

# Storage for End Use, Distribution and Island Systems

High Efficiency, low-cost thermal storage  
for Adiabatic CAES and Pumped Heat  
Electricity Storage

**James Macnaghten, CEO, Isentropic Ltd**



# About Isentropic Ltd

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

*Technology Development Company since 2005*

- Urgent and growing requirement for low cost energy storage
- Only current cost effective solution is pumped-hydro
- Isentropic is developing unique thermo-mechanical solutions
- This approach is the only way to achieve low costs
- Pilot plant under construction

Isentropic Ltd works with the Energy Technologies Institute and Western Power Distribution on development of *Isentropic*<sup>®</sup> Pumped Heat Electricity Storage (PHES) as part of the Distribution-Scale Electricity Storage project.





# World Class Partners

ISENTROPIC®

*In 2012 the ETI invested £14m in ISENTROPIC*

## Energy Technologies Institute



### ETI members



CATERPILLAR®



e-on



Rolls-Royce

Department of Energy & Climate Change

Department for Business Innovation & Skills

EPSRC  
Pioneering research and skills

Innovate UK  
Technology Strategy Board

### ETI programme associate

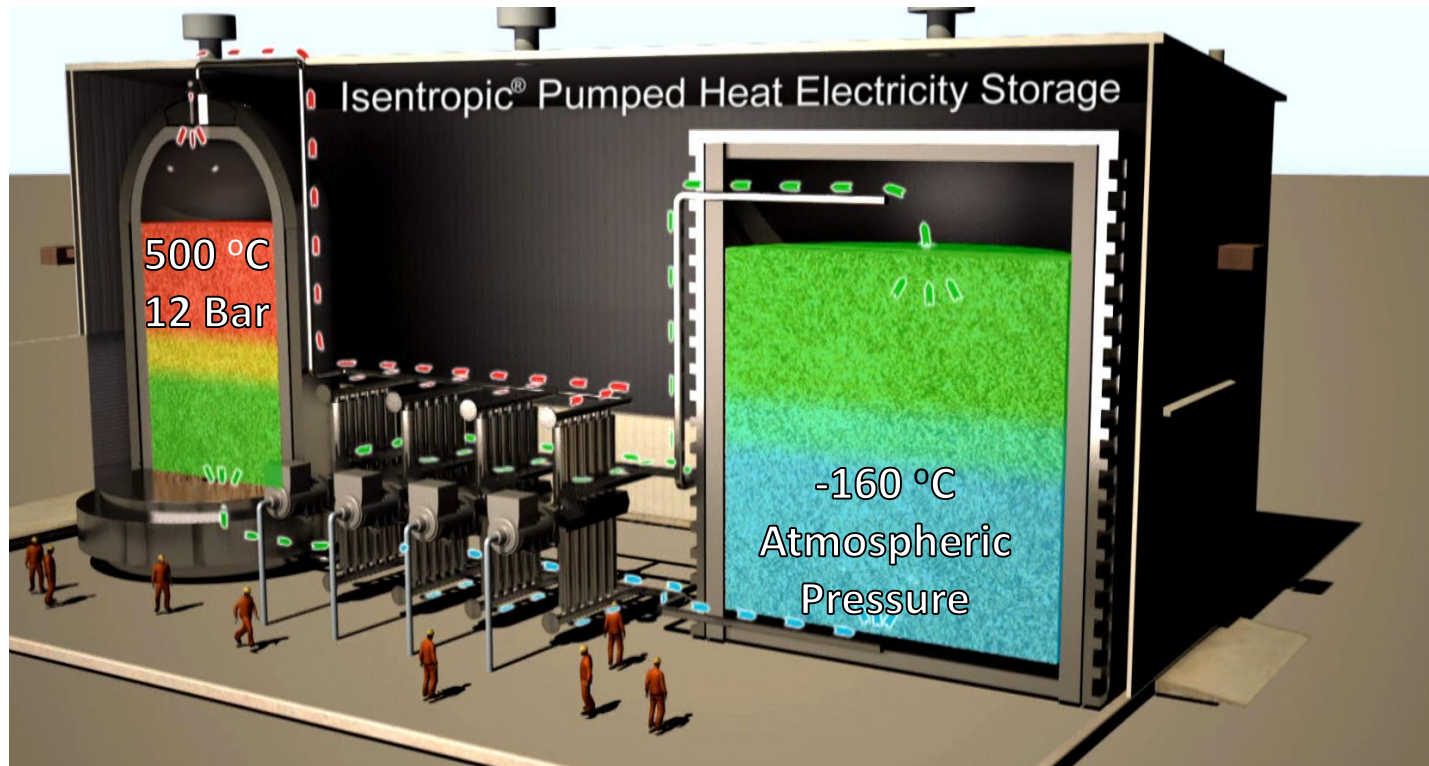
HITACHI  
Inspire the Next



# Pumped Heat Electricity Storage

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

*Hot and cold thermal stores*





# About Isentropic Ltd

Isentropic®

## *Pumped Heat Electricity Storage*

### Key Features:

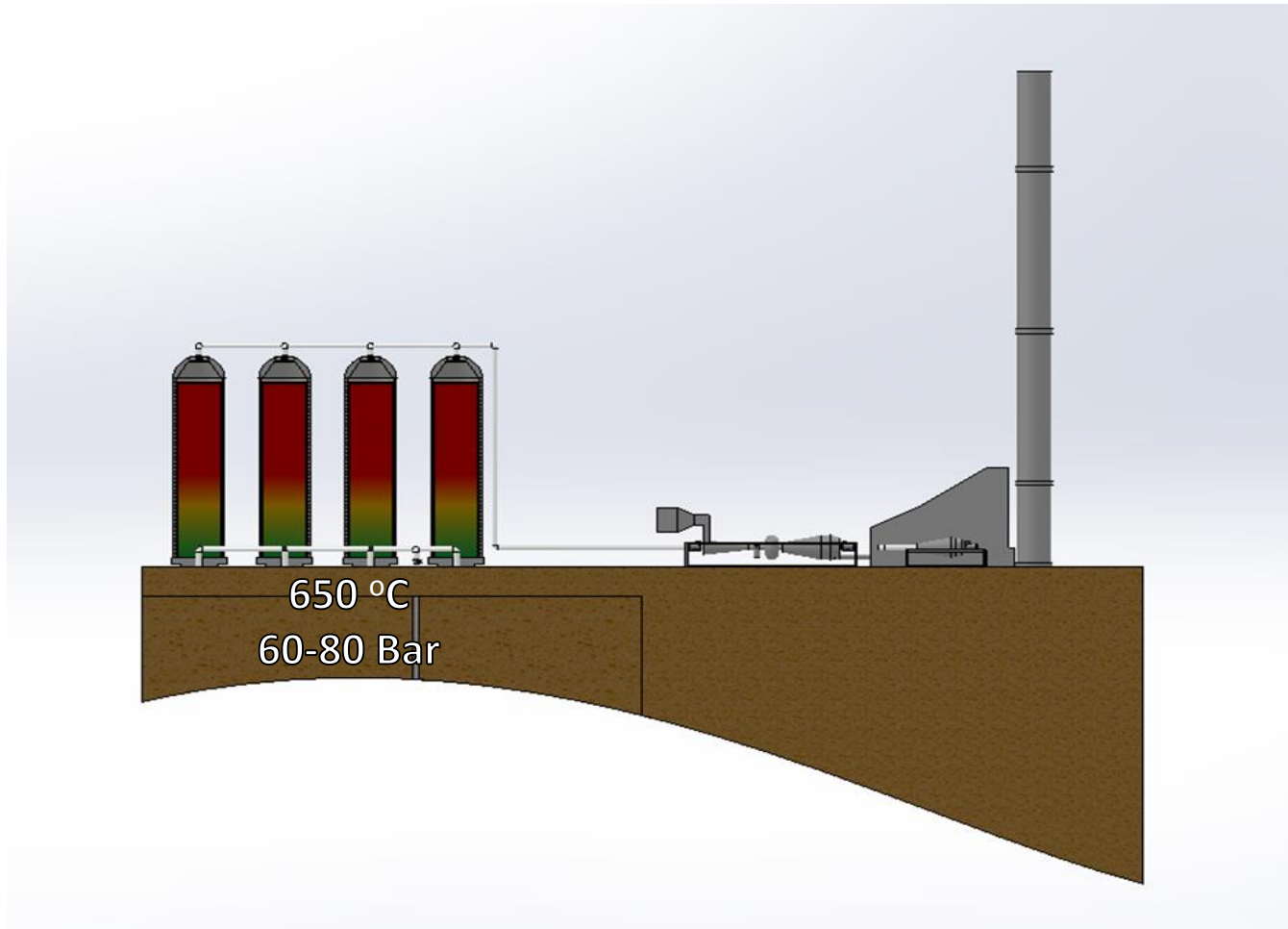
- Low Capex ~ \$200/kWh fully installed
- Long cycle life >100,000 cycles
- Rapid Response
- High roundtrip efficiency – 75%
- Site Anywhere
- Long physical life (25 years)
- Safe and Clean – No end of life issues



# Adiabatic CAES

*ISENTROPIC*<sup>®</sup>

## Hot high pressure thermal stores for CAES





# Thermal Storage

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

## Isentropic requirements for thermal storage

- Operating temperature range -160 °C to 600 °C
- Constant temperature during discharge
- Very high efficiency > 95%
- Safe
- Scalable
- Low Cost ???



# Thermal Storage

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

## Isentropic requirements for thermal storage

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A packed bed thermal store can achieve all of the above

