

# Achieving Building Sustainability with Simulation Technologies

**08 November 2016 (Tuesday), 9.00am - 1.00pm (Half Day)**

Shah's Village Hotel, Petaling Jaya

ORGANISED BY



SPONSORED BY



INTEGRATED  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SOLUTIONS

## Case Study on Benefit of Simulations

By : Gregers Reimann

Managing Director

IEN Consultants Sdn Bhd | Energy Efficient & Green Building Consultancy

[www.ien.com.my](http://www.ien.com.my) | [gregers@ien.com.my](mailto:gregers@ien.com.my) | +60122755630



LEO Building



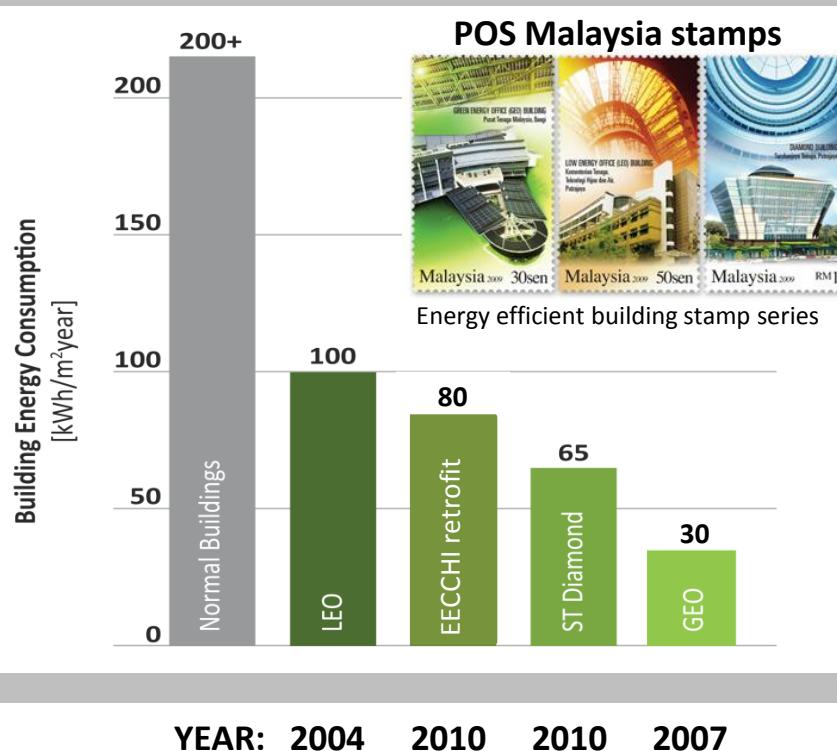
GEO Building



ST Diamond Building



EECCHI retrofit



Here's the answer to  
"Benefit of Simulations"

Measured Energy Data  
for  
New and Retrofitted Buildings  
by IEN Consultants  
all of which were optimised through  
extensive computer simulation

# A real conversation that I had here in Malaysia.....



Courtesy of Gregers Reimann/IEN Consultants Sdn Bhd / Illustration by Rachel Chen Ruiqi

The Star newspaper, 16 August 2013

I optimised the design of buildings through computer simulation – and then they are built without any big surprises ☺

# Problem of Over-Design for Buildings

Building owners get double-penalty of:

- Higher CAPEX  
(higher construction cost)
- Higher OPEX  
(higher operating cost)

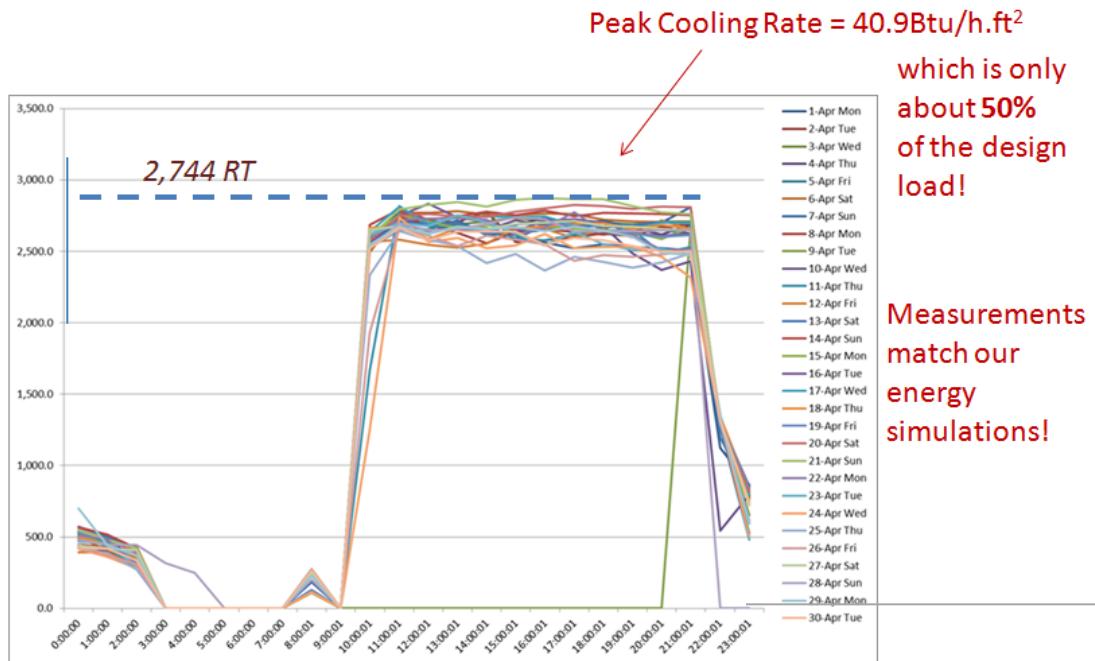
Building owner



Cartoon by IEN Consultants / The Star newspaper (2014)

# Case study 1: Building Simulation showed that the Chiller Plant could be Down-Sized

Measured cooling load  
Malaysian Shopping Mall



Installed  
5000 RT

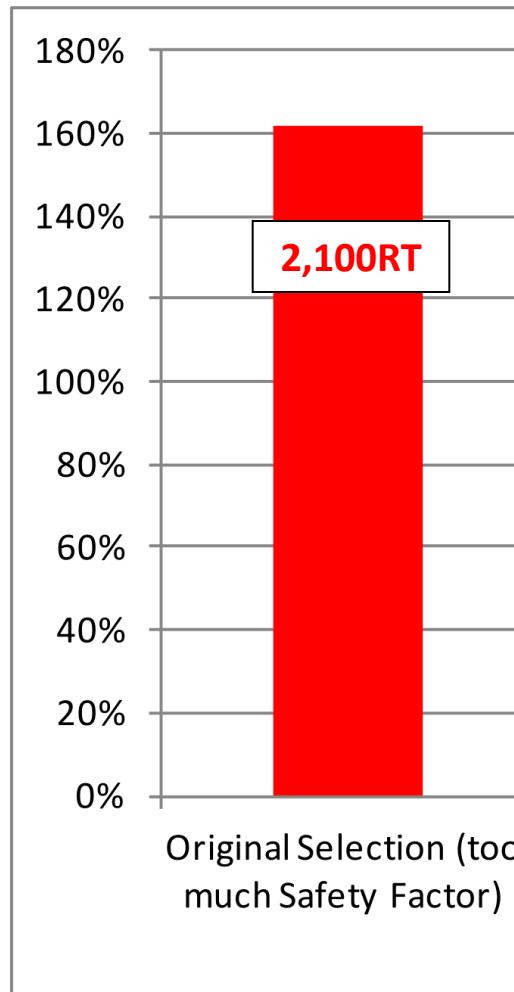
CAPEX Savings  
USD 500,000

Our proposal  
4200 RT

Allows buffer for repair/servicing of one chiller

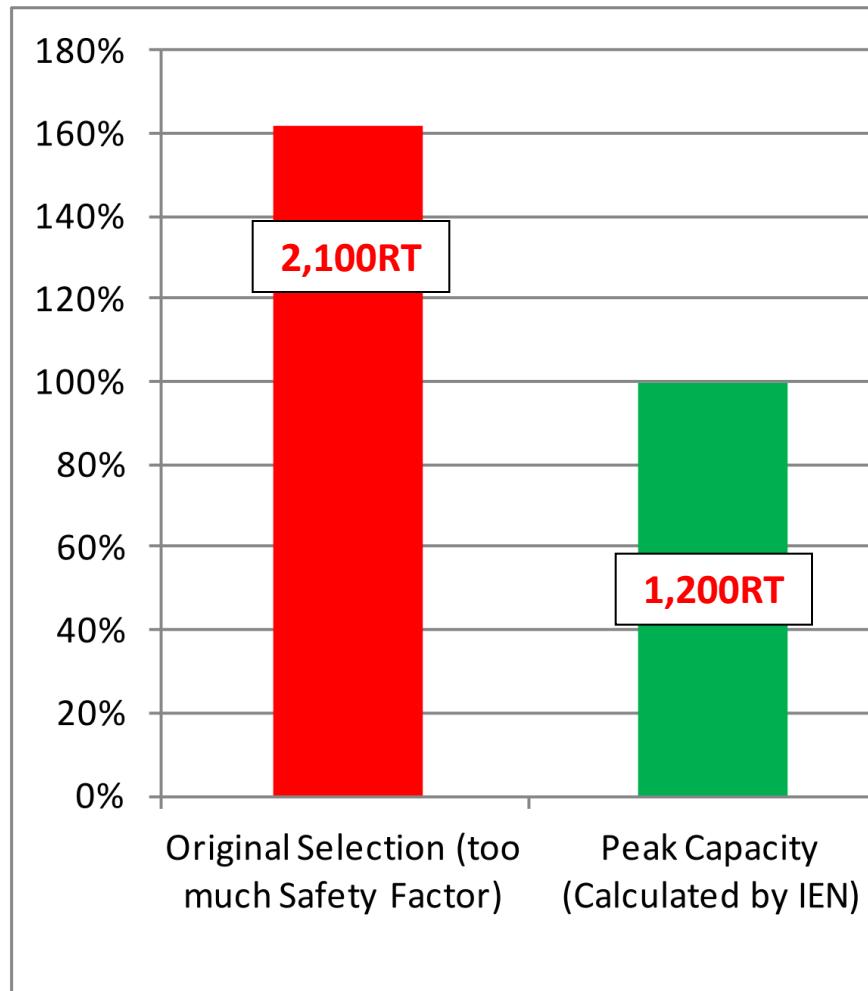
# Case study 2: Building Simulation showed that the Chiller Plant could be Down-Sized

*Shopping mall  
project in  
Malaysia*



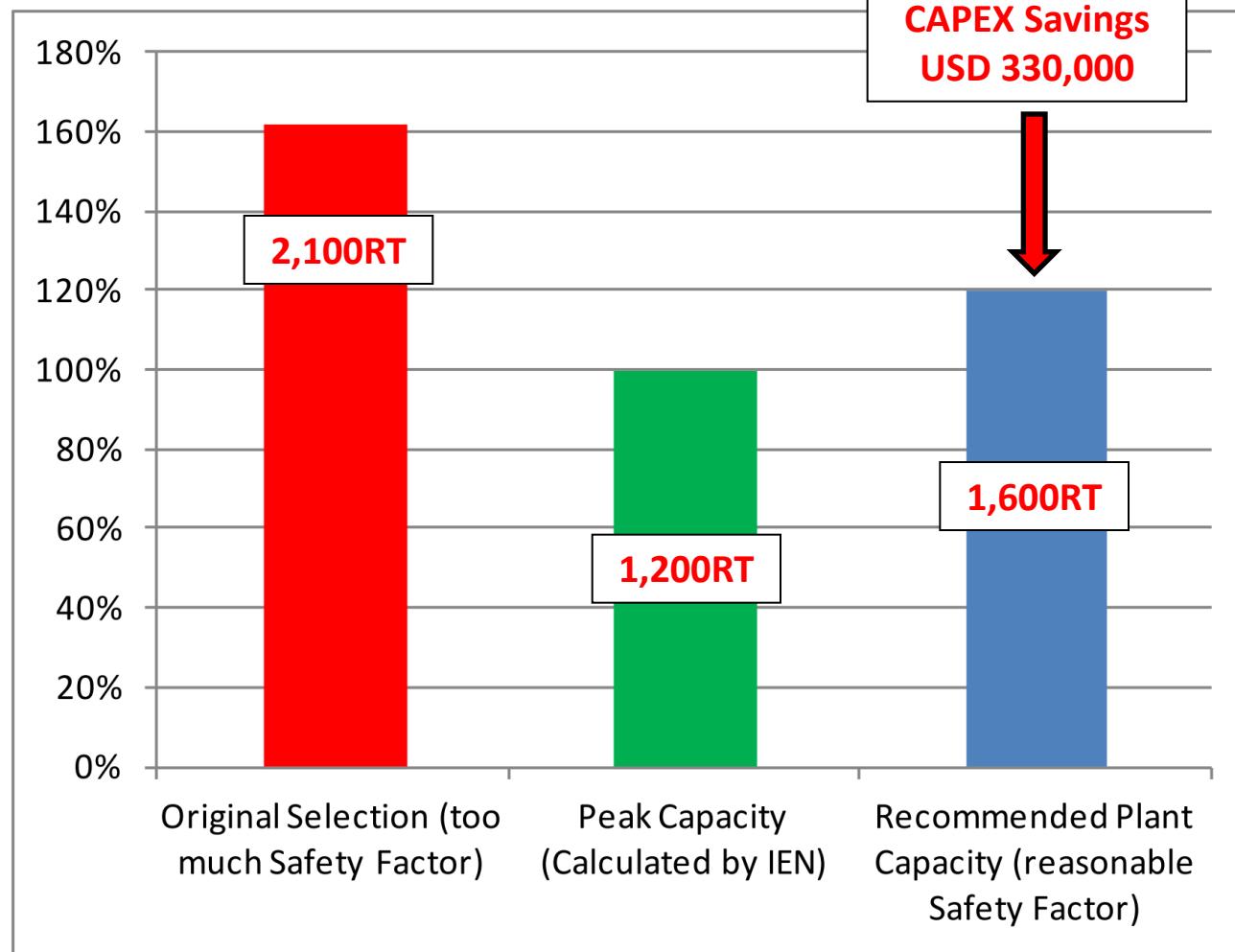
# Case study 2: Building Simulation showed that the Chiller Plant could be Down-Sized

*Shopping mall project in Malaysia*



# Case study 2: Building Simulation showed that the Chiller Plant could be Down-Sized

Shopping mall project in Malaysia



# Think of Computer Building Simulation like Navigating with a Map of Varying Accuracy



Let's move the market in this direction!

