Condenser Upgrade

**Scope of supply**
The overall efficiency of a fossil or nuclear power plant is strongly influenced by the performance of its condenser(s). Poor condenser performance results in thermodynamic losses and thus reduces the profitability of the power plant.

Another important factor is the condenser’s operating reliability. In the worst case the entire water / steam-cycle could be damaged by corrosion effects triggered by condenser problems.

Upgrading the condenser by implementing optimized tube bundle design and tube material to achieve and sustain low condenser pressure improves utilization of the thermal potential in the water/steam-cycle.

Siemens can offer the following products for upgrading and modernizing your condenser:

- Tube bundle replacement
- Tube bundle optimization
- Tube replacement with new material
- Continuous tube cleaning system
- Optimization of air removal and evacuation system
- Erosion protection sleeves
- Cooling water system analysis and optimization.

**Customer benefits**
Condenser upgrades help to reduce maintenance expenditures and promote increased revenue through:

- Reduced condenser pressure – increased output and efficiency of the steam turbine
- Increased condenser operating reliability and reduced forced outages
- Reduced cooling water in-leakage and air ingress
- Reduced condenser tube corrosion
- Reduced bio-fouling and improved cleanliness factor
- Avoided corrosion effects in the water / steam cycle.

**Features**
Replacing the complete tube bundle(s) can improve condenser performance in various areas. The unique Siemens condenser tube bundle design provides a uniform steam flow to all tubes, thus reducing the pressure drop in the condenser and therefore lowering the backpressure at the turbine exhaust. Furthermore, subcooling of the condensate and the dissolved oxygen in the condensate are reduced significantly. The accumulation of non-condensable gases in the tube bundles will be eliminated.

Fig. 1: Drawing of the Siemens condenser with a cutaway showing the tube bundle design.

Fig. 2: Tubing of the new Farge condenser at the Siemens manufacturing plant.

Performance Enhancement - Condenser

Answers for energy.
The condenser pressure can be reduced by optimization of the existing tube bundle configuration through selective pulling of tubes.

Using high-grade tube and tubesheet materials like stainless steel and titanium prevents the occurrence of erosion and pitting, often observed with copper alloys, as a function of the mineral salt and suspended matter content of the circulating water. This also eliminates the need for descaling and ferrous sulfate dosing.

To improve the cleanliness factor of the condenser tubes and to reduce bio-fouling to maintain the design heat transfer rate, a continuous tube cleaning system (e.g. Taprogge) and water filters can be installed.

Erosion protection sleeves provide protection against droplet erosion, thus avoiding repair of leaking condenser tubes, especially in saturated steam turbine units (nuclear units). Siemens holds a patent on a unique type of erosion protection sleeve and the installation method.

An analysis of the complete cooling water cycle includes all relevant components of the cooling water system, like condenser, cooling towers, cooling water pumps, etc. and proposes the necessary measures to fully utilize the potential of the steam turbine.

References

Some typical projects in nuclear and conventional steam power plants:

- Unterweser: Condenser module replacement at the Unterweser nuclear power plant. Compared to the original tube arrangement the configuration of the titanium tubes in the new condenser was optimized. The replacement resulted in a pressure reduction of 13.4 mbar and additional output of 11.3 MW.

- Genkai nuclear power plant, Japan: Increased performance of the condenser was achieved through replacement of eight modules, optimized tubing, improved material (titanium) and high quality of manufacturing.

- Farge steam power plant, 350 MW, Germany: In 2004 the steam turbine and the condenser were upgraded. The replacement of the condenser modules resulted in an additional output.

For more information please contact your local Siemens sales representative.