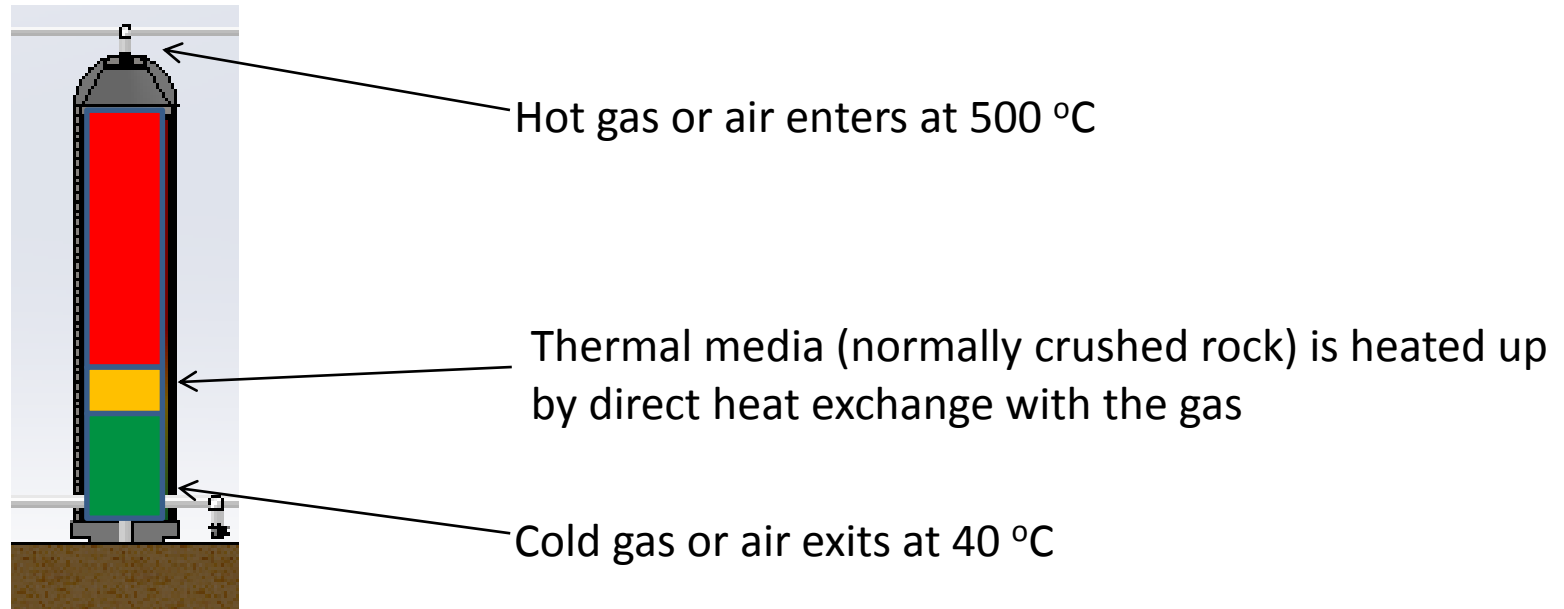




# Packed Bed Thermal Stores

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

*How a packed bed works*

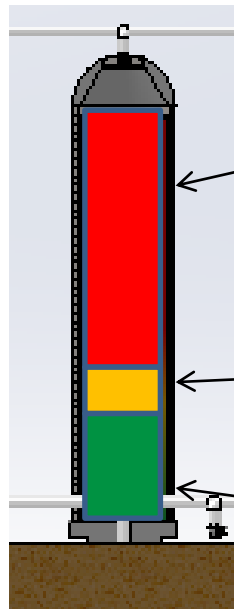




# Packed Bed Thermal Stores

Isentropic®

## *Temperature profile in a packed bed*



Thermal media all at hot temperature 500 °C  
Minimal heat exchange

Temperature varies from 500 °C to 40 °C  
Majority of heat exchange  
Region with a 'thermal front' or thermocline

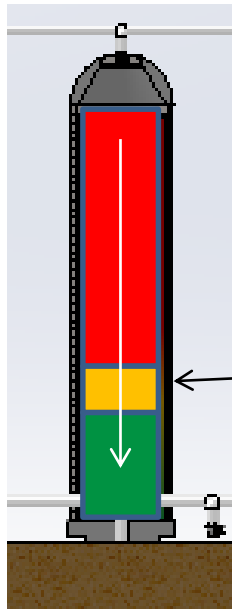
Thermal media all at cold temperature 40 °C  
Minimal heat exchange



# Packed Bed Thermal Stores

Isentropic®

*Movement of thermal front during charging*



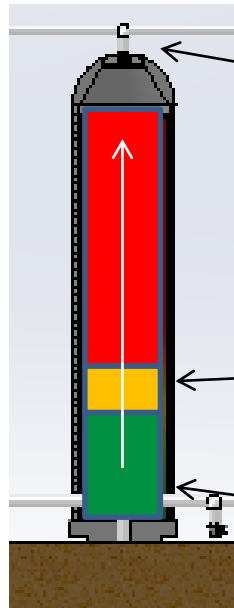
As the thermal store is charged the thermal front moves from near the top of the store to the bottom of the store



# Packed Bed Thermal Stores

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

## *Discharging*



Hot gas or air leaves at close to 500 °C

Thermal front moves up the store as the media is cooled down by direct heat exchange with the gas

