



107<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW • ST. PAUL, MN • JUNE 20 – 23

## CITIES AND LOW CARBON SOLUTIONS

# Innovative Seawater Heat Pump District Heating – Juneau, Alaska

Alan Simchick,  
Emerson Climate  
Technologies

Duff Mitchell, Juneau  
Hydropower and Juneau  
District Heating

Current Status: Diesel Heating  
Fuel-

**High Carbon**



Future Status: Hydro based  
Seawater Heat Pump District  
Heating-

**Zero Carbon & Lower Cost**



# JUNEAU DISTRICT HEATING-ZERO CARBON SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

# PRESENTATION ROADMAP

## JUNEAU, ALASKA - ZERO CARBON SOLUTION

- ▶ Why-WIFM
- ▶ Market Analysis & Demand
- ▶ Economic Analysis
- ▶ Environmental & Carbon Reduction Analysis
- ▶ Seawater Heat Pump Course of Action
- ▶ Sustainability and Implementation

# WHY DISTRICT HEATING FOR JUNEAU?

- ▶ District Heating is a component of “**local**” community planning for over a decade:  
Comprehensive Plan, Climate Action Plan, Willoughby Plan, Sealaska/Federal study, etc.
- ▶ **High urban heat load density**
- ▶ **High space heating costs based on fossil fuels**
- ▶ *Low conversion costs-redundancy of existing heating systems*
- ▶ **Available Local Renewable Energy Resources**

TEAM EFFORT-CBJ, JEDC, DBA, Emerson Juneau Hydropower, Ever-Green,  
Denmark-District Energy Alliance

**Downtown Juneau, Alaska is well-suited for District Heating**

- ▶ **78% OF JUNEAU IS HEATED BY FUEL OIL**
- ▶ **90% OF TARGET DOWNTOWN IS HEATED BY FUEL OIL**
- ▶ Current Fuel oil price is .50 cents a gallon above Seattle due to shipping and handling costs (891 miles)
- ▶ **FUEL OIL VOLATILITY** \$5.00 a gallon vs. \$2.50 a gallon
- ▶ **Alternative must provide High Heat (above 180°F)**
- ▶ Heating Costs are a large governmental and business property operating expense (7842 Heating Degree Days)

## MARKET ANALYSIS & DEMAND

- ▶ **Pellets**-No local production, imported, high transport and handling costs. Long term price unknown.
- ▶ **Biomass**-Limited local production but not sustainable. High transport and handling costs that exceed biomass value.
- ▶ **Natural Gas-CHP**-No local supply chain, expensive transportation and handling. No infrastructure for converting LNG to natural gas and no distribution infrastructure.
- ▶ **Seawater Heat Pump** -Local resource, local expertise. High upfront costs. Innovative, but proven technology

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS



- ▶ **Pellets**-Carbon impact on production, importation and handling. Less emissions than fuel oil. Possibly sustainable. Ash residue.
- ▶ **Biomass**-Carbon impact on production, importation and handling. Less emissions than fuel oil. High transport and handling costs that exceed biomass value. Possibly sustainable. Ash residue.
- ▶ **Natural Gas-CHP** - Methane impact on NG production, carbon impact on importation, transportation and handling. Less emissions than fuel oil. Not sustainable. No Ash residue.
- ▶ **Seawater Heat Pump** -Local resource and use of integrated renewable hydropower electricity. Creates a “value added” renewable energy resource. **Zero emissions** with a COP of 3 .  
Sustainable virtually... forever

## ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



# **SEAWATER HEAT PUMP COURSE OF ACTION**

**JUNEAU HAS THE RESOURCES TO HEAT ITSELF  
SUSTAINABLY...FOREVER**





# SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Harvest heat from Gastineau Channel (Juneau)
- ▶ Convert Seawater Heat to produce 3 units of heat energy for every 1 unit of electrical energy input
- ▶ Circulate heat energy (180°F to 190°F) to heating district via pipe distribution network
- ▶ Juneau, Alaska is familiar with Heat Pump Technology

# 300% + Efficiency



A COP of 3 means that 3 units of heat is created for every unit of energy input.



