



# Best Practice In Heat Network Design

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30<sup>th</sup> Sept - IrDEA Webinar



# REHAU

## in a nutshell

Leading  
developer in  
polymer-based  
solutions

- > **Founded in 1948**
- ~ **20,000** employees
- > **50** countries
- > **3.6 billion** Euro  
annual revenue



Operating globally  
but still family  
owned

Internally split into 5 divisions:



Automotive



Building  
Solutions



Window  
Solutions



Furniture  
Solutions



Industrial  
Solutions



# REHAU

Your district heating partner



## Specialist sales & technical teams in the UK

Sales team who are focused 100% on district heating pipes. Technical team based across the UK providing quotes and designs on a fast turnaround.

## Only UK manufacturer of PE-Xa district heating pipes

Producing RAUVITHERM in the UK since 2012. Estimated 29% CO<sub>2</sub> saving.

## Largest UK stock of district heating pipes

Large quantities of pipe, fittings and accessories in the UK to ensure your project goes smoothly.



# REHAU polymer district heating pipes

## RAUTHERMEX

PE-Xa pipe with bonded  
PU foam



25-160mm = 3MW\*

## RAUVITHERM

PE-Xa pipe with PEX foam  
(non-bonded)



25-160mm = 3MW\*

PP-R with PU foam  
(bonded)

