17.9 kW for cooling in the CO₂ liquid line.

Table 8: Basic and design loads for the first phase of a CO₂ network in NEST

Gallery	Options	Units	Heating P_h	dhw P_{dhw}	Vapor line P_{h+dhw}	Liquid line P_c	
North	I.3a-Basic	SFW*	5.9 kW	1.5 kW	7.4 kW	-	
		Future unit	-	-	-	3.4 kW	
			Total	5.9 kW	1.5 kW	7.4 kW	3.4 kW
	I.3a-Design	SFW	1.1 kW	5.0 kW	6.2 kW	3.2 kW	
Future platforms North		7.7 kW	1.9 kW	9.6 kW	10.7 kW		
		Total	14.8 kW	8.4 kW	23.2 kW	17.3 kW	
South	I.3b-Basic	Solace	3.9 kW	-	3.9 kW	-	
		Meet2Create	-	-	0.0 kW	8.3 kW	
			Total	3.9 kW	0.0 kW	3.9 kW	8.3 kW
	I.3b-Design	Vision Wood	3.3 kW	0.7 kW	4.0 kW	2.1 kW	
Hilo		3.5 kW	1.1 kW	4.6 kW	2.0 kW		
		Urban Minning	1.7 kW	0.9 kW	2.6 kW	3.0 kW	
		Future platforms South	1.7 kW	0.4 kW	2.1 kW	2.4 kW	
		Total	14.0 kW	3.1 kW	17.2 kW	17.9 kW	

*(Sauna-Steam bath-Shower)

6.2 Conclusion

The analysis of the energy demand of §5, p.17 has shown that the overall sizing loads are about 23 kW for heating and 18 kW for cooling for each side ("North" and "South") of the building platformsda.

This study does not account for the benefits of connecting together "North" and "South" oriented units. However, as they are located on opposite corners/sides of the building (Figure 5), this connection would require the replication of the distribution system in both galleries. For simplicity, it is therefore reasonable to consider two options for the deployment of the CO₂ distribution network, either in the "North" (I.a) or "South" (I.b) technical gallery.

7 Concept of a CO₂ system in NEST

The concept of a CO₂ system in NEST is developed in the Table 9, p.23. The system is decomposed in four phases.

The first phase (I) comprises the minimum tasks required to demonstrate the operation of a CO₂ network, ie. the implementation of:

1. a central plant exchanging heat between the NEST mid-temperature (MT) and low-temperature (LT) DHC network to achieve the balance-of-plant of the CO₂ system (§7.1, p.24);
2. two lines for the distribution of CO₂ liquid and vapor (§7.2, p.24);
3. a decentralised heat exchanger bypassing the CO₂ heat pump (HP) evaporator of the SWF unit (Option I-3.a) or a decentralized HP for low temperature floor heating using the CO₂ network (Option I-3.b) (§7.3, p.25) or a CO₂/CO₂.
4. a decentralised CO₂/Air or water free cooling heat exchanger (§7.4, p.26).

Phase (I) is presented in greater detail in the remainder of this chapter. Its costing is given in (§8, 29) with a more detailed description in Annex D, pp.38–43.

Phase (II) would move towards an energy-autonomous system by introducing energy storage, model predictive control (MPC) and supercritical oil-free, open-loop, CO₂ heat pumps upgrading the CO₂ temperature at the right level for domestic hot water consumption.

Phase (III) would bring the demonstrator closer to real operating conditions by integrating a heat pump in the central plant, thus using solely the LT water network as a thermal source.

Phase (IV) would provide a link between the CO₂ system and the mobility system (Move) in NEST, in particular by recovering heat from the PEM fuel cell.

Table 9: Concept of CO₂ system in NEST

Phase	Task (Option)	NEST Unit	Connection	Description	Equipment	Size min (Base)	Size max (Design)	Principle	Demonstration	Critical point
I	1	NEST basement	Central MT network (heating mode) and central LT network (cooling mode)/ CO2 network	Central plant composed of 1 or 2 network/CO2 heat exchanger(s)	- 2HX - 2 Bypass	Pliq = 3.9 kW Pvap = 3.4 kW	Pliq = 23.2 kW Pvap = 3.9 kW	The heat exchanger allows to balance the CO2 network liquid and vapor lines using one or two heat exchangers in heating and cooling modes. Heat from the MT network will be injected in heating mode (vaporization of CO2) or removed in cooling mode (liquefaction of CO2).	• CO2 district heating with vertical CO2 lines	- pressurized equipment
	2	NEST Core	CO2 network	Liquid and vapor CO2 distribution lines including pump valves and surge tanks	- pipes - pump - valves - surge tank - controller - sensors	HH=14.0m L=32.0m Ø liq. = 12mm Ø vap. = 15mm	HH=18.2m L=36.2m Ø liq. = 13mm Ø vap. = 16mm	The CO2 liquid and vapor distribution lines run through from the basement to the 3rd floor through the technical gallery. Design based on the experimental facility in Geneva (SG).		- pressure drop in pipes - pressurized equipment
II	(3.a)	SFW	CO2 network/CO2 heat pump	CO2/CO2 heat exchanger for the supercritical CO2 heat pump bypassing the MT network and providing heat at 140°C for the sauna, steam bath and showers.	- 1 HX - 1 controller - sensor	Pth = 7.4kW Tdims=35-20/16		The CO2/CO2 heat exchanger is used as evaporator for the CO2 supercritical heat pump. A bypass will allow to switch the heat source of the supercritical CO2 heat pump from MT network (30°C) to CO2 network (16°C).	• CO2 heat supply	- the HP compressor should be able to compress CO2 from 16° instead of from 30°C - agreement of the HP manufacturer
	(3.b)	Solace	CO2 network/ heating substation	Decentralised HP for low temperature floor heating using CO2 network	- 1 HP - 1 HX - 1 bypass - 1 controller - sensor	Pth = 3.9 kW		Conventional heat pump using CO2 network as a heat source (could also be cold/reversible?) to deliver heat to the low temperature floor heating system of the unit. Replacing the HP evaporator by a CO2 heat exchanger.	• Decentralised closed loop heat pump	- Space availability - Possibility of using high speed compressor prototype
III	(4.a)	Future unit	CO2 network/ cooling substation	CO2/Air or water free cooling heat exchanger	- 1 HX - 1 bypass - 1 controller - sensor	Pth = 3.4 kW		The heat exchanger provides free cooling by evaporating CO2 at 16°C from the liquid line to the vapor line. Parallel concept to the LT network connection.	• CO2 heat recovery and free cooling	
	(4.b)	Meet2Create	CO2 network/ cooling substation	CO2/Air or water free cooling heat exchanger	- 1 HX - 1 bypass - 1 controller - sensor	Pth = 8.3 kW		The heat exchanger provides free cooling by evaporating CO2 at 16°C from the liquid line to the vapor line. Parallel concept to the LT network connection.	• CO2 heat recovery and free cooling	
IV	1	NEST basement	CO2 network	Liquid and vapor CO2 tanks with model predictive control hardware	- 2 tanks	Vliq = 60 L Vvap = 20 L	Vliq = 150 L Vvap = 25 L	The CO2 liquid and vapor storage are designed for daily energy storage. The model predictive on control module ensure the optimal operation of the stocks.	• Integration of heat and cold storage • MPC integration	- pressurized equipment falling within categories III (<3000 bar-L) or IV (>3000 bar-L) of the pressure directive (2014/68/EU)
	2	Future unit	CO2 network/ domestic hot water	Supercritical open loop CO2 heat pump for hot water production	- 1 HP - 1 bypass - 1 controller - sensor	Pth = 0.5 kW	Pth = 5.0 kW	The open loop heat pump uses CO2 from the network to produce hot water using a supercritical oil-free compression cycle with direct reinjection in the CO2 liquid line.	• Network is the evaporator of a decentralized CO2 heat pump	- oil-free compressor technology - open loop heat pump
V	1	NEST basement	LT network/ CO2 network	Central heat pump on the LT network	- 1 HP - 1 bypass - 1 controller - sensor	Pth = 8.3 kW	Pth = 23.2 kW	Use of the LT network as a heat source for the open loop HP preparing the distributed CO2 in heating mode (substitute from the MT/CO2 network connection).	• Network is the condenser of a centralized CO2 heat pump	- centralized open loop heat pump
	2	Move	CO2 network/ cooling system of PEM and electrolyser	PV, Electrolyser and PEM integration	- pipes - pump - valves - surge tanks - controller - sensors	L = 150m	L = 150m	Heat recovery from the PEM	• Heat recovery - integration DHC with mobility	- distance to the the NEST building

