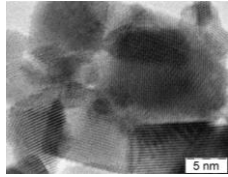




# CNR - INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

## RESEARCH AREAS



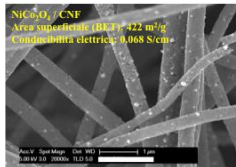
Technologies for Hydrogen - green energy vectors production and storage - CO<sub>2</sub> recycling



Innovative technologies for thermal energy storage and transformation



Sustainable technologies for electric energy production and storage



Application of technologies and integrated systems for Energy Efficiency - Smart Energy Technologies



Social and Environmental Impact of Energy Technologies



# SORPTION RESEARCH GROUP @ CNR ITAE

## RESEARCH TOPICS AND FUNDED PROJECTS

**Thermal energy storage**

Materials

Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza  
#NEXTGENERATIONITALIA



Components



Detailed modelling

System modelling

Prototyping / testing



**Renewable H&C in buildings / industries**



**Cooling & Desalination on-board of vessels**



**DHN-integrated sorption technologies**



**Direct air capture**





# SORPTION RESEARCH GROUP @ CNR ITAE

## CURRENT STAFF

- Antonino Bonanno** *Researcher (Materials Engineer)*
- Vincenza Brancato** *Researcher (Materials Engineer)*
- Andrea Frazzica** *Researcher (Materials Engineer)*
- Valeria Palomba** *Researcher (Materials Engineer)*
- Alessio Sapienza** *Researcher (Materials Engineer)*
- Salvatore Vasta** *Researcher (Mechanical Engineer)*
- Girolama Airò Farulla** *Post-doc (Energy Engineer)*
- Omais Abdur Rehman** *PhD Student (Energy Engineer)*
- Yannan Zhang** *Post-doc (Energy/Mechanical Engineer)*
- Elmira Pirshayan** *Post-doc (Nuclear Engineer)*
- Roberto Capparelli Marcal** *Post-doc (Mechanical Engineer)*
- Mohsen Pourfallah** *Post-doc (Mechanical Engineer)*
- Fabio Costa** *Lab Technician*
- Davide La Rosa** *Lab Technician*
- Luigi Calabrese** *Associated Professor (Materials Engineer)*
- Elpida Piperopoulos** *Associated Professor (Materials Engineer)*

