CPD No. 3228

Conceptual Process Design Chemical Process Technology

Subject

Recovery of Hydrocarbon Products from a 5 Gsm³/a Natural Gas Stream

Keywords

Natural Gas, Gas Processes, Plate-fin Heat Exchanger, Molecular Sieve, Turbo-expander, Distillation

> $\ddot{\cdot}$ $\ddot{\cdot}$ $\ddot{}$

Assignment issued Report issued Assessment

12 January 1999 23 April 1999

F**aculteit Technische Natuurwetenschappen**
Scheikundige Technologie en Materiaalkunde

 39
 b espa. II mei 3.30

CPD Bespreking

Recovery ot Hydrocarbon Products trom

a **5 Gsm3/a Natural Gas Streams**

Jorrit Posthuma de Boer Inleverdatum: 7 mei 1999

Algemene opmerkingen

, ...

Het verslag is wat aan de te dikke kant, dit had in het textuele gedeelte makkelijk kunnen worden gereduceerd door dingen niet te vaak te herhalen, zo worden bijvoorbeeld de proces keuzes zeker drie keer herhaald. Dit wordt mede veroorzaakt door een niet duidelijke lijn in sommige hoofdstukken. De appendices nodigen niet uit tot lezen, dit komt door de grote hoeveelheid "onnodige" informatie en de niet uniforme layout.

1. Samenvatting

In de samenvatting ontbreekt een duidelijke probleemstelling, en de relevantie van het uitvoeren van dit proces. Een sterkte zwakte analyse van het uitgevoerde proces ontbreekt, zodat niet duidelijk beoordeeld kan worden hoe betrouwbaar de gepresenteerde waarden zijn. Ook wordt geen duidelijke aanbeveling om dit project te continueren. Wel wordt vaag weergegeven waar eventueel verbeteringen kunnen plaats vinden. De samenvatting had naar mijn idee bondiger kunnen worden opgeschreven.

2. Inhoudsopgave

Duidelijk en volledig genummerd

3. Inleiding

Ook hier ontbreekt weer een duidelijke probleemstelling en de eventuele opdrachtgever. Wel worden dit keer de mogelijke redenen voor het uitvoeren van dit proces gegeven.

De producten de toepassingen en de marktsituatie worden duidelijk weergegeven evenals de beschikbaarheid van de grondstoffen. Al wordt hier uitgegaan van cijfers op basis van het jaar 1985, terwijl het niet zo moeilijk moet zijn om aan recentere data te komen, hierdoor wordt het hele verhaal lichtelijk ondermijnd.

Het bespreken van andere concurrerende plants is er summier, en het wordt niet echt duidelijk op welke technologie deze zijn gebaseerd.

In de bespreking van de "environmental issues", ontbreekt de molsieve 3A als afvalstroom. Ook had hier naar mijn mening wel wat over de vereisten met betrekking tot wetgeving kunnen worden gegeven.

In "Process selection" wordt beweerd dat het gebruikte patent voor het twee staps expander proces veranderd en verbeterd is, dan zou het noemen van deze verbeteringen wel handig zijn. Voor de NLG extractie wordt de proces keuze genoemd terwijl deze voor de andere unit operations niet wordt genoemd. De verantwoording van het proces, wordt daardoor alleen voor een unit gegeven.

4. Uitgangspunten voor het ontwerp (exogene randvoorwaarden)

De keuze voor Noorwegen als vestigingsplaats is duidelijk, door de nabije lichting van grote gasvelden, het argument voor lagere energie prijzen zou ik graag gekwantificeerd willen zien. De SHE eisen ontbreken, zoals toelaatbare emissies en de eventueel daarmee gemoeid gaande kosten. Alle andere exogene voorwaarden staan allen duidelijk weergegeven. Al lijkt mij een temperatuur van 30 °C voor het koelwater afkomstig van het oppervlakte water lichtelijk aan de hoge kant, waardoor de koelingsduty in het proces veel lager kan worden.

5. Basis van fysische en chemische procescondities (endogene voorwaarden)

De keuze voor het gebruik van de molsieves is gebaseerd op de hoge efficiency bij hoge druk en lage temperatuur. Het afvallen van de overige processen is duidelijk gemotiveerd, alleen de maximale hoeveelheid water dat mag blijven zitten in de stroom om bevriezing te voorkomen wordt niet gegeven. Daarom is het afvallen van het Selexol proces onduidelijk gemotiveerd. De selectie criteria hadden wat duidelijker kunnen worden weergegeven. Wat wordt bedoeld met free water?

Ook zou het wenselijk zijn om de maximale hoeveelheden $CO₂$ en $H₂S$ die aanwezig mogen blijven te specificeren, en in het geval van H2S wat de eventuele gevolgen zijn van teveel van deze stof.

Voor de NLG extractie, valt het gebruik van een deethaniser, depropaniser en debutaniser, maar wat zijn dan de niet bevredigende resultaten? Ook het afwijzen van het mixed refrigerant proces gebeurt op grond dat er teveel CO₂ aanwezig is, terwijl eerder is aangenomen dat $CO₂$ niet hoeft te worden gescheiden. De keuze tussen de andere processen is redelijk duidelijk gemotiveerd al de vergelijking op grond van de gebruikte selectie criteria per selectie criterium in een tabel duidelijker geweest. Ook een kosten schatting van de externe "vrieskoeling" koeling zou de keuze verder kunnen verduidelijken, ook een verwijzing naar andere geschatte kosten zou het duidelijker maken. Het sommeren van de totale duty's uitgedrukt in een bedrag maakt de keuze tussen de verschillende processen duidelijker nu is het heel moeilijk om te beoordelen welk proces economisch voordeliger is.

Voor de keuze van het NLG fractioneringsproces hadden de selectiecriteria beter kunnen worden weergegeven. Waarom is de gebruikte sequentie van distillatie torens gekozen?

De keuze van de verschillende processen wordt te vaak door het verslag heen herhaald, wat veel onnodig leeswerk oplevert en waardoor het verslag aan de stevige kant is.

De keuze voor het thermodynamisch model is duidelijk, en wordt goed met cijfers en grafieken ondersteund

6. Keuze van een basis structuur van het proces

De keuze van de basisstructuur en recyclestructuur van het proces is duidelijk gemaakt, alleen de keuze van de structuur van fractioneringssectie is niet gemotiveerd. Ook is de parallelle plaatsing van de twee turboexpander niet duidelijk gemaakt. Alom moet de puzzel voor het uitvinden van de beschrijving van de basisstructuur wel uit alle delen van het verslag worden opgelost.

7. Integratie van de processtructuur

Hier onstaat het idee dat de integratie niet ten volle is benut, zeker in de fractionneringssectie lijken nog verbeteringen mogelijk. Waar zijn nog verbeterings mogelijkheden? Wat zijn de gevolgen van het aannemen van een lagere koelwater temperatuur. Welke warmte wisselaars kunnen worden samengevoegd in een unit. De afstemming van procesdrukken is goed gebeurd, grote drukverschillen worden benut voor compressie van het sales gas. Het koelwater systeem is niet geïntegreerd (gefaseerd), wat is de verwachte reductie in operatiekosten.

8. Ontwerp van procesapparaten (inwendig & randen)

De design criteria worden gegeven, maar over het algemeen wordt niet beredeneerd waarom deze zo zijn gebruikt. Ook worden vrijheidsgraden over het algemeen niet gegeven. Tevens mist de beschrijving van de gebruikte methode (alleen literatuur verwijzing), vooral wat betreft wat de basisaannames die wordt gebruikt, ook mist een schatting van de nauwkeurigheid van de berekende waarden. De keuze van de druk en temperatuur is gebaseerd op een optimalisatie, die wel volledig wordt genoemd maar toch niet zo mag worden getypeerd, hier is mij niet geheel duidelijk geworden welke variabelen nu werden gevarieerd, en deze optimalisatie is niet opgehangen aan kosten zodat de resultaten niet direct kunnen worden beoordeeld, presentatie in grafieken zou dit verduidelijken.

Het gebruik van de single stage compressor voor de sales gas compressor lijkt enigszins dubieus, maar dat moet ik nog even na rekenen

9. Proces flowsheet (PFD) met massa- en energie balansen

In PPD ontbreekt de unitnummering. En de PPD had wel iets ruimer kunnen worden opgezet. Lettertype van nummering mag ook wel iets groter. Massabalansen zijn sluitend. Er mist een lucht stroom naar de incinerator.

10. Procesdynamica en beheersing

Er zijn niet echt control kritische apparaten aanwezig, de belangrijkste control elementen zijn aanwezig. De gebruikte regelparameters en controls zijn duidelijk weergegeven.

11. Analyse van proces veiligheid **en milieu (SHE)**

Wat zijn de emissie eisen?

•

Waardoor verliest het 3A zeolite zijn werking? Kan het nog als landfill worden gebruikt?

Hoeveel N_2 zit er lucht, of wordt het off-gas met pure zuurstof verbrandt $\rightarrow NO_7$ emissie?

12. Kosten en economische evaluatie

Met welke methoden zijn de F.O.B. kosten en geïnstalleerde kosten van de apparaten berekend?

Wat is de verwachte nauwkeurigheid van de fixed capital investment, en implicaties voor de rendabelheid van het proces (verwachting +/-40 %)?

Met inachtneming van de berekende winstgevendheid en de onzekerheid hierin, moet het project worden uitgevoerd?

13 Conclusies en aanbevelingen

In de conclusie kan in tegenstelling tot de rest van het verslag wel iets meer informatie kunnen worden gegeven. Zoals moet het proces verder door worden ontwikkeld, wat zijn de gevolgen voor het milieu en getallen voor de winstgevendheid. En de verbeteringen ten opzichte van bestaande processen. De aanbevelingen zijn over het algemeen bevredigend.

14+16

Literatuur verwijzing, symbolen lijst zijn aanwezig. De bijlagen bevatten een "overload" aan informatie, en nodigen niet uit om te bekijken, dit wordt voor de hoeveelheid en de inconsequente opmaak hiervan.

Opmerkingen

(Alle punten die ik als onduidelijk heb omschreven, kan als vraag worden opgevat)

Summary

The process presented here recovers the valuable natural gas liquids (NGL, C_3 , C_4 and C_5^{\dagger}) from a 5 Gsm³/a natural gas stream, with a given on-steam factor of 0.96. This is done in three steps:

- Feed pre-treatment by molecular sieves to remove water from the feed.
- NGL extraction by expansion, cooling and C_2 distillation.
- NGL fractionation by distillation.

Molecular sieves are chosen to dehydrate the feed, because of their efficiency and simplicity.

For NGL extraction three options were evaluated:

- The reflux heat exchanger process, which was not chosen due to the need of external refrigeration at low temperatures and unstable and uncertain simulation. An advantage of the process is the possibility to operate at high pressure.
- The Cryomax process, which was not chosen due to high compressor duties. These resulted from operating the process at low pressures, which was done to eliminate the need for external refrigeration. It does have a high recovery and low reboiler duties.
- The Turbo-expander process was divided into two options:
	- The option using one expansion step resulted in higher compression costs and was therefore not chosen.
	- The option using two expansion steps possessed the overall lowest compression costs, did not need external refrigeration, had a 97% C₃-recovery and met all required product specifications.

The Cryomax process and both of the Turbo-expander processes were fully optimised.) and compared. Based on this comparison, the Turbo-expander process with two expansion steps was chosen.

For NGL fractionation two distillation columns have been used, because other options (e.g. Petlyuk columns) were not possible and distillation columns are standard separation devices.

Using (a) turbo-expander(s) is not a new concept. There are twelve processes relying solely on turbo-expanders and hundreds of plants using similar processes to extract NOL from natural gas streams.

The plant's annual production is 0.342 Mton/a C_3 -product, 0.212 Mton/a C_4 -product and 0.174 Mton/a C₅-product. Comparing the C₃ production to the production levels of 1985, it is about 3 % of the world's annual production. In comparison to a competitor it handles twice as high a feedrate.

The prices of the feed and sales gas (0.10 Dfl/sm^3) are considered to be the same (per sm³). The prices for C₃-product, C₄-product and C_5 ⁺-product are 115.50, 144.80 and 144.4 Dfl/sm³.

The total investment is 163.6 mln Dfl, with an economical plant life of 25 years. This results in a pay out time of 5.2 years, a rate of return of 19.2 % and a discounted cashflow rate of return of 17.3 %. The process is economically feasible.

All the financial data used is in the "worst case". Product prices are historical low and are expected to rise. They have a large influence on process economics.

Problems encountered in the design are high compression costs, high cooling water streams and a large column diameter of the deethaniser.

Table of contents

 $\overline{\alpha}$

.
Service text of

1. Introduction

Natural gas is a mixture of hydrocarbons with methane as the main constituent. Natural gas liquids (NGL) are liquefied hydrocarbons, recovered from natural gases. Reasons to recover these natural gas liquids from natural gas could be:

- To adjust the gas to the required standards (e.g. dewpoint).
- The economic value of the natural gas liquids.
- Process safety hazard due to possible condensation.

The process presented in this report recovers liquefied propane and heavier hydrocarbons from a natural gas stream.

The main product is propane. Other products are a stream mainly consisting of methane and ethane (sales gas), butane and a heavy C_5^+ -stream (condensates). For the pure component properties the reader is referred to appendix 5-1.

Except for a minor amount used as chemical feedstock, the sales gas is primarily used as clean heating fuel in industry, power plants, commercial installations and households [1].

Propane has many applications. Some of the most important are [2]:

- Use as a chemical feedstock for production of e.g. ethene, propene, glycerol and nitroalkanes (solvents).
- Use as a clean fuel for cooking and heating in the domestic and commercial market.
- Use as a feedstock for alkylation.

Butane is used as fuel and as a chemical feedstock (e.g. for nylon) [2].

Condensates can be added to gasoline to control volatility [3], serve as a refinery or chemical feedstock, or serve directly as fuel [2].

1.1 Environmental issues

Natural gas has a number of environmental advantages compared with other fossil fuels. Compared with coal and oil, natural gas has a 30-50 % lower emission of $CO₂$ and 60-90 % lower emissions of NO_X to produce the same amount of energy. In addition, natural gas produces only marginal emissions of $SO₂$ and particles [4]. The process developed here has only two waste streams:

• A gas stream from regenerating the molsievebeds, this stream will be flared.

• A stream of thermally contaminated water, which will be fed to the surface water. Waste waters from piping and equipment cleaning could be collected and treated in a reclaimer.

Possible energy conservation techniques in natural gas treatment plants are: [5]

- Waste heat recovery from gas engines or gas turbine exhaust.
- Open cycle heat pumps on fractionating columns.
- Cascading.
- Increasing the number of trays in the columns.
- Using cooled plant feed.
- Production of steam in the fired heater

Where possible, attention will be paid to these items.

The hazards associated with NGL are that it is a low-temperature fluid, flammable, explosive with air and can create vapour clouds dense enough to cause asphyxiation. Non of these is a problem when NGL is contained in properly designed tanks or piping and equipment.

Outside the battery limits, the following safety aspects should be considered [5]:

- Storage tank location and orientation.
- Containment of the liquids in the immediate storage area by means of basins.

• Avoiding the use of possible ignition sources in the vicinity of the plant.

Inside the battery limits one could take into account [5]:

- Furnace/stack design.
- Stack location (relative to prevailing winds).
- Electrical area.
- Gas leak-, fire-, smokedetectors, etc.

A detailed safety study is given in chapter 10.

1.2 Marketsituation

Since 1989 the natural gas resources exceed the crude oil reserves (based on amount of energy). This is one of the reasons for increased interest in natural gas as a resource for liquid fuels and small alkanes.

The world gas reserves on 1 January 1990 totalled about $129*10^{12}$ sm³.[1] The world's 1989 gross gas production amounted to $2.5 * 10^{12}$ sm³ of which about 83 % was marketed. The rest covers reinjection, flaring, losses, etc.

Consumption patterns in various regions of the world generally follow production profiles. Russia and Eastern Europe produce and consume about 40 % of the world's annual natural gas availability, followed by North America with about 30 %. [1]. The natural gas comes from a Northsea field. The price is not only dependent on the field of origin, but also on the distance between the gasfield and the plant. [3] Fuel costs vary widely from one area to another because of the cost of the fuel itself and the cost of transportation. To maintain its competitiveness versus alternative energies, natural gas prices for the final consumer are generally determined by prices of competitive fuels such as light heating oil, heavy fuel oil, coal, LPG, or electricity (considering the inherent environmental, handling and financial advantages of gas utilisation). A large share of internationally traded natural gas is normally sold under long-term contracts up to 35 years' duration. Prices of these gas deliveries are generally tied to official international quotations. The market prices of the products can be found in chapter 11.

The plant's annual production is:

- 0.342 Mton/a C_3 -product.
- \bullet 0.212 Mton/a C₄-product.
- 0.174 Mton/a C_5^+ -product.

Comparing this to the production levels of 1985, it is about 3 % of the world's annual production. This is further explained in chapter 5.5.

There's little information about the competitor's developments.

There are about 12 turbo expander plants [6] throughout the world, and hundreds of plants using similar processes to yield propane and sales gas [6].

At this time, the Norwegian company Statoil is building a new plant at the Kårstø complex north of Stavanger, which will become operational in October 2000 [4]. The plant has a feedrate of 250 t/h.

1.3 Process selection

Four different process options have been compared:

- Reflux heat exchanger process [6,7].
- Cryomax process [6,8].
- Turbo expander with two expansion steps [6,9].

• Turbo expander with one expansion step.

- These processes are all based on the following unit operations:
- Feed pre-treatment.
- NGL extraction.
- NGL fractionating, yielding C_3 , C_4 and C_5^+ .

For a detailed description and comparison of the processes, the reader is referred to chapter 2. Block schemes are given in appendices 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4.

Eventually the process with two expansion steps was chosen. The chosen process is based on a patent [9], but has been altered and improved [10]. It is unknown if this process is patented, as there are many patents with only slight differences. Some aspects that are not included in the design are:

- \bullet CO₂ removal. At the temperatures used, no hydrates will form and the hydrocarbon dewpoint of the sales gas can be achieved without a problem.
- H₂S removal. H₂S levels in the feed are already 2.5 ppm. There is no need to lower these levels. [11]
- Mercury removal. The specified feed (appendix 8-1) does not contain mercury, but because of the use of an aluminium plate-fin heat exchanger, it is very important that there is no mercury in any of the process streams. In case of traces of mercury in the feed, the mercury could be removed by molecular sieves.[12, 13]

Some problems encountered in the design are:

- The size of the deethaniser; because of the large mass flows in the bottom region, the bottom diameter was estimated to be over 6 meter. The problem could not be solved by adding trays, changing the feed tray locations or feed temperatures. By using different equations (e.g. the Hunt equation [14]) for calculation of column diameter, smaller diameters could be found.
- The large flows of feed and sales gas gave some problems in equipment design. In most cases this was solved by placing the units in parallel or adding extra units.
- For the design of the molsievebed, no relevant kinetic data were available. The length of the mass transfer zone was estimated, using alternative calculation methods. These methods were not meant for detailed designing.
- The fired heater/stack is used for heating a process stream with variable flow and for burning waste gas. Due to this dual nature it could not be designed.
- The use of an interstage reboiler was considered to lower the use of external heating. Simulation of an interstage reboiler was not possible. As there also was no literature found on the subject it has not been evaluated.

For a detailed explanation of the problems and their solutions, the reader is referred to the separate equipment design in chapter 8.

2. Process options and selection

Given the high feed rate of 5 Gsm^3 /a of natural gas (appendix 9-1), it is advantageous to operate the process continuously. The process consists roughly of three steps:

- Feed pre-treatment.
- NGL extraction.
- NGL fractionation

In this chapter, these three steps will be considered. The process options are given and the selection will be explained.

2.1 Feed pre-treatment

Common to all natural gas liquefaction processes is the need to pre-treat the feed gas for removal of components that would either freeze out or lead to pollution upon combustion.

2.1.1 Process options for feed pre-treatment

The natural gas feed can contain several unwanted components, such as water, sour components and metals (e.g. mercury). Several processes are available to remove one ore more of these substances from a natural gas stream.

Removal of water

The low temperatures in the process would cause water to freeze out and cause the formation of hydrates. The literature [15,16] yields several different methods for separating water from a natural gas stream to prevent freezing. These include absorption in substances such as glycols, methanol (IFPEXOL), Selexol or adsorption in molecular sieves. Also separation over membranes is possible [6]

Removal of other substances

Sour components, such as $CO₂$ and $H₂S$ can be removed by means of physical adsorption processes, chemical adsorption processes, or a combination of both. Possible processes are:

- Physical adsorption: Purisol, Selexol, Fluor solvent, Rectisol [1,6]
- Chemical adsorption: Amine wash [17], Sulfinol [5,6], MEA DEA, DGA [1,6]
- Combination of both: Dipa, MDEA, Amisol [1]
- Other: Membranes [5,17]

Possible traces of mercury, could be removed by a molsievebed, using molsieve 4A. [5,13]. Another option is adsorbtion followed by oxidation, cooling and separation [12]. Also adsorbtion on sulphur impregnated activated carbon [1,13] is a possibility.

2.1.2 Selection of the feed pre-treatment process

Removal of water

Due to the high feedrate and the high pressure of the feed, the use of membranes in this process would require very large membranes and would lead to considerable

Reflux heat exchanger process

 $\bar{\sigma}$

PetroFlux [6J

u.s. 4,846,863

losses of products. The Selexol (physical) absorbent can only dehydrate a gas stream to around 150 ppmwt [15], while the processes using glycol and methanol can achieve concentrations of <1 ppmwt [15]. As best solid absorbent, molecular sieves can achieve about 0.1 ppmwt [16].

The glycol-process is quite complex, using a lot of equipment. The methanol-process is operated at 305 K, too high above feed gas temperature. They are often used in the production of liquefied natural gas (LNG), for which it is important to achieve extremely high purity because of the very low operating temperature (113 K). Molsieves operate more efficiently at high pressures and low temperatures. Therefore molecular sieves are chosen to dehydrate the feed to a water concentration of about 0.1 ppmwt. It is interesting that most plants of this type use molsieves for dehydration of the feed [18]. There will be a need for more than one sieve so one (or more) can be regenerated while the other is dehydrating the feed.

Removal of other substances

Given the product specifications, the natural gas does not have to be liquefied. (appendix 9-2 and 9-3) Therefore, extremely low temperatures will not be needed and it will not be necessary to remove the $CO₂$ as long as the hydrocarbon dewpoint specification of the sales gas is met.

 $H₂S$ is already 2.5 ppm, there is no need to lower $H₂S$ levels [11].

The given feed stream does not contain Hg, He, and COS, they do not have to be removed. It is very important that the feed does not contain any mercury, because of the use of an aluminium plate-fin heat exchanger. If mercury is present in the feed, it will most likely be removed by the molsieves. However, this shortens the life time of the molsieves for water removal and would have to be evaluated in depth.

2.2 NGL extraction

In the NGL extraction, the C_3^+ -stream is separated from the sales gas.

2.2.1 Process options for NGL extraction

The simplest way of accomplishing the required extraction is the use of a deethaniser, a depropaniser and a debutaniser in series. This process was examined first, but does not give satisfactory results for application in this process. Literature and patents give several other process options, including the use of mixed refrigerants [6,19], expansion processes and use of a reflux heat exchanger. The mixed refrigerantprocess is not chosen because $CO₂$ is present in the feed, the low process temperatures would cause problems due to the formation of $CO₂$ solids. The most promising processes have been compared, before choosing the final process. This paragraph gives a description of the options, and guidance through the selection procedure. A short description of the compared processes is given here. For details the reader is referred to appendices 6-4, 6-5, 6-6 and chapter 5.2.

Reflux heat exchanger process

The reflux heat exchanger process, based on the Petroflux process (by Costain Petrocarbon Limited) [7], is characterised by a separator, after which the vapour is cooled. In this cooling step, the higher boiling components are condensed and wash the upcoming vapour while flowing back to the separator. The liquid is expanded in a

5

 $\bar{\alpha}$

Cryomax [6]

CRYOMAX

Turbo-expander process

valve and fed to a deethaniser, which yields the C_3^* -stream. The vapour is compressed, cooled/condensed and separated. The resulting liquid is fed to the overhead of the reflux heat exchanger. The vapour is mixed with the already existing vapour stream from the first cooling step, this stream is the sales gas stream. The blockscheme and description of the process are given in appendices 2-4 and 6-6.

Another process option is recycling the vapour from the deethaniser to the reflux heat exchanger [6].

Cryomax process

In the Cryomax process (by Technip) [6,8], the feed is expanded in one step to the desired pressure. Expanding leads to cooling and condensating of the feed. The mixture is washed in an absorber and the resulting vapour is the sales gas. The liquid is fed to a deethaniser, which produces the liquid C_3^+ product. The vapour of the deethaniser is cooled/condensed and separated. Part of the liquid from the separator acts as reflux to the deethaniser and the rest is mixed with the vapour from the separator to be fed to the absorber.

