



**CO<sub>2</sub> refrigeration in  
warm climates**  
*Efficiency improvement*

# Enex srl



*DRAVA*



*ELBA*



*NEVA*



*AIRHEAT/  
GEOHEAT*

MORE THAN 300 UNITS PRODUCED – CO<sub>2</sub> AS THE ONLY REFRIGERANT - INSTALLED IN 15 COUNTRIES

REFRIGERATION CONCEPTS:

- SINGLE STAGE
- 2-STAGE SIMPLE INTERCOOLER AND OPEN FLASH TANK
- BOOSTER
- CASCADE
- HEAT PUMPS: TAP WATER HEATING (WATER/WATER AND AIR/WATER)

# Evolution of CO<sub>2</sub> refrigeration

PERIOD	PHASE	DESIGN SOLUTION	COUNTRY
1994 -1997 1998 1999	From idea to prototypes	First installation cascade First installation of a refrigeration transcritical system	--
2000 -2004	Pioneer installations	Multicompressor 1 stage Multicompressor 2 stage with intercooler	Italy Switzerland Northern Europe
2005 -2009	CO <sub>2</sub> only solution becomes widely accepted. Optimized components available	- Economizer - Booster - 2 stage Open Flash Tank	Northern Europe United Kingdom Switzerland
2010 -2012	Focus on reliability	No new design solutions	Pilots plants in central/southern Europe
2013 - ?	Search for Resilience/Reliability/Efficiency Improved design?	Expansion work recovery?	All Europe?

## Today

- A) CO<sub>2</sub> ESTABLISHED ALTERNATIVE TO HFCs IN COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION
- B) MORE THAN 1300 SUPERMARKETS INSTALLED IN EUROPE\*
- C) STILL LIMITED TO NORTH AND MID EUROPE

\* Shecco, 2012, Study on supermarket refrigeration system with transcritical R744 units

## Needs

1. MOVE SOUTH THE APPLICATION BORDER-MAKE THE USE OF CO<sub>2</sub> SYSTEMS CONVENIENT IN WARMER CLIMATES
2. IMPROVE OVERALL EFFICIENCY OF CO<sub>2</sub> PLANTS
3. MAKE CO<sub>2</sub> ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE THROUGH MASS PRODUCTION ALLOWED BY A MUCH LARGER MARKET

# Development Objectives

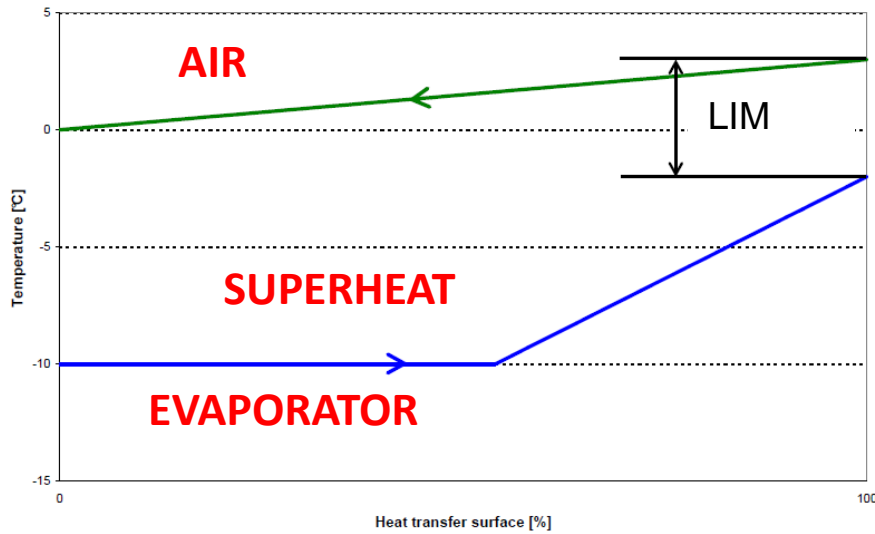
- A) REFRIGERATION SYSTEM WITH CO<sub>2</sub> AS THE ONLY REFRIGERANT
- B) HIGHER EFFICIENCY THAN CO<sub>2</sub> STATE-OF-THE-ART SYSTEMS
- C) SIMPLE DESIGN
- D) SUITABLE FOR WARM CLIMATES
- E) COST EFFECTIVE, SUITABLE ALSO FOR SMALL SHOPS /PETROL STATIONS/HORECA

