



**eurammon Symposium 2017**

***Small Applications with Ammonia***

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# Traditional Ammonia Refrigeration Technology

Compressor  
Plantroom



Surge Drum Vessel  
and Liquid Pumps



HPR Liquid  
Storage Vessel



# Ammonia Refrigerant Charge

*The refrigerant for a well designed  
pumped recirculation ammonia system  
is \*\* 2.6 kg/kW*

\*\*GCCA White Paper on Low Charge Systems

# So what Is Low Charge?



Uh oh.



## Low Charge: A Definition

*Any ammonia system which requires a specific system charge of less than **\*1.3kg/kW (10 lb/TR )** of refrigerant.*

\*GCCA White Paper on Low Charge Systems

# Case Study 1 - System Refrigerant Charge – Small R22 DX Plant

- Single **DX R22** Refrigeration Plant installed 1991
- Single stage plant with 3x Compound Reciprocating Compressors
- 2x Evaporative condensers
- 5x DX Evaporators
- Main Freezer Chamber -22degC
  
- **175kW** installed room cooler capacity
- **540kg** refrigerant charge

**3.1kg/kW specific system charge**

## Case Study 2 - System Refrigerant Charge – Small R407F DX Plant

- 4x Modular **DX R407F** Split Systems installed 2014
- Each modular system comprised
  - 1x Air-cooled condensing unit
  - 1x Evaporator
  - 55kg gas charge
- Main Freezer Chamber -22degC
- **140kW** installed refrigeration capacity
- **220kg** refrigerant charge

**1.75kg/kW specific system charge**

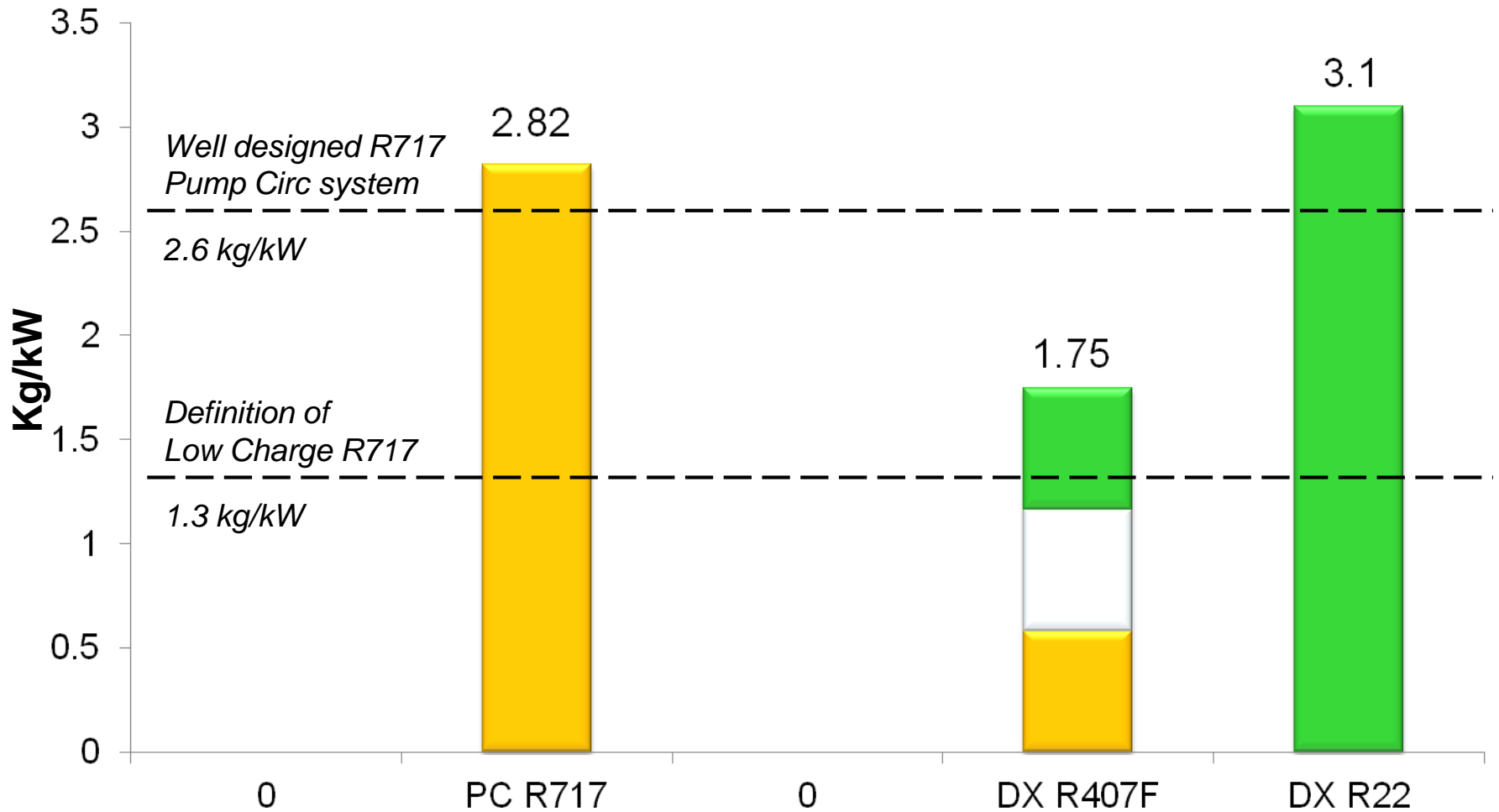
## Case Study 3 - System Refrigerant Charge – Large R717 PC Plant