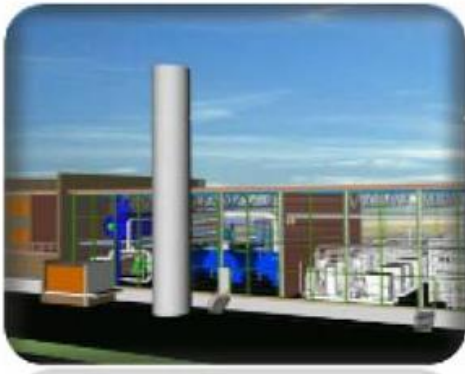
**JUNEAU**  
**DISTRICT HEATING**

# HEAT PUMPS ARE SUPER 300% EFFICIENT = EFFECTIVE LOWER COST HEAT AND ZERO EMISSIONS

Type	Heat Demand (kWh) Output	Efficiency (%)	Input Energy (kWh)	Specific CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> /kWh)	Annual CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (kg)
Oil-Fired boiler	15,000	80	18,750	0.274	5,138
Natural Gas fired boiler	15,000	95	15,790	0.202	3,189
Electric boiler (renewable source)	15,000	95	15,970	0	0
Electric Heat Pump (renewable source)	15,000	300	5,000	0	0
Source Heat Pump Centre, Boras, Sweden					

VALUE ADDED RENEWABLE ENERGY





14 MW, 90°C, District heating  
3 x 2 stage 4.6 MW Systems

 **DRAMMEN  
FJERNVARME**

$COP_{\text{heating}} = 3.0$

Evaporating temp. 2°C  
Sea water 8 to 4°C

Condensing temp. 89°C  
District heating water 60 – 90°C

# TRIED AND PROVEN SEA WATER HEAT PUMP DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM

*Operating flawlessly since 2011*







*Drammen, Norway is 118 miles north of Juneau, Alaska*

**Drammen Latitude  
59.74**

**Juneau Latitude  
58.3**



NOAA Sea Water Temperature Records show  
Gastineau Channel has similar or warmer water  
temperatures than Drammen, Norway





# SEA WATER HEAT PUMPS IN OPERATION IN DRAMMEN NORWAY

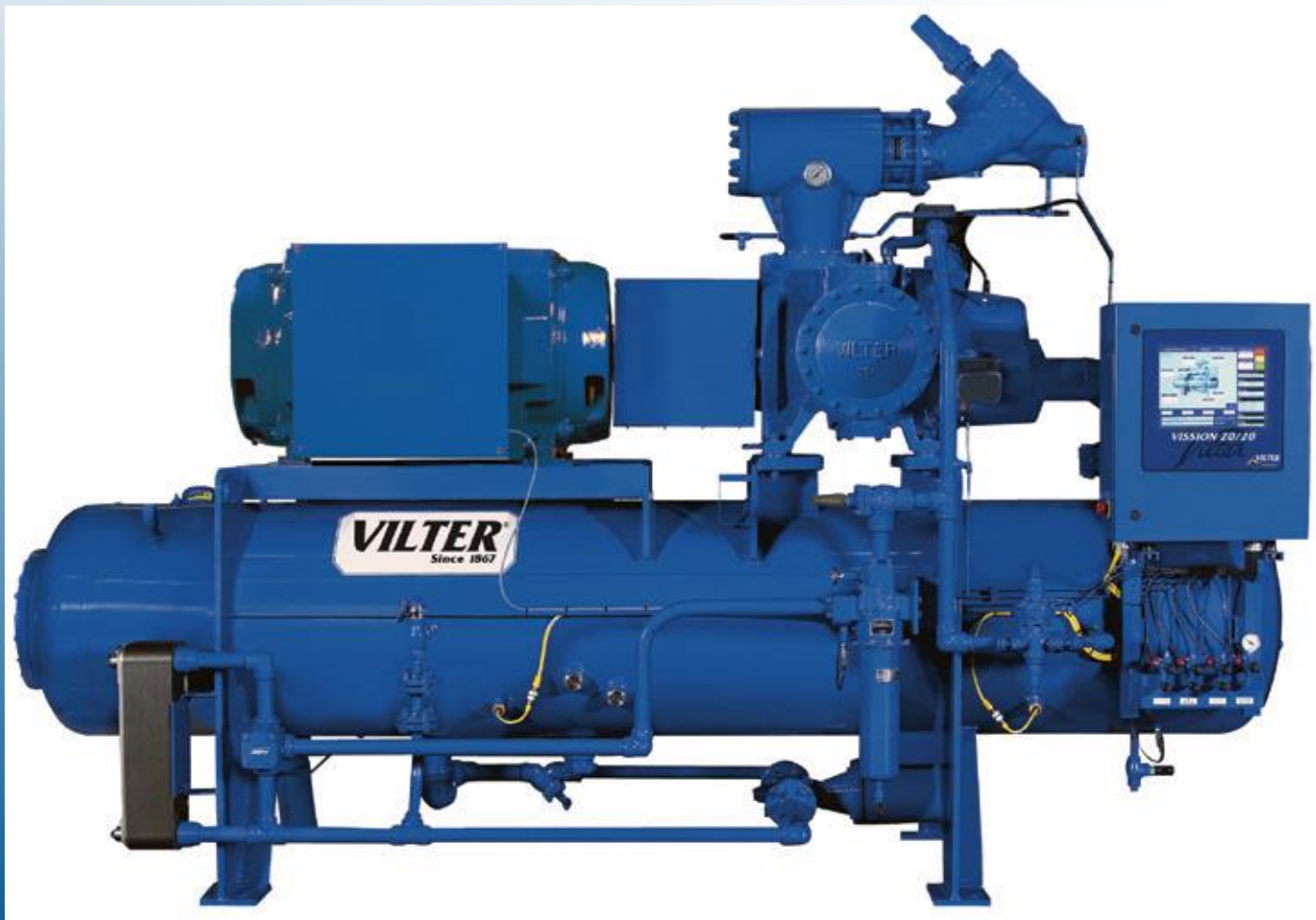
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# JUNEAU DISTRICT HEATING INTAKE

