



# Flexible Machinery Solutions in Geothermal

GEMS Workshop, Nov 19/20, 2024

Atlas Copco Gas and Process





# This is Atlas Copco



Customers in **180** countries



**53 000** employees in **71** countries



Established in **1873** Stockholm, Sweden



Turnover of nearly **173** BSEK / **15** BEUR\*

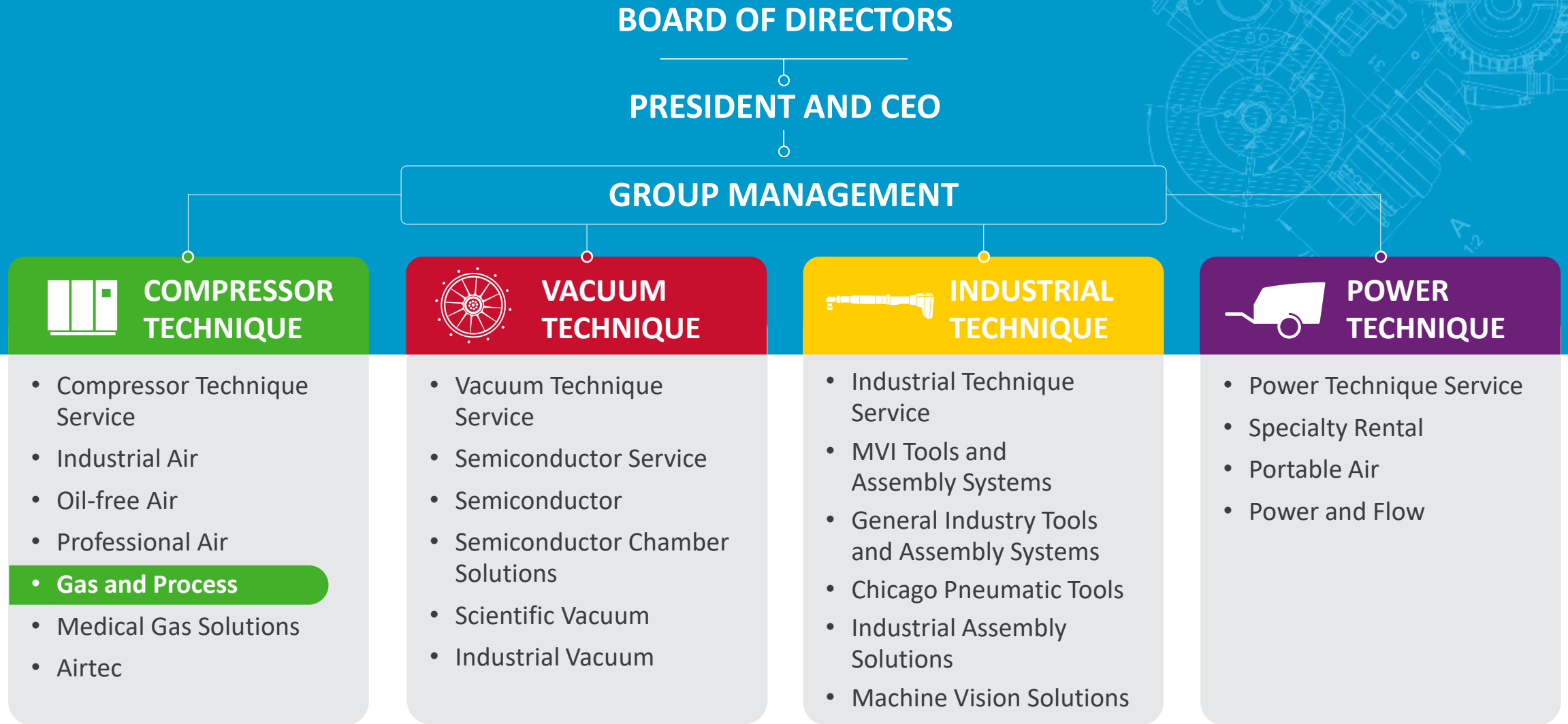


Operating margin of **21.5%**

\*Based on the average exchange rate in 2023.