The blockscheme and description of the process are given in appendices 2-3 and 6-5.

Turbo-expander process with two expansion steps

In the Turbo-expander process the feed is expanded in two stages. After the first expansion step, the liquid-vapour mixture is separated. The liquid is fed to a deethaniser and the vapour is cooled, expanded and separated again. The vapour from this second separator is fed to the bottom of an absorber, the liquid stream is fed to the deethaniser. The deethaniser bottoms form the C_3^+ -liquids. The vapour from the top of the deethaniser is cooled and separated. The liquid formed in the cooling step is partly used as areflux for the deethaniser and partly as a washing liquid for the absorber. The vapour from the separator (mixed with the vapour from the second separator) is fed to the bottom of the absorber. The liquids, leaving the absorber are also fed to the deethaniser. The vapour from the absorber is the sales gas stream. This process is based on [9] and has been aitered (chapter 5) to give the process shown in appendix 2-2. A detailed description is given in appendix 6-4.

Turbo-expander process with one expansion step

This process is a simplification of the Turbo-expander process with two expansion steps. The difference with the preceding process is the use of one expansion step instead of two. This implies the use of less process equipment. The feed is expanded and separated. The vapour is fed to the bottom of the absorber, the liquid is fed to the deethaniser. The vapour from the deethaniser is cooled and separated. The liquid formed in the cooling step is partIy used as areflux for the deethaniser and partIy as washing liquid for the absorber. The vapour is fed to the bottom of the absorber. The liquids from the absorber are also fed to the deethaniser, which produces the C_3^+ stream. The vapour from the absorber is the sales gas stream. The description is given in appendices 2-2 and 6-4

2.2.2 Selection of the NGL extraction process

From these four processes, one process must be chosen for further process design. The selection is based on the following criteria:

- Product specifications.
- Sales gas specification.
- Compressor duty of the sales gas compressor.
- Reboiler duty of the deethaniser.
- Recovery of propane.
- Need for external refrigeration.
- Equipment costs.
- Recycle streams.

The main objective of the selection is to maximise propane recovery, while at the same time minimising duties and costs. Of course, product and sales gas specifications have to be met.

The first two criteria are stated in chapter 3, Basis of design.

The need for external refrigeration is taken into account as a selection criterion, because extemal refrigeration at low temperature is very complex and therefore expensive. The influence of equipment costs is very smalI, compared to compressor and (deethaniser-) reboiler duty. It has been found that (estimated) equipment costs have little influence on choosing between the four options.

Some designing aspects that have not been used here as criteria, include:

- Sales gas production.
- Turndown.

Sales gas is not the main product of this process (although it is one of the largest process streams), so the sales gas production has not been used to compare the different options.

Tumdown is not yet considered in this stage of development, it will be taken into account in the final process.

The process options have been simulated in the flowsheeting program CHEMCAD III (chapter 8.1). In appendix 6-1 the four different options have been compared, without fully optimising the processes and assuming the feed does not contain any water. This first comparison gives the following advantages and disadvantages.

Process		
Reflux heat exchanger	-C2/C3 can be adjusted, to influence reboiler duty, amount of trays in deethaniser and recovery. -Does not use a contactor -Low feedrates in the deethaniser -Operates at high pressure	-External refrigeration needed at low temperature -Unstable simulation due to multiple recycle loops -Difficulty and uncertainty of -Modelling a reflux heat exchanger -Much loss of potential work due to the use of valves

Table 2.1: Process pro's and con's

Because of the need for very expensive extemal refrigeration and the unstable simulation, the reflux heat exchanger is not further developed from this point on. The three remaining processes have been fully optimised and extended with a distillation train. Also the possibilities for heat integration were examined. After optimising, the three completely developed processes were compared in appendix 6-3. Detailed equipment design was not considered yet (although reasonable estimations have been made), process equipment was compared based on number and estimated costs (Chemcad III). Table 2.2 gives a summary.

Table 2.2. Process comparison after optimisation

The two turbo-expander processes have been compared separately in appendix 6-3. It shows here that the higher propane recovery and lower equipment costs of the process with one expansion step, can not compare to the higher compression costs and reboiler duty. That leaves Cryomax and the turbo-expander process with two expansion steps as the final options. These will be financially optimised and compared. Table 2.3 gives the results of this economical evaluation, in terms of savings.

Table 2.3. Economic comparison of the Cryomax and turbo-expander process

As can be seen in table 2.3, the high compression costs are the main reason for not choosing Cryomax. The higher propane recovery and lower reboiler duty have relatively small influence on the total costs of this process.

After comparing the two remaining processes, it can be seen that compression costs are the most important aspect in choosing the final process. The turbo-expander process with two expanders has been selected as a basis for further process design.

2.3 **NGL fractionation**

After separating the NGL and the sales gas, the C_3^* -bottomproduct of the deethaniser, is split into a C_3 , C_4 and a C_5 ⁺-stream.

2.3.1 Process options for NGL fractionation

Recovery of heavy hydrocarbons is done by distillation. This can be done using a depropaniser and a debutaniser column in series, a divided-wall column (Petlyuk column [20,21,22]) or by absorption in heavy hydrocarbons.

2.3.2. Selection of the NGL fractionation process

Literature on the subject of a divided-wall column [20, 21, 22] gives 7.8 % higher equipment costs for a divided-wall column, but 16.8 % lower operating costs. The increase in equipment costs is due to the larger column diameter needed, along with thicker walls.

The Petlyuk column shows considerable energy savings in several cases. However, it can be competitive with the heat-integrated two-column system only in those cases where the concentration of the middle component is high, the split between the first and second components is harder than the split between the second and the third component, and the required separation is not too sharp.

In this case the concentration of the middle component is not very high and the required separation is sharp (recoveries over 99% and purities over 98%). Due to these facts, the use of a Petlyuk column is not possible in this process.

Using heavy hydrocarbons from the process for recovering the various products, did not lead to any improvements in the process. The C_3^* -stream will therefore be fractionated in a depropaniser and debutaniser in series.

3. Basis of design

3.1 Description of the process

Natural gas is a mixture of hydrocarbons with methane as the main constituent. Natural gas liquids are liquefied hydrocarbons, recovered from natural gases. This is done to adjust the gas to required standards, process safety considerations and the economie value of the natural gas liquids.

This process recovers liquefied propane (C_3) and heavier fractions from a natural gas stream. The main product is propane (C_3) . Other products are sales gas, butane (C_3) and a heavy C_5^+ -stream (condensates).

The process, as described in the basis of design, is based on the following unit operations:

- Feed pre-treatment,
- NGL extraction and
- NGL fractionation.

What will be done is:

- Removal of all free H_2O to prevent freezing and hydrate formation.
- Extraction of NGL in various cooling, expansion and separation steps.
- Fractionation of NGL, yielding propane (C_3) , butane (C_4) and condensates (C_5^+) by distillation.
- Delivering sales gas, C_3 -product, C_4 -product and C_{5+} -product at the desired specifications.

What will not be done is:

- Removal of $CO₂$ from the feed stream. With the given specifications the natural gas does not have to be liquefied. Therefore extremely low temperatures will not be needed and it will not be necessary to remove the $CO₂$ as long as the hydrocarbon dewpoint in the sales gas is met.
- Removal of H₂S from the feed, because the fraction is already 2.5 ppm [11].
- Removal of Hg, He, and COS, because the feed stream does not contain these substances. If Hg is present, it could be removed with molecular sieve 4A.
- Design of fired heater/stack, because the dual nature of this piece of equipment makes the design non-standard and it is not part of the main process.
- Design of valves and controllers, as this goes beyond the scope of this report.

3.2 Process definition

3.2.1 Process concept chosen

Given the high feed rate of 5 Gsm³/a it is advantageous to operate the process continuously.

The process eonsists of three steps:

- H₂O removal in a feed pre-treatment step to about 0.1 ppmwt.
- NGL extraction.
- NGL fractionation.

Feed pre-treatment

The only feed treatment step in this process consists of water removal by adsorption, to prevent ice and hydrate formation in the process. There are several different methods for separating water from a natural gas stream to prevent freezing $[6,15]$. These include absorption in substances such as glycols, methanol, Selexol or adsorption on molecular sieves. Also separation over membranes is possible. [6]. For more detail on selection the reader is referred to chapter 2.1.2.

Molecular sieves are chosen to dehydrate the feed to a water concentration of about 0.1 ppmwt, due to their efficiency and simplicity. For sufficient capacity and smaller equipment three beds will be chosen. Two operate simultaneously, while one is being regenerated.

Other components in the feed such as $CO₂$ and $H₂S$ could be removed by adsorption processes. This is not necessary due to feed and product specifications, and will not be done.

NGL extraction

The literature on separating propane and higher hydrocarbons from natural gas yields several options, using turbo-expander(s) and separator(s), mixed refrigerants and a reflux heat exchanger with separator. The mixed refrigerant-process is not chosen because the low process temperatures will cause problems due to the formation of $CO₂$ solids. This process also requires external refrigeration. Both the turbo-expander processes and the process using the reflux heat exchanger could make use of external refrigeration loops, giving them an element of the mixed refrigerant process. These processes operate at higher temperature (203 K), where a mixture containing $CO₂$ does not pose as great a problem. Therefore the choice of a sales gas separation system has focussed on processes using one or more turbo-expanders with separators and processes using a reflux heat exchanger with separator.

Four process options are presented for sales gas separation:

- Reflux heat exchanger process
- Cryomax process
- Turbo expander process with one expansion step
- Turbo expander process with two expansion steps

Block schemes and descriptions are given in appendices 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6.

All four processes have been simulated and evaluated (chapter 2). The reflux heat exchanger process was not chosen because of expensive refrigeration and unstable simulation. After fully optimising the three remaining processes, the Turbo-expander processes were compared separately, and with the Cryomax process. The latter was not chosen due to the large sales gas compressor duty. The turbo expander process with one expansion step was also discarded, due to high compressor duties. Therefore the Turbo-expander process with two expansion steps has been chosen. It was most economical, mainly due to smaller duties of the sales gas compressor.

NGL fractionating

Recovery of heavy hydrocarbons is usually done by distillation. Membrane separation is also possible, but not appropriate in this process due to high methane losses and technical difficulties for large streams [23]. Distillation can be done using a depropaniser and a debutaniser column, a divided-wall column (Petlyuk column) or absorption in heavy hydrocarbons.

Literature on the subject of a divided-wall column [20,21,22] gives higher equipment costs for a divided-wall column, but lower operating costs. The increase in equipment costs is caused by the larger column diameter needed, along with thicker walls. With the feed and product specifications in this process, the use of a Petlyuk column will not be adequate and will therefore not be simulated.

Using heavy hydrocarbons from the process as a washing agent, did not show any improvement in the yield.

Therefore NGL fractionation will be done in a depropaniser followed by a debutaniser column.

3.2.2 Block scheme

For the block schemes of the four evaluated processes the reader is referred to appendices 2-1, 2-2, 2-3 and 2-4. Appendix 2-2 contains the block scheme of the finally chosen process.

3.2.3 Thermodynamic properties

The system is characterised by high pressures, low temperatures and hydrocarbons with low carbon numbers. For such systems there are many different thermodynamic models available. Among these the cubic equations of state developed by Soave-Redlich-Kwong (1972) and Peng-Robinson (1976) and their modifications are the most frequently used [24]. They are considered to be the most accurate of the cubic equations of state [25]. The Peng-Robinson equation of state is the best for use at low temperature [26]. It is also used for N_2 , CO_2 and H_2S , the major non-hydrocarbons in the system.

Therefore the Peng-Robinson cubic equation of state is the thermodynamic model selected for the process.

Peng and Robinson have validated their equation of state for all components in the feed mixture for temperature ranges of 116.5-283.2 K for methane and nitrogen to 297.0-588.7 K for n-octane, using pressures ranging from 13 up to about 100 bar [27]. Though the highest pressure in the system is above this value, no separations (apart from dehydration) are performed at pressure above 100 bar. Comparison of various Pxy-diagrams generated by Chemcad III with the Peng-Robinson model and diagrams from the literature [28] showed no great deviations (appendix 5-7). Therefore it is assumed that the Peng-Robinson model will give an adequate description of the processes that occur.

3.2.4 Pure component properties

For the list of pure component properties the reader is referred to appendix 5-1.

3.2.5 Process stream summary and mass balance

Using the block scheme presented in appendix 2-2 and assuming completely dehydrated feed, the process streams can be calculated using a flowsheeting program (Chemcad 111). The process stream summary is given in appendix 5-2. The heat and mass balances are given in appendix 5-3. The utility usage is given in appendix 5-4. The process yields are given in appendix 5-5. All product specifications were met. (see appendix 8-12)

3.3 Basic assumptions

The contents of this chapter are derived from appendix 9-1. The standard conditions $\text{(sm}^3)$ are 293.15 K and 1 bara.

3.3.1 Plant capacity

Product and feed specifications

Feed gas:

Feed rate: 5.00 Gsm^3 /a, based on 8400 operating hours per year (on-stream factor: 0.96)

Composition of Feed Gas (see appendix 8-1 for calculation of the feedstream):

Table 3.1: Composition of feed

All hydrocarbons are considered to be saturated, e.g. C_3 is assumed to be propane, not propylene. In the following table the feed gas specifications are given.

Table 3.2: Feed gas specifications

Temperature [K]	278
Pressure [barg]	109
Phase [V/L/S]	
Manner of	Pipe line
transportation	
Price $[Dfl/sm3]$ [ch. 11]	0.10

The plant turndown is assumed to be 50 % maximum.

Products:

The specifications of the sales gas are shown in the following tabie:

Table 3.3: Sales gas specification

The specifications of the C_3 -product, C_4 -product and C_5 ⁺-product streams are shown in the following tables. The recovery of C_3 has to be > 80 %.

Table 3.4: C_3 -product specifications

Table $3.5:$ C_4 -product specifications

Table 3.6: C_{5+} -product specifications

Wastes

The described process has only three waste streams:

- A gas stream from regenerating the molsievebeds, which will be flared.
- A stream of thermally contaminated water, which will be fed to the public sewage system, as will be the reboiler- and condenser streams.
- Used zeolite, from the molsieve beds.

Waste waters from piping and equipment cleaning could be collected and treated in a reclaimer.

3.3.2 Economical plant life

The economical plant life is 25 years (as given in appendix 9-2).

3.3.3 Location

The plant is located in Køllsnes, a place on the Norwegian west coast. Norway is chosen due to the close vicinity to gas fields such as Troll and possibly lower electricity prices.

3.3.4 Battery limit

Inside the battery limit the plant will contain the following important equipment:

- Molecular sieves to remove the water from the feed.
- A cold box to optimise heat-integration.
- Distillation columns and an absorber to separate the hydrocarbons.
- Turbo-expanders to reduce the pressure of feed gas and compress sales gas.
- Liquid-vapour separators.
- Compressor.
- Pumps.
- Heat exchangers for product cooling.
- Heater/stack.

The following external facilities are assumed to be available outside the battery limit:

- All equipment necessary to provide the utilities, such as steam and water supply (see appendix 5-6 for all available utilities).
- Possibilities for waste water and other waste disposal.
- Piping and/or storage for all products.

3.3.5 Definition of all in- and outgoing streams/substances

For the specifications of the feed gas, sales gas and hydrocarbon product streams the reader is referred to chapter 3.3.1. The design values are used as estimations. After the finishing the design, it will be checked if the criteria are met. Temperatures were chosen 1 K below specification, ex cept for the water dewpoint. The feed is dehydrated to about 0.1 ppmwt. This means a water dewpoint of 173 K.

3.4 Margin

The margins have been calculated under the following assumptions:

Feed gas has been pre-treated and is assumed to be of the same quality as the sales gas and therefore the same price per sm³.

Flows are used according to appendix 5-2.

Densities according to appendix 5-1 are used.

Table 3.7: Margin calculation

With the data from table 3 the maximum allowable investment can be calculated, as can be seen in appendix 11-6. The maximum allowable investment is 1453 million Dfl. This investment does not take into account the annual operation costs (utilities, operating labour, taxes, etc.). Therefore this value is (far) too optimistic, but shows that the proposed process can be viabie.

Sharper estimate of max. allow. investment sharper estimate of max. allow. investment
could be made by assuming that about could be made by assuming that about
 t_0 Oc of the margin is available for capital i hvestnent.

4. Thermodynamic properties

The system is characterised by high pressures, low temperatures and hydrocarbons with low carbon numbers.

4.1 Thermodynamic model selection

There are many thermodynamic models available for systems containing hydrocarbons at various pressures. Of these, the cubic equations of state developed by Soave-Redlich-Kwong (1972) and Peng-Robinson (1976) and their modifications are the most frequently used [24] and are the most accurate of the cubic equations of state [25]. The Peng-Robinson equation of state is the best for use at low temperature [26]. It is also used for N_2 , CO_2 and H_2S , the major non-hydrocarbons in the system. Given these facts the Peng-Robinson cubic equation of state is the thermodynamic model selected for the process.

4.2 Data validation

Peng and Robinson have validated their equation of state for all components in the feed mixture for temperature ranges of 116.5-283.2 K for methane and nitrogen to 297.0-588.7 K for n-octane, using pressures ranging from 13 up to about 100 bar [27]. The highest pressure in the system is 190 bara for the sales gas. Though this exceeds the maximum pressures at which Peng and Robinson validated their equation no separations are performed at this high pressure, only compression and expansion. The feed also has a pressure above 100 bar. Again, only dehydration and expansion occur at this pressure. Most separation steps in the process are performed at or below 30 bara, weil within the range of pressure validated by [28]. The temperatures at the various separation steps are weIl within the validated range. Therefore it is assumed that the Peng-Robinson model will give an adequate description of the processes that occur, even above the pressure range of [27].

Comparison of various Pxy-diagrams generated by Chemcad III with the Peng-Robinson model and diagrams from the literature [28] showed no great deviations. For an arbitrarily chosen temperature of 283.15 K the Pxy-diagrams are given in appendix 5-7, figures 1-4, comparing literature and calculated values for ethane/propane and $CO₂/eth$ ane mixtures. The deviations are not significant and the model can be used.

S. Process structure and description

S.l Criteria and selection

The basic block scheme, presented in chapter 2 and appendix 2-2, can now be used to develop a process flow scheme. In the previous chapters, various design criteria and aspects have been mentioned. This information is now used to determine the choice of the following design elements:

- Unit operations.
- Process conditions.
- Heat integration.
- Start up, shut down and turndown.

5.1.1 Unit operations

The appropriate equipment can now be selected, following the block scheme. For detailed selection procedures of the equipment and design aspects, the reader is referred to chapter 8. what is the tash to be done $\Delta(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{T}, \mathbb{X})$

Dehydration unit /

The dehydration unit has to be designed to remove all water from the feed, to prevent $h \circ \omega$ deep freezing out and the formation of hydrates.

Methods to remove water from the feed include $[6,15]$ absorption in substances such as glycol, methanol (IFPEXOL) or selexol. Also adsorption on molecular sieves or other adsorbents is possible. A relatively new method is membrane separation. Membranes are not suitable for application in this process. Because of the high feedrates they would be very large and cause a big pressure drop. Membranes also give a considerable loss in methane and ethane [23].

The Selexol (physical) absorbent can only dehydrate a gas stream to around 150 ppmwt [6], while the processes using glycol and methanol can achieve concentrations of <1 ppmwt [6]. Molecular sieves, as the best solid adsorbents, can also achieve concentrations below 0.1 ppmwt [15,29].

The glycol-processes are quite complex, using a lot of equipment. The methanolprocess is operated at 305 K, too high above feed gas temperature.

Molecular sieves can remove all free water in the process. Also, they operate more efficiently at low temperatures and high pressures [31].

Therefore molecular sieves are chosen to remove the water from the feed. There is also a choice in the type of sieve used [30]. The most widely used synthetic zeolites are 3A, 4A and SA. These are molecular sieves with different cations, respectively potassium, sodium and calcium. These different cations result in different sizes of openings into the main cavity of the zeolite due to the sizes and valences of the cations. In these zeolites the openings are about 3, 4 and 5 À respectively. Due to the small opening in molecular sieve 3A it is the only one that excludes most molecules, except water. The 4A adsorbs methane, ethane and propane and the SA also absorbs higher hydrocarbons. The 3A molecular sieve is a little more expensive, but lasts a year longer (four instead of three years) [30].

To reduce the propane and other hydrocarbon loss, while still removing all the free water from the feedstream, the 3A molecular sieve will be chosen.

Design criteria for the molsieves include a maximum pressure drop of 0.5 bar and a minimum need for sales gas to regenerate. Also a minimum LID has been defined, to pre vent the bed from becoming "pancake" shaped.

The influence on following process will be a small temperature rise $(< 1 K)$, loss of methane, ethane, propane (due to hold up of the feed) and the need for part of the sales gas stream for regeneration.

Turbo-expanders $\Delta(p, \top, \underline{Y})$

The expansion of the feed from very high to moderate pressures can be done by a flash or a Joule Thompson valve. These methods have one major disadvantage: all of the work is lost. The use of normal expanders would be a solution, but the expansion causes temperature drop, which causes the formation of a liquid phase. Normal expanders can only handle vapour phase. Therefore a special type of expander is needed: the turbo-expander. This apparatus can handle liquid fractions up to 40 %wt (appendix 9-3). The work of the expander can either be used to generate electricity or to compress another process stream. In this process two expanders are used, both integrated with a sales gas compressor. The feed is expanded in two steps because of the higher efficiency obtained when using two expansionsteps. This was evaluated using Chemcad III.

The expanders are designed for a maximum liquid fraction of 25 %wt. (appendix 9-2) The maximum suction capacity is $10,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$.

The efficiency of the expansion process is estimated to be 0.85, the efficiency of the compression 0.75 [32].

Because of the limited suction capacity, the two turbo-expanders are placed in parallel to prevent the use of extra compressors.

Sales gas compressor

The two turbo-expanders do not have enough power to compress the sales gas to the specified 190 bar. Therefore, an extra compressor is needed. The efficiency of the compression is 0.85 [32].

Plate-fin heat exchanger

When optimising the process, the possibility of combining several streams into one heat exchanger was examined. Because the temperature of the sales gas stream is not limited, five streams could be combined in one heat exchanger. This heat exchanger not only provides heat integration, but also saves the use of separate heat exchangers. The use of a compact heat exchanger combines 5 heat exchangers in one piece of equipment. Plate-fin heat exchangers are a type of compact heat exchangers, consisting of a stack of flat plates (parting sheets) and corrugations, brazed together as a block [33]. A Plate-fin heat exchanger has several advantages over other types of heat exchangers, including [33,34,35]:

- High thermal effectiveness and very close temperature approaches.
- Large heat transfer surface per unit volume.
- Compactness and low weight, which reduces space and foundation requirements.
- Possibility of heat exchange between many process streams, including evaporating or condensing streams.
- Freedom in design with multi-stream and several possible geometries.

The design of the plate-fin heat exchanger is based on a minimum temperature difference of 5 K and maximum block dimensions of 0.6xO.9x6.2 m. [33]

Separators

The separators serve to separate the liquid from the vapour after liquid has formed in the expansion or cooling steps. Three separators are needed in this process. Two separators are placed after the two turbo-expanders. The third one is used to create the reflux to the deethaniser. Frequently used types of liquid-vapour separators are gravity separators, impingement separators (e.g. vane-type) and filter separators. The separators used in this process are vane-type separators, because higher possible velocities enable the use of smaller columns. They also have a low pressure drop.

Absorber

To remove more propane from the sales gas and remove ethane from the C_3^* -stream at the same time, an absorber is used. The topstream of the deethaniser is cooled and the gas fraction is mixed with the already existing sales gas stream. This stream still contains propane, while the liquidstream from the second expansion step still contains too much ethane. To remove excess propane from the sales gas and ethane from the stream entering the deethaniser, an absorber is installed in the process. It is designed to recover as much propane as possible from the sales gas stream.

Deethaniser

To separate the sales gas from the C_3^* -stream, a deethaniser is used. Membranes have been considered, but selectivity would not be sufficient and there would be considerable losses of methane, ethane and propane. Secondly, the plant capacity is much larger (about 2 times) than the largest plant, currently operating with membrane technology. The deethaniser will separate sales gas from the C_3^+ -stream, with a C_2/C_3 ratio of 1 %wt. This is estimated to make sure that the C_2/C_3 -ratio in C_3 -product is within the specifications. The distillation column will be optimised for high recovery and low reboiler duty.

C3 + **fractionating**

The bottom product from the deethaniser is fractionated in a depropaniser and a debutaniser. It is possible to carry out this separation in one column, a divided wall column (Petlyuk). This Petlyuk column shows considerable energy savings in several cases [20]. But it can only compete with the two-column system in those cases where the concentration of the middle component is high, the split between the first and second components is harder than the split between the second and the third component, and the required separation is not too sharp [21,22]. In this case the concentration of the middle component is not very high and the required separation is sharp (recoveries over 99% and purities over 98%). Due to these facts, the use of a Petlyuk column is not possible in this process.

