



Reducing operating costs and CO₂ emissions with Energify



Sliding gate valves optimise system that generates power from pressure differences

An application report by Selcuk Aslan, Maximilian Igelbüscher and Marcel Mokosch

Valuable energy is lost in pressure reduction stations, exhaust steam pipes and condensation systems. With Energify, CFT offers a simple and robust solution for the cost-effective conversion of even slight pressure differences into energy. This saves electricity costs and lowers CO₂ emissions. The system performance is controlled precisely with sliding gate valves from Schubert & Salzer.

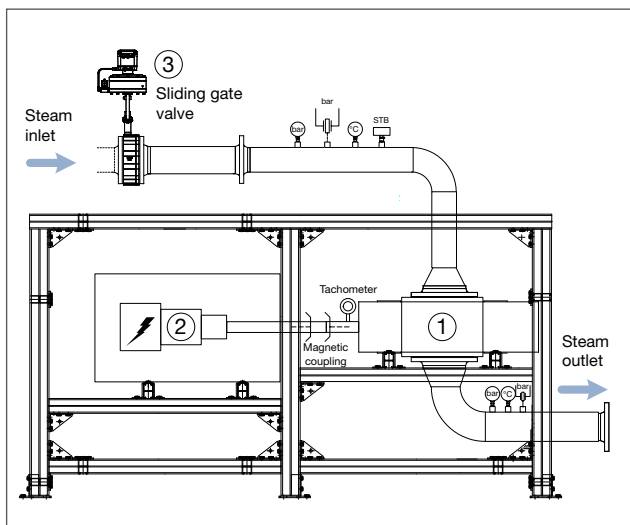
„At the start we always have to do some convincing“, says Selcuk Aslan, Energify Project Manager at CFT. „Our system is highly developed, but the idea and the basic design are actually very simple. For that reason people are sometimes sceptical. However, once they have seen and understood Energify, they are quickly convinced by the robustness and reliability of the technology – and that ‚simple‘ is therefore also a great advantage.“

With Energify, CFT offers a solution to challenges that almost all industrial companies are facing: the reduction of CO₂ emissions and the improvement of energy- and cost-efficiency. The innova-

tive system utilises even slight pressure differences to generate power and feed it into the factory's own grid. Such pressure differences exist in almost all industrial plants. They occur in pressure reduction stations and exhaust steam pipes as well as in condensation and back pressure systems – and in most cases the energy stored in the fluids goes to waste.

Optimal utilisation of the already used energy

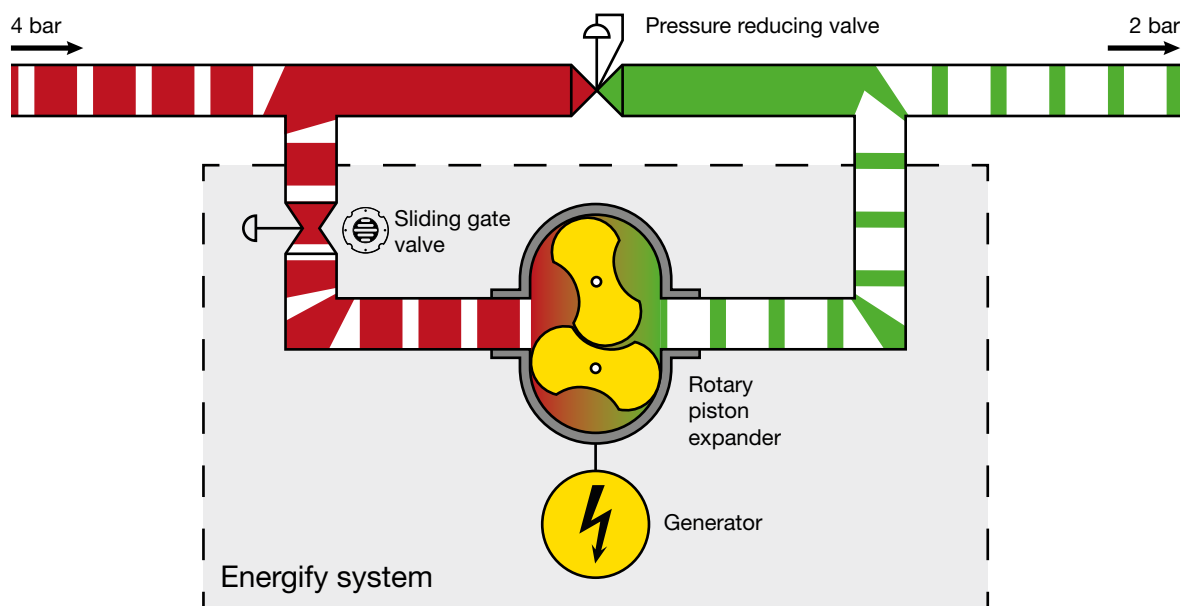
„Energify optimises the use of the already existing energy“, explains Maximilian Igelbüscher, project engineer at CFT. „In order to guarantee an uninterrupted process, our system is always operated in the bypass. The basic design is as follows: Steam, or a gas of any kind, is expanded to a low pressure level in a rotary piston expander. This generates mechanical energy. This energy is transmitted via a shaft to an asynchronous generator, which then inputs the electricity into the low voltage grid.“



The relaxation of steam or gas in a **rotary piston expander (1)** generates mechanical energy, which is converted to electricity with the aid of an **asynchronous generator (2)**. A **sliding gate valve (3)** controls the expander performance.