*Atlas Copco*

# A decentralized Group



# Markets Served by Gas and Process Division





# Global Climate and Human Health Protection

Turbomachinery is required to support  
**new, emerging**  
and **sustainable**  
**energy sources**



Increased amount of  $H_2$ ,  $CO_2$ , electrification and energy conversion related projects

Expanders / Compressors in  
 $H_2$  Liquefaction and BOG



Expanders / Compressors in  
CCUS and sCO<sub>2</sub>



Steam Compressors  
/ MVR & Heat Pumps



Expanders / Compressors in  
**ORC** / WH2P / LDES

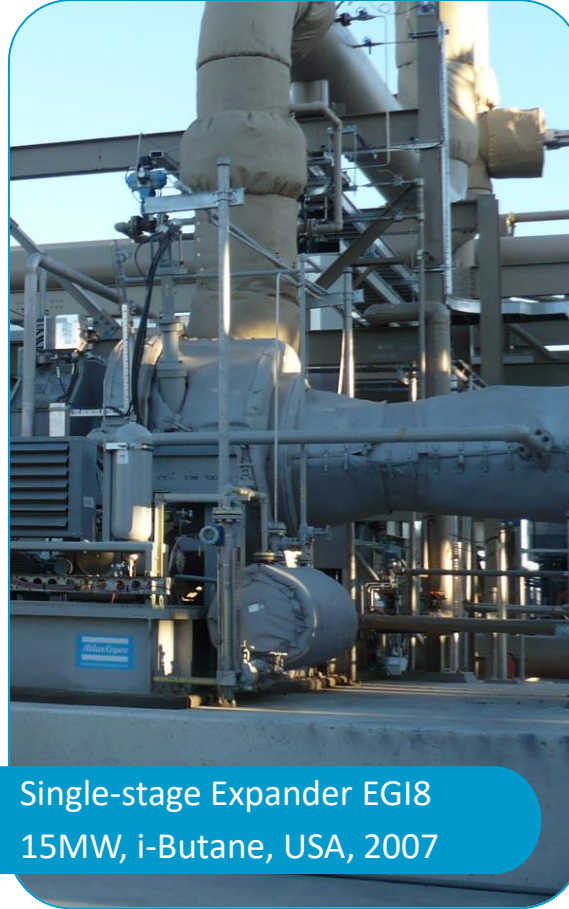


# Atlas Copco Expanders in ORC

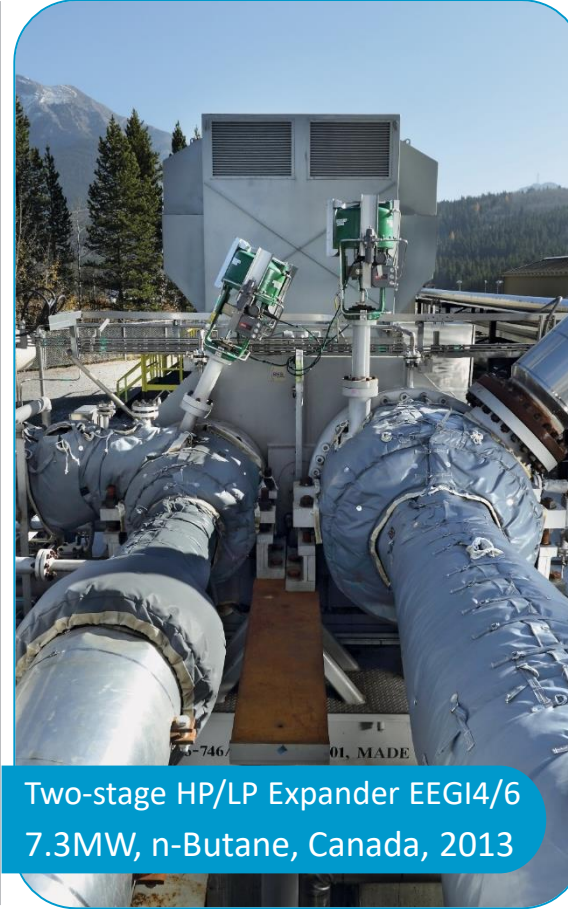
Decades of Experience in Binary ORC Plants