Depropaniser

In the depropaniser, the C_3 - fraction is recovered from the heavy hydrocarbon stream. The depropaniser is designed to give a high propane recovery in combination with low reboiler and condenser duties.

Debutaniser

To separate the butanes from the C_4^+ -stream, a debutaniser is used. The bottom product is sold as condensates. The design is based on high recovery with low reboiler and condenser duties.

Pumps

Six pumps in this process are used to transport fluids. Only one pump is used to raise the pressure of the propane product stream. Standard pumps are used in the process; there's no need for special equipment in this case.

The design criteria for the pumps are:

- Maximum capacity of a centrifugal pump is $1000 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$.
- Minimum capacity of a centrifugal pump is $0.25 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$.

Product coolers

To meet their specifications (chapter 3.3.1), the products and the sales gas stream have to be cooled before leaving the plant. Cooling can be done by using air- or water coolers. Air-cooled exchangers are the best choice for minimum process temperatures above 338 K. Since all product streams have to be cooled below 338 K, water-cooled exchangers are needed to cool the products.

The heat exchangers are designed with the following criteria:

- Minimum temperature difference of 7 K.
- Maximum allowable pressure drop of 0.2 bar.
- Maximum exchanger area of 600 m^2 .

With the selected equipment, the block scheme has now developed into a process flow scheme. It is presented in appendix 1-1.

5.1.2 Process conditions

The process conditions in the flow scheme were estimated by reasonabie engineering judgement and comparison with literature and patents. Using the first estimations [6,9,10], the process was optimised for maximum propane recovery. After a rough optimum in propane recovery was reached, the process was optimised for minimum compressor and reboiler duties, including basic economical evaluation. In appendix 7 -1, a sensitivity analysis is shown. It also shows the final optimisation steps. Process improvements (compared to patents and literature) are mainly achieved due to the use of two expansion steps, various feedstreams to the deethaniser, heat integration, splitting the reflux from the deethaniser to use as reflux and wash liquid in the absorber and finding the optimal process conditions for these items. The results will be explained in the following paragraph.

Pressures

The product streams have to meet with their specified output pressures. The sales gas has to be pressurised to 190 bara, propane has a pressure specification of 21 bara. Butane and C_5 ⁺ require pressures of 9 and 8 bara respectively. The sales gas compressor is used to compress the sales gas after it has been compressed in the turbo-expanders. The pressure in the depropaniser is not the same as the specified pressure for the propane product. The feed of the depropaniser is depressurised to 16 bara. This pressure level was chosen to have a sufficiently high temperature in the top of the depropaniser to be able to operate the condenser with surface water. The pressure of the feed of the debutaniser is the same as the specified output pressure of the butanes.

The operating pressure of the process can not be too low, because sales gas compression is a very expensive process step, and the sales gas has to be recompressed to 190 bar. The selected pressures are given in table 5.1.

Table 5 1: Selected process pressures

Temperatures

Not all temperatures in the process can be influenced. The ones that can be influenced are bound by certain limits. The temperatures of the streams in the plate fin heat exchanger must be carefully chosen to avoid a pinch. AIso, a minimum temperature difference of 5 K between the process streams in the coldbox has to be taken into account. The process temperatures are optimised in appendix 7-1, a summary is given in table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Selected process temperatures

Trays

In the different columns, the number of trays is optimised to gain the highest recovery. The location of the feedtrays is optimised by comparing feed compositions with the actual tray compositions. The feedtrays are located in parts of the column with matching compositions. For this optimisation, the theoretical number of trays and location of these trays is considered. For actual number of trays and their locations, the reader is referred to chapter 8.2.8.

The number of trays and feed tray locations are optimised in appendix 7-1, the results are given in table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Tray amounts and locations

Splitters

Two splitters are used in the process. One to create the deethaniser top reflux stream, and one to match the work of the turbo-expanders.

The splitfactor for the deethaniser was optimised to achieve the highest recovery, before the sales gas compressor was considered. The splitfactor is not optimised for the lowest overall costs, so this may not be the optimal choice. The used splitfactors are given in table 5.4. Por detailes the reader is referred to appendix 7-1.

Table 5.4: Splitfactors

Splitter	Stream number	Split factor
Reflux/	<19>	0.53
absorber	<18>	0.47
Turbo-	29	0.61
compressors	<30>	39

5.1.3 Heat integration

For heat integration the process can be split into three parts:

- NOL extraction (the part up to the deethaniser).
- NOL fractionation (deethaniser, depropaniser, debutaniser and all appendages).
- Compression and cooling of the sales gas.

The last two parts can be grouped for heat integration.

During the design stage of the process all process streams for the NOL extraction (the part up to the deethaniser) were equipped with heat exchangers to control the temperature. At first, the process was roughly optimised. At this point the duties of the various exchangers were compared and temperatures matched to eliminate the need for external refrigeration.

In the first part complete heat integration was realised in a coldbox. The optimal conditions for integrated outlet temperatures were established and the need for external refrigeration was eliminated. This can be seen in the composite heat curves in appendix 7-2. This appendix also shows the pinch temperatures of 257 K hot and 250 K cold.

In the remaining two parts all temperatures are above the pinch temperature. All heat is added in the reboilers. There are no streams that need to be condensed at temperatures above any of the temperatures of the reboilers. Since heat transfer to a reboiler using only sensible heat (e.g. partially heating reboiler E02 with hot sales gas) will lead to huge pieces of equipment, there is no room for heat integration on the hot side.

All cooling is performed in two condensers and four coolers, operating at temperatures above 310 K, with reasonably large duties. There are only several streams in this section that could be heated $\left($ <45> and <55>, the feed streams to the depropaniser and the deethaniser.) The sales gas cooler and both condensers need more cooling than can be given by <45> and <55>. Secondly, the condensers operate at temperatures too low to make use of $\langle 45 \rangle$ or $\langle 55 \rangle$ for cooling. Also the C₃- and C4-product coolers could not be cooled by these streams, because they operate at temperatures below that of $\langle 45 \rangle$ and $\langle 55 \rangle$. Only the sales gas cooler and C₅+-product coolers could be partially cooled by stream <45> or <55>. Because this would not be

complete and would mean extra heat exchangers or complicated multistream exchangers, this has not been further evaluated.

Therefore all heat is supplied by LP-steam and all cooling is achieved by cooling water in the NGL fractionation part and in the sales gas treating part. This will be further discussed in chapter 5-4.

5.1.4 Start up, shut down and turndown

Start up and shut down

During start up special care has to be taken to get the molsieve beds into the correct adsorption and regeneration cycle. If start up takes longer than 10 hours, dry, warm gas wil! be needed. It may be necessary to expand the feed to a lower pressure to generate more cold during the start up.

During shut down the sales gas compressor will have a higher duty, due to the absence of compression by the turbo-expanders.

Special (dynamic) control will be necessary during start up and shut down. This has not been taken into consideration in the design. The most important element in the start up and shut down will be knowledgeable and experienced personne!.

Turn down

In case of lower feedrates the process can be turned down. A ration of 50 % is taken as maximum turndown.

For the molecular sieve beds it means less flow and therefore lower superficial velocities. This results in longer adsorption times, or shorter regeneration times. A higher pressure drop will result (0.65 bar max.) from this, but its influence is smal!. For turbo-expanders and compressors turndown is no problem. Their operational range is 0-125 % (appendix 9-3) of the design flow.

Assuming all flows decrease by the same factor the cold box will only suffer during turndown, but will operate with no problems in the next steady-state. Because there are several cold box-units operating in parallel it is possible to shut down one or two. Heat exchangers can operate with smaller velocities and lower duties, without any problems.

Separators are not significantly influenced by turndown, except for operating more efficient, due to lower vapour velocities.

Pumps and compressors can run at lower duties. They can operate within the range of $0-125$ % of the design.

The difficulties arise from smaller flows through the distillation columns and the absorber. Therefore valve trays have been chosen for use as column internals. With smaller flow part of the valves will close to keep approximately the same flow. Reboiler and condenser duties could decrease, e.g. by not using parallel units, and reflux ratios could be adjusted. The reflux to the deethaniser can be adjusted by flow control in <19>.

5.2 Process flow scheme

The process flow scheme can be found in appendix 1-1 and is inserted in this report for convenience. The process feed , <01>, is directed into the battery of molecular sieve beds (SOl, S02, and S03). Two of these beds will be in use at a given time, while one is being regenerated by stream <43>. Therefore the feed is split in two equal streams to be fed to the beds. The temperature and pressure of regeneration
stream <43> are not defined, because they vary with time, due to the regeneration cycle.

The dehydrated feed, $\langle 02 \rangle$, is fed to the expander side of turbo-expander 1 (K01) and expanded to 72.5 bara. This is done to cool the feed, condense the heavier components and lower the pressure for the plate fin heat exchanger. Condensing could be accomplished by cooling alone, but the necessary refrigeration has to come from the process to eliminate the need for external refrigeration. This refrigeration comes from the vapour stream from C01, $\langle 20 \rangle$, and the liquid stream $\langle 07 \rangle$. If, however, $<$ 20 $>$ is fed to the sales gas compressor (K02) at too high a temperature the compression is less efficient, resulting in a higher compressor duty for K02. Expansion to 72.5 bara gives sufficient cooling that the temperature of the sales gas does not increase unnecessarily and is within the range of the plate fin heat exchanger. The expanded feed from K01, \langle 03 \rangle , is cooled in the cold box (E01). This is done by transferring heat to the expanded liquid from VOl, <07>. Extra cooling is provided by the vapour from C_01 , <20 . This cold box also acts as condenser for the vapour from the deethaniser (C02), <23>. The liquids from V02, <12>, and the vapour from COl, <20>, supply the extra cooling needed. The dotted lines show the streams within the cold box.

The cooled feed, $\langle 04 \rangle$, is partially liquid. In L/V separator 1 (V01) $\langle 04 \rangle$ is separated in vapour, <05>, and liquid, <06>. The pressure of <06> is reduced to 30 bara, by using a Joules-Thompson valve, <07>. This causes a decrease in temperature. Due to this lower temperature, $\langle 07 \rangle$ can be used for cooling the feed $\langle 03 \rangle$ in the cold box (EOI).

The vapour from VOl, <05>, is expanded in turbo-expander 2 (K03) to 30 bara. At this pressure separation in the deethaniser (C02) is possible, but the pressure is high enough as not to cause excessive duties in the sales gas compressor (K02). The expanded stream from K03, <09>, is partially liquid. This is separated in L/V separator 2 (V02). The liquid from V02, \langle 11>, is fed to the cold box (E01) to condense the vapour from COl, <23>. The vapour, <10>, is mixed with the vapour from UV separator 3 (V03), <14>, and fed to absorber COl, <17>.

UV separator 3, V03, receives vapour, <23>, from the deethaniser (C02), after being partially condensed in the cold box (EOI), <26>. The vapour from V03, <14>, is mixed with the vapour from V02, <10>, and fed to absorber COl, <17>. The liquid from V03, <15>, is split 0.47/0.53 into streams <18> and <19>. Stream <18> is fed to the absorber as wash liquid. Stream <19> is fed to the deethaniser (C02) as reflux. The absorber (C01) is fed by liquid stream <18 $>$ at the top and vapour stream <17 $>$ at the bottom. The vapour stream, <20>, constitutes the sales gas and is fed to cold box EO1 to provide part of the necessary refrigeration. The liquid bottoms, $\langle 21 \rangle$, are fed to the deethaniser (C02).

The deethaniser (C02) is fed by four streams, <19>, <22>, <13> and <08> at theoretical trays 1, 8, 12 and 16. The vapour topproduct, $\langle 23 \rangle$, is sent to the cold box (E01) and fed to UV separator V03, <26>. The bottoms, <44>, are fed to the depropaniser (C03), after being depressurised to 16 bara, <45>. This pressure level was chosen to have a sufficiently high temperature in the top of the depropaniser (C03) to be able to cool with surface water. The reboiler E02 supplies the heat necessary for the separation in deethaniser C02.

The sales gas stream, $\langle 24 \rangle$, exiting the cold box (E01) is split and fed to the two turbo-expanders (K01 and K03). The split is $0.60/0.40$ for streams <27> and <29>. During the cooling cycle there wi11 also be gas flowing through <25> back to the molecular sieve beds, <43>. Streams <27> and <29> are combined to <31>, which is compressed in sales gas compressor (K02). Part of the resulting sales gas, $\langle 32 \rangle$, is drawn off, <35>, to be used as dry, hot heating stream for the molecular sieve beds and possibly as fuel. The rest, $\langle 33 \rangle$, is cooled in the sales gas cooler (E05), $\langle 34 \rangle$ and is the sales gas product.

The sales gas used for heating, <35>, can be split to use part of it, <36>, for fuel, after reducing the pressure, <38>. The rest, <37>, is heated in the furnace/stack (FOl), after the pressure has been let down, <39>. The resulting hot stream, <42>/<43>, is fed to the molecular sieve bed being regenerated and picks up the water from the bed, <41>. This stream, <40>, is burned in the furnace/stack (F01), along with any fuelgas, <38>. If the molecular sieve bed being regenerated is dry, it has to be cooled. This is done by stream <25>/<43>, which is heated in the process to <41>. This stream is also burned. This means furnace F01 operates as fired heater and stack.

The depropaniser (C03) is fed by <45>. The vapours, <46>, are condensed in condenser E03, <48>, and stored in reflux accumulator V04. Stream <49>, exiting the accumulator is split into reflux, <50>, and low pressure, hot C3-product, <52>. The required reflux ratio is 1.988. The low pressure, hot C3-product, <52>, is raised in pressure by pump P05, <53>, and cooled in E09 to C3-product specification, <54>. The bottoms, <47>, of the depropaniser (C03) are let down in pressure to 9 bara, <55>, and fed to the debutaniser (C04). This is the pressure required for the C5+ product. Reboiler E04 supplies the heat for separation in the depropaniser (C03). The vapours, <56>, of the debutaniser (C04) are condensed in condenser E06, <58>, and stored in reflux accumulator V03. Stream <59>, exiting the accumulator, is split into reflux, $\langle 62 \rangle$, and hot C₄-product, $\langle 60 \rangle$. The reflux ration is 1.956. The hot C₄product, $\langle 60 \rangle$, is cooled in E10 to product specification, $\langle 61 \rangle$. The bottoms from the debutaniser (C04), <57>, are cooled in E08, <63>, and let down in pressure to C5+ product specification, <64>. Reboiler E07 supplies the heat for separation in the debutaniser (C04).

Pumps POl through P04 and P06 are used solely to correct for pressure drop and supply the pressure to raise the liquids to the various pieces of equipment. The bottoms of VOl, C02, C03 and C04 do not require pumps as there is pressure drop available to cause the liquids to flow.

In the process flow scheme given in appendix 1-1, no pressure drops are shown for ease of reading. For true pressures, the reader is referred to appendix 5-2, process stream summary.

5.3 Process stream summary

The process stream summary is given in appendix 5-2 and the calculation of the process feed is given in appendix 8-1. Table 5.5 shows the total mass balance.

Stream	No. :				34+40+54+61+64		
	Name:	Total Plant, In		Total Plant, Out		Total Plant, Out-In	
Comp.	Mol.wt	kg/s	Kmol/s	kg/s	kmol/s	kg/s	kmol/s
N2	28.01	0.78	0.0277	0.78	0.0277	0.00	0.0000
CH ₄	16.04	90.59	5.6479	90.59	5.6479	0.00	0.0000
C ₂ H ₆	30.07	17.16	0.5707	17.16	0.5707	0.00	0.0000
CO ₂	44.01	10.27	0.2333	10.27	0.2334	0.00	0.0000
H ₂ S	34.08	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
C3H8	44.10	11.41	0.2586	11.41	0.2586	0.00	0.0000
$I-C4H10$	58.12	2.54	0.0437	2.54	0.0437	0.00	0.0000
$N-C4H10$	58.12	4.55	0.0784	4.55	0.0784	0.00	0.0000
$I-C5H12$	72.15	1.63	0.0225	1.63	0.0225	0.00	0.0000
$N-C5H12$	72.15	1.65	0.0229	1.65	0.0229	0.00	0.0000
$N-C6H14$	86.18	1.46	0.0170	1.46	0.0170	0.00	0.0000
N-C7H16	100.20	0.83	0.0083	0.83	0.0083	0.00	0.0000
H2O	18.02	0.04	0.0024	0.04	0.0024	0.00	0.0000
N-C8H18	114.23	0.24	0.0021	0.24	0.0021	0.00	0.0000
Total		143.16	6.9357	143.16	6.9357	0.00	0.0000
Enthalpy	MW	-648		-635		13	

Table 5.5: Overall Component Mass Balance & Stream Heat balance

It can be seen that the design is consistent. Also it can be seen that a total of 13 MW is added to the streams. This amount is the sum of all heat removed in the condensers and coolers subtracted from the heat added by reboilers, the sales gas compressor and the heat evolved by burning the regeneration stream. In appendix 5-3 the heat and mass balances can be found.

5.4 Utilities

Appendix 5-4 gives the summary of the utilities used.

Heat is normally fed to a process in the form of low-, medium- or high-pressure steam (LP-, MP- and HP-steam). Because the reboilers (E02, E04 and E07) are operated at 378,390 and 401 K respectively the heat can be supplied by LP-steam. This has a temperature of 423 K (appendix 5-6).

Reboilers E02, E04 and E07 use respectively 55, 27 and 18 % of the total heat fed to the process. It is clearly shown here that reducing the duty of reboiler E02 has great influence on the process economics.

MP- and HP-steam could be used to decrease the size of the reboilers, but it is assumed that the operating costs are most important and therefore LP-steam is chosen to supply heat to the reboilers.

Cooling in a process is normally achieved by air- or water-cooling, if possible. Only at low temperatures a refrigeration loop should be installed. It is assumed that a refrigeration loop is expensive to operate and not necessary for the temperatures required . It is usually economical to apply air-cooling when process temperatures

exceed 338 K [36, p. 689] this is therefore not applicable to this process. At temperatures up to 323 K it is most economical to use cooling water $[36, p. 689]$. The condensers (E02 and E06) operate at 319 and 343 K and the coolers (E05, E08, E09 and $E10$) at 322, 310, 310 and 310 K at the outlet respectively. Cooling water is available at 303 K and can be discarded at a maximum of 311 K. Therefore all cooling can be accomplished by cooling water. In this text, cooling water means surface water, not chilled water, as chilled water is assumed to be too expensive. Condensers E02, E06 and coolers EOS, E08, E09 and ElO account for 23, 14,58,3, 1 and 1% of the total heat removed from the process respectively. This shows that the effect of amount of heat removed in the sales gas cooler has a great influence on the process economics. This is directly coupled to the duty of the sales gas compressor, as it causes the temperature rise of the sales gas.

Given the allowable temperature rise of the cooling water, the condenser E02 and sales gas cooler EOS use large streams of cooling water (1.1 and 2.8 ton/h respectively) and are actually several heat exchangers in parallel (3 and 2 parallel units respectively). It could be economical to make condenser E06 an air-cooled condenser, due to the high temperature, but that would have to follow from a detailed economical evaluation. This is beyond the scope of this report. Also sales gas cooler EOS, C5+ cooler E08 and C4 cooler ElO could be part air cooler, part water cooler, or partially cooled by stream <45> and <55>. It might even be economical to install a separate loop to produce cooling water, in which cooling water of a higher temperature could be allowed. Even returning the water at 313 K reduces the amount of cooling water by \sim 20 %. Once again this would require a detailed economic evaluation beyond the scope of this report.

The electricity requirements in the process are completely dominated by the duty of the sales gas compressor K02. This compressor accounts for practically 100 % of the electricity usage. The six pumps in the process combined only use 52 kW. Given the large electricity consumption in the process the sales gas compressor K02 is the place to achieve cost reductions. The usage of the six pumps is negligible and not a place to look for cost reduction.

It is therefore important not to feed the compressor with gas that is too hot. This will cause the temperature to rise too far, due to a larger volume at higher temperature. Furthermore, it is important to match the streams to the turbocompressors with their respective duties, so their outlet pressures are equal. Use of the sales gas compressor can not be avoided, as the sales gas has to be discharged at 190 bara. Only operating the process at higher pressure and using more efficient turbo-expanders/compressors reduces the duty of the sales gas compressor.

5.5 Process yields

The process yields, with simplified block scheme can be found in appendix 2-2. It can be seen that a large amount of electricity and cooling water is used. The reasons for this are given above and in appendix 5-5.

The overall C3-recovery is 97 %. This is high compared to other similar plant recoveries [37]. The C3-product has a flow rate of 80 sm^3 /h. Compared to the total propane produced in the US in 1985 [38], this is 6.5 % and compared to the total propane production outside the US, it is 3.4 %. The production of propane by this plant is 2.3 % of the total production of propane in the world. (This is under the assumption that the abbreviation prop. denotes propane and its units are given under the same standard conditions as the calculated values.) The total propane production is produced in 1323 plants world-wide [38].

The overall C₄-recovery is 99 %, with a flow rate of 44 sm³/h. This is 6.1 % of the total production of C_4 in the US and 3.0 % of the C_4 production in the world (in 1985) [38].

The overall C_5^+ -recovery is 98 %, with a flow rate of 32 sm³/h. This can not be compared to US or world production, as C_5^+ is not as defined as the other streams. These amounts appear to be quite large and would lead to a huge impact on the market if less than 0.1 % of the plants has a market share of over 6 %. It should however be kept in mind, that these figures are given for 1985. In comparison, the production of NOL increased by 21 % between 1989 and 1998 [39]. Therefore this production level, though still quite large, should not have such a drastic effect on the market situation.

According to [6] there are 12 plants using the turbo-expander process in operation, with capacities up to 400 MMscfd and propane recoveries of 95 %. The process presented in this report is slightly better in performance and has a higher capacity (around 500 MMscfd).

6. Process control

In the process the following type of controllers are used:

- Flow control.
- Pressure control.
- Quality control.
- Temperature control.
- Level control.

The incoming gas stream, <01>, is flow controlled, so the specified turndown ratio can be accomplished and to prevent a feed stream larger than the plant can handle. The feed gas is led through the molecular sieve beds (S01, S02 and S03). These beds are quality controlled by a hygrometer to make sure that the water concentration in the stream, <02>, is low enough to prevent freezing of water in the process. If the concentration of water is too high, the molecular sieve bed in use is shutdown and another molecular sieve is used. The quality control will also start the regeneration cycle.

The turbo-expanders (KOl and K03) have pressure controls on the expander-side to be able to adjust the outlet pressure of the expander. The outlet pressure of the expander determines the temperature of the outlet stream, which is very important for the cryogenic cooling in the onstream process. AIso, in case of an expander trip, the pressure control will register the trip and a Joule-Thompson valve will be used to make it possible to keep the process running.

All vessels or columns containing liquid have a level control to prevent gas leaving at the bottom of the vessel. The reflux accumulator vessels (V04 and VOS) have a level control, which adjusts the product streams $\left\langle \text{<52>} \text{ and } \text{<61>}\right\rangle$. By adjusting these streams, the reflux-control of the distillation column can be maintained at original settings.

The accumulated vapour streams of the liquid-vapour separators $(\langle 10 \rangle$ and $(\langle 14 \rangle)$ are flow controlled to prevent entrainment in the absorber.

The absorber (COl) and deethaniser (C02) are pressure controlled to be able to adjust the process pressure in combination with the turbo-expanders.

The distillation columns (C02, C03 and C04) are temperature controlled to be able to adjust the specifications of the bottom stream leaving the column. The temperature control will adjust the setpoint of the flowcontrol of the reboiler to accomplish a change of column temperature. The setpoint of the temperature control has to be given by the engineers. (A more advanced option is using inline quality controls in the product streams, which can adjust the setpoints of the temperature controls of the columns.)

All reboilers (E02, E04 and E07) are flow controlled to be able to adjust the amount of heat transferred to the distillation column. The setpoint of the flow controller is given by the temperature control of the column.

The depropaniser (C03) and the debutaniser (C04) have a pressure control to make sure all vapour leaving the column is condensed in the condensor. Therefore the pressure control can adjust the cooling water flow. The pressure control can not be used to adjust the top specifications directly.

The reflux streams of the depropaniser and the debutaniser (≤ 51) and ≤ 62) are flowcontrolled to be able to adjust the reflux stream. Adjustment of the reflux stream is the only direct way of changing the top specifications of the columns

All product stream heat exchangers (EOS, E08, E09 and ElO) are temperature controlled to make sure the product streams are cooled to the specified delivery temperature. The temperature control will adjust the amount of cooling water used.

Pressure controls are used at the discharges of the C3 pump (POS) and the sales gas compressor (K02) to ensure the discharge pressure is equal to the specified pressure. In case of a pressure different from specification pressure the pressure control can adjust the duty of the pump or compressor.

The temperature control of the furnace (FOl) is placed to make sure the temperature of the gas used to dehydrate the molecular sieves is the right temperature. If the temperature is different of the specified temperature the amount of gas going through the furnace is adjusted.