Accurate map



Inaccurate map



No map



=  
Accurate  
computer simulation

Building design can be optimised  
and over-design of systems  
minimised

=  
Inaccurate  
computer simulation

Building design can be improved  
and over-design of systems  
reduced

=  
No  
computer simulation

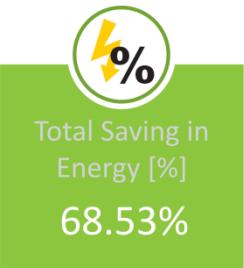
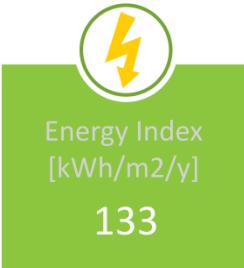
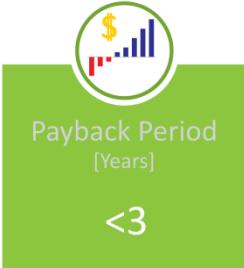
Building design relies on rules of  
thumb resulting in inefficient and  
over-designed systems

# Create a 'Green Shopping List' for Building Design Team

Computer simulation allows assessment of payback time & green impact for each item

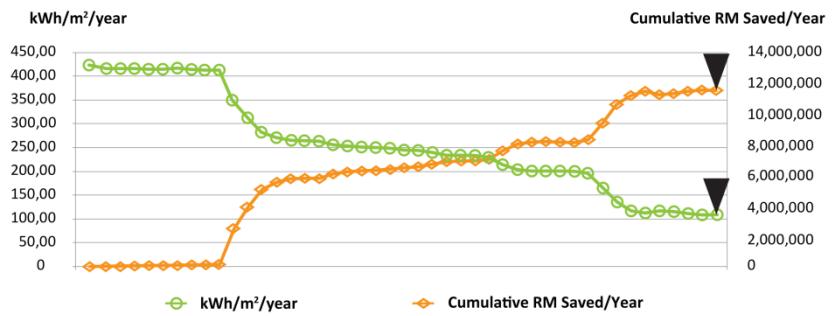
**SUMMARY** if all 42 items implemented:

Items	Descriptions	Total Building MWh/year	Tenant's MWh/year	Owner's MWh/year	Savings (MWh/year)	Owner's kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year	Running Cost/year	Cumulative MWh/year	% Saved	RM/year	Saved per step	% Save per step	Extra Budget Estimated (RM)
0	Base Case Grid Ftr Doors 50% Open during Mall hours.	36,331	36,331	497	35,934	13,254,052	4,196	1,24%	190,882	1,24%	300,000		
1	4 nos of Revolving Doors proposed	75,952	36,331	39,621	496	419	15,234,221	547	1.36%	19,831	0.13%	361,871	
2	Clear Glazing on Clear Low-e Single Glazing	75,900	36,331	39,569	531	418	15,234,343	599	1.49%	35,709	0.13%	904,678	
3	Clear Low-e Glazing on High performance Dbl Glazing	75,848	36,331	39,518	550	418	15,234,465	651	1.62%	35,587	0.16%	733,742	
4	Brick Wall to Arrest Heat Gain 100mm	75,812	36,331	39,481	381	417	15,185,958	665	1.65%	24,384	0.07%	1,760,281	
5	Roof Vegetated Roof	75,785	36,331	39,454	27	417	15,185,958	662	1.65%	24,384	0.07%	1,760,281	
6	Green Vegetated Roof	75,782	36,331	39,451	3	417	15,185,752	665	1.66%	1,206	0.01%		
7	Brick Wall to Arrest Light Weight Concrete 100mm	75,649	36,331	39,338	113	416	15,145,172	779	1.94%	43,580	0.28%	623,990	
8	Brick Wall to Arrest Light Weight Concrete 150mm	75,637	36,331	39,326	122	416	15,145,172	786	1.97%	43,580	0.29%	1,455,976	
8a	Brick Wall to Arrest Light Weight Concrete 200mm	75,649	36,331	39,319	8	416	15,137,632	798	1.99%	51,121	0.07%		
9	VAV system instead of fresh air intake	69,627	36,331	31,297	6,022	352	12,819,204	6,820	17.03%	2,321,399	15.03%		
10	CO2 Sensor system for fresh air intake for all AHU	66,091	36,331	3,537	314	11,457,543	10,357	25.82%	1,361,661	8.82%	750,000		
11	Optimised Airflow for all AHU, Ductwork, Duct Ducts	63,830	36,331	26,849	3,330	208	12,819,204	12,386	32.39%	1,200,000	3.29%		
12	Electronic Air Filter used for all AHU	62,029	36,331	25,698	1,151	272	9,891,910	14,418	35.94%	443,144	2.97%	1,400,000	
13	Use of AirFall Fan instead of Backward Curve for all AHU	61,506	36,331	25,178	523	266	9,892,038	14,941	37.24%	201,272	1.30%	300,000	
14	Efficiency 1.0 instead of AHU instead of Eff. 2.7	61,460	36,331	25,072	104	263	9,892,053	15,645	37.9%	36,000	0.26%	250,000	
15	Condenser Water Pump Efficiency 30% down to 20%	61,443	36,331	25,023	60	264	9,892,053	15,545	36.6%	27,231	0.15%	100,000	
16	Chill Water Pump Head 30% down to 20% Increase Pipe Size	60,682	36,331	24,351	661	257	9,375,189	15,766	39.30%	254,542	1.65%	1,000,000	
17	Chill Water Pump Head 25% down to 15% Increase Pipe Size	60,530	36,331	24,039	312	254	9,251,116	16,077	40.08%	120,073	0.78%	1,000,000	
18	Chill Water Pump Efficiency 60% down to 20%	60,230	36,331	23,889	140	252	9,200,654	16,282	40.59%	54,000	0.35%	800,000	
19	Chill Water Motor Efficiency Type 1 instead of Type 2	60,204	36,331	23,873	26	252	9,191,204	16,243	40.49%	9,875	0.06%	270,000	
20	Chill Water Constant Flow to Primary/Secondary variable	59,936	36,331	23,605	268	242	9,087,913	16,512	41.16%	101,293	0.67%	500,000	
21	Condenser Water Pump Efficiency 60% down to 20%	59,623	36,331	23,292	313	246	8,967,515	16,824	41,94%	120,398	0.78%	50,000	
22	Condenser Water Pump Head 30% down to 25% Increase of Type 2	59,546	36,331	23,230	57	243	8,948,215	16,845	39.8%	22,000	0.14%	35,000	
23	Condenser Water Pump head 35 down to 25% Increase Pipe Size	59,076	36,331	23,745	490	246	8,756,854	17,372	43.30%	188,655	1.22%	1,000,000	
24	Condenser Water Pump head 25 down to 20% Increase Pipe Size	58,586	36,331	22,255	490	235	8,568,258	17,861	44.52%	188,596	1.22%	1,500,000	
25	Cooling Tower Constant Speed to 2 speed Fan	58,479	36,331	22,148	107	236	8,526,994	17,969	44.79%	41,266	0.27%	112,000	
26	Chill Water Pump Constant Speed Fan	58,427	36,331	22,096	53	233	8,526,994	18,043	45.43%	41,266	0.28%	188,000	
26a	Cooling Tower Head, Constant Flow	58,170	36,331	21,840	257	231	8,408,233	18,277	45.56%	160,073	0.64%	150,000	
27	Concourse Lights 35 W/m <sup>2</sup> down to 10 W/m <sup>2</sup>	56,794	36,331	20,464	1,376	216	7,878,473	19,653	48.99%	628,672	4.07%		
28	Concourse Lights 20 W/m <sup>2</sup> down to 10 W/m <sup>2</sup>	55,711	36,331	1,083	201	7,461,496	20,736	51.69%	1,069,649	6.77%			
29	Concourse Lights 8.0 W/m <sup>2</sup> down to 10 W/m <sup>2</sup>	55,568	36,331	1,030	204	201	7,332,525	21,000	52.55%	1,177,673	7.29%	3,331,363	
30	Concourse 7.0 W/m <sup>2</sup> (200 lux)	55,389	36,331	1,058	1,405	201	7,337,390	21,059	52.49%	1,169,755	7.57%	2,871,613	
31	Concourse Megamart 7.8 W/m <sup>2</sup> (200 lux)	55,475	36,331	19,144	1,120	201	7,370,404	20,973	52.86%	1,178,741	7.36%	871,171	
32	Concourse Night Light 100 lux down to 50 lux	55,422	36,331	19,091	351	201	7,930,106	21,339	53.10%	20,000	0.13%	Free. Megamart	
33	Concourse Top Floor 1st 75%, 1st floor 75%, Grid 50%	55,109	36,331	18,778	313	198	7,225,613	21,339	53.35%	120,457	0.88%	1,400,000	
34	Retail Lights & Small Power 100W/m <sup>2</sup> down to 75W/m <sup>2</sup>	42,980	27,248	3,046	168	6,056,934	24,384	60.78%	1,177,677	7.59%	Free. Convince Retailer		
35	Retail Lights & Small Power 75W/m <sup>2</sup> down to 50W/m <sup>2</sup>	31,104	27,248	2,894	136	4,942,719	27,278	68.00%	1,114,212	7.21%	Free. Convince Retailer		
36	Retail Lights & Small Power 50W/m <sup>2</sup> down to 35W/m <sup>2</sup>	23,930	27,248	1,738	111	4,262,726	28,265	74.28%	160,433	4.94%	Free. Convince Retailer		
37	Night Retail 30% down to 15%	21,938	11,249	10,689	432	113	4,165,276	29,418	71.36%	166,135	1.08%	Free. Convince Retailer	
38	Chill Water Pump Head 25m. Condenser Water Pump Head 30m	22,400	11,249	11,151	-462	118	4,293,257	28,965	72.20%	177,981	-1.15%	BaseCase Chiller	
39	M5 1225 to Durham Bush	22,168	11,249	10,919	115	4,203,985	29,197	72.78%	89,272	0.54%	1,957,975		
40	M5 1225 to Durham Bush primary vanity flow + vanity condenser	21,830	11,249	10,580	356	4,203,985	29,243	73.00%	21,648	0.44%	1,950,130		
41	M5 1225 to Trane Base	21,561	11,249	10,313	270	109	3,970,350	29,804	74.29%	322,907	0.67%	810,233	
42	M5 1225 to Trane Chiller Water Pump delta T high (f10=10 to 15%, Chil wa	21,773	11,249	10,524	-212	111	4,051,900	29,592	73.77%	241,357	-0.53%	681,120	



**% Saving per step**  
0.67%

**% Saving in Energy**  
68.53%



**POTENTIAL: 68% energy savings and 3 year payback time**

# For unfamiliar territory, a map will be very helpful!

## Case Study:

### Air Conditioned Factory (Malaysia)

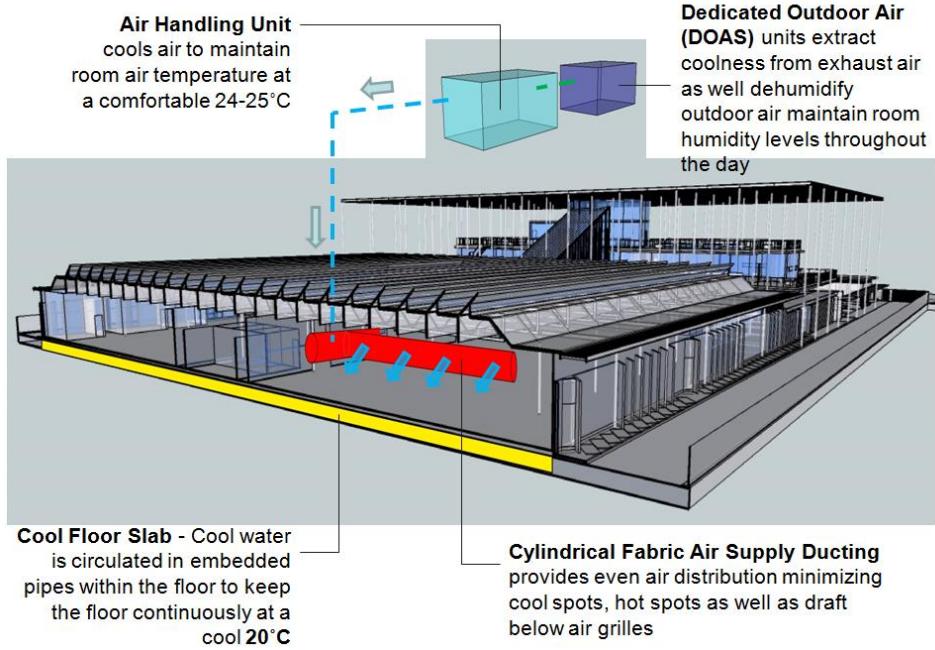
1. Cooling load can vary a lot from factory to factory (rule of thumb difficult to apply)
2. Roof architecture of factory might not be correctly modelled in simple HVAC-sizing softwares