7.1 Central plant

The central plant will collect medium-temperature and low-temperature water in the NEST MT network, and LT network. The configuration shown in Figure 11 allows to operate the water/CO₂ evaporative condenser in two modes. The proportional valve (1) and the flow meter (F) allow to control the hot and cold water flow rates. The other valves are closing and opening, depending on the selected mode of operation. In evaporating mode, MT water will flow through the counter current evaporative condensers. In condensing mode, valves will let LT water flow in. Note that the increase of temperature of the LT network involves shifting upward the pressure of the CO₂ network. Thus, the CO₂ system might fail to function in condensing mode for a cold water temperature greater than 20/15°C.

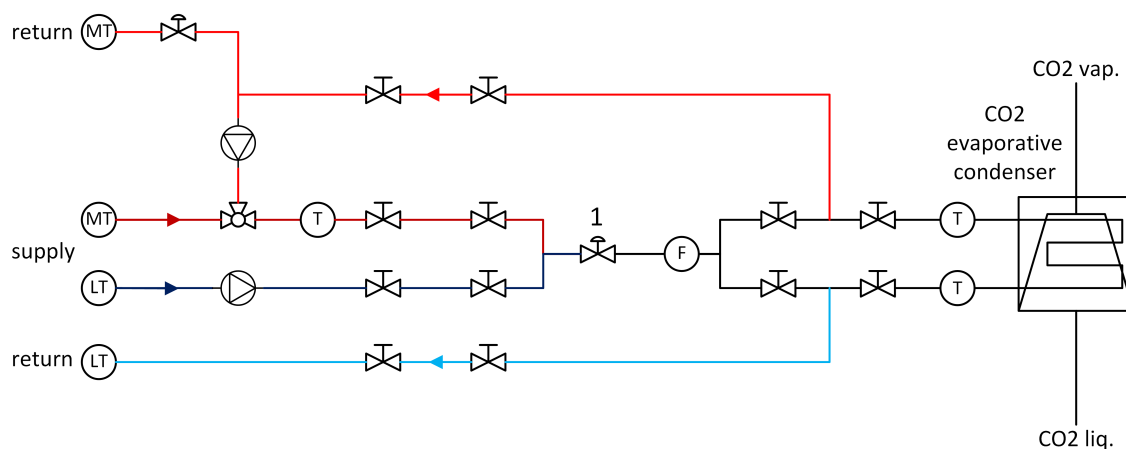


Figure 11: Hydraulic circuit diagram of the central plan.

7.2 CO₂ distribution network

The design point of the CO₂ distribution network is set to 52 bar, 11°C in the liquid line and 50 bar, 18°C in the vapor line. The CO₂ distribution network of Figure 12 can work in CO₂ evaporation mode (dashed line) and in CO₂ condensing mode (continuous line). In condensing mode the CO₂ is flowing from the vapor line, passing through a pressurizing pump to reach the liquid line.

With a pressure of 50 bar and the design specification of Table 8, the diameter of the pipe should be designed at 18mm for the vapor line and 11mm for the liquid line. This corresponds to a design velocity of 3 m/s (0.6 m/s in base load) in the liquid line and 1 m/s (0.2 m/s in base load) in the vapor line. This values account for hydraulic and friction pressure losses in pipes [2].

One can see in Annex C, p. 36–37, Figure 17 and 18 that the network does not fall under the pressure equipment directive (PED EC 2014/68 [4]) (sound engineering practice apply). However, in the vapor line, the design point is very close to the limit of 1000 bar·mm. Unless the design power set aside the future units, the network will be designed within the category (I) of the PED, where self-certification principles apply.