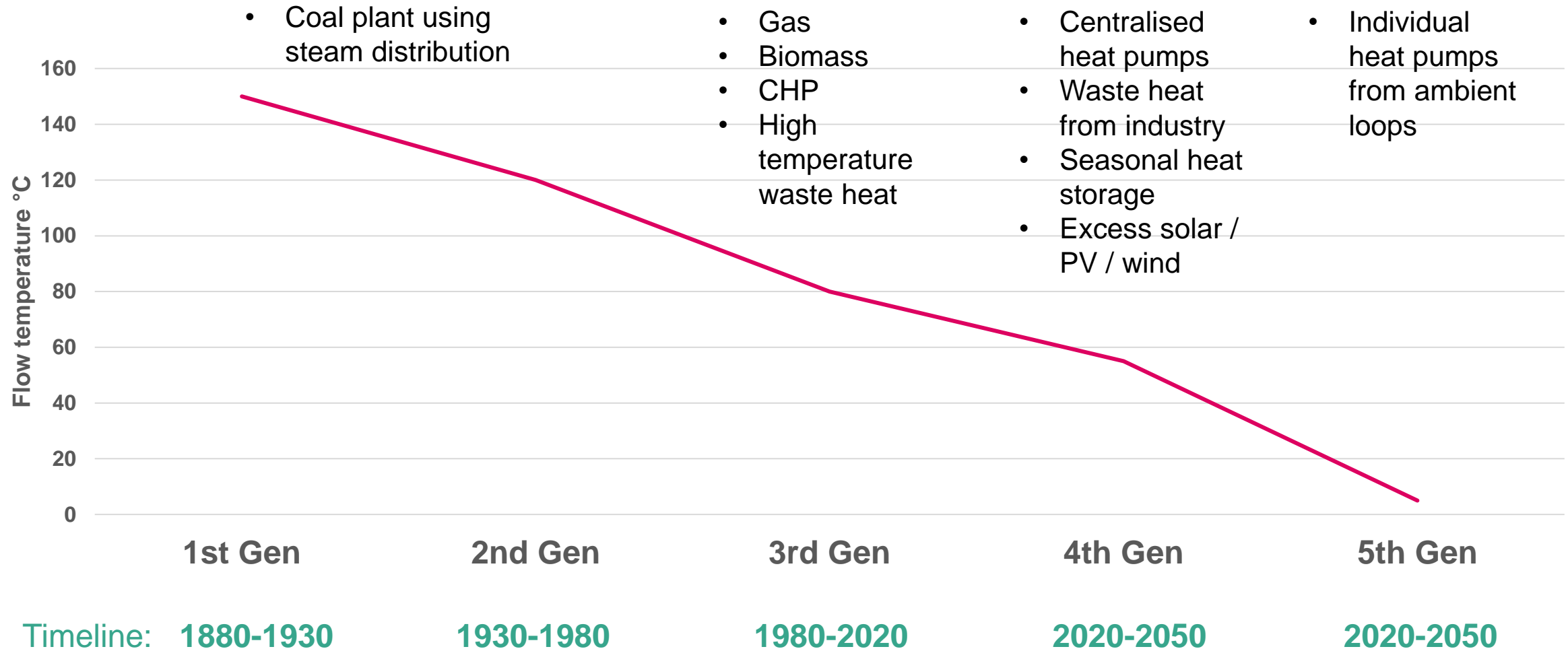


160-315\*\*mm = 13 MW\*

*\*Based on  $\Delta 30K$*

*\*\* Larger sizes available on request*

# Evolution of district heating flow temperatures



# Trend to lower temperature heat networks (4th generation)



**Net zero by  
2050**



**Renewable  
Heat Incentive  
until 2022**



**SAP 10  
changes**



**Gas boiler  
ban in 2025**

## **Carbon savings**

Lower temperatures  
means lower heat  
losses

## **Incentives**

GSHP/WSHP  
higher tariffs than  
ASHP / biomass

## **SAP 10**

Heat pumps in DH  
more favourable than  
gas CHP

## **Future heat sources**

Developers forced to  
look at alternatives to  
gas



# Possible heat sources:

Gas / gas CHP

Heat pumps

Biomass

AD / biogas

Solar thermal

Deep geothermal

Waste heat



# Pipe lifespan

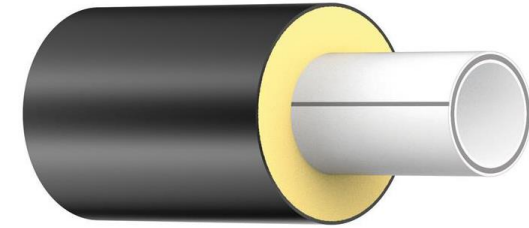
## PE-Xa



Flow temp °C	Maximum pressure	Minimum pipe lifespan
90°C	6 bar	10 years
80°C	6 bar	30 years
70°C	8.5 bar	50 years
60°C	9.5 bar	50 years
50°C	10.6 bar	50 years

Calculated using REHAU RAUTHERM-EX carrier pipes and using a pressure safety factor of 1.25

## PP-R



Flow temp °C	Maximum pressure	Minimum pipe lifespan
95°C	6.1 bar	10 years
80°C	8 bar	25 years
70°C	9.5 bar	50 years
60°C	11.7 bar	50 years
50°C	13.8 bar	50 years

Calculated using PP-R SDR 11 carrier pipes and using a pressure safety factor of 1.25