## Identified solutions -

1. EVAPORATORS OVERFEEDING (REDUCTION OF LOSSES FOR SUPERHEAT-HIGHER EVAPORATION TEMPERATURE)
2. RECOMPRESSION OF FLASH VAPOR AND PRECOMPRESSION WITH EJECTOR (REDUCTION OF THROTTLING LOSSES)

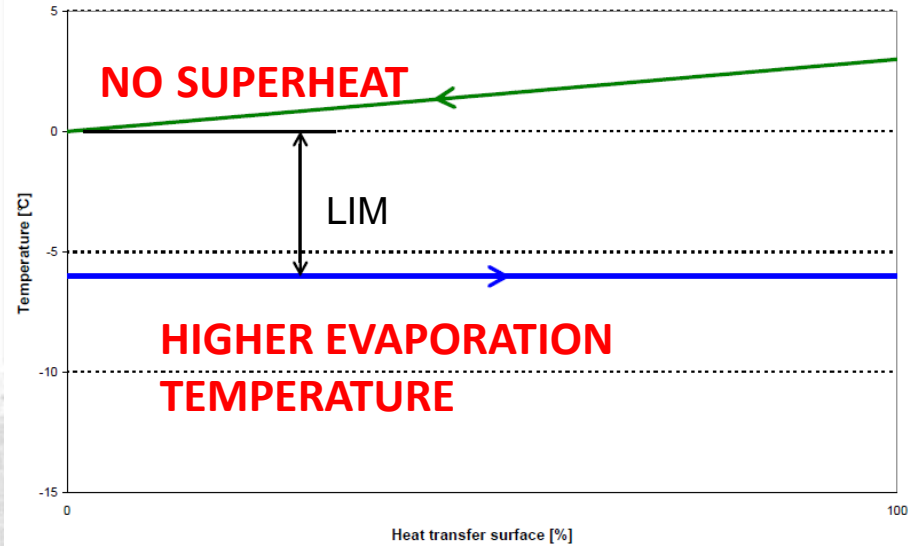