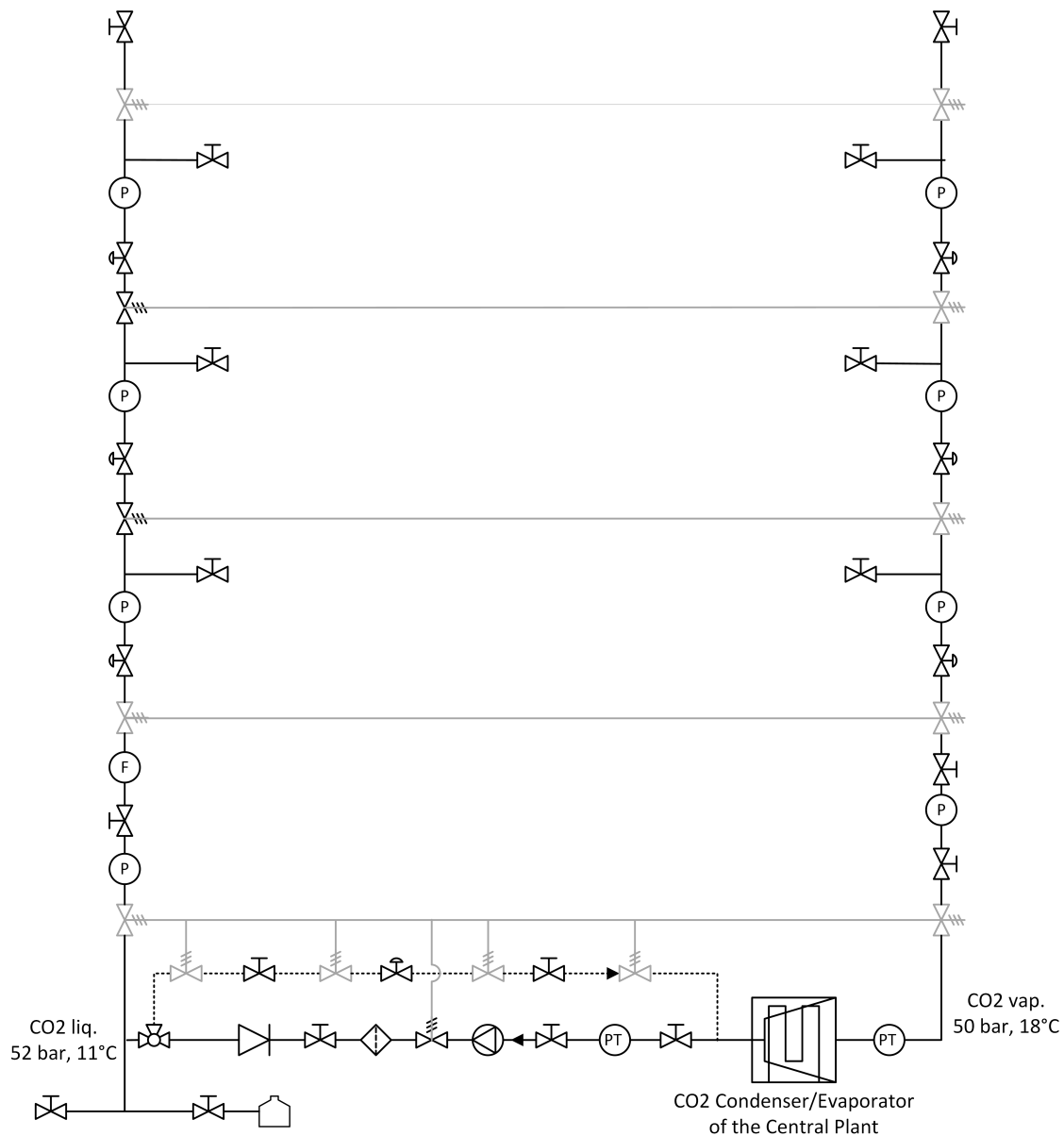


Figure 12: Hydraulic circuit diagram of the CO₂ distribution network in NEST.

7.3 Decentralised CO₂ heat exchanger/heat pump

The hydraulic circuit diagram of the decentralised CO₂ heat exchanger/heat pump is visible in Figure 13. Given an existing heat pump, the evaporator of the heat pump is retrofitted to be connected to the CO₂ network. On the other side, the MT water network is by-passed by the HP condenser.

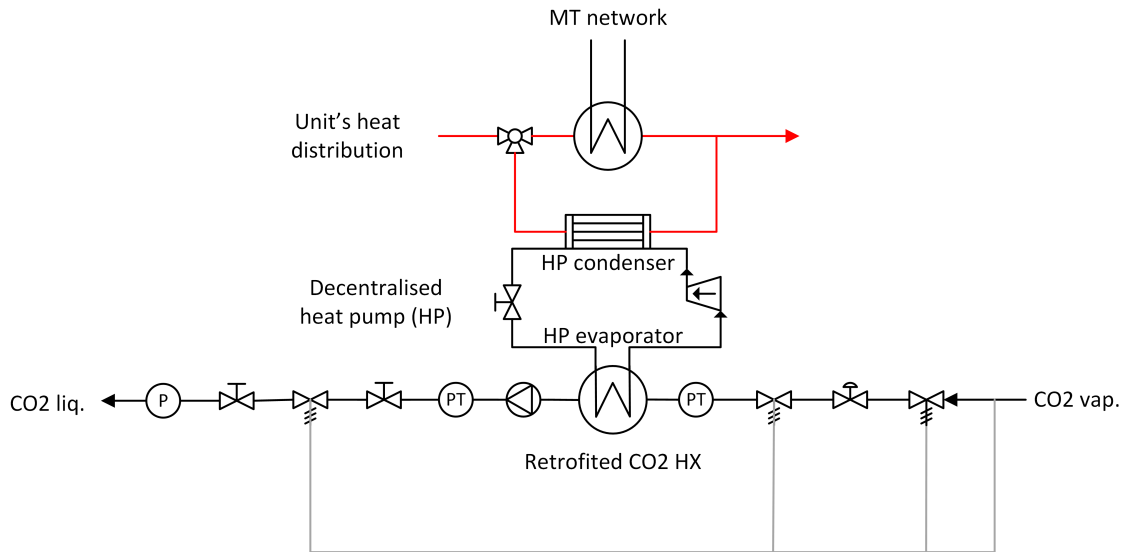


Figure 13: Hydraulic circuit diagram of the retrofitted heat pump CO₂ evaporator.

7.4 CO₂/Air or water free cooling heat exchanger

The hydraulic circuit diagram of the CO₂/Air (or water) free cooling heat exchanger is shown in Figure 14. A proportional valve controls the flow of liquid CO₂ that evaporates in the free cooling heat exchanger before reaching the vapor line of the network.

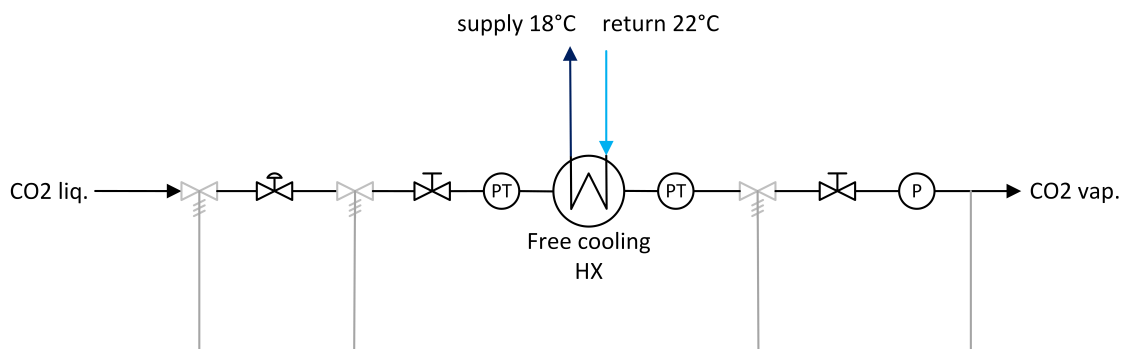


Figure 14: Hydraulic circuit diagram of the CO₂ free cooling heat exchanger.

