



Ministerie van Economische Zaken



‘Definition of Electrosubmersible pump (ESP) design and selection workflow’

Kennisagenda 2015/2016

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29 June 2016

Dit project/onderzoek is tot stand gekomen in het kader van de Kennisagenda Aardwarmte van het ministerie van Economische Zaken, LTO Glaskracht Nederland en het programma Kas als Energiebron. Hierbij is de subsidie verstrekt door het ministerie van Economische zaken, LTO Glaskracht Nederland en het programma Kas als Energiebron.

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1. SAMENVATTING

In deze studie wordt het ontwerp en de selectiecriteria voor ESP pompen in Nederlandse geothermische putten geïnventariseerd. Een algemene aanpak voor de ESP ontwerp wordt gepresenteerd. Voor de juiste selectie moet de Well Inflow Performance en de watersamenstelling bekend zijn, en gecombineerd met de verwachte debieten kan de ESP pomp worden gedimensioneerd. Wanneer de ESP pomp goed is ontworpen, kan een systeemrendement 55% gehaald worden.

Er is een vragenlijst gestuurd naar de Nederlandse geothermische operators om informatie over ESP prestaties in te winnen. De ontvangen informatie is geanalyseerd en gecategoriseerd. Er blijkt dat basisinformatie over Well inflow performance vaak incompleet is.

Het merendeel van de ESP pompen is geleverd en geïnstalleerd door Baker Hughes. Van de 8 onderzochte configuraties, werken er 4 in het door de fabrikant geadviseerde bereik. In 2 configuraties werkt de ESP aan de rand van het werkgebied, en in 2 andere gevallen functioneert de ESP daarbuiten. Op basis van de nu beschikbare data, wordt geschat dat de gemiddelde ESP pomp een levensduur van ongeveer 5 jaar heeft in de Nederlandse geothermische putten. Dit is gemiddeld 1 jaar langer dan in Frankrijk. Ook de prestaties van de ESP's in geothermische putten in Frankrijk en Duitsland zijn geïnventariseerd.

Op basis van 30-jarige ervaring in Frankrijk, zijn de gemiddelde CAPEX en OPEX kosten geschat. Om ervoor te zorgen dat de lage OPEX kosten worden gerealiseerd, is het raadzaam om de ESP prestaties in de tijd te volgen. Een voorbeeld van een monitoringprogramma is opgenomen.

Daarnaast is een aantal aanbevelingen met betrekking tot het ESP-ontwerp opgenomen, bijvoorbeeld door het gebruik van een tandem seal aan te bevelen. Tenslotte wordt de noodzaak benadrukt om de Well inflow curve en het systeemrendement periodiek te meten.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this study, the design and selection criteria for ESP pumps in Dutch geothermal wells are described. It consists of general approach workflow to design the ESP string. For that the well inflow performance, water composition need to be recorded and assessed, and combined with the allowable flow rates the relevant components can be selected. When properly designed, the overall efficiency of ESP string should be in the range of 55%.

A questionnaire has been send to Dutch geothermal operators to collect information on ESP performance and track record. The received information has been analysed and categorized. It is noticed that basic information on the well inflow performance data is incomplete or absent. Most of the ESP strings have been delivered and installed by Baker Hughes. Of the 8 studied cases, 4 of the ESP operate well in the specified range. In 2 cases, the ESP runs at the edge of the working area, and in 2 other cases the ESP working point is out of range. An average ESP lifetime of about 5 years is estimated for the Dutch geothermal wells, which is 1 year longer than in France. Also, the status of the performance of ESPs in geothermal wells in France and Germany are reviewed.

Based on the 30-years experience in France, the average CAPEX and OPEX costs are estimated. To ensure that low OPEX costs are achieved, it is recommended to monitor the ESP performance over time. An example of a monitoring program has been included.

Furthermore, several recommendations are made related to the ESP design, where the potential degradation of well and reservoir performance with time can be included. In order to reach the predicted lifetime, a tandem protector and chemical inhibition is recommended.

Finally, the need to record the well drawn curve and the overall pump efficiency is emphasized.

3. INTRODUCTION- SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

The geothermal market in the Netherlands is strongly developing, and has resulted in about 13 operational geothermal plants in the Netherlands in 2016. All of these plants are mainly being utilized for the heating of greenhouses.

The ESP string, consisting of a motor, seals and pump, is an important part in the geothermal system. It lifts the water to the surface to allow for heat harvesting. The proper selection of an ESP is of utmost importance. Also maintenance deserves attention. However, currently information on the performance of the ESP pumps is limited. Therefore, this study is undertaken in the framework of the Kennisagenda 2015/2016, to collect and analyse the relevant data, and compare it with the performance in other countries.

The work described in this proposal mainly has a technical aim, and is focused on the ESP design and selection criteria:

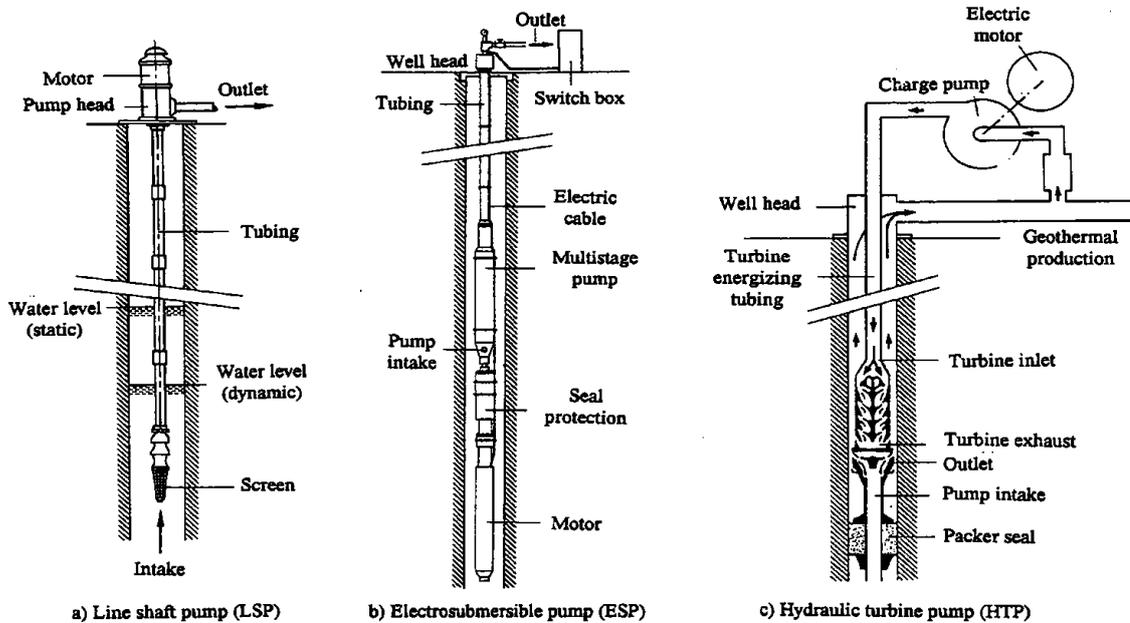
- Optimizing pump (life, COP) performance via a methodology integrating
 - domestic and foreign track records/failure analysis
 - local reservoir performance/well deliverability
 - borehole architecture/completion
 - fluid thermochemical profile
- Securing product reliability, industry image and exploitation economics by using guidelines added to the candidate ESP manufacturer data request sheet.

Data has been collected by sending out a questionnaire amongst the operators. Also, Baker Hughes, who has delivered almost ESP pumps in the geothermal plant in the Netherlands, has been willing to share information on the pump performance.

This study starts with background (chapter 2) , theory (chapter 3), followed by a survey of the performance of ESP in Europe (Chapter 4). Then the ESP performance in the Netherlands is analysed (chapter 5), followed by maintenance (chapter 6), economics (chapter7), and recommendations and conclusions (chapter 8).

4. BACKGROUND

There are five underground fluid production modes, self flowing, often surface boost pump sustained, and artificial lift, gas/air or submersible pump – either electric (ESP), lineshaft (LSP), turbine (TP) – sustained systems respectively. These are described in Figure 1. Here, volumetric pumps and gas/air lift concepts which fall out of the scope of the present survey will not be considered. As a result only centrifugal pumping systems will be investigated and their performances assessed accordingly.



Pump type	Pros.	Cons.
LSP	No electric parts in hole. Higher efficiency (surface motor). Long lifetime. Withstands high temperatures. Attractive costs.	Depths limited to 350 m. Delicate handling (installation/removal). Definition of enclosing tubing coating and bearing materials.
ESP	High submersion depths. Long lifetime. High flow rates in limited casing TDs (250 m ³ /hr in 9 ^{5/8}). Withstands high temperatures. Solution gas handling (in hole separator). Worldwide service facilities.	Lower efficiency. Electric insulation shortcomings. Higher costs.
HTP	Very long lifetime. No electric parts in hole. Withstands very high temperatures.	Low efficiency (additional energy conversion item). Large diameters (ODs) required. Packer anchoring problems. High costs. Limited manufacturing/service facilities.

Figure 1: Down hole artificial lift production pump principles and figures of merits

An ESP string consists of several components, as is illustrated in Figure 2. Starting from the bottom, it contains a sensor, motor, a set of seals to protect the motor, a pump. The motor is fed variable speed drive, transformer and an electric cable. The technical details for each component are described in appendix 3. It also contains a list with the material choice for these components.

