

# Advanced Sensors and Monitoring Techniques for the Optimization of Coal and Biomass Fired Power Plants



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# Outline

- **Background**
- **Pulverised fuel flow metering**
- **On-line particle sizing**
- **Flame stability monitoring**
- **On-line fuel tracking**
- **Flame imaging**
- **Summary**

# Background

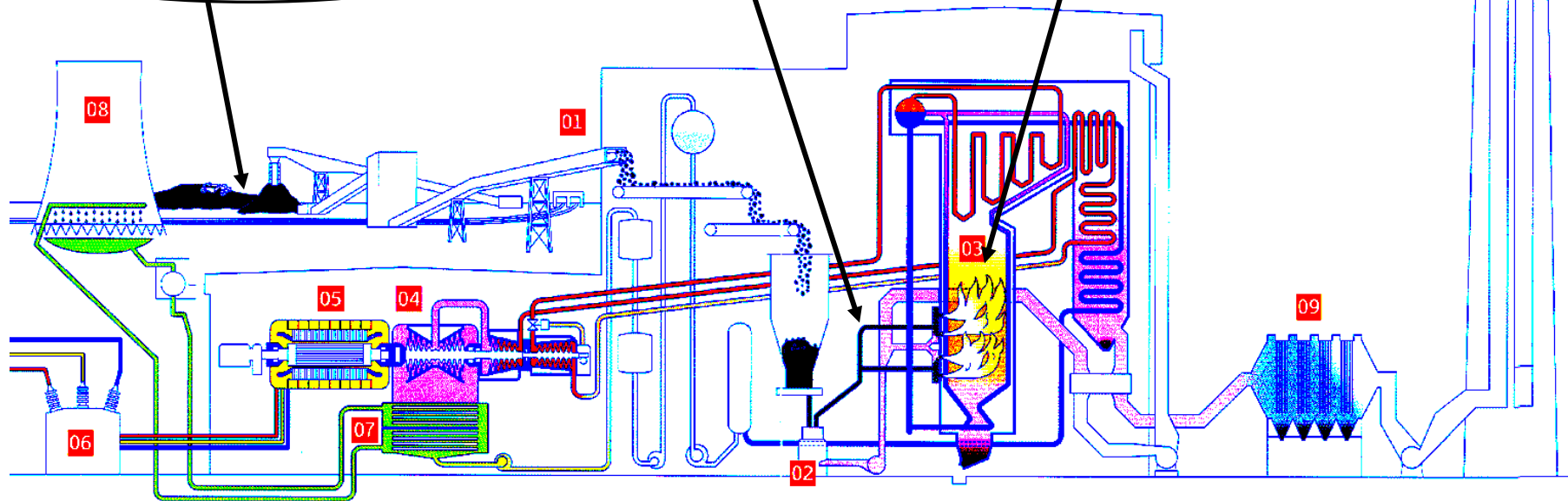
- Power generation organisations are constantly seeking new ways of improving combustion efficiency and profitability.
- Environmental legislations are becoming increasingly stringent.
- A diverse range of fuels and fuel blends including biomass are fired at coal fired power plants.
- Many power stations are operated under variable load as per electricity demand.
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) systems are being implemented in many countries.
- New monitoring and measurement techniques have an important part to play in response to these changes.