7.5 Performance of the CO₂ system

The performance of the proposed CO₂ system in NEST has been estimated considering the basic scenario 1.(a) and 1.(b) of Table 8 with monthly simulation of the heating/cooling demand and thermodynamic model for:

- the CO₂ liquid and vapor line
- a supercritical (140°C) decentralised CO₂ HP (option I-3a)
- a decentralised R1234yf HP (option I-3b) for space heating and DHW production (option I-3b)

- a centralized R1234yf HP taking upgrading heat from LT network ($T=10^{\circ}\text{C}$) to the CO_2 network
- photovoltaic (PV) panels and electricity storage. The simulation does not take into consideration the pumping consumption yet. Under these conditions, the central HP reaches an annual COP 18.4, the decentralised heat pump for space heating a COP of 9.2 (I-3b) and the supercritical decentralized CO_2 HP a COP of 3.47. This leads to an annual electric consumption of 2510 $\text{kWh}_{el}/\text{year}$ for option I-3a and 1230 $\text{kWh}_{el}/\text{year}$ for option I-3b.

The system is energy autonomous (Figure 15 and 16) with 19.3/8.8 m^2 (option I-3a/I-3b) of PV cells coupled with an electricity storage of 1.25/0.86 kW (option I-3a/I-3b).

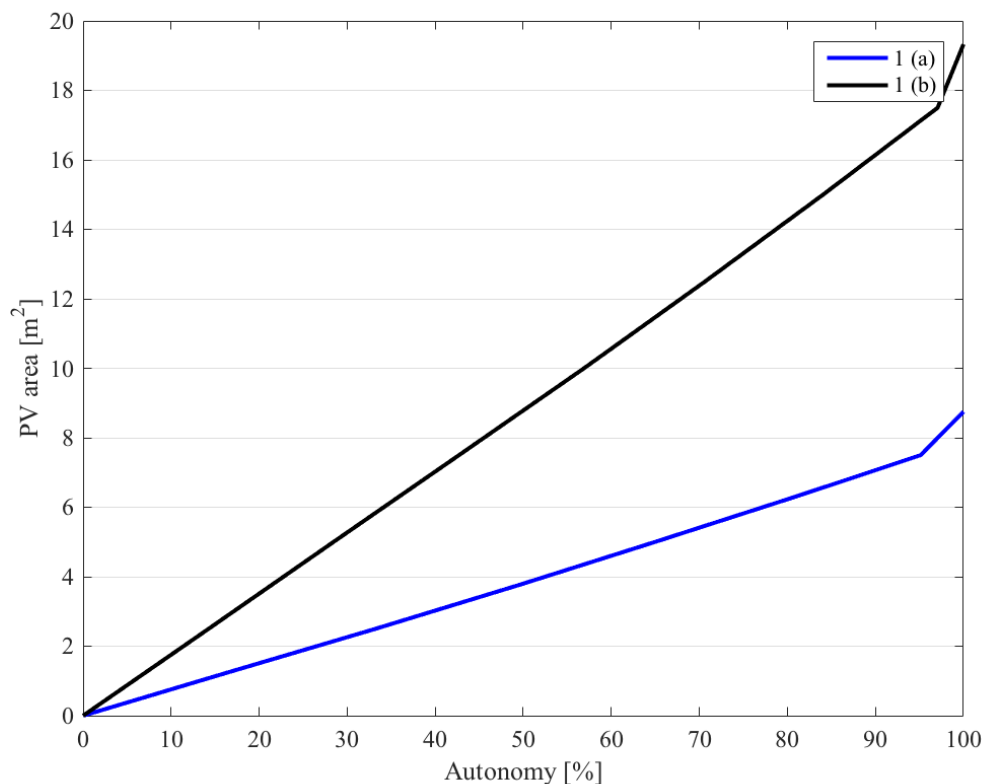


Figure 15: PV area as a function of the monthly energy autonomy of the CO_2 system.

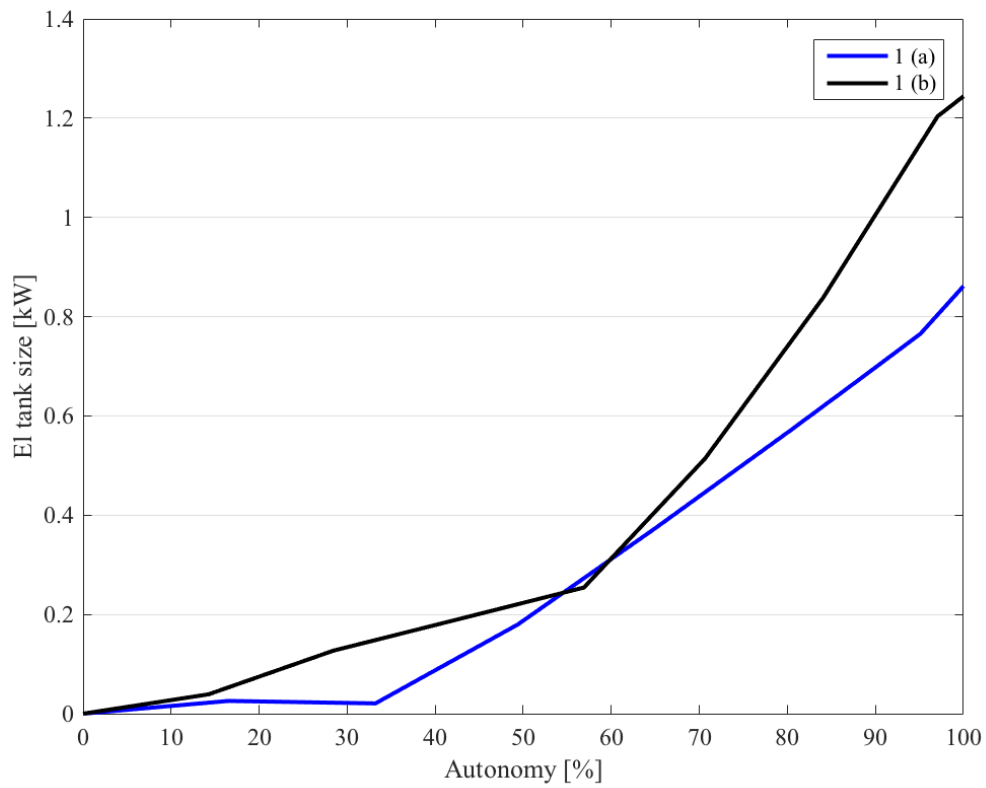


Figure 16: Electricity storage size as a function of the monthly energy autonomy of the CO₂ system.

