

solar what?

- you say potato I say potatho
- even changed during research: solar assisted power generation to solar aided power generation
- also known as solar boosting or solar augmentation

regenerative Rankine cycle



- increase efficiency of power plant
 - 1. increase average temperature at which heat is added
 - 2. decrease average temperature at which heat is rejected
 - 3. increase operating pressure
- regenerative Rankine cycle (no 1)
 - preheating of boiler feedwater with extracted steam from turbine

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who cares?

NREL, EPRI, ESKOM, AREVA, AURECON, STERG



research game plan

- a. energy efficiency
- b. add solar to coal

a. energy efficiency

power plant modelled in Excel



a. energy efficiency power plant model results and validation



a. energy efficiency - results





b. add solar to coal: solar aided power generation (SAPG)



- power plant modelled in Excel
- solar field modelled with SAM and feed into power plant model
- preheating of boiler feedwater
- compliment extracted turbine steam with solar heat
- efficient use of low to medium temperature solar heat (less than 250°C) for power generation

results – various solar collectors



- relative to LF performance
- preference of higher feedwater
 / temperatures/stages
- preference of concentrating technologies

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results – Linear Fresnel (LF) & Parabolic Trough (PT)



- annual simulations with Lephalale weather data, solar field in SAM
- solar boost is additional electricity generated due to augmented steam
- both N-S and E-W solar field orientations considered
- N-S greater annual total
- cost parity: LF 53% of specific installation costs (\$/m²) of PT (more to it than this...)

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SAPG vs stand-alone CSP



site locations

- SAPG : Lephalale (home to Matimba and Medupi power stations)
- stand alone CSP Upington (solar park)
 20% more annual total DNI

aerial view of Matimba power station



land footprint

- low energy density compared to coal
- land availability might be limiting factor

results – SAPG vs stand-alone CSP





- Upington ('solar park') CSP vs Lephalale (Matimba and Mudupi) SAPG
- based on PT technologies with same power block performance, annual simulations
- SAPG 1.27 times more electricity into the grid
- If SAPG cost taken as 72% of stand-alone CSP => 1.8 times more cost effective



better performance in high demand months (SA winter) other benefits: existing infrastructure and zoning (EIA), storage capabilities, scale, vicinity to loads and manufacturing industry



conclusions

- Solar thermal is coal friendly
- SAPG is
 - a commercial technology at utility scale
 - a viable solution for short to medium term
 - well suited to South Africa with significant coal base and good solar resource
 - shorter lead time than stand alone CSP
 - more cost effective than stand alone CSP
 - is not competition to stand alone CSP but a mechanism to promote CSP
- there is more to solar projects than DNI totals

thank you for your attention, please thank Paul for presenting

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MEng report http://hdl.handle.net/10019.1/80139

Article: watch this space \bigcirc

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