ITAE Sorption-related activities, 02/05/2023

## FACILITIES



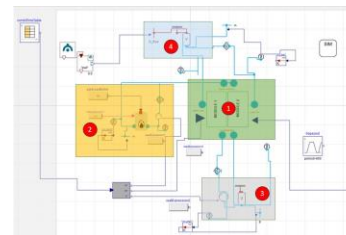
Sorbent materials characterization



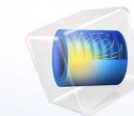
Components testing rigs



Large-scale (90 kW-HT) and low-scale (35 kW-HT) prototypes testing rigs



COMSOL  
MULTIPHYSICS®



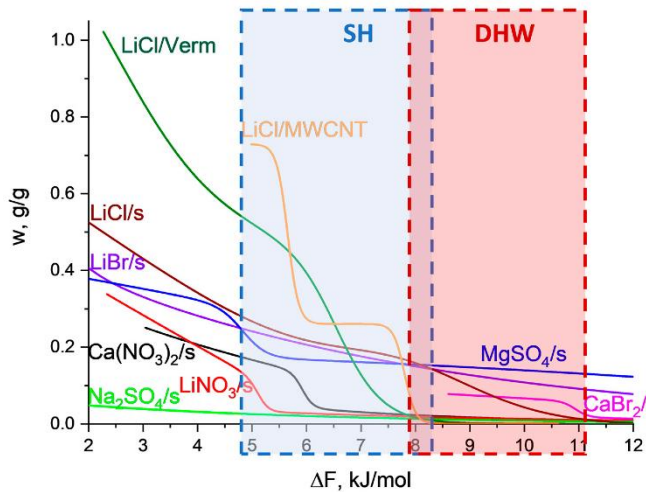
CFD, components and system modelling

# RECENT ACTIVITIES AT MATERIALS LEVEL

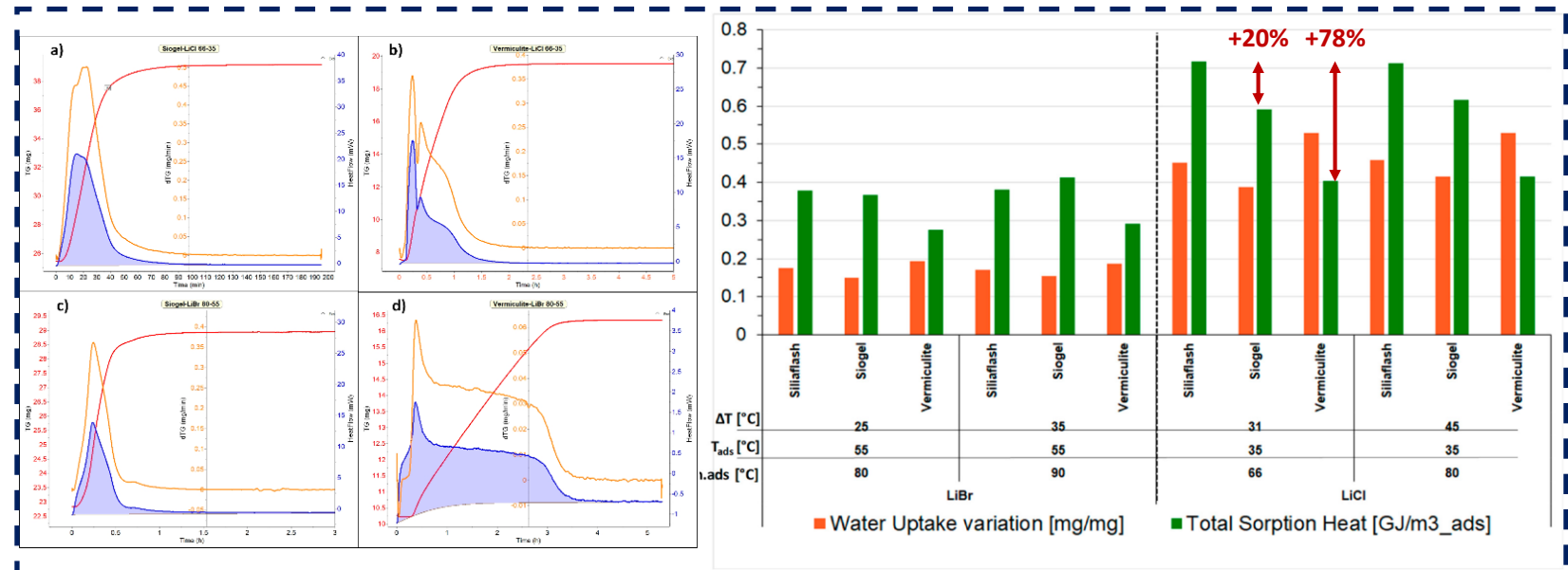
## COMPOSITE SORBENTS FOR SEASONAL TES



### Materials and boundaries definition



### Composites characterization and TES density estimation



- Long term stability demonstrated for SG/LiCl(30 wt.%)
- Prototype testing under lab conditions and field test

