



Engineering the earth

SMALL-SCALE GEOTHERMAL POWER FOR OFF-GRID COMMUNITIES IN INDONESIA

N. Willemsen, MSc
Renewable energy consultant
IF Technology, The Netherlands



Why small scale geothermal power?



Geothermal power plants are large for a reason



Mainly due to the inherent economies of scale

Geothermal power capital costs by project development phase (USD/kW)

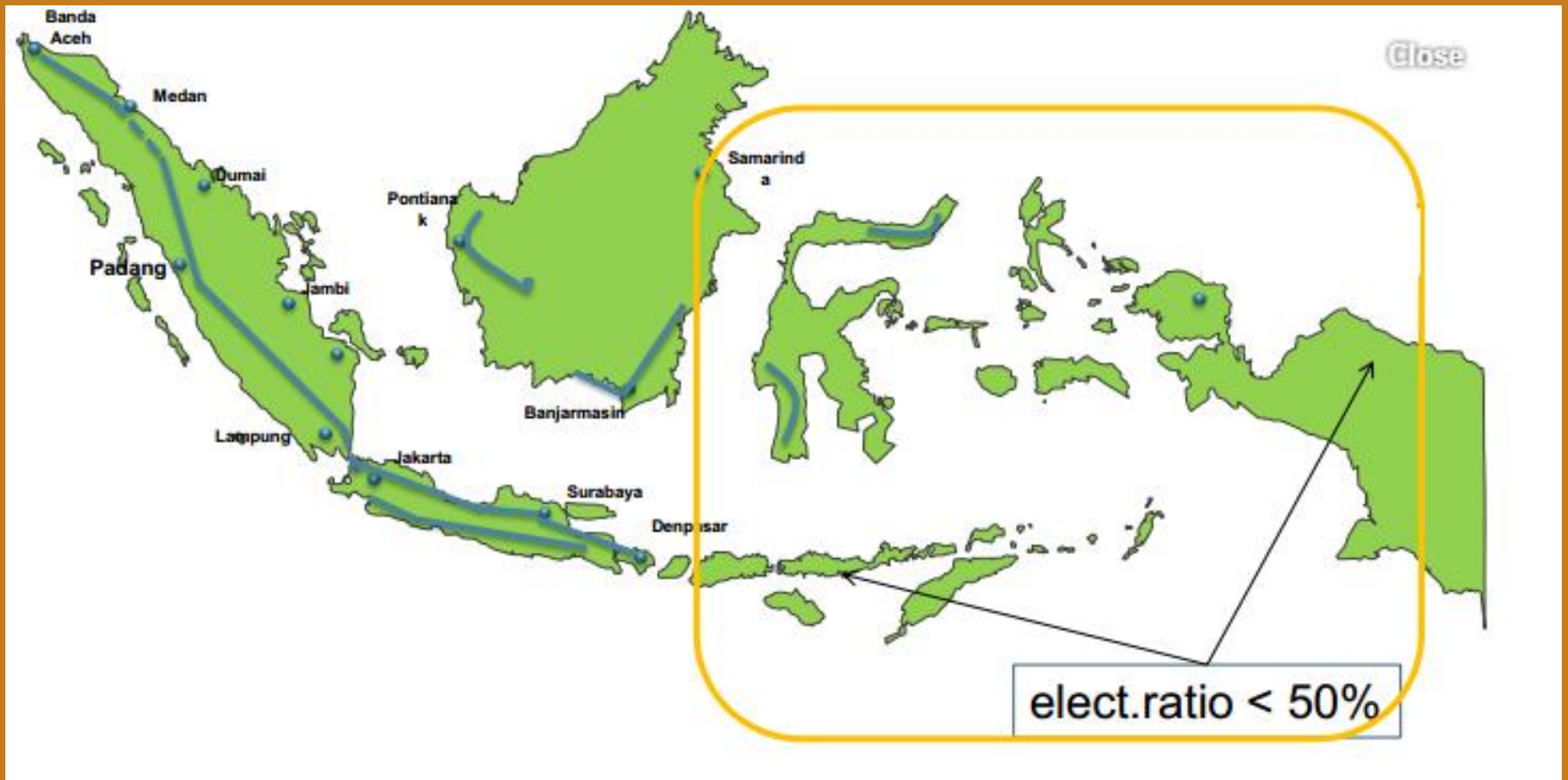
	200 kW binary plant	20 MW binary plant	50 MW flash plant
Exploration	300	320	240
Confirmation	400	470	370
Main wells	800	710	540
Field, other costs	120	120	60
Power plant	4,250	2,120	1,080
Contingency	880	190	120
Total costs	6,750	3,930	2,410

Source: World Bank, 2005c.