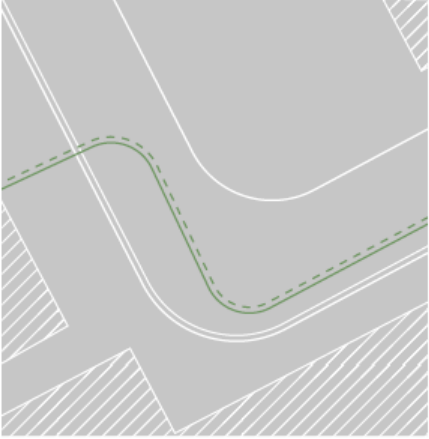
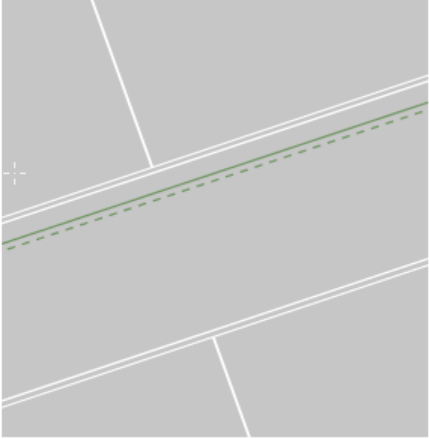
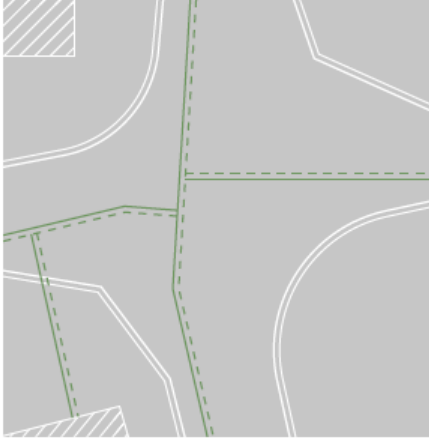
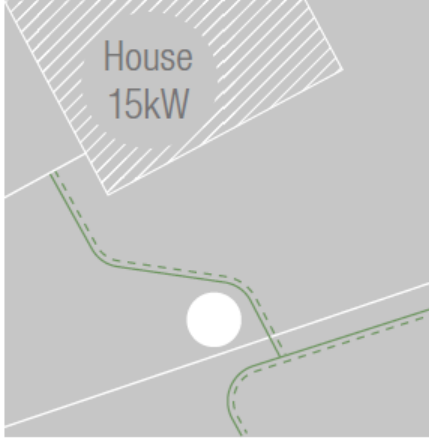
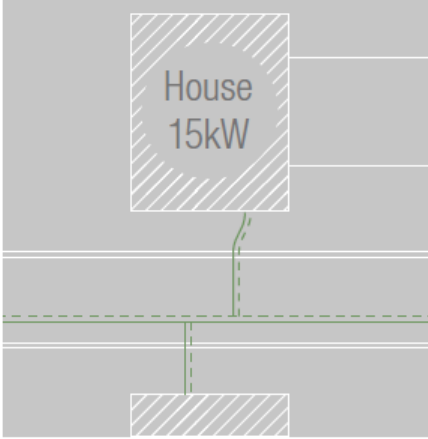
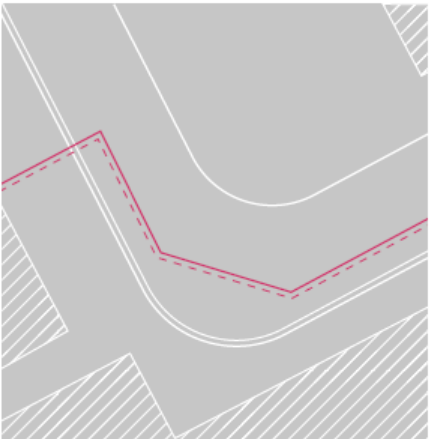
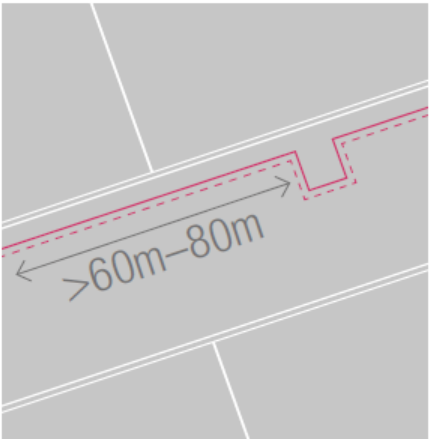
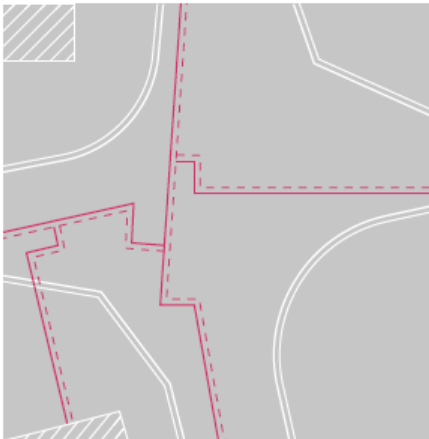
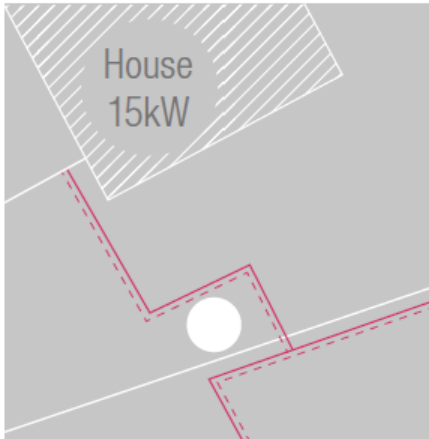
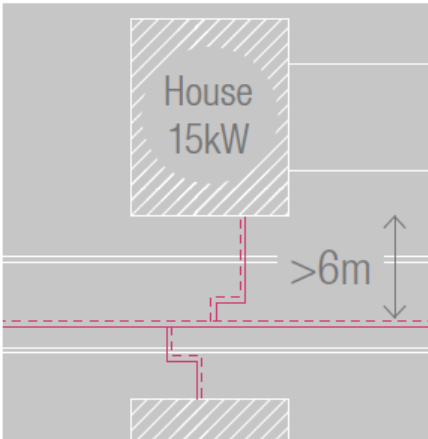


# 4G Network - Pipe Material Comparison



	Steel	PP-R	PE-Xa
Max pipe size	>DN1000	DN350 (400mm)	DN130 (160mm)
Pipe lifespan at 4G temps	>50 years	>50 years	>50 years
Coils / sticks	Sticks	Sticks	Coils
Complexity of install	Specialist steel welder	Civil contractor	Civil or mechanical contractor
Expansion loops needed	Yes	No	No
Leak detection required	Yes	No	No

# Steel vs PE-Xa – route layout differences

	Direction Change	Expansion Bends	Pipe Crossings	Obstacles	House Entries
PE-XA					
STEEL					