8 Economic evaluation of a CO₂ system in NEST

The economic evaluation of the tasks of Phase (I) are given in Table 10. Further details for each task are given in Annex D, pp.38-43.

The cost of the system is estimated at 297'000.-CHF for the scenario which includes the retrofit/by-pass of the evaporator of the planned supercritical CO₂ heat pump of unit SFW (option I-3a) and 315'000 for the scenario considering the retrofit of the evaporator of a commercial heat pump for providing space heating (option I-3b).

Table 10: Economic evaluation of the deployment of a CO₂ system in NEST

CO ₂ System in NEST		
Phase - Task	Description	Price CHF
I.1 Central Plant heat exchanger(s)		97'000.0
I.2 CO ₂ distribution network		65'000.0
I.3a CO ₂ /CO ₂ heat exchanger for the supercritical CO ₂ heat pump		61'000.0
I.3b Decentralised HP for space heating using CO ₂ network		79'000.0
I.4 CO ₂ free cooling heat exchanger		60'000.0
Compressed air network		3'000.0
Safety ventilation		5'000.0
Conformity CE, PED...		6'000.0
Total phase I	Option a	297'000
	Option b	315'000

Considering a ratio on investment of 3.0% for the annual maintenance and a cost of 20 cts/kWh for electricity, the operation and maintenance cost is of the order of 10'000 CHF/year.

9 Conclusion

With 1'244 m^2 , the existing/planned NEST units represent 62% of the floor energy area available on the NEST platforms. This constitutes a representative basis for the characterisation of the future units as well, providing a baseline for the design of the CO₂ system in NEST.

In the existing/planned NEST units, meeting rooms are occupying almost 1/3 of the space, offices 1/5 and sleeping rooms 1/10.

The analysis of the energy demand of §5, p.17 has shown that the overall sizing loads are about 23 kW for heating and 18 kW cooling for each side ("North" and "South") of the building platforms.

For simplicity, two options for the deployment of the CO₂ distribution network are considered: either in the "North" (option I-3a) or "South" (option I-3b) technical gallery. The first phase (I) of deployment of a CO₂ system in NEST would comprise the minimum tasks required to demonstrate the operation of a CO₂ network : a central plant, two lines for the distribution of CO₂ liquid and vapor, a decentralised heat exchanger bypassing the CO₂ heat pump (HP) evaporator of the SWF unit (Option I-3.a) or a decentralized HP for low temperature floor heating using the CO₂ network (Option I-3.b) and a decentralised CO₂/Air or water free cooling heat exchanger.

The system is energy autonomous (Figure 15 and 16) with 19.3/8.8 m^2 (option I-3a/I-3b) of PV cells coupled with an electricity storage of 1.25/0.86 kW (option I-3a/I-3b).

The cost of the system is estimated at 297'000.-CHF for the scenario which considers the retrofit/by-pass of the evaporator of the planned supercritical CO₂ heat pump of unit SFW (option I-3a) and 315'000 for the scenario which includes the retrofit of the evaporator of a commercial heat pump for providing space heating (option I-3b).

Considering a ratio on investment of 3.0% for the annual maintenance and a cost of 20 cts/kWh for electricity, the operation and maintenance cost is of the order of 10'000 CHF/year.

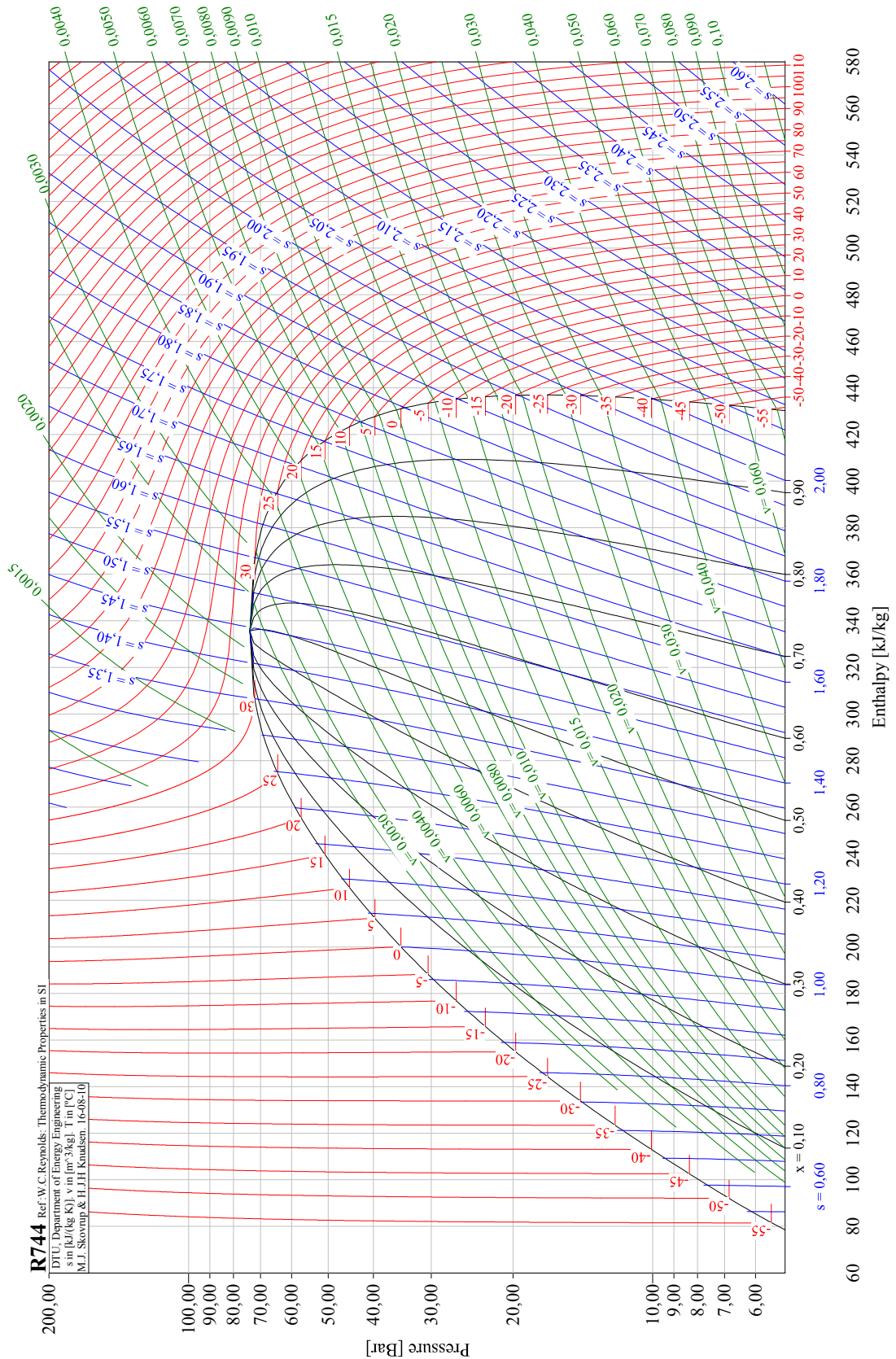
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Annex