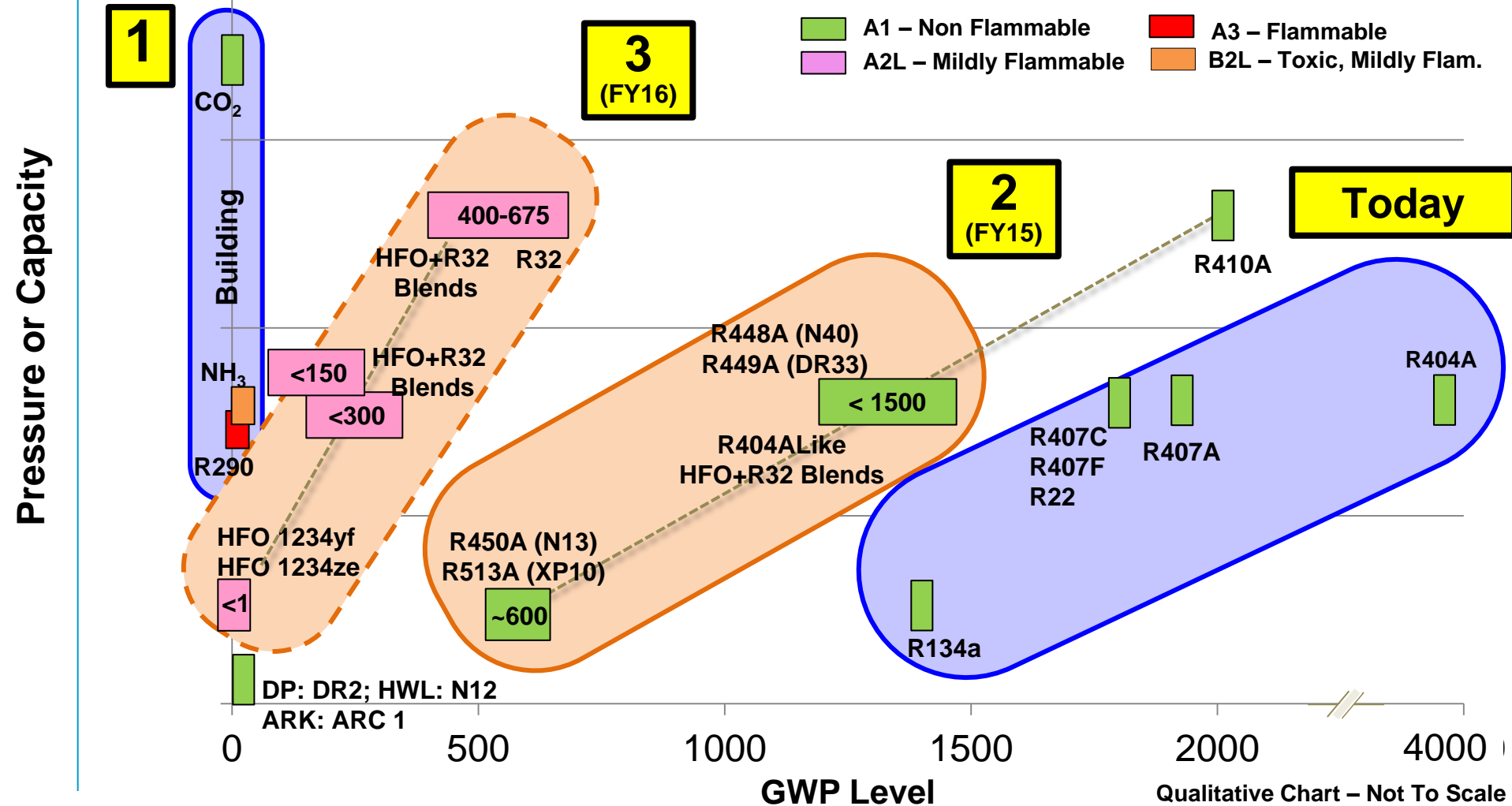