PROJECT FUNDED BY EU COMMISSION UNDER H2020 PROGRAMME N. 764025



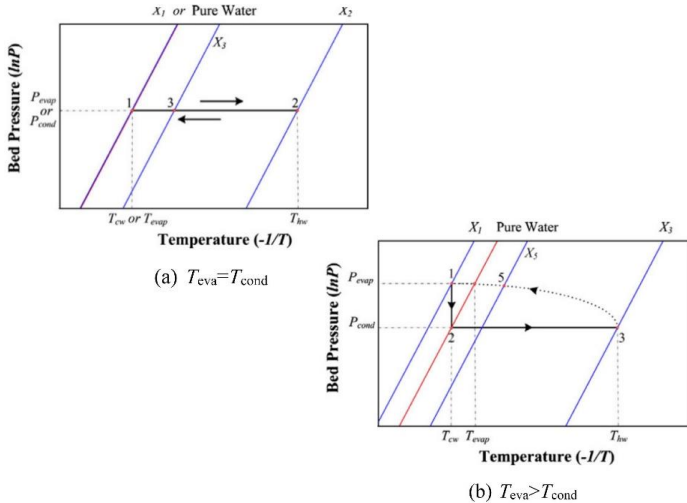
# ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT MATERIALS LEVEL



## Materials and boundaries definition

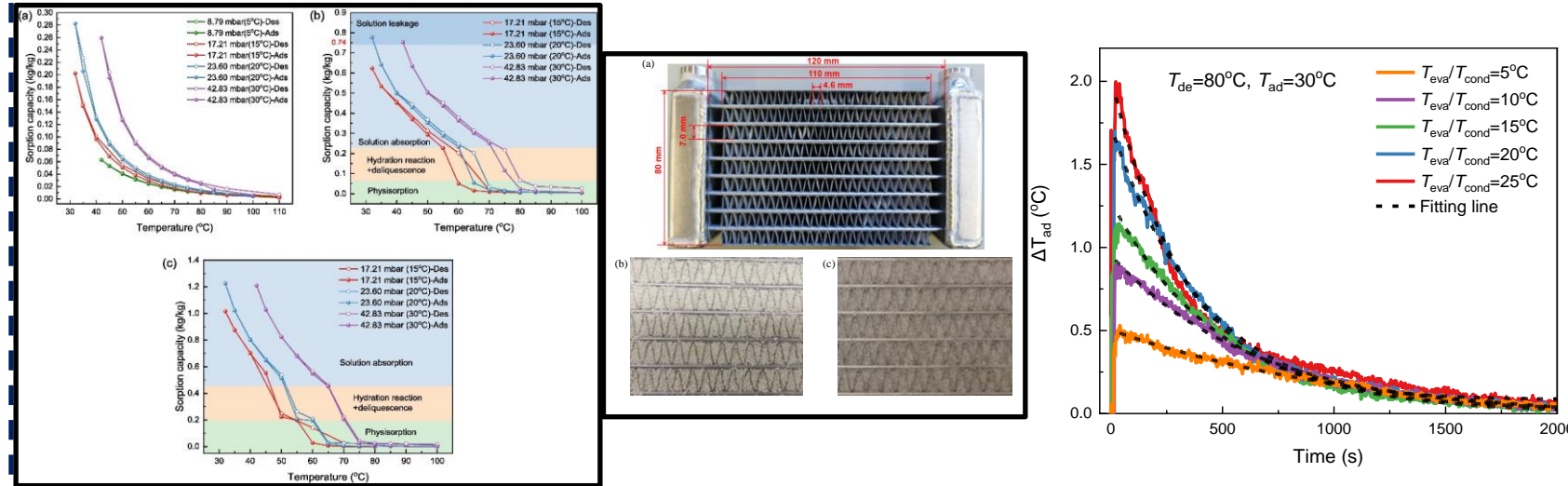


Micro-porous Silica gel      Composite SG / 30 wt.% LiCl      Composite Verm / 45 wt.% LiCl



## MATERIALS FOR SORPTION DESALINATION

## Composites equilibrium and kinetic characterization



- First promising results on composite sorbents (20 to 40% higher than silica gel)
- Kinetic testing of silica gel coatings ongoing