**Our energy model showed that the cooling system could be down-sized 3 times, saving a CAPEX of USD1 million!**

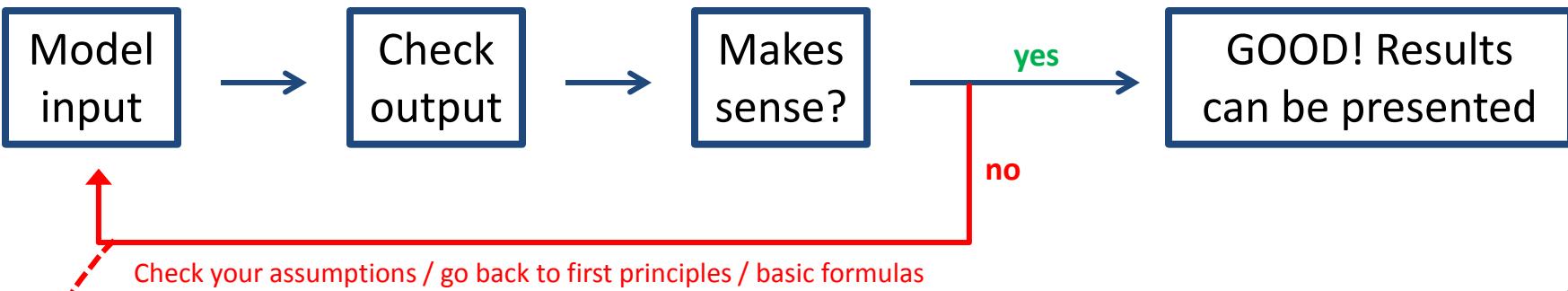
**Factory architecture and HVAC accurately simulated using IES software**

#### ACTIVE DESIGN: Innovative Cooling System for Production Area



# “Energy Simulations are easy, making sense out of them is the challenge”

## BUILDING SIMULATION MODELING CYCLE



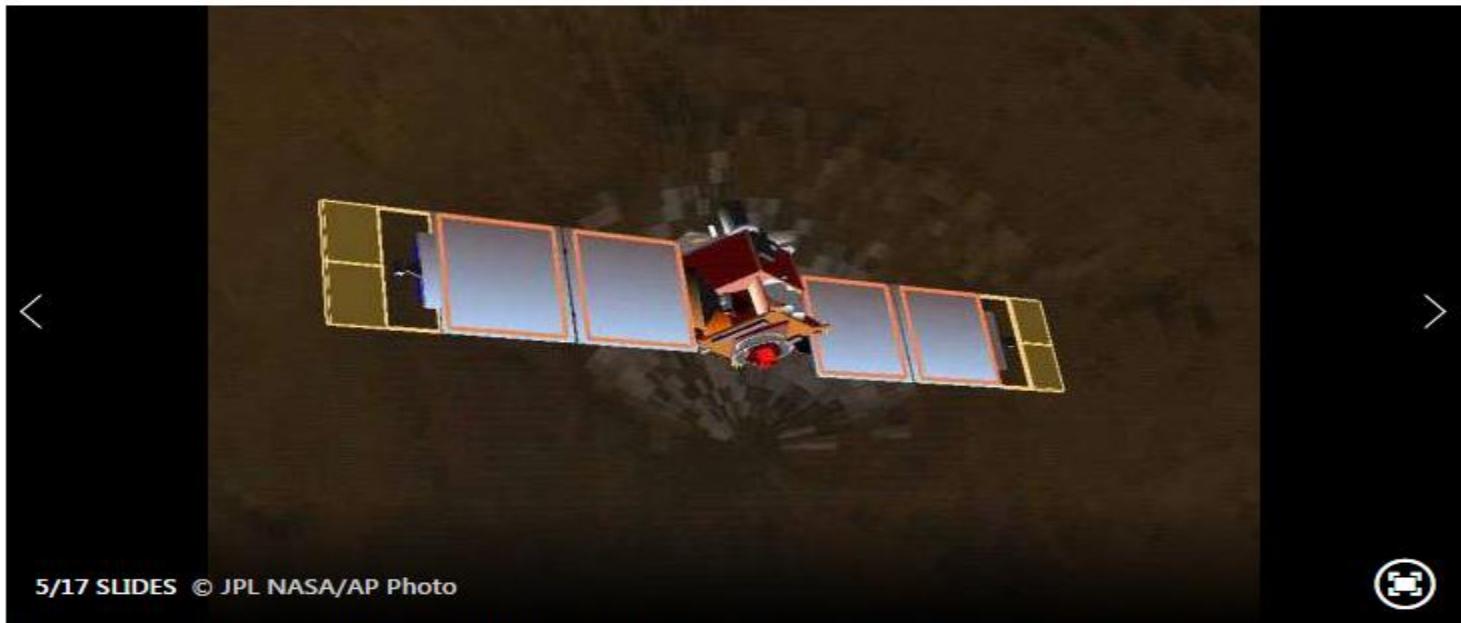
Original input was correct!

You have reached a  
limitation of the software

CONGRATULATIONS! You  
have made a new discovery

# Check your model, Check your model, Check your model – and don't forget to Check your model!

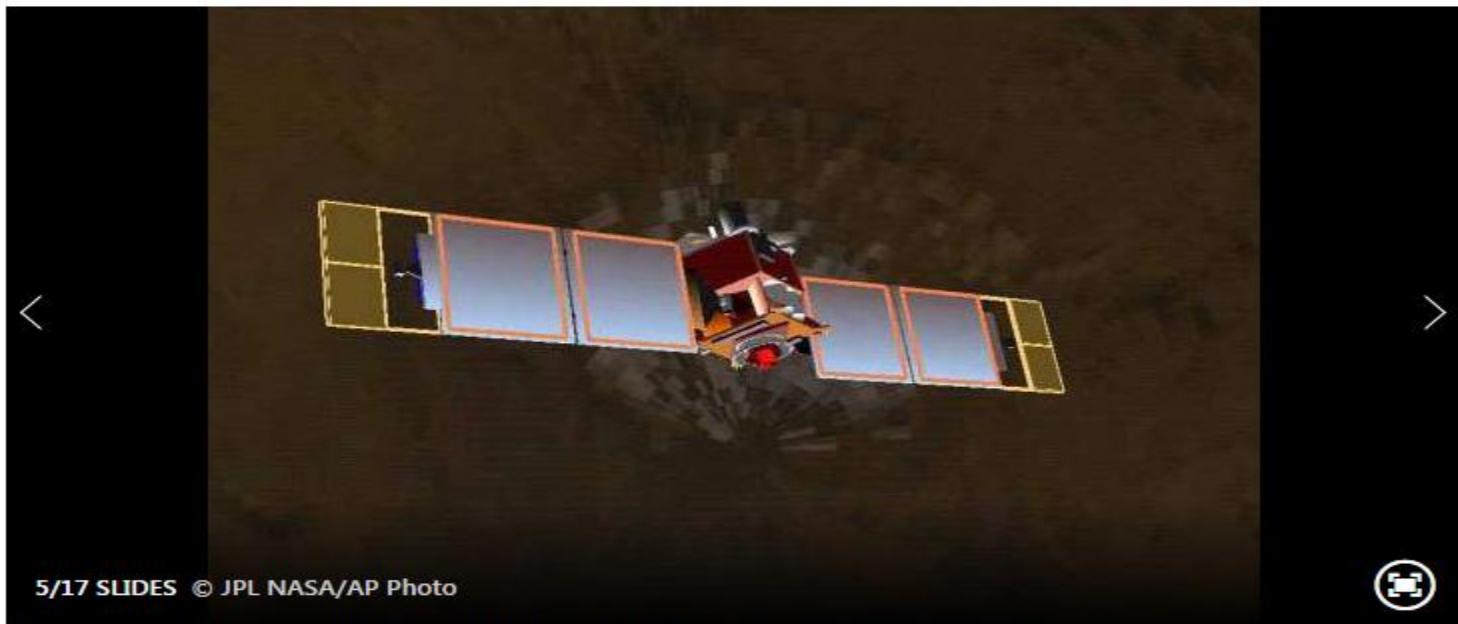
30/07/2016



# Check your model, Check your model, Check your model – and don't forget to Check your model!

16 of the most expensive mistakes in history

30/07/2016



5/17 SLIDES © JPL NASA/AP Photo



## MATHEMATICAL ERROR ENDS £80-MILLION NASA MARS PROBE

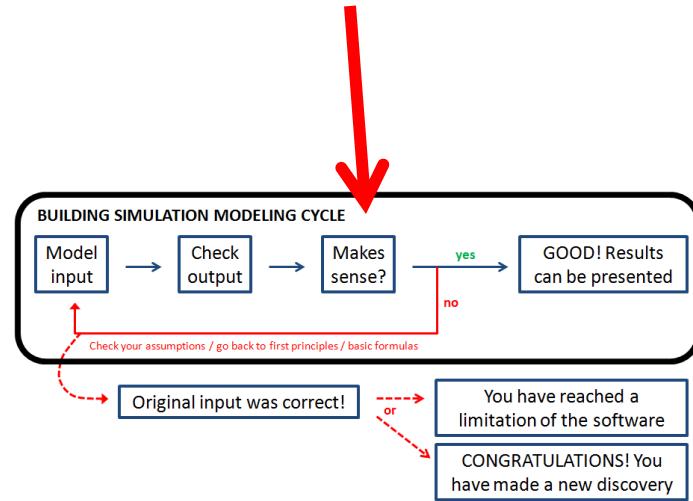
NASA spent around £80 million on the Mars Climate Orbiter, which was originally designed to study the climate on Mars. However, a small mathematical error proved to be the orbiter's undoing as NASA lost contact with the probe, and it was eventually destroyed over the planet in 1999.

# Examples of 'trusting results blindly'

1. CO2 meter that had an outdoor reading of about 200 ppm, even though outdoor CO2 levels are about 400 ppm. Nevertheless, the Ph.D. lab-student insisted that the reading was correct
2. TVOC meter reading that had reading of 0, which made the university students think the meter was broken even though this was a perfectly probable reading
3. One of the big US building consultancy firms proudly presented an so-called optimised glare-free facade design option after 200+ iterations and countless annual computer simulations. However, it was immediately obvious that their glare model used was wrong rendering all the simulations worthless.
4. One of the big roofing contractors in Malaysia presented a simulation report that showed that the U-value requirement was met. However, our independent simulation in a more comprehensive 3D simulation software showed that the U-value was exceeded by 42%. The contractor had used an over-simplified software (for the last 20 years!)

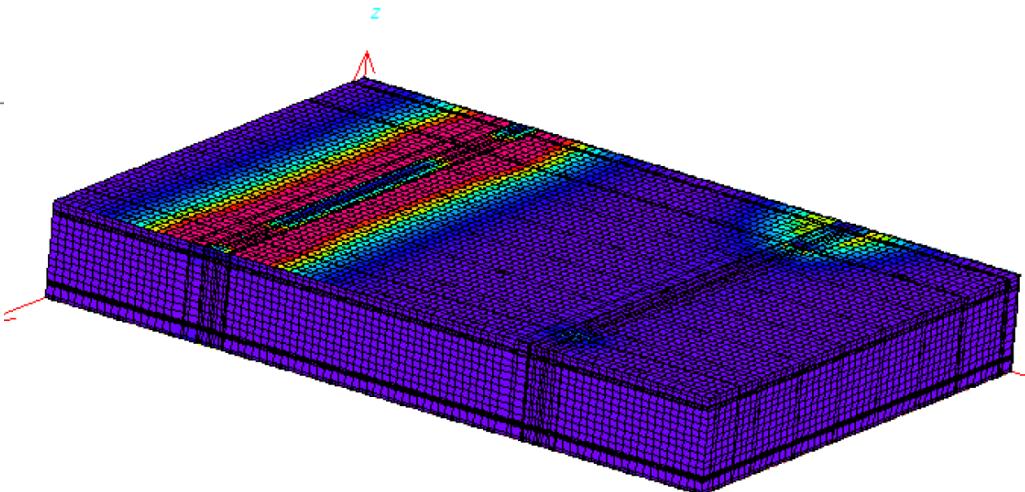
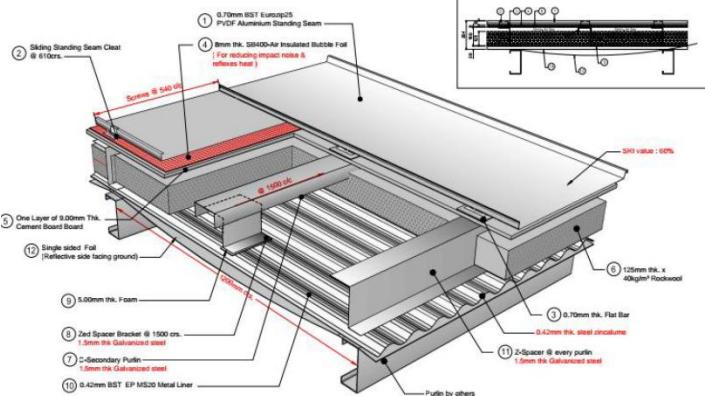
Please don't forget the most important question:

**Do the results make sense?**

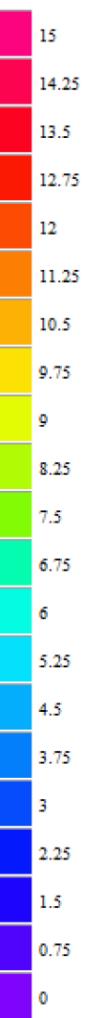


# Example: 3D Heat Flow through Constructions

42% higher U-value than simplified simulation (refer item 4 previous slide)



$q$  [ $\text{W/m}^2$ ]



# Example of not 'trusting results blindly'

## Case Study:

24-hour air conditioned factory (Malaysia)