- Single **R717 Pump Circulation** Refrigeration Plant installed 2013
- Two stage plant with 2 LT + 3 HT Screw Comps + 2 Evap Condensers
- LT Freezer Chamber -22degC @810kW 5 Evaporators
- MT Chamber +2degC @ 1,656kW 12 Evaporators
- HT Chamber +12degC @ 492kW 4 Evaporators
- Approximately 1,000 meters of PL and WR refrigerant pipework
  
- **3,085kW** installed refrigeration capacity
- **8,700kg** refrigerant charge

**2.82kg/kW specific system charge**



# Specific System Refrigerant Charge kg/kW

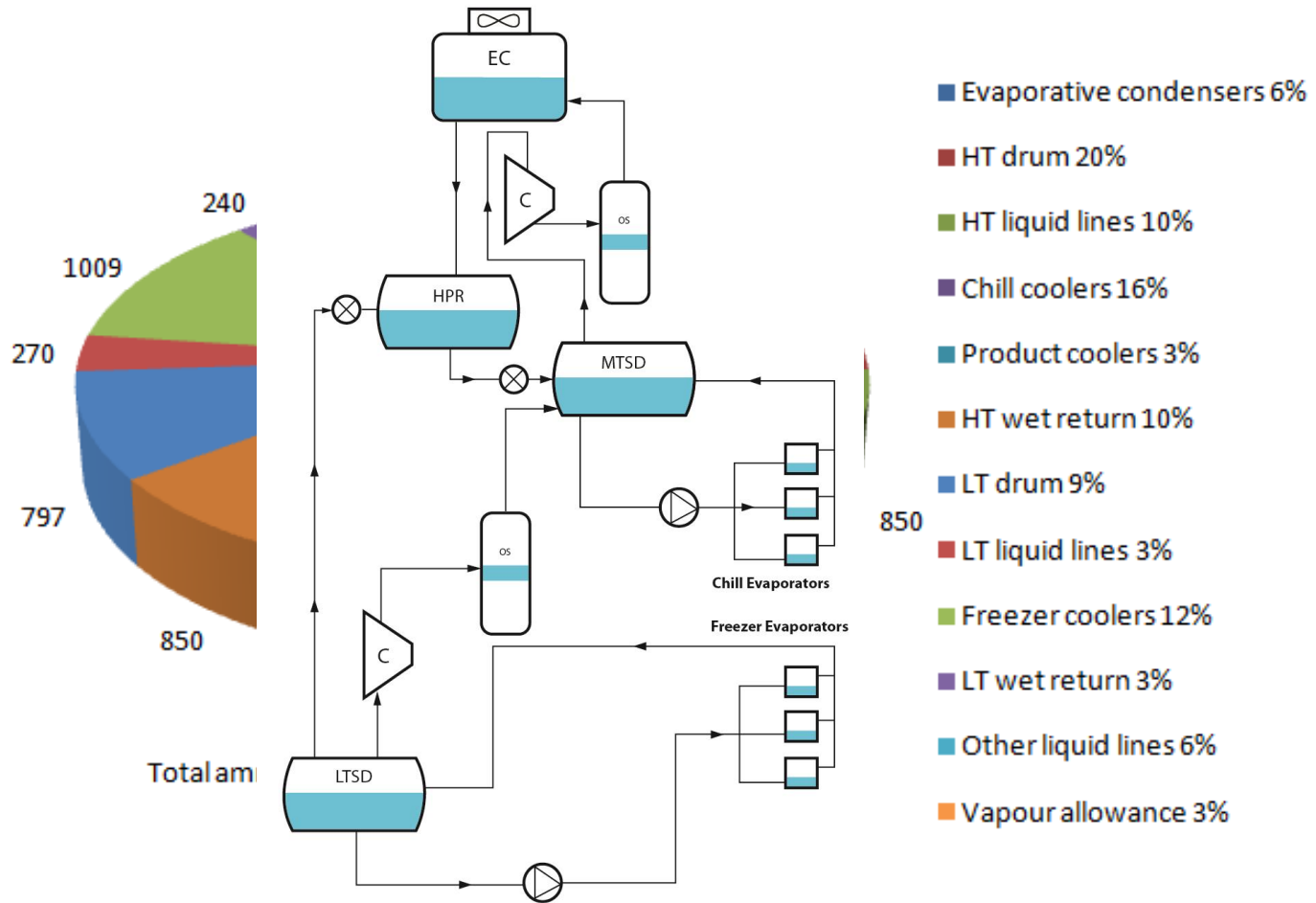


## Low Charge : Alternative Definition

*The lowest possible charge required for stable operation of the unit over the **full range of possible operating conditions** while maintaining the system's rated capacity*

