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Analytics and Optimization for District Energy Networks Design and Development

December 3rd 2021



57.7679



Spin-off of the Alma Mater Università di Bologna, we apply Operations Research, Data Science and Artificial

Intelligence to design, develop and provide state-of-art Analytics and Optimization Solutions in Italy, EU & US



Over 40 talented professional to support Digital Innovation





Bologna: HQ & Main Office Cesena: Software Factory





## Optit's solution for DHC network development optimization



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#### **Energy Distribution Network Optimisation**

**BUSINESS OBJECTIVE** 

| District F  | leating Planning   |
|---|--|
|   |  |
| Return o  | n Invested Capital Optimization  |
| Ontimiza  | ition/improvement of Existing Networks   |
| Optimiza  |  |
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| File Medifica Vista Livello Configura Stru<br>Bologica Configura Structure<br>FIEST 1 - Nuova istanza<br>FIEST 1 - Nuova istanza<br>Fiestema<br>Sistema   | menti Esteri Esteriolo (ITTE) Franta Ado<br>I Gentore rind<br>Gentore rind<br>Gentore rind<br>Configurations turffe<br>Configurations parenti sprent<br>Configurations parenti<br>Configurations parenti<br>Configurat |
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| Cartografia   |  |
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#### CHALLENGES FOR DECISION MAKERS



**Economic Evaluation** 



Complex Thermal-Hydraulic configurations



Network Geographical Extension management



**Multiple Scenarios Evaluation** 



#### **Optimization Management**

**NEW NETWORK DEVELOPMENT** 

- ROIC Optimization
- Optimal Network Design considering thermo-hydraulic constraints
- KPIs Analysis for every scenario



**NETWORK EXPANSION** 

- Client acquisition Plan
- Design Optimization
- Technical Simulations of future network configurations

#### SATURATED NETWORK

- Contracts Analysis
- Demand Reduction
- Optimization of Energy Generation for future developments





### **Engineering Economic Analysis**

#### **INVESTMENT EVALUATION**

- Investment Validation for network expansion
- Evaluation of **new equipment** integration
- Evaluation of Policy Framework Impact

| Parametri input               |            |              |             |              |            |           |      |          |       |                     |         |              |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------|----------|-------|---------------------|---------|--------------|
| Parametro                     |            |              | Valore      |              |            |           |      |          |       |                     |         | _            |
| GRUPPO DI RIFERIMENTO         |            | Potenza (KW) | n) <=       |              | к          | 1         |      | м        |       |                     |         |              |
| Costo fisso contratto nuov    | o allacci  | o (€)        |             |              | 0          |           | ix.  |          | -     |                     |         | _            |
| Costo fisso contratto ricon   | trattuali  | zzazion      |             |              | 100        |           |      | IN       | DICE  | VALORE              |         |              |
| Pressione min cliente (bar)   |            |              |             |              | 0,4        |           |      | V        | AN    | £                   | 399,739 |              |
| Fattore contemporaneità       |            |              |             |              | 0,6        |           |      |          |       |                     |         |              |
| Tasso di interesse VAN        |            |              |             |              | 0,065      |           |      | Т        | IR    | 12,1%               |         |              |
| Max clienti allacciabili      |            |              |             |              | 50         |           |      | В        | рт    |                     | 14      |              |
| Max clienti ricontrattualizza | bili       |              |             |              | 100        |           |      |          |       |                     | 14      | J            |
| Profilo min ricontrattualizza | bilità (h) | )            |             |              | 400        |           |      |          |       |                     |         |              |
| Profilo max ricontrattualizz  | abilità (h | )            |             |              | 1.100      |           |      |          |       |                     |         |              |
| Pressione max impianto        |            | -            | -           |              |            |           |      |          |       |                     | 1       |              |
| Pressione ritorno diente //   | A          | В            | C           | D            | E          | F         |      | G        | H     | l l                 |         | J            |
| Orizzonte temporale (ar 1     | ANNO       | RICAVO       | COSTO       | AMMORTAMENTO | IMPONIBILE | TASSE     | FLUS | SO_NETTO | COEFF | VALORE ATTUALIZZATO | VALORE_ | ATT_CUMULATO |
| Sconto allacciamento (%       | 0          | € 221.612    | € 1.093.214 | € 23.296     | € 65.348   | € 20.519  | -€   | 892.122  | 1,000 | -€ 892.122          | -€      | 892.122      |
| Tariffa assegnata ai clie     | 1          | £ 354 579    | £ 357 999   | £ 28.656     | £ 113 175  | £ 35 537  | -£   | 38 957   | 0.926 | -€ 36.071           | -£      | 928 193      |
| Socia potenza per preu 4      | -          | 6 442 000    | 6 000 700   | 6 00.000     | 6 445.050  | 6 45 5 40 |      | 24.000   | 0.057 | e 20.020            |         | 000.007      |
| Dapporto minimo ricontr       | 2          | £ 443.223    | € 302./08   | € 32.229     | € 145.060  | € 45.549  | £    | 34.906   | 0,857 | £ 29.926            | -£      | 898.207      |
| Rapporto mantino ricorio 5    | 3          | € 487.546    | € 340.945   | € 34.016     | € 161.002  | € 50.555  | €    | 96.046   | 0,794 | € 76.245            | -€      | 822.022      |
| 6                             | 4          | € 531.868    | € 367.538   | € 35.802     | € 176.945  | € 55.561  | €    | 108.769  | 0,735 | € 79.949            | -£      | 742.074      |
| 7                             | 5          | € 576.190    | € 394.131   | € 37.589     | € 192.887  | € 60.567  | €    | 121.492  | 0,681 | € 82.686            | -£      | 659.388      |
|                               |            |              |             | 111111111    | 11111      |           |      |          |       |                     |         |              |