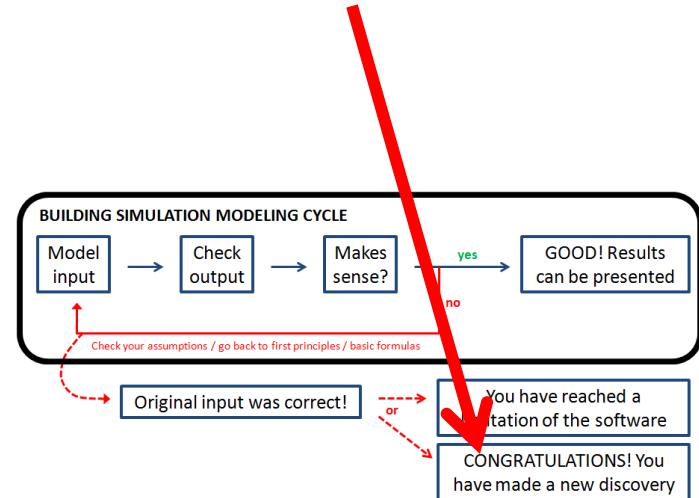
1. The base design was to insulate the entire factory floor by 50 mm. The floor is permanently cooled to 15°C with embedded floor slab cooling pipes
2. Value engineering prompted us to explore if we could save any roof insulation



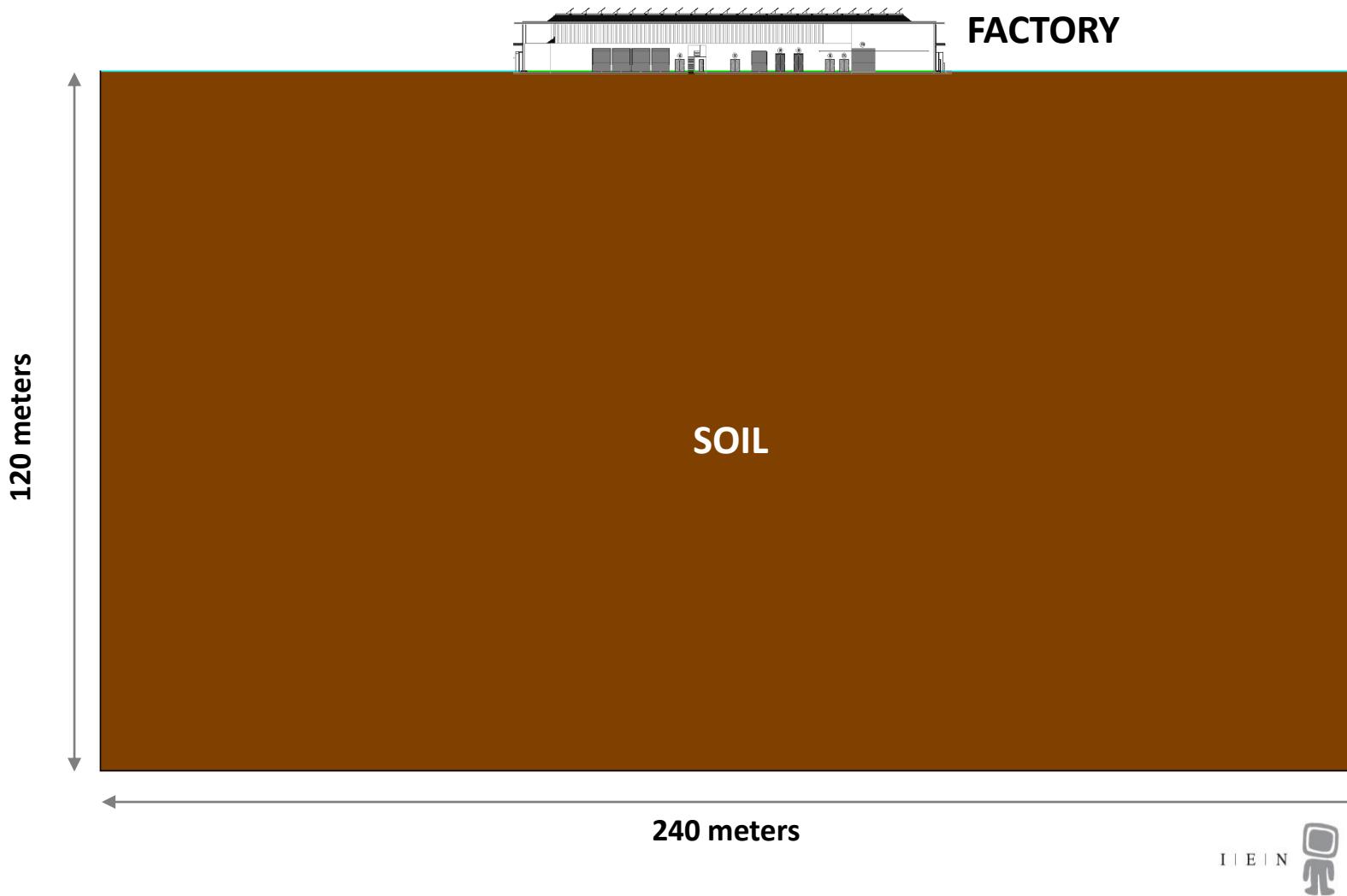
**This is what we found.....  
(see next slides)**

Example of:

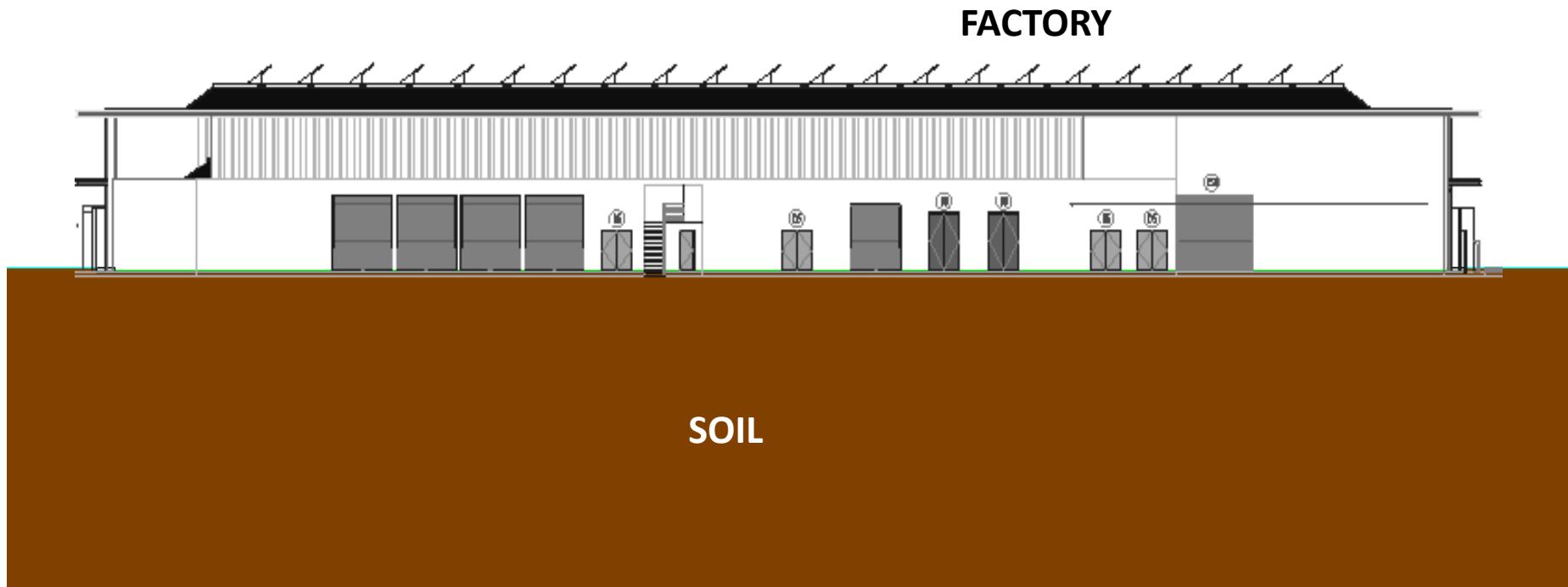
**Making new discovery**



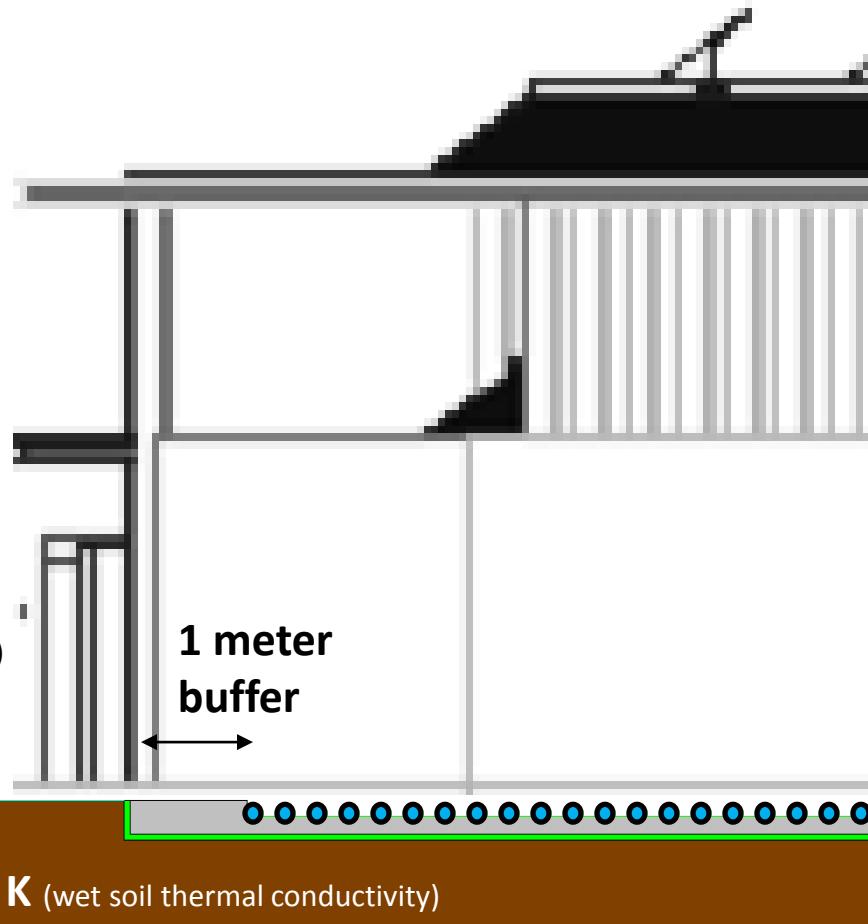
# Steady State Finite Element Model



# Steady State Finite Element Model

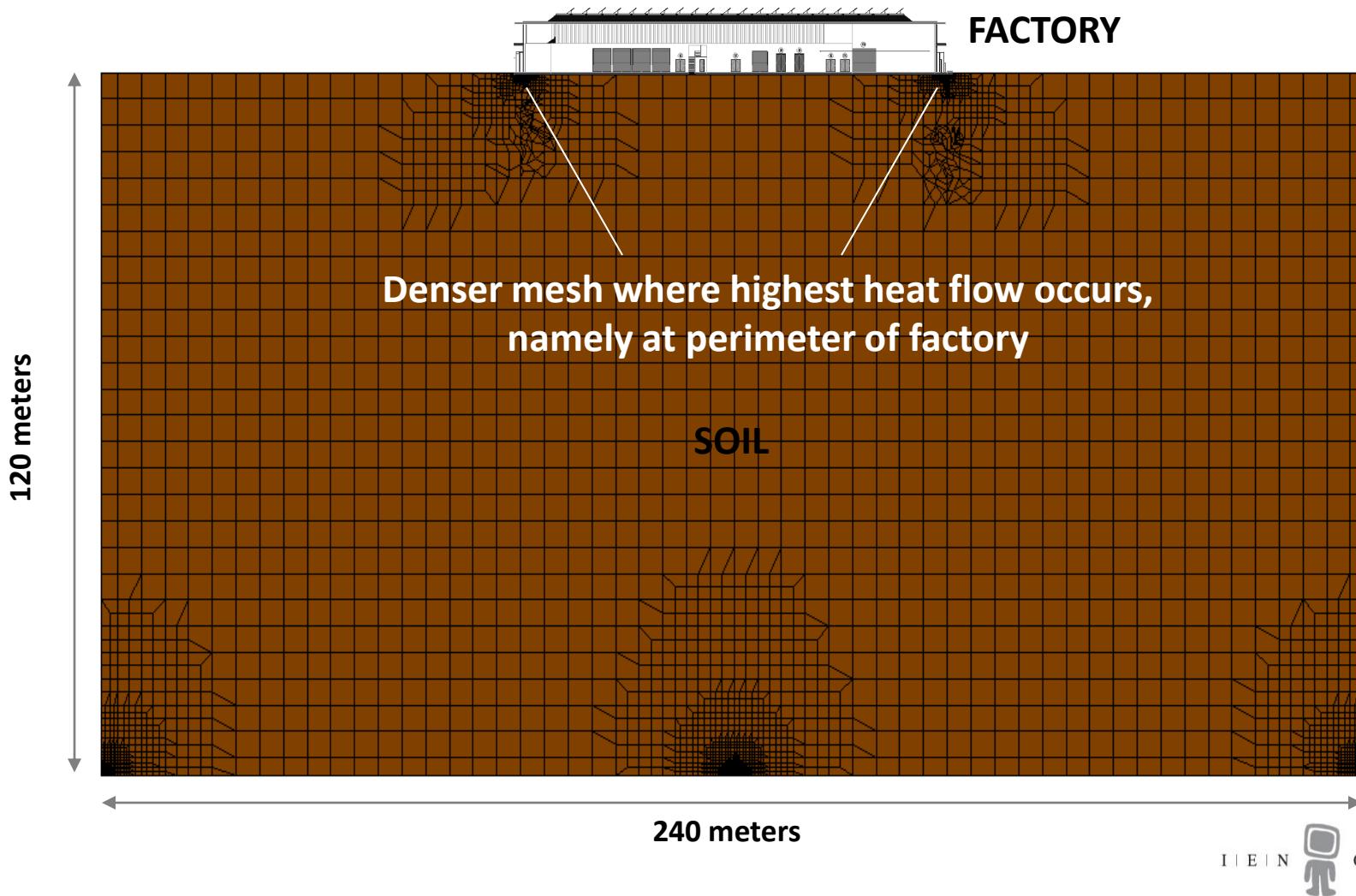


# Steady State Finite Element Model

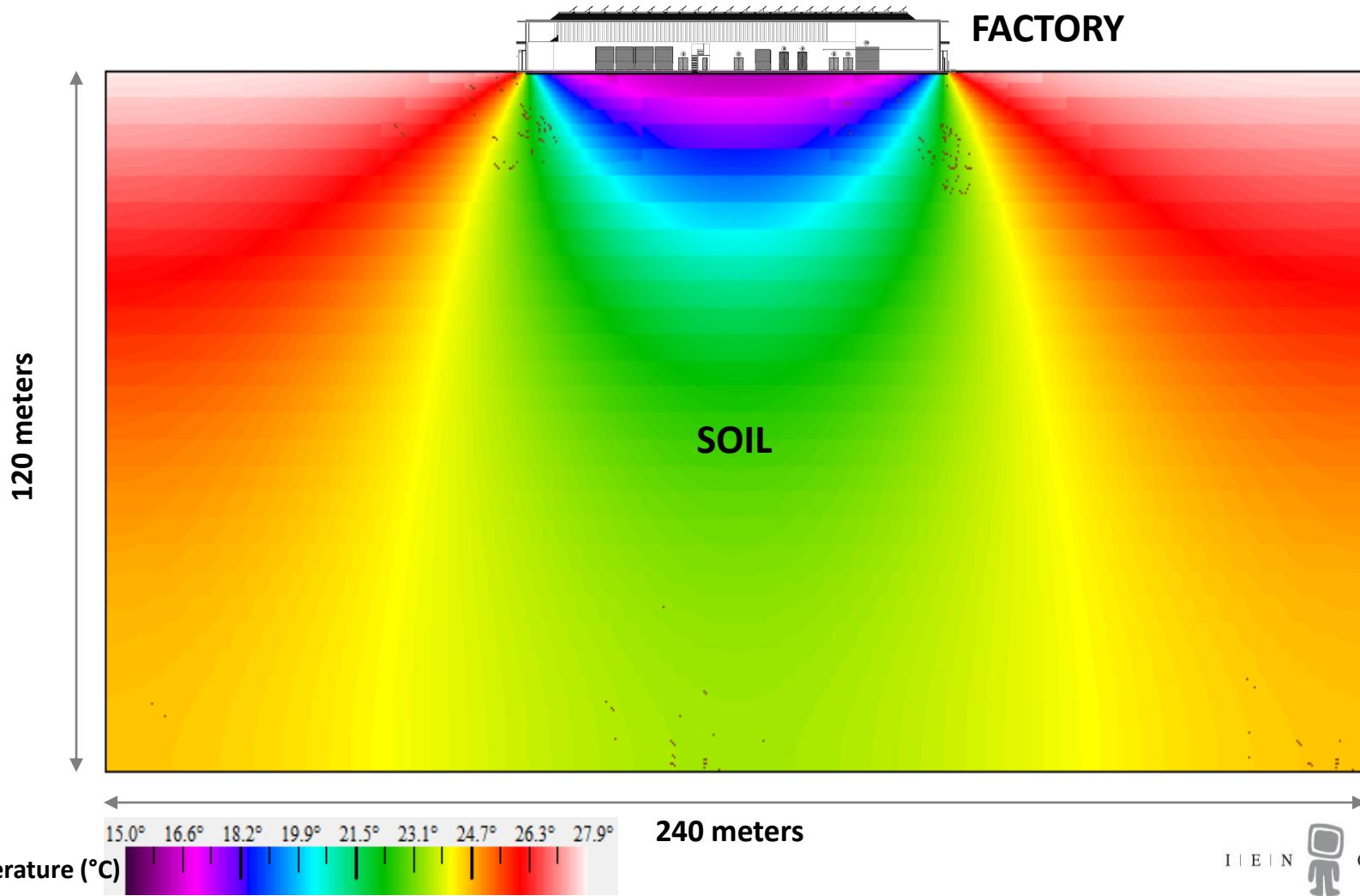


Note: All measurements in the simulation model was reduced by a factor 10, as the model would otherwise become too big. Hence, only the relative cooling loss calculation is correct and not the absolute cooling calculation. The latter should roughly be divided by a factor 10.

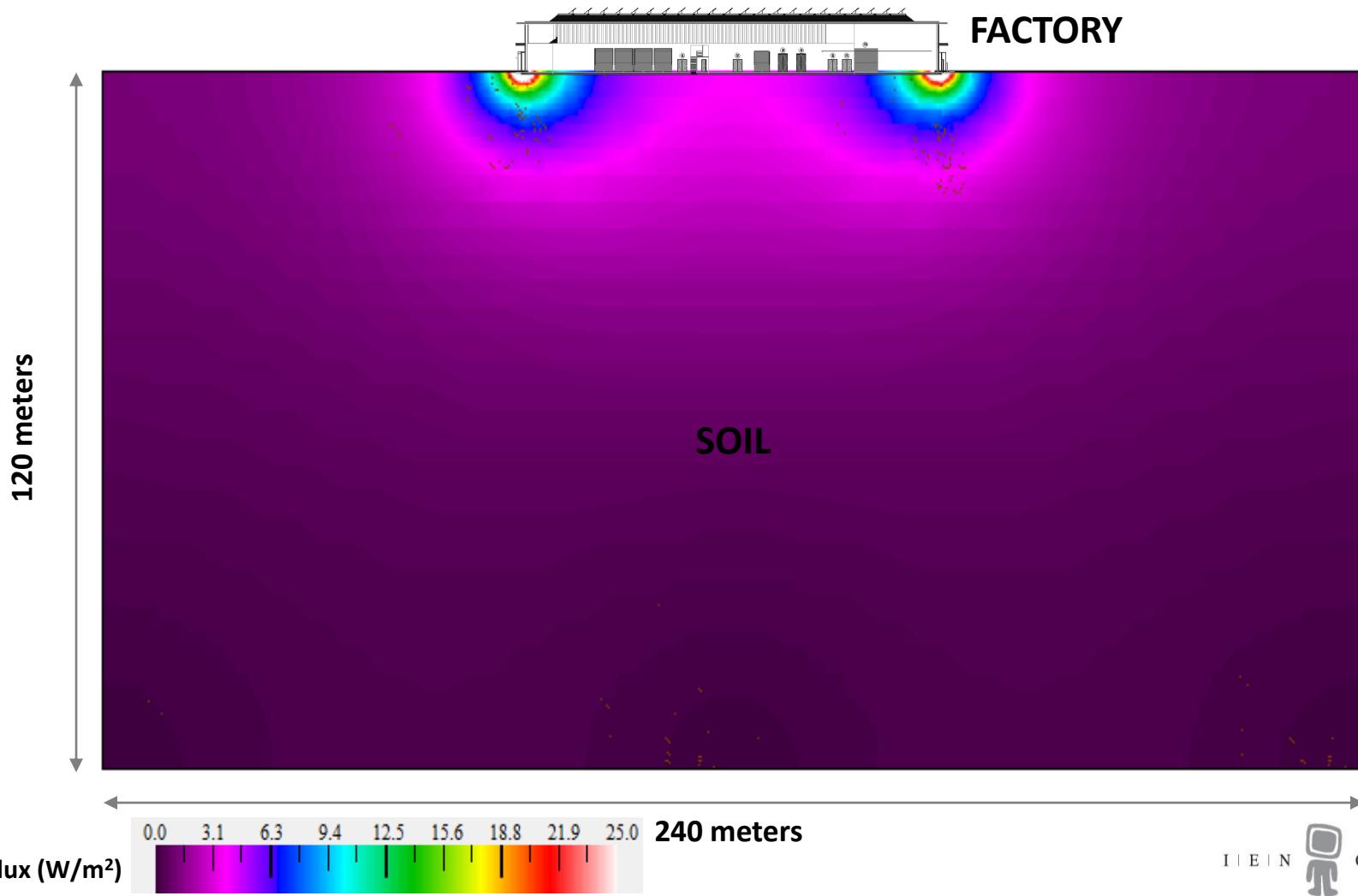
# Steady State Finite Element Mesh



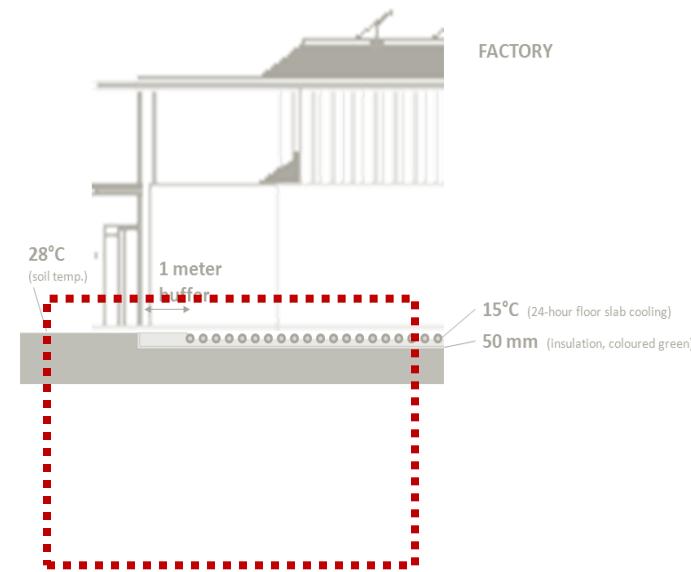
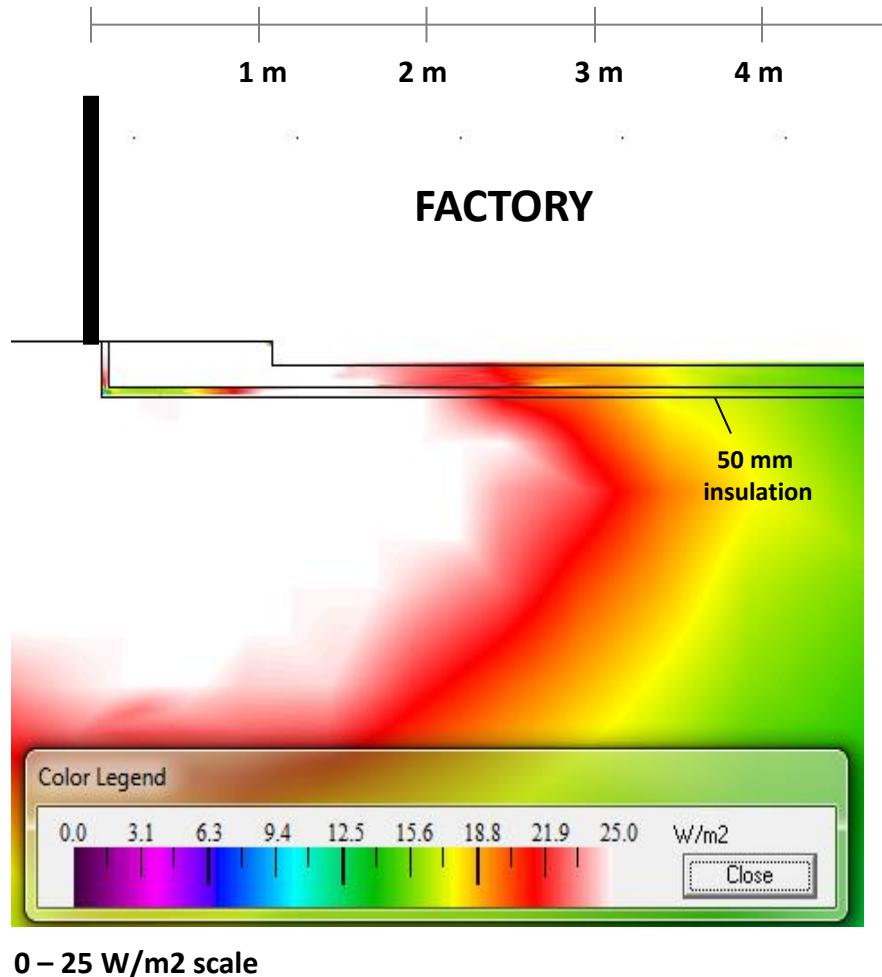
# Simulated Temperature Profile