Refrigerant Charge Reduction in  
Refrigerating Systems –  
IIR Informatory Note

# Where's The Charge?



# Target Areas For Reducing Charge



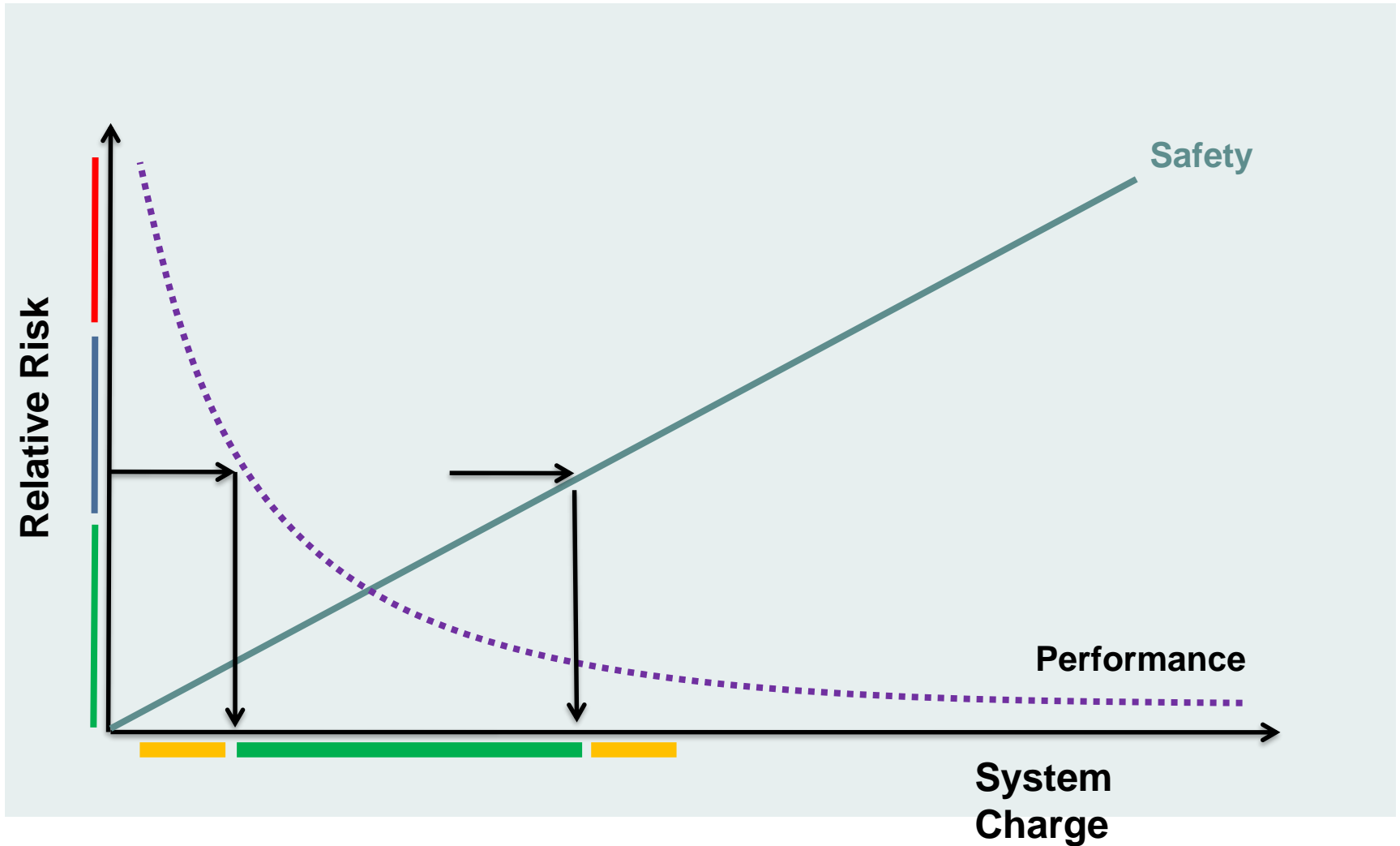
# Design Criteria For Low Charge

Lowest possible charge for  
safe and reliable operation

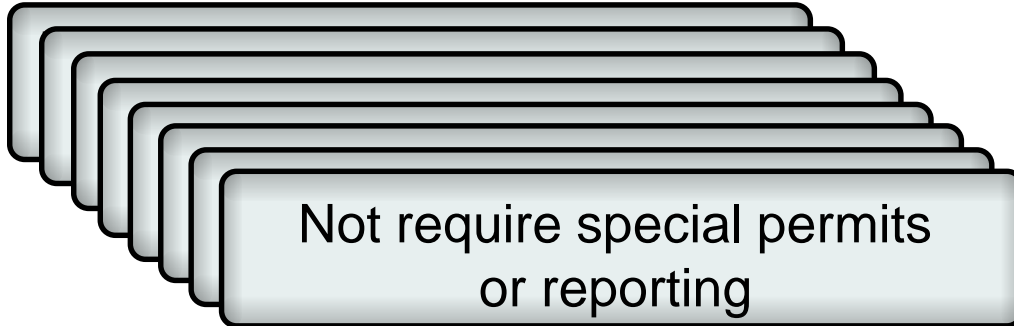
# Charge – How Low Can You Go?



# Charge – How Low Can You Go?



# Design Criteria For Low Charge

A series of seven light blue, rounded rectangular callout boxes stacked on top of each other, slightly offset to the right. The top-most box contains the text:

Not require special permits  
or reporting



# Design Criteria For Low Charge

Lowest possible charge for safe and reliable operation

Maximum possible efficiency

Require the lowest possible level of maintenance

Pose zero (or close to zero) risk to employees

Be leak-free

Be reliable across a range of operating conditions

Be low cost

Not require special permits or reporting

# Case Study 4 – 140kW Low Charge R717 Condensing Unit



Photos taken from Pinneys  
DX R22 Freezer Plant with Air Cooled Condenser

Freezer Storage facility -22degC

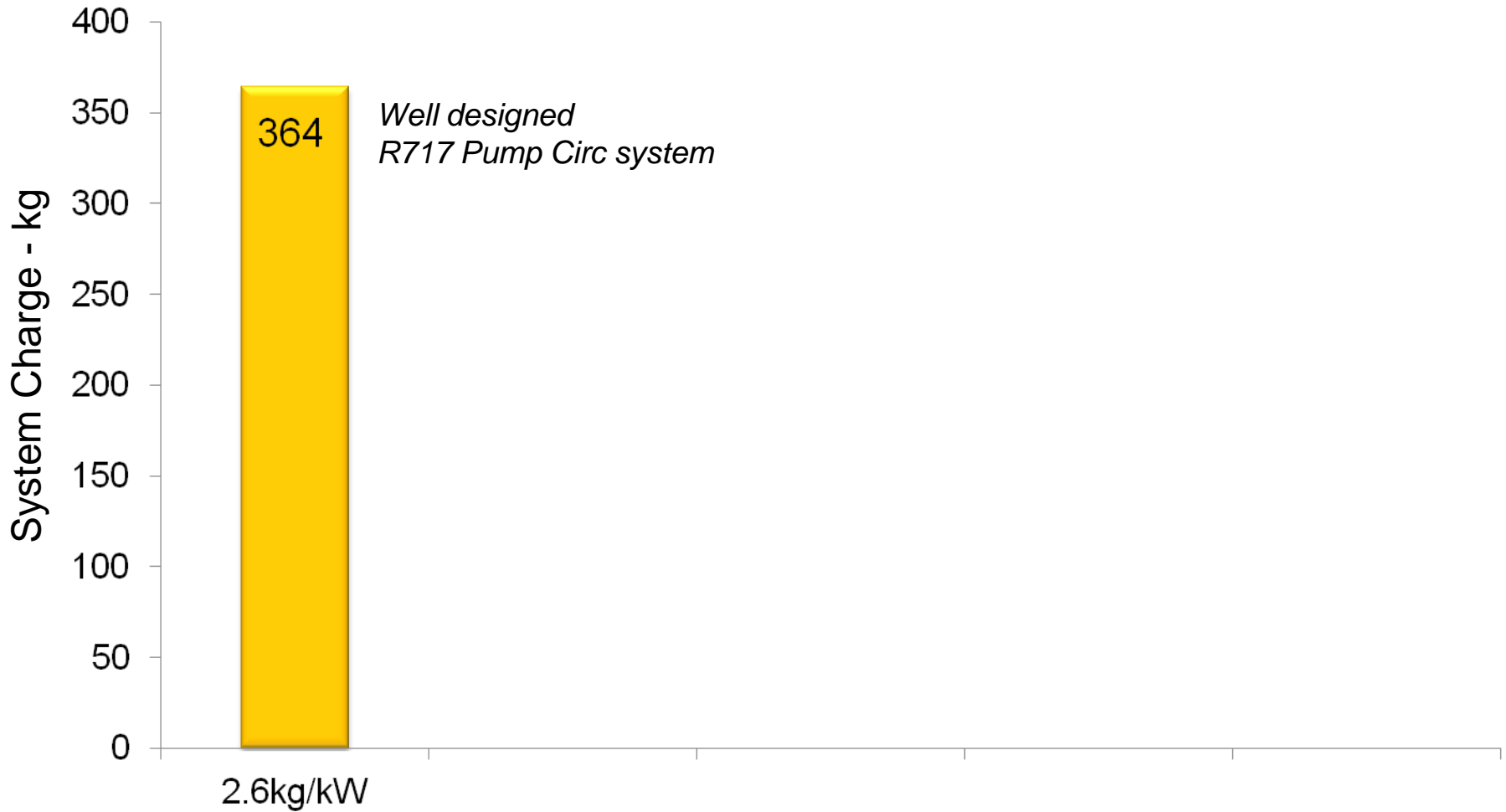
Country: Scotland, UK

Capacity: circa 140kW

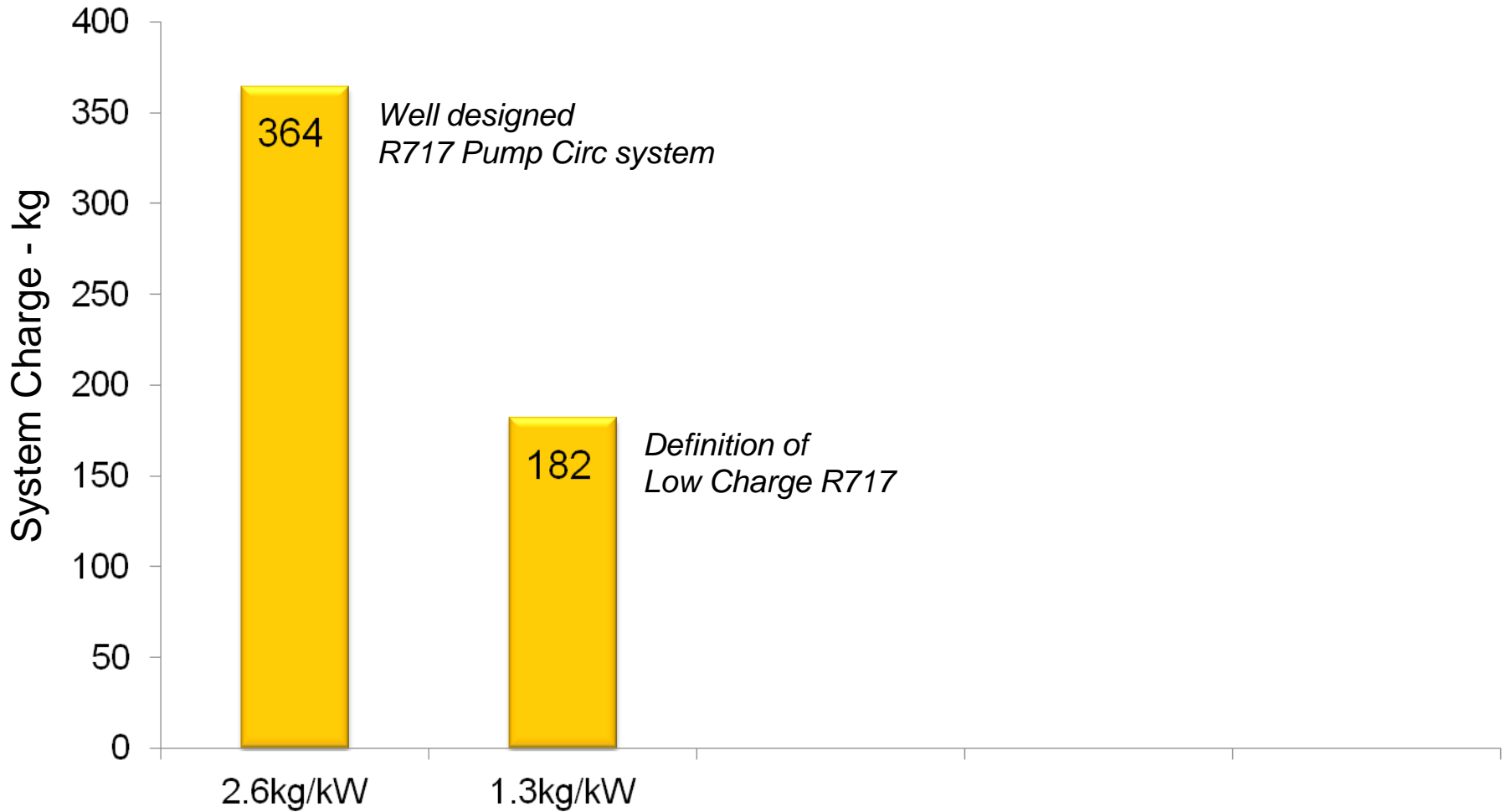
Refrigerant: R22 - kg unknown?

Year of Installation: 1990

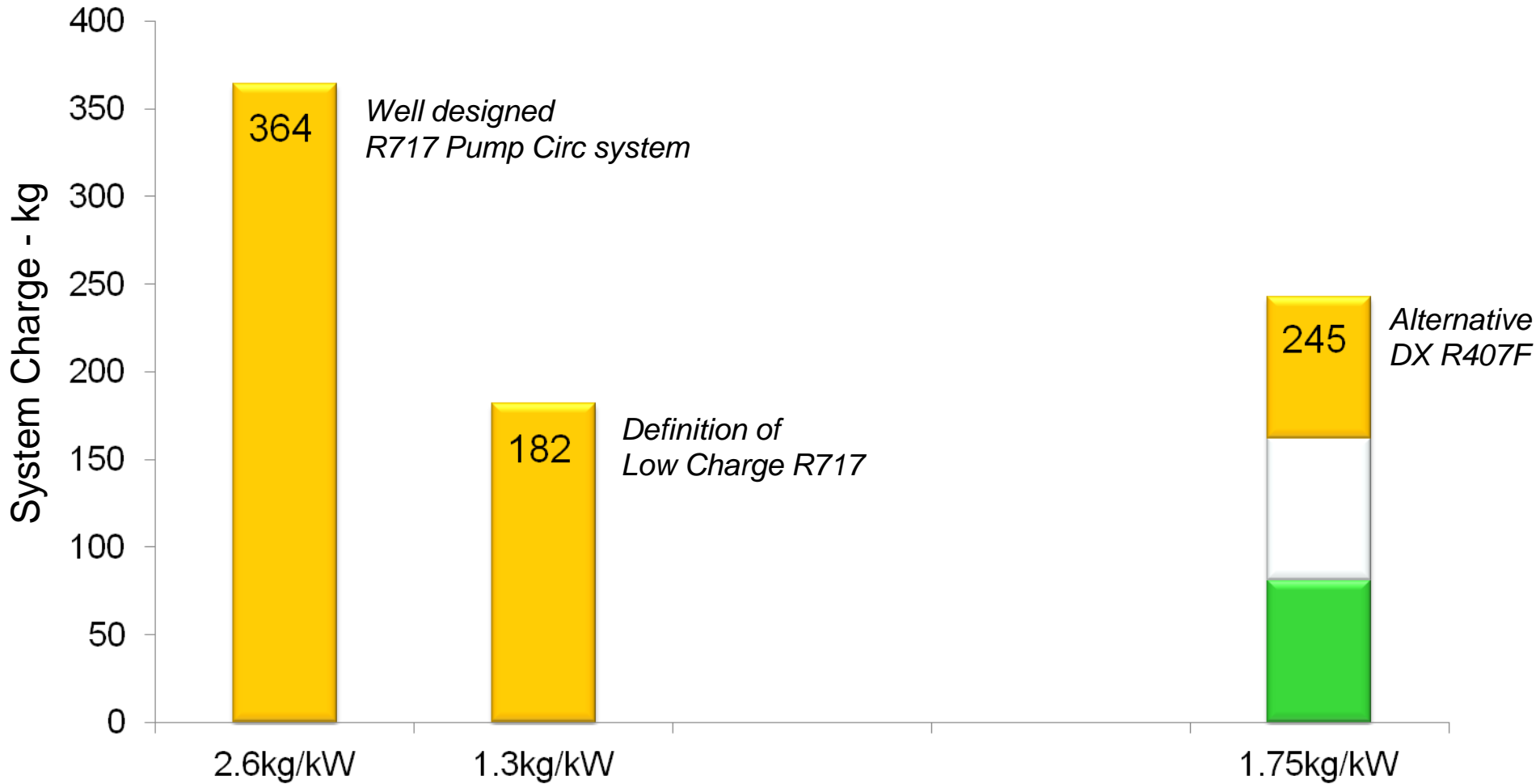
# Case Study 4 – 140kW Low Charge R717 Condensing Unit