Detailed control design has to be done by a control expert.

31

7. **Heat and mass balances**

Table 7.1 shows the total mass and heat balance for the total process streams.

STREAM No.					34+40+54+61+64		
	Name	Total Plant, In		Total Plant, Out		Total Plant, Out-In	
COMP	Mol. wt.	kg/s	kmol/s	kg/s	kmol/s	kg/s	kmol/s
N2	28.01	0.78	0.0277	0.78	0.0277	0.00	0.0000
CH ₄	16.04	90.59	5.6479	90.59	5.6479	0.00	0.0000
C2H6	30.07	17.16	0.5707	17.16	0.5707	0.00	0.0000
CO ₂	44.01	10.27	0.2333	10.27	0.2334	0.00	0.0000
H ₂ S	34.08	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
C3H8	44.10	11.41	0.2586	11.41	0.2586	0.00	0.0000
$I-C4H10$	58.12	2.54	0.0437	2.54	0.0437	0.00	0.0000
$N-C4H10$	58.12	4.55	0.0784	4.55	0.0784	0.00	0.0000
IC5H12	72.15	1.63	0.0225	1.63	0.0225	0.00	0.0000
$N-C5H12$	72.15	1.65	0.0229	1.65	0.0229	0.00	0.0000
$N-C6H14$	86.18	1.46	0.0170	1.46	0.0170	0.00	0.0000
$N-C7H16$	100.20	0.83	0.0083	0.83	0.0083	0.00	0.0000
H2O	18.02	0.04	0.0024	0.04	0.0024	0.00	0.0000
N-C8H18	114.23	0.24	0.0021	0.24	0.0021	0.00	0.0000
Total		143.16	6.9357	143.16	6.9357	0.00	0.0000
Enthalpy	MW	-648		-635		13	

Table 7.1. Overall component mass balance & stream heat balance

It can be seen that it is consistent. Also it can be seen that a total of 13 MW is added to the streams. This amount is the sum of all heat removed in the condensers and coolers subtracted from the heat added by reboilers, the sales gas compressor and the heat evolved by burning the regeneration stream.

This is shown in appendix 5-3, where the heat and mass balances for every piece of equipment can be seen. Here the mass and heat flows in the process are also in balance, at least within 0.1 % error, the chosen tolerance in Chemcad III. Therefore the design is consistent.

8. Process and equipment design

In chapter 5 the equipment was selected and the design criteria were given. In this chapter the process is simulated and the equipment will be sized according to the performance data of the flowsheet calculations. Furthermore, background information about decision points for process and equipment design will be given. Summaries of all used equipment can be found in appendix 3.

8.1 Integration by process simulation

Chemcad III, version 3.3 is used for all process simulations from the dehydrated feed onward. Only simulation of the two turbo-expanders could not be accomplished in one piece of equipment. It had to be simulated by selecting an expander and a compressor and manually supplying the actual power of the expander to its compressor counterpart. The compounds used are weIl known and their properties are well documented. No problems occurred in using Chemcad III, except for simulation of the reflux heat exchanger and interstage reboilers in the distillation columns. For applications above the critical temperature the Boston-Mathias extrapolation for alpha-function was used. By generating phase envelopes (appendix 7-3) it was checked that retrograde condensation did not occur in the expanders or valves.

8.2 Equipment selection and design

The equipment will be sized based on the stated design criteria. Only results are given in this chapter, detailed calculations are given in appendix 8.

8.2.1 Design of a molecular sieve bed to remove water from the feed

The molecular sieve bed removes all free water (exit concentration 0.1 ppmwt) at entrance temperature and pressure. The design characteristics for the molecular sieve bed are given in the following tabie:

Equipment selection

The most widely used synthetic zeolites are 3A, 4A and 5A, which have openings of about 3, 4 and 5 À respectively. Due to the small opening in molecular sieve 3A it is the only one that excludes most molecules, except water. The 4A adsorbs methane, ethane and propane and the 5A also absorbs higher hydrocarbons. Though the 3A molecular sieve is more expensive (25 %), it lasts a year longer (4 years instead of 3) and hydrocarbon losses are only 11 % of the losses with a 4A sieve [30]. To reduce the propane and other hydrocarbon loss, while still removing all the free water from the feedstream, the 3A molecular sieve will be chosen.

Material of construction

The feed of the molecular sieve contains water and hydrogen sulphide. Therefore the molecular sieve is placed in a vessel consisting of carbon steel, because it is resistant to water and the low concentrations of hydrogen sulphide, is strong enough and relatively cheap.

Calculation method

The molecular sieve beds have been designed using estimations/equations given by Trent [16,30]. The literature by Trent is not meant as a design manual, but is used due to complete lack of experimental data for the given stream.

The feed gas/regeneration gas properties are calculated by the flowsheeting program Chemcad III. Adsorption is the basis of the equations given by Trent [16,30]. Adsorption takes place in downflow [16]. This is done to ensure that the bed will not be fluidised.

Design criteria

The following criteria have been used for the design of the molecular sieve beds:

- Superficial gas velocity is 90 % of the maximum superficial velocity.
- Length/diameter ratio of is bed > 1.
- Maximum pressures drop of 0.5 bar.
- Minimisation of total flows for regeneration.

Calculation

The equilibrium adsorption capacity as given in table 8.1 is estimated from fig. 2 in [16] to be 0.19 kg/kg. In [31], fig. 5-19 it is given that the capacity drops 30 % in the first 200 cycles, but then levels off to last through 2000 cycles. Also a correction of 0.02 kg/kg has to be taken into account for residual water in the sieve. This leads to the assumed adsorption capacity of 0.113 kg/kg.

The porosity of the bed is estimated. The density of the bed is taken to be the average of the density range given in [16] and the rest of the characteristic variables are taken from the literature, ex cept the heat capacity, for which the heat capacity of a 4A molecular sieve [31] is used. The sieve is chosen to be 4-8 mesh beads [16]. The heat necessary for desorption of water is multiplied by 2.5 to correct for heat losses and heating of the bed [16]. The heating and cooling times are chosen to add up to half of the adsorbing time, so continuous operation is possible.

This results in the following operating conditions, with accompanying results (see also appendix 4):

Table 8.2: Operating conditions and results for the molsieve beds

* Gantt-diagram
* Design criteria and constraints = 5 + 451
* Design decision variables tast.

The heat liberated during adsorption is taken up by the feedgas. Due to the large flow of feedgas and high pressure the temperature in the bed does not increase [3 1]. Also the temperature of the feedgas does not increase appreciably $().$ Regeneration gasses flow upward through the bed, opposite to the direction of the feedgas being dehydrated. This is done to assure complete regeneration of the end of the bed, so the feedgas is totally dehydrated. Secondly, the superficial velocities during regeneration are smaller and therefore the risk of fluidising the bed is less. The regeneration temperature has been chosen above the atmospheric boiling point of water, but considering the fact that the regeneration gas is dry, this might not be necessary. On the other hand, normal regeneration temperatures are between 450 and 600 K [16]. The regeneration temperature is used to calculate the temperature difference between the bed and the heating stream. Therefore, initially heat will be transferred at a higher rate. During the cooling, the time-averaged temperature is used as the temperature of the bed. The bed will not be of uniform temperature, so initially more heat will be removed though towards the end of the cooling the heat-flux will be less. Due to temperature differences the adsorption might not be uniform throughout the bed. This is another reason for the direction of flow during regeneration to be opposite to the direction of the feedgas being dehydrated. Any loss of efficiency at the entrance of the bed is compensated by increased adsorption at the exit of the bed and

the unused part of the bed. Given the fact that a well-designed bed has a mass transfer zone (MTZ) of about 1 m [16] and the superficial velocity is below any fluidisation velocity, the design is satisfactory. Only the relatively large diameter of the bed is a cause of concern. In

comparison, usage of 4 or 5 beds in total leads to diameters of 2.1 and 1.8 m respectively. As stated above, this also gives a reduction of unused bed mass and a reduction in costs. This reduction is significant compared to the costs of extra beds, but the differences are in the order of several k\$ per load of sieve, which is negligible. The choice for the amount of beds has been given earlier. The large diameter is caused by a given volumetrie flowrate and calculated superficial velocity. Other literature [31] gives velocities up to twice as high as the calculated maximum superficial velocity. This would cause the bed diameter to be smaller by a factor $\sqrt{2}$. Therefore a specialist in the field of molecular sieve design should still be consulted for the design.

Regeneration will be accomplished by two different streams, as can be seen for the heating and cooling steps in the flow scheme appendix 1-2. Heating will take place by using part of the sales gas stream $\langle 35 \rangle$, and cooling will be done by stream $\langle 25 \rangle$. This choice is based on the high pressure and dryness of the sales gas stream and the desire for a more constant feed to the main compressor. It has to be heated to 700 K in a heater, fired with sales gas, the water-rich regeneration or cooling gas.

The cooling stream has been chosen for its low temperature. Cooling can not be achieved by the feedstream, because a temperature increase may lead to changes in coldbox design, compressor duty and water content of the feed to the process. AIso, the warmed cooling stream is not returned to the compressors, because of its elevated temperature. The elevated temperature increases the duty of the main compressor and the extra compression costs exceed the value of the "wasted" gas.

A problem, especially in control, is the difference in pressure between the heating and cooling streams (110 and 30 bara). This will require a controlled release of pressure from the bed before the cooling stream enters. Also the bed will have to be brought to the pressure of the feedstream by letting part of the feedstream in while not opening the exit valve. This will not lead to easy control.

Heating of the regeneration stream will be done in a heater fired by the waste stream from regeneration. These streams have net heating values of over 40 *MJlkg,* as calculated using Chemcad III. Therefore these streams should be sufficient to heat the stream needed for heating the bed during regeneration. It also means there should be no flow through the heater during the cooling step. If necessary, during for instanee the start up of the plant, the sales gas stream can be used in the heater to generate heat. The bed-life [30] is four years. Other literature [31] gives up to 4000 cycles as bedlife. This would mean the bed life is 9.5 years. Therefore the costs are a worst case. It is also possible to install a spare bed to use while the content of one of the beds is being replaced. This does not give a significant increase in costs (about 50 k\$), but allows continuous production in the process, even during sieve replacement. It does require the use of a larger plot size.

8.2.2 Design of a plate-fin heat exchanger $(E \circ l)$

Plate-fin heat exchangers (PFHE) are a type of compact heat exchangers, consisting of a stack of flat plates (called parting sheets) and corrugations, brazed together as a block. [33]

Plate-fin heat exchangers have the following advantages over other types of heat exchangers [34,35]:

- High thermal effectiveness and very close temperature approaches. $(< lK)$
- Large heat transfer surface per unit volume.
- Compactness which reduces space and foundation requirements.
- Low weight per unit heat transfer.
- Possibility of heat exchange between many process streams.
- Freedom in design with multi-stream and several possible geometries.
- No problems for two-phase process streams.
- A plate-fin heat exchanger can operate in true counterflow.

The main disadvantages of compact heat exchangers are [35]:

- The PFHE is not necessarily cheaper for a given duty than other heat exchangers, because constructing PFHEs is complex.
- A major constraint of compact heat exchangers is their limited size.
- Little operating experience.
- Aluminium is vulnerable to thermal stress.
- Possible maintenance problems of compact units.

The PFHE can be specified for temperatures ranging from near absolute zero to more than 1073 K, and for pressures up to at least 90 bar.

Compared to a shell and tube heat exchanger (carbon steel), an aluminium PFHE designed for a pressure around 70 bar has the following advantages:[33]

- About 1000 m² surface per m³, compared with around 300 m²/m³ for the shell and tube.
- One third of the equipment weight for a given volume.
- Significantly better heat transfer per surface.

Combination of these features gives the PFHE about 25 times more surface per equipment weight, than the shell and tube heat exchanger. In case of a small overall mean temperature difference compared to the temperature range of the streams, the PFHE has the advantage of true counterflow operation, unlike the shell and tube exchanger whose shellside flow is a mixture of cross- and counter-flow.

A plate fin heat exchanger has been selected for this process, because of

- High thermal efficiency required.
- Clean service in the process.
- Multiple streams to heat/cool.
- Condensing/evaporating streams.
- High-pressure operation.
- Low temperature.

Material selection plate-fin heat exchanger.

Common materials used in heat exchangers [33] are stainless steel, nickel alloys, copper and aluminium. Titanium has been proposed, but brazing of the separate titanium parts is very expensive. Some points of interest, concerning the metal are:

- Stainless steels, and most nickel alloys are used for PFHEs in high temperature service.
- Stainless steels have poor conductivity, but their strength allows thinner plates than in aluminium, which offsets some of the reduction in heat transfer. When compared with aluminium, stainless steel has lower fin efficiency.
- Aluminium has a relatively high thermal conductivity and maintains excellent strength and ductility to temperatures as low as 4.3 K. Aluminium looses its strength at temperatures above 373 K.
- Aluminium is susceptible to damage by rough handling, excessive vibration and localised unrelieved stresses.
- Aluminium parts are relatively cheap.

The advantages in weight and thermal conductivity make aluminium a good choice in this design. For cryogenic service, aluminium alloy 3003 is generally used [33].

Corrosion aspects.

Mercury and caustic soda are extremely corrosive, as is pure methanol over a longer period. Wet ammonia is also not suitable for aluminium.

Neither H_2S nor CO_2 corrode aluminium in any concentration [33,45,35], this makes aluminium a suitable material for sour natural gas streams (provided that they are dry). Aluminium and its alloys are readily attacked by hydrochloric acid. Degreasing agents such as methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, etc. are hydrolysed by traces of water and should therefore only be used if an inhibitor is added.

Aluminium and its alloys in electrical contact with more noble metals, such as copper, will rapidly corrode. Electrical insulation should therefore be provided between aluminium and other metals used in the system.

Calculation method

The PFHE has been rated, following the rating example 6.4 of [33]. The method followed is especially made for the design of PHFE. The stream properties of the process streams are within the limits described in the rating example

Design criteria

The design of the heat exchanger is based on the following design criteria:

- Complete heat integration of the NGL extracting process. This is possible, because the sales gas stream leaving the absorber has no design temperature. This stream is used for removal of excess process heat.
- The temperature difference between cold and hot streams must not be less than 5K.
- The maximum pressure drop for each stream is 0.3 bar.
- Heat loss to the environment has been accounted for, by introducing an efficiency factor of 0.9 in the total heat flow.
- Due to the high gas flows there is negligible effect from longitudinal heat conduction. [33]

Calculation

To calculate the dimensions of the coldbox, various stream properties are needed. Physical properties have been taken from Chemcad **lli** at the zone temperatures. The other relevant properties are calculated per stream, per zone in appendix 8-4 **In** appendix 8-3 the stream properties from Chemcad **lil** are given in process data sheets. **In** table 8.3 some basic stream properties are given, together with the design pressures.

Table 8.3: Data input plate-fin heat exchanger

The very large process streams are a major disadvantage for the use of a PFHE, this is solved by using four units in parallel. The unit is calculated as one apparatus. Also the existence of six zones consisting of four streams is a difficult problem, because the example is based on two zones with only three streams.

In appendix 8-4, the steps 1-17 are executed following the rating example as accurate as possible. The results are given in table 8.4 (see also appendix 4). **In** table 8.4, N,tot equals the total amount of layers and dP <stream> is the actual pressure drop for each stream per zone. A,m and A,b are the metal cross section and total cross section respectively. From these data the prosity p,b has been calculated. These calculations only include rough design features, stacking arrangement and rating the geometry have not been considered. The results are therefore not sufficient to actually size and determine the geometry of the plate-fin heat exchanger. Calculated data have to be sent to a manufacturer for detailed design.

			Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Total
N, tot		$\left[-\right] % \includegraphics[width=0.9\columnwidth]{figures/2011.pdf} \caption{The graph Δ (Different Zipfian Parameter Δ) for Δ-error of the parameters z and z for $z=1$ and$	171	664	273	400	326	88	
H		m	0.407	1.888	2.843	4.084	3.287	0.809	4.084
W		m	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
L		m	0.404	5.022	1.139	3.120	2.064	2.396	14.15
dP	<20 > Pa		2996	3113	5994	6923	8286		27312
	<23 > Pa		7042	6152	9994				23187
	<12 > Pa			6177	9995	10180			26353
	$<7>$ Pa				7060	8039	8214	5744	29057
	$<3>$ Pa					9468	9084	6474	25026
A,m		m ²	0.154	0.598	0.246	0.360	0.294	0.0792	1.73
A,b		m ²	0.244	1.133	1.706	2.451	1.972	0.485	2.451
p,b		$\left[\text{-}\right]$	0.631	0.528	0.144	0.147	0.149	0.163	0.706

Table 8.4: Results PFHE design

8.2.3 Design of product coolers

All product streams, leaving the distillation columns or the compressor have to be cooled to meet delivery specifications. The important data of the streams are given in the following tabIe:

Table 8.5: Heat exchangers data

Equipment selection

The following main types of heat exchangers are available ([36], p. 584-598, 691-695, 698-699):

- Shell and tube heat exchanger.
- Plate heat exchanger.
- Air-cooled exchanger.

Air-cooled exchangers are the best choice for minimum process temperatures above 338 K. To meet with delivery specifications, however all product streams have to be cooled below 338 K. Therefore air-cooling is not assumed to be a feasible option. A plate heat exchanger is hard to clean and can not be used with the available cooling water, which could cause fouling. Chilled water is not used as it is assumed to be too expensive (see chapter 5.4). Therefore the use of a plate heat exchanger is not advisable. Shell and tube heat exchangers will be used with cooling water as coolant.

Materials of construction

All heat exchangers use water as cooling medium. Water is corrosive, so the material of construction has to be resistant to water to prevent corrosion. The sales gas, <30>, also contains hydrogen sulphide, so the construction material for the sales gas heat exchanger has to be able to resist hydrogen sulphide to prevent corrosion. For all heat exchangers carbon steel is chosen as construction material, because it is resistant to water and hydrogen sulphide, strong enough for existing process conditions and relatively cheap. A disadvantage of carbon steel is the rather poor thermal conductivity.

Calculation method

Kern's method has been used as calculation method. This method is based on experimental work on commercial exchangers with standard tolerances and will give a reasonably satisfactory prediction of the heat-transfer coefficient for standard designs. The prediction of pressure drop is less satisfactory, as pressure drop is more affected by leakage and bypassing than heat-transfer. The calculation method is described in [36], p. 614-631.

Design criteria

The following design criteria have been used for the design of the heat exchangers:

- The minimum temperature difference is 7 K.
- The maximum allowable pressure drop is 0.2 bar at the shell and the tube side.
- The maximum exchanger area is 600 m^2 .
- The used shell and tube velocities are in the range given by [36], p. 603-604.

The specifications of the cooling water are given in the following tabie:

Calculation

For the different product streams, different heat exchanger configurations have been calculated; counter-current flow and "one shell and two tube" passes configuration. For the cooling of streams <53>, <57> and <60> the "one shell and two tube" passes configuration is not a suitable configuration, because the minimum temperature difference will either be smaller than 7 K or more cooling water will be needed. This is not the cheapest option. For cooling of the Sales gas, <33>, both configurations can be used. The configuration with the smallest area has been chosen, as this configuration is the cheapest.

Leading the stream with the highest pressure through the tubes gives the lowest costs. Therefore the product streams are sent through the tubes. Because the cooling water can cause fouling, a square tube pitch is chosen to reduce the chance of obstructions of the shell.

The cooling of the sales gas, <30>, requires an exchanger area larger than the maximum allowable area, therefore two heat exchangers are used in parallel. The diameters of the pipes have been varied, using standard diameters, until the design met with all design criteria. The main reason for changing the pipe diameters was to meet tube and shell velocities and pressure drop restrictions. The calculations in appendix 8-5 follow the method as described in [36], p. 623. The results of the calculations are given in table 8.7.

Table 8.7: Results heat exchanger calculation

¹ Area for one of the two heat exchangers.

The counter-current configuration will be chosen for all heat exchangers. For detailed design specifications see specification sheets in appendix 4.

8.2.4 Design of turbo-expanders

Two turbo-expanders are used in the process. The most important design data are given in table 8.8.

Table 8.8: Design data turbo-expanders

¹ Pressure not specified. Depends on expander side conditions.

Equipment selection

For expansion purpose two types of expander can be used ([40]):

- Reciprocating expansion engines
- Turbo-expanders

Reciprocating expanders have been used for 50 years or more, and are still used to some extent. Their problems are high maintenance, excessive size, valve problems and the fact that liquid will damage the valves. The turboexpanders have high efficiency, low maintenance, reduced size, are able to handle liquid and generate low temperatures.

In the process turbo-expanders are used, because the low temperatures are needed to accomplish the required separation and the high efficiency, so utility costs can be reduced. They also lower pressure for the coldbox. The turbo-expanders are linked with a compressor to make maximum use of the energy generated by the expander.

Materials of construction

The materials of construction for the turbo-expander-compressor system have been specified by Mafi-Trench; standard materials have been used. The most important parts of the turbo-expander are made of:

For a more specific description see appendix 9-3.

Design criteria

The following design criteria have been used:

- The maximum allowable suction volume is $10,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$. (appendix 9-2)
- The maximum power generated is 7500 kW. (appendix 9-2)
- The maximum allowable liquid formation is 25% weight. (appendix 9-2)

Calculation

The compressors of the turbo-expanders are used in parallel to meet with the design criteria (maximum suction volume). Using Chemcad the duty of the expander has been ca1culated, using an efficiency of 85% (appendix 9-2 and 9-3). The compressor duty was matched with the expander duty using an efficiency of 75% (appendix 9-3). The results are given in table 8.9.

Table 8.9: Results turbo-expander design

More design data are given in appendix 4.

Mafi-Trench also designed the turbo-expander, using the stream summaries from the process. Their ca1culations give other results than Chemcad. The liquid weight fraction is larger and the discharge temperatures of the expanders are lower. And according to Mafi-Trench the two compressors should be placed in series, because placing the compressors in series allows a better match between expander and compressor impellers. From this fact it follows that the maximum suction volume, which was assumed, proves to be too low. The specifications for the compressors in series are given in appendix 9-3. Implementation of the new configuration was not possible due to lack of time and conflicting inputs between Chemcad and Mafi-Trench.

8.2.5 Design of the compressor

One compressor is used to compress the sales gas to the specified delivery pressure. The important design data are given in table 8.10.

Table 8.10: Compressor data

Equipment selection

There are two main types of compressors used in the industry:

- Reciprocating compressor
- Centrifugal pump

The required capacity in combination with the necessary discharge pressure, is higher than a single reciprocating compressor can handle ([36], p. 432). Therefore a centrifugal compressor is used. The compressor is a single stage compressor as the compression factor is 3.6.

Materials of construction

Using [41] p. 80 the following main materials of construction are used:

- Shaft : heat-treated and stress-relieved forged alloy steel
- Casing : steel
- Rotor : low alloy steel

All are used for strength and tear resistance. More specific material choices must be done in co-operation with the compressor manufacturer.

Design criteria

The following design criteria have been used designing the compressor:

• the maximum allowable suction capacity is 340,000 m3/h. ([41], p. 81)

Calculation

The duty of the compressor has been calculated using Chemcad, using a efficiency of 85 % ([32]). No further design has taken place. The results are given in table 8.11.

Table 8.11: Results compressor design

More design data are given in appendix 4.

8.2.6 Design of pumps

In the process six pumps are necessary to "keep the liquid moving" and elevate the pressure (to overcome pressure drop and/or higher-pressure operation in the following unit(s)). The important input data are given in table 8.12:

Table 8.12: Input data pumps

Equipment selection

A single-stage centrifugal pump is used, because there are no special requirements for the pump. The advantages of a centrifugal pump are simplicity, low first cost, uniform (non-pulsating) flow, small floor space, low maintenance expense, quiet operation and adaptability for use with a motor or turbine drive ([42], p. 6-7). The required capacities are all in the operating range of a centrifugal pump.

Material selection

In the chemical industry, the selection of pump materials of construction is dictated by considerations of corrosion, erosion, personnel safety and liquid contamination. The experience of pump manufacturers is often valuable in selecting materiais. The materials of construction are mild steel (MS) and high tensile steel (HT Steel). Mild steel is used for the pump house and high tensile steel is used for the pump rotor and the shaft.

Design method

The design method is given in [36], p. 434-435

Design Criteria

The following design criteria have been used for the design of the pumps ([36], p. 434):

- Maximum capacity of a centrifugal pump is $1000 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$.
- Minimum capacity of a centrifugal pump is $0.25 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$.

Calculation

For calculation of the required power [36], p. 434-435 is used. The calculations are given in appendix 8-6.

The results are given in table 8.13.

Table 8 13: Results pump design

For more specific design data see appendix 4.

If the NPS $H_{\text{Available}}$ is smaller than the NPS H_{Required} , it is an option to lower the pump.

8.2.7 Design of liquid-vapour separators

Three liquid-vapour separators are used.