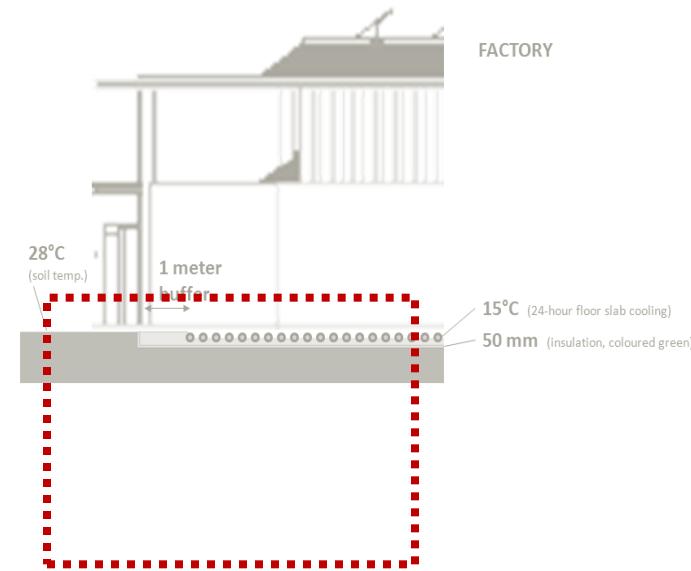
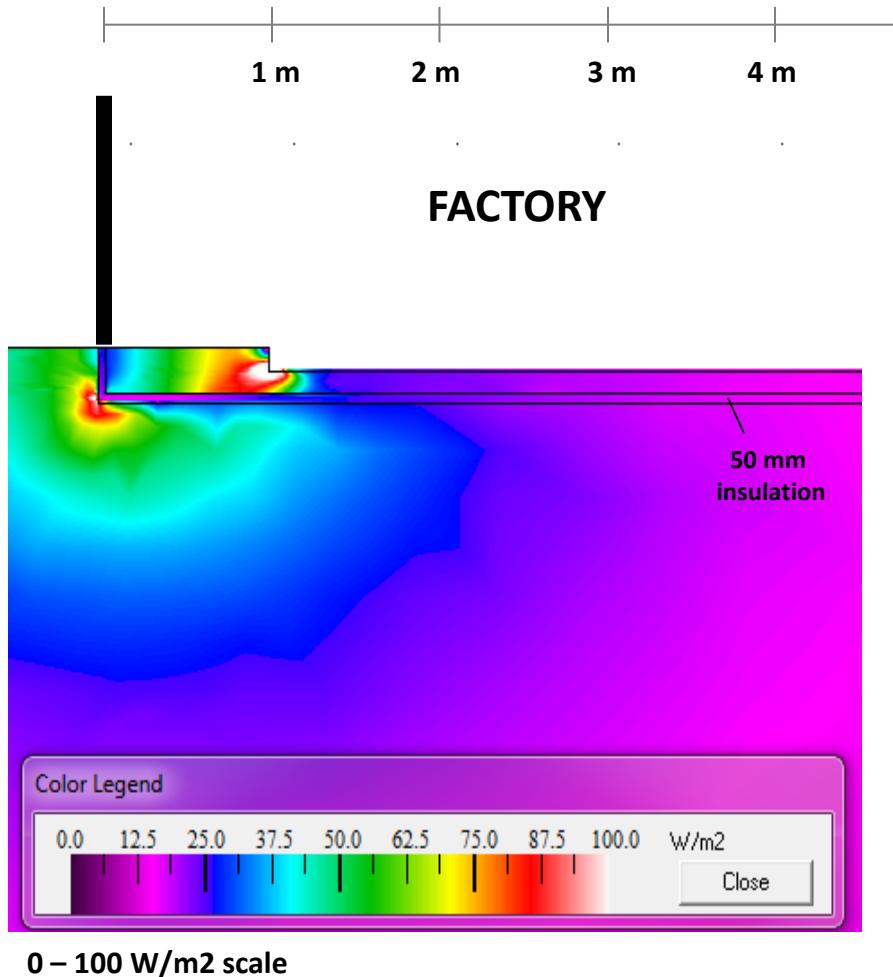
# Simulated Heat Flux Profile



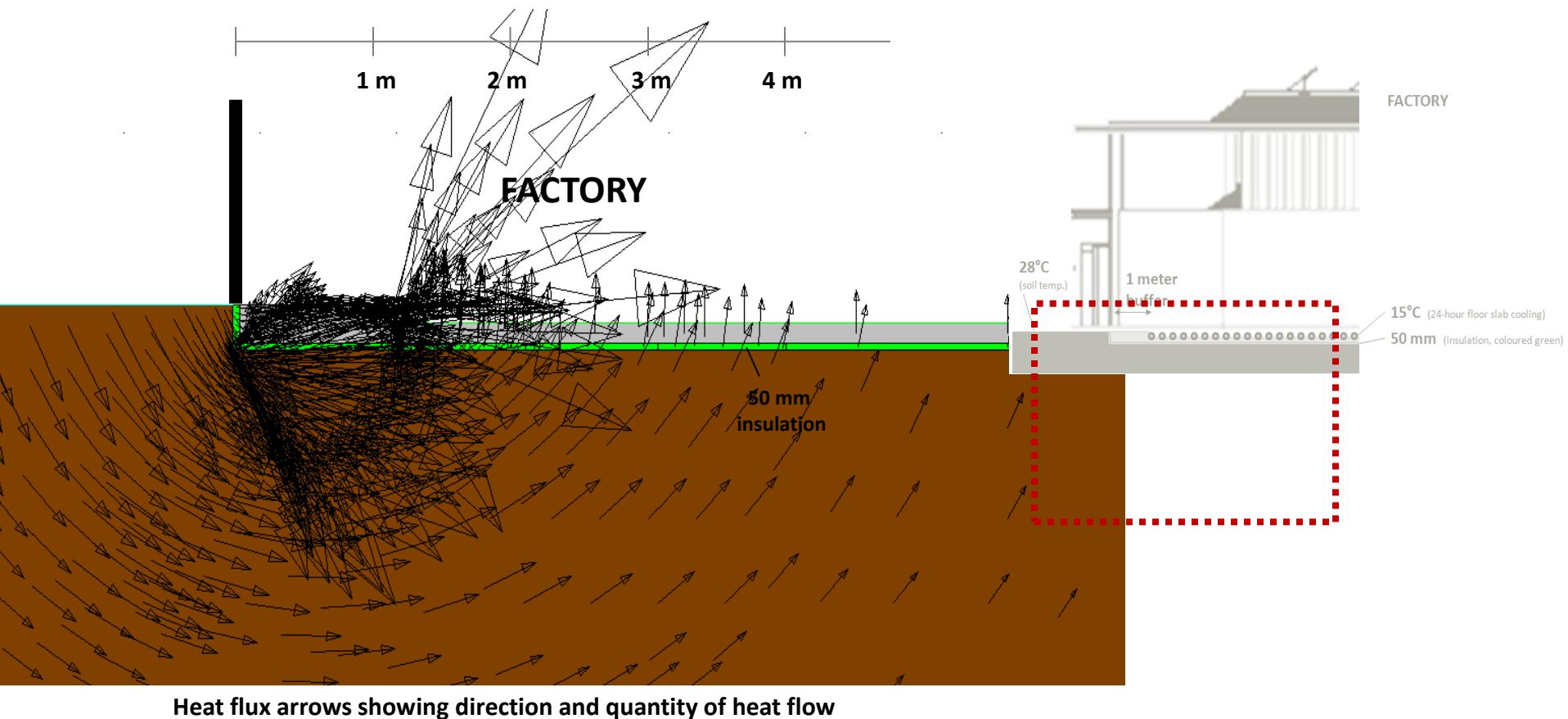
# Factory Perimeter (Simulated Heat Flux Profile)



# Factory Perimeter (Simulated Heat Flux Profile)



# Factory Perimeter (Simulated Heat Flux Profile)

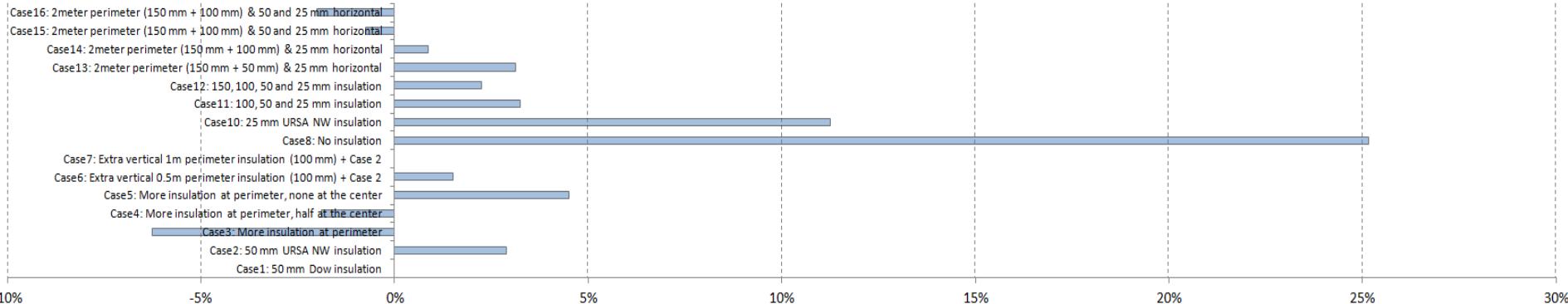


# Different simulations cases

		DOW Thermal conductivity (W/m K)	URSA NW Thermal conductivity (W/m K)	Horizontal insulation thickness from factory floor perimeter							Vertical insulation thickness from factory floor perimeter		
				0-1 meter		1-2 meter		2-3 meter		3-4 meter			
Case	Description	0.028	0.034	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	500 mm	50 mm DOW	500 mm	50 mm URSA NW
1	50 mm Dow insulation ( <b>BASE CASE</b> )	0.028	0.034	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	50 mm DOW	500 mm	50 mm DOW	500 mm	50 mm URSA NW
2	50 mm URSA NW insulation	0.028	0.034	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	500 mm	50 mm URSA NW	500 mm	50 mm URSA NW
3	More insulation at perimeter	0.028	0.034	200 mm URSA NW	200 mm URSA NW	150 mm URSA NW	100 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	0 mm URSA NW	500 mm	200 mm URSA NW	500 mm	200 mm URSA NW
4	More insulation at perimeter, half at the center	0.028	0.034	200 mm URSA NW	200 mm URSA NW	150 mm URSA NW	100 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	500 mm	200 mm URSA NW	500 mm	200 mm URSA NW	500 mm
5	More insulation at perimeter, none at the center	0.028	0.034	200 mm URSA NW	200 mm URSA NW	150 mm URSA NW	100 mm URSA NW	0 mm URSA NW	500 mm	200 mm URSA NW	500 mm	200 mm URSA NW	500 mm
6	Extra vertical 0.5m perimeter insulation (100 mm) + Case 2	0.028	0.034	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	1000 mm	100 mm URSA NW	1000 mm	100 mm URSA NW
7	Extra vertical 1m perimeter insulation (100 mm) + Case 2	0.028	0.034	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	1500 mm	100 mm URSA NW	1500 mm	100 mm URSA NW
8	No insulation	0.028	0.034	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	25 mm URSA NW insulation	0.028	0.034	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	500 mm	25 mm URSA NW	500 mm	25 mm URSA NW
11	100, 50 and 25 mm insulation	0.028	0.034	100 mm URSA NW	100 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	500 mm	100 mm URSA NW	500 mm	100 mm URSA NW
12	150, 100, 50 and 25 mm insulation	0.028	0.034	150 mm URSA NW	100 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	500 mm	150 mm URSA NW	500 mm	150 mm URSA NW
13	2meter perimeter (150 mm + 50 mm) & 25 mm horizontal	0.028	0.034	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	2000 mm	150 and 50 mm	2000 mm	150 and 50 mm
14	2meter perimeter (150 mm + 100 mm) & 25 mm horizontal	0.028	0.034	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	2000 mm	150 and 100 mm	2000 mm	150 and 100 mm
15	2meter perimeter (150 mm + 100 mm) & 50 and 25 mm horizontal	0.028	0.034	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	2000 mm	150 and 100 mm	2000 mm	150 and 100 mm
16	2meter perimeter (150 mm + 100 mm) & 50 and 25 mm horizontal	0.028	0.034	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	50 mm URSA NW	25 mm URSA NW	2000 mm	150 and 100 mm	2000 mm	150 and 100 mm

# Results

## COOLING LOSS INCREASE compared to using 50 mm DOW insulation under entire factory floor foundation

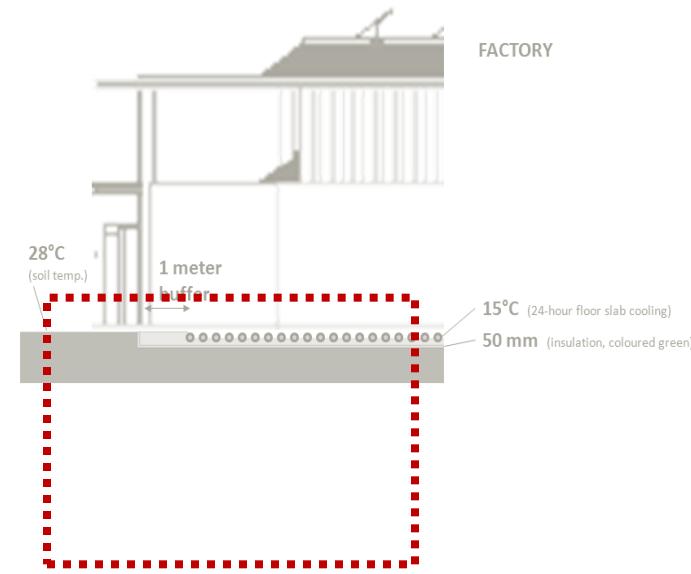
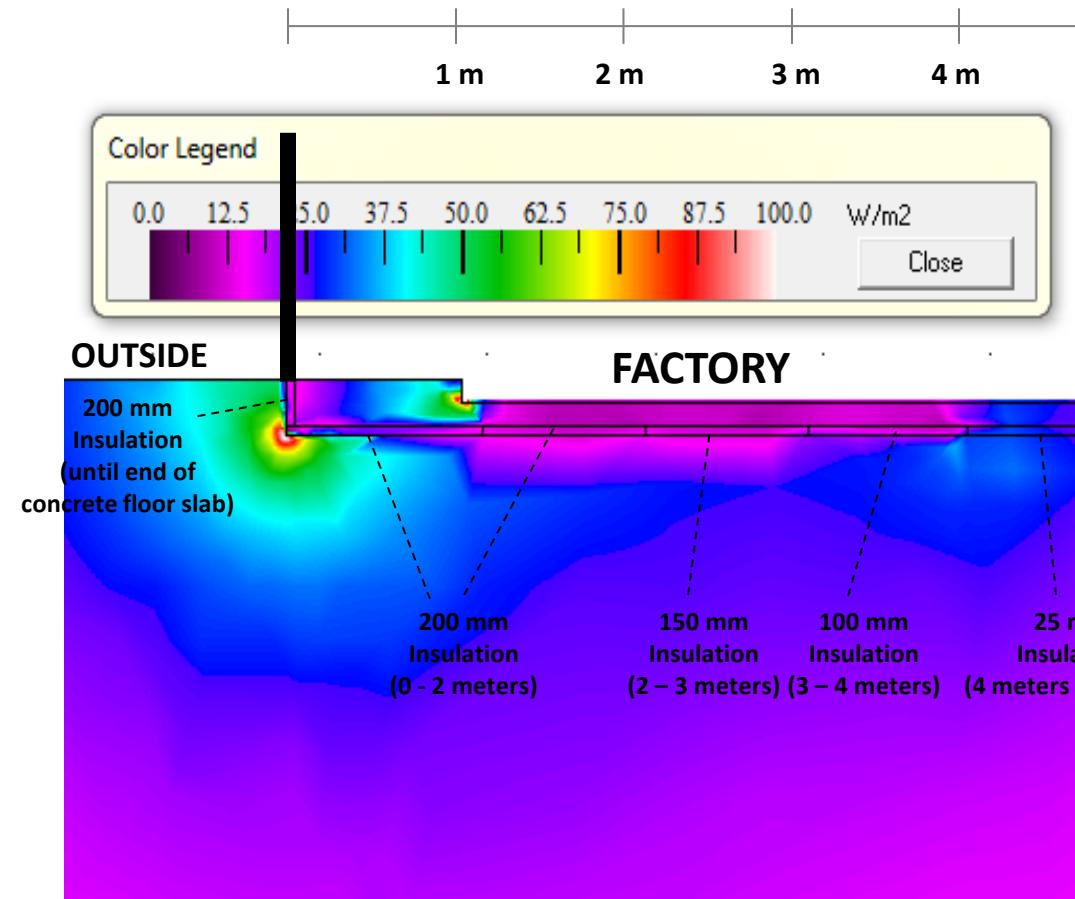