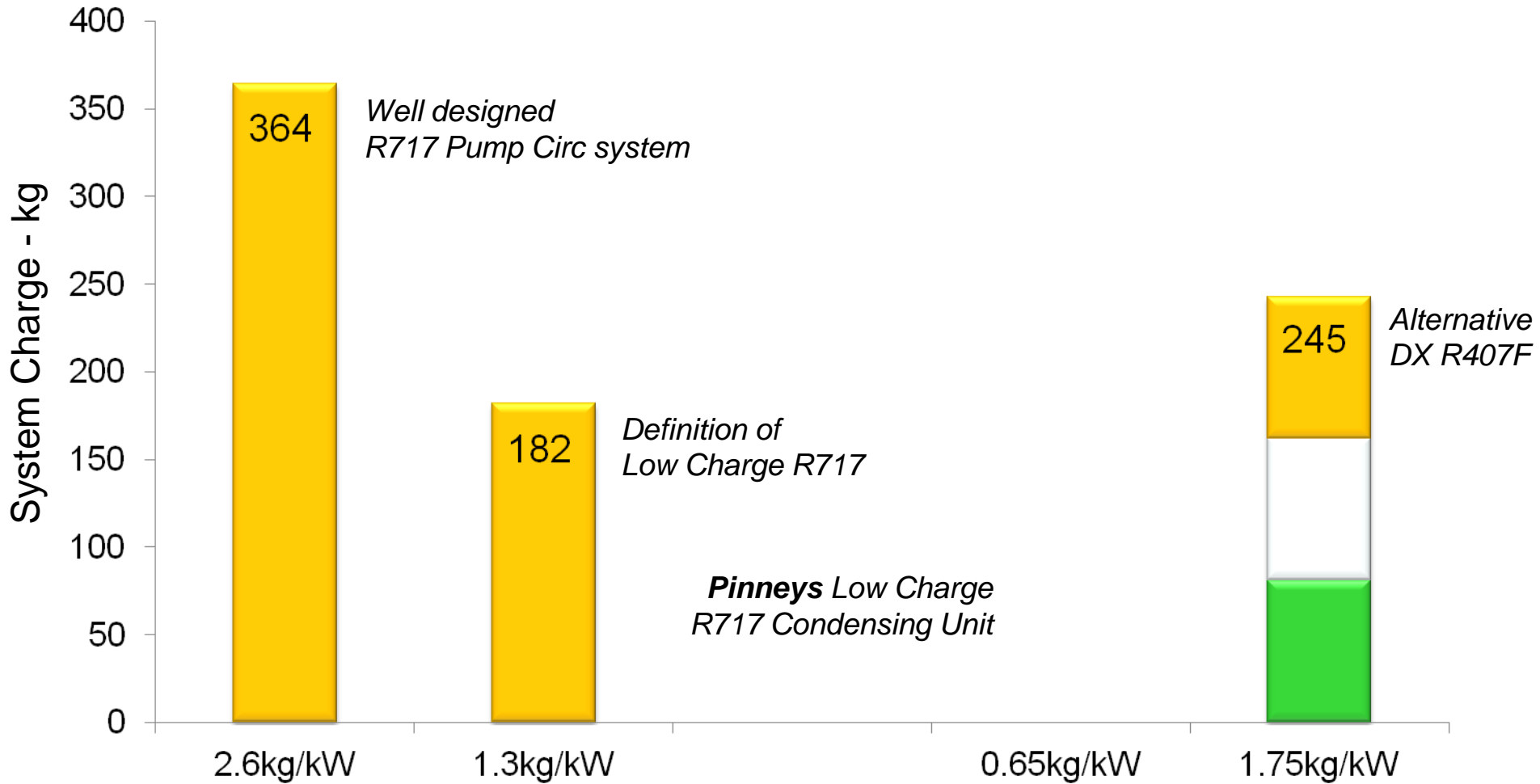
# Case Study 4 – 140kW Low Charge R717 Condensing Unit