PROJECT FUNDED BY EU COMMISSION UNDER HEU PROGRAMME N. 101056801



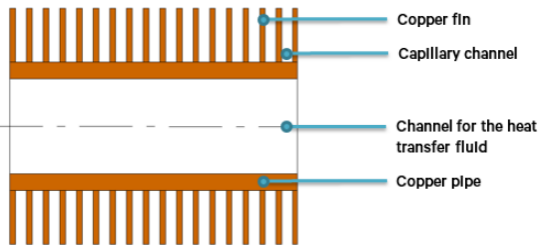
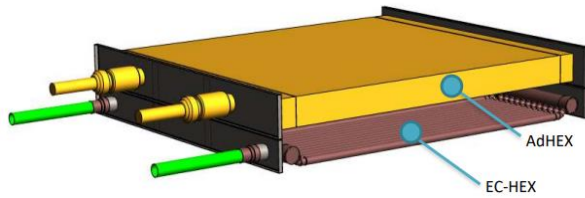


# RECENT ACTIVITIES AT COMPONENTS LEVEL

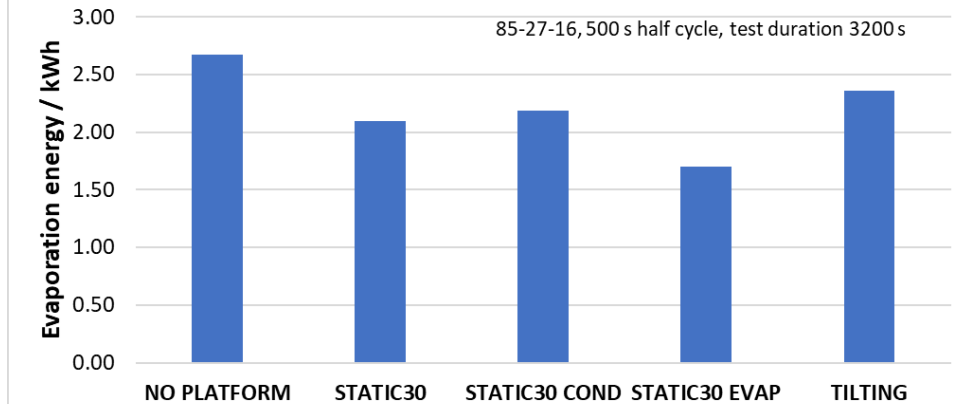
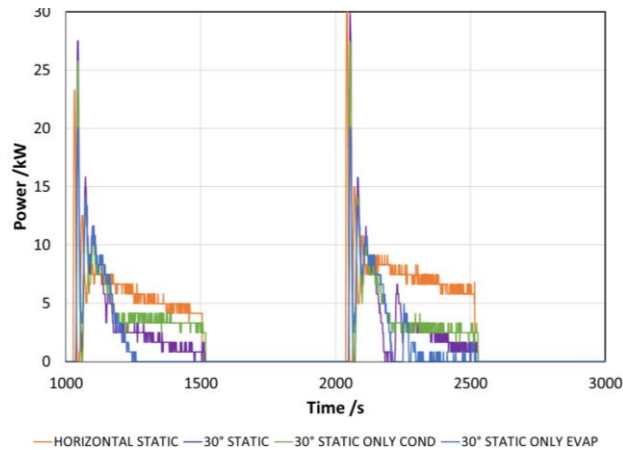
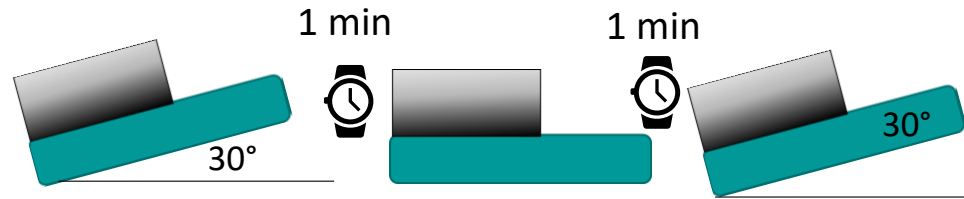
## ADSORBER/EVAPORATOR MODULE UNDER OSCILLATING CONDITIONS