Single-stage Expander EG10  
10MW, i-Butane, USA, 1982



Single-stage Expander EGI8  
15MW, i-Butane, USA, 2007



Two-stage HP/LP Expander EEGI4/6  
7.3MW, n-Butane, Canada, 2013

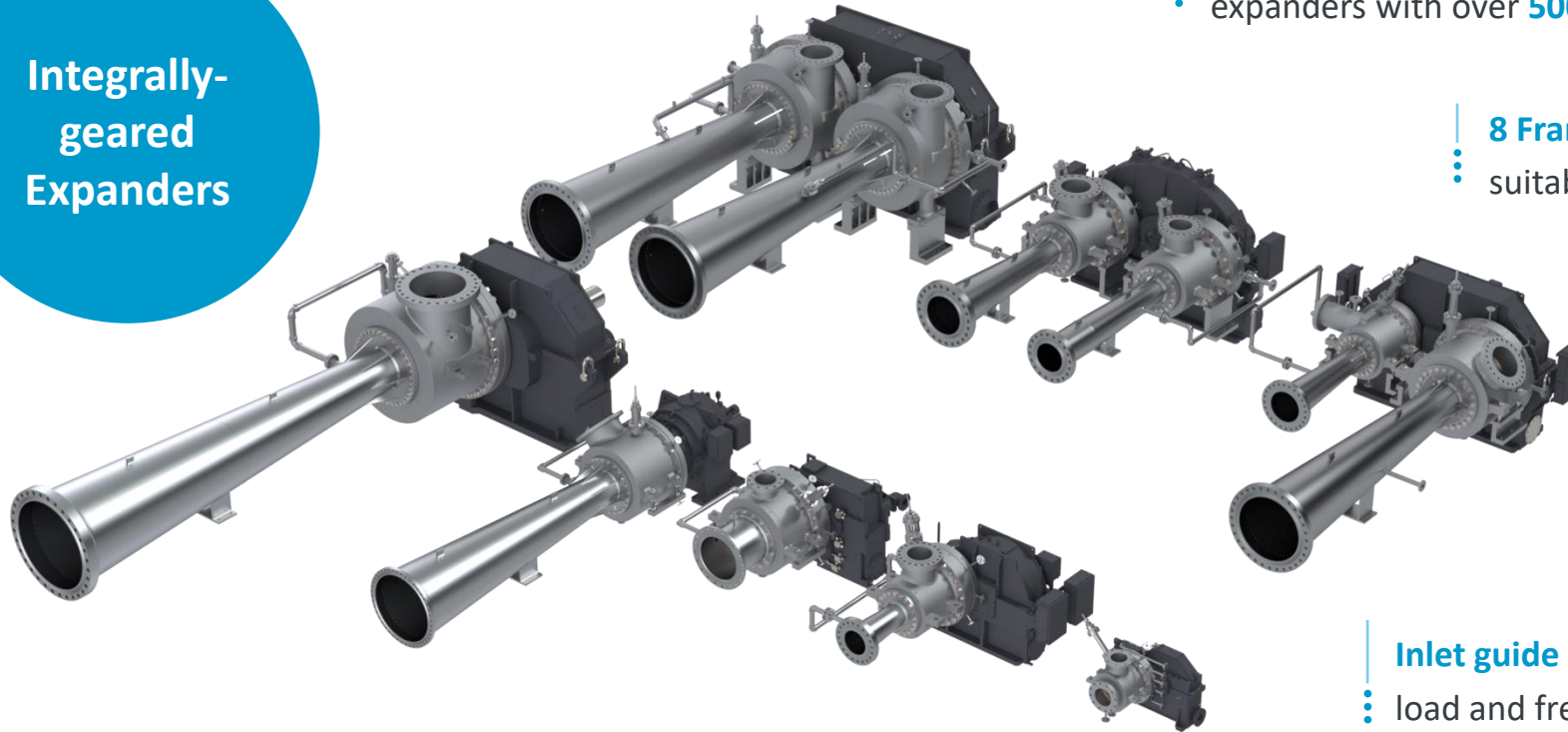


Dual-stage Expander EEGI8  
27MW, n-Butane, Turkey, 2018



# Atlas Copco Expanders in ORC

## Integrally-geared Expanders



Atlas Copco is an EPC-independent major brand for ORC expanders with over **500MW** in more than **40** installations