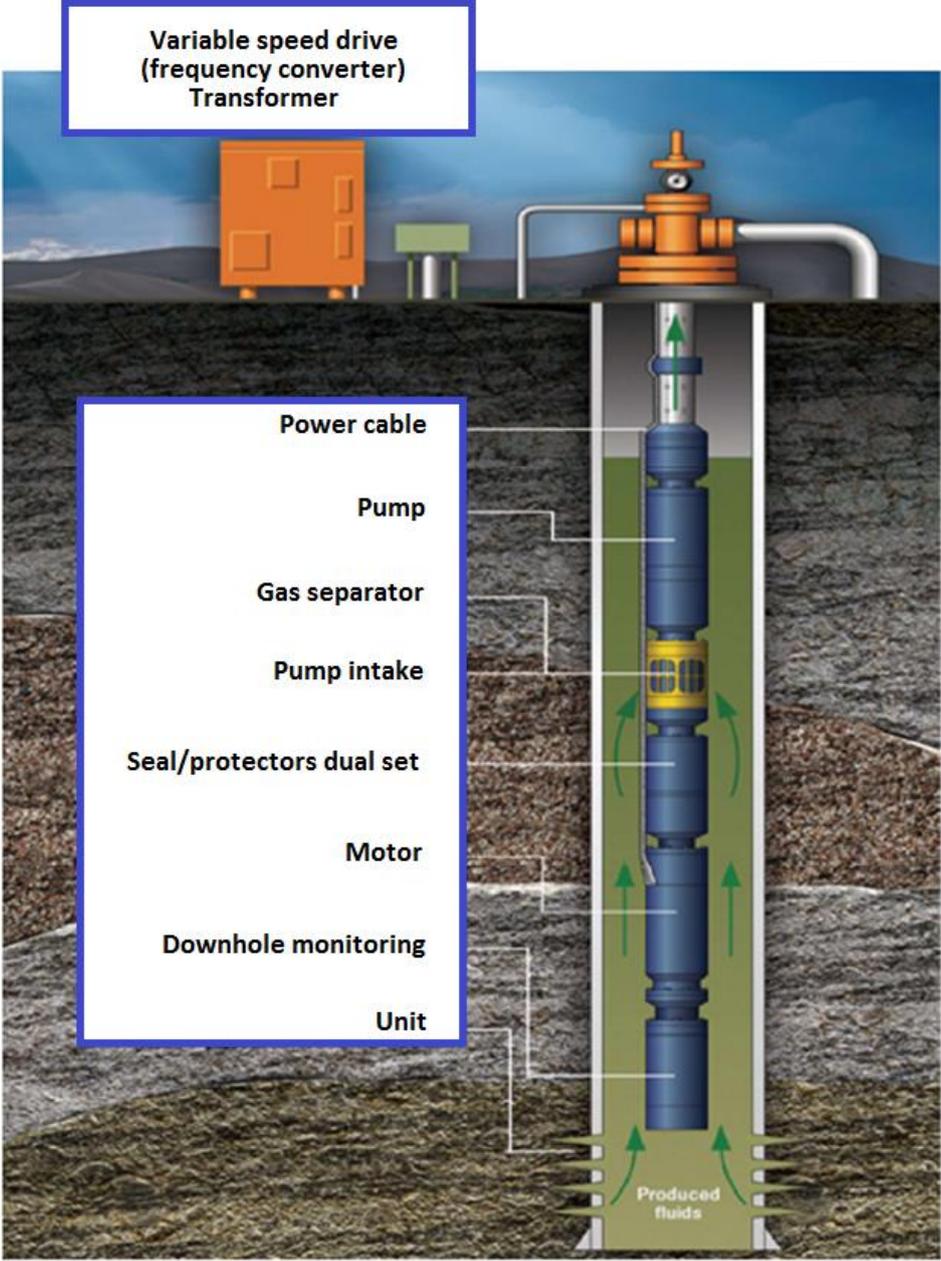


Figure 2: Typical ESP string (Source: Schlumberger)



5. SELECTING AND SIZING AN ESP PUMP

The selection and sizing of an ESP assembly consists of several steps. It involves various aspects, including reservoir characteristics, well design and thermochemical properties of the formation water.

When a geothermal doublet is being drilled, exact information on the well performance is not yet available. Therefore, as a starting point, the well delivery curve is initially estimated, knowing the estimates on the reservoir characteristics (P50 transmissivity, etc.) and the well design. The required formulas to calculate that can be found in appendix 2. Based on that, a first order ESP design and selection can be made.

When the production well has been actually drilled, the well delivery curve should be measured. Also measurement of the water composition and the bubble point are recorded. When these data are known, the actual design of the ESP pump can be fine-tuned and completed. After that, the ESP pump can be ordered, which has typically a lead time of about 2-3 months.

This period matches roughly the time that is needed to drill the injection well. So, after drilling of the injection well, the ESP pump can be available, and can be installed into the production well.

More details on the selection of the ESP pump can be found in the flow chart of Figure 3 and in appendix 2. It is noted that the design requires expertise on several areas, and is mostly done by or in cooperation with a specialist from the manufacturer. An example of a case study is described in Appendix 4.

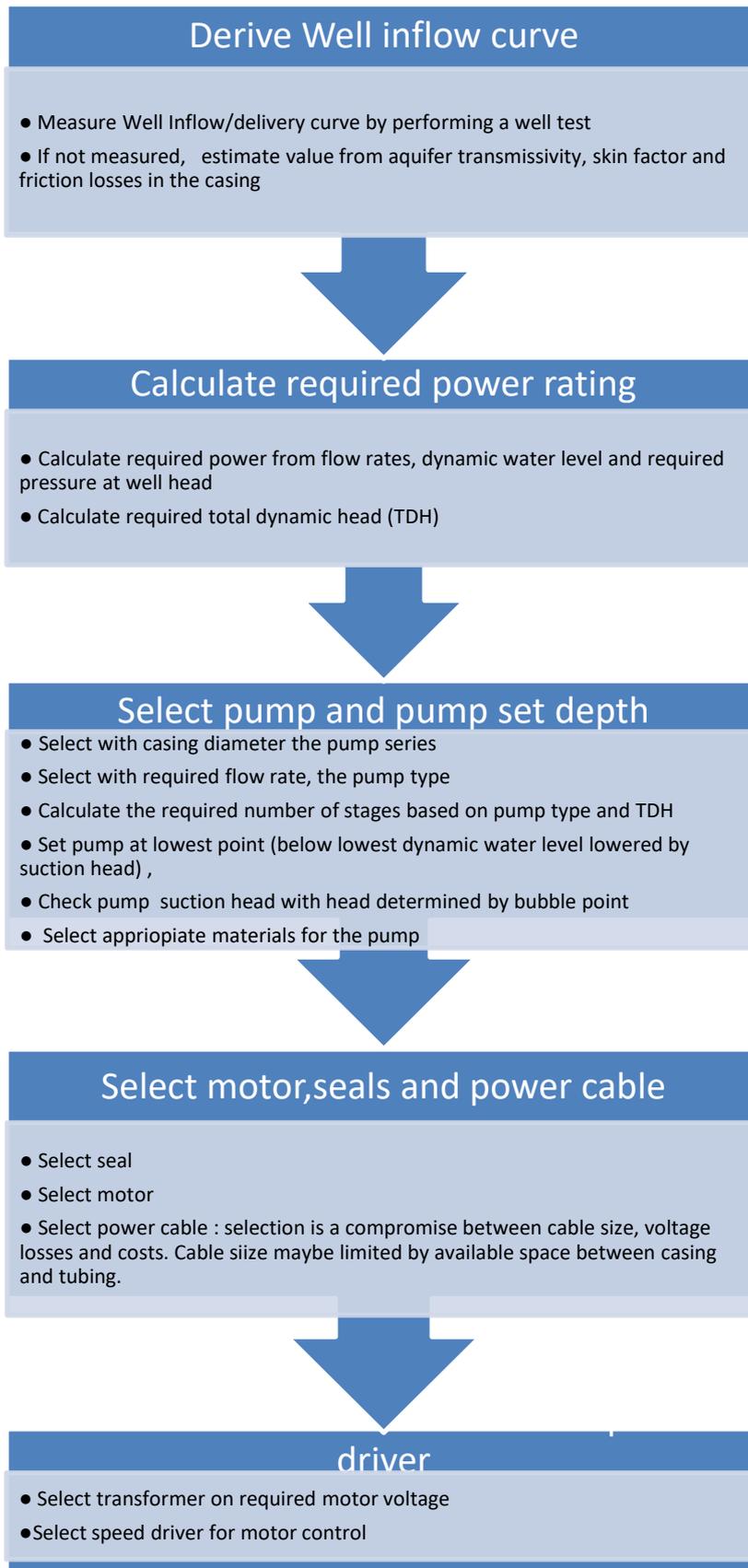


Figure3: Flow-chart of selection and sizing an ESP pump assembly.

As can be seen in the flow chart, it consists of several steps. Very important in the appropriate selection, is the exact knowledge on the well delivery curve. An example of such a curve is presented in Figure 4.

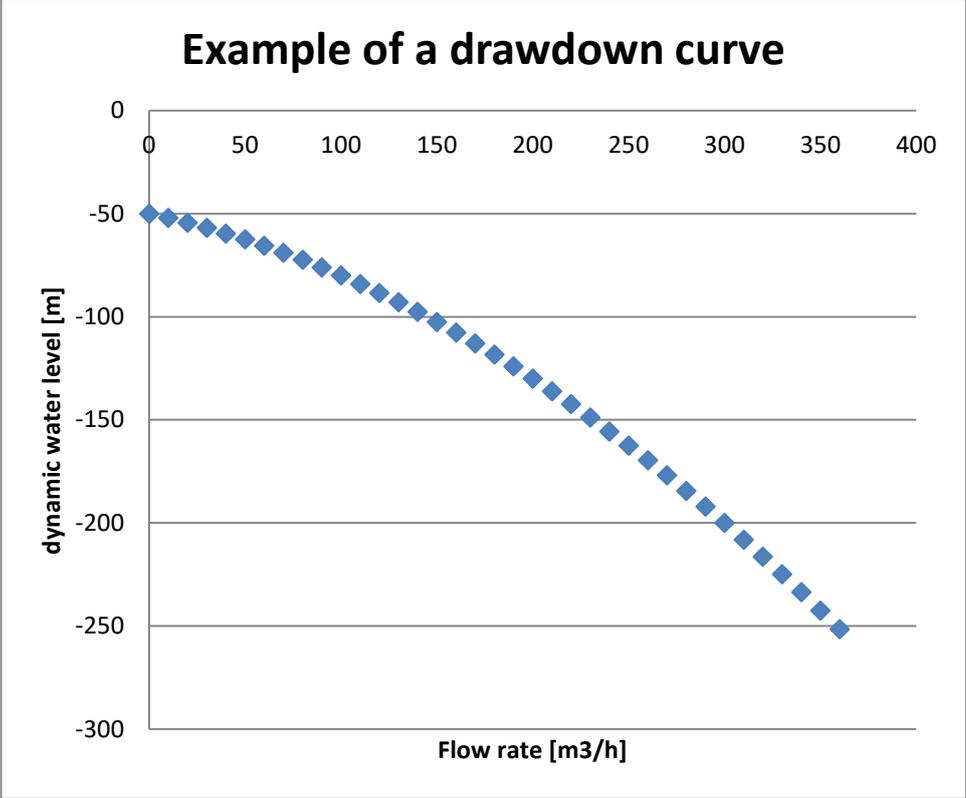


Figure 4: Example of a well delivery curve

The actual well delivery curve is determined by the reservoir characteristics (transmissivity) and the well design (friction losses). The dynamic water level depends partly linearly and quadratically on the flow rate, according to:

$$h = A + BQ + CQ^2$$

where h is the water level in (with respect to the ground level) [m]. If the well test data is not known, the inflow may be estimated from the (estimated) well transmissivity, skin factor and friction losses, as is described in appendix 2.