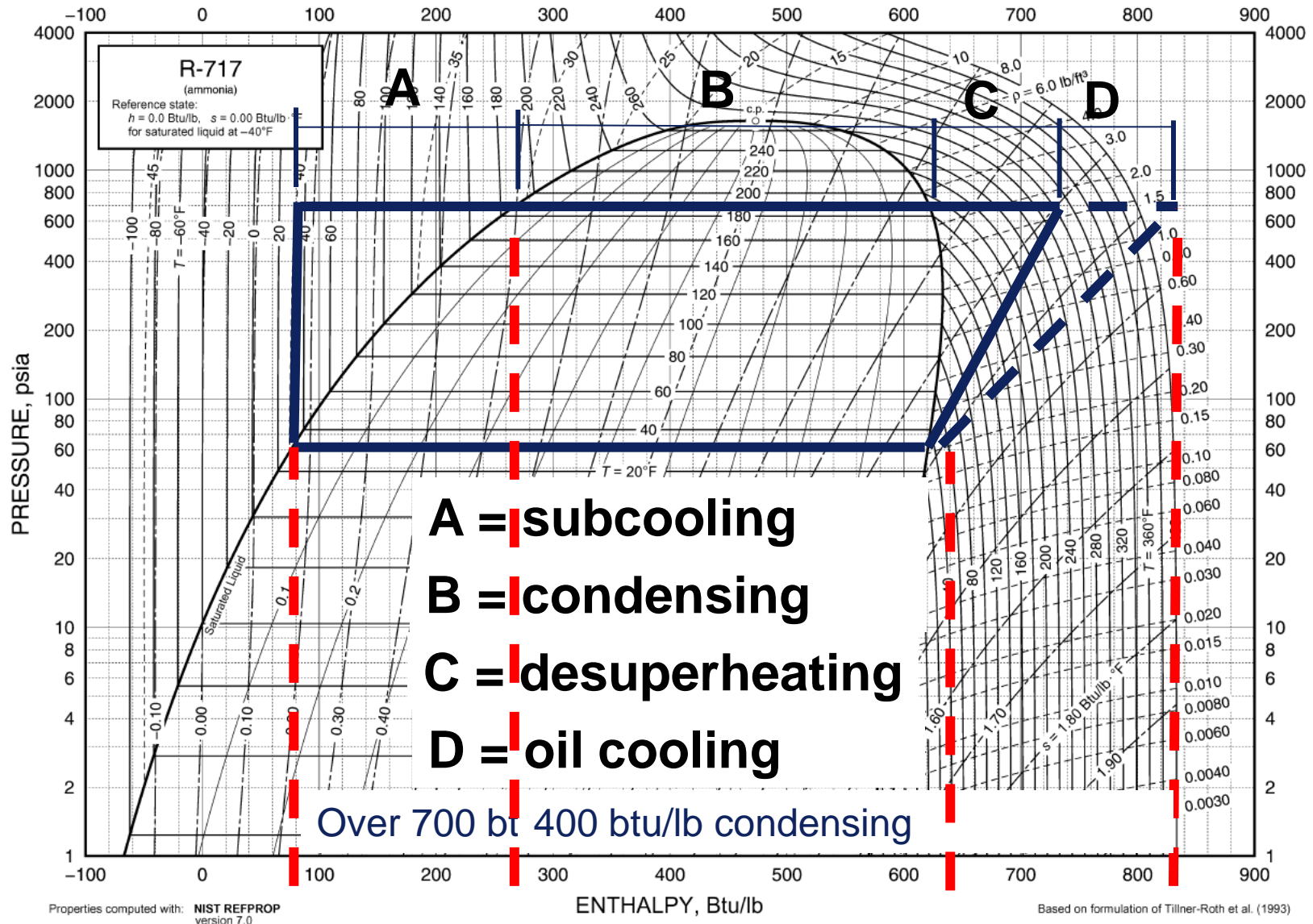
High Temperature Seawater Heat Pump 194° F