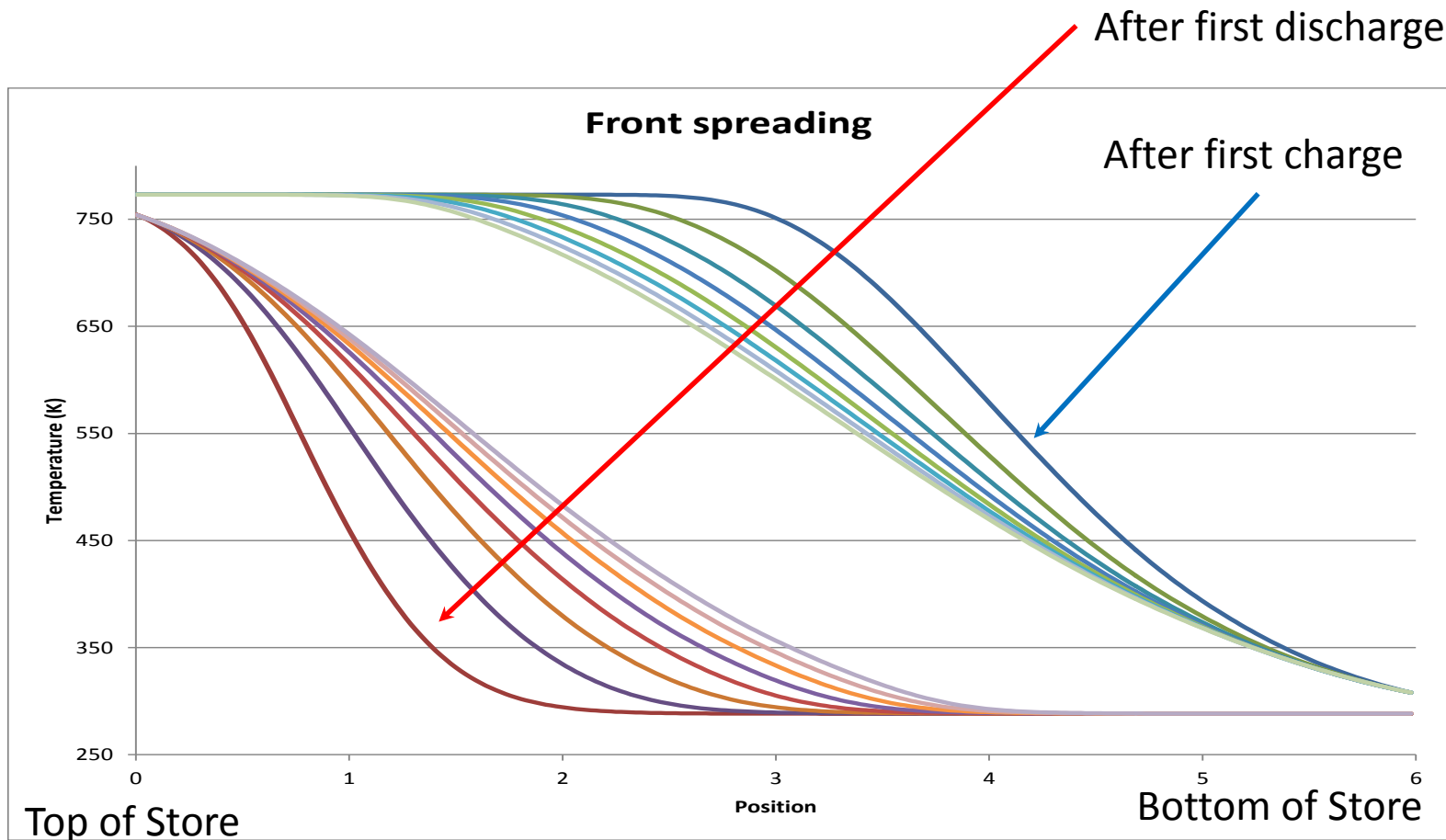
Cold gas or air enters at less than 40 °C



# Normal Packed Bed

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Typical temperature profile in a packed bed store