A CO₂ pressure-enthalpy diagram



B Space utilisation in NEST units

Table 11: Useful (A_u) and energy (A_e) floor area (ratio of construction of 20% by default)

Unit	Floor	Nr. (SIA 2024)	Room	A_u (SIA 2024)		Construction floor factor	A_e (SIA 380/1)
Nest Core	0	12.1	Backbone ohne UG	1'000.0 m ²	1'500.0 m ²	-	-
		4.5	Untergeschoss (UG)	500.0 m ²			
Meet2Create	1	3.3	In-Out	50.5 m ²	291.4 m ²	20.0%	349.7 m ²
		3.1	Cocoon	97.6 m ²			
		3.3	Hybrid	143.3 m ²			
Vision Wood	2	3.1	Residence	44.8 m ²	119.2 m ²	27.5%	152.0 m ²
		12.6	WC, bathroom	10.8 m ²			
		12.1	Hall/corridor	4.5 m ²			
		6.2	Common room	29.5 m ²			
		12.4	Technical room	13.5 m ²			
2.1	Free	16.1 m ²					
Urban Mining	2	2.1	Bedroom	68.8 m ²	161.8 m ²	20.0%	194.2 m ²
		3.1	Kitchen, dining hall	24.2 m ²			
		3.3	Meeting room	24.2 m ²			
		12.1	Corridor	6.2 m ²			
		12.6	Bathroom	10.6 m ²			
		12.7	WC	8.1 m ²			
		12.4	Storage	6.8 m ²			
2.2	Entrance hall	13.0 m ²					
SolAce	2	2.1	Hotel room	8.2 m ²	78.7 m ²	19.4%	94.0 m ²
		3.1	Small/openplan office	32.3 m ²			
		12.5	Kitchen	6.2 m ²			
		3.3	Meeting room	27.6 m ²			
		12.6	WC, bathroom	3.0 m ²			
		12.4	Annex room	1.5 m ²			
Hilo	3	2.2	Entry	5.8 m ²	141.3 m ²	27.1%	179.6 m ²
		2.1	Bedroom	28.4 m ²			
		12.6	Ensuite	11.4 m ²			
		12.5	Kitchen+Dinning	24.3 m ²			
		3.3	Work/Live-Lounge	35.4 m ²			
		3.1	Study	22.0 m ²			
		12.1	Walkways/Gallery	9.3 m ²			
		12.3	Stairs	4.7 m ²			
SFW	3	11.2	Fitness room	60.0 m ²	266.0 m ²	3.4%	275.0 m ²
		12.6	WC, bathroom	30.0 m ²			
		12.4	Annex room	10.0 m ²			
		11.2	Fitness room	120.0 m ²			
		2.2	Reception Zone	20.0 m ²			
		12.5	Kitchen	20.0 m ²			
		10.1	Depot	2.0 m ²			
		12.7	WC	4.0 m ²			

C CO₂ network piping design

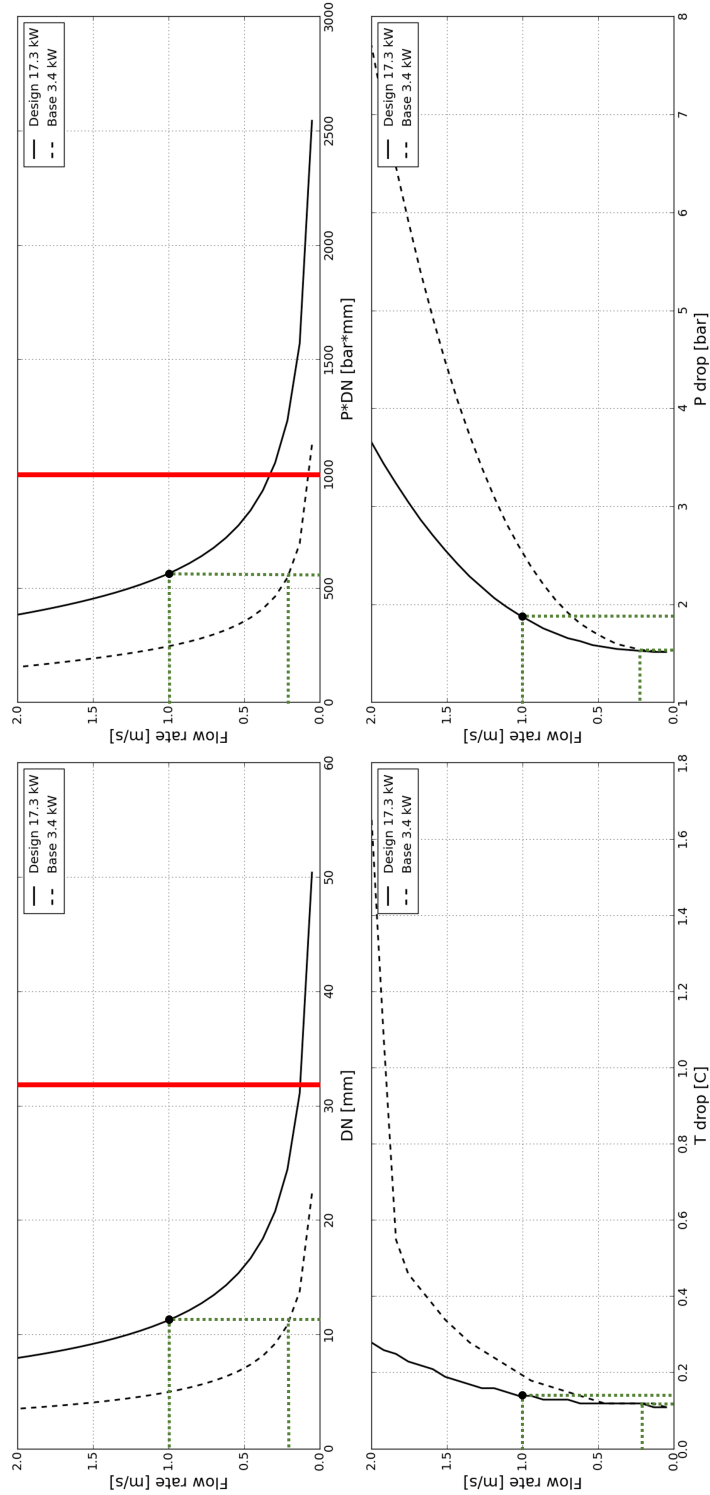


Figure 17: Design of the CO₂ liquid line at 52 bar, 11°C (design point in black - not subject to the PED [4] limit in red)