## ***Reasons for wanting to use Ammonia (R-717)***



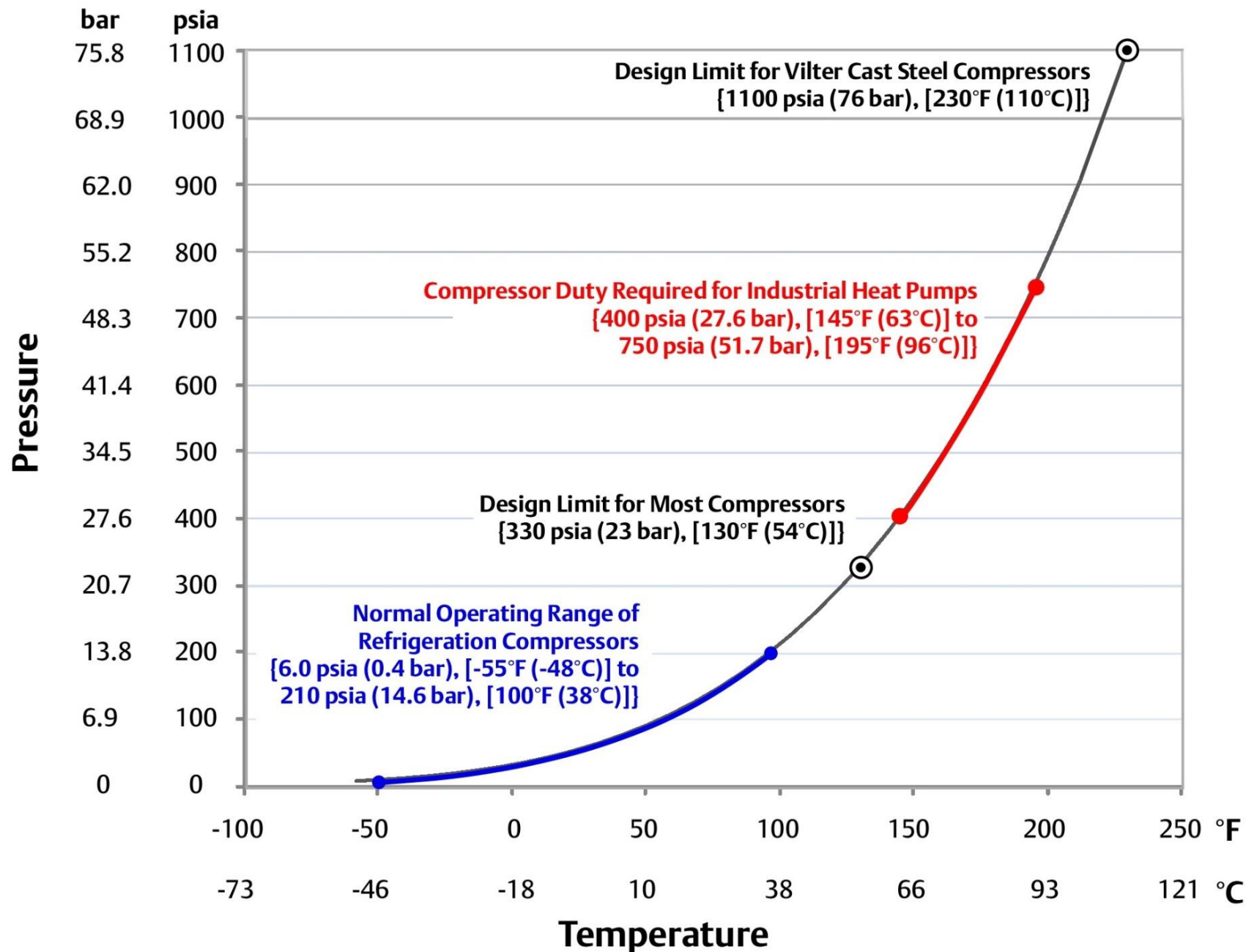


# Ammonia as a heat pump fluid