The input data for the liquid-vapour separators are given in table 8.14:

Table 8 14 Input data liquid-vapour separators

Equipment selection

For the liquid-vapour separation several types of separators can be used. The most important types of liquid-vapour separators are gravity separators, centrifugal separators, impingement separators (e.g. vane-type) and filter separators An impingement separator is used, because this type of separator is relatively cheap and has good separation efficiencies. A vane-type demister is used. The disadvantage of using a vane-type demister is that the maximum separation efficiency is lower then that of a knitted wire mesh. The advantage is that the maximum velocity is higher, so the column has a smaller diameter and is cheaper. Apart from that a vane-type demister has a lower pressure drop [43].

Material selection

All feeds of the liquid-vapour separators contain the full spectrum of hydrocarbons, nitrogen and hydrogen sulphide. Hydrogen sulphide is corrosive, so the material of construction has to be able to resist the prevalent hydrogen sulphide concentrations to prevent corrosion. For all liquid-vapour separators carbon steel is chosen as construction material, because it is able to resist hydrogen sulphide, strong enough and relatively cheap.

Calculation method

For designing the liquid-vapour separators three references have been used ([44], p. 154-155, [45], P 144-149, [46]). A description of the method used is given in appendix 8-7.

Design criteria

The following design criteria have been used for the design of the liquid-vapour separators:

- A liquid hold-up time of five minutes based on [46].
- A vapour disengaging height of l.5 times the column diameter ([44], p. 156).

Calculation

The calculation method is described in appendix 8-7. The calculations are given in appendix 8-7. For V03 the superficial gas velocity is chosen lower than the maximum allowable gas velocity, because the height-diameter ratio would be very large using the maximum gas velocity. And a vessel with a large height-diameter ratio is very expensive.

The results of the design are given in table 8.15:

Table $8\,15 \cdot$ Results liquid-vapour separators design

For detailed design information see the specification sheets in appendix 4.

8.2.8 Design of distillation columns and absorber

The process requires design of three distillation columns and one absorber.

Equipment selection

The selection to be made for the distillation columns mainly consists of the choice of the internals. Internals can be divided into two categories: trays and packing. Taking into account the high pressure at which the separation takes place and the high liquid flow-rates, it is clear that trays should be used in this separation. When using packing under these conditions the packing would be flooded and compressed and therefore operate less efficient [47]. The liquid would run straight down the packing, rendering it almost ineffective. Making the column diameter larger could prevent this. In that case, the cross-section of the packing is also enlarged, decreasing the amount of liquid per unit of square packing. However, this would lead to a column diameter larger than the one for a tray column. Also using multiple feedstreams significantly increases the height of the packed beds, due to extra liquid distributors. Therefore trays are the preferred internals for the separations in this process.

Trays can be divided into different types for different uses, the main types being [48]:

- Bubble-cap trays
- Valve trays
- Sieve trays

One of the considerations taken into account in selecting trays is the turndown of 50%. Bubble-cap trays are excellent trays for this purpose. One disadvantage however of this type of tray is the relatively high pressure drop, though this may vary with design. Valve trays perform almost as well as bubble-cap trays with respect to turndown, while suffering less from pressure drop. Sieve trays are not suited for high turndown, while their pressure drop equals that of valve trays. Efficiencies of these tray types do not differ significantly [36, p. 504]. Bubble-caps are more expensive than valve trays, which on their turn are more expensive than sieve trays [36, p. 514]. Therefore valve trays are used.

Material of construction

All flows through the columns are relatively clean and contain only traces of hydrogen sulphide. For all columns carbon steel is chosen as construction material, because it is resistant to hydrogen sulphide in low concentrations, it is strong enough and relatively cheap. It also has a low thermal conductivity. This material is also selected for the trays.

Calculation method

The valve tray design was done using [36, p. 535].

The column was sized using the Souders-Brown method, as given in [49]. This method gives conservative results, as it is based on no liquid entrainment between trays. In practice some entrainment can be tolerated at negligible loss in efficiency or capacity [48].

In order to convert the theoretically found number of plates to the actual needed number of plates, the plate efficiency is required. Although experimentally determined efficiencies are available in literature, these do not cover all the separations performed in the process. Therefore, a correlation for plate efficiency was used [36, p. S03].

For the absorber an alternative calculation method was used [36, p. 504].

Design criteria

The design of the columns is based on the following criteria:

- Separation sharpness.
- Maximum allowable impurity concentrations in product streams.
- Turndown of 50 %.
- Maximum recovery of valuable components.

The specifications of the product streams are given in table 8.16.

Table 8.16: Specifications of product streams

Calculation

First of all, it has to be mentioned that all calculations concerning the design have been carried without taking the pressure drop into account. This has been done, because the pressure drop can only be estimated when the number of plates per column is known. The number of plates is a function of the efficiency, for which a detailed calculation is necessary. As aresuit, the pressure drop is known only in a late stadium of design. However, considering the high pressures used in the process, the pressure drop will only have a very limited influence on the component properties [49].

The method of calculation for the plate efficiencies uses the molar average liquid viscosity and the average relative volatility of the light key. Calculation of the efficiencies is done in appendix 8-8; the results are given in table 8.17.

These calculated efficiencies are quite conservative, considering the fact that the calculated efficiency for the propane/butane separation is about 73%, while the percentage found in literature is 100% [49]. Absorbers have lower efficiencies than distillation columns [36, p. S04].

For the design of the valve trays a few assumptions had to be made. The weir height was chosen to be 75 mm [49, p. 180]. The weir length, although not mentioned in appendix 4, can be estimated at 0.77 times the column diameter [36, p. 527]. The active area was taken to be *7S%* of the column area [36, p. 526]. The perforated area was estimated to be 10% of the active area [36, p. 535]. Results are presented in appendix 4.

The Souders-Brown method uses various equations relating the vapour and liquid streams to the diameter of the column. The required values for vapour and liquid streams and surface tension were taken from Chemcad. The detailed calculation is given in appendix 8-8 and some results are shown in table 8.17 (see also appendix 4). The height of the column was calculated using a tray spacing of 0.45 m [36, p. 510] and further using the equation in [49, p. 144].

The pressure drop has been estimated to be 8 mbar per tray [49]. In [49] it is given that pressure drop is not as pronounced for high pressures. The design pressure of the columns specified is the top pressure.

Table 8.17: Results column calculation

1) The deethaniser is divided in two parts: one with a diameter of 3.5 m and a total height of 6.2 m and one with a diameter of 6.5 m and a height of 16.9 m.

2) Values taken from Chemcad

8.2.9 Design of the condensers for distillation columns

Two of the three top-streams $\left(\langle 46 \rangle \right)$ and $\langle 56 \rangle$ of the distillation columns have to be totally condensed. The product streams are condensed with cooling water. The important input data for the condensers are given in table 8.18:

Table 8.18: Input data condensers

Equipment selection

There are two main types of condensers: direct contact condensers and shell and tube exchangers. In a direct contact condenser the condensing gas is brought into direct contact with a liquid stream. The condensate will flow with the cooling liquid. This is not desirable in the process, because the product specifications allow little amount of impurities from water or other cooling medium. Therefore shell and tube exchangers are used as condensers.

Material selection

All condensers use water as cooling medium. Water is corrosive, so the material of construction has to be able to resist steam to prevent corrosion. For all condensers carbon steel is chosen as construction material, because it resistant to water, strong enough and relatively cheap. A disadvantage of carbon steel is the rather poor thermal conductivity.

Calculation method

For design of the condensers the method described in [36], p. 650-669 is used.

Design criteria

The following design criteria have been used for the design of the condensers:

- The minimum temperature difference is 7 K.
- The maximum allowable pressure drop is 0.2 bar at the shell and the tube side.
- The maximum exchanger area is 600 m^2 .
- The shell and tube velocities are in the range given by [36], p. 603-604.

The specifications of the cooling water are given in the following tabie.

Calculation

The condensers have been calculated using [36], p. 664-669.

Condensation of the top streams $\left\langle \langle 46 \rangle \right\rangle$ and $\langle 56 \rangle$ takes place in the shell, because condensation in the tubes leads to larger pressure drops at the shell-side and pressure drops are limited by the design criteria. To reduce the area used by the condensers the condensers are placed vertical. Because the condensers are placed vertical figure 12.43 is used in stead of equation 12.50 in [36], p. 652-653.

The exchanger area required to condense <46> is larger than the maximum exchanger area per unit. Therefore three units are used in parallel. The calculations are given in appendix 8-9.

The most important results are given in table 8.20.

Table 8.20: Results condenser design

Area given for one of three heat exchangers

For more design information see the specification sheets in appendix 4.

8.2.10 Design of the reboilers of the distillation columns

The process uses three distillation columns for the separation of the product streams. Each of the columns uses areboiler. The reboilers are heated by LP steam. In the following table the important input-data are given, necessary for the design of the reboilers.

Table 8.21 . Input data reboilers

Equipment selection

The following main types of reboilers can be used ([36], p.669-671):

- Forced circulation reboilers
- Thermosyphon reboilers
- Kettle type reboilers
- The forced circulation reboilers are especially suitable for handling viscous and heavily fouling process fluids. The advantages of a forced reboiler are predictabie and high velocities, suitability for low vacuum operations and suitability for low rates of vaporisation. The major disadvantage of a forced circulation reboiler is that a pump is required and the pumping cost will be high.

Thermosyphon reboilers are the most economical type for most applications, but are not suitable for high viscosity fluids or high vacuum pressure. A disadvantage of this type is that the column base must be elevated to provide the hydrostatic head required for the thermosyphon effect.

Kettle reboilers have lower heat-transfer coefficients than the other two types, as there is no liquid circulation. They are not suitable for fouling materials and have a high residence time. They are suitable for vacuum operation and for high rates of vaporisation.

The fluids, leaving the distillation column have high pressures and rather low viscosity, so a thermosyphon reboiler is the best type of reboiler. To reduce the space used by the reboilers vertical reboilers are chosen.

Material selection

All reboilers use LP steam as heating medium. Steam (water) is corrosive, so the material of construction has to be able to resist steam to prevent corrosion. For all reboilers carbon steel is chosen as construction material, because it is able to resist water, strong enough and relatively cheap. A disadvantage of carbon steel is the rather poor thermal conductivity.

Calculation method

For the design of the reboilers a general correlation of heat-transfer rate with reduced temperature for vertical thermosyphon reboilers is used. This method has been developed by Frank and Pickett [50]. They programmed Fair's rigorous design

method for computer solution and used it, together with operating data on commercial exchangers, to derive the correlation. The design method is given in [36], p.681-686.

Design criteria

The following design criteria have been used for the design of the reboilers:

- The minimum temperature difference is 10 K.
- The maximum exchanger area is 600 m^2 .
- The maximum heat flux should not exceed 37.9 kW/m^2 .

The specifications of the steam used are given in the following tabie:

Table 8.22: Steam specifications

Calculation

For all three reboilers the calculations are given in appendix 8-10. The calculation method used is given in [36], p. 685-686. Using figure 12.29 for designing all reboilers design, heat fluxes are found larger than the maximum heat flux specified in the design criteria. Therefore all reboilers have been calculated with the maximum design heat flux. The shell inside diameter has also been calculated, using pipes with a length of 3.66 m, an inside diameter of 25 mm and an outside diameter of 30 mm. For the vertical thermosyphon reboilers a fixed tube sheet is chosen, with a 1.25 square pitch. The results of the calculations are given in table 8.23:

Table $8.23 \cdot$ Results reboiler calculations

For more design information see the specification sheets in appendix 4.

8.2.11 Design of liquid accumulators

The condensed vapour of the condensers (E03 and E06) is collected in a liquid accumulator. By using liquid accumulators it is possible to adjust the reflux rate without influencing the whole process. The input data of the liquid accumulators are given in table 8.24:

Equipment selection

For economy of space, a vertically placed vessel is used as accumulator.

Material selection

All feeds of the liquid accumulators contain the full spectrum of the hydrocarbons in the feed, nitrogen and a trace of hydrogen sulphide. Hydrogen sulphide is corrosive, so the material of construction has to be able to resist hydrogen sulphide to prevent corrosion. For all accumulators carbon steel is chosen as construction material, because it is resistant to hydrogen sulphide, strong enough and relatively cheap.

Design criteria

The following design criteria have been used for the design of the liquid accumulators:

- A liquid hold-up time of 5 minutes [46].
- A liquid-volume of 65% of the total vessel volume [46].

Calculation

Using the flow rate and the hold-up time a liquid volume is calculated. The liquidvolume is 65% of the total accumulator volume and the total volume is calculated. Using [51] a diameter is chosen and the height is calculated.

The vessel is placed vertical to reduce the area used by the vessel. In appendix 8-11 the calculations are given. The results are given in table 8.25.

Table 8.25: Results liquid accumulator design

For more specific design data see appendix 4.

8.2.12 Design of a fired heater/stack

The fired heater, used for the heating the regeneration stream <39> for the molecular sieve bed has a dual purpose. It is also used for buming the waste streams from the molecular sieve beds.

The amount of heat to be transferred is 1 MW. Given the fact that the streams entering the molecular sieve beds have a net heating value of 44 MJ/kg, more than enough heat is available for use in the heater even if an efficiency of 80 % is chosen. These streams have to be bumt, because they contain a large amount of (flammable) hydrocarbons, but are relatively small process stream. Also it has not been examined what the influence of the batch-nature of the regeneration streams is on the heating capacity and temperatures in this piece of equipment.

Design calculations can be made for a fired heater or a flare [44]. Due to the difficulty in designing the dual nature of this equipment (heater and flare) and the fact that it is not a major part of the process it has not been designed.

8.3 Special issues

8.3.1 Expander trip

Due to wear and tear, e.g. fluids in the stream, it is possible that problems can occur with the turbo expanders. It is assumed that the problems will mostly occur on the expander side. An expander trip will be defined here as a blockage in the expander side of the turbo expander. If this happens it will mean no flow and therefore possibly no cooling downstream in the process. To decrease the influence this will have on the process bypass valve have been installed. If the pressure decreases then the valve will be opened. This will decrease the efficiency of the process. Recovery will drop, as the separations in the L/V separators will not be as efficient due to higher temperatures. Also the sales gas compressor will require a much larger duty to bring the sales gas up to specification without the use of the turbo compressors. Due to higher temperatures extra cooling water will be needed. To ensure proper product specifications it may be necessary to increase reboiler duty in the deethaniser.

8.3.2 Variations in feed composition

For the feed it has been assumed that the C_3 , C_4 , C_5 ⁺ fractions are all alkanes, not alkenes. This has an influence on the optimisation of the process, as can be seen in table 8.26.

Table 8 26' Process indices with alternative feed

The difference due to variations in propane/propylene content is minimal. If all C_3 consists of propylene and all C_2 of ethylene the process is not running optimally. Judging by the reduced duties of the sales gas compressor (K02) and the C02 reboiler (E02) the recovery could still be raised.

9. Wastes

All processes produce wastes, directly and indirectly. Indirect wastes are beyond the scope of this report. Only the direct wastes are considered in this chapter.

The process produces three waste streams:

- Wastewater from cooling operations.
- Off-gas, produced by the burning of regeneration gas after regenerating the molecular sieves.
- Used 3A zeolite of the molecular sieves.

The streams are considered separately.

9.1 Wastewater

Wastewater from industries includes employees' sanitary wastes, process waters from manufacturing, wash waters and relatively uncontaminated water from heating and cooling operations. In this process wastewater from heating and cooling is the major type of wastewater, other kinds of wastewater can be neglected.

In contrast to gaseous effluents, for which specific emission standards exist for many substances, less emissions standards exists for liquid effluents [52]. In general authorities require to apply at least the "best available technology" (BAT). The final, quantitative emissions standards, which must be met with, are usually decided by negotiations with (local) govemment authorities.

For some types of water pollutants specific emissions standards exist. These are based on e.g. concentration of organic material in the water.

The produced wastewater can be separated in heating and cooling water.

Wastewater from heating (total amount equals 49.5 t/h at 423 K) is returned to the supplier to be recycled.

Cooling wastewater will be discharged to the surface water. The data of the produced cooling wastewater is given in table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Data wastewater

The effect of the thermal pollution will not be very large, but the amount of thermal pollution is rather large. For a plant like Shell Pernis the total thermal pollution of the water is about 200 MW [62]. The specific emission standards are not very important because the cooling water is not contaminated with organic material; a leak of one of the heat exchangers is the only possibility for the water to become polluted with organic materiais. The chance of leakage is assumed to be very smal!.

9.20ff-gas

Off-gas is produced in this process by the combustion of gas used for regenerating the molecular sieves. The sales gas, used for the regeneration contains mainly methane and ethane. But it also contains some nitrogen, carbon dioxide, propane and heavier hydrocarbons and small traces of hydrogen sulphide. Combustion of the sales gas gives CO, CO_2 , NO_x , SO_x and H₂O.

In table 8.2 the emission Iimits for incinerators in the Netherlands for some of these components are given [52].

Table 8.2: Emission limits

Component	Emission limit
CO	50 $mg/m3$
SO ₂	40 $mg/m3$
	70 $mg/m3$

Currently there are no standards for the emission of $CO₂$. Because of the relatively small amounts of N_2 and H_2S in the sales gas, NO_x en SO_2 emissions will not exceed the emission limits. Norwegian standards have not been found, but the standards in the Netherlands are assumed to be stricter than the Norwegian standards. Therefore the emissions will be within the emission Iimits of Norway.

9.3 Used 3A zeolite

In the process there will be a discontinuous zeolite wastestream. Once in four years the molecular sieve beds have to be refreshed. In four years time the total waste of zeolite is almost 50 ton. The molecular sieve only absorbs water, therefore no other compounds will be found in the used zeolite. The used molsieve can therefore be used as landfill. The only costs will be transportation costs; these can be neglected in the economical review.

9.4 Process and equipment choice.

An open cooling water system is chosen in the process. To reduce the amount of thermal water pollution the use of a closed cooling water system, using a cooling tower, is a possibiIity. Due to lack of time this option has not been evaluated. Depending on an economical evaluation, an eventual choice for a closed cooling water system can be made. The use of a closed cooling water system does not mean that the total amount of thermal pollution is reduced, it is only transferred to the air instead of the surface water. In the molecular sieves the 3A zeolite is used, because it lasts longer and has lower losses of hydrocarbons than other zeolites. By using the 3A zeolite the amount of waste is being reduced.

Regenerating with part of the sales gas leads to CO , CO_2 , NO_x , SO_x and H_2O formation, while other ways of regenerating the molecular sieves may lead to different exhaust gasses. Other ways of regenerating the dehydrator could cause other wastestreams (e.g. liquid hydrocarbon wastes).

10. Process safety

To reduce the safety risks of the process an assessrhent of the Fire and Explosion Index and a Hazard and Operability study (Hazop) are carried out. The outcome of these methods is used to make recommendations for the safe operation of the process.

10.1 Fire and Explosion Index

The Fire and Explosion Index is determined using the Dow guide [53]. Calculation of this index is shown in appendices 10-1 to 10-5. For this, four pieces of equipment were selected. The criteria for the selection included the size of the equipment, the pressure in and the pressure drop over the equipment, the mass flow through the equipment and interaction between the streams of the equipment. As can be seen in the appendices, the following pieces of equipment were selected: the first turboexpander (K01), the coldbox (E01), the deethaniser (C02) and the compressor (K02). The turbo-expander was selected, because of the high pressure (110 bara), the high pressure drop (37.5 bar) and the high rotating velocities of the expander and compressor turbines (10.000 rpm). The coldbox was selected because of the large mass flow and the interaction between the streams: an explosion in the coldbox results in the rupture of at least the five feed pipelines of the coldbox. The deethaniser is the largest amongst the vessels and columns. The compressor (K02) is a unit which has a large output pressure (190 bara) and a large increase in pressure (137.6 bar).

Table 10.1: F&E Index and damage factor for the four most critical units

As can be seen in table 10.1, the turbo-expander is the unit with the largest Fire and Explosion Index and therefore the largest damage factor. When the Dow Guide is used, it is not possible to calculate the F&EI for a whole process, only for a unit. The turbo-expander is the most dangerous and from that the whole process can be classified as having a heavy degree of hazard ([53], p.28).

Loss control credit factors were determined, with the turbo-expander as the unit under investigation. The results are shown in appendix 10-2, table 10.2.2. From this the Base and Actual Maximum Probable Property Damage can be calculated. These values are given in appendix 10-2, table 10.2.3. The radius of exposure is 34 m. Preferably other equipment should be placed outside this radius, to avoid extra damage when an accident occurs. For calculation of the Base MMPD is it assumed however, that the second turbo-expander is within this radius. The assumption that other equipment is not within this radius is based on [54]. Therefore the costs of two turbo-expanders and their throughput (i.e. the sales gas flow) during 15 minutes are included in this Base MPPD. The 15 minutes are taken to be the average time required to shut the flows to the turbo-expanders down [53].

Protective measures should in include, leak detectors, with an alarm for a natural gas concentration (of e.g. 25%) of the lower explosion limit (LEL) and should also activate a protective or shutdown system at, for example, 70% of the LEL. Also

remote control valves are necessary to isolated units which are malfunctioning or which are threatened by fire, explosions, etc.

In case of malfunction or an accident (also depending on the severity of the case), the entire contents of the process should be flared. It should be recognised, that it takes time to flare, but at that the same time it is critical to dispose of the gas as quickly as possible, so that leakage will not last while the flare is buming for e.g. 15 minutes. Therefore the gas should be temporarily stored. This should be done, of course, in a remote dump, which is not to be affected by malfunctioning of other process equipment. Another option is the isolation of the unit, which is malfunctioning by using valves. The piping in the plant should be designed to make this measure possible, i.e. shortcuts must be provided.

Also, the flare must be at a remote enough distance not to ignite a cloud of vapour, which could possibly be hanging over the plant.

The temperature of the components is well below the autoignition temperature (see appendix 10-6, table 10.6.1), so the risk of spontaneous combustion minimal. Finally it must be noted that if any oxygen (e.g. from the air) enters the process a highly dangerous situation occurs. Although the UEL (see appendix 10-6, table 10.6.1) of the components is not that high, local risk of explosion is very high. It must be stated though, that air can not enter the process because this is operating on overpressure. Leakage of process contents is into the air is much more likely. There is also a risk of rupture of equipment due to high pressures in the process. Equipment must be sufficiently strong to withstand these pressures. If rupture still should occur, the amount of vapour and liquids, which are released, is high. This is also an effect of the high pressure. The mentioned effects are accounted for in the Fire and Explosion Index ca1culation as weIl as in the design of the equipment.

10.2 Hazop

After developing a Fire and Explosion Index, it is evident, that the first turboexpander is the most critical piece of equipment. It is therefore decided to carry out a hazard and operability study on this turbo-expander.

In appendix 10-6, table 10.6.2 possible deviations from normal operation are mentioned and their impact on the turbo-expander and the process are considered. A few points may need some elaboration. First, if the compressor part of the turboexpander has no flow, while, although maybe temporarily, the expander part still has feed, the compressor part continues to compress non-existent flow. This is because the compressor shaft is linked with the expander shaft. If this happens, the compressor will reduce the pressure in its feed pipeline, until further reduction is no longer possible. While reaching this stage, vibrations caused by friction and internal torsion will destabilise the whole turbo-expander. The turbo-expander typically runs at 10,000 rpm. Slight disturbance at these conditions will cause the turbo-expander to crash: in the worst possible case the turbo-expander separates from its skid, thereby rupturing feed pipelines and surrounding objects. At least, the friction will upset expander internals, like pressure seal rings. This may cause leakage and shortens the lifetime of the turbo-expander. To avoid this type of disaster, a bypass from expander to the compressor must be installed. In this way, when the feed pipeline of the compressor part gets blocked for whatever reason, the compressor gets feed from the expander, which, on its turn, runs at lower speed. In this way, the risk of a destabilised turbo-expander is greatly reduced. The plant should be shut down in this case anyway, rendering the loss of product streams by this measure insignificant. The

amount of damage avoided is much higher than the loss of C_3 ⁺ products, which are directly guided into the sales gas stream for a short time (until complete shutdown). When the feed stream of the expander part is blocked, the consequences are less critica!. In that case the driving force for the compressor part is no longer available. The turbo-expander will automatically stop. Risk of internal vibrations is far less than in case of feed blockage of the compressor part of the turbo-expander. The output pressure of the compressor part is reduced, causing the main compressor at the end of the sales gas stream (K02) to require an increased duty to compress the sales gas to 190 bara. This is of course an insignificant problem, because in this case the whole process must be shut down.

To avoid disaster in case of gas leakage (LEL of ethane is 3v%; for LEL and UEL of other components, see appendix 10-6, table 10.6.1) a gas detection system should be installed. It is evident that any gas leakage in any part of the plant can be disastrous. Leakage may lead to fire and/or explosions. Therefore, if the detection system detects gas, it must sound the alarm. This must be done when the gas concentration reaches, for example, 25% of the LEL. That level is quite easily reached considering the low LEL of the components and the high pressure involved. At gas concentrations of for example 70% LEL, the gas detection systems should automatically initiate plant shut down. The use of pressure controllers is not sufficient in this case. Gas pressure in the system is always subject to slight deviations, making it impossible to detect gas leakage just by measuring pressure in the system.