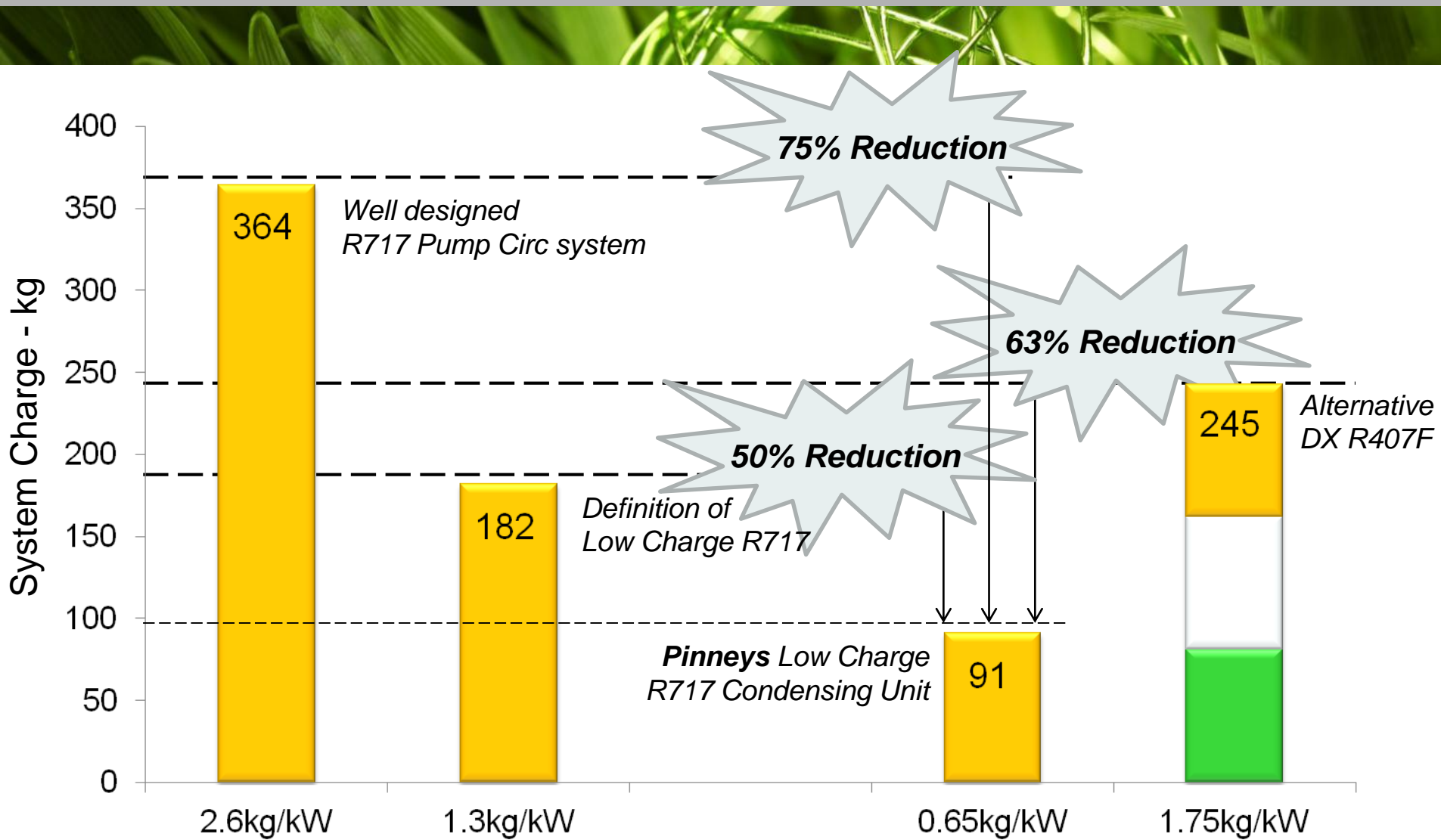
# Case Study 4 – 140kW Low Charge R717 Condensing Unit



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# Case Study 4 – 140kW Low Charge R717 Condensing Unit



Freezer facility -22degC

140kW Refrigeration Capacity

Low Charge R717 Cond Unit

91kg Charge = 0.65kg/kW



# Low Charge R717 Condensing Units



70kW to 350kW capacities

Cold storage applications

No plant room

Factory assembled and wired

Local or remote location

Air, evaporative or water cooled

Efficient operation

Fast installation

<0.65kg/kW charge

# Key Component – Aluminium Coil



Excellent heat transfer

Very low charge

High efficiency

Metal	Density kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Thermal Conductivity kW/ m <sup>2</sup> °C
Aluminium	2643	202
Stainless Steel	8030	16
Galvanised Steel	7048	112