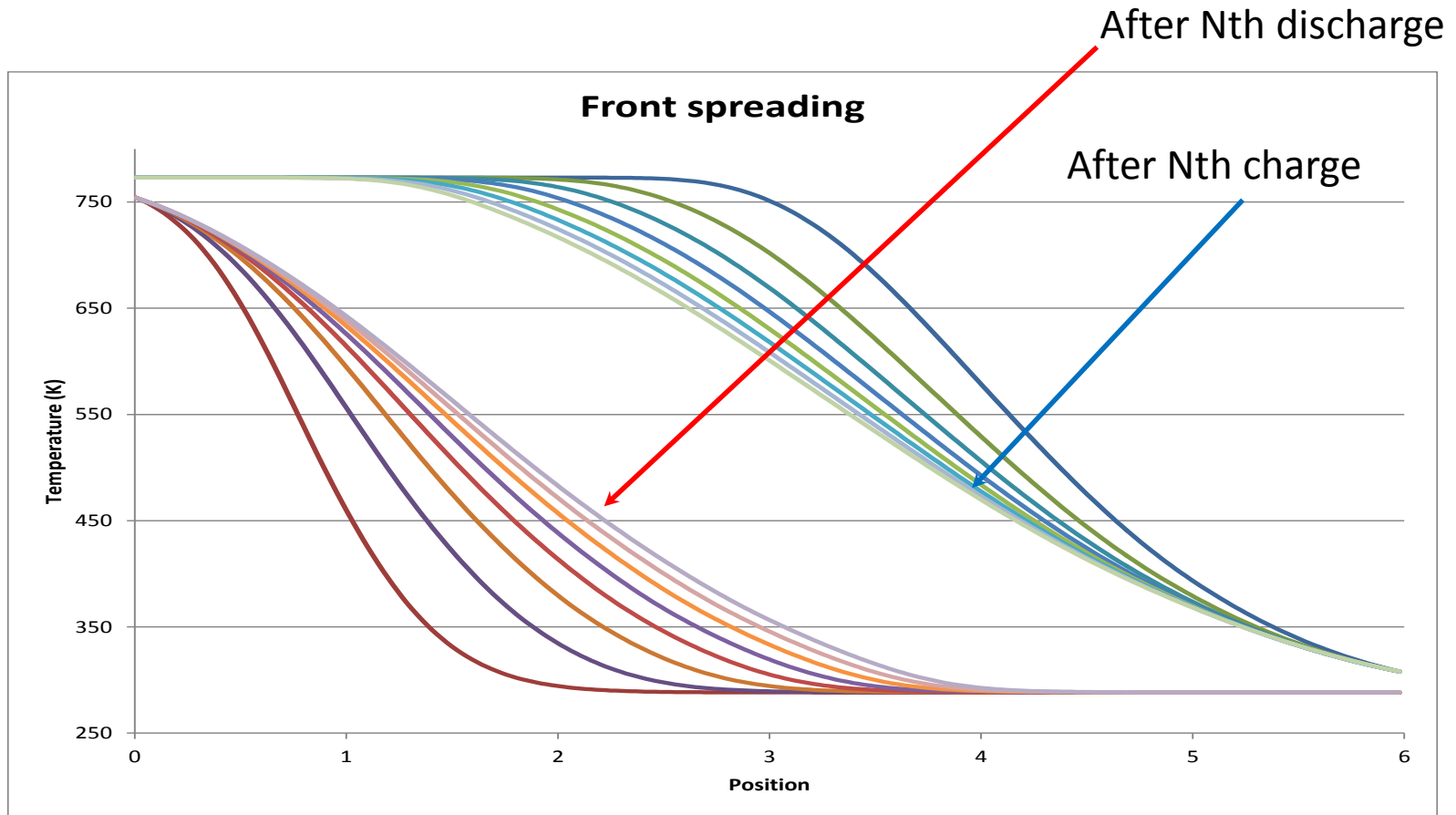




# Normal Packed Bed

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

## Steady State Operation

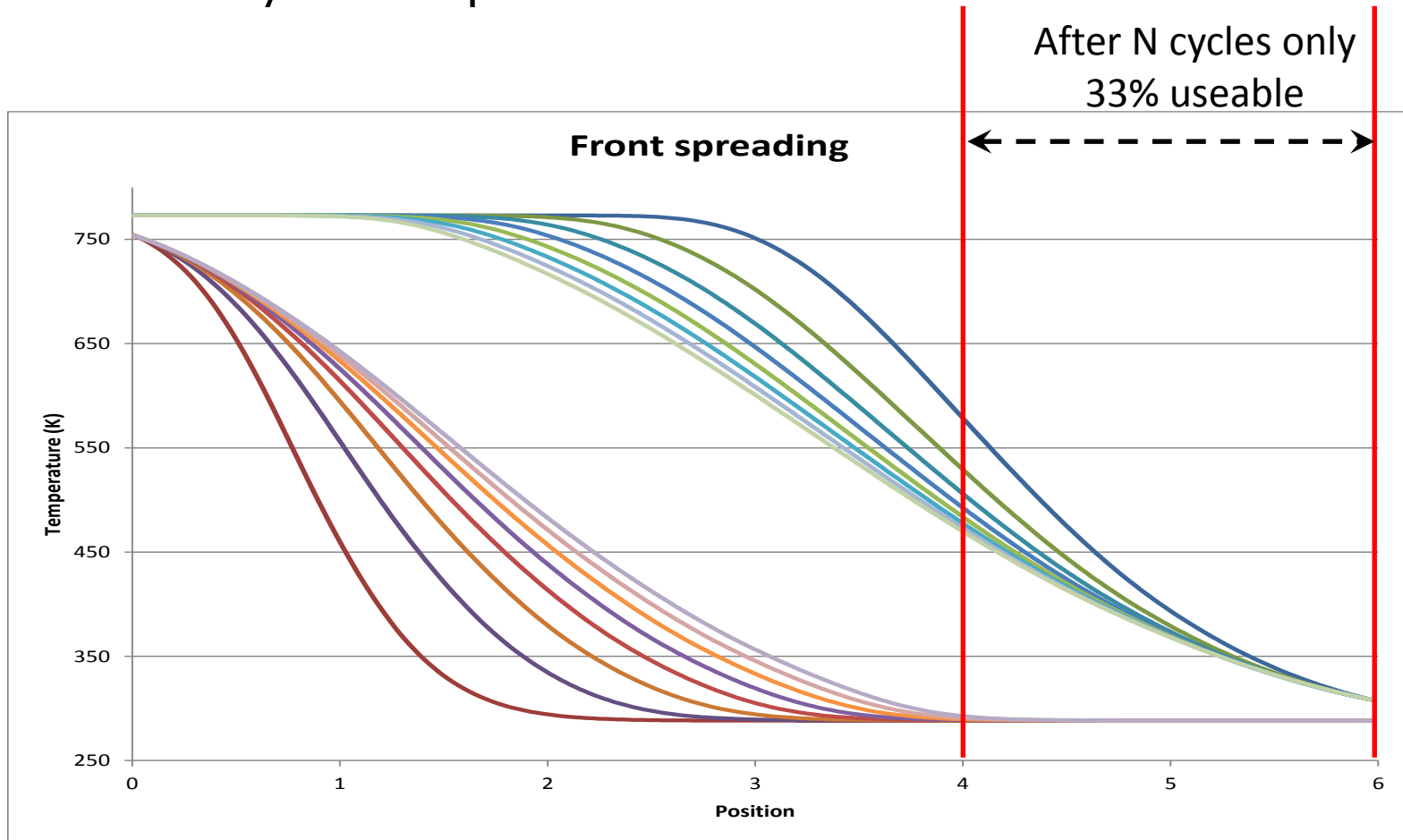




# Normal Packed Bed

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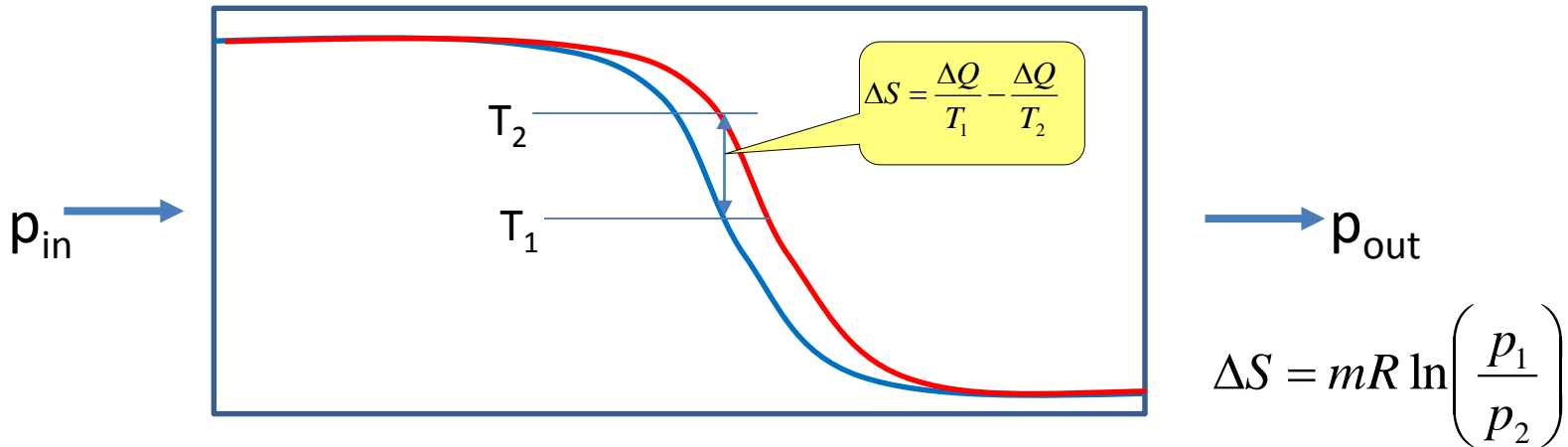