When the required pump power is known, the pump type can be selected. Also the motor, seals, power cable, transformer and speed drive can be selected. When doing that, it should be realized that in each step, additional efficiency losses should be accounted for. This means, for example, that the motor needs to deliver slightly (~10%) more power than the pump requires, and that the transformer is rated at higher power as well, to account for the resistance losses in the electrical cable.

These losses can be accounted for when considering the efficiencies in the complete ESP assembly (see also appendix 2). The overall efficiency can be η_{total} calculated by

$$\eta_{total} = \eta_{pump} \eta_{motor} \eta_{el\ cable} \eta_{transformer} \eta_{freq}$$

Where

η_{pump} : pump efficiency, typically 70%

η_{motor} : motor efficiency, typically 90 %

η_{cable} : electrical cable efficiency, typically 97%

$\eta_{transformer}$: efficiency of transformer, typically 99%

$\eta_{frequency}$: efficiency of frequency converter, typically 94%

This results in an overall efficiency of about 55% that should be achievable in most configurations.

In the design of the ESP pump, the following items should be considered as well:

1. Match the reservoir characteristics with the well design, to estimate what flow rates are achievable, such that the friction losses remain low enough.
2. The ESP is mostly operated in a range of flow rates. This means that the pump is set at depth at which the highest allowable flow rate is to be expected. Also, the efficiencies at the boundaries (lowest and highest flow rate) need to be calculated. Also the performance of the other parts, such as seals, motor etc., should be checked. In practice, when a pump is correctly designed, an overall efficiency of about 55% should be realizable in most configurations.
3. Check whether the pump set depth is below the hydraulic head corresponding to the bubbling point, to ensure single phase flow.
4. When selecting the ESP, the frequency range should be taken into account. Normally, for proper operation the ESP is allowed to vary between a lower threshold of 30 Hz and a maximum threshold of 60 Hz. Do not exceed 70 Hz since this will drastically shorten the lifetime of the pump.
5. The well inflow performance may change over time. This means that, if possible, the pump should be selected such that a decline in productivity can be anticipated for.
6. Operate the pump in the specified pump ranges. To ensure a long life time and high efficiency a proper thrust balance across the pump stages is required, to prevent early wear in the stages. Operating the pump outside the specified range can cause serious down thrust or up thrust effects.

6. SURVEY OF ESPS AND LSPS IN EUROPE

6.1. France-Paris Basin

Initiated in the late 1970s the development of the geothermal district heating (GDH) doublets heat extraction scheme, pioneered at the Melun l'Almont, South of Paris, emblematic site, peaked in the mid 1980s, with 54 completed doublets of which 36 remained online in the early 2000s. Since year 2008, GDH development resumed and 16 doublets and 7 triplets were achieved leading to 45 GDH systems serviced as of June 2016. This is illustrated in Figure 5. Needless to say this historical sequence provides a unique track record. In this respect it is worth adding that the geothermal source, a dependable carbonate reservoir of Mid-Jurassic (Dogger deposits) age at depths and temperatures ranging from 1 200 to 2 000 m and 54 to 83°C respectively, hosts an adverse fluid thermochemical environment (CO₂/H₂S aqueous system) leading to severe corrosion and scaling shortcomings if not properly inhibited down hole . Anti corrosion/scaling either material or chemical inhibition, mitigating systems are displayed in Figure 6.. Another aspect of the Paris Basin record addresses the variety of artificial lift technologies tested here, ESPs, LSPs and TBs respectively. Actually eight TB and three (enclosed) LSP systems were installed in the 1980s and progressively abandoned and further replaced by ESPs, the only operating to date.

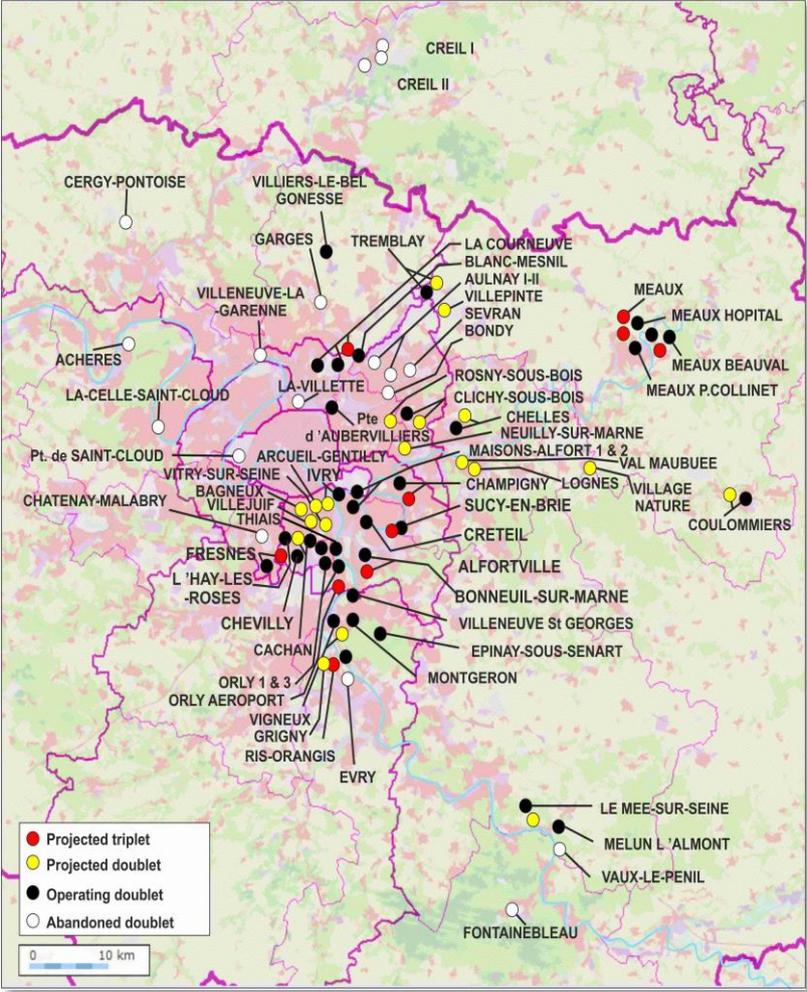


Figure 5: Paris Basin GDH doublet locations

LSPs, earlier experienced in Iceland, for milder temperature GDH operated wells proved successful since shaft lubricating liquids were implemented to cope with abrasive (by hard suspended particles) and corrosive reservoir fluids.

In France, the Pompes GUINARD (later acquired by KSB) LSPs failed rapidly (hardly 3 month life) as a consequence of poor shaft bearing and enclosed casing material definition and design, in particular Rilsan, unable to withstand source temperatures higher than 70°C. To the Pompes GUINARD manufactured, contrary TBs proved reliable (over 5 year life) in spite of their poor efficiency, inherent to the additional driving fluid charge pump outfit, as long as the pump remained in hole until the 5 year casing inspection deadline set by Mining Authority. In fact when removed and the sealing packer (isolating pump inlet and outlet) deanchored, wireline casing inspection (multifinger diameter tool) showed casing piercing at packer anchoring footprint. In order to prevent future casing damage, an inflatable packer system designed by GPC replaced the former mechanical packer isolation system, requiring incidentally to thoroughly redesigning the down hole chemical inhibition line as exemplified in Figure 6.

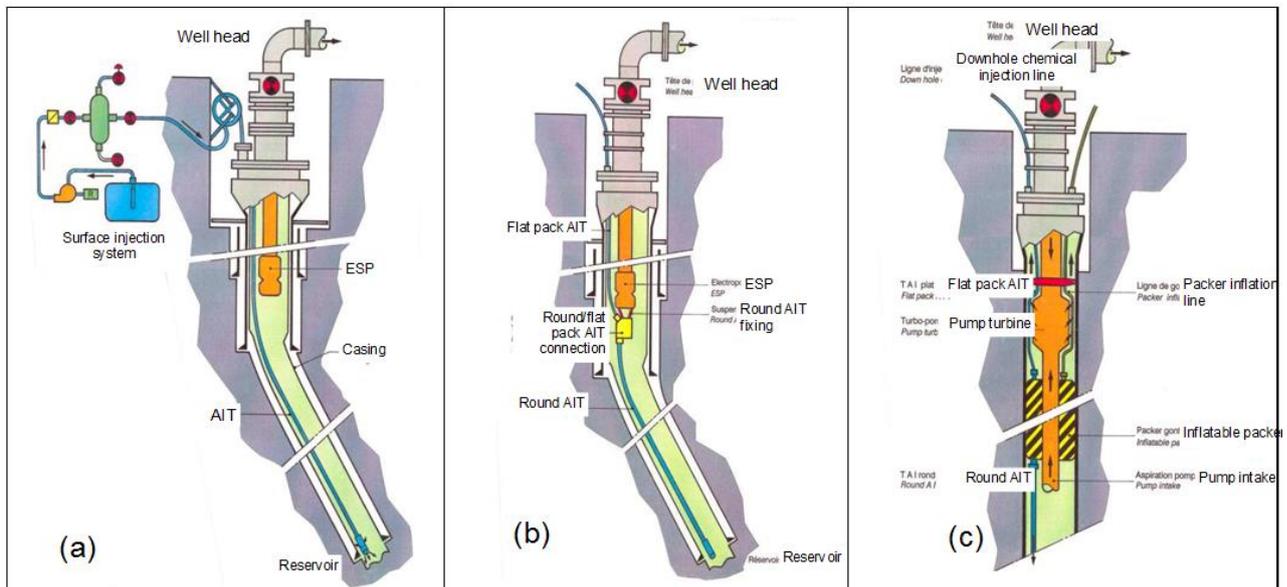


Figure 6: Single line ATT mixed AIT. Chemical inhibition line (AIT) set up in ESP lift equipped wells

In the meantime, BYRONJACKSON, a water pump manufacturer became a major ESP supplier by assembling a cooling heat exchange device around the motor OD. This turned into disadvantage when corrosion of pumping chambers led to 10"3/4 lining therefore condemning this initially promising alternative.

Later however TBs quitted the geothermal stage thus becoming entirely occupied by ESPs. The poor ESP lifetime record could be progressively upgraded thanks to improved material (higher steel, grades, K Monel coating) definition and plant running, loop regulation, adequate variable speed drive, and, last but not least, generalised implementation down hole chemical inhibition practice, resulting as of

The combination of the high flow rates, high temperature and severe water chemistry, made that the ESP pumps initially had a lifetime of only 4 weeks. Baker Hughes has reconsidered the design for the severe conditions, and made improvements on bearings, and material selection. As a result, the average lifetime of the pumps could be extended to about 6 months.

6.2.2. Upper Rhine Grabben.

At the Landau and Insheim CHP production sites (Palatine province) enclosed line shaft pumps proved effective after initial problems in design and handling of the shaft lubricating liquid were sorted out.

After shutdown of the Landau CHP plant further to a 450 m casing leakage causing significant soil uplift, the Insheim installed LSP is functioning satisfactorily [at 80 l/s – 165°C – 400 m submersion depth] operating conditions.