11. Economy

The economics of the process are shown in table 11 .1. For the calculation of the values given in this table the reader is referred to appendices 11-1 and 11-2.

Table 11.1: Total Investment Costs, Licence Costs en Working Capital

Type of costs	Mln Dfl @ 1999
Fixed Capital	125.88
Licence	12.59
Working Capital ²	25.18
Total Investment ³	163.64

¹ Licence Costs = $0,10$ * Fixed Capital

² Working Capital = $0,20$ * Fixed Capital

 3 Total Investment Costs = 1.3 $*$ Fixed Capital Costs

The working capital is selected at 20 % of the fixed capital. This is done because of the large consumption of utilities. These utilities require a large of amount of working capital to cover the first month of utility costs made. That is because of the fact, that from the point of delivering the first month's supply of C_3 -product, C_4 -product and C_5^+ -product, the first payment is not to be expected for a month.

The licence costs are taken to be 10% of the fixed capital. Because this is part of the "worst case" scenario approach for the financial evaluation, it will probably be less.

11.1 Sales prices

The prices of the Feed, Sales Gas and the C_3 , C_4 and C_5^+ -products are given in table 11.2.

Components	Price (Dfl/sm^3)	Price (Mln Dfl/kton)
Feed	0.10	0.115
Sales Gas	0.10	0.130
C_3 -product	115.50	0.197
C_4 -product	144.80	0.255
C_5^+ -product	144.40	0.219

Table 11.2; prices of Feed, Sales Gas and Products

The large difference in price (in $Df l / s m³$) between the feed and the sales gas and the product can be explained by considering the fact, that at these standard conditions (293.15 K, 1 bara) their densities are quite different (see appendix 5-1). The price per kton, however, is of the same magnitude.

It must be noted that the price per volume of the feed and the sales gas is the same. This is a result of the "worst case" scenario: it is assumed that, although the sales gas is delivered at a higher pressure (190 bara) than the feed gas (110 bara) and completely dehydrated $(< 0.1$ ppmwt), the price is the same as the price of feed gas. It also has to be noted though that the energy density (volume based) of sales gas is a little lower than that of the feed gas. This is caused by the removal of the higher hydrocarbons, which have considerable higher heats of combustion than the lower hydrocarbons present ([5S], p. 5-75 and 5-78). It is therefore assumed that the price of
the sales gas equals that of the feed gas on a volume base. The price per unit of mass is higher, because of the lower density of the feed gas. Furthermore, it is possible that the heat of combustion per unit mass in sales gas is actually higher than in feed gas. That may be the case if one considers the fact that the heat of combustion per unit mass of methane is higher than that of butane ([55], p. 5-75 and 5-78). It was not further researched, if this is actually true. When dealing with such large feeds as in this plant, the common way to calculate the costs of the feed is the amount of energy extracted from the feed gas. For ease of calculation it was decided to use a mass based fee for cost calculation [39].

The actual price for the sales and feed gas was taken to be 0.10 Dfl/sm^3 . This price is based on two sources. The first one, a Gasunie newsletter [57], yields a price of 0.145 Dfl/sm³. The price is based on a purchase of more than 50 mln sm³ per year. It is obvious that a throughput of hundred times this amount should have a reducing influence on this price. Also this gas has specifications for the "end" user, e.g. no water. The feed of this process consists of raw natural gas, and should therefore be cheaper than the partly treated gas from Gasunie. In [58] an average wellhead price of about Dfl $0.0001/\text{sm}^3$ was found. Therefore it seemes reasonable to assume a sales and feed gas price of Dfl $0.10/\text{sm}^3$.

Prices for the C_3 , C_4 and C_5^+ -products are taken from [58].

11.2 Overall economics

The overall economics of the process are calculated in appendices 11-3 to 11-5. The main results are shown in table 11.3. These results can be characterised as reasonably good. The rate of return (ROR; 19.2%) is not sufficient for today's standards. For example, Shell demands a ROR of at least 20%, otherwise the project will not be realised. The pay out time is 5.2 years. Compared to a plant life of 25 years, this is reasonable.

Table 11.3: Net cash flow, rate of return en pay out time (MIn Dfl @ 1999)

¹ Net Cash Flow = sales $*$ Sales Price – Production Costs.

In tablell.4 a sensitivity analysis is carried out. It can be seen here that the fluctuation in product prices has the largest impact on the economics of the process. Overall it can

be stated that the process is quite sensitive to deviations of prices. It should be noted that at the moment the natural gas price, and hence the prices of natural gas products, are (very) low due to the low crude oil prices: the price of natural gas is bound to the price of crude oil. Further decrease in natural gas price is not to be expected, since the crude oil price is rising from its historically low point. Therefore the chance of decreasing prices of natural gas product is small. A rise is more likely [58]. The prices of natural gas products are, although not completely, bound to the price of natural gas. An increase in the natural gas price is therefore likely to increase the prices of the products. An analysis has been made, in which both feed price as weIl as product prices are varied. The increase in prices has a very healthy influence in the process economics.

The location of the plant in Norway should have reducing effect on the utility costs. These consist mainly of electricity cost for the compressor. The electricity in Norway is estimated to be cheaper than in the Netherlands, due to the presence of hydropower electricity stations. This has a positive effect on the process economics.

Using the Norwegian prices for electricity can thus reduce costs. Other utility costs reduction may be found in the implementation of a closed cooling loop, to reduce the amount of cooling water. Without a full economical evaluation, it is not certain whether or not true reduction can be achieved. But such an evaluation is beyond the scope of this report. Rise in costs of feed will almost certainly be more than compensated for by the rise in revenue from product sales, due to higher product prices.

Table 11.4: Sensitivity analysis

 $\frac{1}{6}$ % deviation from Base Case

2 Purchase Costs Equipment

It can be concluded that the process is most sensitive to deviations in product prices.

It must be stated though, that this financial evaluation is based on a "worst case" scenario: feed and utility prices and total investment costs estimations are quite high. In combination with the rise in crude oil prices, the process is economically feasible.

12. Conclusions and recommendations

The process option using two expansion steps gives the lowest compression costs, does not need external refrigeration, has a C_3 -recovery of 97 % and meets all product specifications. Molecular sieves are the best option for dehydration of the feed and the use of distillation columns for NGL fractionation is possible and simpIe. No significant waste streams are produced.

The production levels are high, as are the compression costs, cooling water streams and column diameter of the deethaniser. The process is not new, but C_3 -recovery (97 %) is high compared to other processes.

The process is economically feasible.

Due to several uncertainties several recommendations can be given:

- Using two parallel trains if equipment sizing becomes a problem and if feed rates vary significantly.
- Acquiring more detailed information of use of a reflux heat exchanger and its performance in modelling and operation to see if it is possible to operate the process at a higher pressure level to reduce compressor costs.
- Researching if it is better to feed all the liquid obtained from cooling the vapour from the deethaniser back as reflux and use heavy hydrocarbons to wash the vapour in the absorber to reduce the reboiler duty and possibly the flows in the deethaniser.
- Using a closed cooling water loop so the maximum temperature of the cooling water can be raised.
- Acquiring more detailed information about the use of turbo-expanders from manufacturers. The contacted manufacturer gave high efficiencies, higher possible suction volumes and larger transferable duties, than were assumed, and lower exit temperatures after expansion than were calculated, possibly eliminating the need for two turbo expansion steps, or influencing the heat integration.
- Researching kinetic data for the molecular sieves and regeneration conditions in more depth.

13. Literature

- 1. Ullmann, F., Gerhartz, W., Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry, 5th ed., vol. A17, Weinheim, 1996, pages 76-124
- 2. Maassen v.d. Brink, W., Bekkum, H. van, Dictaat algemene scheikunde Il, organische chemie, stl13, Delft, 1997-1998, pages 47-80.
- 3. Othmer, D.F., Kirk Othmer, Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, 3rd ed., New Y ork, 1980, vol. 11, pages 240, 640-644, 902, 921.
- 4. Statoil, Kårstø Development Project, Steinar Iversen Reklamebyrå, April, 1998.
- 5. Adams, J.L., Boyer, W.C., *Hydrocarbon Process.*, May 1981, pages 108-112.
- 6. Gas Processes, *Hydrocarbon Process.,* Apr. 1998, pages 87 -134.
- 7. Tomiinson, T.R., Czarnecki, B. (Costain Petrocarbon Limited), Separation of Hydrocarbon Mixtures, U.S., 4,846,863, 11 July 1989, Appl. 158,264, 18 Feb. 1988.
- 8. Paredowski, H., Castel, J.H. , Parfait, H.B. (Compagnie Francaise d'Etudes et de Construction "Technip"), Method and apparatus for cryogenic fractionation of a gaseous feed, U.S. 4,690,702, 1 Sept. 1987, Appl. 779,811, 25 Sept. 1985.
- 9. Wilkinson, J.D., Hudson, I.M., Cuellar, K.T., (Elcor Corporation), Hydrocarbon gas processing, U.S. 5,799,507, 1 September 1998, Appl. 738,321, 25 Oct. 1996.
- 10. Godse, A.G., *Hydrocarbon Process.,* Jan. 1999, page 69-77.
- 11. Bhide, B.P., Voskericyan, A., Stern, S.A., *Journal of Membrane Science*, vol. 140, 1998, pages 27-49.
- 12. Chiu, *C. , Hydrocarbon Process.,* Vol. 57, no. 9, September 1978, pages 266-272.
- 13. www.zeochem.com/applications/procind.htm. 16 April 1999.
- 14. Hunt, C. D. A., Hanson, D.N., Wilke, e.R., *AIChE* 1., vol 1,1955, page 441.
- 15. Sokolov, V.A., Molecular Sieves and their use, translated from the Russian, Warrington, 1965, page 32.
- 16. Trent, R.E., Fundamentals of Molecular Sieve Design, paper presented at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Spring National Meeting, Houston, 1992, pages 5,7-8,11-15.
- 17. Tomiinson, T.R., *Hydrocarbon Process.,* Dec. 1992, pages 75-80.
- 18. Gas Processes, *Hydrocarbon Process.,* Apr. 1979, page 116.
- 19. MacKenzie, D.H., *Gil Gas* 1., Mar. 1985, pages 116-120.
- 20. Leztak, F., Collins, C., *Chem. Eng.* (N.Y.), July 1997, pages 72-76.
- 21. Triantafyllou, C., Smith, R., *Trans IChemE,* vol 70, Part A, March 1992, pages 119- 132.
- 22. Dünnebier, G., Pantelides, *C., Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.,* 38,1999, pages 162-170.
- 23 . Lee, A.L., Feldkirchner, H.L., Gamez, J.P., Meyer, H.S., *Gil Gas* 1., vol 94, no. 5, pages 90-92.
- 24. Ahrabi, F, Ashcroft, SJ., Shearn, R.B., *Chem. Eng. Res. Des.,* 65, 1987, pages 68-71.
- 25. Loos, T.W. de, Kooi, H.l. van der, Toegepaste thermodynamica en fasenleer, Delft, pages 71-74.
- 26. Chemcad III Process Flowsheet Simulator manual, version 3.3, pages 5.17.
- 27. Peng. D., Robinson, D., *Ind. Eng. Chem. , Fundam.,* 15, (1), 1976, pages 59-64.
- 28. Ohe, S., Vapor-liquid equilibrium data at high pressure, Tokyo, 1990, pages 12-14, 26-29,110-111,138-145,164-165,170-173,220-223 , 226-227, 256-257.
- 29. Rode, EJ.,Trent, R.E., Harris, L., Jaussaud, D., Molecular Sieve Adsorbent Properties and Their Impact on Cracked Gas Drying, paper presented at the AIChE Spring Meeting, Houston, 1997, page 3.
- 30. Trent, R.E., Fundamentals of Adsorption, paper presented at the Gas Conditioning Conference, Norman, 1995.
- 3l. Hersh C., Molecular Sieves, New York, 1961 , page 51,55,71,89, 103.
- 32. Kikkawa, Y., Nakamura, M., Sugiyama, S., *J. Chem. Eng. Jap.,* vol. 30, no. 4, 1997, page 627.
- 33. Taylor, M.A., Plate-fin Heat Exchangers. Guide to Their Specification and Use, Amersham, 1st edition 1987, amended October 1990, Oxon, 1987.
- 34. Burley, J.R., *Chemical engineering,* Aug. 1991, pages 90-96.
- 35. Lowe, R. E., *Chem. Eng.,* 1987, 17 August, pages 131-135.
- 36. Sinnot, R.K., Coulson & Richardson's Chemical Engineering, vol. 6, 2nd rev. ed., Oxford, 1996.
- 37. Svenes, S., *Oil Gas* 1., July 27, 1998, pages 76-85.
- *38. Oil Gas* 1., 15 July 1985, page 90.
- *39. Oil Gas J.,* 25 Jan 1999, page 63.
- 40. Swearingen, J.S., *Chem. Eng. Prog.,* 1972, vol. 68, no. 7 pages 95-102.
- 41. Evans, F., Equipment Design Handbook, vol.1, 2nd edition, Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas, 1979.
- 42. Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook, 6th edition, Perry, R.H., Green, D. McGraw-Hili Book Company, 1984.
- 43. Verlaan, C.CJ., *PT Polytechnisch tijdschrift,* 47 (10), 1992, page 36-39.
- 44. Evans, F. Equipment Design Handbook, vol.2, 2nd edition, Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas, 1980, pages 1-27, 166-187.
- 45. Verlaan, C.CJ., Performance of novel mist eliminators, PhD Thesis, TU Delft, 1991.
- 46. Grievink, J., Luteijn, C.P., Thijs-Krijnen, M.E.A.M., Instruction manual conceptual process design, Sept. 1998, appendix - 27.
- 47. Olujié, Z., in reply to verbal questions.
- 48. Ludwig, E.E., Applied Process Design for Chemical and Petrochemical Plants, vol.2, 3rd ed., Houston, 1997, pages 122-124, 176.
- 49. Olujić, Ž., Sheidingsprocessen II, Deel 1: Distillation, Principles and Design, Delft, 1994, pages 131, 137-144, 171,274.
- 50. Frank, O. and Pickett, R.D., *Chem. Eng.* (N.y.), 80,3 Sept., 1973, page 103.
- 51. "Cost Data, WEBCI/DACE", 19th Edition, May 1997.
- 52. Lemkowitz, S.M., Chemical risk management (risicobeheersing), Delft, 1998, pages 48-54.
- 53. Dow's Fire & Explosion Index Hazard Classification guide, $5th$ ed. 1981, or $7th$ ed. 1994.
- 54. Guidelines for engineering design for process safety, AICHE, CCPS 1993, page 71 .
- 55. Handbook of Chemistry and physics, 74th edition, Lide, D.R., CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, 1993.
- 56. BOD meeting for CPD 3228, 10 Feb. 1999.
- 57. N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie, information letter concerning "Verrekenprijzen 1^e kwartaal 1999 voor industriële grootverbruikers met een jaarafname > 50 mln m³, 11 Jan. 1999.
- 58. Oil Gas J., 15 Mar. 1999, page 77.
- 59. Reid, R.C., Prausnitz, J.M., Poling, B.E., The Properties of Gases and Liquids, 4th ed., New York, 1987, page 42-43.
- 60. Sax's Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials, R.J.Lewis, vol. 1-3, 8th ed., New York, 1992.
- 61. Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook, 7th ed., Perry, R.H., Green, D. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1997.
- 62. Symposium aquaplanning, TG, TU Delft, 1998.

Cpd 3228 Chapter 14. List of symbols used

14. List of symbols used

 $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$

Cpd 3228

Chapter 14. List of symbols used

 \mathcal{L}_λ

 \bar{E}

Cpd 3228 Chapter 14. List of symbols used

 $\hat{\theta}_i$

 $\bar{\tau}$

 ~ 100

Process Appendix Flow

Scheme $\overline{}$ \rightharpoonup

Pressure [bara]

Appendix 2-1 Combined blockschemes

Blockscheme of the turbo-expander process (see also appendix 2-2 for t/t values and 6-4 for a description of the process)

Blockscheme of the Cryomax process (see also appendix 2-3 for t/t values and 6-5 for a description of the process)

Blockscheme of the Reflux heatexchanger process, based on Patent US 4.846.863 (see also appendix 2-4 for t/t values and 6-6 for a description of the process)

expander process Blockscheme of the turbopendix $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$ \mathbf{I} $\overline{\mathsf{C}}$

Blockscheme of the Cryomax process \overline{H} ppendix $\overline{\mathsf{C}}$ \mathbf{I} ω

 \rightarrow P \times \overline{X} $\mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{C}}_{\text{eq}}$ and $\operatorname{indIX}\limits$
me of the
nger proc
patent US \sim $\frac{11}{2}$ $\frac{11}{2}$ $\overline{}$ 603

product values.

 $\bar{\alpha}$

Appendix 3

Equipment Summary Sheets

REACTORS, COLUMNS & VESSELS - SUMMARY

Remarks :

(1) Depending on adsorption, heating or cooling cycle

 (2) CS = Carbon Steel

(3) Molsieve beds S01, S02 and S03 are three units, operated in parallel

Appendi

REACTORS, COLUMNS & VESSELS - SUMMARY

. The contribution of the contribution of $\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{A}$, and the contribution of $\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{A}$, and $\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{A}$

HEAT EXCHANGERS & FURNACES SUMMARY

Remarks :six zones in series, four units in parallel

Append:

HEAT EXCHANGERS & FURNACES - SUMMARY

HEAT EXCHANGERS & FURNACES - SUMMARY

Rernarks :

PUMPS, BLOWERS & COMPRESSORS - SUMMARY

PUMPS, BLOWERS & COMPRESSORS SUMMARY

Remarks :

Appendi

Appendix 4

Equipment Specification Sheets

.-------------------- - -

DISTILLATION COLUMN SPECIFICATION SHEET

Sheet 1 of 35

Appendix 4

J.R. Law

DISTILLATION COLUMN SPECIFICATION SHEET

B.A. Tulleken Date

23 April 1999

DISTILLATION COLUMN - SPECIFICATION SHEET

Sheet 3 of 3:

J.R. Law B.A. Tulleken Date : 23 April 1999

DISTILLATION COLUMN SPECIFICATION SHEET

: 23 April 1999

Project ID-Number : CPD 3228
Date : 23 April

Designers: R.F. Eilers K.M. de Lathouder Project ID-Number : CPD 3228

J.R. Law B.A. Tulleken

 $\hat{\tau}$

Sheet 5 of 35

Appendix 4

J.R. Law

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

23 April 1999

B.A. Tulleken

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

HEAT EXCHANGER SPECIFICATION SHEET

 $\overline{}$

Sheet 8 of 35

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

J . R. Law

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

I

23 April 1999

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

 α
I

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

lī

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

Sheet 18 of

HEAT EXCHANGER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

Sheet 20 of

 $\overline{\epsilon}$

TURBO-EXPANDER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

Sheet 21 of 35

J.R. Law

CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSOR SPECIFICATION SHEET

Date 23 April 1999

B.A. Tulleken

 $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$

TURBO-EXPANDER - SPECIFICATION SHEET

Sheet 23 of 35

J.R. Law

23 April 1999

B.A. Tulleken

EQUIPMENT NUMBER : P-02 Operating : 1 NAME : Bottom V-03 Installed Spare : ⁰ Service : Liquid transfer pump
Type : Centrifugal : Centrifugal
: 1 Number Operating Conditions & Physical Data Pumped liquid

Temperature (T) [K] : 220 Temperature (T) [K] : 220
Density (ρ) [kg/m³] : 363.64 Density (ρ) [kg/m³]
Viscosity (η) [N.s/m²] Viscosity (n) [N.s/m²] : 6.67E-05
Vapour Pressure (p_v) [bara] : 13.8 a \therefore 13.8 at temperature [K] : 220 Power Capacity $(\Phi_{\mathbf{v}})$ [m³ / s] : 0.06 Capacity $(\Phi_{\mathbf{v}})$ $[\mathbf{m}^3 \text{ /s}]$: 0.06
Suction Pressure (\mathbf{p}_s) [bara] : 29.7
Discharge Pressure (\mathbf{p}_d) [bara] : 30.8 Discharge Pressure Theoretical Power [kW] : 6.1 $[= \Phi_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot (\mathbf{p}_\mathrm{d} - \mathbf{p}_\mathrm{s}) \cdot 10^2]$ Theoretical Power [kW] : 6.1

Pump Efficiency [-] : 0.80

Power at Shaft [kW] : 7.6 Power at Shaft [kW] $\qquad \qquad :$ Construction Details (1) RPM : 1450 Nominal diameter Drive : Electrical | Suction Nozzle [m] :

Type electrical motor : - | Nominal diameter

Tension [V] : 380 | Discharge Nozzle [m] : Tension $[V]$: 380 Discharge Nozzle [m] : -
Rotational direction : - Cooled bearings : Yes/No
Foundation Plate : - Cooled Stuffing Box : Yes/No Foundation Plate : - Cooled Stuffing Box : Yes/No
Flexible Coupling : Yes Smothering gland : Yes/No Flexible Coupling Smothering gland : Yes Smothering gland : Yes Smothering gland : Pressure Gauge, Suction : No The Internal Sea Pressure Gauge, Discharge : Yes New York Beal Liquid Pressure Gauge, Discharge : Yes - Seal Liquid : Yes/No Min. Over Pressure above p_v , $\Delta p_h / \Delta p_m$ [bar]/[m liq.]: - Packing Type $[bar]/[m$ liq.]: - Mechanical Seal : Yes/No N.P.S.H. $(\Delta p_m \cdot \rho \cdot g)$ [m liq.]: 455 Construction Materials (2) Pump House : MS Wear Rings : Pump Rotor : HT Steel Shaft Box : : HT Steel
: none Special provisions Operating Pressure [bara] : Test Pressure [bara] : Remarks : (1) Further details to be specified by Rotating Equipment specialist. (2) MS = Mild Steel; HT Steel = High Tensile Steel Designers : R.F. Eilers K.M. de Lathouder Project ID-Number : CPD 3228
J.R. Law B.A. Tulleken Date : 23 April

CENTRIFUGAL PUMP - SPECIFICATION SHEET

: 23 April 1999

J .R . Law

Sheet 26 of

23 April 1999

Date

B.A. Tulleken

J.R. Law

EQUZPMENT NUMBER : P-04 NAME : Reflux C-03 Service : Liquid transfer pump Type : Centrifugal Number : 1 Operating InstalIed Spare : 0 Operating Conditions &: Physical Data Pumped liquid

Temperature (T) [K] : ≤ 51 : 318.8 $\begin{array}{lllllll} \texttt{Temperature} & \texttt{(T)} & \texttt{[K]} & & \texttt{:} & \texttt{318.8} \\ \texttt{Density} & \texttt{(o)} & \texttt{[kg/m3]} & & \texttt{:} & \texttt{452.0} \end{array}$ Density (ρ) [kg/m³] : 452.0
Viscosity (ρ) [N.s/m²] : 7.90E-05 Viscosity (n) [N.s/m²] : 7.9
Vapour Pressure (p_r) [bara] : 16 : 1 (p_x) [bara] : 16 at temperature $[K]$: 318.8 Power Capacity $(\Phi_{\mathbf{v}})$ $[\mathbf{m}^3$ /s] : 0.05 Capacity (Φ_{φ}) $[\mathbf{m}^3 \; / \; \mathbf{s}]$: 0.05
Suction Pressure (\mathbf{p}_s) [bara] : 16.0
Discharge Pressure (\mathbf{p}_s) [bara] : 17.5 Discharge Pressure (p_d) [bara] : Theoretical Power [kW] $\qquad \qquad ; \quad 7.4$ [= $\Phi_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot (\mathbf{p}_\mathrm{d} - \mathbf{p}_\mathrm{s}) \cdot 10^2$] Theoretical Power [kW] : 7.4

Pump Efficiency [-] : 0.80

Power at Shaft [kW] : 9.2 Power at Shaft [kW] : Construction Details (1) RPM : 1450 : 1450 Nominal diameter
Drive : Electrical Suction Nozzle Drive : Electrical Suction Nozzle [m] : - Type electrical motor : - Nominal diameter Type electrical motor : -

Tension [V] : 380 Discharge Nozzle [m] : -

Rotational direction : - Cooled bearings : Yes/No

Foundation Plate : - Cooled Stuffing Box : Yes/No : - Cooled Stuffing Box : Yes/No
: Yes : Smothering gland : Yes/No Flexible Coupling : Yes Smotherin
Pressure Gauge, Suction : No 1f yes : Pressure Gauge, Suction : No The If yes :
Pressure Gauge, Discharge : Yes The Seal Liquid Pressure Gauge, Discharge : Yes - Seal Liquid : Yes/No Min. Over Pressure above p_v , $\Delta p_h / \Delta p_m$ [bar]/[m liq.]: - | - Packing Type : $[\nbar]/[\nbar \, \text{lig.}]$: - Mechanical Seal : Yes/No N.P.S.H. $(\Delta p_m \cdot \rho \cdot g)$ [m liq.]: 3 Construction Materials (2) Pump House : MS Wear Rings : Pump Rotor : HT Steel | Shaft Box : Shaft : HT Steel Special provisions : none Operating Pressure [bara] : Test Pressure [bara] : Remarks : (1) Further details to be specified by Rotating Equipment specialist. (2) MS = Mild Steel; HT Steel = High Tensile Steel Designers R.F. Eilers K.M. de Lathouder Project ID-Number CPD 3228