**8 Frame Sizes** cover power range from **5 to 30+MW**, suitable for small demo plants to full commercial scale

**Integrally geared** design allows compact and flexible multistage units (parallel, HP/LP etc)

**Zero leakage** configurations possible, sealing options include oil, dry gas, and labyrinth

**Inlet guide vane** technology allows precise and fast load and frequency control including “island mode”

Mature technology with documented **availability >98% p.a.**, due to continuous design improvement and implementation of “lessons learned”

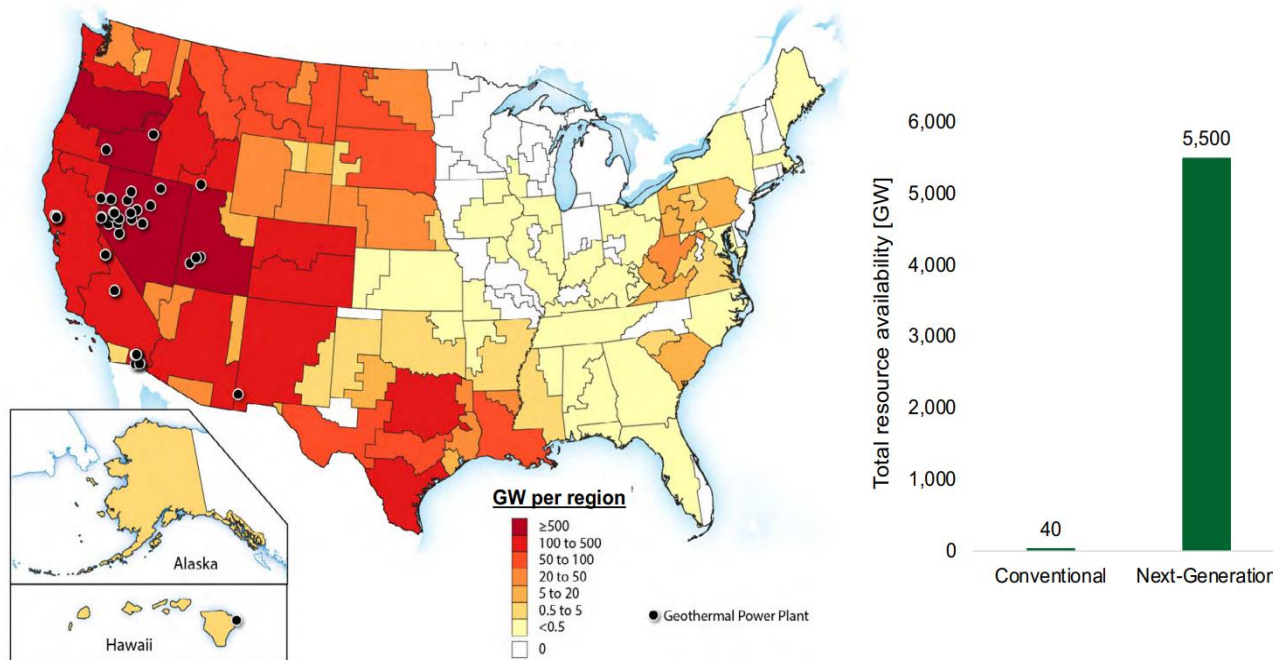
# Advancing Geothermal Power

# The Role of Flexible Machinery in Next-Generation Geothermal Integration



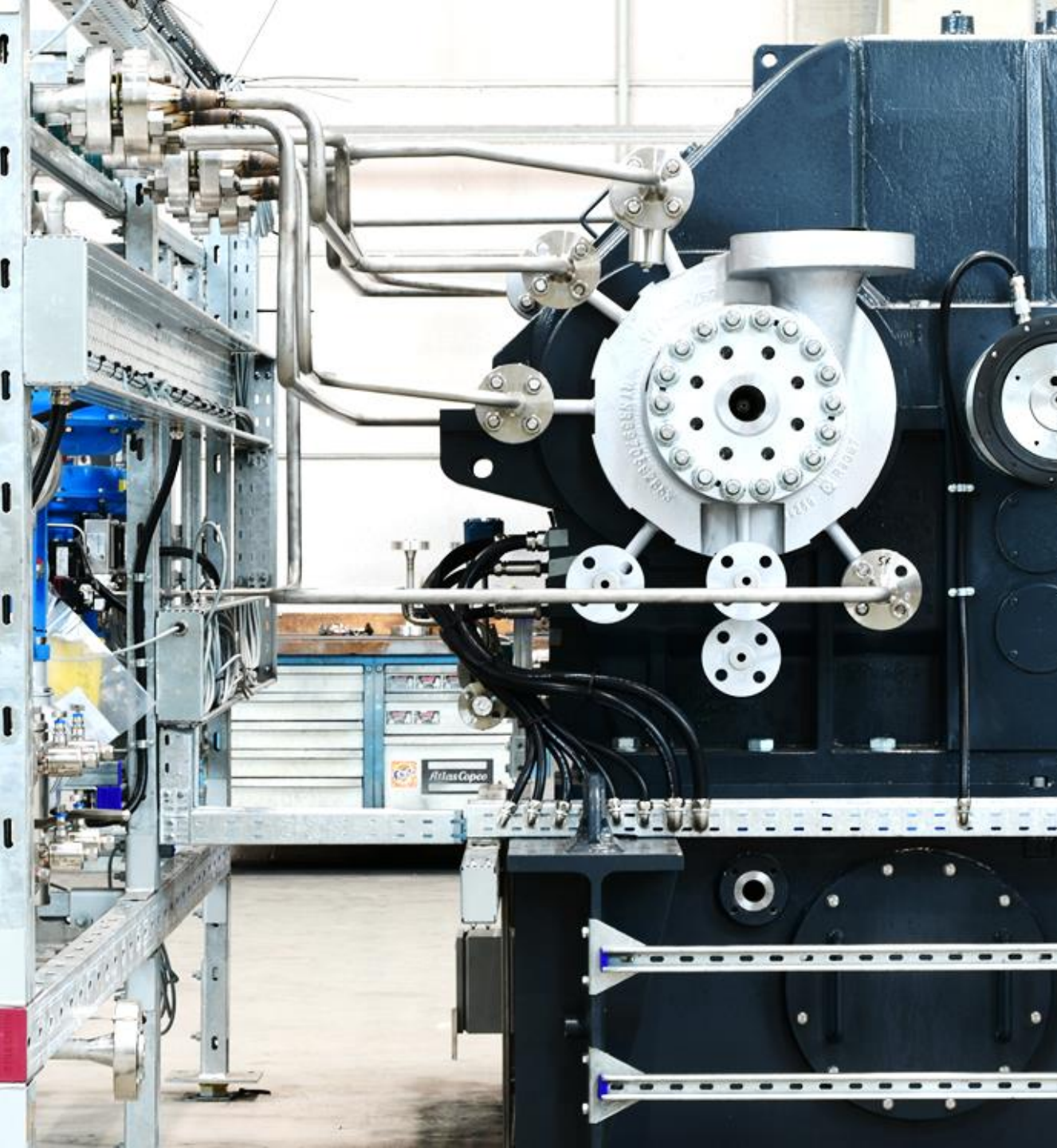
# Advancing Geothermal Power

## The Role of Flexible Machinery in Next-Gen Geothermal Integration



Source: Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Next-Generation Geothermal Power, DOE, March 2024

- **Next-generation geothermal** technologies unlock resources in common environments, increasing accessibility and commercial potential
- **Flexibility in surface machinery** is essential for integrating next-generation geothermal power into the **modern grid**
- Transitioning from conventional to next-generation geothermal requires flexible solutions in **design, supply, and operation**



# Advancing Geothermal Power

## Flexibility in Design

### Conventional Approach

- Well Established ORC Designs and Working Fluids
- Modular Steam and Binary Arrangements

### Next-Generation Needs

- Advanced Designs / Working Fluids for higher temperature and performance
- A balance between modularity and scale