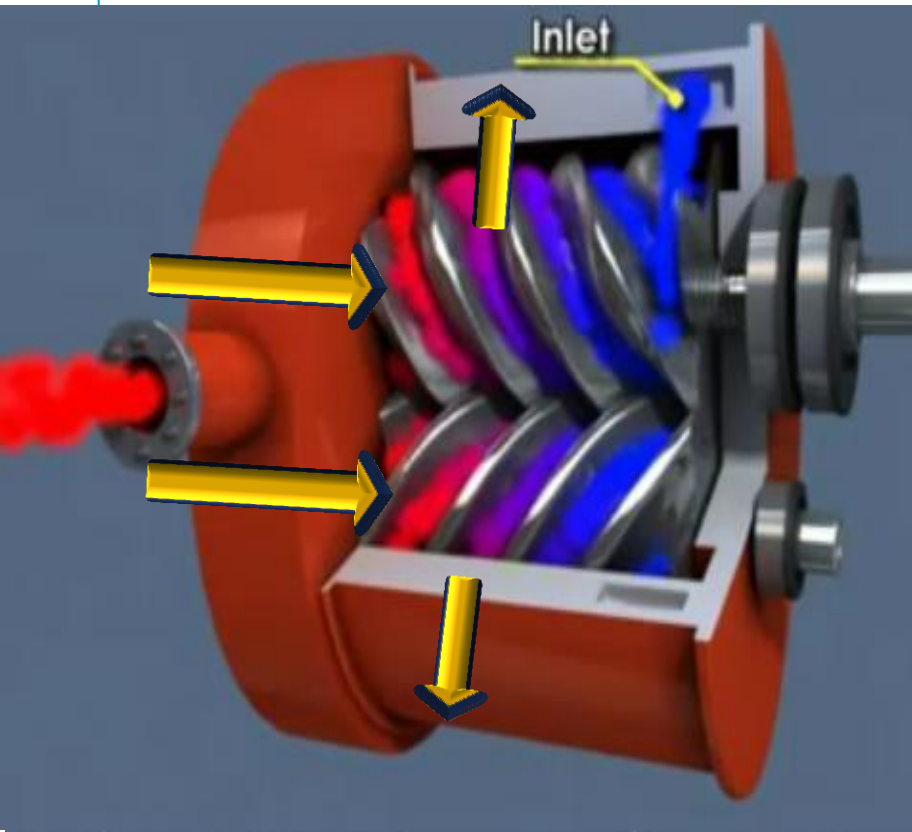


# Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>, R-717) Pressure-Temperature Relationship