Depending on the running time, this system generates up to 175 MWh per year in a very small space. The amortisation time of the installation is then less than three years. Including all maintenance costs, over 270,000 Euros could be saved in 10 years.



Initially, it was difficult to precisely control the expander performance. The globe control valve originally used reacted too slowly to changing process requirements and could not reliably provide the gaseous medium with the desired output pressure. „We spent a lot of time looking for a solution to optimise our system in this respect. Ultimately, we made contact with Marcel Mokosch from Schubert & Salzer. He visited us immediately to discuss the topic and proposed a solution with the sliding gate valve, which not only met our expectations, but even exceeded them“, says Igelbüscher.

Significant improvement through the use of the sliding gate valve

The reason for the excellent control performance is the sliding gate valve's fundamental design principle, which is based on two sealing discs that slide over each other (see info box). As a result, the maximum stroke between open and closed is a mere 6-9 mm and only very low actuation forces are required. This makes control extremely precise and agile. „The control accuracy has improved considerably through the use of the sliding gate valve. We can now control the output pressure with absolute precision“, says Aslan.

A further advantage: The use of the sliding gate valve allowed two other valves to be replaced. For reasons of safety, it must be possible to stop the supply of steam or gas within a maximum of two seconds. For that reason a quick-closing valve was previously installed upstream of the control valve. However, sliding gate valves close within milliseconds and also perform this function. „Reliability and low maintenance costs play a decisive role in the cost-effective operation of a system like Energify. That's why we rely on a simple design and a robust construction“, explains Aslan. „The sliding gate valve helps us by reducing the complexity of the system – and with a very compact design, too.“

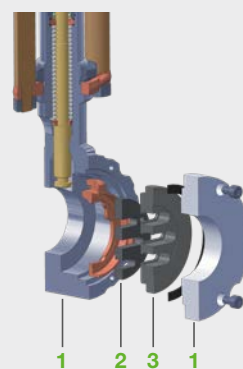
The difference to the previous technology is clear: the DN80 sliding gate valve now used weighs a mere 15 kg, whereas the two globe valves previously used weighed together around

170 kg. „That's an enormous advantage, especially for the annually necessary maintenance work“, Igelbüscher adds.

More economical than photovoltaics

The Energify demonstration system is located in a dairy in Münsterland, where it is used on the 8-bar steam mains. The cost-effectiveness of the system can be illustrated well here: With an input pressure of 8 bar (g), an output pressure of 5 bar (g) and a steam quantity of 2 t/h on average, an electrical output of 27 kW is achieved. With an annual running time of 6,500 hours, that would produce 175 MWh of power per year. The amortisation time is less than three years under these conditions. Including maintenance costs, over 270,000 Euros could be saved over an operating period of ten years.

CFT compares Energify with photovoltaics in a further calculation example: An Energify system with an output of 300 kW that achieves 8,500 operating hours per year would accordingly generate around 2,550 MWh annually – on an area of just 40 m².



Sliding gate valves regulate and switch liquid, vaporous and gaseous media precisely, quickly and economically.

A sealing disc (3) fixed perpendicular to the flow direction in the body (1) has a certain number of transverse slots. A movable sealing disc (2) with the same slot arrangement is pushed vertically against it, which changes the flow

cross-section. The existing pressure difference presses the movable disc (2) against the fixed disc (3).



The DN80 sliding gate valve (15 kg) is more compact and lighter than each of the two previously installed globe valves (together approx. 170 kg).

In order to generate the same amount of energy with photovoltaics, with an annual utilisation time of about 1,000 hours (average in Germany), an area of around 13,500 m² would be necessary.

„The technology has enormous potential. Thousands of steam generators are in use in Germany alone. And steam – in whatever form – is only one of the media from which we can produce energy. In principle, Energify can be used with virtually every gas, for instance nitrogen, coke oven gas, natural gas or hydrogen“, Selcuk Aslan concludes.

About CFT

Since 1999, CFT GmbH Compact Filter Technic has been supporting its customers from the mining and tunnel construction industries with comprehensive expertise in the field of dedusting and aeration technology as well as heating and cooling. The quality claim „Made in Germany“ has been secured since 2022 from the new headquarters in Marl (North Rhine-Westphalia) on a production area of over 7,500 m² – including an innovative fan chamber test bench.



CFT GmbH is part of the internationally operative CFH Group. The holding company bundles a series of subsidiary companies and joint ventures, all of which have one thing in common: excellent engineering performances that enable innovative solutions around the topic of air at the workplace as well as the fields of energy and environment: cross-industry, in above-ground and underground operation, and around the entire world.

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