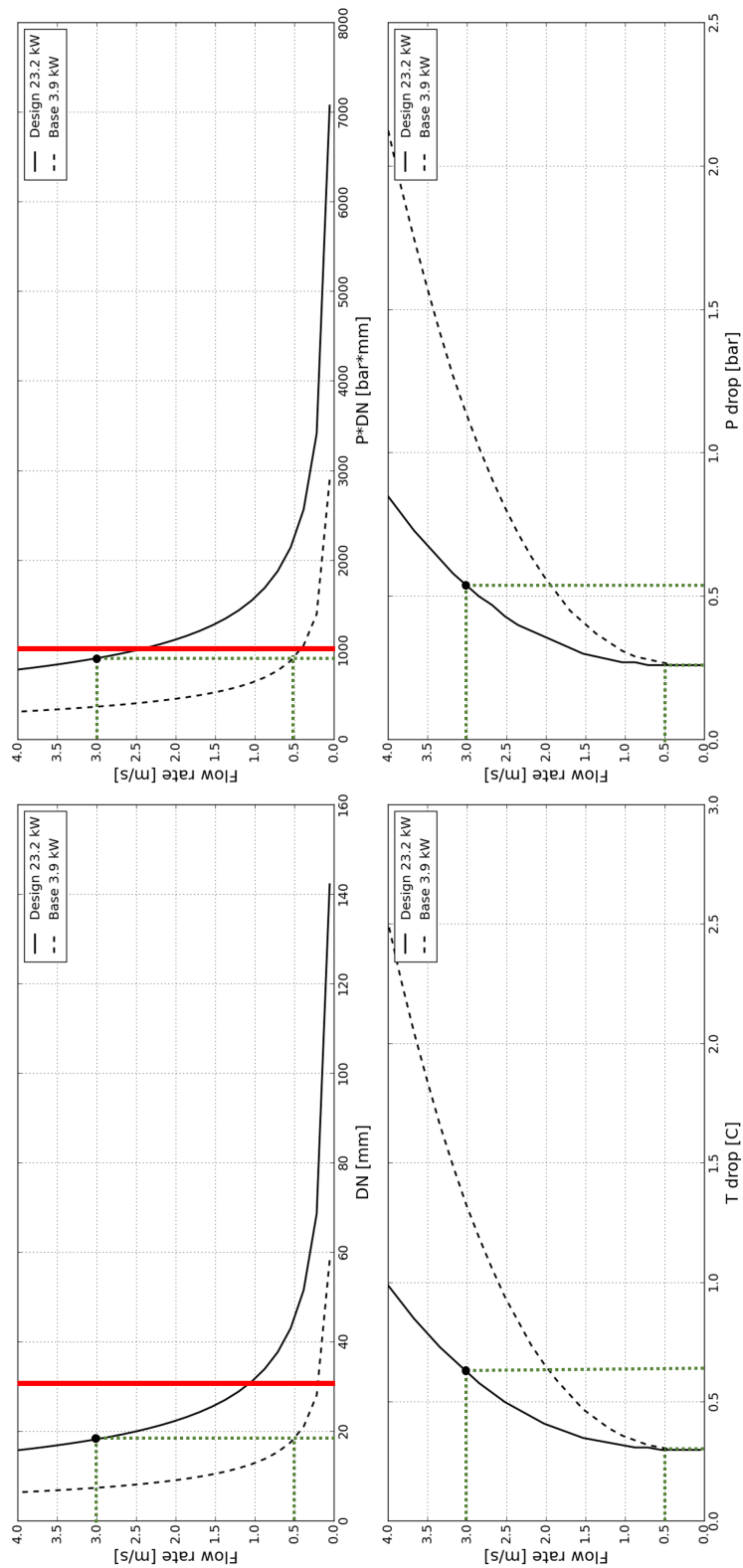


Figure 18: Design of the CO₂ vapor line at 50 bar, 18°C (design point in black – not subject to the PED [4]limit in red)

D Economic evaluation of a CO₂ system in NEST

I.1 Central Plant heat exchanger(s)					
Description	Supplier	Type	price CHF	quantity	
CO2 condensate pump	Grundfoss	RC2-7	5'000.0	1	5'000
CO2 variable speed drive	Mitsubishi electric	FR-E740-095SC-EC	875.0	1	875
CO2 heat exchanger (modified HP)	alfa laval	spherique 3/4" moteur rapide	3'200.0	1	3'200
CO2 control valve	Refrigera/Belimo		795.0	4	3'180
temperature sensor	Roth+Co.	W020.4L.06.0X0050AB1	50.0	20	1'000
pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Cerabar T PMP131 A70	176.0	8	1'408
differential pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Deltabar S PMD75	2'005.0	4	8'020
flowmeter CO2/refr. HP	No info yet		7'000.0	2	14'000
flowmeter hot water/cold water	Aquametro	Topas pmg	500.0	4	2'000
PLC	WAGO or NI		20'000.0	1	20'000
Gas leak detection	gasalarm		2'500.0	1	2'500
Pressure switch	Baumer	RP2N	272.0	3	816
Pressure relief valves	Nova Generali		120.0	4	480
CO2 Filter/dehumidifier	MP filtri		400.0	1	400
check valve 3.5 bar	Swagelok		171.0	4	684
ball valve hand operated	refrigera		450.0	4	1'800
check valve	Swagelok		171.0	2	342
CO2 sightglass	refrigera		202.0	8	1'616
hours of work			100.0	300	30'000
Total					97'000

I.2 CO2 distribution network		
Description	Price	quantity
Network piping liquid CO2	35.0	36 m
Network piping vapour CO2	35.0	36 m
network sectioning valves and accessories	32'000.0	1
Construction work of the pipelines	100.0	300
Total		65'000