But large power plants also require large electricity grids



And Indonesia is a very large country with many small and remote islands

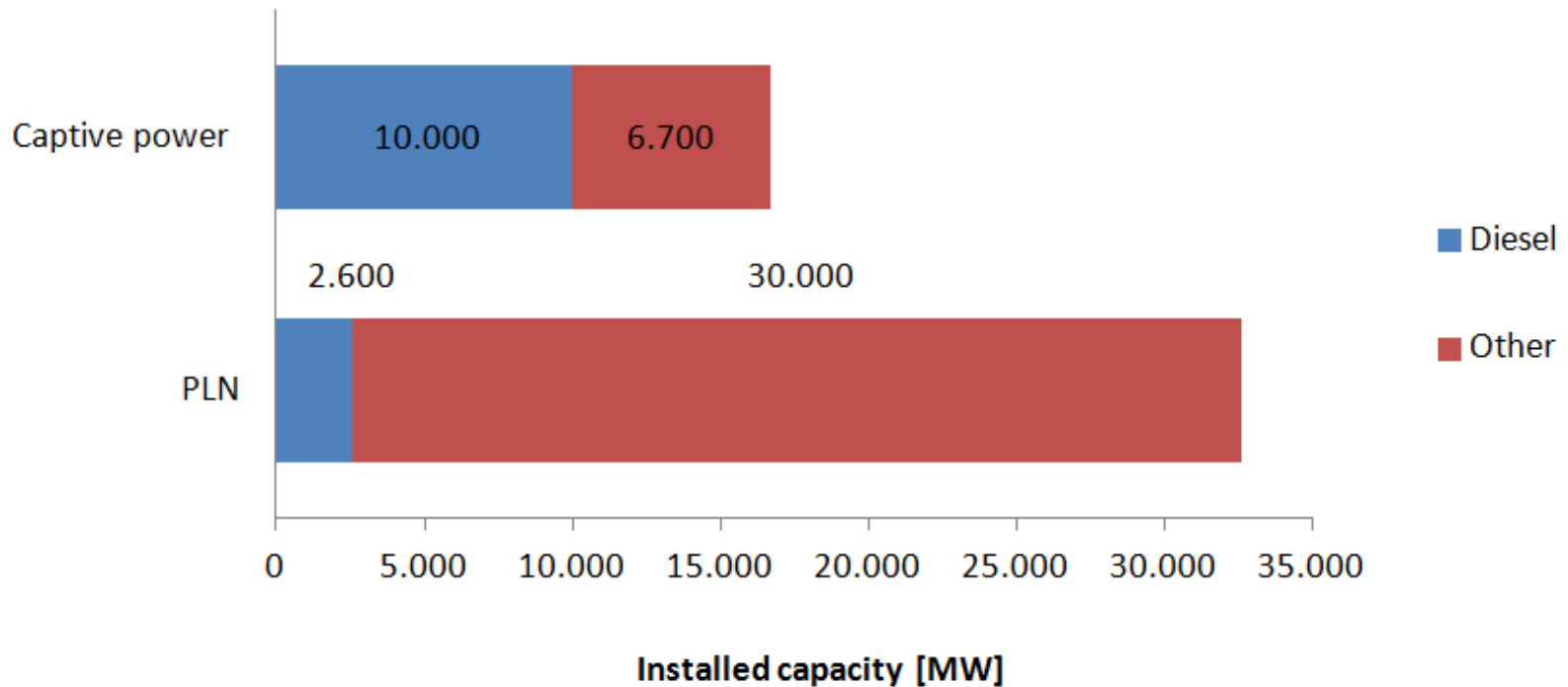


This leaves many relying on dirty and expensive diesel generators



With a significant share in the total power production

Share of diesel: PLN vs Captive power



Source: PLN statistics 2009 & 2012

Even though there is often good potential for geothermal energy



This is where a small geothermal plant can be useful



What we designed: MiniGeo

- A modular geothermal powerplant fitted in a 40 foot shipping container
- base load power
- Does not need fuel
- Remote operation through satellite link
- Near-zero marginal costs
- No CO₂ emissions
- Secondary outputs



Secondary output modules

- Drinking water (desalination or aquifer based)
- Cooling / Ice production
- Communication (Internet, mobile network, 3G/4G, Radio, Television)
- Crop drying/processing
- Waste(water) treatment
- Bathing, laundry, hot spring

But can this compete with Diesel and PV?