# Monitoring Challenges at Coal and Biomass Fired Power Plants

- Fuel flow metering
- On-line particle sizing

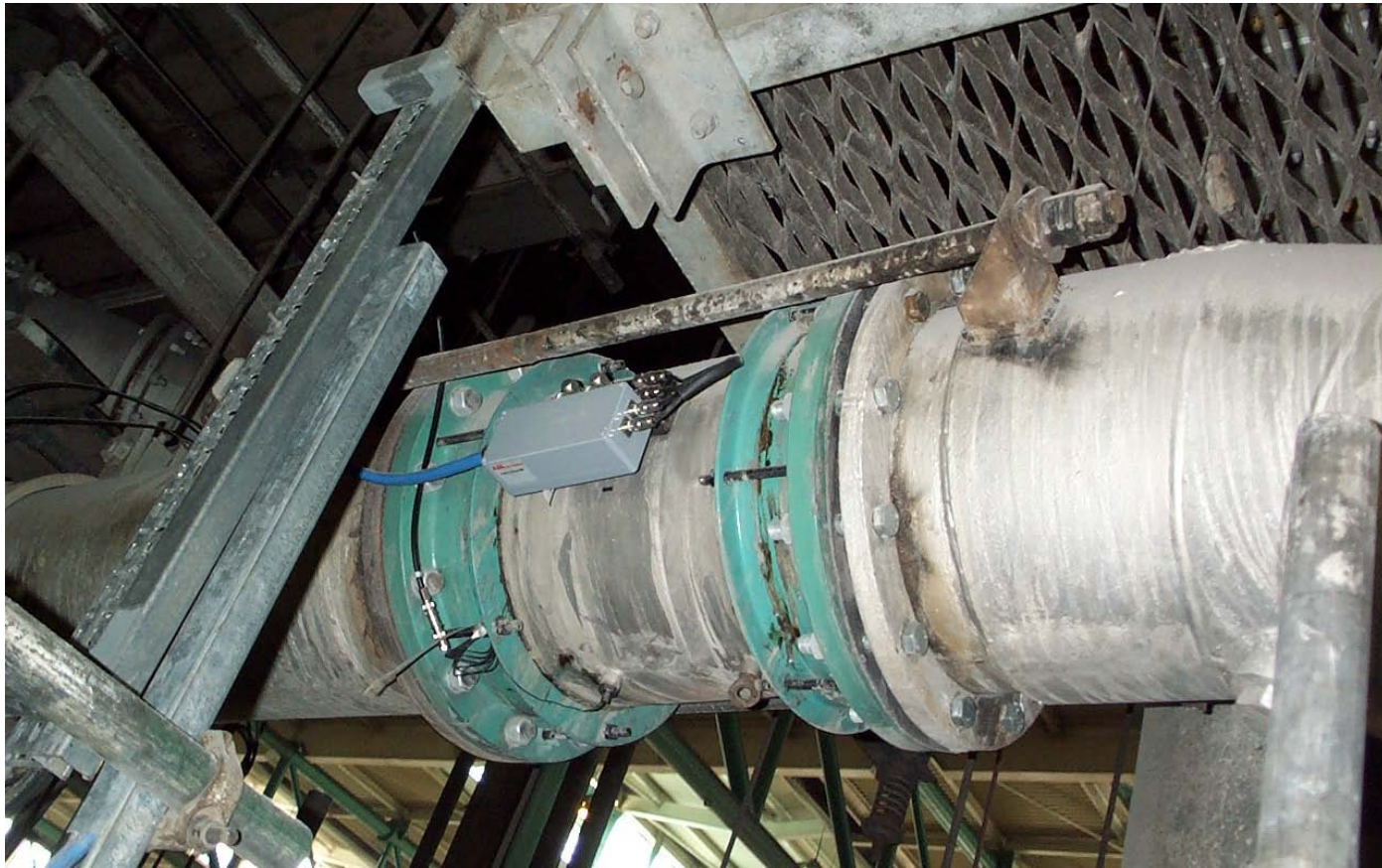
- On-line fuel tracking

- Flame stability monitoring