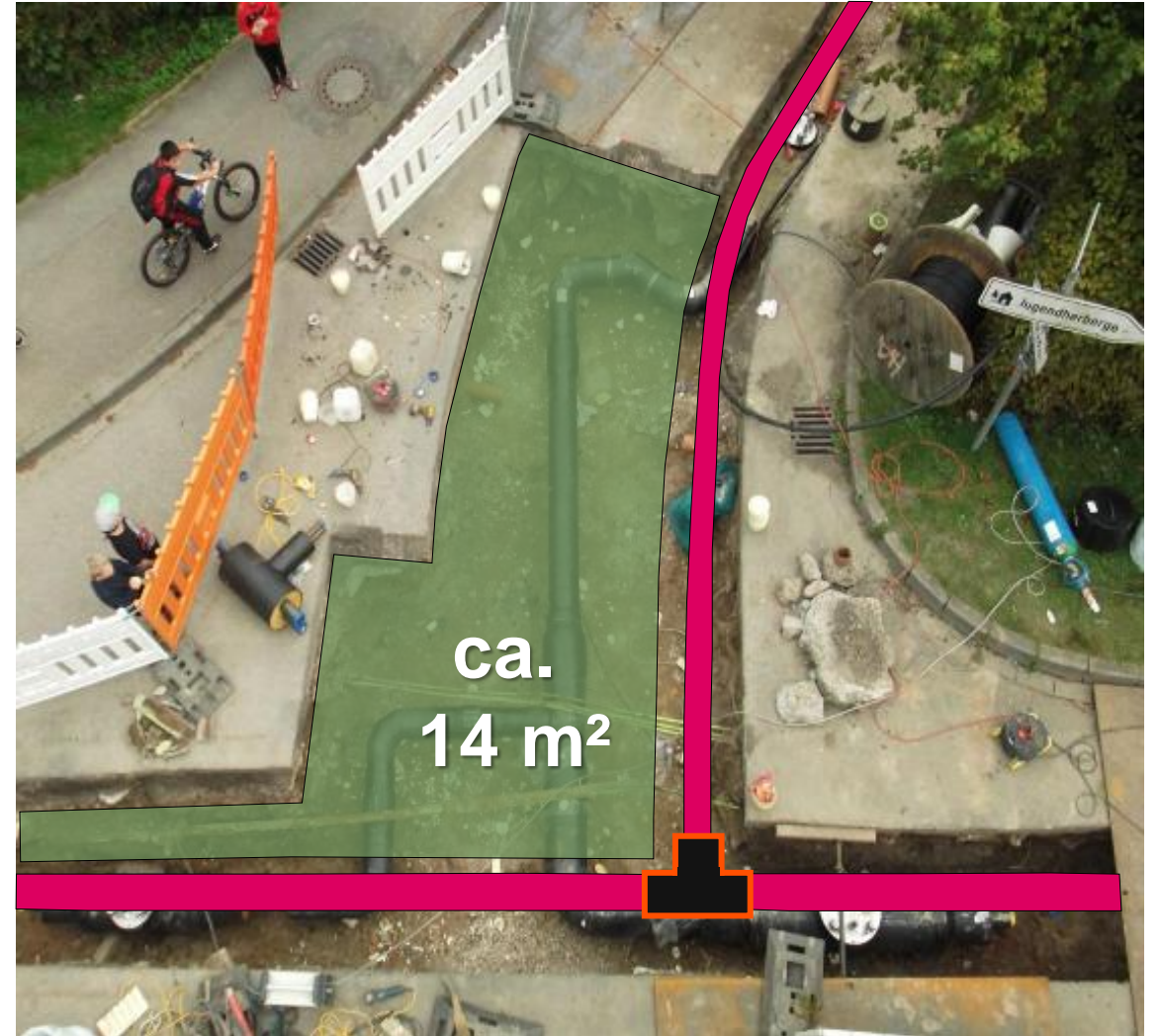


# Flexibility of 12m 160mm PE-Xa straight lengths





# Steel vs polymer – space required on site



# PP-R vs steel for main spine



Less deposit &  
smoother inner  
bore

**Up to 19% lower  
pressure loss**

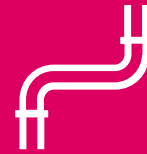
For 250mm PP-R vs DN200  
steel pipe. Less deposit build  
up > lower pumping costs.



High chemical  
resistance

**No leak detection  
needed**

Easier to install, high  
corrosion resistance



No expansion  
loops

**Expansion forces  
100x less than steel**

Less welds, pipe & bends >  
faster installation & less  
groundworks



Lightweight and  
easy to install

**Up to 37% lighter  
than steel**

Faster and easier to install.  
Pipes can be welded  
outside of trench.





# Design support

REHAU can optimise a heat network design by looking at:

- Pipe sizing / hydraulics
- Network heat losses
- Single / twin pipes
- Pipe routing
- Diversity

Using in-house bespoke design software



# Diversity in heat networks

It is unlikely for every heat consumer to use their peak load at the same time. This is called diversity.