# Evaporators temperature profile

**SUPERHEAT EVAPORATOR  
 (THERMOSTATIC EXPANSION  
 VALVE)**



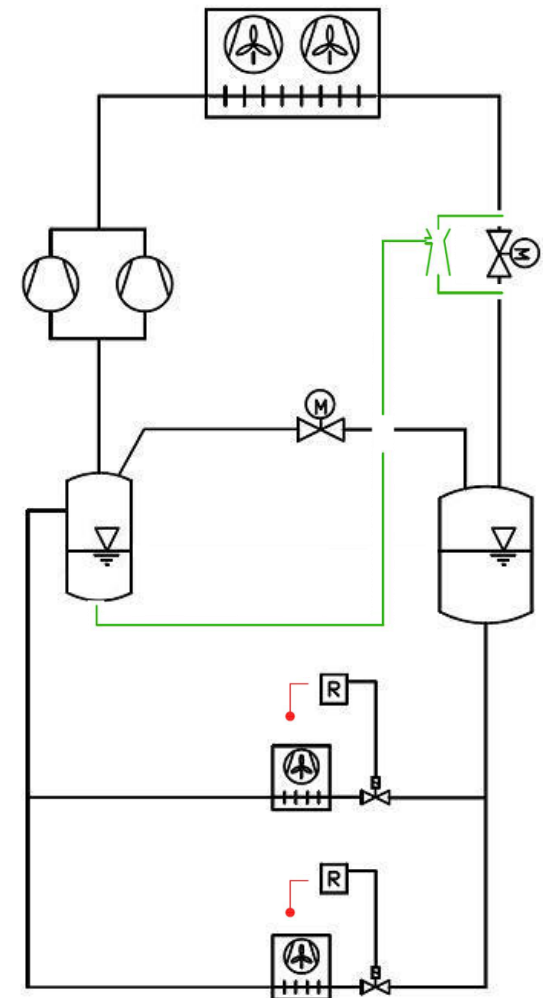
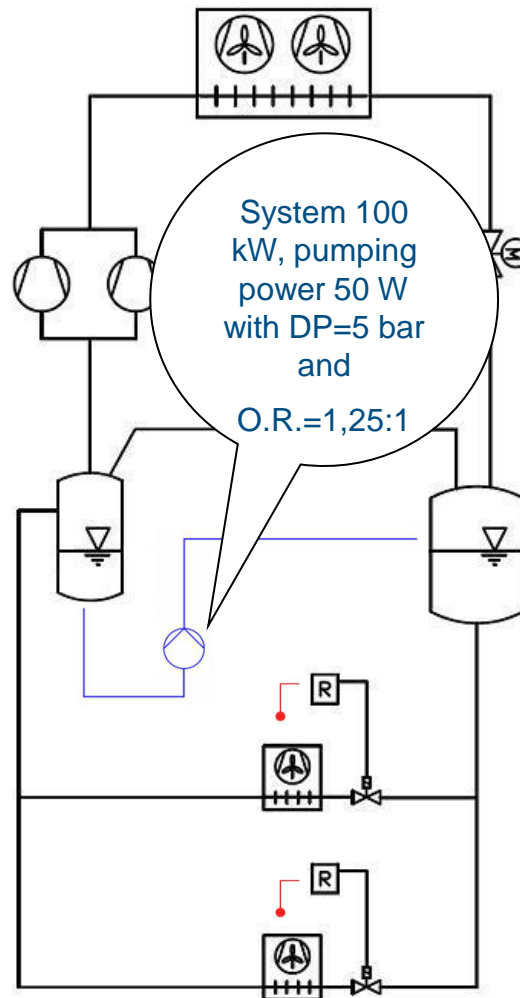
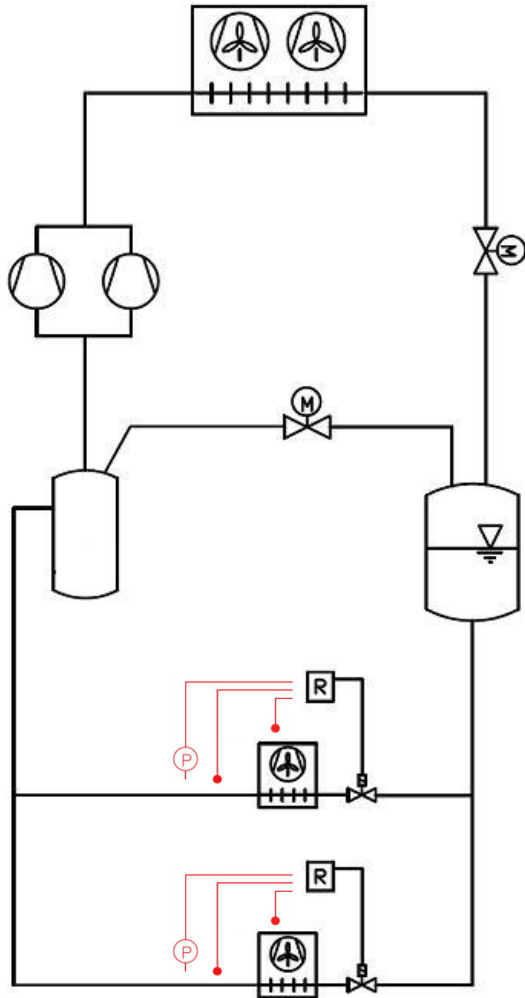
- DRY EXPANSION