6.3. United Kingdom.

The Southampton (Hampshire) single well, long equipped with a WEIR manufactured TB, has ceased production since the late 1990s. It will resume production in late July 2016, via a GE supplied, ESP.

7. SURVEY OF ESPS IN THE NETHERLANDS

7.1. Results

A questionnaire has been composed to collect the data on ESP performance and track record in the Dutch geothermal plants. The questionnaire form is listed in Appendix 1. This questionnaire has been sent the operators to collect the information. Out of the 14 operators, 8 responded and filled in the questionnaire. Also, information on well schematics and ESP configuration has been collected. This information is used in this study.

Also Baker Hughes, which is the supplier of most ESP pumps in the Netherlands has delivered, has been contacted. Baker Hughes has provided the pump curves.

It is noted that the ESP pumps are operated in various configurations in the geothermal loop. The following configurations are employed:

- **Geothermal loop with degasser:** Most geothermal loops operate in combination with a degasser. In this configuration, the water is degassed and the gas is fed via the annular towards the phase separator (degasser), from where it is transported to the gas cleaner and the cogeneration unit (in Dutch: WKK). In this configuration, the additional gas back pressure on the annular should be accounted for in the well delivery curve.
- **Geothermal loop without degasser:** In this geothermal loop configuration, the geothermal brine is kept under pressure, such that (partial) degassing is prohibited. There are two cases :
 - o **Low gas content:** In this case where the gas content is low, the gas is kept under pressure, and degassing is prevented.
 - o **Moderate gas content:** In this case, the water is partly degassed, and the gas is fed back into the (cooled) water behind the heat exchanger. Here the gas pressure in the annular needs to be accounted for.
- **Geothermal loop without injection pump:** In one geothermal doublet, the injection well shows good injectivity and therefore, the ESP pump can be used to both extract the formation brine from the production well and inject the brine into the injection well.

For most of the analysed geothermal doublets, well delivery inflow curve has not been recorded after the drilling of the production well. In the other cases, the well delivery inflow performance can only be estimated from the data of the intake pressure.

7.1.1. ESP configuration

In the Dutch geothermal wells, mostly ESP pumps of Baker Hughes have been installed. In one geothermal doublet, a pump of Canadian Advanced ESP has been installed. In another site, a pump of Schlumberger has been installed in the past. However, the doublet is not operational. So far, no ESP pumps of General Electric have been installed in the Dutch geothermal wells.

Table 1 summarizes the ESP configuration of the studied geothermal wells, and Table 2 summarizes the ESP set depth and the flow rates.

Table 1: ESP systems installed in the Dutch geothermal wells.

Operator	Supplier	Pump	Seal	Motor	Cable	MLE	Controller	Sensor
1	Baker Hughes	24-675HC35000	675HST3 INV	725HMI 800HP 4160V/ 114A (60 Hz)	#1 CEEF 5kV	#5 MLE-KHT 5kV	VSD 8900-VT 792kVA 380V/ 1203A	WellLift N
2	Baker Hughes	27-675HC27000	675HST3	725HMI 800HP 4225V/ 114A (60 Hz)	#1 CELF 5kV	#1 MLE-KLHT 5kV	VSD 8900-VT 792kVA 380V/ 1203A	WellLift H
3	Baker Hughes	12-900WNE1600	675HST3	725HMI 800HP 4225V/ 114A (60 Hz)	#1 CEBER 5kV	#4 MLE-KHT 5kV	VSD 8900-VT 792kVA 380V/ 1203A	WellLift H
4	Baker Hughes	14-900WNE1600	675HST3 INV	725HMI 1200HP 4160V/ 178A (60 Hz)	#1 CEBER 5kV	#1 MLE-KLHT 5kV	VSD 8900-VT 792kVA 380V/ 1203A	WellLift H
5	Canadian Advanced ES	21-ESP-CH38000	540 BBL HL	CS 562 450 HP/ 60 Hz/2125C/128.5A	#2 Devilead F	unknown	PHASOR 480 1751 /625kVA/60Hz	unknown
6	Baker Hughes	18-900WNE1600	675HST3 INV	725HMI 800HP 4160V/ 114A (60 Hz)	#1 CEBER 5kV	#1 MLE-KLHT 5kV	VSD 8900-VT 792kVA 380V/ 1203A	WellLift H
7	Baker Hughes	18-900WNE1600	675HST3 INV	725HMI 800HP 4160V/ 114A (60 Hz)	#1 CEBER 5kV	#1 MLE-KLHT 5kV	VSD 8900-VT 792kVA 380V/ 1203A	WellLift H
8	Baker Hughes	10-675HC27000	675HST3	562KMH-J 552HP 2978V/ 117A (60 Hz)	#1 CELF 5kV	#4 MLE-KHT 5kV	VSD 8800-VT 691kVA 380V/ 1050A	WellLift H
9	Baker Hughes	20-900WNE1600	675HST3DB	725HMI 1300HP 4050V/ 193A (60 Hz)	#1 CEBER-HT 5kV	#1 MLE-KLHT 5kV	VSD 9315-VT 1227kVA 380V/ 1864A	WellLift H

Table 2: ESP set depth and flow rates in the studied geothermal wells.

Operator	Depth ESP [m]	static water level [m]	Flow rate summer [m3/h]	Pressure well head summer [bar]	Flow rate summer [m3/h]	Pressure well head summer [bar]
1			200	7	200	7
2			110	10	110	10
3	538	35	100	4	160	4
4	322	80	190		315	
5	670 38 ?		180		300	
6	450		130 4 to 5		180 4 to 5	
7	671	50	250		250	
8	597,5		250		250	
9	366,75		110		170	
10	617					

As can be seen in the Table, the ESP pumps operate between 100 and 300 m³/h, and the pump is set at a depth below 300 m.

The pump curves, are received from the manufacturer, have been analysed as well. An example of such a curve is shown below. As can be seen in the Figure, the pump operates at a too low flow rate for the selected pump, and lies at the edge of the specified range of the manufacturer.

For the 8 studied cases, 4 of the ESP operate well in the specified range. In 2 cases, the ESP runs at the edge of the working area, and in 2 other cases the ESP working point is out of range. It is noted that in the geothermal wells the productivity will change over time, and thus that the selected and installed pump can loose efficiency.

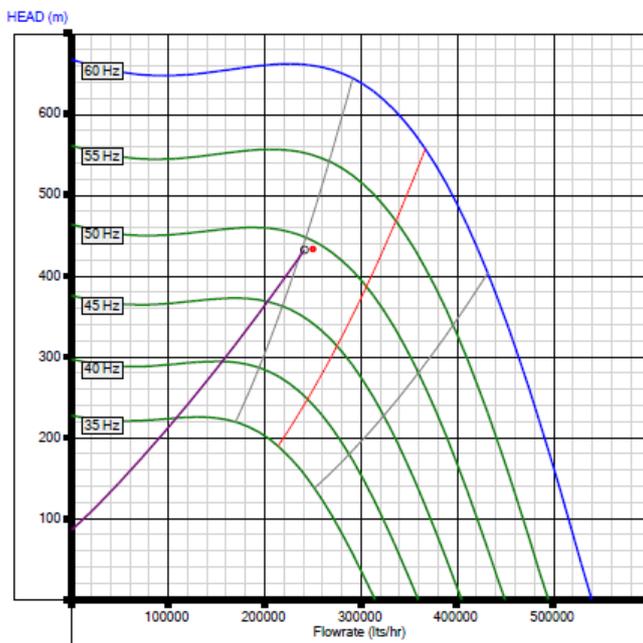


Figure 8: Example of a pump operating at the edge of advised working area.

It was not possible to estimate the overall ESP system efficiencies from the received data. We note that an efficiency of about 55% should be achievable in most configurations (see chapter 3). In this respect, we notice that from an earlier study in 2013 [6] that some ESP pumps operated at an efficiency of only 35%.

Therefore, we recommend the operators to check the efficiencies of the ESP configuration. This may save costs for the operators. For example, consider an ESP pump operating at 400 kW. When the efficiency is 35% instead of 55%, this will result in an avoidable OPEX costs of € 40.800,- on a yearly basis (assumed electricity price of € 0,06/kWh and an operation time of 8500 hours).

5.2.3 ESP track record

The track record data, as collected by the ESP questionnaire, are summarised below.

Table 3: ESP replacements in the Dutch geothermal wells

Operator	Pump/Motor replaced?	# occasions	Cause
1	yes	1	after 2 years, motor corrosion and electrical shortcut
2	yes	1	after 6 years, seal broken, also corrosion seen
3	No/yes	2	leak in production tubing, defect at splice, also pump selected for higher flow rates higher flow rates (> 100 m ³ /h),
4	yes	1	Lower e-costs, also casing measured
5	no	0	
6	yes	1	ESP, pump broken off
7	no	0	
8	no	0	
9	yes	1	Impeller sections reduced from 24 to 10, leak in production tubing
10	no	1	

As can be seen in the Table, 6 ESP pumps have been replaced in the past period. In most cases, not because the pump failed, but merely was replaced either by leakages in the production tubing, or to adapt the pump to be more suitable for the well inflow curve.

So far, the data is too limited to estimate the average lifetime of the ESP pumps in the Netherlands. One Centrilift pump (at AG vd Bosch) has showed a lifetime for 6 years. For comparison, Baker Hughes has the experience that the average lifetime of Centrilift pumps in the North Sea in offshore oil fields amounts to 8 years [3]. Given the current experience, Baker Hughes estimates that a lifetime of about 5 years in Dutch geothermal applications can be accounted for [3]. Probably, the lifetime may exceed in the near future.

This lifetime is markedly higher than the lifetime of ESP in the geothermal plants in the Paris basin. Here a lifetime of about 4 years is the common practice [4]. This is probably related to the fact, that the French aquifer contains H₂S, which makes the wells sour and give harsh conditions for corrosion control.

Table 4: Summary of the interruptions of the ESP functioning

Operator	Number of starts-stops first year	Number of starts-stops in normal operations	Time duration between start -stops	Cause
1	3x	3x	~ 30 minutes	power failure
2	3x	3x	~ 30 minutes	power failure
3	20 x	20 x	1 hour-3 weeks	
4	5x	5x	~ 0,5-1 weeks	planned
5				
6	20x/year	20x/year	~ 15 minutes	short maintenance
7	total 92x, now 5x per year	total 92x, now 5x per year	~ 15 minutes	
8	total 96x, now 5x per year	total 96x, now 5x per year	~ 15 minutes	
9				
10	10x per year	10x per year		

Table 4 summarised the results for the ESP interruptions. In all these situations, the interruptions are not related to the ESP functioning but due to external factors. The most common reasons are : 1) electric power failure in the surface installation, 2) maintenance on the surface installation, and 3) planned operations for e.g. well logging. It is advised that the total number of starts and stops is to be minimized. The ESP pumps are designed for continuous operation, and the shaft and bearings load are designed for that. During the high torque and shaft loads may reduce the lifetime of the ESP pump.