## Steady State Operation





# Efficiency

## Major loss mechanisms in thermal stores



Small particles

Large particles

- Heat Transfer
- Pressure Drop
- Exit Loss

Good  
Poor

Poor  
Good

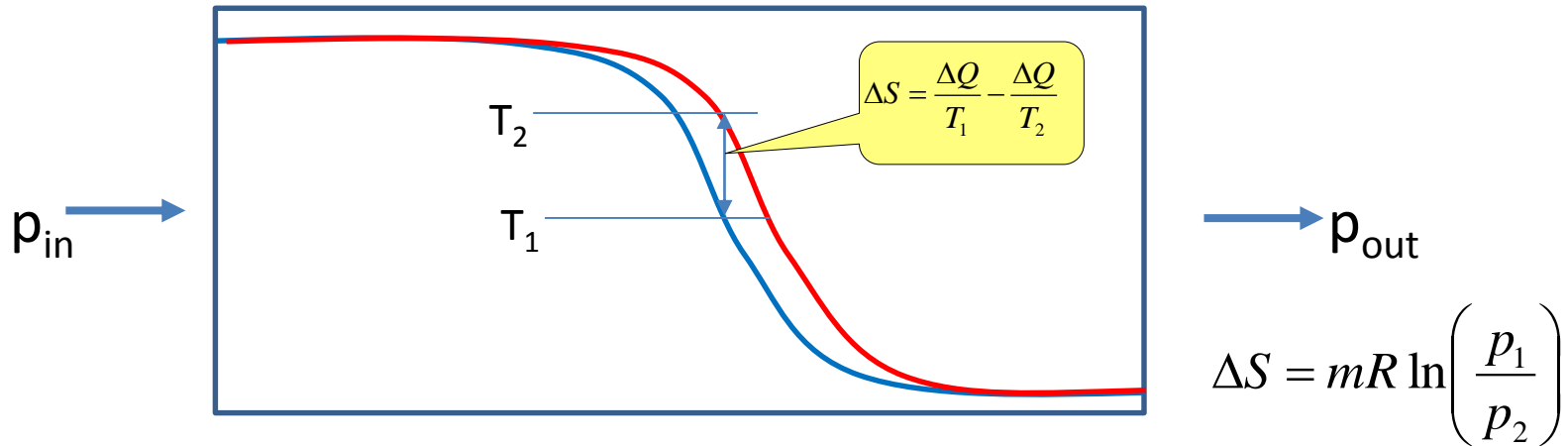




# Efficiency

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## Major loss mechanisms in thermal stores