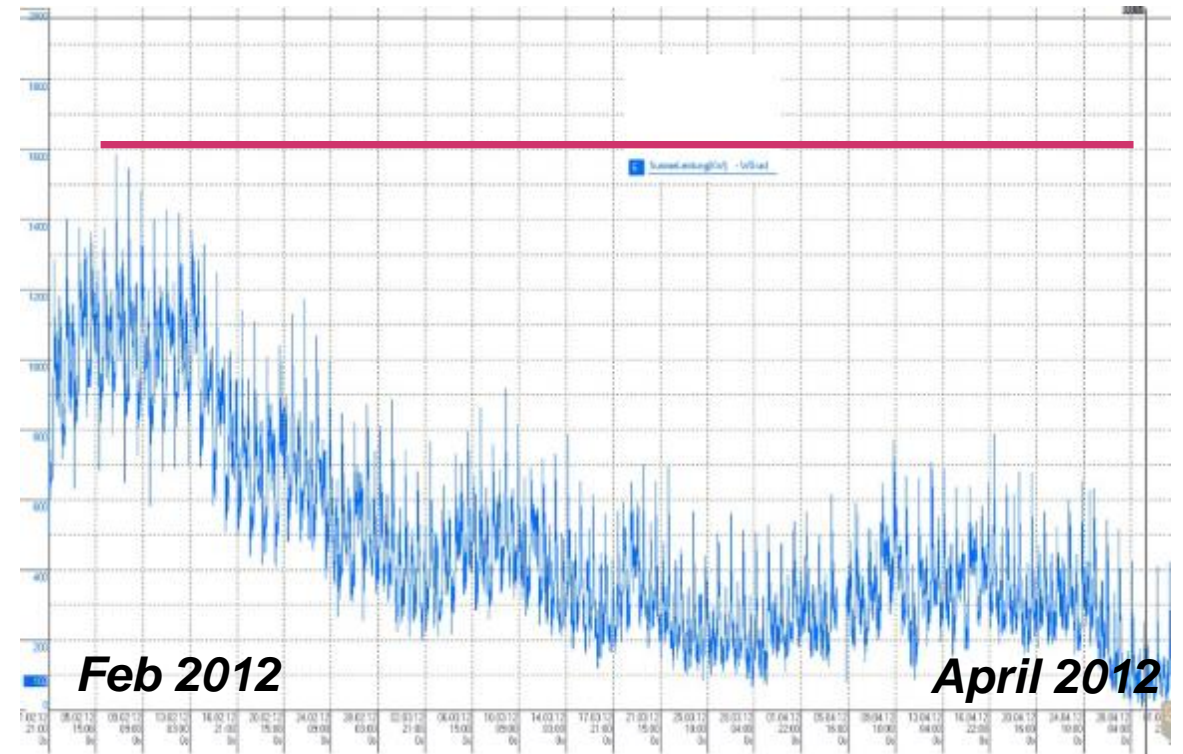
The **diversity factor** is the ratio of the peak load used. For example, for a peak load of 1MW and a diversity factor of 0.7 means you can resize the plant for 700kW.

## Example of 80 DH connections project:

Original – no diversity = 2,540kW

Designed diversity 0.85 = 2,160kW

**Actual diversity 0.63 = 1,600kW**





Methods to reduce installation costs include using soft-dig areas, **twin pipes**, hot tapping and **secondary spines**

# Twin pipes vs single pipes

2x UNO 25 = 10.9 W/m      DUO 25 = 7.6 W/m

Heat loss reduction with DUO      → 30%

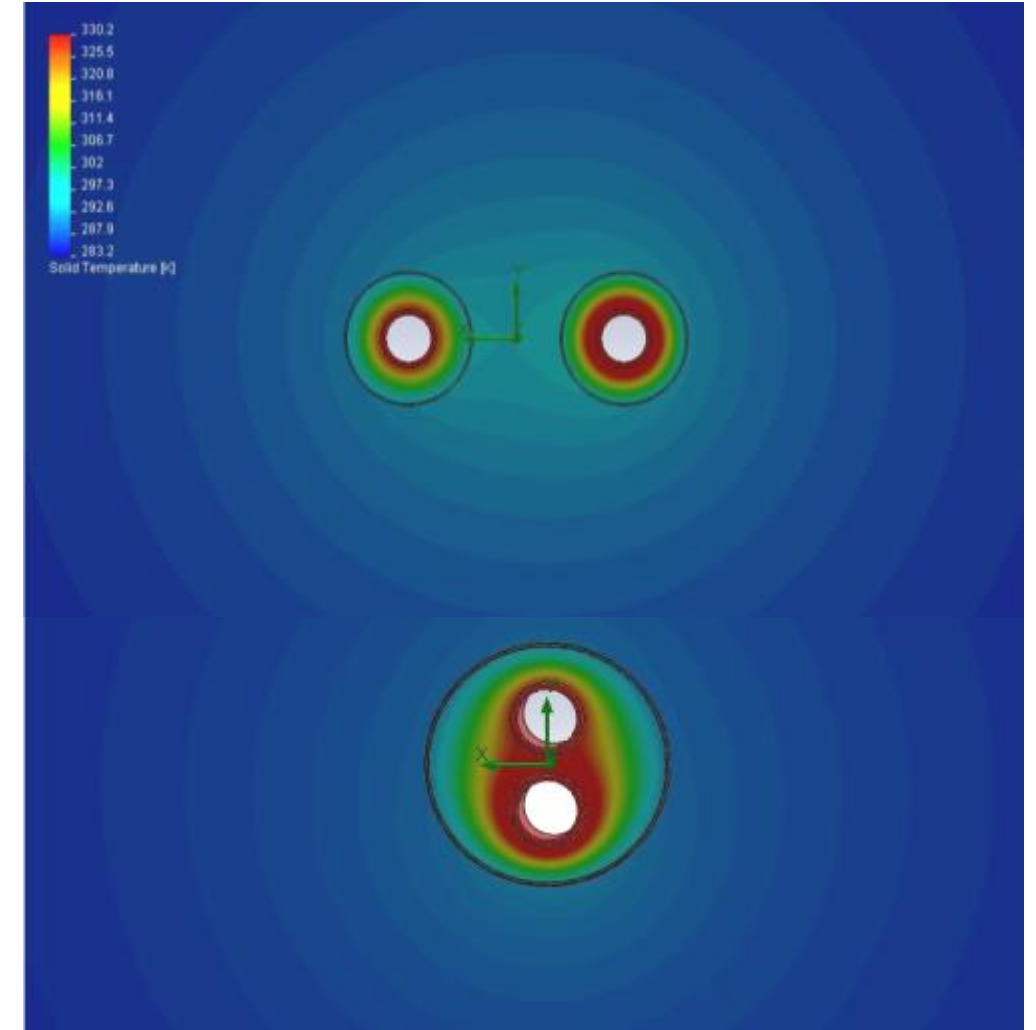
2x UNO 40 = 16.6 W/m      DUO 40 = 11.6 W/m