8. MAINTENANCE

There are various parameters that have impact on the lifetime of an ESP. They are summarized below.

Table 4: Impacts impairing ESP life

1	Geothermal environment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hostile (corrosion/scaling) thermochemistry • Solution gas content. High GLRs • Suspended particle entrainment • Abrasive solids • High formation temperatures • Degradation of reservoir performance
2	Human environment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non or poorly trained personnel • Odd ESP handling (POOH, RIH) practice
3	Design and operation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate design features (ESP sizing, material definition, off range functioning point, ...) • Excess ESP stop/restart cycles • Insufficient/wrong operation data, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inaccurate fluid data can cause the BHP of the pump to be more than predicted which could cause motor overload • Transformer, frequency converter, current harmonics filter compatibilities • Reactive current, power quality • Lack of, or loose maintenance/surveillance protocols, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May cause damage due to blocked filters or failure of injection pump • Lack of corrosion/scaling inhibition and abatement • Off range operating point (thrust wear)

To optimize the life time of an ESP pump, it is recommended to monitor the critical parameters periodically. This can be done by the manufacturer, who can measure the e.g. voltage, current, powers etc and report that to the operator. It is also possible to measure the performance independently by recording periodically all critical aspects, and identify possible problems. An example of such a monitoring program is described in Appendix 4. Also it is advised to monitor the water samples frequently, in order to notify any changes in water composition.

Additionally, it is recommended to utilize proper scale and corrosion inhibitors, in order to protect the pump. Note that, by doing so, that only the interior pump parts will be protected. The exterior parts are not protected in this way. To prevent corrosion for the parts below the dynamic water level, it is recommended to perform a regular treatment via the annulus.

In the case that an ESP failure, the pump needs to be pulled out of hole. It is advised to prepare a work plan that can be executed directly in the case when a failure occurs. This implies that a backup ESP system should be available. When this is properly arranged, it may be possible to set a new ESP system in operation in 2-3 days timeframe.

It is advised that the back-up ESP system, is arranged by each operator. This can be stored on site, or at well-conditioned storage facility at the manufacturer. Optionally, it can be considered that a reconditioned motor is kept as a back-up, however at the expense of a shorter lifetime. Additionally, a group of operators might select jointly a back-up motor, in the case that such a motor is applied in several wells (see Table 1).

9. ECONOMICS

The capital investment (CAPEX) and yearly operation/maintenance (OPEX) running costs may be appraised from the most recent ESP purchases and OM contracts practiced in the Paris Basin of France which lead to the following cost estimates for ESPs, rated between 250 kW_{el} (335 HP) and 500 kW_{el} (670 HP). They are summarised in the Tables below.

Table 5: ESP CAPEX

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST (k€)	
		Min	Max
1	Pump		
2	Upper Seal		
3	Lower Seal		
4	Motor		
5	Cable		
6	Monitoring/Control Unit		
7	Shipment		
8	Field service (ESP operator)		
9	ESP RIH crew		
	TOTAL	180	300

Table 6: ESP OPEX

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST (k€/yr)	
		Min	Max
1	Monitoring/Light maintenance	10	10
2	ESP replacement (*)	35	60
3	POOH damaged ESP (*)	5	7
4	RIH new ESP (*)	7.5	9
5	Contingencies	6	9
	TOTAL	63.5	95

(*) yearly provision assuming a four year life

10.RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Based on the track record of thirty year exploitation of geothermal doublets in the Paris suburban area, and of a seven year geothermal heating record in the Netherlands and on the factors impacting ESP life listed in, the following conclusions and recommendations may be drawn, in order to secure a four to five year ESP target life:

- Feature preliminary design guidelines from a prefeasibility survey based on expected reservoir performance assessed from (i) available data bases (Thermogis, NLOG) and P50 permeability likelihood, (ii) fluid properties, and (iii) well architectures.
- After the well testing, produce detailed ESP specifications fitted to production well deliverability curve and expected nominal functioning point flow rate. This feasibility assessment will validate further ESP design and associated, transformers, frequency converter and, eventually specific harmonic filtering devices, not overlooking material definition of sensitive fluid exposed parts.
- ESP design should account for potential degradation of well and reservoir performance with time thus allowing for adjusting to modified nominal functioning characteristics (voltage, amperage, frequency) within the induction motor/thrust operating range.
- ESP bottom hole assembly should imperatively include tandem (two seal) protector modules.
- Whenever hostile, thermochemically sensitive, fluid environments occur, down hole chemical inhibition injection lines should be implemented to ensure well casing and ESP integrities.
- Among ESP exploitation requirements, sound OM protocols, down hole parameter monitoring of pressure temperatures, in hole control of ESP critical parameters, supplying precursory indicators of potential system failures, should be the rule. Also, the overall efficiencies and the reactive power need to be recorded.
- Heat plant operation and ESP management require trained personnel and either in house or outsourced OM monitoring/service skills and facilities with respect to ESP POOH and RIH handling.
- Spare ESPs and on duty fast service should be programmed to limit geothermal stand by periods consecutive to equipment failures.

Such policies obviously have a cost, estimated, with respect to yearly OM, between 64 and 95 k€, depending on ESP rated capacities. They should secure a four year ESP life which, with growing time and experience, should ambition a five year life target.

Furthermore, it is advised to collect reliable data, especially on the well inflow delivery curve. Also, regular independent measurement on the ESP system gives insight in the overall system performance and efficiency. We also recommend installing a nitrogen control line, by which the dynamic and static water levels can be recorded. In this way, the well draw down curve can be recorded independently from the manufacturer.

11.APPENDIX 1: SETUP OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire ESP pump

In this questionnaire, the information on the ESP performance is collected. In case we refer to ESP pump, we mean to the complete ESP assembly that is thus the assembly at the bottom of the production tubing and includes the ESP pump, ESP motor, power cable, seals and gauge. We would like to receive information on the following issues:

1. ESP pump design

- Could you provide us the well design report of the production well?
- Could you provide the well test data report of the production well?
- Could you provide us the brine properties (bubble point, temperature, pH, salinity etc)
- ESP type, manufacturer
- Frequency converter type and characteristics
- ESP transformer type and characteristics
- ESP submersion depth
- ESP outlet pressure and manometric head

2. ESP operation statistics

- What is the COP of the geothermal installation?
- What are the flow rates and operational pressures (in summer and winter)?
- How much hours per year is the ESP pump in operation?
- Average monthly and yearly discharge rates
- Number of stop/restart events; operational duration between start and stop and standby duration between stop and restart in case of ESP failure/replacement

3. Track record of installed/operating ESPs

What is the history of ESP pump replacements and workovers?

- Has the ESP pump been replaced intermediately (and why?)
- Did failures and interruptions in the ESP functioning occur? If yes, what are the causes and frequency?
- Were workovers related to ESP pump necessary? If yes, what are the causes and frequency?

4. Miscellaneous issues

- Are there other items that deserve attention, that have not listed been in this questionnaire?

12.APPENDIX 2: METHODOLOGY TO SIZE AND SELECT ESP PUMP

Below the calculation methodology is described to calculate the required powers, and the selection of the pump, and other components.

Step 1: Well inflow curve

If well test data is not available data, the draw down curve may be estimated using the Darcy's law, and the friction losses in the tubing and the casing:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta P_{geo} &= \text{reservoir pressure drawdown} = 1.01Q \frac{\mu\theta}{kh} \log \frac{L}{r_w} \\ \Delta P_{se} &= \text{skin effect pressure} = 0.44\mu QS/kh \\ \Delta P_{cf} &= \text{casing friction losses} = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-12} \mu^{0.21} Q^{1.79} \sum_{i=1}^{nc} \frac{l_{ci}}{r_{ci}^{4.79}} \\ \Delta P_{tf} &= \text{pump tubing friction loss} = 1.610^{-12} \frac{\mu(\theta)^{0.21} Q^{1.79}}{r_t^{4.79}} l_t\end{aligned}$$

Combined this gives the production pump head:

$$\Delta P_p = [\Delta P_{geo} + \Delta P_{se} + \Delta P_{cf}] + \Delta P_{tf} + \Delta P_{op}$$

Where ΔP_{op} is the pressure difference in operational pressure at the well head.

Step 2: Calculate required pump power

The required power is calculated as the product of the flow rate and the required pressure difference, divided by the overall pump efficiency. Expressed in the conventionally used units of flow rate, Q in (m³/h) and, pressure P in bar, this yields .

$$W = 2.78 \cdot 10^{-2} \frac{Q \Delta P}{\eta}$$

Here η expresses the overall efficiency.

As a starting point, an overall efficiency of η of 0.65 is taken.

Step 3: Calculate pump set depth

The pump should be set below the bubbling point.

Step 4: Selection of motor and seal

Motor and seal are to be selected based on the selected pump. The motor power should be oversized by about 5-10% to accommodate for losses.

Step 5: Selection of electric cable

Selection is based on cost, allowable voltage drop and well temperature. Based on the manufacturer data, a proper selection can be made. For a typical example [2], see the Figure below