**FLOODED EVAPORATOR  
 (OVERFEEDING)**

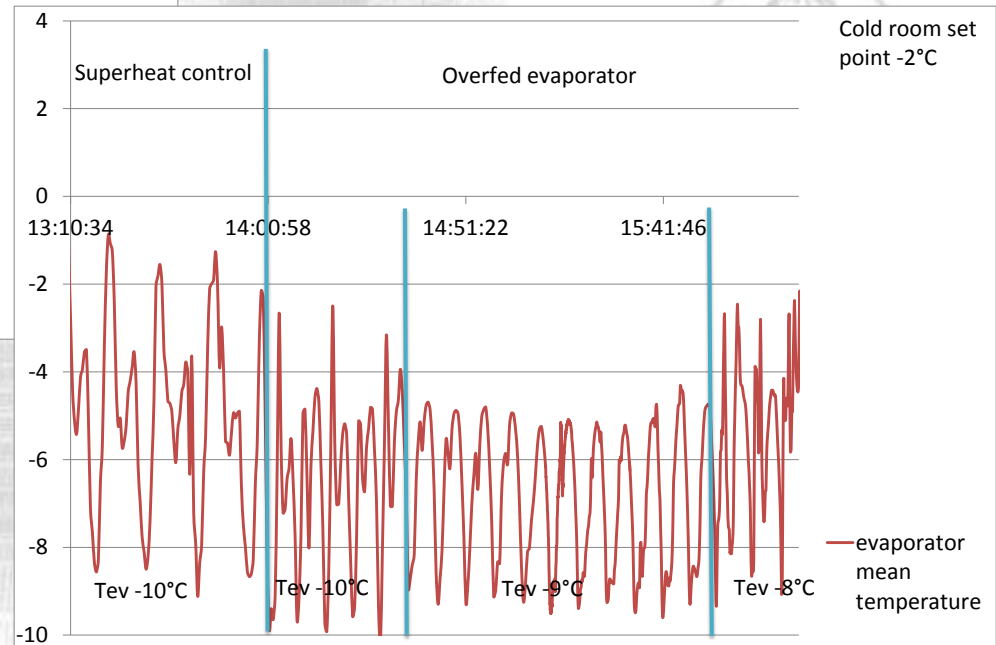
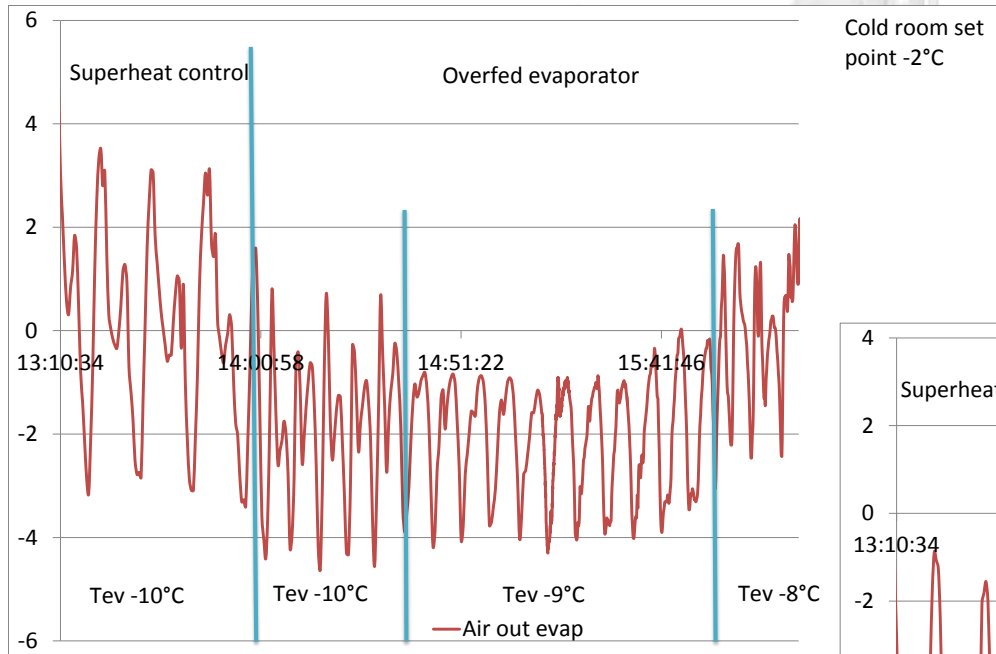