Heat loss reduction with DUO      → 30%

2x UNO 63 = 19.5 W/m      DUO 63 = 13.1 W/m

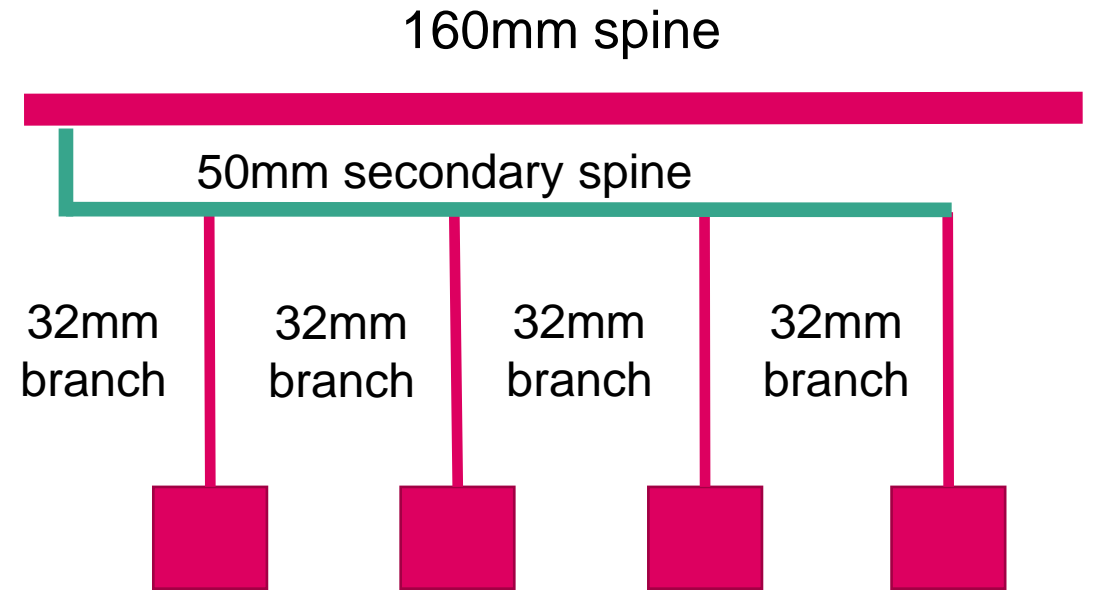
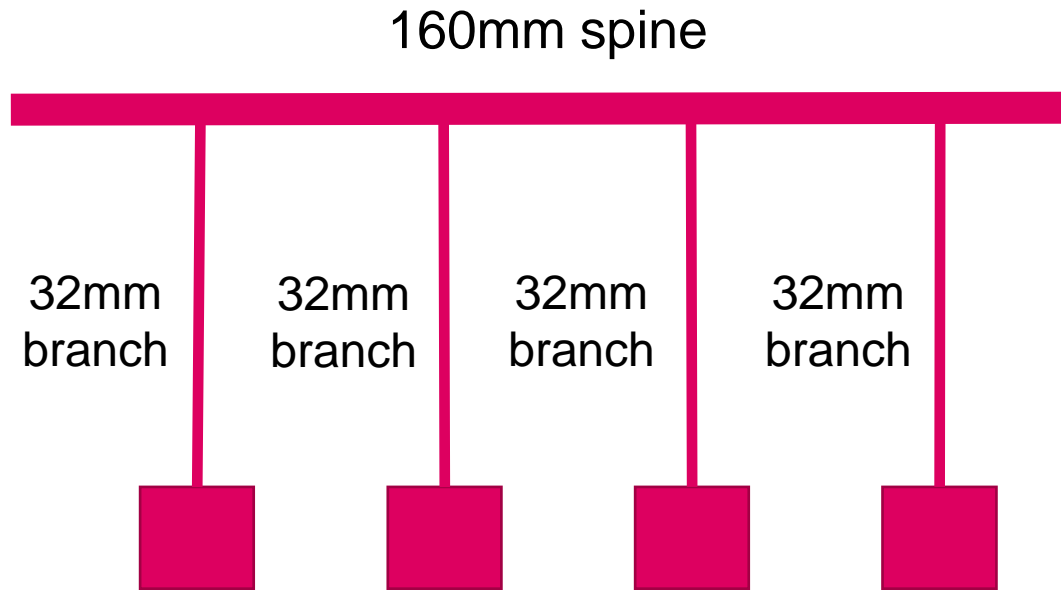
Heat loss reduction with DUO      → 33%