- Flame imaging

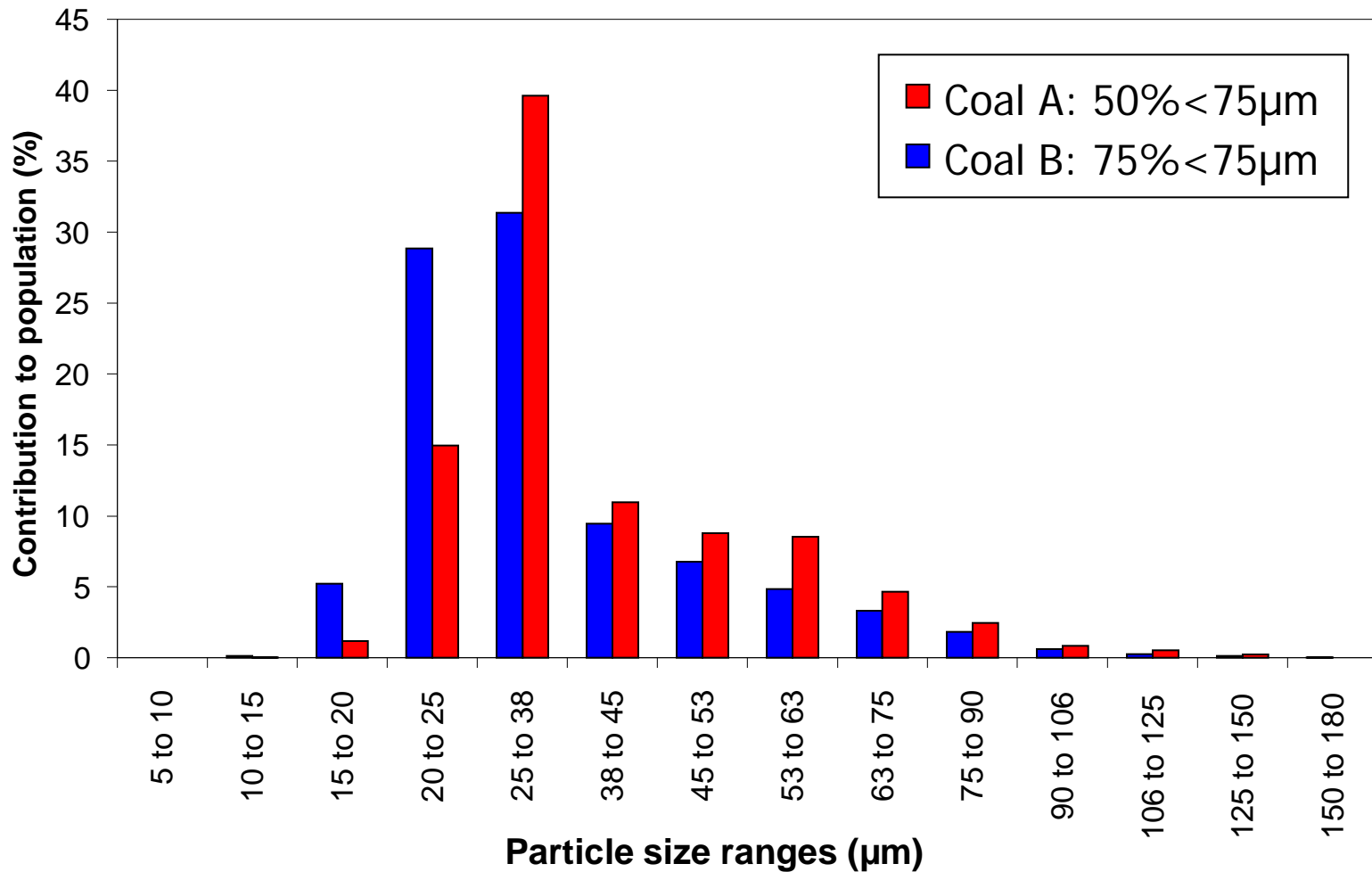


Coal and Biomass Fired Power Plant

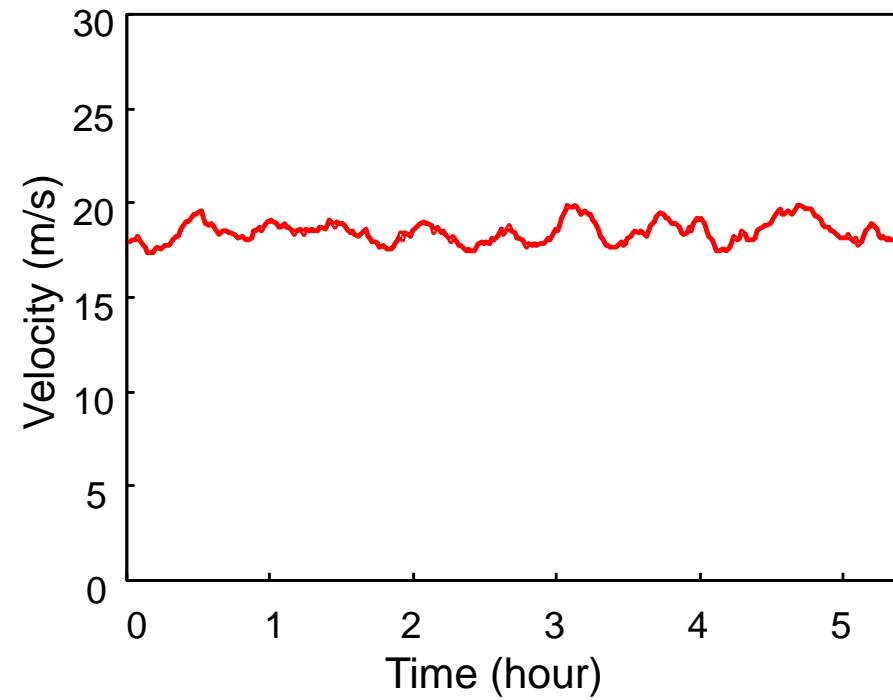
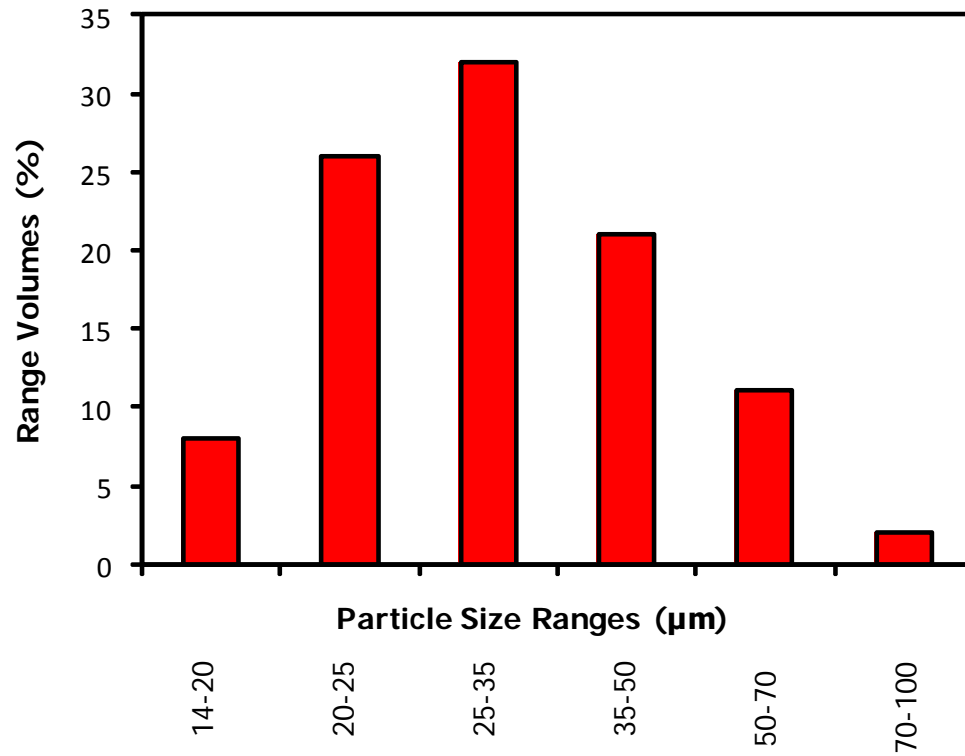
# Pulverised Fuel Flow Metering