# Challenges: Ammonia Heat Pumps

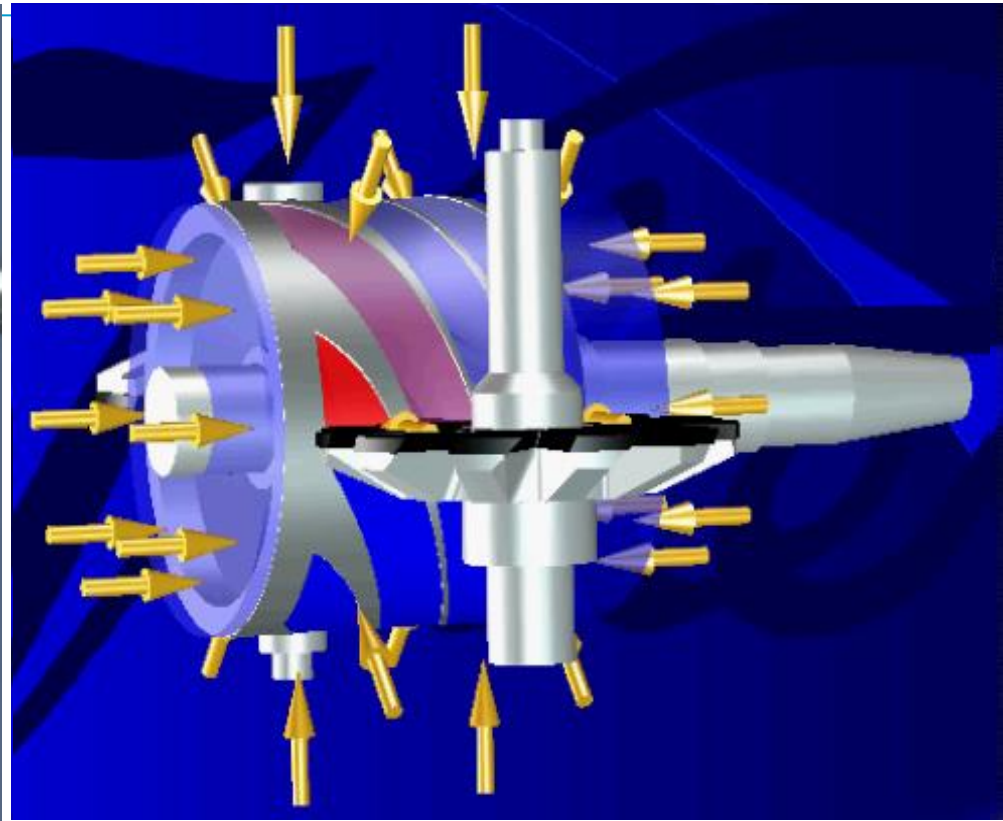
## Compressors are Limited by Pressure



### Twin Screw

High Bearing Loads

Challenged at High Pressures



### Single Screw

Balanced Loads

Suited for High Pressures

# ***Heat Pump Equipment Skids***

## **Factory packaged**

- **Single source solution**
- **Built in factory controlled environment**
- **In house expertise in engineering and manufacturing**
- **Control panels factory mounted and wired**
- **All components built to required standards as well as Vilter's manufacturing standards**
- **QC inspections throughout build and before shipment of unit from factory**
- **100% manufactured in Cudahy, Wi**



# GO FORWARD PATHWAY

**Bodø, Norway-Large Seawater District Energy-  
Operating**

**Duindorp, the Netherlands-Large Seawater District Energy-  
Operating**

**Drammen, Norway-Large Seawater District Energy-  
Operating**

**Juneau, Alaska, Ted Stevens Marine Research Center Complex, -Small  
Seawater District Heating-  
Operating**

**Seward, Alaska- Sealife Center, Small Seawater District Heating –  
Operating**

**Juneau District Heating- Large Seawater District Energy-  
Planned**

**Future Operating Systems?**



# Future Sustainable City Solutions

## Success Indicators:

- Proper waterbody temperatures in close proximity to use: Sea, Lake, River
- 300% + efficiency is a game changer
- Reasonable cost electrical input and renewable energy availability
- Competitive and Compelling Cost Savings compared to Alternatives
- Willing and Accepting Market

*Seawater Heat Pumps are to District Energy what LED lights are to lighting*



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## THANK YOU & QUESTIONS

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