*Data taken at 80/50°C using RAUTHERMEX pipe.*





# Secondary spines



# Design case study

10 blocks of flats

Each 200kW

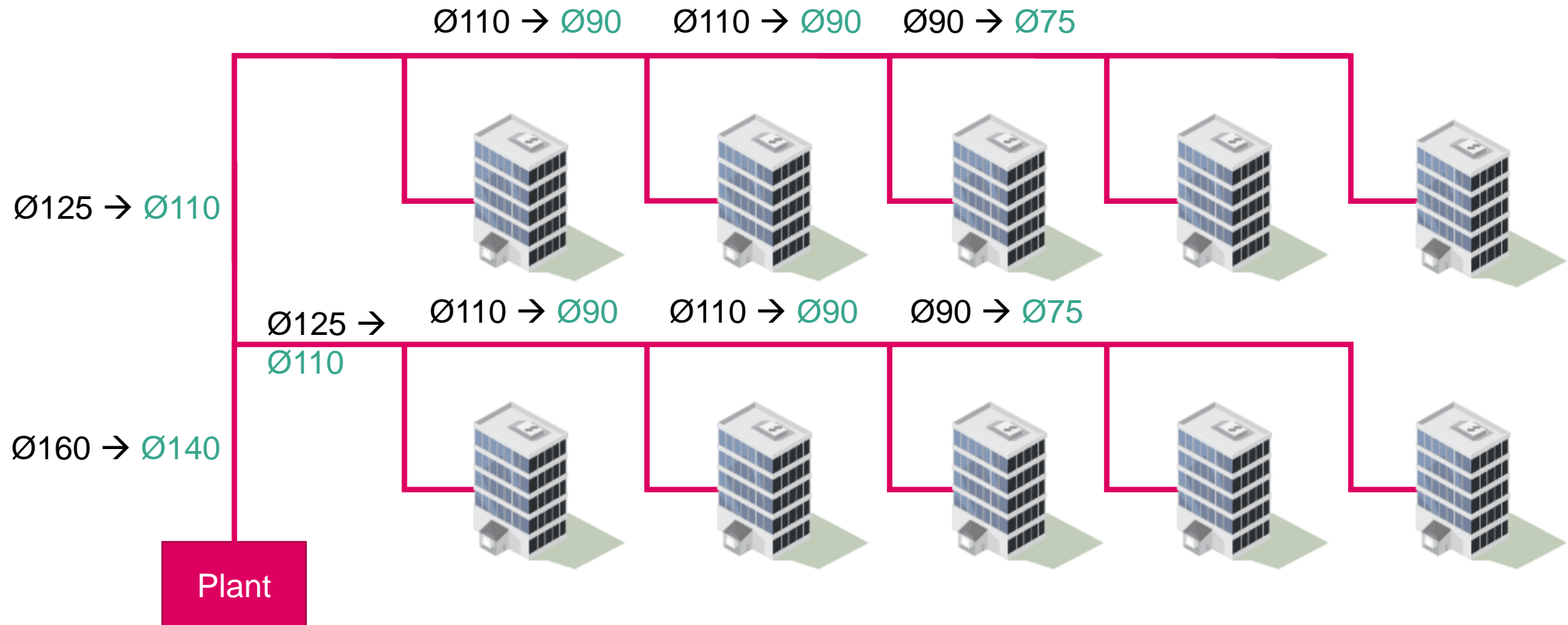
1,200m network length



# Sample network: 10 blocks of flats of 200kW each

$\Delta T$  scenarios

$\Delta 20K \rightarrow \Delta 30K$





# Design case study

## Cost comparison

Flow / return temperature (°C)		Network material cost (£)	% Cost saving to 80/60°C or Δ20K network
Δ 20K	80/60	£188K	23%
	60/40		
Δ 30K	70/40	£145K	
	65/35		
Δ 40K	70/30	£118K	37%