# On-Line Particle Sizing



# Pulverised Fuel Flow Metering

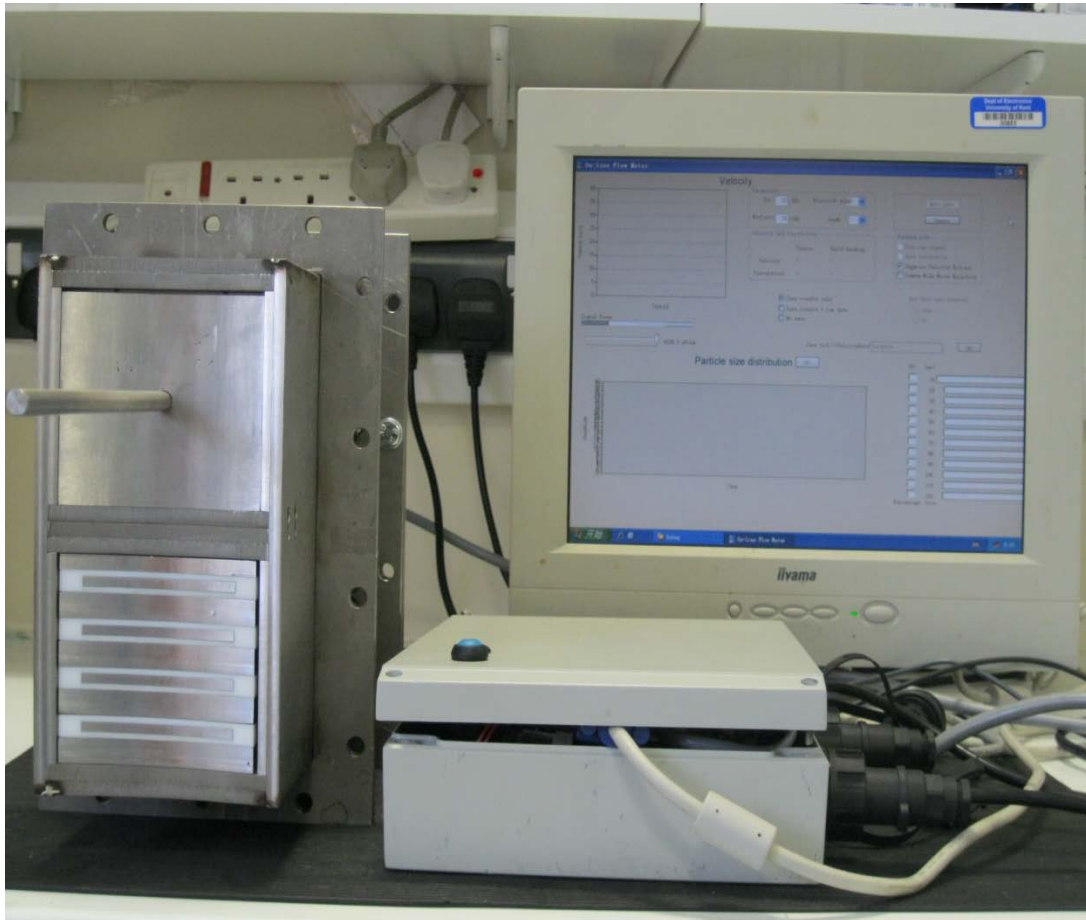


# Trials on 350MW Coal-Fired Power Plant



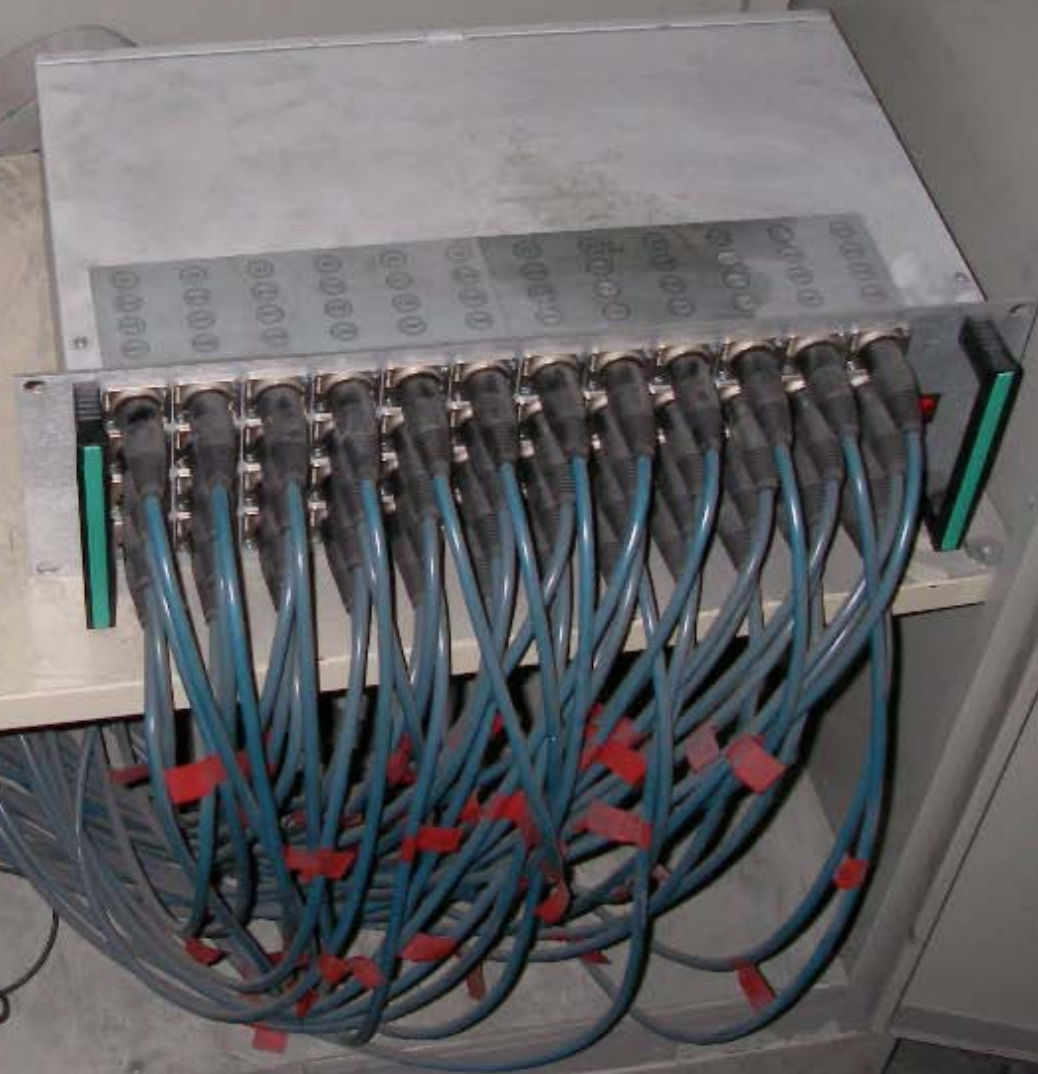
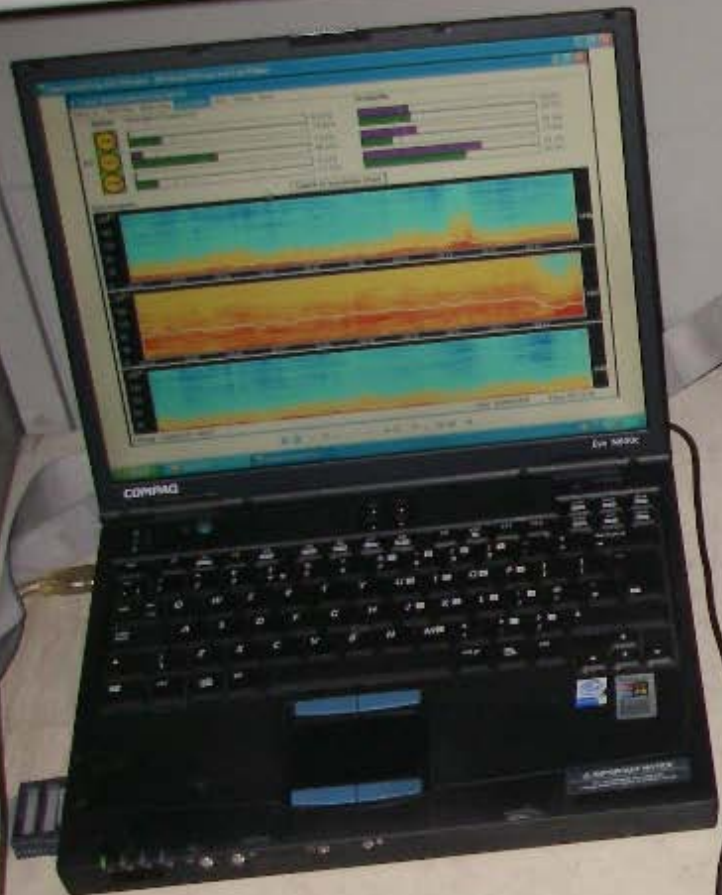