CENTRIFUGAL PUMP - SPECIFICATION SHEET

23 April 1999

Date

B.A. Tulleken

Designers : R.F. Eilers

J.R. Law

CENTRIFUGAL PUMP SPECIFICATION SHEET

CPD 3228

23 April 1999

Appendi₂

Date

Project ID-Number

K.M. de Lathouder B.A. Tulleken

J.R. Law

CENTRlFUGAL PUMP SPECIFICATION SHEET EQUIPMENT NUMBER : P-06 NAME : Reflux C-04 Service : Liquid transfer pump Type : Centrifugal Number : 1 Operating Instalied Spare : 0 Operating Conditions &: Physical Data Pumped liquid

Temperature (T) [K] : $<60>,<62>$

Temperature (T) [K] : 343.0 Temperature (T) [K] : 343.0
Density (ρ) [kg/m³] : 504.9 Density (ρ) $[kg/m^3]$: 504.9
Viscosity (η) $[Ns/m^2]$: 1.09E-05 Viscosity (n) [N.s/m²] :
Vapour Pressure (p_v) [bara] : Vapour Pressure (p_v) [bara] : 9 at temperature [K] : 343 Power Capacity $(\Phi_{\mathbf{v}})$ $[\mathbf{m}^3 \; / \mathbf{s}]$: 0.04
Suction Pressure $(\mathbf{p}_\mathbf{s})$ [bara] : 9.0 Suction Pressure (p_a) [bara] : 9.0
Discharge Pressure (p.) [bara] : 10.2 Discharge Pressure (p_a) Theoretical Power [kW] : 4.9 [= $\Phi_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot (\mathbf{p}_\mathrm{d} - \mathbf{p}_\mathrm{d})$] : 0.78 [= $\Phi_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot (\mathbf{p}_\mathrm{d} - \mathbf{p}_\mathrm{d})$] Pump Efficiency $[-]$: 0.78
Power at Shaft $[kW]$: 6.3 Construction Details (1) RPM : 1450 : 1450 Nominal diameter
Drive : Electrical Suction Nozzle Drive : Electrical Suction Nozzle
Type electrical motor : - Nominal diameter Type electrical motor : -
Tension [V] : 380 Tension [V] : 380 Discharge Nozzle [m] : -Rotational direction : - Cooled bearings
Foundation Plate : : - Cooled Stuffing : -

Foundation Plance Smothering gland

Smothering gland Flexible Coupling : Yes Smothering
Pressure Gauge. Suction : No 1f yes : Pressure Gauge, Suction : No The Integral Integrals of the Seal Liquid Pressure Gauge. Discharge : Yes Pressure Gauge, Discharge : Yes | - Seal Liquid
Min. Over Pressure above p, | - Splash Rings Min. Over Pressure above p_y , \overline{p} - Splash Rings
 Δp / Δp - Packing Type $\Delta p_b / \Delta p_m$ [bar] / [m liq.] : - | - Packing Type : - Mechanical Seal : 1 p_s).10²] $[m]$: $-$: Yes/No : Yes/No : Yes/No : Yes/No : Yes/No : Yes/No N.P.S.H. $(\Delta p_m \cdot \rho \cdot g)$ [m liq.]: 3 Construction Materials (2) Pump House : MS Wear Rings :

Pump Rotor : HT Steel Shaft Box : Pump Rotor : HT Steel Shaft Box :
Shaft : HT Steel Shaft Box : : HT Steel Special provisions : none Operating Pressure [bara] : Test Pressure [bara] : Remarks : (1) Further details to be specified by Rotating Equipment specialist. (2) MS = Mild Steel; HT Steel = High Tensile Steel Designers : R.F. Eilers K.M. de Lathouder Project ID-Number : CPD 3228 Designers : R.F. Eilers K.M. de Lathouder

B.A. Tulleken

Date : 23 April 1999

Appendix - 44

MOLSIEVE BED - SPECIFICATION SHEET

VESSEL SPECIFICATION SHEET

Append

VESSEL SPECIFICATION SHEET

VESSEL SPECIFICATION SHEET

Appendix 5-1

 $\overline{}$

PROCESS STREAM SUMMARY

 $\mathcal{G}^{\mathrm{c}}_{\mathrm{c}}$.

* if valve is open for cooling cycle, otherwise no flow

** if valve for cooling is closed

*** if valve for regeneration (heating) is open

*** if valve for regeneration (heating) is open

**** held up water and other hydrocarbons are assumed to flow out of the bed at a constant rate

 $\bar{\nu}$

***** with use of valve (not shown)

****** For heating cycle. Total utilities-input is **11** MW, the 2 extra come from burning <40>

Page 1

* burned, back calculation, air not included

 α

Append

Appendix 5-5: PROCESS YIELDS AND SIMPLIFIED BLOCKSCHEME

* For heating cycle, more for cooling cycle

** For heating cycle, less for cooling cycle

COMMENTS:

- 1. The amount of cooling water is enormous. Therefore it may be economical to install an external cooling loop to cool the water to beneath 303 K and be able to return it above 311 K. Even only returning the water at 313 K reduces the amount of cooling water needed by \sim 20 %. It also may be possible to use stream <45> and <55> to partially cool the sales gas or C5+-product.
- 2. The amount of electricity required is also enormous. This is due to the need to compress the sales gas to 190 bara. Over 99 % of the electricity is used for this. Most savings in the process wiU be achieved by reducing the compressor duty.
- 3. Quantities of C4- and C5+-product only vary with their quantities in the feed, not with the recovery of C3 product.
- 4. It can be seen that the fuel/stack gas is a large portion of the feed/sales gas, but is necessary to regenerate the molsieve bed. Oue to excess heat in the stack the temperature of the regenerating gas could be raised, thereby decreasing the amount of regenerating gas needed.

Appendix 5-6: Utilities

1. **A vailable Utilities:**

a. Steam

Superheated steam is considered to be available at the temperatures given below:

Fouling coefficient: 10 kW/m^{2o}C

 ${}^{\circ}$ C Fouling factor: 0.1 m²°C/kW

b. Electricity

c. Water

d. Air

Air-cooling:

2. Utility Costs:

Appendix 5-7
Pxy-diagrams

Appendix

Appendix 6-1: The four processes, first comparison, before optimising.

It assumed that the feed does not contain water. The C_3^+ - seperation units are not yet included, as they are the same for all options.

Table 6.1.1: Comparing the four options

* incl. reflux heat exchanger

** 1 used only for simulation

*** can be grouped in one

coldbox

* A duty of 17.6 MW can be achieved, but recovery decreases to 88 %

 $\frac{1}{2}$

Appendix 6-2: Full comparison between the Cryomax and turboexpander processes.

The feed does not contain any water.

Table 6.2.1: Process comparison at optimum conditions and heat integration

*five can be grouped in one box

*only pumps for pressure mcrease

* depropaniser and debutaniser in the turbo-expander process with one expander, are very similar to the ones in the two expander process, the distillation train in the one expander process has not been optimised.

i. idibo exparider process with one exparider has more energy costs due to higher compression costs.
Higher propane recovery can not make up in five years, turbo expander process with two expanders is better.

Appendix 6-4: The Turbo-expander process

Blockscheme of the Turbo-expander process is given in appendix 2-2 and the Chemcad flow scheme is given below.

Figure 6.4.1: Chemcad III flowsheet of the turbo expander process.

Turbo-expander process with two expanders.

First the feed is dehydrated, because low temperatures are needed in the process and solids are unwanted. The feed, $\langle 1 \rangle$, is expanded to 72.5 bara. This is done to achieve a lower temperature for separations, multiple phase flow and heat integration. With a valve the pressure from the liquids <22> is decreased to provide cooling. Then it is fed to the deethaniser (6).

The vapour <3> is expanded to process pressure of 30 bara, during which liquids are formed. In liquids <4> from the following separator are fed to the deethaniser after providing cooling for the reflux from the deethaniser. The vapours <6> are mixed with part of the vapour <13> from the deethaniser and fed to the absorber.

The absorber receives its liquid from the deethaniser to wash the remaining propane from the gas <10>. The liquids <5> are retumed to the deethaniser. The vapour <8> is used for cooling feed and reflux, after which it is compressed in the compressor part of the turbo-expanders. To bring the sales gas to specification it is compressed and cooled.

The pressure from the liquids <15> from the deethaniser is let down to 16 bara and it is fed to the depropaniser (13). This pressure level is chosen so the depropaniser can be cooled using cooling water. The vapour <28> from the depropaniser is compressed to cooled and sold as C3-product. The pressure from the liquids <31> is let down to 9 bara and fed to the debutaniser (15).

The vapour <29> from the debutaniser is cooled and sold as C4-product. The liquid <30> is cooled and decreased in pressure to 8 bara to be sold as C5+-product.

Turbo-expander process with one expander.

The Turbo-expander process with one expander only differs by the absence of turbo-expander (5) (and compressor section), LN separator (4) and pressure achieved in the first expander. Heat integration has not been considered for this process.

Appendix 6-5: The Cryomax process

Blockscheme of the Cryomax process is given in appendix 2.3 and the Chemcad flow scheme is given below.

Figure 6.5.1. Chemcad flowscheme of Cryomax Process

The Cryomax process differs from the Turbo Expander process in the order in which the product passes through the absorber and deethaniser and by only using one expansion step.

First the feed is dehydrated, because low temperatures are needed in the process and solids are unwanted. Here the feed, <1>, is fed to the absorber, after being expanded to 17 bara. This is done to achieve a low temperature to use in the process and eliminate the need for external refrigeration. The vapour from the absorber, $\langle 3 \rangle$, is used to condens the top product of the deethaniser in $\langle 13 \rangle$. It is subsequently compressed in the turbo compressor, <5>, and brought to pipeline pressure, <6>. The temperature of the gas is above the maximum export temperature of 232 K. The gas is therefore cooled using the deethaniser feed, <10>, and cooling water. The liquid from the absorber, <9>, is heated to 270 K and fed to the deethaniser. This is done in combination with cooling of the absorber liquid feed, <20>, to 220 K and the sales gas, <6>.

The liquid from the deethaniser, <12>, is fed to the distillation train at the same conditions as described for the Turbo Expander process. The vapour from the deethaniser, <13>, is partially condensed by the sales gas, <3>, at 230 K and separated. The liquid from this separation step, <15>, is split and partially retumed to the deethaniser as reflux, <16>. The rest is cooled further and added to the vapour stream of the separator, <17>. This mixture is completely condensed and cooled, <20>, at 220 K and fed to the absorber as liquid.

The following table gives the operating conditions in the Cryomax process.

Table 6.5.1: Operating conditions in the Cryomax process

* not corrected to 75 % as used in the final design

Appendix 6-6: The Reflux Heat Exchanger process

The block scheme of the Reflux Heat Exchanger process is given in appendix 2-4.

In the Reflux Heat Exchanger process the feed needs to be dehydrated as in the other processes, because low temperatures are used. The dehydrated feed is expanded to 50 bara and fed to the reflux heat exchanger.

This piece of equipment can be described as a separator vessel with a vertically placed heat exchanger in the top. In this heat exchanger the vapour is cooled in one or more steps. During this cooling the heavier part of the vapour condenses and flows back into the separator. By using several cooling stages at different temperatures the vapour can be stripped of heavier components. The vapour is the sales gas stream. The pressure of the liquid is let down and it is fed to a deethaniser. The bottoms of the deethaniser are fed to the distillation train as previously described. The vapour from the deethaniser is compressed and partially condensed. This mixture is separated and the vapour is added to the sales gas. The pressure of the liquid is let down again and fed to the deethaniser as reflux. All operations in the reflux loop for the deethaniser are performed to generate cold for the reflux heat exchanger. This is done in the patent on which the process is based. For the given feed this does not work as weIl and external refrigeration is needed.

Another variation of the process is to feed the vapours from the deethaniser back to the reflux heat exchanger after recompression. The block for compression/cooling/ separation/expansion can then be left out. This process scheme is very difficult to simulate without more knowledge of how a reflux heat exchanger can be modelled. It is also gives an extremely unstable simulation due to three totally interacting recycle loops and gives very large recycle streams in the reflux heat exchanger.

One note that has to be made is the trade off that would still have to be optimised between reboiler duty, C2/C3-ratio, compression costs and sizes of recycle streams. If the reflux heat exchanger can be modelled with greater accuracy it is a option that has to be considered in more detail.

65 &1 $52'$ $\overline{\mathcal{U}}$ ⁺-product

PetroFlux

Appendix 7-1: Optimisation and sensitivity analysis

In this sensitivity analysis, only theoretical trays were considered

feed tray

trays

trays

Composite heat curves of the coldbox Appendix 7-2

Appendix 7-3
Phase envelope of <47>

Appendix 7-4: Chemcad output for the turboexpander process

Below, the output generated by Chemcad III is given for the turbo-expander process. Where necessary comments have been added. The stream summaries are left out to reduce the length of the output. For stream summaries the reader is referred to appendix 5-2, stream summaries.

ChemCAD 3.30-386 License: Univ . of Technology, Delft, NL Case Code: TURBOPAR Date: 04-14-99 Time: 11:46 Date: 04-14-99 Time: 11: 46 **CALCULATION** Calculation mode Sequential Flash algorithm : Normal Equipment Calculation Sequence 1 12 2 9 14 4 6 8 11 16 21 26 31 15 17 22 23 24 29 Equipment Recycle Sequence 7 18 19 25 3 5 13 20 12 2 9 14 4 6 8 11 16 7 18 Recycle Cut Streams 21 12 5 25 7 13 20 Recycle Convergence Method: Direct Substitution Max. loop iterations 40 Recycle Convergence Tolerance Flow rate Temperature Pressure Enthalpy Vapor frac. 1 . 000E-003 1 . 000E-003 1. 000E-003 1.000E-003 1.000E-003

Recycle calculation has converged.

The calculation sequence is generated by Chemcad. The cut streams were estimated manually. All convergences were chosen for sufficient accuracy (0.1 %) at relatively short calculation times.

COMPONENTS

The components are listed in order of increasing boiling points. Water was kept at zero throughout the process.

THERMODYNAMICS

The choice of therrnodynamic model is given in chapter 4. According to the Chemcad manual the Peng-Robinson enthalpy model is used if the Peng-Robinson model is used for the Kvalue. The immiscibility of water/hydrocarbon option is chosen, because the Peng-Robinson model is used. As many of the components are gases above their critical temperature the Boston-Mathias Alpha function is used for better results.

The overall mass balance shows that the in- and outflows are equal, within the chosen tolerance.

EQUIPMENT SUMMARIES

The equipment summary shows all options chosen for the various pieces of equipment. For the meaning of the numbers used in e.g. modes of operation or equipment types the reader is referred to the Chemcad manual.

Efficiencies of 85% are given by a manufacturer in appendix XXX.

Compressor Summary

Efficiencies of 75% are given by a manufacturer in appendix XXX. For equipment numbers 3 and 5 (turbo compressors) the actual power taken from the expanders was used as input.

 $\tilde{\chi}^{\prime}_{i}$

Towr Rigorous Distillation Summary

The feedstage locations were optimised for recovery, reboiler and compressor duty. For the deethaniser (6) the reboiler specification implies a C2IC3-ration of 1 %. Condenser and reboiler specifications for the depropaniser and debutaniser (13 and 15) are recoveries.

Though there were two cold boxes used in the simulation this was only done to prevent Chemcad from giving a pinch warning. In all cold boxes one stream could not be specified.

Valve Summary

Pump Summary

 $\tilde{\chi}$

For the actual calculation an efficiency of 76 % is used.

Heat Exchanger Summary

DISTILLATION PROFILE

 \bar{K}

Unit type : TOWR Unit name: Eqp # 11

 $\bar{\omega}$

 $\bar{\omega}$

 \bar{z}

Mole Reflux ratio 1.934

 $\langle \sigma \rangle$

Appendix 8-1: Calculation of mass amoünts in feedstream

Using the Peng-Robinson equation with its accompanying equations for the constants, the molecular volume can be obtained for the feedstream. With this molecular volume and molecular weights the feed stream <01> can be characterised in terms of the massflows of the various components. The data needed for the Peng-Robinson equation can be found in [59], and is shown in the table below. It is assumed that the overall molecular volume is a sum of the product of the individual molecular volumes and their molecular fractions.

This means a feedstream of 5 Gsm³/a equals $2.1*10^{11}$ mol/a and $6.9*10^{3}$ mol/s. Given the molecular weights and the molecular fractions of the components the massflows can be determined, as given in the table below.

Table 812 . Calculation of feedstream

 $\overline{}$

 \mathcal{L}

Appendix 8-2: Molecular sieve design

For the design of the molecular sieve beds the following equations are used (Trent [3]):

$$
V = \frac{61.5}{\sqrt{rho_gas}}
$$

\n
$$
LUB = 1.25 + \frac{0.0125*V*M}{18}
$$

\n
$$
\frac{dP}{L} = A*\mu*V + B*rho_gas*V^2
$$

\nin which: $V = \text{maximum superficial velocity, downflow ff/min}$
\n
$$
\text{the_gas} = \text{gas density}
$$

\n
$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\nLUB & = \text{length of unused bed} \\
MTZ & = \text{length of the mass transfer zone} \\
dP/L & = \text{present of the mass transfer zone} \\
dP/L & = \text{dimensional constants} \\
\mu & = \text{viscosity of fluid}\n\end{array}
$$

The following table gives all the results for the design of the bed. All variables in bold have been chosen, not calculated. No correction is made for amount of decimals. Under the remarks the equations can be found.

Table 8.2.1: Design of molecular sieve bed

i.

 \mathcal{C}

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

 $\frac{1}{2}$

 $\overline{\mathcal{N}}$

 $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$

 \rightarrow

step 2,3,4 6 zones counterflow heat curves are given in appendix =1=

step 5

Appendi ∞ ဂ $\overline{\Omega}$ ion pl e-fin he σ changer, σ mple \circ $\frac{1}{20}$

aluminium selected material

thermal conductivity

Appendix

ool

step 9,10 table 6/3 p 3.23

pendix 8-4

 \mathbf{I}

 $\bar{\nu}$
Step 12: for each zone, the number of layers and the following block height is calculated here. Other important results of this step are the Area per layer (A_x) and the total area $(A_{x,t})$

block height (5.8) H 0.406565 m sum_N sum N*b $\vert 0.147564 \vert \Sigma(N_i^*b_i) \vert b=$ fin height tp te 171.0011^{[ΣN} total layers] 0.0015 parting sheet thickness 0.002 cap thiekness

 $\widehat{\gamma}_{k}$:

ealculation bloek height

 $\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}$

 $\tilde{\chi}$

ealculation bloek height

ia.

 \pm

r--------------------- ~-- -----.--.--- --. ---.--- -- .------ - - --- ----

 $\tilde{\nu}$

ealculation bloek height

Step 15: The stream properties needed to calculate the dimensions of the plate-fin heat exchanger for each zone. The formula numbers refer to example 6.4 of [30].

If the formulas in bold italics are used only in the single phase heat transfer calculations of stream 20

2 Pressure loss is calculated, assuming single phase behaviour.

÷,

 $\bar{\alpha}$

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}}$

Appendix 8-5: Design product heat exchangers

Design Heat-exchanger Sales Gas: 1 shell, 2 tube passes

Number of units: 2

Calculations:

Area one tube =

0.582282 m2

 $\tilde{\Sigma}$

i,

Tube-side heat transfer coefficient:

 $\widetilde{\alpha}$

Shell-side coefficient:

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

Costing:

 $\overline{\nu}$

 $\tilde{\omega}$

Design Heat-exchanger Sales Gas: Counter-current

Number of units: 2

Data streams:

 $\bar{\mathcal{P}}$

- thermal conductivity 5.90E-01 W/m.°C

Calculation:

- viscosity

Tube-side heat transfer coefficient:

 \sim

Costing:

 \bar{a}

Design Heat-exchanger C3-product

Number of units:

Data streams:

1

Calculation:

í.

Tube-side heat transfer coefficient:

 $\overline{\mathbb{R}}$

Costing:

 $\frac{1}{2}$

Design Heat-exchanger C4-product

Data streams:

Calculation:

 \bar{K}

Tube-side heat transfer coefficient:

ú.

Shell-side coefficient:

 \bar{b}

Overall coefficient:

 $\bar{\sigma}$

 \mathcal{V}

Tube-side:

Costing:

Design Heat-exchanger C5+-product

Calculation:

Tube-side heat transfer coefficient:

 \sim

Overall coefficient:

Costing:

 $\tilde{\omega}$

 \sim

 $\bar{\alpha}$

Appendix 8-6: Design of pumps

 ϵ .

• price 315m3/h taken twice

Appendix 8-7: Design of liquid-vapour separators

For the design of the liquid-vapour separators [45], p 144 is used to determine the maximum allowable throughput $U_{g,max}$.

$$
U_{g,\text{max}} = \lambda_{\text{max}} \cdot \left(\frac{\rho_l - \rho_g}{\rho_g}\right)^{0.5}
$$

with:

The gas load factor, λ , incorporates the influence of gas density on the maximum allowable gas velocity and is, for vane-type demisters, a function of surface tension, liquid density and geometry. The following expression is used for the gas load factor ([45], p.146)

$$
\lambda_{\max} = C \cdot \left(\frac{\sigma \cdot g}{\rho_l}\right)^{0.25}
$$

with:

In $[45]$, p 145-147 three vane-type demisters are described. A vane-type II demister is used, because at natural gas treating conditions it can separate smaller droplets than the other types ($[45]$, p.148). For vane-type II demister C is 1.20.

Using these equations the $U_{\text{g,max}}$ can be calculated.

Assuming that the separator package has the same diameter as the column, $U_{g,max}$ is the maximum allowable gas velocity in the column.

The minimum vessel cross-sectional area (m^2) is calculated with equation xx:

$$
A_{\min} = \frac{Q_{\nu}}{U_{g,\max}}
$$

with:

 Q_v = vapour flow rate (m^3/s)

The minimum diameter is calculated using:

$$
D_{\min} = \sqrt{\frac{4 \cdot A_{\min}}{\pi}}
$$

The column diameter is chosen equal to the minimum diameter.

For a vertical drum the vapor disengaging height is chosen 1.5. ([44], p. 156)

For the Iiquid-vapour separators a liquid hold-up time of 5 minutes is chosen [46]. The liquid height is calculated using equation xxx.

$$
H_{liquid} = \frac{Q_l \cdot t_h}{A_{min}}
$$

with:

The total height of the column is equal to the sum of liquid height and vapour disengaging space.

The calculations for the process can be found on the following page.

Calculation vane-type separators

 \hat{a}

÷,

Appendix 8-8: Calculation of column diameters and efficiencies

Table 8.8.2: calculation of column diameter of absorber

Table 8.8.3: massflows deethaniser (kg/s)

Topsection		Feed top		Tray 11						Feed middle Feed bottom Bottomsection	
										liquid gas liquid gas liquid gas liquid gas liquid gas Liquid gas	
										11.66 40.67 16.15 39.30 15.07 39.52 32.39 38.87 55.87 37.23 99.15 76.81	

Table 8.8.4: calculation of column diameter of deethaniser

Table 8.8.5: massflows depropaniser (kg/s)

Topsection			Bottomsection		Feedstage		
liquid	gas		liquid	gas	liquid	Gas	
18.88		30.14	34.7°	22.38	30.07	29.36	

Table 8.8.6: calculation of column diameter of depropaniser

	Tray $($ theor. $)$	Mean density		σ [N/m]	F_{lg} $\left[\text{-}\right]$	T_s [m]	C_{tr} * [m/s]	C_{tr} [m/s]	U_g max	column
		Liquid	Gas [kg/m3][kg/m3]						[m/s]	[m]
Top		486	22.7	0.007	0.135	0.45	0.074	0.060	0.270	2.8
Bottom	44	501	26.4	0.006	0.357	0.45	0.055	0.043	0.182	2.7
Feed	18	506	22.9	0.007	0.218	0.45	0.066	0.054	0.246	2.9

Table 8.8.7: massflows debutaniser (kg/s)

Topsection		Bottomsection		Feedstage		
liquid	gas	liquid	Gas	liquid	gas	
2.60	9.		19			

Table 8.8.8: calculation of column diameter of debutaniser

Table 8.8.9: calculation of column efficiency 1 [36, p. 504]

1) Values taken from Chemcad

Table 8.8.10: calculation of absorber efficiency [36, p. 504+505]¹

1) The values are taken from Chemcad and refer to the bottomstream of the absorber. whlch has the highest viscosity (viscosity has a depreciating effect on the efficiency; therefore this is a conservative estimation)

Appendix 8-9: Design of condensers

Design condenser de-propaniser

 $\tilde{\theta}$

Overall coefficient:

Shell-side pressure drop:

 $\hat{\Sigma}$

Tube-side pressure drop:

Costing:

÷

Design condenser debutaniser

 $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}$

 $\overline{\mathbb{S}}$

 $\bar{\alpha}$

Shell-side coefficient:

 $\ddot{}$

Tube-side coefficient:

Overall coefficient:

Shell-side pressure drop:

 $\tilde{\omega}$.

