Adapting Gas-Power Generation to New Role in Low-Carbon Energy Systems

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#### Enel Research at a glance





- ~160 Researchers
- **3 Research Centers**
- **2** Research Stations
- 2 Chemical
- Laboratories
- **40 Patents**



Cooperation with major universities in Europe and USA

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Gas-Power Generation role in the electricity scenario

Several challenges and opportunities need attention in the coming years:

- Bulk power system issues but also distributed domain.
- Ensure long-term capacity adequacy of generation, transmission and gas pipelines.
- Gas generation as complementary to the integration of variable renewables on electricity grids
- Multi-disciplinary nature of the issues:
  - Policy and regulation issues applicable in the short term,
  - Model and tool development in the medium term
  - Technology development in a longer term .
- Divergences in developments between North America, Europe and Asia.

Three high priority areas were highlighted:

- Capacity markets that encourage flexible capacity of gas-power generation.
- International markets, Cross border (national, regional) transmission and gas pipes.
- Adaptability on the demand side e.g. multi-fuel devices that can use electricity and/or gas etc

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1 - From "Key World Energy STATISTICS", IEA 2013

- Although the importance of renewable energies is increasing both in terms of installed capacity and generated energy, conventional generation will continue to play a key role at least in the next decades
- Contraction of oil is mainly compensated by increase of gas generation



Gas-Power generation role in the electricity scenario EU power generation structure evolution



#### EU-27 electricity generation (1990-2000-2010)



Note: Hydro is considered within RES

Source: Market Observatory for Energy, June 2012



Gas-Power generation role in the electricity scenario Pulverized coal vs gas turbine combined cycle plants



		USC PC	CCGT
Investment cost <sup>1</sup>	\$/kW	~2100	~1050
O&M variable cost <sup>1</sup>	\$/MWh	~18	~61
NOx emission <sup>2</sup>	mg/Nmc	100÷200	30÷50
Particulate emission <sup>2</sup>	mg/Nmc	15÷30	-
Efficiency <sup>1</sup>	%	40÷45	55÷60
Land requirement <sup>4</sup>	m²/MW	2000÷4000	400÷600
Warm start-up time <sup>3</sup>	h	4÷5	0,5÷1,5

- 1 Source: Projected Costs of Generating Electricity, INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, 2010
- 2 Typical value of advanced european plants
- 3- Source: "Summary Report on Coal Plant Dynamic Performance Capability", Jimmy Lindsay and Ken Dragoon", Renewable Northwest Project, August 16, 2010
- 4- Source: "Report on land requirement of thermal power stations", Government of India, Central Electricity Authority, 2007

#### Italian power generation sector Evolution of the generation mix and market





- Disappearance of oil generation
- Strong increase in REN
- Slight decrease in gas



- In the period 2007-2011 installed gas capacity increased
- In the last years an important reduction in gas production has occurred and this trend is not changing

# Spanish power generation sector Evolution of the generation mix and market





#### Annual production: wind vs CCGT



- Strong reduction of coal generation
- Reduction of nuclear generation
- Increase in gas and renewable generation
- Strong increase of wind installations in the last decade leaded to CCGT production reduction
- CCGT fleet used to compensate wind production variations



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- Increased number of startup / shut down cycles
- Reduced operation at base load
- Operation at minimum environmental load during nights

# Flexibility & Efficiency of Gas-Power Generation A mature solution for intermittency management



 Maturity level of available solutions ranges from Small scale prototype level to Demonstration system level, depending on the component / intervention level.

	Coal	CCGT
MEL (% of Base Load)	33-40	35-40
Ramp Rate (%of Base Load/ min	3-5	5-10
Net Efficiency (%)	40-45	55-60
Warm Start-up Time (min)	240-300	30-90

- Areas of improvement include:
  - > Minimum Environmental Load (MEL<sup>(\*)</sup>) Reduction: next generation CCGT power plants are expected to reduce their MEL up to 20% and 30% respectively;
  - > Start-up time reduction: towards daily startup;
  - > Ramp rate increase to follow fluctuating renewable generation;
  - > Startup cost reduction;
  - > Fuel-flexible GTs: combustor development targeted to reach the same NOx emissions as natural gas with alternative fuel (bio-gas, hydrogen, ..).