Graph	Cooling loss increase
Case1: 50 mm Dow insulation	0%
Case2: 50 mm URSA NW insulation	3%
Case3: More insulation at perimeter	-6%
Case4: More insulation at perimeter, half at the center	-2%
Case5: More insulation at perimeter, none at the center	5%
Case6: Extra vertical 0.5m perimeter insulation (100 mm) + Case 2	2%
Case7: Extra vertical 1m perimeter insulation (100 mm) + Case 2	0%
Case8: No insulation	25%
Case10: 25 mm URSA NW insulation	11%
Case11: 100, 50 and 25 mm insulation	3%
Case12: 150, 100, 50 and 25 mm insulation	2%
Case13: 2meter perimeter (150 mm + 50 mm) & 25 mm horizontal	3%
Case14: 2meter perimeter (150 mm + 100 mm) & 25 mm horizontal	1%
Case15: 2meter perimeter (150 mm + 100 mm) & 50 and 25 mm horizontal	-1%
Case16: 2meter perimeter (150 mm + 100 mm) & 50 and 25 mm horizontal	-2%

## Recommendations

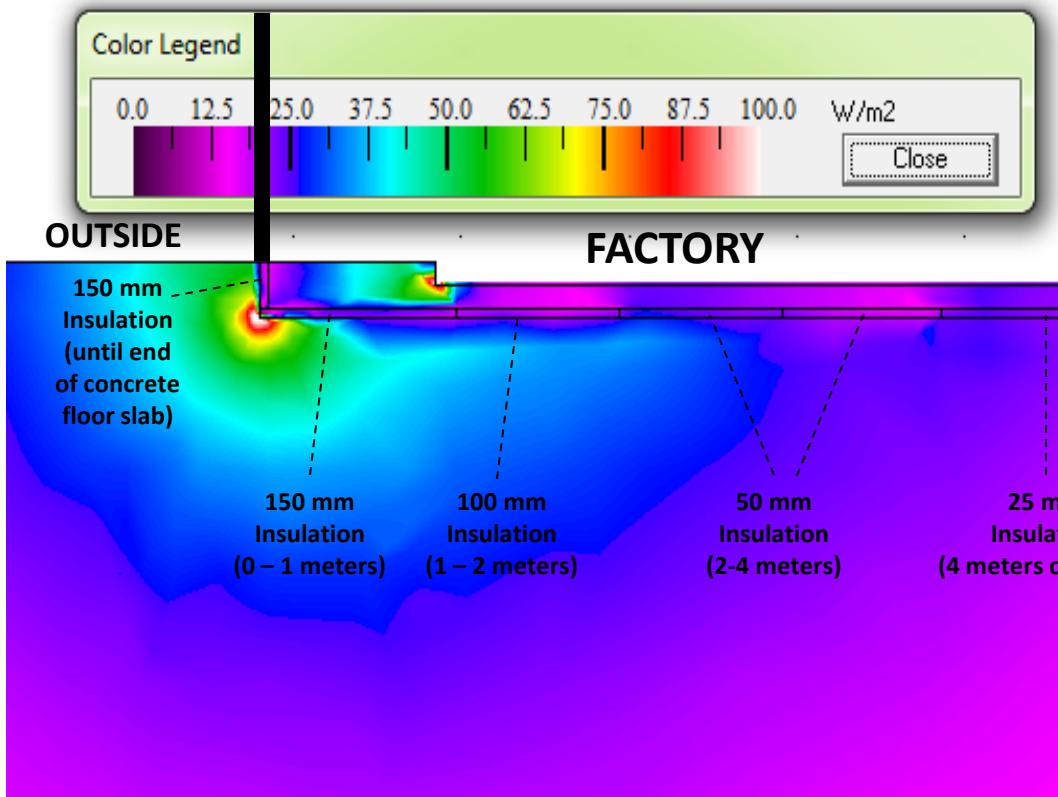
See illustration on the following slides  
 → → →

# Heat Flux: Floor Slab Section Case 4

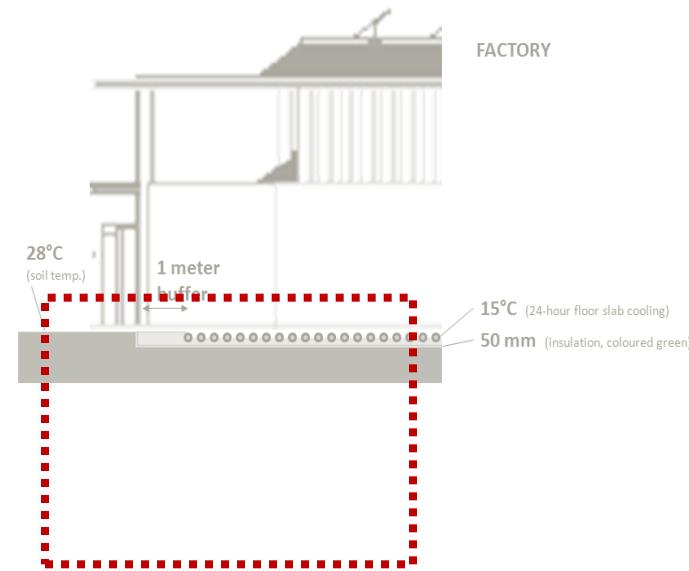


2% Extra Cooling  
**SAVING**

# Heat Flux: Floor Slab Section Case 12

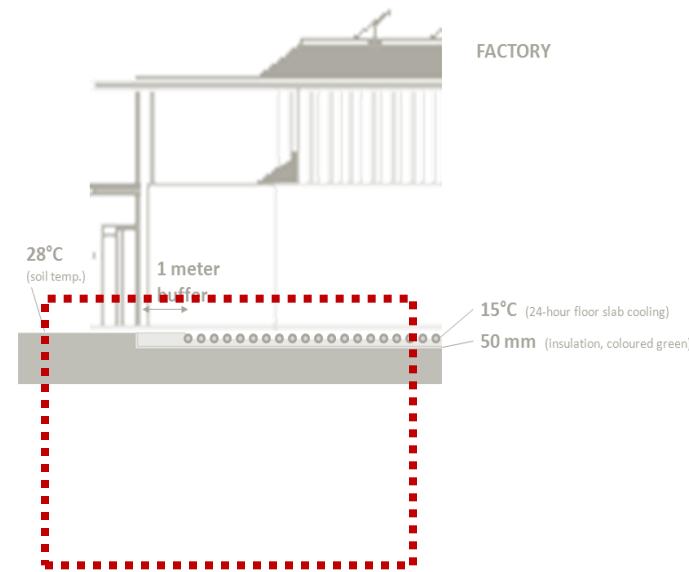
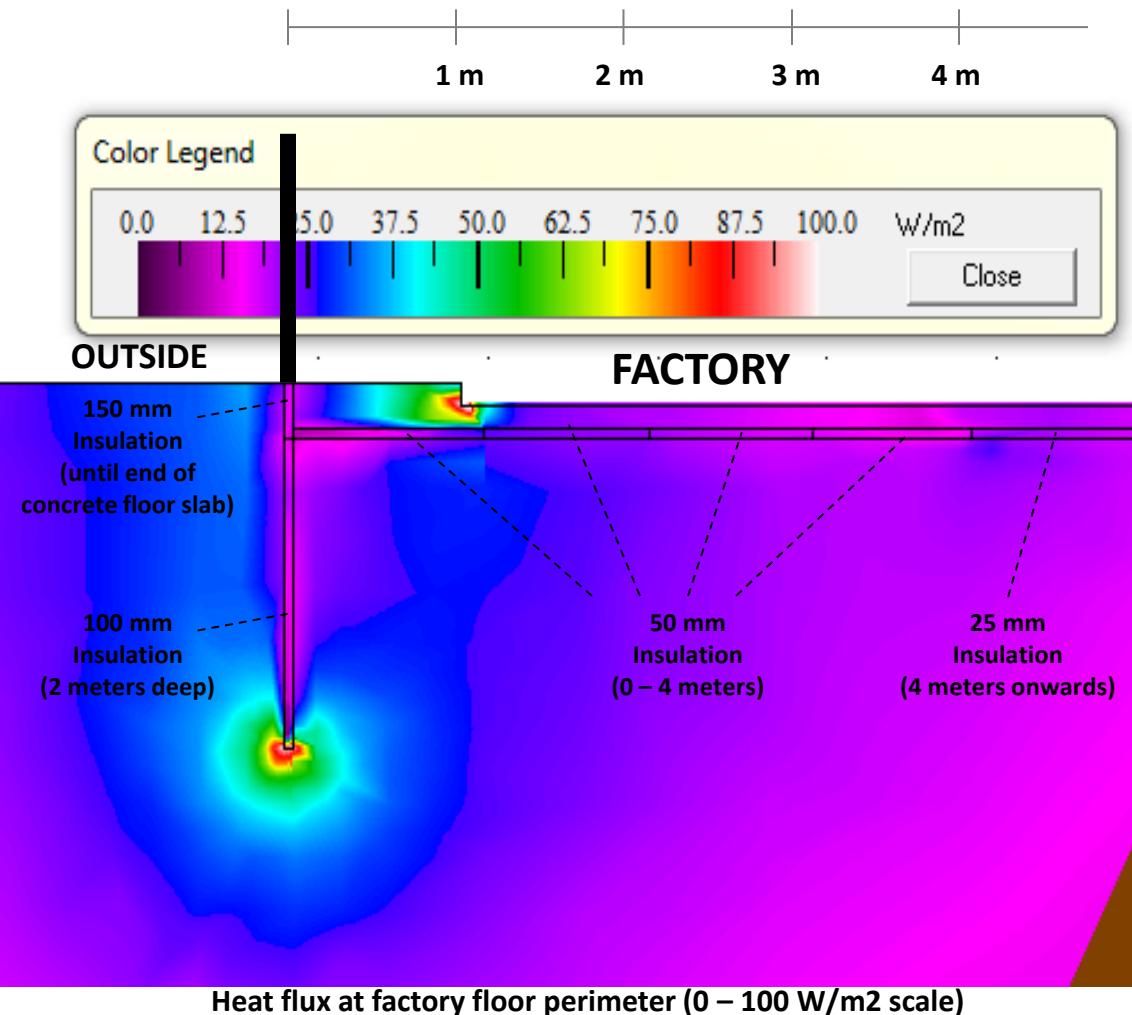


Heat flux at factory floor perimeter (0 – 100 W/m<sup>2</sup> scale)



**2% Extra Cooling  
LOSS**

# Heat Flux: Floor Slab Section Case 16



# 2% Extra Cooling **SAVING**

# Rain Water Harvesting

## Optimising Tank Sizes & Pump Sizes

### Case Study:

Office building in Putrajaya

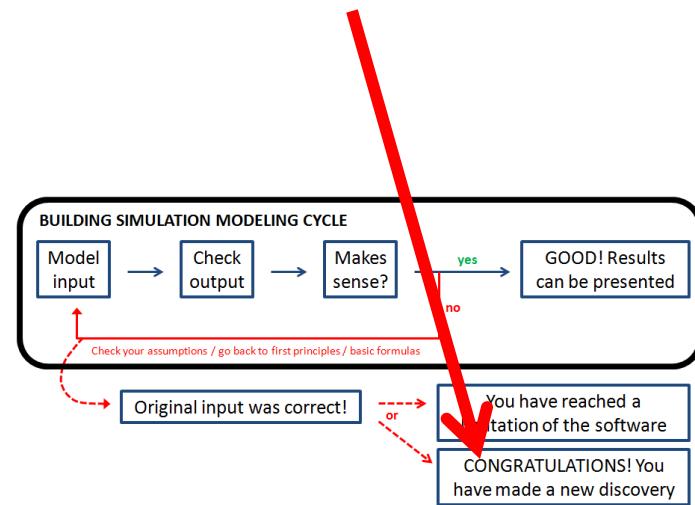
1. Harvest rainwater for irrigation
2. Harvest AHU condensate
3. Harvest grey water