### Module arrangement for the investigated design



### Operating conditions testing

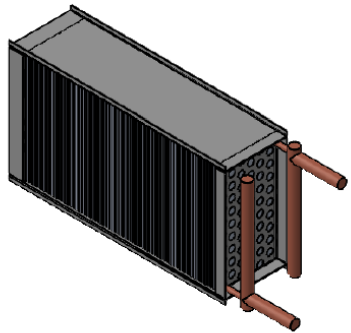


PROJECT FUNDED BY EU COMMISSION  
UNDER H2020 PROGRAMME N. 9555413



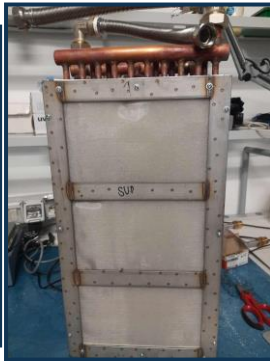
# ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT COMPONENTS LEVEL

## Adsorber manufacturing

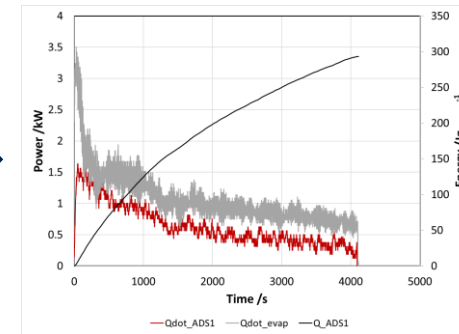
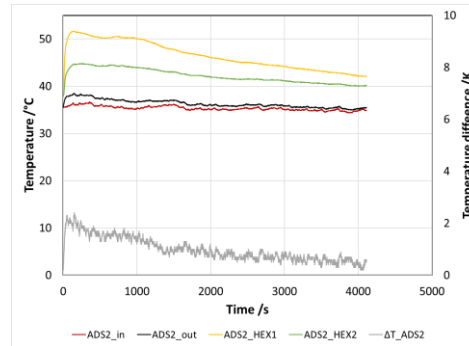


Composite SG + 25 wt.% CaCl<sub>2</sub>

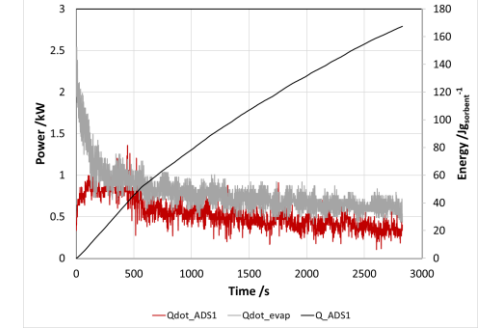
Pure composite and mixed with microporous SG



## Testing results

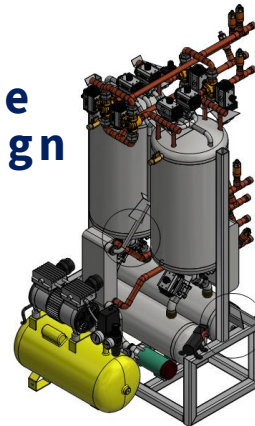


50/50 vol. ratio



40/60 vol. ratio

First lab-scale prototype design



- Manufacturing and testing of the lab-scale prototype
- Large-scale prototype to be tested in a DHN-connected living lab