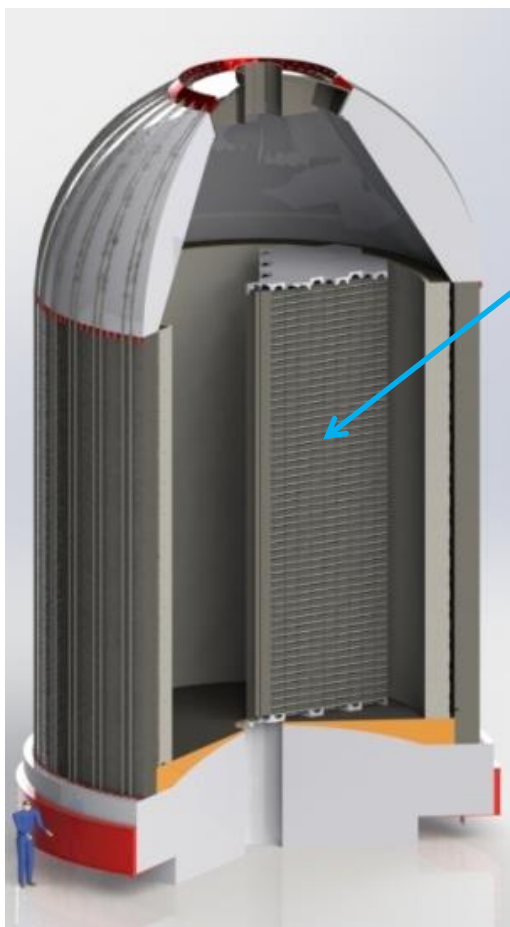


- ISENTROPIC Ltd has invented a system which allows the use of small particles with a low pressure drop and low exit loss.



# Layered Thermal Stores

*ISENTROPIC*<sup>®</sup>



*ISENTROPIC*<sup>®</sup> thermal stores are split into multiple layers.

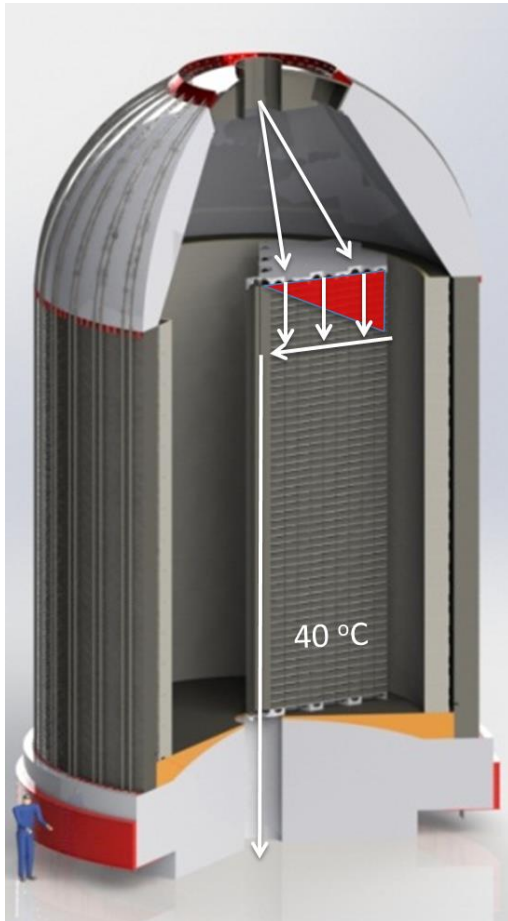
Gas flow is diverted so that it only passes through areas with active heat exchange