# Key Component – 4 Way Valve



Single 4 way ball valve

Reverse plant operation

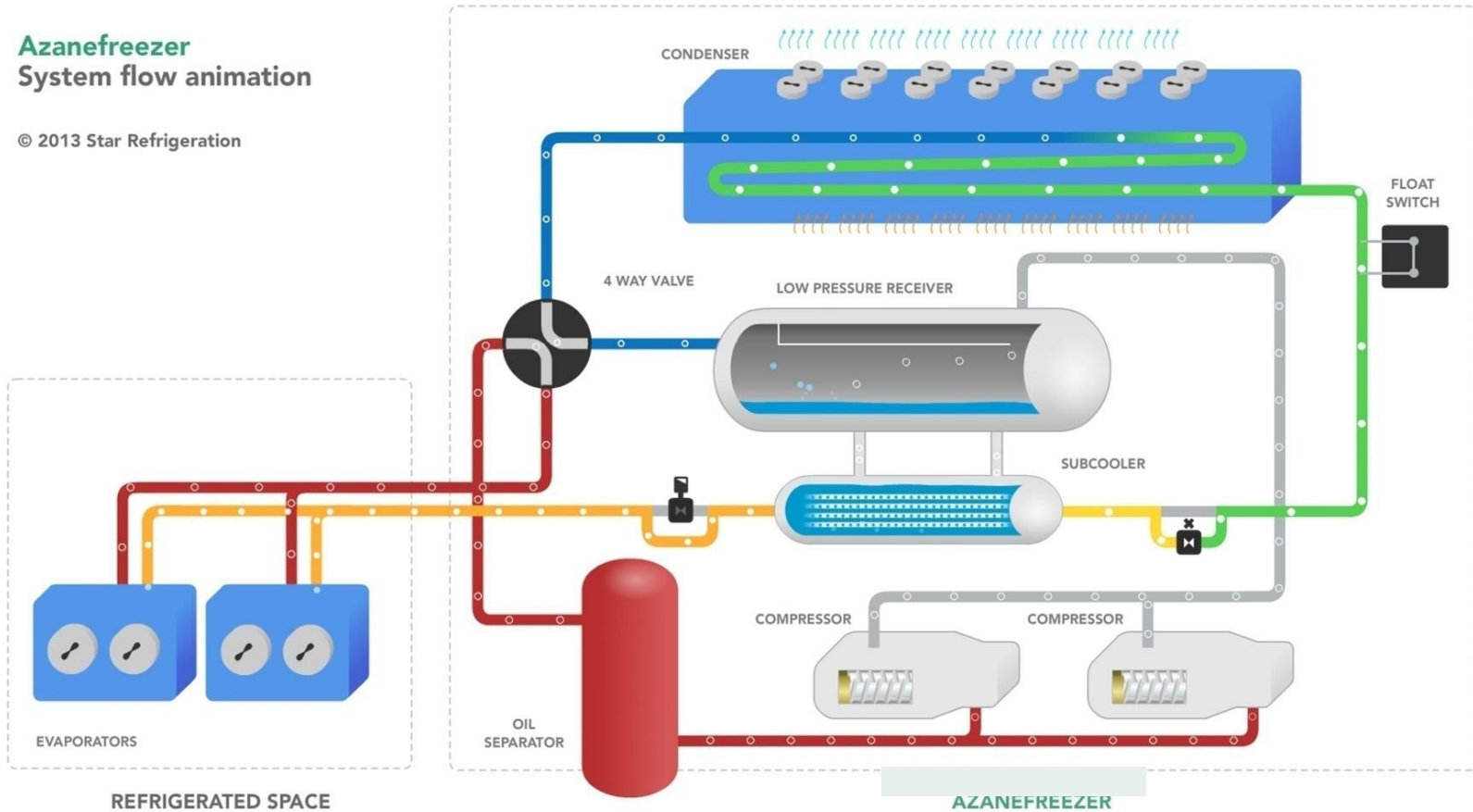
Electrical actuator

Rapid defrost

# Low Charge R717 Condensing Unit

## Azanefreezer System flow animation

© 2013 Star Refrigeration



# Packaged Low Charge Ammonia Units



# Case Study 5 – Low Charge Packaged Systems

Low pressure receiver system

Reverse cycle defrosting

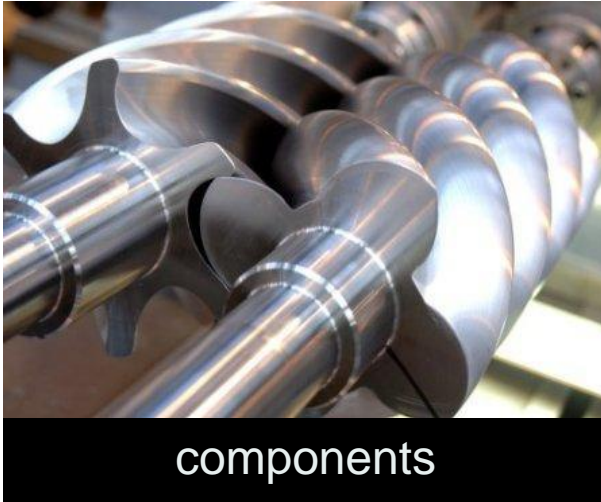
Pump free design

High efficiency, low charge

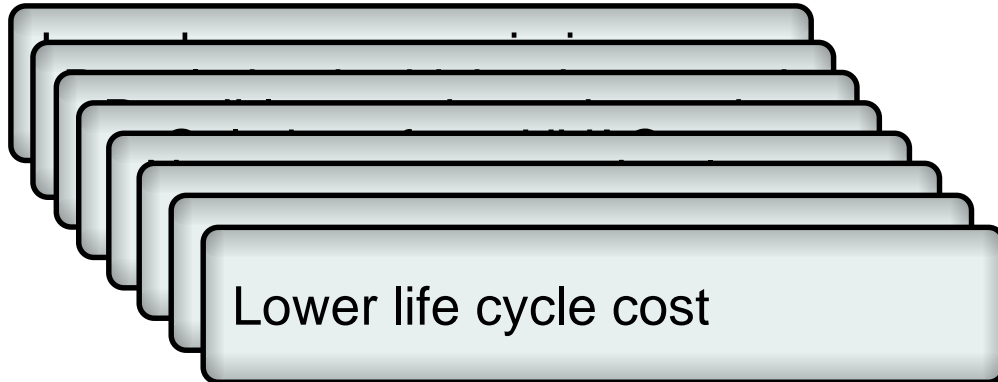
Secondary glycol to loading dock



# Future Development



# Summary





# Summary

Low charge ammonia is already available

Regulation is driving increased interest

Solutions from HVAC to Freezers

Possible to reduce charge by 75%+

New component technology development

New system development

Improved efficiency

Lower life cycle cost



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