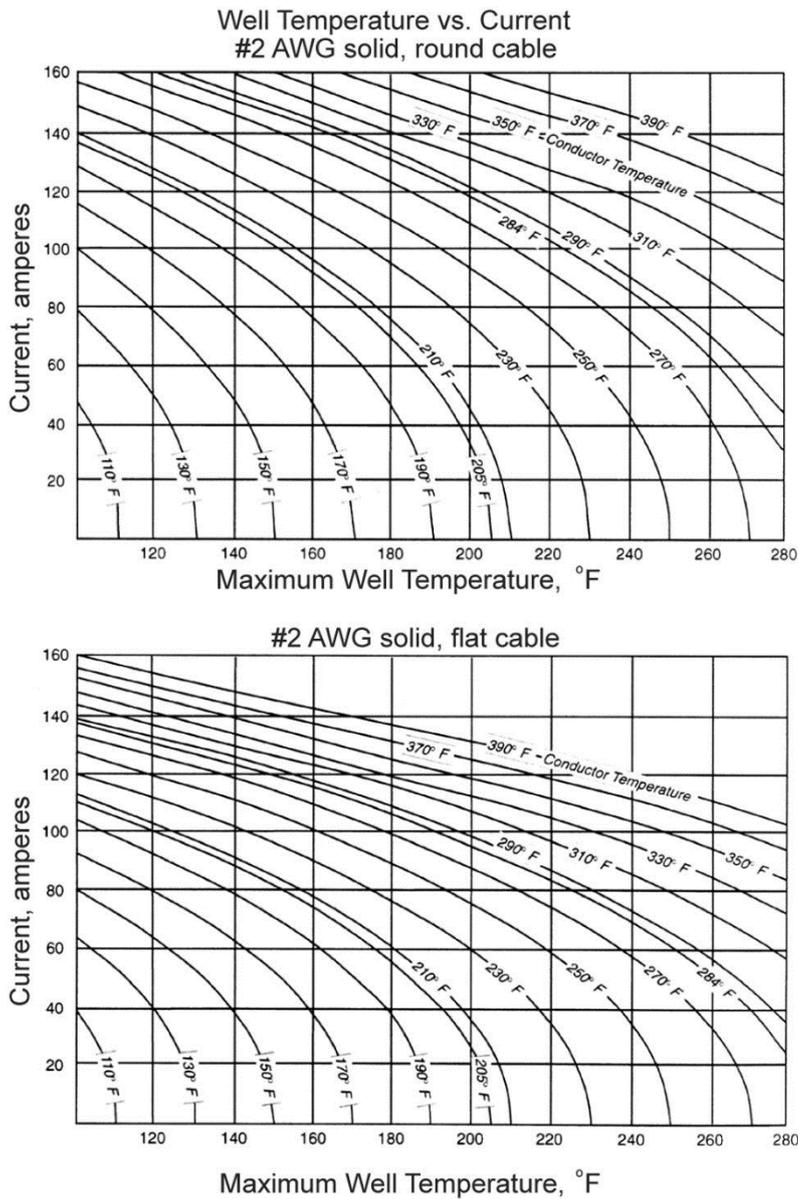


Figure A1.1: Typical ratings for an ESP power cable for a Centrilift pump [2]

Step 6: Selection of transformer and frequency converter

When the power losses are calculated, the appropriate transformer rating can be determined. Use an over sizing of 5-10%. Select a transformer with various output voltages, in order to accommodate for varying motor settings and adaptation to future motor modifications.

Step 7: Calculate overall efficiency

The overall efficiency η_{total} is calculated by

$$\eta_{total} = \eta_{pump} \eta_{motor} \eta_{el\ cable} \eta_{transformer} \eta_{freq}$$

Where

η_{pump} : pump efficiency

η_{motor} : motor efficiency

η_{cable} : electrical cable efficiency

$\eta_{transformer}$: efficiency of transformer

$\eta_{frequency}$: efficiency of frequency converter

NOMENCLATURE

Variables

L (m)	= mid reservoir well spacing
NC	= number of casing phases
NHH	= number of heating hours/year
P (bar)	= pressure
ΔP (bar)	= pressure variation
Q (m ³ /hr)	= flowrate
S	= skinfactor
W (kW)	= power
a (Q)	= heat exchanger pressure loss coefficient
kh (darcy meter)	= intrinsic transmissivity
r (m)	= radius
z (m)	= top reservoir vertical depth
η	= pump efficiency
μ (cp)	= dynamic viscosity
\emptyset	= porosity
ρ (kg/m ³)	= density
θ (°C)	= temperature
a	= distance from the center of a rectangular block to the side

Subscripts

c	= casing
cf	= casing friction
el	= electrical
esp	= electro submersible pump
geo	= geothermal reservoir
hxi	= heat exchanger inlet
hxo	= heat exchanger outlet
i, inj	= injection
p, pro	= production
Se	= skin effect
Sip	= surface injection pump
T	= tubing
tf	= tubing friction
th	= thermal
ts	= thermosiphon
w	= well
0	= static state

13.APPENDIX 3: TECHNICAL DETAILS ON AN ESP STRING

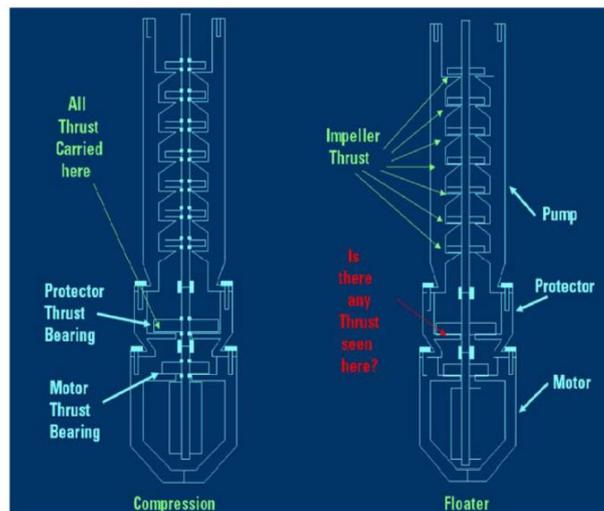
13.1. Pump

Type: single shaft multistage centrifugal.

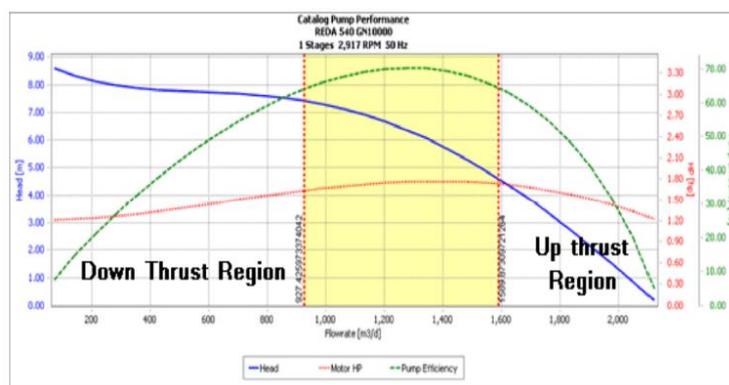
Description: each stage includes an impeller and diffuser set. The impeller rotates with the shaft while the diffuser, linked to the pump body, remains static. The diffuser directs the fluid from the impeller outlet to the next, upward, stage inlet.

The type and number of stages depends on the required flow (Q) and total manometric head (TMH).

The downward pump intake is integrated to the pump body. To avoid solution gas escape, bubbling and ultimately pump cavitation, a sufficient height of water (compensating bubble point pressure and NPSH) is needed. In case of higher gas water ratios (GWR) and bubble point pressures a degasser module below the pump intake is recommended.



A. Pump Floater and Compression operating modes



B. Implications of Floater and Compression operating modes on down and up axial thrust

Figure A3.1: ESP pump operating modes with respect to axial thrust handling strategies (source: Schlumberger)

There are two designs regarding operating modes depending on whether the target operating point (OP) remains within (*float mode*) the pump range or outside (*compression mode*).

In float mode impellers stand axially free from pump shaft (in range OP). In compression mode impellers are axially fixed to the pump shaft which allows operating off range as sketched in Figure A3.1.

- C. The latter mode is favoured by geothermal operators in order to cope with low (summer, inter-seasonal heat demand) flow rates and/or anticipate further degradation of well performance. However it may happen (from cases recorded in the Paris Basin) that well and reservoir demonstrate higher than expected performance, in which case the pump is subject to up thrust (

). Material definition will depend on local operating conditions and geothermal fluid chemistry. In the Paris Basin the coating and bulk materials and alloys are listed in Figure A3.2

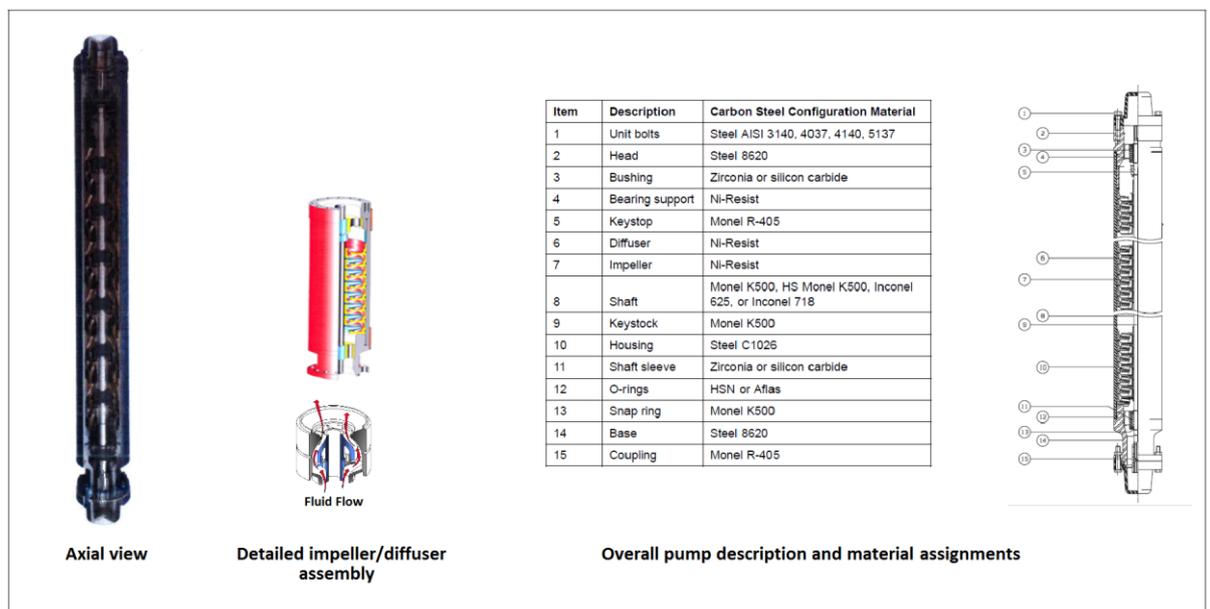


Figure A3.2: ESP pump description and material assignment (source: Schlumberger)

13.2. Seal/Protector

This unit, coupled to the pump and to the motor, which includes one or several oil filled chambers, is assigned five main functions namely:

- Motor to pump (torque) coupling,
- Compensation of thermally induced expansion and losses,
- Recovery of the axial thrust caused by pump weight, fluid transfer and centrifugal forces,
- Secure a pump to motor seal by preventing migration of the reservoir fluid to the motor, and, last but not least,
- Pressure equalising between the motor and the well annulus.

It includes a series of bags and a labyrinth pathway both illustrated in Figure A3.3 and Figure A3.4.

- Bags are seal chambers made of oil filled elastomer membranes. They act as an equalising device via oil thermal expansion evacuating the excess oil to the formation. It works the opposite when thermal contraction drains back the formation fluid to the elastomer

membrane face. The elastomer composition depends on formation fluid chemistry and temperature.

- The Labyrinth is a seal chamber which achieves oil to fluid separation via gravity segregation. Oil expansion/contraction during pumping operations causes evacuation/drainage toward the interior/exterior of the chamber, concluded by natural gravity separation.