### A Way Forward

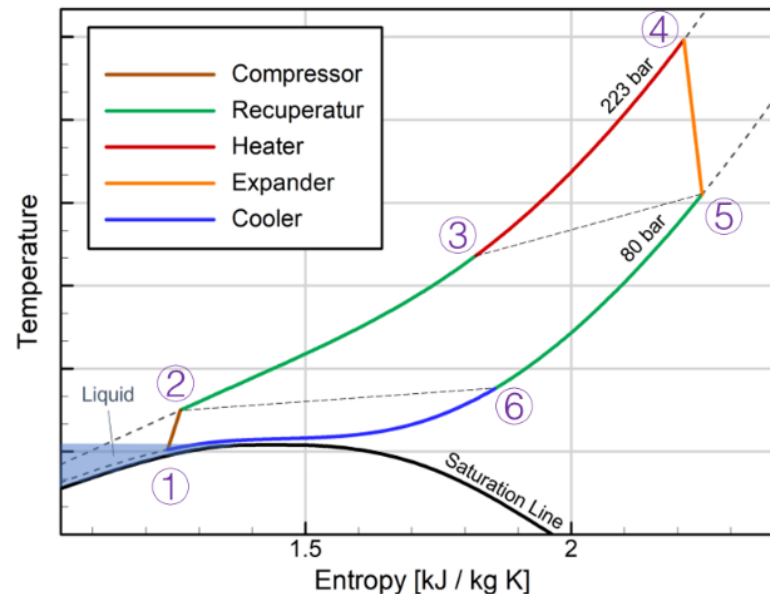
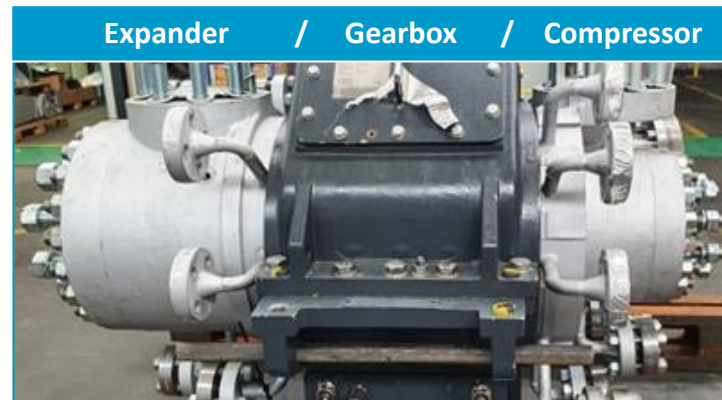
- Continuous improvement of surface equipment through proven ETO to CTO process
- More power-dense direct or indirect cycles



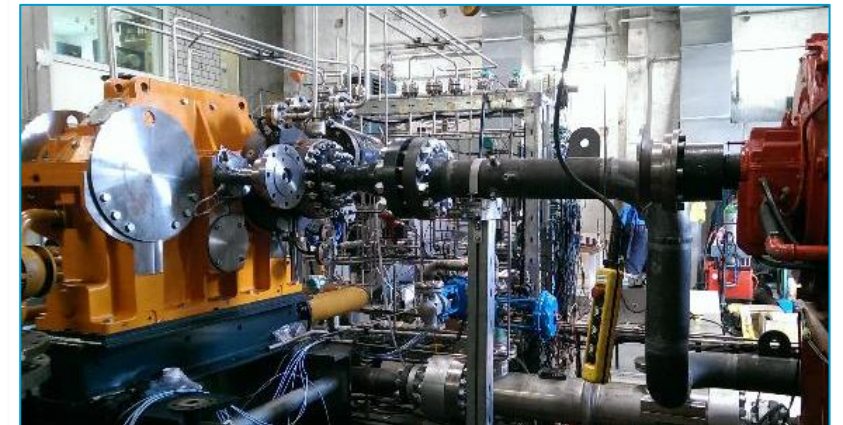
# Comander for sCO<sub>2</sub> Power Plant

## Flexible Design Example

- Request received for **custom comander design** for sCO<sub>2</sub> power cycle
- Unique compressor design included **liquid suction** and operation near critical point
- Design was tested on **in house, high pressure sCO<sub>2</sub> loop** in 2021
- Approximately **10-times higher power density** compared to typical ORC expander
- Design can be **freely modified** for severe fluid / corrosion requirements of direct cycles



	Compressor		Expander
Shaft Sealing	Dry Gas Seal		
Speed	38 000 RPM		
Mass Flow	174 600 kg/h / 385 000 lb/hr		
Impeller Dia	104 mm / 4.1"		150 mm / 6.0"
Inlet Pressure	80 bara		223 bara
Inlet Temp	28°C / 82°F		275°C / 530°F
Power	2 MW net		



# Advancing Geothermal Power

## Flexibility in Supply

### Conventional Approach

- Available geothermal resources restricted to select locations
- Surface equipment deployment benefits from a vertically integrated structure