# On-Line Particle Sizing

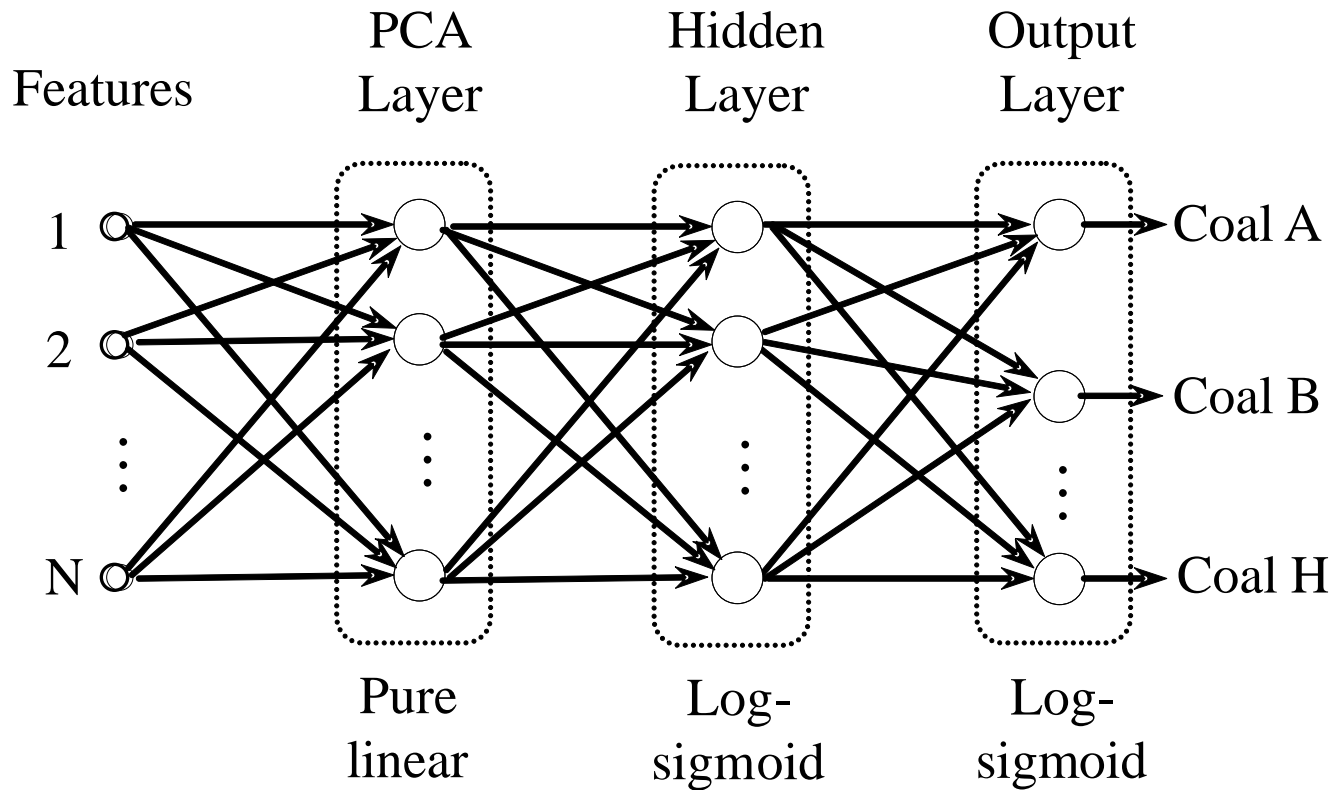


# Flame Stability Monitoring

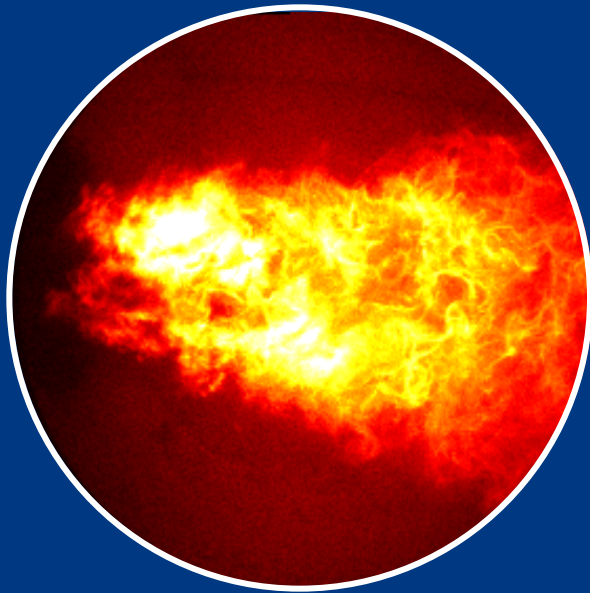




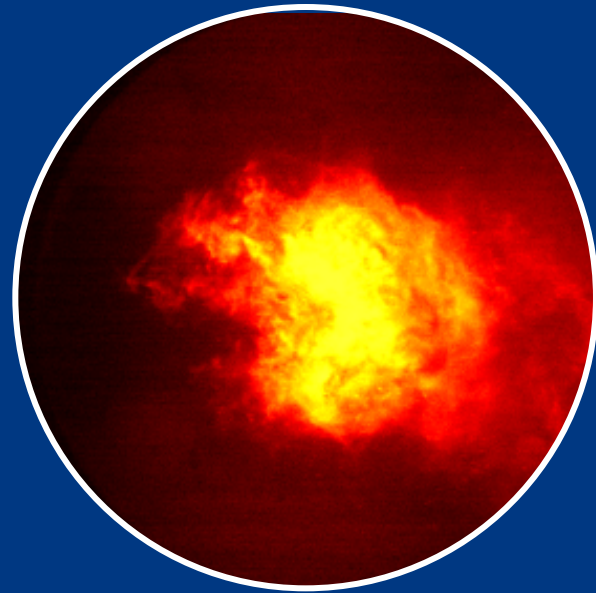
# On-Line Fuel Tracking



# Flame Imaging

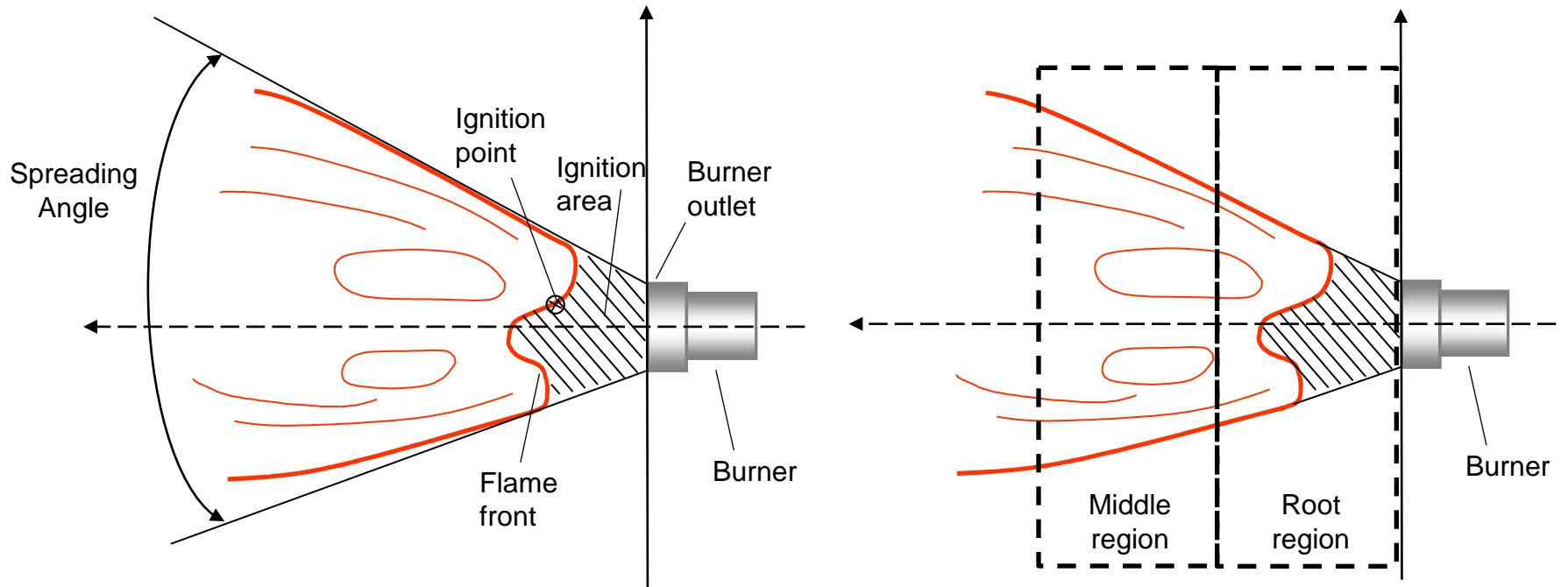


**Coal A**



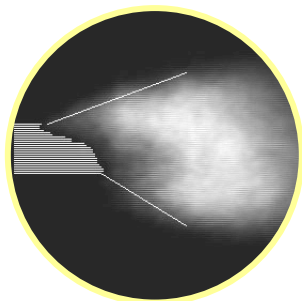
**Coal B**

# Flame Imaging

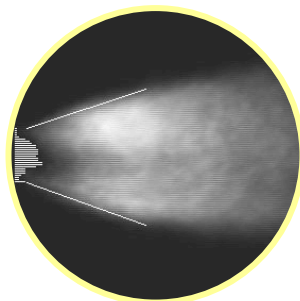


# Flame Imaging

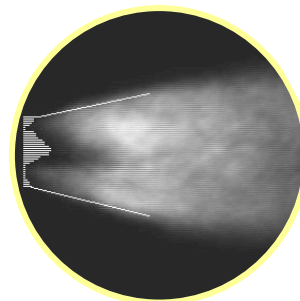
- Flame ignition profile



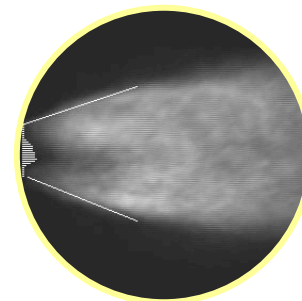
0.8MWth



0.9MWth

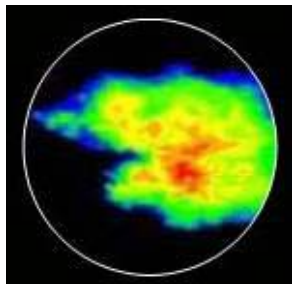


1.0MWth

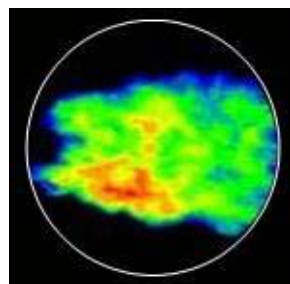