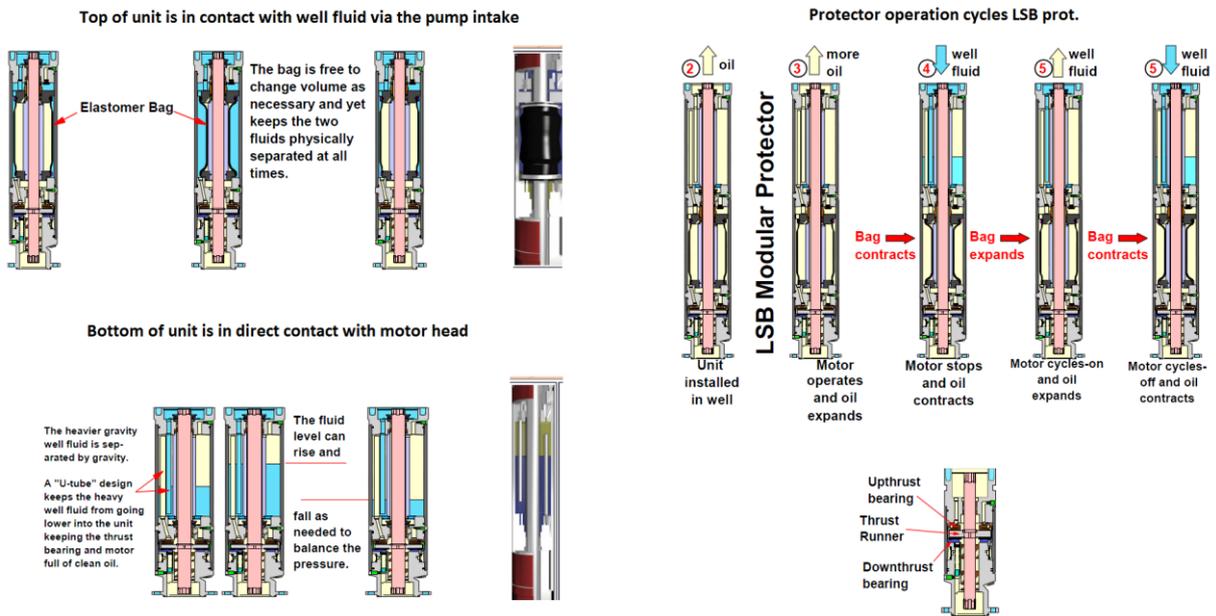


Figure A3.3: Seal/protectors, chambers/labyrinth description and operating cycles

Item	Description	Redalloy Configuration Material
1	Unit bolts	Monel K500
2	Shaft seal	Seat and sealing washer — silicon carbide, spring — Monel, hardware — stainless steel, bellows and O-ring — HSN/Atlas
3	Head	Stainless steel 316
4	Bushings	Bronze SAE 660
5	Chamber tube	Stainless steel 316
6	Snap rings	Monel K500
7	Bodies	Stainless steel 416
8	Relief valve	Stainless steel with Inconel spring
9	Shaft tubes	Stainless steel 304
10	Upper bag ring	Stainless steel 416
11	Bag clamp	Monel 400
12	Bag	HSN/Atlas
13	Bag tube	Stainless steel 304
14	Housing	9Cr — 1Mo
15	Lower bag ring	Stainless steel 416
16	Shaft	Monel K500/Inconel 625
17	O-rings	HSN/Atlas
18	Thrust runner	Steel C1117
19	Thrust bearing	Bronze R3 — silver babbitt/Peek
20	Screen	Stainless steel 316
21	Vent plugs	Monel K500
22	Base	Stainless steel 416
23	Drain and fill valve	Monel R-405
24	Coupling adaptor	Steel 1042

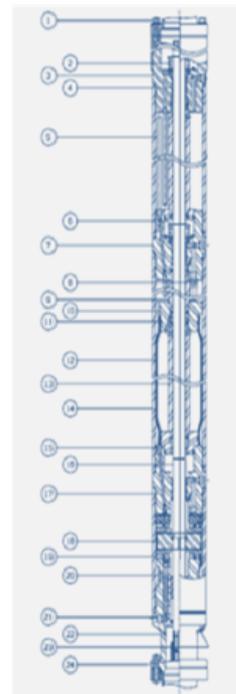


Figure A3.4: ESP seal/protector description and material assignments (Schlumberger)

An example of a Labyrinth pathway, serially connected to two, parallel mounted, bags is described in Figure A3.3. Note in this example that the transfer of the pump axial thrust is achieved by an additional

chamber at the bottom of the protector. It includes two thrust bearings separated by a thrust runner which recovers both compressive (down thrust) and shear (up thrust) stresses conveyed by the pump shaft. The number of seal chambers depends on the maximum potential expansion/contraction volumes within the well, themselves dependant on motor power and formation fluid temperature. Whenever one chamber gets contaminated by the formation fluid, access to the next chamber, isolated by a seal part, is accommodated via a set of valves.

It is strongly recommended to order a tandem seal/protector set while designing an ESP assigned to geothermal service.

Although site and fluid specific, most seal/protector materials often consist of noble steel alloys. This is displayed in Figure A3.4.

13.3. Motor

Type: induction bipolar three phase squired cage. (Figure A3.5 and Figure A3.6)

Description: ESP motors are filled with a purified, dielectric mineral oil for bearing lubrication and thermal conductivity purposes. Rotors weight is transferred to the motor thrust bearings. The motor dissipated heat is transferred to the formation fluid flowing along the motor body. The motor top is equipped with a Pot Head allowing for plugging in the 3 phase electric cable.

The standard temperature limit stands at 175°C. Selected metal alloys very similar to those of Seal/Protectors are listed in Figure A3.4.

Item	Description	Redalloy Configuration Material
1	Coupling	Steel 4140 In 456 and 562 series, Cobalt strengthened C-type 18 Ni maraging steel In 738 series
2	Unit bolts	Monel K500
3	Thrust runner	Steel C1117
4	Thrust bearing	Bronze In 456 Series, 17-4 PH SS carrier and pads in 562 series, 8620 Steel carrier and 17-4 PH SS pads In 738 series
5	Lower bushing	Bronze SAE 660
6	Drain and fill valve	Monel K500
7	Vent plug	Monel K500
8	Upper tandem head	Stainless steel 416
9	O-rings	Atlas
10	Bushing	Bronze SAE 660
11	Snap rings	Monel K500
12	Stator	9Cr — 1Mo
13	Rotor bearing	Cobalt 6 Alloy
14	Rotor bearing sleeve	Bronze SAE 660
15	Shaft	Steel 4130, HS Steel 4130
16	Adapter	Stainless steel 416
17	Lead connection base	Stainless steel 416

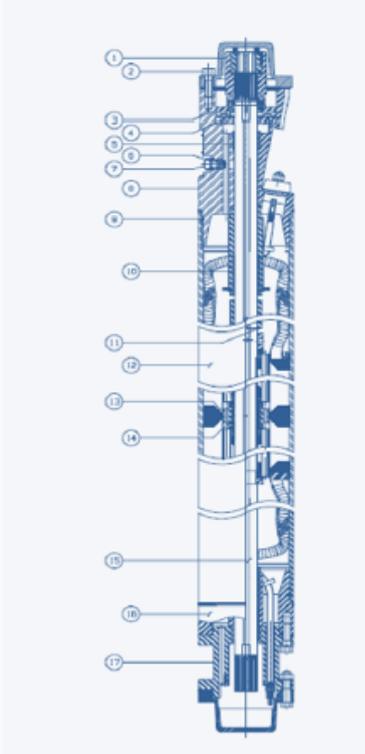
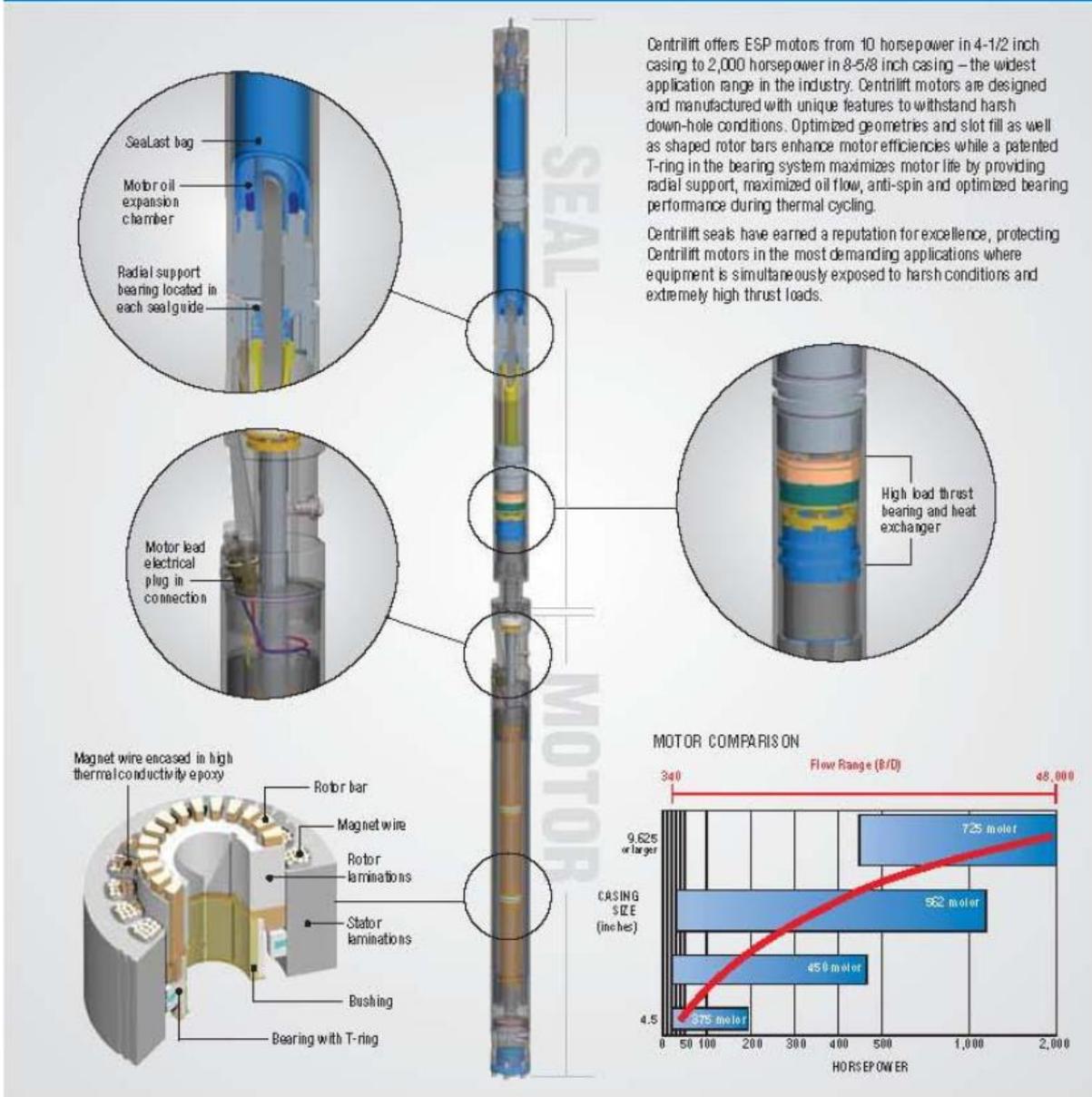


Figure A3.5: ESP motor description and material assignments (Schlumberger)

ESP MOTORS AND SEALS



Centrilift offers ESP motors from 10 horsepower in 4-1/2 inch casing to 2,000 horsepower in 8-5/8 inch casing – the widest application range in the industry. Centrilift motors are designed and manufactured with unique features to withstand harsh down-hole conditions. Optimized geometries and slot fill as well as shaped rotor bars enhance motor efficiencies while a patented T-ring in the bearing system maximizes motor life by providing radial support, maximized oil flow, anti-spin and optimized bearing performance during thermal cycling.