- NO SUPERHEAT CONTROL
- EXCESS LIQUID MANAGEMENT IS REQUIRED

# Overfed evaporators: system design



# Overfed evaporator with ejector liquid suction: test results





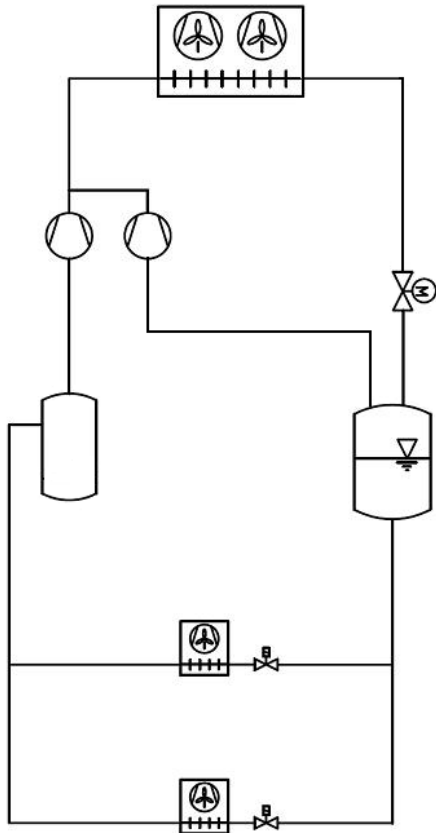
# Overfed evaporators advantages

COMPARED WITH “OLD GENERATION CO<sub>2</sub>” THE NEW DESIGN IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

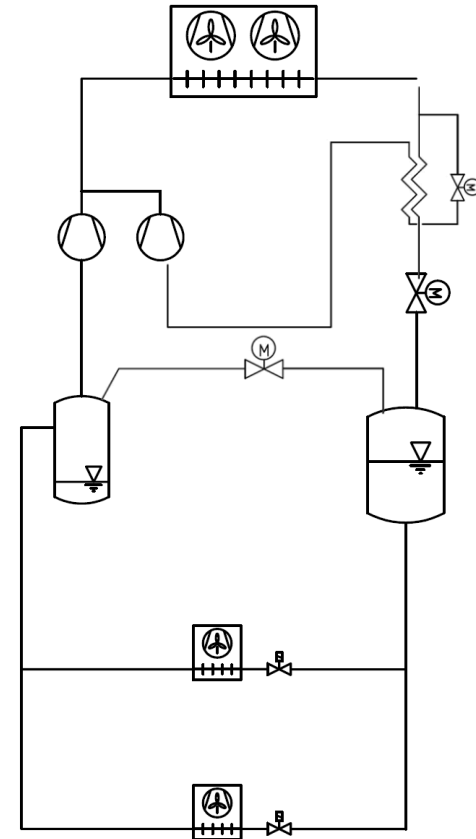
- INCREASE OF EVAPORATING TEMPERATURE IN TYPICAL COMMERCIAL CABINET FROM 3 TO 5K, DEPENDING ON REFRIGERATION LOAD AND EVAPORATOR DESIGN
- ENERGY SAVING 10-12% IN ALL CLIMATIC CONDITIONS DUE TO LOWER COMPRESSION WORK
- SIMPLE EVAPORATOR CONTROL
- INCREASED RELIABILITY: NO RISK OF LIQUID AND OIL SLUGS SUCTION FROM COMPRESSORS/LESS COMPONENTS
- LOWER TOTAL COST (SIMPLER EVAPORATOR CONTROLS, SMALLER COMPRESSOR, REDUCED SIZE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT)