### Next-Generation Needs

- Expanded geothermal accessibility across diverse regions
- Decentralized supply chains with options for local manufacturing

### A Way Forward

- Diversity in equipment suppliers with global reach





# Flexible Supply Example

## Atlas Copco Gas and Process Division Global Structure



# Flexible Supply Example

## Atlas Copco Gas and Process Division Global Structure



US Turbomachinery  
Factory



German Turbomachinery  
Factory



Local Manufacturing in Turkey







# Advancing Geothermal Power

## Flexibility in Operation

### Conventional Approach

- Baseload power with high utilization
- Operation optimized for single point efficiency

### Next-Generation

- Dispatchable power that compliments other renewables
- Operation optimized for broader conditions to support grid balancing and stability

### A Way Forward

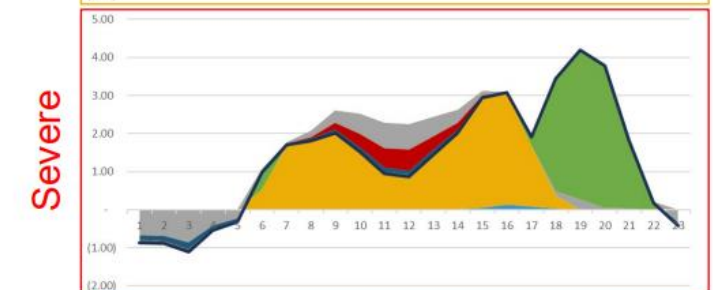
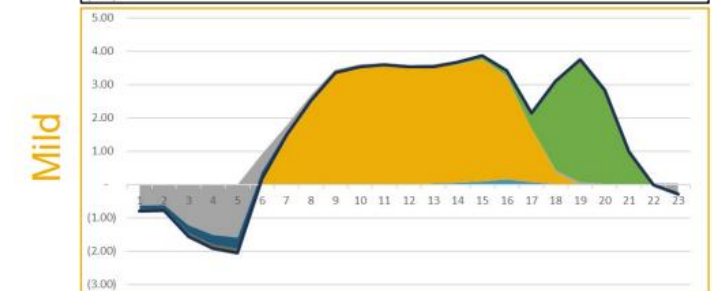
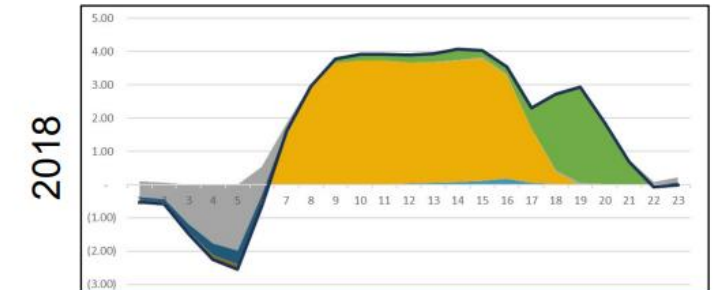
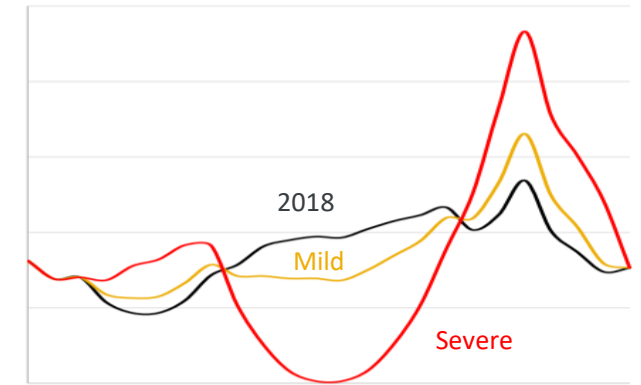
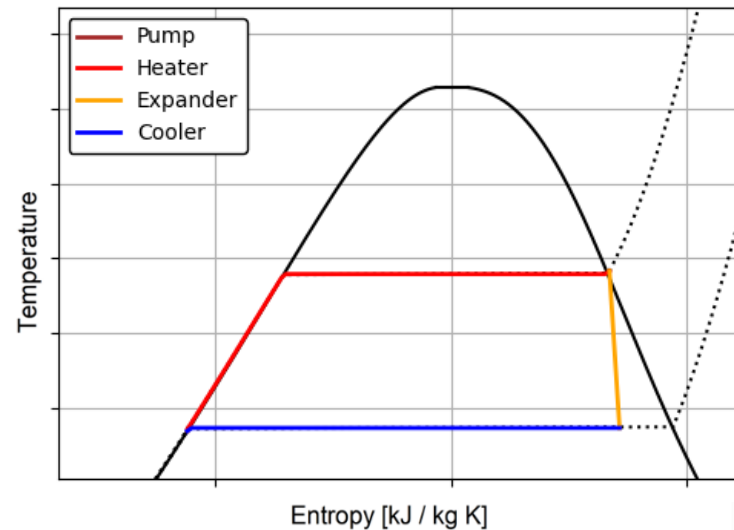
- Dynamic processes and equipment responsive to daily/yearly weather patterns, grid demand, etc.