Centrilift seals have earned a reputation for excellence, protecting Centrilift motors in the most demanding applications where equipment is simultaneously exposed to harsh conditions and extremely high thrust loads.

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 Claremore, OK 74017-3095
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Best-in-Class



Centrilift

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Figure A3.6: ESP motor and protectors/seals (Baker Hughes)

13.4. Power cable

The cable is clamped to the production tubing/riser before getting plugged into the motor pot head to supply power to the motor windings along preventing fluid intrusion. Owing to diameter restrictions flat cable of the type shown in Figure A3.7 is used in geothermal service. In the past the flat cable was limited to the wider diameter pump section and connected via a splice to the lower coaxial round cable. Some ESP manufacturers still practice the splice connection instead of plugging the cable straight forwardly into the motor.

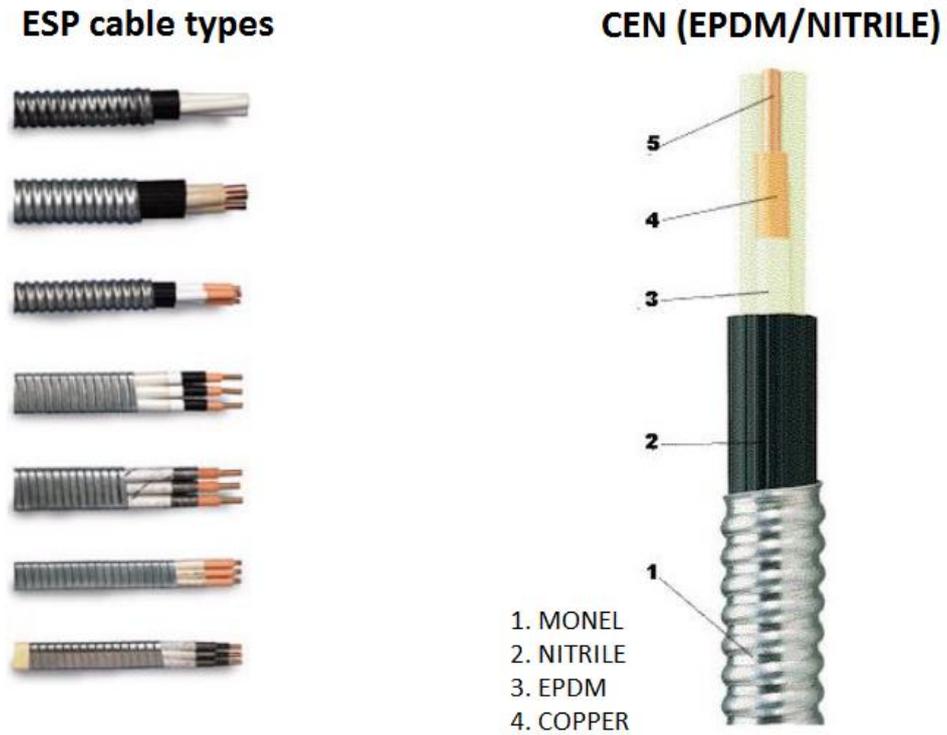


Figure A3.7: ESP power cables (Source: Baker Hughes)

14.APPENDIX 4: EXAMPLE OF THE MAINTENANCE SCHEMATICS FOR ESP

In order to assess the status of the ESP pump assembly, it is advised to monitor the electrical and pneumatic characteristics periodically, e.g. every 3 months. The following data can be recorded and analysed periodically.

DATE/TIME	PRODUCTION
<p style="text-align: center;">SURFACE READ OUTS</p> Flowrate (m ³ /hr) Well head temperature (°C) Pressure @ piezometric capillary tube Dynamic water level (mbgl) Water column height above ESP intake (m) Production well head pressure (bar) Pressure downstream filter (bar) Injection pump inlet pressure (bar) Injection pump outlet pressure (bar) Injection well head pressure @ 40°C (bar) Heat exchanger pressure losses (bar) Pump total head (excl. pump riser loss) (m)	
<p style="text-align: center;">CONTROL MEASUREMENTS</p> Motor voltage (V) Grid current intensity (A) VFD frequency (Hz)	
<p style="text-align: center;">ELECTRICAL SURFACE REAFD OUTS</p> Inlet voltage phases 1-2 (V) Inlet voltage phases 1-3 (V) Inlet voltage phases 2-3 (V) Rectifier current phase 1 (A) Rectifier current phase 2 (A) Rectifier current phase 3 (A) Grid cosphi Motor frequency (Hz) Motor voltage phase 1-2 (V) Motor voltage phase 1-3 (V) Motor voltage phase 2-3 (V) Motor current intensity phase 1 (A) Motor current intensity phase 2 (A) Motor current intensity phase 3 (A)	
<p style="text-align: center;">EFFICIENCIES</p> Grid absorbed power (kW _{el}) VFD absorbed power (kW _{el}) VFD efficiency (%) Pump theoretical absorbed power (kW _{el}) (Pump + motor + transformer) efficiency (%) Overall efficiency (%)	

15.APPENDIX 5: CASE STUDY OF SIZING AN ESP STRING

15.1. WELL AND RESERVOIR DESIGN FEATURES

15.1.1. Production well profile :

The pumping chamber (OD 13^{3/8}) is 345 m deep. While designing ESP pump diameter one should take into account that, in the future, well corrosion damage may lead to a 10^{3/4} lining, therefore imposing pump diameter restrictions.

15.1.2. Well deliverability curve : see Figure A5.1

The low well productivity by Paris Basin is a consequence of the poor reservoir local transmissivity (13 Dm against anticipated 25 to 30 Dm). Note that the well is over pressured (static WHP # 10 bar). Initially the operating nominal point was set at [300 m³/h (Q); 300 m (TMH)].

Flowrate	Pressure
Low casing friction losses	
0	9,4
50	5
100	0,4
150	-4,6
200	-10
250	-15,5
300	-21,2
350	-27
High casing friction losses	
0	9,4
50	5
100	0,8
150	-3,8
200	-8,6
250	-13,2
300	-18,4
350	-23,5

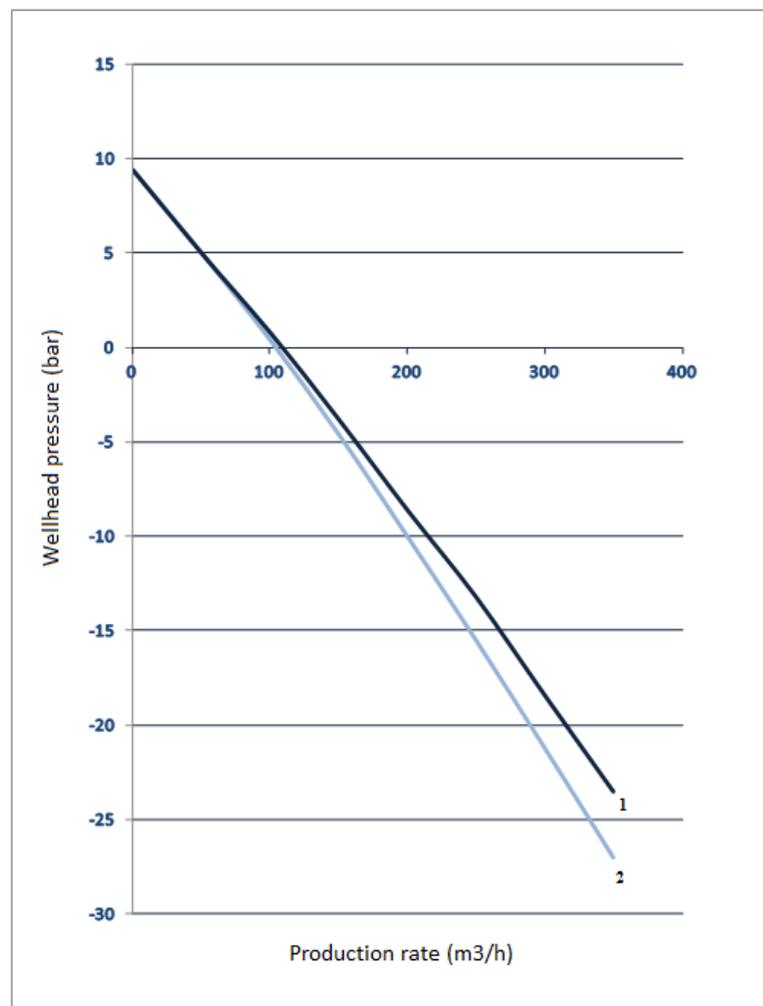


Figure A5.1: Production well deliverability curves

15.1.3. Fluid characteristics

Corrosive saline (#28 g/l) brine; CO₂/H₂S aqueous system; GWR # 0.15; bubble point: 8.5 bar.

15.1.4. Miscellaneous

- Chemical inhibition implemented via a ESP compatible, down hole injection line (AIT type)
- Below ground well head cave (see Figure 3)
- Minimum summertime flow requirement: #100 m³/h

15.2. ESP DESIGN FEATURES

15.2.1. Type

Dual (tandem) motor rated 510 kW/69 OHP compression mode, high grade alloyed material, twin seal protector set, plant prefilled motor oil (ESP display in Figure A5.1).

1.1. Operating range (see graph in Figure A5.1).

Item	Theoretical	Selected
Well discharge (m³/h)	100-350	150-300
Frequency (Hz)	30-65	35-60
Required kVA	165-760	240-700

15.2.2. Total consumed power assuming an overall electrical efficiency

$(h_{\text{pump}} * h_{\text{motor}} * h_{\text{cable}} * h_{\text{transformer}} * h_{\text{VSD}})$ of 55%.

P_{tot} # 605 kW_{el} (#810 HP)

15.2.3. Immersion depth

340 m.

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