# Layered Thermal Stores

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Start of Charge

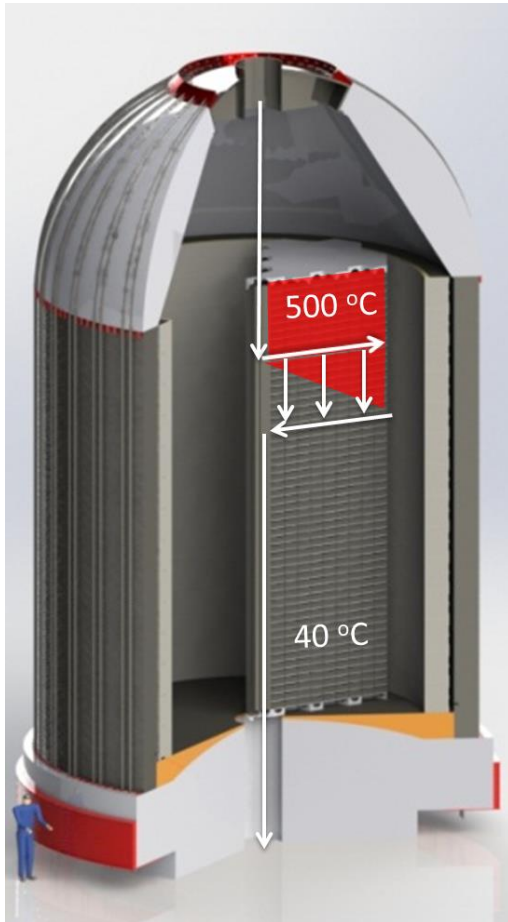




# Layered Thermal Stores

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## Charging

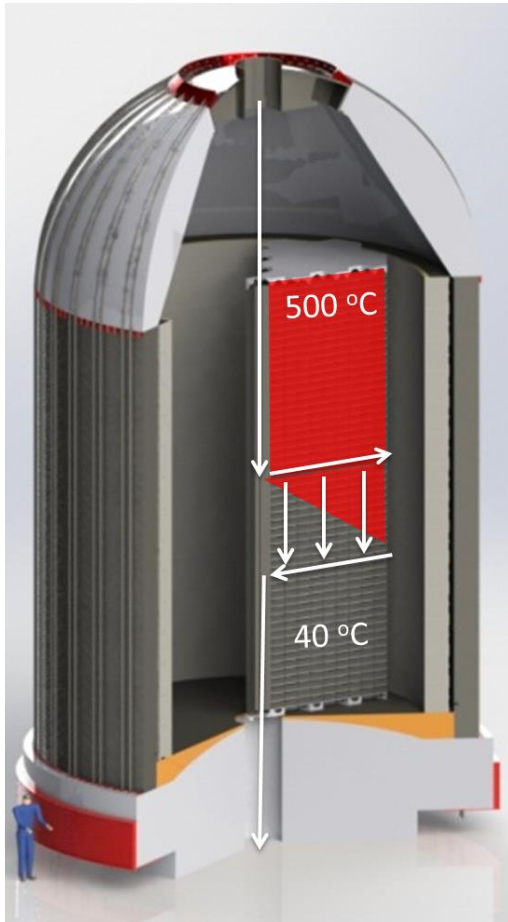




# Layered Thermal Stores

*I*sentropic®

## Charging

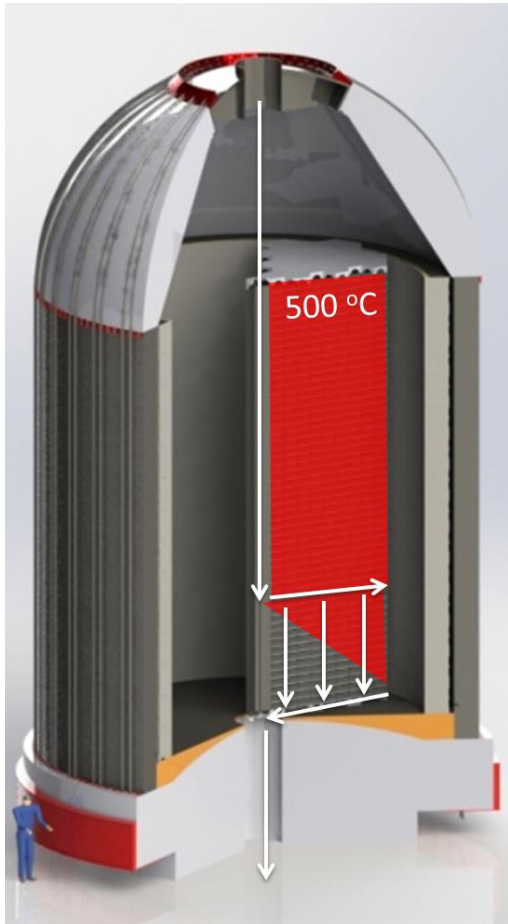




# Layered Thermal Stores

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Fully Charged





# Layered Thermal Stores

After N cycles >90% can be used





# Benefits of Layering

*Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>

- Increase energy density by a factor of 2–3 x
- Reduces pressure vessel cost by a factor of 2–3 x
- Allow precise management of part-charge / part-discharge cycles.
- Allows near constant discharge temperatures





# Layered Stores are NOT just theory *Isentropic*<sup>®</sup>



Validated internally by analysis, supported by physical testing  
Validated externally by independent expert

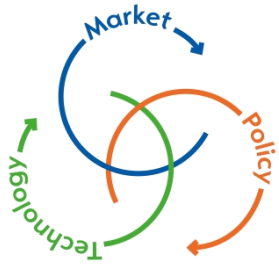


# Layered Thermal Stores

*ISENTROPIC*<sup>®</sup>

## Summary

- *ISENTROPIC*<sup>®</sup> thermal stores are split into multiple layers
- High Efficiency 96% – 99%
- Compact with 2–3x energy density compared to an unlayered store – Low Cost
- Safe
- Can be scaled from small to large size (10,000 tons)
- Temperature range –160°C to 600 °C



**Isentropic<sup>®</sup>**

Thank you for your attention

James Macnaghten  
CEO  
Isentropic Ltd