#### Operation flexibility improvement Enel's Italian CCGT fleet upgrading







#### GTDS: Enel's Gas Turbine Diagnostic Systems



- 15 GT power plants monitored
- Supporting the operation through statistics rules for anomaly prediction and analysis



- Life & maintenance models: tracking history of each GT component
- On-line lifetime calculation
- Choosing start-up curve for optimizing lifetime and/or market request

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# Flexibility of Gas-Power Generation Potential and Constraints



#### Potential of untapped flexibility in Large Generation assets

- In 2012 (IEA 2012) CCGT power plants produced about 4500 TWh (worldwide), accounting for 20% (renewable 7%, hydrogen and biofuels excluded) of the total production.
- In 2050 (IEA "4 degrees scenario") CCGT power plants are expected to produce about 10000 TWh (worldwide), accounting for 22% (renewable 18%, hydrogen and bio-fuels excluded).
- Low NOx hydrogen fueled gas turbines are expected to be introduced to the market by 2025 to provide temporal decoupling of electricity supply and demand

#### **Constraints/ Drivers for implementation**

- Uncertainties in future regulatory scenario of renewable generation (government subsidiaries and compensation devices development) interferes with investment decisions about the machinery development.
- Gas price can strongly affect the convenience to invest in coal plant development rather than in CCGT.



# Flexibility of Gas-Power Generation Technology and Cost



**Technology evolution** 

- GT combustor development for reducing MEL of CCGT and to maintain competitiveness of open cycle gas turbines;
- Improve part-load efficiency of CCGT plants;
- Advanced diagnostic systems for monitoring the lifetime machinery consumption;
- Advanced Control Systems for optimizing transient operation and start-up;
- Low-NOx combustors and new TBC materials development for hydrogen and bio-fuel fed gas turbines.

#### **Cost Evolution**

- Increasing the flexibility of existing gas power plants would require not negligible investments, with new equipment/component installations and replacements in many cases and improvement of existing R&C systems. A moderate cost increase with respect to traditional plants would be required in case of new builds.
- Flexible operation will lead toward higher operation and maintenance costs.
- Increased part load efficiency will help reducing additional operational costs.
- Advanced monitoring & diagnostic tools for on-line monitoring of the lifetime of critical components will significant contribute to keep these costs under control.



### Flexibility of Gas-Power Generation Business Impact



- In the current scenario, in which renewable production systems benefit of dispatch priority, thermal plants undergo discontinuous operation. Typical number of starts per year in Italy ranges between 50 and 100 for GTs and is costantly increasing. GTCC yearly operating hours are below 1500 in many cases.
- The return to business of an investment aimed at increasing flexibility (fast startup, higher load ramps, reduced minimum load) could lead to significantly increase margin from selling electricity in a strongly fluctuating market.
- On the contrary, if the regulatory scenario will force distributed generation systems to reduce their load fluctuations and increase their predictivity, a more stable but lower production could be required to thermoelectric plants. In this case, a retrofit, able to reduce the minimum load, could be economically convenient and can determine the convenience to keep a power plant alive or shut it down.
- In this uncertain market energy scenario, strongly affected by regulatory elements, it is difficult to imagine that new players can be attracted to install and run large fossil plants in the near future.



# Flexibility of Gas-Power Generation Development Roadmap



- From an electric utility perspective, the increase of flexibility of thermoelectric plants requires the implementation of advanced predictive diagnostic tools able to on-line manage the plant life consumption and optimize the operation and maintenance plans.
- In other words, an utility has to be able to decide if a rapid start-up and shut-down is convenient or not, considering in details the impact on the increase of maintenance costs.
- R&D efforts have to be addressed to increase productivity of models able to on-line assess the residual lifetime of critical components.
- Moreover, more advanced regulation & control system are needed especially for coal plants - to identify the best set point conditions in rapid load transients..



# Thank you for Your Attention

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