# Reduction of Throttling losses: flash vapour recompression

RECOMPRESSION OF FLASH VAPOR FROM RECEIVER AT INTERMEDIATE PRESSURE (OFT)



SUBCOOLING WITH AUXILIARY COMPRESSOR(S)



# Flash vapour recompression

- FIELD TEST ON 2 SYSTEMS (ITALY) –ONE YEAR DATA COLLECTION FROM THE FIELD (JUNE 2011-JULY 2012)
- EXPERIENCE FROM THE FIELD:
  - ENERGY SAVING DEPENDS ON EXTERNAL CONDITIONS (AIR COOLED SYSTEMS), IT BECOMES RELEVANT FOR AIR TEMPERATURES HIGHER THAN 25° C
  - PAY BACK CAN BE TOO LONG IN MEDIUM CLIMATIC CONDITIONS (THE AUXILIARY SYSTEM IS SELDOM IN OPERATION)
  - CAPACITY CONTROL IS A CRITICAL ISSUE FOR OBTAINING EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT
  - DESIGN WITH SUBCOOLING HEAT EXCHANGER:
    - a) THEORETICALLY MORE FLEXIBLE, BUT HX DESIGN IS CRITICAL
    - b) ADDITIONAL  $\Delta T$  ON HX REDUCES THE ADVANTAGE OVER THE OFT DESIGN
    - c) MORE COMPLEX IN CONTROL

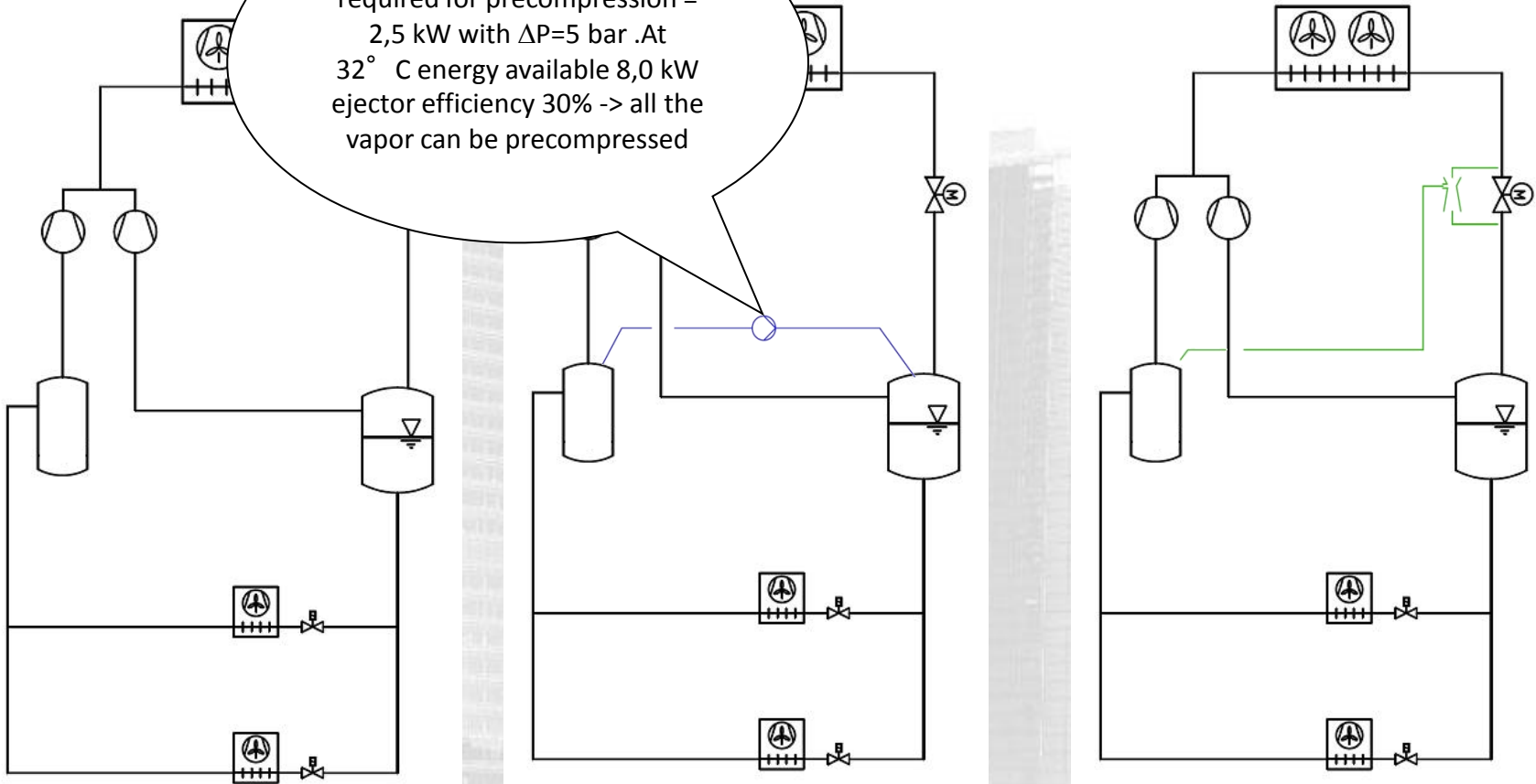
ENEX OPTION IS “FLASH VAPOUR RECOMPRESSION FROM INTERMEDIATE RECEIVER”:

- SIMPLER DESIGN AND CONTROL
- COMPATIBILITY WITH EJECTOR PRE-COMPRESSION

# Reduction of Throttling losses -3

## FLASH VAPOR RECOVERY COMBINED WITH EJECTOR PRECOMPRESSION

System 100 kW, power required for precompression = 2,5 kW with  $\Delta P=5$  bar .At 32° C energy available 8,0 kW ejector efficiency 30% -> all the vapor can be precompressed



- a) THE SIMPLE ADD-ON OF ONE OR MORE EJECTORS EXTEND THE PERIOD OF USE OF AUXILIARY COMPRESSOR(S) REDUCING PAY BACK
- b) EFFICIENCY INCREASE UP TO 20% AT PEAK CONDITIONS

# How the ejector looks



# Overall results

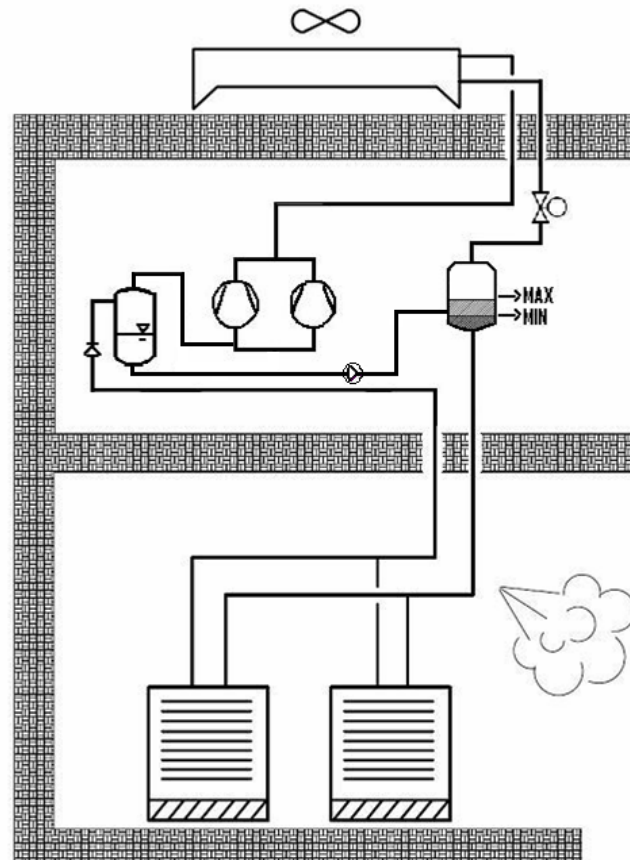
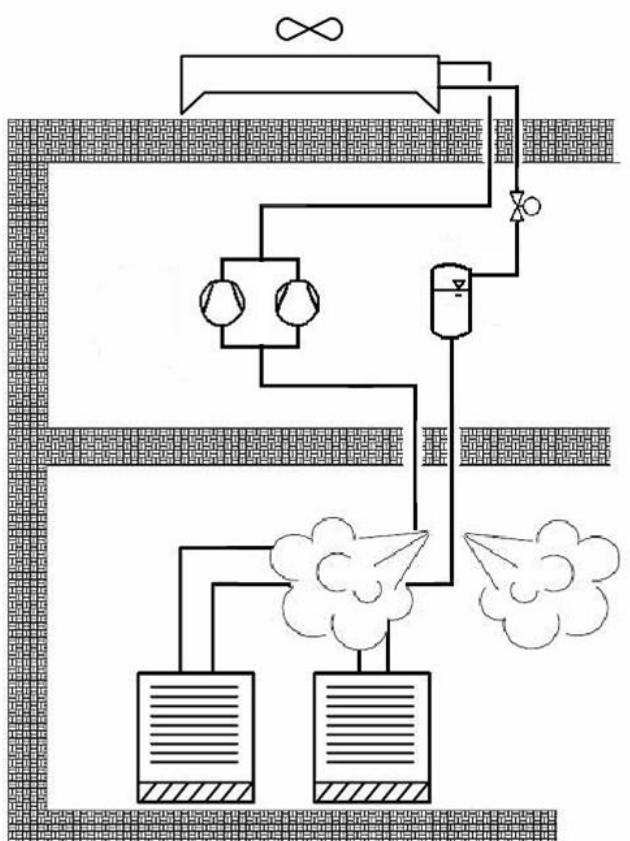
- ENERGY GAIN DEPENDS STRONGLY ON DESIGN AND CONTROL
- CAREFUL BALANCE OF COST/BENEFITS IS NEEDED
- WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED IN TERMS OF ENERGY SAVING?

	YEARLY AVERAGE
A: EVAPORATOR OVERFEEDING	10-12%
B: FLASH RECOMPRESSION *	8-10%
C: FLASH RECOMPRESSION + EJECTOR *	15-18%
A+C	20-22%

(\* ) REFERRED TO ITALIAN CLIMATE

# Further development/possibilities

THE POSSIBILITY OF REFRIGERANT CHARGE TRANSFER MAY INCREASE SAFETY LEVEL IN SUPERMARKETS



- a) IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIMIT THE LIQUID CHARGE LEVEL IN RECEIVER
- b) POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF LIQUID CHARGE DUE TO REDUCTION OF LIQUID PIPING DIAMETER (PRESSURE DROP IS NOT AS CRITICAL AS WITH A CLOSE SUPERHEAT CONTROL)
- a)+b) -> SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF CO<sub>2</sub> MASS IN SALES AREA OF A SUPERMARKET

# Conclusions

- a) **COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE OVERFEEDING SYSTEMS AND FLASH RECOMPRESSION**
- b) **“OVERFED” DESIGN VERY COST EFFECTIVE AND SIGNIFICANTLY SIMPLER THAN A CONVENTIONAL DRY-EX**
- c) **EJECTOR PRECOMPRESSION REDUCES PAYBACK AND INCREASES EFFICIENCY OF THE SIMPLE FLASH VAPOR RECOMPRESSION**
- d) **PRESENTED TWO PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE TODAY FOR CONVENIENT USE OF CO<sub>2</sub> ONLY SYSTEMS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE CLIMATE**
- e) **OPENING TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENT POSSIBILITIES, ESPECIALLY REGARDING SAFETY FOR PUBLIC**





THANK YOU!