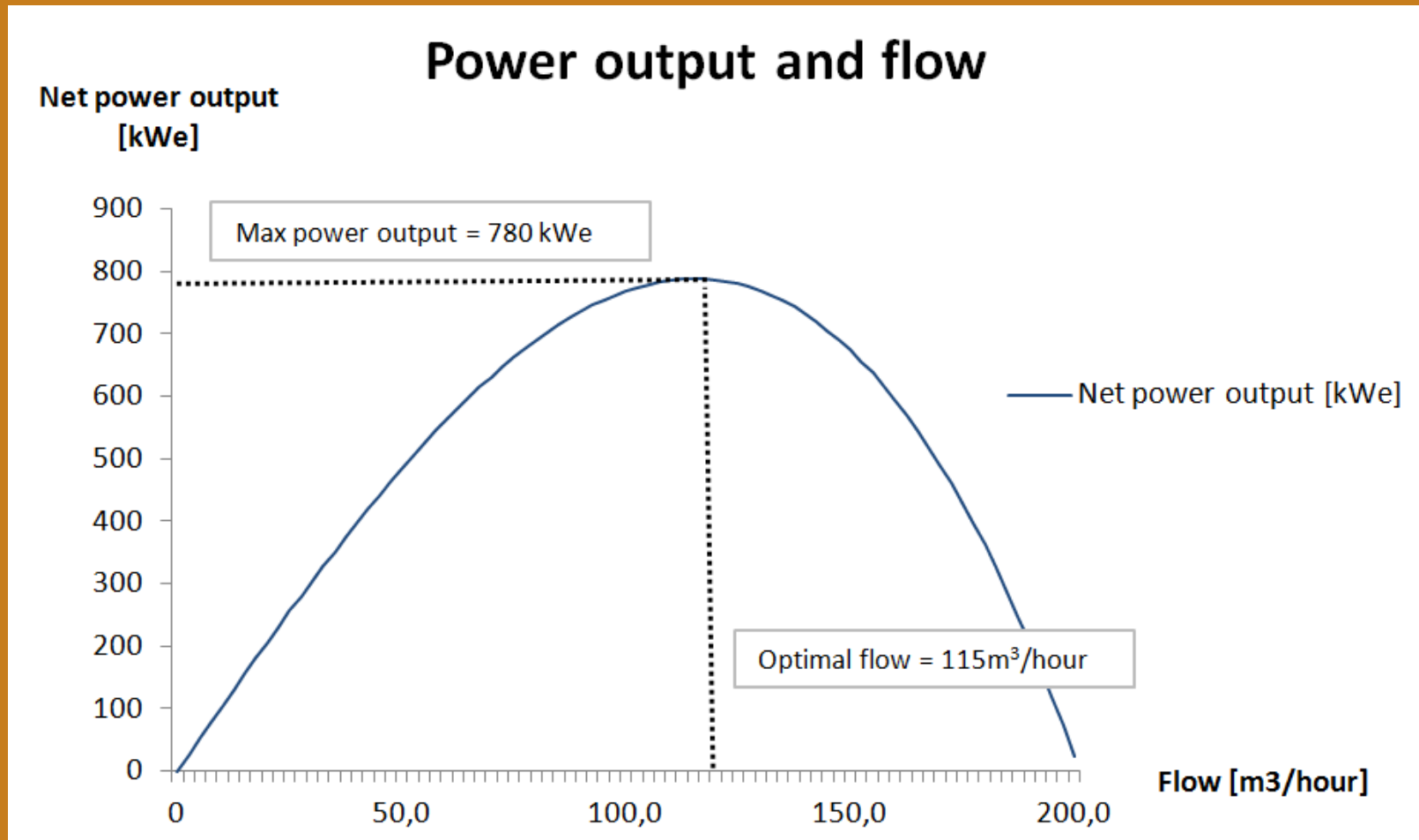
Lets take an example case



Example case: Input parameters

Production temperature	150 °C
Drilling depth	2300m TVD
Casing I. diameter	4 Inch
Reservoir transmissivity	25 Dm

Calculating the optimal flow



Example case: LCOE

CAPEX	\$7,400,000
OPEX	\$190,000 /year
Yearly production	4700 MWh
LCOE (30y / 7% disc)	\$0.15 /kWh

Example case: Comparing to diesel and PV

Generation type	LCOE
Off-grid Diesel (1\$/l) ¹	\$0.56/kWh
PV individual ²	\$0.70/kWh
PV-Diesel Hybrid ²	\$0.35/kWh
PV-Battery (saba case) ³	\$0.31/kWh
MiniGeo	\$0.15/kWh

Discussion points

- 6000 full load hours per year realistic?
- Technical challenges of high pressure and high flow
- How to organise secondary outputs?
- Risk management

Sources

1 World bank, 2005

2 PLN statistics 2009

3 Comello, s., Reichelstein, s., Sahoo, A., & Schmidt, T. (2015). Enabling mini-grid development in rural india. *WORKING PAPER*

4 Velthuis, MODELING AND SIMULATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS IN INDONESIA, 2015

5 Hirsch, K., Burman, C., & Davidson, M. (2015). Sustainable energy in remote Indonesian grids. *National renewable energy laboratory*, June 2015