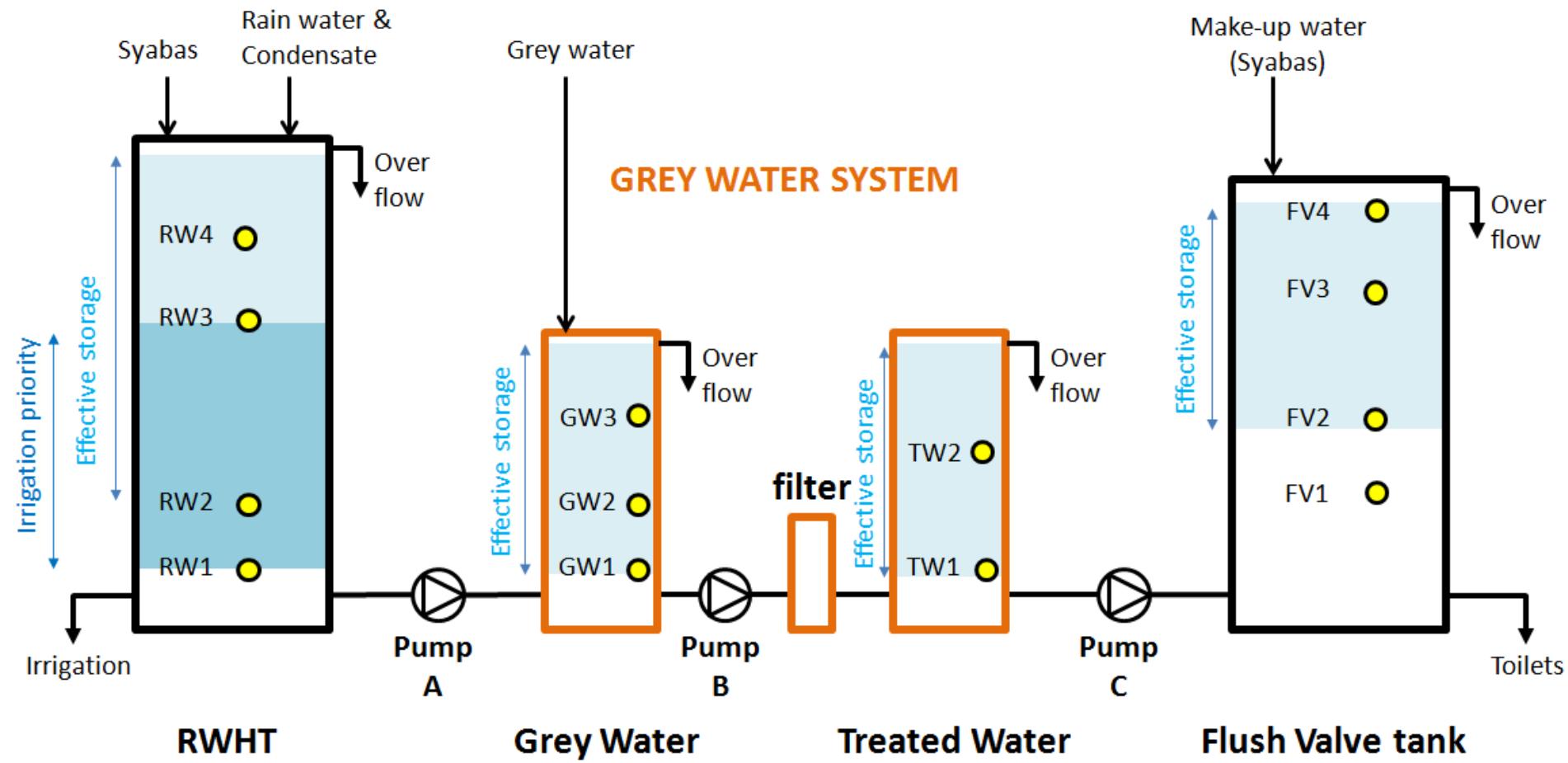
**This is what we found.....  
(see next slides)**

Example of:

**Making 'new' discovery**

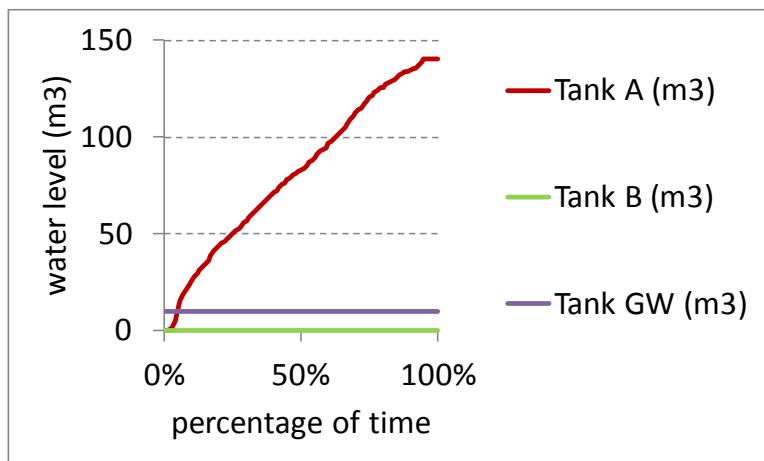
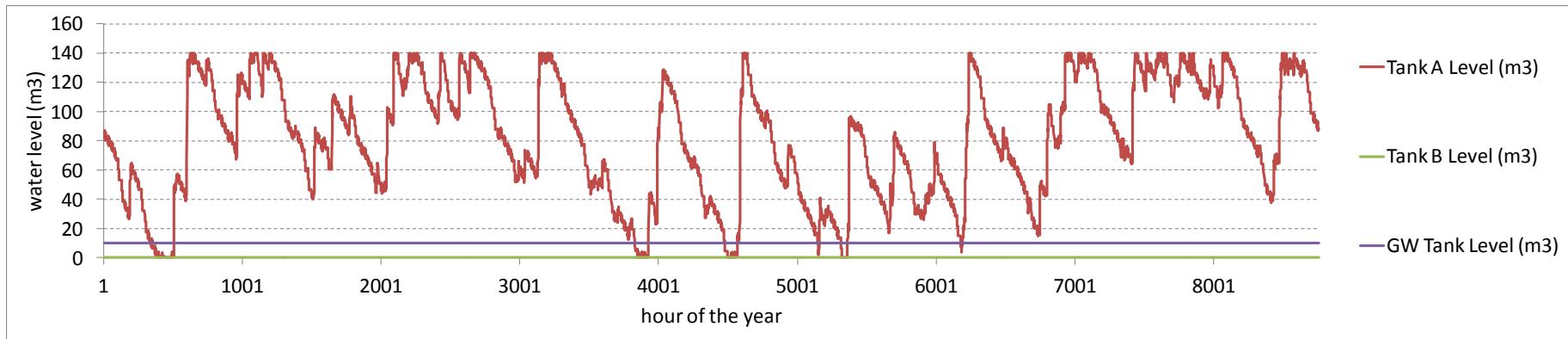


# Water System Diagram



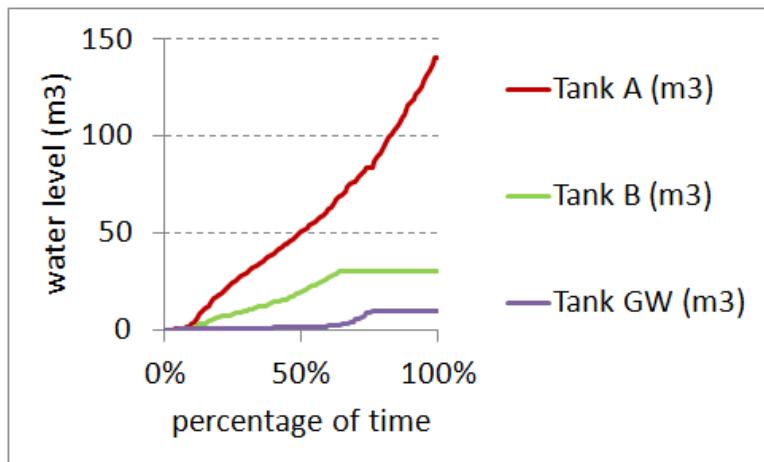
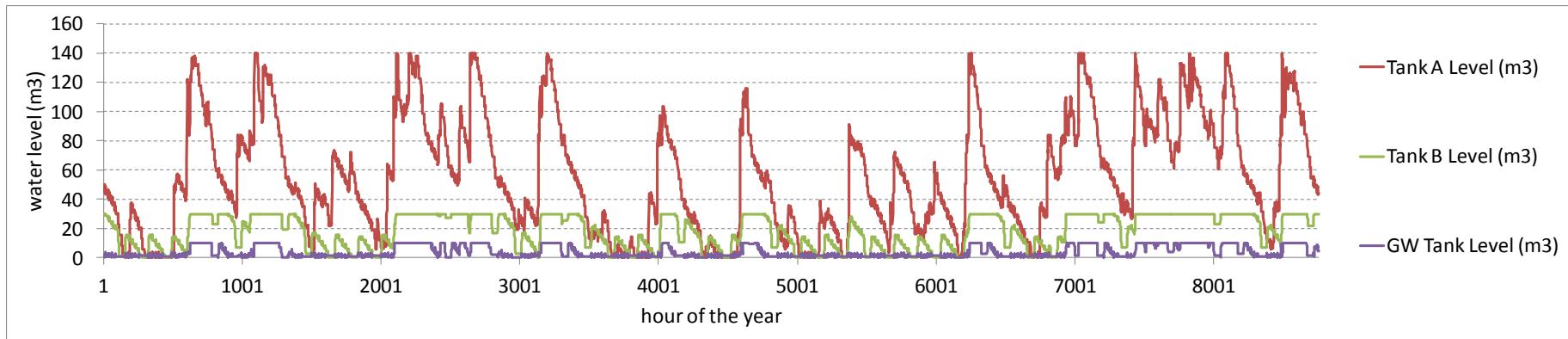
# Water Level in Tanks

Effective storages:  $140 \text{ m}^3 / 84 \text{ m}^3$  (Tank A total / reserved for rainwater),  $30 \text{ m}^3$  (Tank B),  $10 \text{ m}^3$  (Grey Water Tank)  
Pump capacities:  $0 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$  (Pump A),  $0 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$  (Pump B)



# Water Level in Tanks

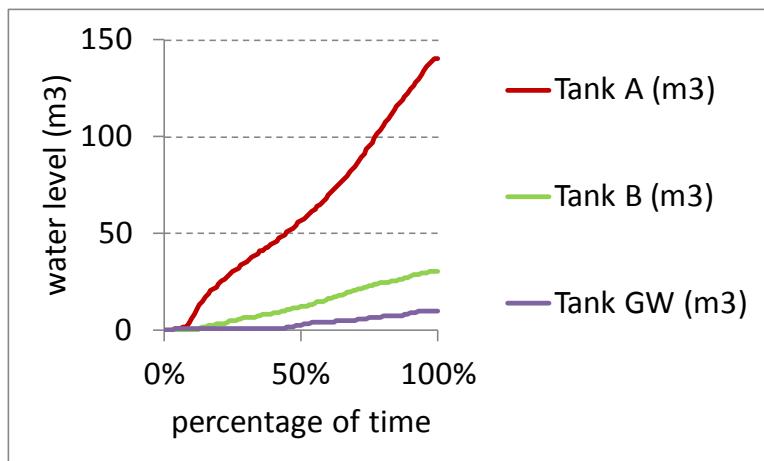
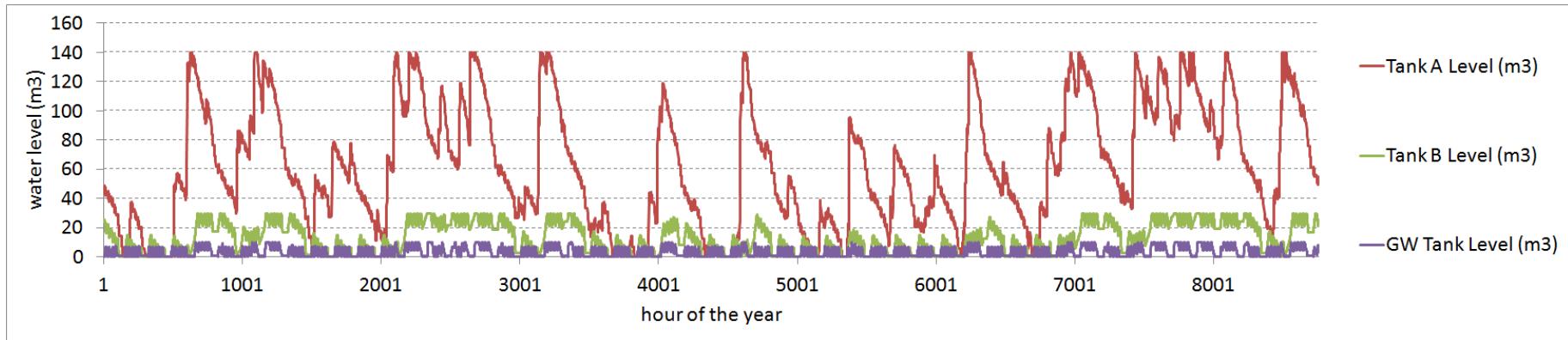
Effective storages:  $140 \text{ m}^3$  /  $84 \text{ m}^3$  (Tank A total / reserved for rainwater),  $30 \text{ m}^3$  (Tank B),  $10 \text{ m}^3$  (Grey Water Tank)  
Pump capacities:  $2.4 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$  (Pump A),  $2.4 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$  (Pump B)



NON POTABLE WATER UTILISED		<b>9,510 m³/year</b>
Overflow from Tank A		273 m³/year
Overflow from GW Tank		537 m³/year

# Water Level in Tanks

Effective storages:  $140 \text{ m}^3 / 84 \text{ m}^3$  (Tank A total / reserved for rainwater),  $30 \text{ m}^3$  (Tank B),  $10 \text{ m}^3$  (Grey Water Tank)  
Pump capacities:  $0.3 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$  (Pump A),  $0.8 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$  (Pump B)



## NON POTABLE WATER UTILISED

Overflow from Tank A

**9,505 m³/year**

592 m³/year

Overflow from GW Tank

223 m³/year

## RECOMMENDATION:

- The annual hourly simulation shows that small pumps are sufficient to maximise the annual non-potable water yield
- Small pumps have the added advantage of having less start-stop cycles and reducing grey water filter costs

# Concluding Remarks

- Building computer simulations are a very powerful tool to optimise building design – and to 'sell' your ideas to the design team / client
- ALWAYS check the validity of your results
- .... and go an make new discoveries to bring the building industry forward!

# Thank you



## ANY QUESTIONS?

By: **Gregers Reimann**  
([gregers@ien.com.my](mailto:gregers@ien.com.my), +60122755630)