1.1MWth

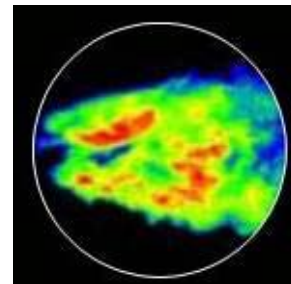
- Flame temperature distribution



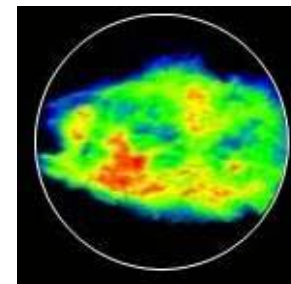
0.8MWth



0.9MWth

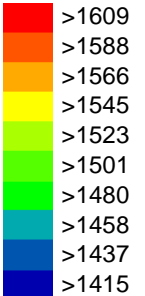


1.0MWth

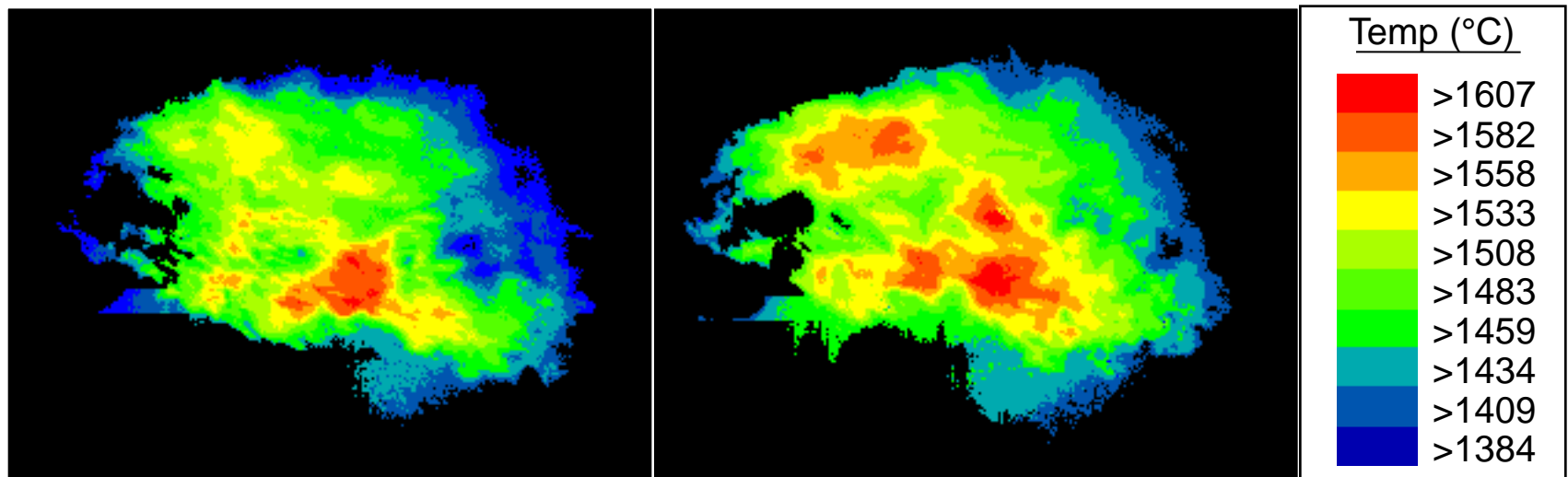


1.1MWth

Temp (°C)



# Flame Imaging



Fine Coal

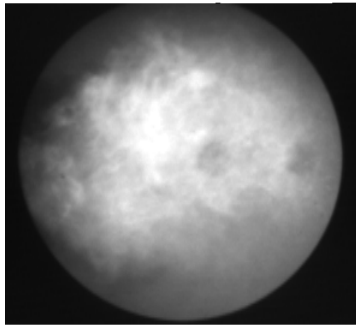
Coarse Coal

**Variable Particle Size (Coal B 62.9kg/h, 3.2% O<sub>2</sub>)**

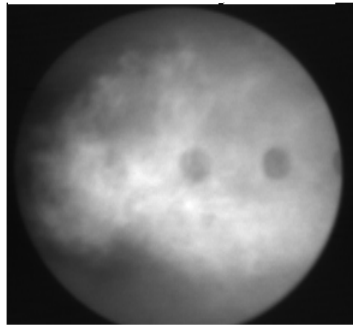


# Oxyfuel Flames - Russian coal

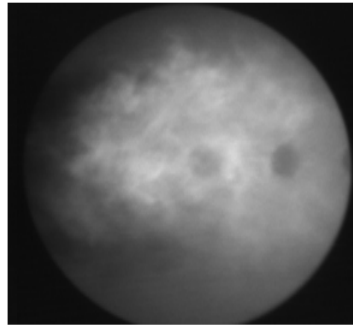
## Images for different simulated recycle rates under low O<sub>2</sub> setting



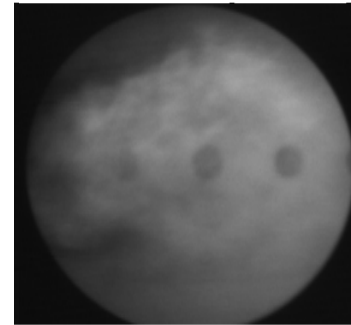