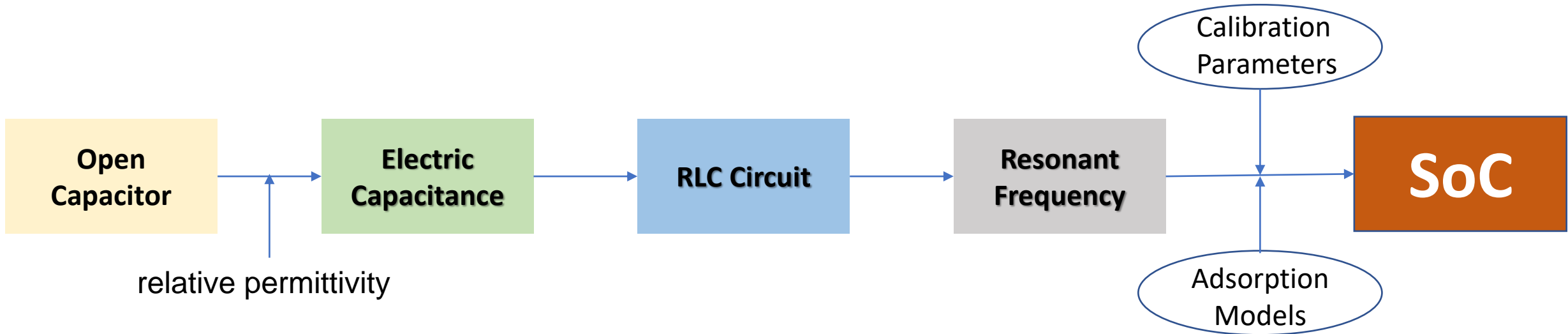




# ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT COMPONENTS LEVEL

Development of a sensor for the direct estimation of the State Of Charge (SoC) of Adsorption Thermal Energy Storage (TES)

The SoC of the storage material is critical for ensuring the system's efficiency and reliability, as it determines how much heat can be stored and used



resonant frequency ~ moisture content of the material

relative permittivity ~ water content

In cooperation with:



DIEEI – University of Catania

Piano Nazionale  
di Ripresa e Resilienza  
#NEXTGENERATIONITALIA

The activity is partially funded by PNRR-NEST Project



# RECENT ACTIVITIES AT MODELLING/SYSTEM LEVEL



## MODELLING & TESTING OF CASCADING SORPTION/COMPRESSION CHILLER



### Lab installation

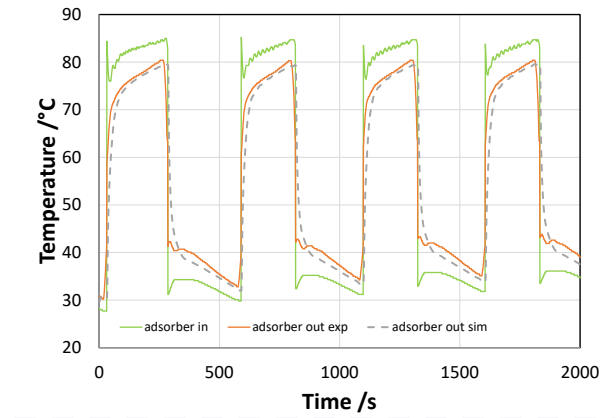
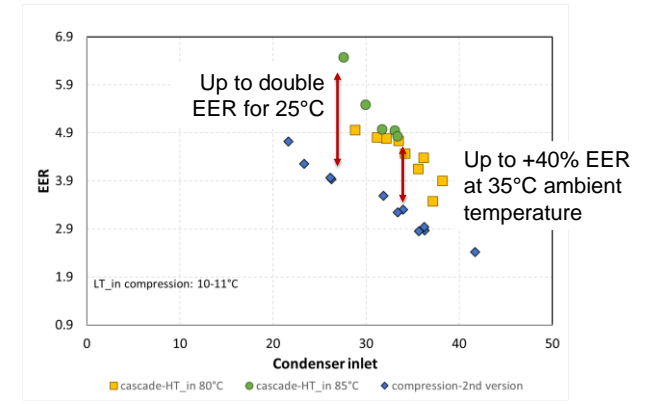
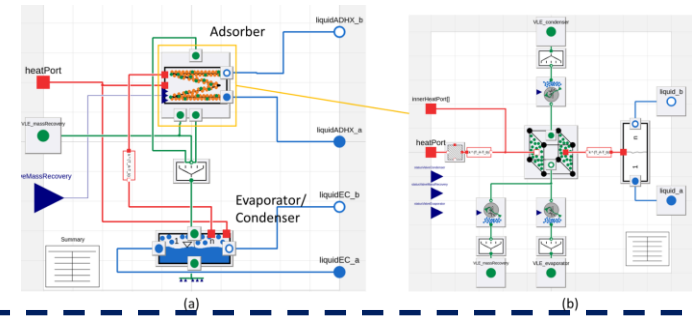
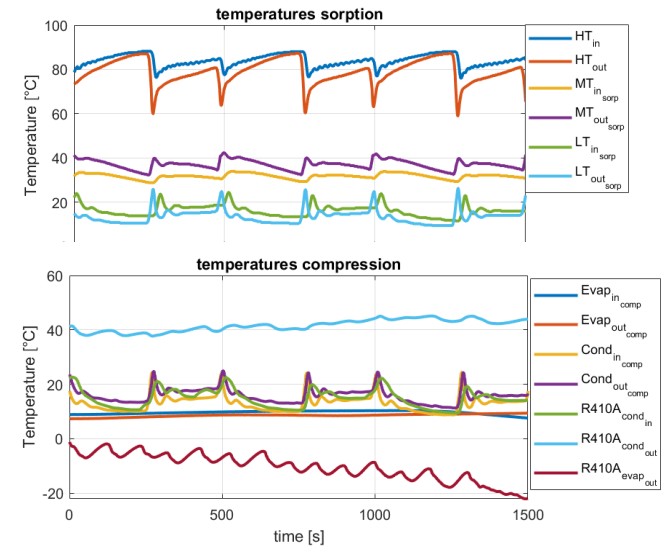
Adsorption module + compression HP and latent TES