I.3a CO2/CO2 heat exchanger for the supercritical CO2 heat pump					
	Description	Supplier	Type	price CHF	quantity
Heat exchanger	CO2 heat exchanger (modified HP)	alfa laval	CBX P52 - 106	1'655.0	2
	CO2 control valve	Refrigera/Belimo	spherique 3/4" moteur rapide	795.0	2
Control, data acquisition	Bypass			1'000.0	1
	temperature sensor	Roth+Co.	W020.4L.06.0X0050AB1	50.0	16
	pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Cerabar T PMP131 A70	176.0	6
	differential pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Deltabar S PMD75	2'005.0	3
	flowmeter CO2/refr. HP	No info yet	No info yet	7'000.0	2
	flowmeter hot water/cold water	Aquametro	Topas pmg	500.0	3
	PLC	WAGO or NI	No info yet	7'000.0	1
Safety	Gas leak detection	gasalarm	No info yet	2'500.0	1
	Pressure switch	Baumer	RP2N	272.0	3
	Pressure relief valves	Nova Generali		120.0	6
	CO2 Filter/dehumidifier	MP filtri		400.0	2
Servicing and maintenance	check valve 3.5 bar	Swagelok		171.0	6
	ball valve hand operated	refrigera		450.0	6
	check valve	Swagelok		171.0	1
Assembly	CO2 sightglass	refrigera		202.0	4
	hours of work			100.0	150
Total					61'000

I.3b Decentralised HP for space heating using CO2 network					
	Description	Supplier	Type	price CHF	quantity
Heating	Heat pump	Waterkotte	EcoTouch A1l Geo 5006.5	13'825.0	1
	CO2 condensate pump	Grundfoss	RC2-7	5'000.0	1
	CO2 variable speed drive	Mitsubishi electric	FR-E740-095SC-EC	875.0	1
Control, data acquisition	Evaporator/condensor	Alfa Laval		4'000.0	1
	Heat pump retrofit			100.0	42
	temperature sensor	Roth+Co.	W020.4L.06.0X0050AB1	50.0	12
	pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Cerabar T PMP131 A70	176.0	4
	differential pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Deltabar S PMD75	2'005.0	2
	flowmeter CO2/refr. HP	No info yet	No info yet	7'000.0	2
	flowmeter hot water/cold water	Aquametro	Topas pmg	500.0	2
	PLC	WAGO or NI	No info yet	7'000.0	1
	Gas leak detection	gasalarm	No info yet	4'000.0	1
	Pressure switch	Baumer	RP2N	272.0	3
Safety	Pressure relief valves	Nova Generali		120.0	4
	CO2 Filter/dehumidifier	MP filtri		400.0	1
Servicing and maintenance	check valve 3.5 bar	Swagelok		171.0	4
	ball valve hand operated	refrigera		450.0	4
	check valve	Swagelok		171.0	1
	CO2 sightglass	refrigera		202.0	4
Assembly	hours of work		100.0	150	
Total					79'000

I.4 CO2 free cooling heat exchanger						
Description	Supplier	Type	price CHF	quantity		
CO2 heat exchanger (free cooling)	alfa laval	CBX P52 - 106	1'655.0	2	3'310	
CO2 control valve	Refrigera/Belimo	spherique 3/4" moteur rapide	795.0	2	1'590	
temperature sensor	Roth+Co.	W020.4L.06.0X0050AB1	50.0	16	800	
pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Cerabar T PMP131 A70	176.0	6	1'056	
differential pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Deltabar S PMD75	2'005.0	3	6'015	
flowmeter CO2/refr. HP	No info yet	No info yet	7'000.0	2	14'000	
flowmeter hot water/cold water	Aquametro	Topas pmg	500.0	3	1'500	
PLC	WAGO or NI	No info yet	7'000.0	1	7'000	
Gas leak detection	gasalarm	No info yet	2'500.0	1	2'500	
Pressure switch	Baumer	RP2N	272.0	3	816	
Pressure relief valves	Nova Generali		120.0	6	720	
CO2 Filter/dehumidifier	MP filtri		400.0	2	800	
check valve 3.5 bar	Swagelok		171.0	6	1'026	
ball valve hand operated	refrigera		450.0	6	2'700	
check valve	Swagelok		171.0	1	171	
CO2 sightglass	refrigera		202.0	4	808	
hours of work			100.0	150	15'000	
Total					60'000	

II CO2 tanks and MPC hardware				
Description	Supplier	Type	price CHF	quantity
CO2 liqui tank			10'000.0	1
CO2 vapor tank			10'000.0	1
Total				20'000

III Central plant				
Description	Supplier	Type	price CHF	quantity
water - CO2 HP	Waterkotte	ET027505A1W	15'624.0	2
CO2 condensate pump	Grundfoss	RC2-7	5'000.0	2
CO2 variable speed drive	Mitsubishi electric	FR-E740-095SC-EC	875.0	2
CO2 heat exchanger (modified HP)	alfa laval	CBX P52 - 106	1'655.0	4
CO2 heat exchanger (free cooling)	alfa laval	CBX P52 - 106	1'655.0	4
CO2 control valve	Refrigera/Belimo	spherique 3/4" moteur rapide	795.0	4
temperature sensor	Roth+Co.	W020.4L.06.0X0050AB1	50.0	20
pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Cerabar T PMP131 A70	176.0	8
differential pressure transducer	Endress Hauser	Deltabar S PMD75	2'005.0	4
flowmeter CO2/refr. HP	No info yet	No info yet	7'000.0	2
flowmeter hot water/cold water	Aquametro	Topas pmg	500.0	4
PLC	WAGO or NI	No info yet	20'000.0	1
Gas leak detection	gasalarm	No info yet	4'000.0	1
Pressure switch	Baumer	RP2N	272.0	3
Pressure relief valves	Nova Generali		120.0	4
CO2 Filter/dehumidifier	MP filtri		400.0	1
check valve 3.5 bar	Swagelok		171.0	4
ball valve hand operated	refrigera		450.0	4
check valve	Swagelok		171.0	2
CO2 sightglass	refrigera		202.0	8
hours of work			100.0	200
Total				136'000

CO2 System in NEST		
Phase - Task	Description	Price CHF
I.1 Central plant heat exchanger(s)		97'000.0
I.2 CO2 distribution network		65'000.0
I.3a CO2/CO2 heat exchanger for the supercritical CO2 heat pump		61'000.0
I.3b Decentralised HP for space heating using CO2 network		79'000.0
I.4 CO2 free cooling heat exchanger		60'000.0
Compressed air network		3'000.0
Safety ventilation	Operated in case of leak	5'000.0
Conformity CE, PED...		6'000.0
Total phase I	Option a	297'000
	Option b	315'000
II CO2 tanks and MPC hardware		20'000.0
Conformity CE, PED...		6'000.0
Total phase II		26'000
III Central plant		136'000.0
Conformity CE, PED...		6'000.0
Total phase III		142'000
Total phase I-II-III	Option a	465'000
	Option b	483'000