*Image courtesy of  
RayGen*

# Expander in Thermal Energy Storage ORC

## Flexible Operation Example

- Project partner sought to de-risk pilot thermal energy storage project by using proven tech from binary ORCs
- Design utilized low enthalpy ammonia ORC with **two-phase expander discharge**
- Daily start-stop with efficient performance over wide range of flows and enthalpy required **robust variable inlet guide vane assembly**
- Machine was **successfully commissioned and performance validated** in 2023, paving way for commercial scale

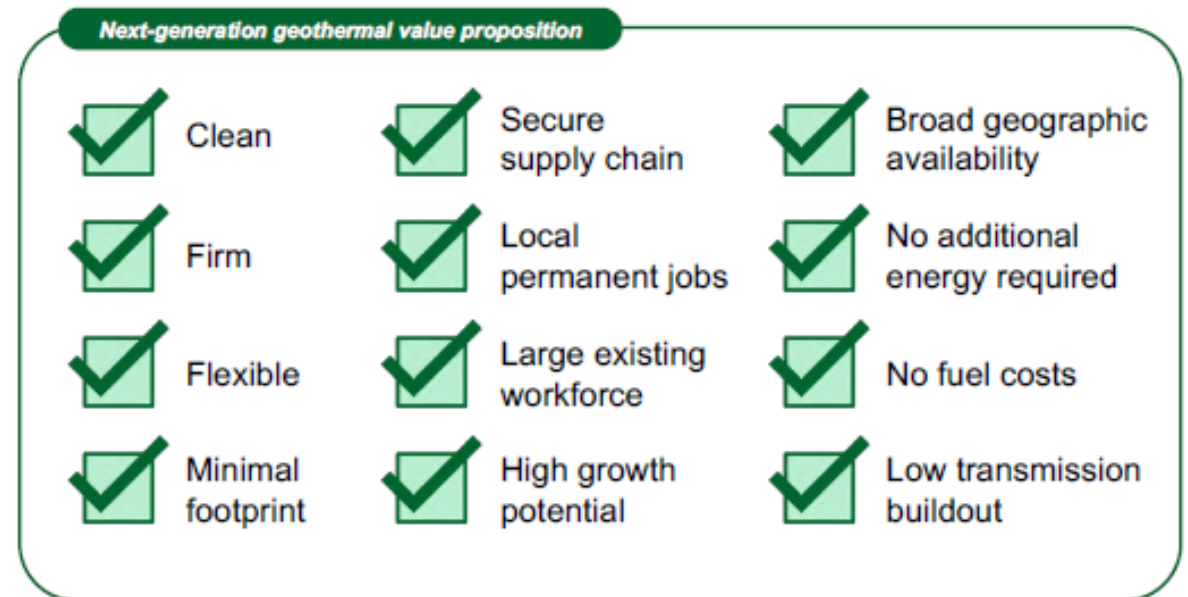


Source: RayGen Commercial Assessment Report, ARENA, May 2021



# Conclusions

- **Flexibility in surface machinery** is essential for integrating next-generation geothermal power into the **modern grid**
- Established machinery suppliers offer flexibility in **design**, **supply**, and **operation** for next-generation geothermal deployment
- **Partnership** between machinery suppliers and plant builders offer **a low-risk path forward** for next-generation geothermal scale out



Source: Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Next-Generation Geothermal Power, DOE, March 2024

*Atlas Copco*