DC driver + electric batteries



### Testing results & model validation



PROJECT FUNDED BY EU COMMISSION UNDER H2020 PROGRAMME N. 768824




# RECENT ACTIVITIES AT MODELLING/SYSTEM LEVEL

## TESTING OF HYBRID SORPTION HEAT PUMPS AND CHILLERS



### Lab installations



 Cascade industrial sorption/propylene compression (up to 30 kW cool)



Geothermal Gas-driven heat pump (up to 10 kW heat)



Parallel commercial sorption/propan compression (up to 40 kW cool)



- Improved SEER in cascading mode up to 25% down to -10 °C cooling provision
- Thermal COP of gas-driven HP up to 1.2 for geothermal integration
- Increased flexibility in operation thanks to the parallel integration

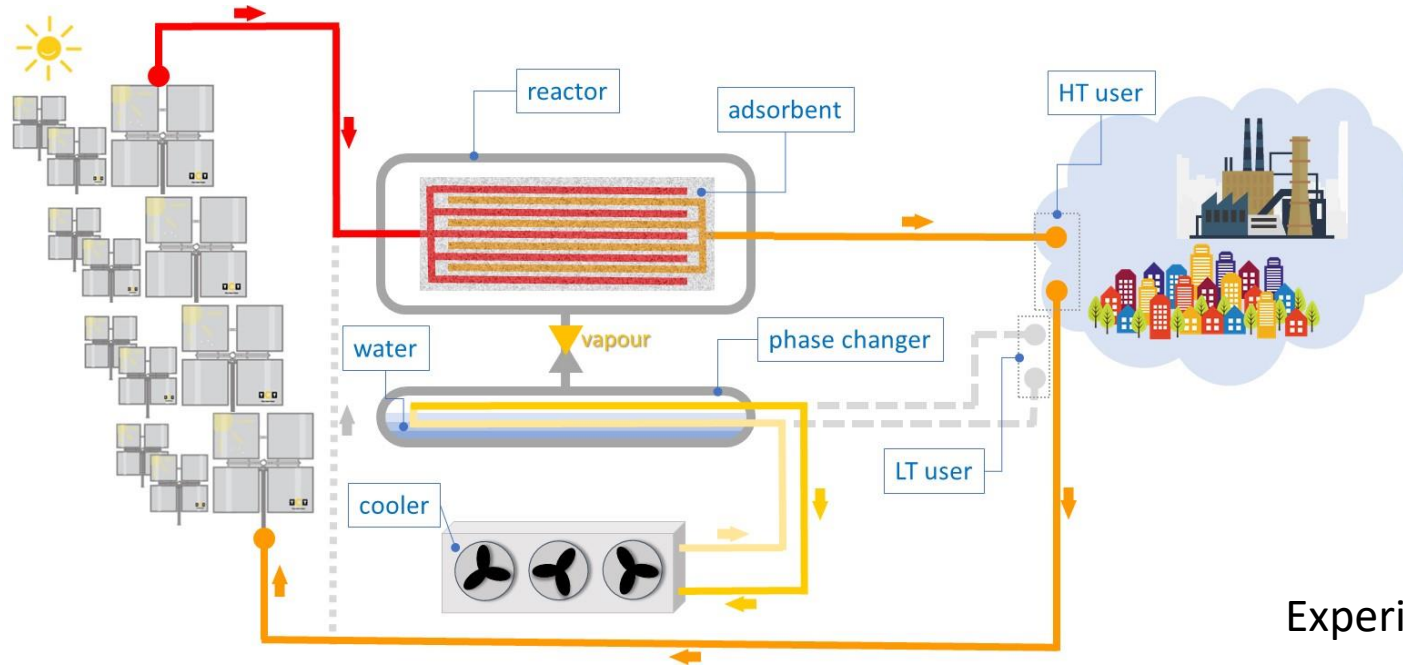
PROJECTS FUNDED BY EU COMMISSION UNDER H2020 PROGRAMME N. 792073, N. 792210, N. 818329





# ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT MODELLING/SYSTEM LEVEL

*Investigation on the potentialities of CLOSED CYCLE sorption TES systems coupled with solar energy for HT applications*

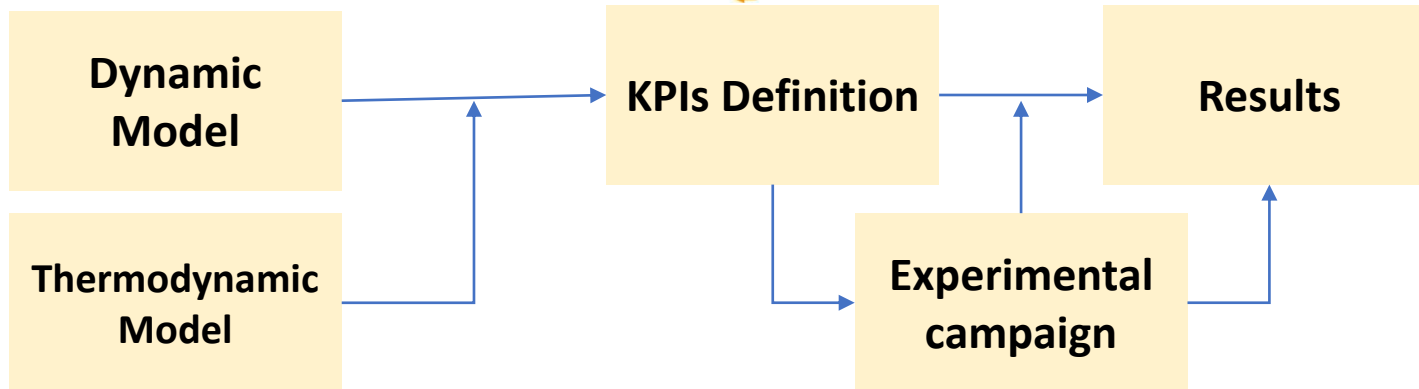


**WHY?**  
To demonstrate (once for all) the feasibility of such technology in operating conditions typical of the district heating and the industrial field.

Experimental tests are currently ongoing at



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863



The activity has been partially funded by EERA JP Energy Storage through the PhD Mobility Scheme

# RECENT ACTIVITIES AT MODELLING/SYSTEM LEVEL



Installation and commissioning of a hybrid thermal/electric storage system in Spain



Industrial hybrid chiller installation of a solar driven plant in 2 facilities in Spain



Geothermal gas-driven adsorption HP installation in a demo in Italy



Hybrid heat pump integration in a civic centre in Spain driven by solar thermal collectors







**Thank you for your kind attention!**  
**Grazie per l'attenzione!**