Tube-side pressure drop:

Costing:

Appendix 8-10: Design of reboilers

Design reboiler de-ethaniser

 λ

pressure factor:

price:

Design reboiler de-propaniser

 \tilde{a}

price:

hfl 115223.7

Design reboiler de-butaniser

 $\overline{\mathcal{O}}$

Price: hfl 74850.62

--- --------

Appendix 8.11: Liquid accumulator design

Appendix 8-12: Calculation of properties of product streams

Results: sum-inerts, 0.160937 - P-e2h6 12.5628 bar Peorr= 6.213612 bar Pbubl 12.74619 bar P-1/sum(yi. 1.63E-08 - Dew,T 181 .3587 K Dew,T -91 .79132°C

Results: Pbubl 3.967624 bar Pbubl 0.871625

Appendix 9-1 Design basis

Design Basis

Gas Treatment Plant Raytheon E&C

Raytheon Project No. 00231

This document contains proprietary information belonging to Raytheon Engineers & Constructors, its parent and/or affiliated companies and shal be used only for the purpose for which it was supplied. It shall not be copied, reproduced or otherwise used, nor shall such information be furnished in whole or in part to others, except in accordance with the terms of any agreement under which it was supplied or with the prior writter consent of Raytheon Engineers & Constructors and shall be returned upon request.

Table of Contents

Appendix 9-1 Design basis

1. Introduction

The purpose of the 'Conceptual Process Design' is to find an optimum design for the recovery of NGL from feedgas originating from a Northsee gasfield.

The minimum task for the new facility is to treat the feed gas to meet dewpoint and other sales gas quality specifications and then to compress the treated gas into an export pipeline. Another task is the extraction of NGL which involves optimizing the recovery ot propane and heavier hydrocarbons.

2. Feed and Product Specifications

2.1 Feed Gas

Composition of Feed Gas:

Feed Rate: 5.00 Gsm^3 /y (based on 8400 operating hours per year)

Turndown: 50%

2.2 Sales Gas Specification

2.3 NGL Export Specification

3. Utility Conditions

 \mathbf{a}

- **4. Technical Options**
	- Consider applying a wash section in the deethanizer top section. Use heavy natural gasoline components, present in the feed gas, as heavy wash oil (an additional distillation column wil! be required).
	- Consider using plate-fin heat exchangers to reduce equipment size and cost.
	- Consider heat integration by using an interstage reboiler.
	- Consider using vane packages in vapor-liquid separators to reduce size.
	- Consider the effect of an expander trip
	- Study limitations in expander operation with respect to retrograde condensation, allowable liquid fractions in expander outlet (Raytheon is interested in expander design criteria, however, by lack of a proper reference use a maximum liquid fraction of 25 wt%).

5. Some Patent Literature

EP 0 182 643 (19-11-84): Process and apparatus for separating C3 and heavier components from hydrocarbon gases, The Ortloff Corporation.

EP 0 240 188 (01-04-86): Process for separating hydrocarbon constituents, McDermott International Inc.

GB 2 102 931A (30-6-82): Recovery of condensable hydrocarbons from gaseous streams, Snamprogetti S.p.A.

GB 1 532 334 (9-8-76): Hydrocarbon gas processing, The Ortloff Corporation

GB 1 532335 (9-8-76): Hydrocarbon gas processing, The Ortloff Corporation

US 4171 964 (4-10-76): Hydrocarbon gas processing, The Ortloff Corporation

Appendix 9-2: Relevant data given in correspondence with Raytheon

Taken from email of 22 January 1999

[1] De volgende specificaties gelden voor C3-LPG, C4-LPG, en C5+:

~---

Voor het sales gas zijn geen nadere specificaties (N2, C02, H2S).

Taken from email of 2 February 1999

Wat betreft jullie vragen, ik heb niet overal een antwoord op:

- [1] Locatie: Kies maar een plaats aan de Noorse kust.
- [2] Economische levensduur: 25 jaar
- [3] Prijzen: Geen idee, indien jullie niets vinden neem als basis: Sales Gas: Nederlandse export prijs van aardgas Feed Gas: Sales Gas x 75%
- [4] C4 en iC4 vormen samen het C4-LPG produkt, scheiding niet nodig. C5+ is een tussenprodukt en hoeft niet verder gescheiden te worden in jullie ontwerp.
- [5] Water en C02 moeten gescheiden worden om bevriezing te voorkomen. Het voorbeeld dat ik heb gepresenteerd omvatte alleen waterscheiding, terwijl het C02 gehalte toch 3.3 mol% C02 was.

Taken from email of 26 February 1999

Hier enkele aandachtspunten:

* Turbo-expanders: Als maximum voor een grote turbo-expander zou ik een motor grootte van 7500 kW aanhouden en een aanzuigvolume van ongeveer 10000 m3/h. Om binnen deze limiet te blijven kan het helpen om de voeding naar de turbo-expander wat af te koelen. De adiabatische efficientie is +/- 85%.

* Wat drijft de Turboexpander aan? Zorg voor een 'match' van duties.

* Denk aan vloeistoffractie limitaties in turboexpanders.

* Warmte-integratie: Bij dit soort energiebehoeften is warmte-integratie erg belangrijk. Dit valt uit de flowsheets niet op te maken. B.V. hoe wordt in het Reflux HE process de koude van warmtewisselaar no. 16 benut? Ook zie ik grote verschillen wat betreft de mogelijkheden tot warmteintegratie tussen de verschillende processen.

* Denk aan een juist drukprofiel

* Het Sales Gas moet ook nog gecomprimeerd worden. Deze compressor is het duurste stuk apparatuur in het proces. Het is daarom belangrijk wat de aanzuigdruk is. (Het Reflux HE proces lijkt een belangrijk voordeel te hebben).

* Reflux Heat Exchanger Process:

- Wat is bepalend voor de keus van het 50 bar druk niveau?
- Wat indien er direkt naar 30 bar wordt geexpandeerd?
- De C3 recovery is inderdaad laag vergeleken bij de andere twee processen, en lijkt een goede reden om het proces af te laten vallen (zie echter de vorige opmerking).
- Waarom wordt geexpandeerd in '6' en warmte toegevoegd in '19"? Hetzelfde geldt voor '1' en '17"?
- Extra koeling bij deze lage temperaturen is erg kostbaar. Indien jullie voor dit proces kiezen moet ook dit gesimuleerd worden.

* Cryomax:

- Klopt de warmtebalans rond 'unit 2'?
- Extra koeling bij deze lage temperaturen is erg kostbaar. Indien jullie voor dit proces kiezen moet ook dit gesimuleerd worden.
- Wat is de gevoeligheid van recovery en drukniveau, doen jullie nog een soort van optimalisatie?

*Turboexpander proces:

- Lijkt erg veel op het besproken voorbeeld, maar is op sommige punten afwijkend. Wat is het effect van koelen van de voeding? Kan hierdoor de eerste expander '1' komen te vervallen?
- Zijn de voedingslocaties in de Deethanizer geoptimaliseerd? Is warmteintegratie van de voedingen naar de kolom met andere stromen voordelig?

Appendix 9-3: Correspondence with Mafi-Trench

We have performed a preliminary analysis of your process conditions and determined that two Frame 5 turboexpander-compressors operating in series will handle this duty. We would recommend placing the compressor flow in series and not in parallel as noted on your data sheets. This allows a better match between the expander and compressor impellers. Performance of these units is detailed in the attached file. A budget price for the turboexpanders, auxiliary support skid (API 614 style lube oil system to supply oil to the bearings and a seal gas supply system to supply seal gas to the labyrinth seals), and control system is approximately USD 2,000,000 to 2,250,000 for a European location. This price would normally be affected by the level of specifications imposed by our dient and the materials of construction required for the support system (i.e. carbon steel vs stainless steel). Normal delivery time for the package would be 52 weeks. Typical materials of construction for our turboexpander unit are detailed in the attached file. Additional comments are provided in your text below.

I hope this helps you on your project. Please let me know if you have troubles opening the files (if you do, let me know what type of graphics package you have or a fax number I can send to) or if I can answer any additional questions.

Dean Rupprecht Applications Engineering Manager

PS. Be sure to tell your colleagues to specify Mafi-Trench Turboexpanders when they go to work for Fluor, Stork Comprimo, ABB Lummus, Gasunie, NAM, etc!

Dear Sirs,

Hereby I would like to ask for a rough cost estimation of a turbo-expander for a none-commercial project, which is carried out by four students at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands. The project is a design case, which is compulsory for students Chemical Technology in their fourth year. It concerns the complete design and modelling of a chemical plant. I have taken the liberty of attaching a file, which contains the involved stream compositions. It concerns two turbo-expanders used in a process retrieving C3+ hydrocarbons from a stream of natural gas. The stream names denote which turbo-expander they enter or leave. Expander 1 is linked to compressor 1, and expander 2 to compressor 2. Furthermore, I would like to ask MTC the following

questions:

- what is the maximum suction volume (sm3/h)?

Our guide vanes are designed to allow 125% of design flow.

- what is the maximum allowable liquid fraction at the of the expander?

We have experience with up to 40% by weight at expander discharge with no adverse affects. The liquid concentrations for this project are weil within acceptable values.

- what material would MTC use for the manufacture these particular turbo-expanders?

See attached file.

à.

- what are the operating areas: when does retrograde condensation occur? Is it likely to occur in these turbo-expanders?

Not sure I understand your question -

- what is the efficiency of the expander and of the compressor?

See attached data sheets

Finally, I would like to stress that I am interested in just a rough cost estimation for calculation of the total investment needed in my conceptual natural gas plant (which is, of course, only a concept and not to be implemented in any way).

I would like to thank MTC in advance for its effort and hope to hear from MTC shortly.

Yours sincerely, Bob Tulleken

REFERENCE ONL'

 44444

 \tilde{x}

. $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]$. For a set of $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]$, we can construct the set of $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]$

MAFI·TRENCH TURBOEXPANDER·COMPRESSOR SYSTEM

ä

STANDARD MATERlALS OF CONSTRUCTION

NOTE:

ġ.

 $\ddot{}$

These materials are typical for cryogenic gas plant and petrochemical plant turboexpanders. Alternative materials are available to meet the requirements of any application.

Form No. AN013, Rev. B, 6/97 Page 1 of 2

Appendix 10-1: Explanation of choices made in determination of F&EI

- General process hazards
- a) Exotherrnic reactions: exotherrnic reactions are not present in the process. No penalty.
- b) Endotherrnic reactions: endotherrnic reactions are not present in the process. No penalty.
- c) Material handling & transfer:
- d) Enclosed process units: all units are located in open air. Maybe some sort of roof or covering is provided, leaving all walls open. No penalty.
- e) Access: due to the fact that no walls are surrounding the unit, no penalty is applied.

f) Drainage: it is assumed that the plant has an adequate drainage design to deal with spills and leakage of mainly the heavier hydrocarbons. Penalty: 0.25.

- Special process hazards for turbo-expander (KOl)
- a) Process temperature: the processed components are above their boiling point, but below their autoignition temperature. Penalty: 0.6
- b) Low pressure (sub-atmospheric): operating pressure is high. No penalty.
- c) Operation in or near flammable range: no oxygen is present. No penalty.
- d) Dust explosion: no dust particles are present. No penalty.
- e) Pressure: the highest operating pressure is the pressure of the feed of the expander part of the turbo-expander, which is 110 bara (1580 psig). Penalty used: 0.92.
- f) Low temperature: inlet temperature of the compressor part is 240 K, which is lower than 244 K, so a penalty of 0.5 is used, because of the use of carbon steel in the compressor housing.
- g) Quantity of flammable material: based on a throughput of 1 minute, which is rather large considering the fact that the volume of the turbo-expander is rather smal!. In calculating this quantity the throughput of gas and liquid in the expander part but also in the compressor part is used. In this case, using the heat of combustion of methane (mass bases) [53, appendix AJ, which is the highest of all components, and a total input of 188 kg/s this yields a penalty of 1.0.
- h) Corrosion and erosion: chosen is option 1. Penalty: 0.1
- j) Leakage joints and packing: the pressure ring may leak. Also the seal gas system may fail. Also the shaft connecting the expander and compressor part can cause problems. Penalty: 0.3
- k) Use of fired heaters: the fired heater and flare are more than 70 m dislocated from the turbo-expander. Penalty: 0.1.
- 1) Hot oil heat exchange system: not present. No penalty.
- m) Rotating equipment, pumps, compressors: present. Penalty: 0.5

Explanation of choices made in determination of Fire and Explosion Index of coldbox (E01), deethaniser (C02) and compressor (K02), which deviate from those made for turbo-expander (K01)

- Special process hazards for coldbox (EOI)
- e) Pressure: the highest operating pressure is the pressure of output of the expander part of the turbo-expander, which is 72.5 bara (1037 psig). Penalty used: 0.86
- f) Low temperature: no carbon steel is used, only aluminum. No penalty.
- g) Quantity of flammable material: based on a throughput of 1 minute. In this case, using the heat of combustion of methane [53, appendix A] and a total input of 348 kg/s this yields a penalty of 1.5.
- m) Rotating equipment, pumps, compressors: not present. No penalty.
- Special process hazards for deethaniser (C02) \overline{a}
- e) Pressure: the highest operating pressure is the pressure of output of the expander part of the turbo-expander, which is 72.5 bara (1037 psig). Penalty used: 0.86
- g) Quantity of flammable material: based on total mass flow through the column (64 kg/s) during 1 minute. This amount is larger than the total mass hold-up in the column (2351 kg, taken from Chemcad). Penalty: 0.4.
- m) Rotating equipment, pumps, compressors: not present. No penalty.
- Special process hazards for compressor (K02)
- e) Pressure: the highest operating pressure is the discharge pressure, which is 110 bara (2741 psig). Penalty used: 0.99
- f) Low temperature: lowest temperature in the compressor is the feed temperature (285K). No penalty.
- g) Quantity of flammable material: based on a throughput of I minute using a throughput of 118 kg/s. Penalty: 0.72.

Appendix 10-2: Fire and Explosion Index, calculation turbo-expander þ **(KOl)**

 $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}$

Table 10.2.2: Loss Control Credit Factors Calculation

1) [53], figure 8, p 29

2) This includes a sales gas loss during 15 minutes, but that is insignifant relative to the costs of the turbo-expanders. The other turbo-expander is assumed to within the radius of Exposure. The price calculation of the turbo-expanders can be found in appendix 11-1. Calculation of product loss:

The output of the two turbo-expanders is the total sales gas stream (118 kg/s).

So: 118 kg/s * 60 s * 0.13 Dfl/kg = 14,000 Dfl @ 1999

3) From [53], figure 10; $ROE = 1.94$ Dfl/\$. It should be noted that this a high underestimation: delivery time of turbo-expanders is about 52 weeks. Therefore spares should be bought.

4) During 20*24 h / 8400 h * 159.5 Mln Dfl

5) Value of product manufactured + Actual MMPD

Appendix 10-3: Fire and Explosion Index, calculation coldbox (E01)

Table 10.3.1: Fire and Explosion Index calculation coldbox (E01)

Appendix 10-4: Fire and Explosion Index, calculation deethaniser (C02)

Table 10.4.1: Fire and Explosion Index calculation deethaniser (C02)

r-----------------------------.. -------

 μ

Appendix 10-5: Fire and Explosion Index, calculation compressor (K02)

Table 10.5.1: Fire and Explosion Index calculation compressor (K02)

 $\bar{\gamma}$

Appendix 10-6: Hazop study on turbo~expander **(KOl)**

Table 10.6.1 : Autoignition Temperature, LEL and VEL

I) Autoignition Temperature

2) Lower Explosion Limit

3) Upper Explosion Limit

4) [60]

Table 10.6.2: Hazop study on turbo-expander (K01)

 $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$

Appendix 11-1: Purchase costs per unit of equipment

1) The prices for columns were, where necessary, extrapolated from the relevant prices ranges (see remark (2)) and then adjusted for the total weight of the column.

2) Ratio of mean wall thickness and length of tangent lines and indicates from which prize range the prices are taken.

3) The price for the large diameter valve trays was extrapolated from the price range on p. 18. By taking the natural logarithm for both the diameter as the price per $m²$, a linear dependency was found. The price here given is the cost per m^2 in Dfl @ 1997.

4) Total cost per tray

5) [36, p. 223]

Table 11.1.2: Costs of heat exchangers

1) Plate heat exchanger 2) CS = Carbon Steel

3) This is the standard area from which the unit price is extrapolated. Extrapolated from the range of 240 to 300 m^2 for AISI 316 SS, which is more expensive than aluminum [30]

4) F.T. = Fixed Tubes, F.H. = Floating Head

Table 11.1.3: Costs of furnace

1) [36, p. 225]

2) for Carbon Steel

3) ROE, UK Pnds to Dfl 1992: 3.00

4) Index correction Ned, 1992: 140, 1997: 152.05, factor 1.09 [61, p. 9-64]

Table 11.1.4: Costs of compressor

1) [36, p. 225]

2) The size of this compressor greatly exceeds the range from which prices for compressors can be derived. Therefore, it was decided to use 48 (24.000/500) smaller units for cost estimation. The maximum pressure for the compressor type from which this assumption has been made is 50 bara, while the output pressure should be 190 bara. This is a reason for estimating the total compressor cost even higher. On the other hand, 48 units are much more expensive than one single unit. Therefore it is decided to multiply the cost of a 500 kW compressor by 48 to arrive on the estimation for the 24 MW compressor. This is called the correction factor.

3) ROE, UK Pnds to Dfl 1992: 3.00

4) Index correction Ned, 1992: 140, 1997: 152.05, factor 1.09 [61, p. 9-64].

Table 11.1.5: Costs of vessels

1) Ratio of volume and mean plate thickness from which the prices is extrapolated.

Table 11.1.6: Costs of pumps

Table 11.1.7: Costs of turbo-expanders

I) Source: Cost estimation provided by Mafi-Trench Company, see appendix 9-3.

2) This price includes an auxiliary support skid, API 614 style lube oil system, a seal gas supply system and a control system for an European location

3) Installed spares for both the Turbo-expanders

4) Index correction Ned, 1997: 152.05, 1999: 157.88, factor 0.96 [61, p. 9-64].
Appendix 11-2: Calculation of direct, Indirect and fixed cap. costs

 $Table 11.2.1: Calculation of direct indicator and fixed constant.$

Table 11.2.2: Conversion Dfl @ 1997 to Dfl @ 1999

1) Direct capital costs are calculated from the purchased costs equipment by multiplying these by the Lang factor for a "fluids type" process: 3,40

2) Fixed capital costs are calculated from the direct capital costs by multiplying these by the Lang factor for "fluids type" process: 1,45

3) Indirect capital costs = fixed capital costs - direct capital costs

4) Dfl @ 1999 = Dfl @ 1997 * (157.88/152.05) ; International Plant Cost Index correction. In 1997: 152.05; in 1999: 158.77 (for the Netherlands). These values were extrapolated from [61, p. 9-64].

Appendix 11-3: Calculation of production costs

Table 11.3.1: Utility requirements

Table 11.3.2: Raw materials from mass balance (Mln Dfl @ 1999)

In/Out	Name	Stream number	Kton/a	Ton/ton Propane	Price (Dfl/kton)	Costs (Mln Dfl/a)
In	Feed		4329		0.168	500.00
	Total in		4329		0.168	500.00
Out	Sales Gas	34	3564		0.189	463.47
	Propane	54	342			
	Butane	61	212			
	Pentane ⁺	64	174			
	Fuel/Stack Gas	40	37			
	Total Out		4329			463.47
In $-$ Out $=$ Raw materials cost						36.53

Table 11.3.3: Utilities (Mln Dfl @ 1999)

Table 11.3.4: Zeolite (Mln Dfl @ 1999)

Zeolite	Per Bed fill (ton)	Dfl/ton	Per fill (Dfl)	Life Time (years)	Number of beds	Mln Dfl/a
	16.15	6180	99,830			0.075

Table 11.3.5: Labour costs (Mln Dfl @ 1999)

Table 11.3.6: Production costs (Mln Dfl/a)

1) The lifetime of the plant is 25 years. Therefore Capital charges totalling 10% of Fixed Capital are assumed to be quite adequate.

2) Sales expense, General overheads and R&D all together amount to 15% of Direct Costs. For this amount was decided considering the low R&D and Sales expense costs.

3) Propane, as main product, is assumed to account for all Annual Production Costs.

Appendix 11-4: Net Future Value and Net Present Value at 6.5% interest

Table 11.4.1: Net Future Value and Net Present Value at 6.5% interest

1) Construction time of 2 years is assumed.

2) Interest Rate is 6.5%. Discount Factor $(D.F.) = (1/(1+0.065))^n$, in which n = the year number from the first column minus 1

Figure 11.4.1: Net Future Value at 6.5% interest

Figure 11.4.2: Net Present Value at 6.5% interest

Appendix 11-5: DCFROR

Table 11.5.1: Net Future Value and Net Present Value at 17.3% interest

	Total Investment: 163.64 Mln Dfl Fixed Capital: 125.88 Mln Dfl Net Annual Cash Flow: 31.37 Mln Dfl									
End	Net Future Values					DCFROR				
year	No discount - Annual & Accum.									
no.										
	Capital Ann.	Costs Accum.	Nett ann. Cash flow	Acc. Cash flow	NFV	Disc. fact.; inte- $Rest =$ 17.3 $\emph{g}_{\emph{o}}$ $\emph{^{2}}$	Capital Costs	Acc.Cash Flow	NPV	
	Dfl Mln	Dfl Mln	Dfl Mln	Dfl Mln	Dfl Mln	\bullet	Dfl Mln	Dfl Mln	Dfl Mln	
1	81.82	81.82			-81.82	1.00	81.82		-81.82	
\overline{c}	81.82	163.64			-163.64	0.85	151.56		-151.56	
3			31.3	31.37	-132.27	0.73		22.79	-128.77	
$\overline{4}$			31.37	62.74	-100.90	0.62		42.22	-109.34	
5			31.37	94.11	-69.53	0.53		58.78	-92.78	
6			31.37	125.48	-38.16	0.45		72.90	-78.67	
$\overline{7}$			31.37	156.85	-6.79	0.38		84.93	-66.63	
$\overline{8}$			31.37	188.22	24.58	0.33		95.19	-56.38	
$\overline{9}$			31.37	219.59	55.95	0.28		103.93	-47.63	
10			31.37	250.96	87.32	0.24		111.38	-40.18	
11			31.37	282.33	118.69	0.20		117.73	-33.83	
12			31.37	313.70	150.06	0.17		123.15	-28.42	
13			31.37	345.07	181.43	0.15		127.76	-23.80	
14			31.37	376.45	212.81	0.13		131.70	-19.87	
15			31.37	407.82	244.18	0.11		135.05	-16.51	
16			31.37	439.19	275.55	0.09		137.91	-13.66	
17			31.37	470.56	306.92	0.08		140.34	-11.22	
18			31.37	501.93	338.29	0.07		142.42	-9.14	
19			31.37	533.30	369.66	0.06		144.19	-7.37	
20			31.37	564.67	401.03	0.05		145.70	-5.86	
21			31.37	596.04	432.40	0.04		146.99	-4.58	
22			31.37	627.41	463.77	0.03		148.08	-3.48	
23			31.37	658.78	495.14	0.03		149.02	-2.55	
24			31.37	690.15	526.51	0.03		149.81	-1.75	
25			31.37	721.52	557.88	0.02		150.49	-1.07	
26			31.37	752.89	589.25	0.02		151.07	-0.49	
27			31.37	784.26	620.62	0.02		151.56	0.00	
To- tal			784.26	784.26	620.62	6.68	151.56	151.56	0.00	
[Cash Flow/Capital] Ratio 1,00 Net Present Value [Cash Flow - Capital] 0.00										

1) Construction time of 2 years is assumed.

2) Interest Rate is 17.3%. Discount Factor (D.F.) = $(1/(1+0.173))^n$, in which n = the year number from the first column minus I

 $\overline{}$

Figure 11.5.1: Discounted Flow Rate Of Return at 17.3% interest

Appendix 11-6: Maximum allowed investment calculation based on **margin**

Table 11.6.1: Maximum allowed investment calculation based on margin at an interest rate of 6.5%

1) Construction time of 2 years is assumed.

2) Interest Rate is 6.5% . Discount Factor (D.F.) = $(1/(1+0.065))^n$, in which n = the year number from the first column minus 1