62%rr, Total flow 477.8kg/h  
Sec. flow 322kg/h@39.4%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 12:32, 30-10)



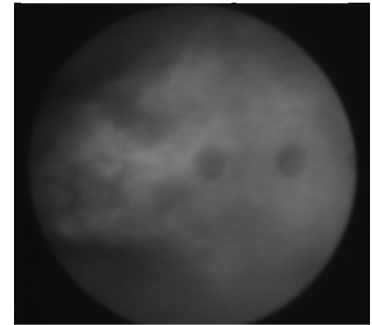
65%rr, Total flow 523.0kg/h  
Sec. flow 368kg/h@34.8%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 15:18, 29-10)



68%rr, Total flow 577.7kg/h  
Sec. flow 422kg/h@30.5%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 15:05, 29-10)

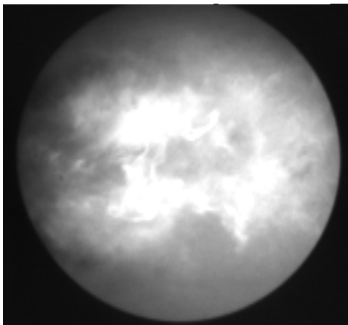


72%rr, Total flow 669.6kg/h  
Sec. flow 513kg/h@25.5%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 14:18, 29-10)