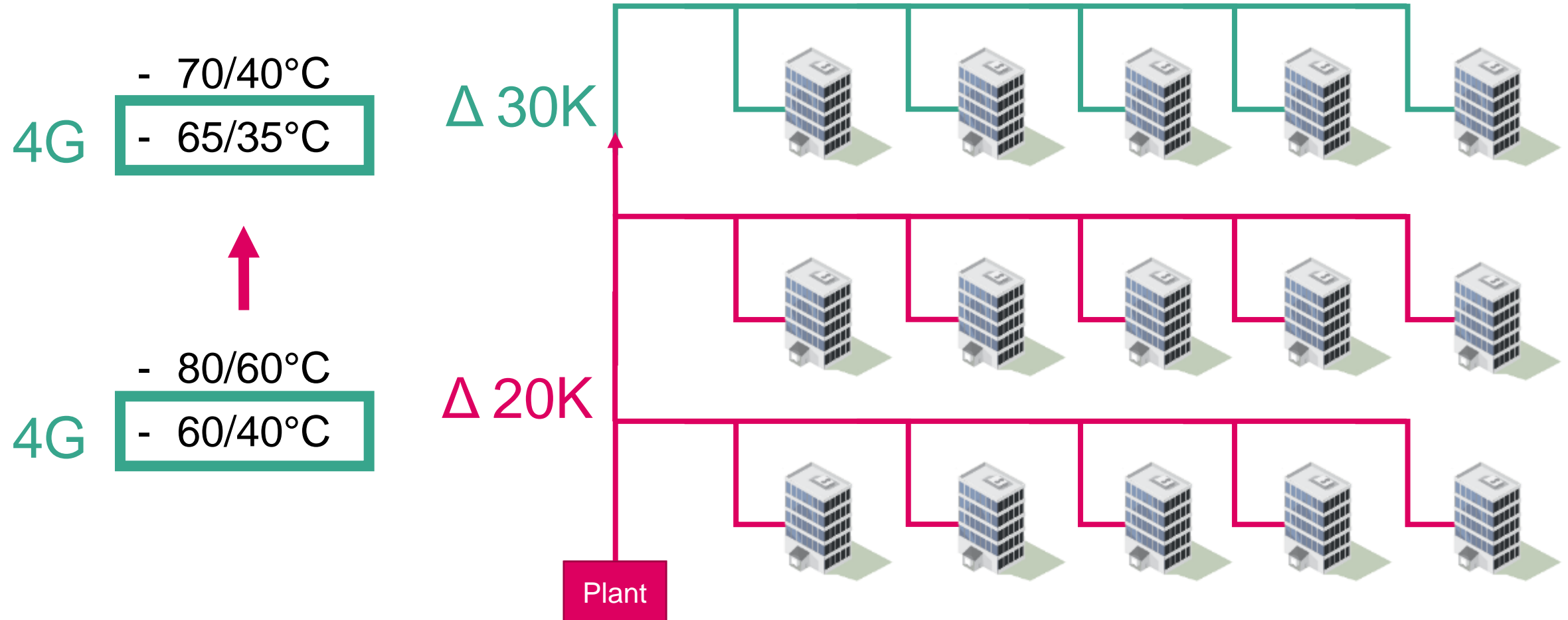
# Design case study

## Heat loss external distribution network

Flow / return temperature (°C)		Total heat losses (kW)	Saving on additional electricity demand @ 0.10 £/kWh HP COP 3	% saving to 80/60°C network
<b>Δ 20K</b>	80/60	36.63 kW		
	60/40	24.42 kW	£3,565 /a	33%
<b>Δ 30K</b>	70/40	24.48 kW	£3,547 /a	33%
	65/35	21.76 kW	£4,342 /a	41%
<b>Δ 40K</b>	70/30	16.26 kW	£5,948 /a	56%

# Creating additional capacity on an existing network

$\Delta T$  scenarios





A 4G heat network can reduce heat losses by 30-40% compared to an equivalent 3G network. CAPEX is influenced significantly by the operating temperatures and pipe choice.

A black corrugated pipe with an orange cap is in the foreground, slightly out of focus. In the background, there is a blue house with white window frames and a wooden deck. The scene is set in a garden with various plants and flowers.

# Case studies

District heating



# Case studies



## Hill Park, Glasgow

350 apartments – ASHP – Over 1km network



## Eleanor Street, Sheffield

127 properties – 1.9MW gas - Over 2km network



# Case studies



## Portmeirion, North Wales

Hotel & 30 cottages - Biomass – Over 3km network



## Dunbeg, Scotland

50 apartments – Biomass - Over1km network

# Case studies



## **Regional Performance Centre, Dundee**

Sports centre – GSHP / CHP – Nearly 2km pipe



## **Soho Farmhouse Estate, Oxfordshire**

45 luxury houses – Biomass – Over 7km network





Any questions?