#### **TECHNICAL ANALYSIS**

- Proprietary Hydraulic Model (flow and pressure profiles)
- Existing Network Design Analysis and Optimization
- Risk and Maintenance Assessment





#### Advanced scenario analysis functionalities

| <b>E</b> OPTIT TLR  |   |  |  |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| KPI Overview  | 0.90 mbar/m   | Top 5 MIN Diff.  | Pressure (mbar)  | Top 5 MAX Flow Speed (m/s)                                      |   |   |  |
| Num. Critical Pipes (Diff. Pres<br>Num. Critical Pipes (Head Los<br>Max Pressure Supply Line (m<br>Min Pressure Return Line (mb | S1A         S2A           197         199           28         28           10763         10764           4332         4332   | S3A<br>198<br>35<br>11051<br>4332                                | <ul> <li>Ran Idext</li> <li>1 pip155</li> <li>2 pip251</li> <li>3 pip207</li> <li>4 pip250</li> <li>5 pip59</li> </ul> | Diff. Pressure (mbar)<br>750<br>750<br>750<br>750<br>754<br>767 | Ran         Idext           1         pip218           2         pip67           3         pip102           4         pip58           5         pip56 | Flow Speed (m/s)<br>1.714<br>1.714<br>1.714<br>1.714<br>1.714<br>1.714<br>1.714 |  |
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| Diff. Pressure (mbar)   | Head Loss (mbar/m)<br>4049 0.000  | Flow Speed   | (m/s)  | 1.714 Diff. Pressure (mbar)                                     | ▼   | 750 4049  |  |
|   |   |  |  | 9 <i>944111111111111111111111111</i>                            | eeeee (111722)  |   |  |



#### The implementation approach





## Highlights & Success Stories





#### Hydraulic Analyses and Expansion strategies in Marburg (Germany)

A modelling-based approach validated previous "on-paper designed" and novel strategies for future network development

#### A TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NETWORK

- Hydraulic balance of the network in the current operational status at different load levels, identifying potential bottlenecks and critical areas
- Impacts on the network with respect to perspective expansion scenarios, where new customers are connected to the system
- Impacts of potential changes in the technical configuration of the heat supply in the various branches, e.g. loops, booster pumps, branch separation, etc.



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#### Analysis of interconnection opportunities in Belgrade (Serbia)

#### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

 The key challenge: identify the optimal new network configuration

optimal solutions

 Technical and economic impacts of different interconnection scenarios and refurbishment strategies



#### **GOAL: STRIKING A BALANCE**



#### Preliminary Activities

Calibration

Reliable characterization of the current system Benchmark 3 major sub-grids: Optit's model vs SCADA data vs TERMIS

#### **Pre-feasibility studies of investment scenarios**

Produced, analyzed and discussed several (50+) potential new network configurations

## optimal solutions

### From Analysis to Construction works in Milan (Italy)



#### **Project Key information:**

#### The issue:



A2A, one of the biggest Italian utilities, was looking for solutions that could help in the expansion of its district heating networks maximizing the return on invested capital.

#### The solution:

Optit with its dedicated tool for district heating network was able to help A2A in the development of a 6km new expansion in the city of Milan, optimizing the net present value of different possible expansion scenarios

- Over 100MW power allocated to optimal customer portfolio along a 6 km backbone through a densely populated area
- Investment Payback < 3 months
- Integration of technical and economic decision drivers
- Vast scenario and what-if analysis capability



#### Blank Canvas expansion opportunities in Milan (Italy)

- Opportunity to exploit 1TWh waste heat
   Analysis over 34 km<sup>2</sup> of urban area
- Full pre-feasibility and what-if analysis







#### Future Refurbishment and Expansion Roadmap in Salcininkai (Lithuania)

Poor state of the pipeline, leading to issues with quality of service. How to revamp the asset? Integrate innovative technological approaches in Mgmt & Ops: Network modeling, optimal key refurbishing opportunities & investment analyses

#### **NETWORK EXPANSION**

Targeted analysis on a new expansion area:

- Which potential customer to connect?
- How to size the new piping?
- Sensitivity on heat production cost?



#### **NETWORK DESIGN**

Targeted analysis on an existing network:

- Validation of the hydraulic model?
- Optimal dimensioning of refurbished pipes?
- Sensitivity on heat demand variation?





# optimal solutions

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