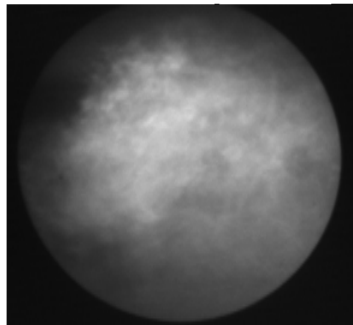


75%rr, Total flow 757.1kg/h  
Sec. flow 600kg/h@22.1%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 13:41, 29-10)

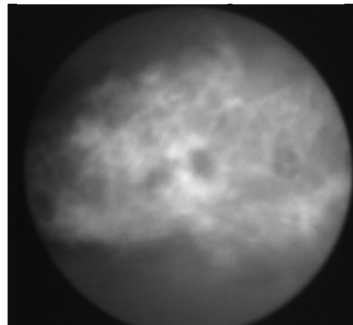
## Images for different simulated recycle rates under high O<sub>2</sub> setting



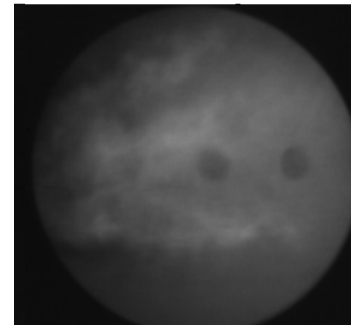
62%rr, Total flow 487.5kg/h  
Sec. flow 332kg/h@41.7%O<sub>2</sub>  
(Time: 12:54, 30-10)



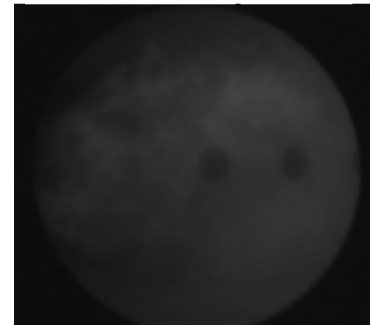
65%rr, Total flow 532.9kg/h  
Sec. flow 379kg/h@37.1%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 12:01, 30-10)



68%rr, Total f. 590.5kg/h  
Sec. flow 435kg/h@32.9%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 14:48, 29-10)

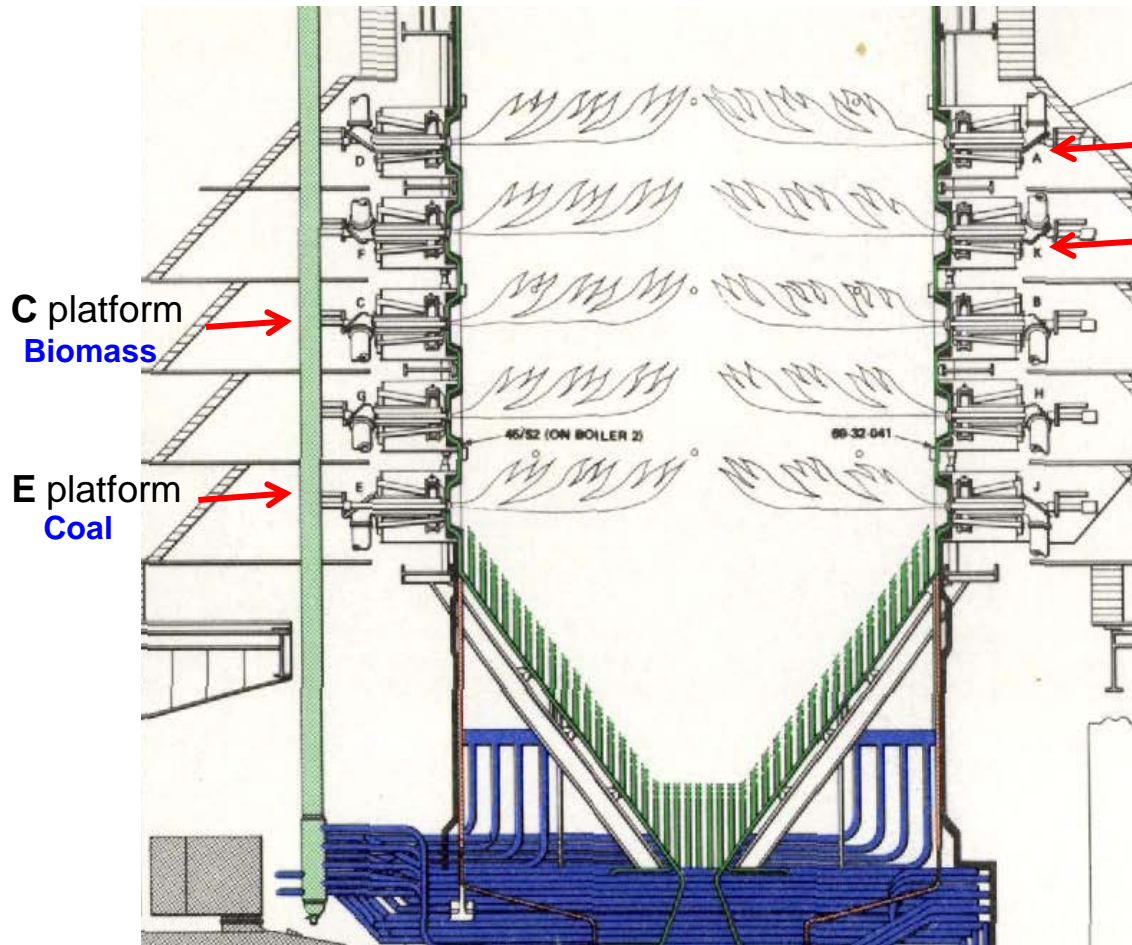


72%rr, Total f. 681.9kg/h  
Sec. flow 527kg/h@28.0%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 14:35, 29-10)



75%rr, Total f. 772.1kg/h  
Sec. flow 616kg/h@24.5%O<sub>2</sub>  
(time: 13:58, 29-10)

# Flame Imaging

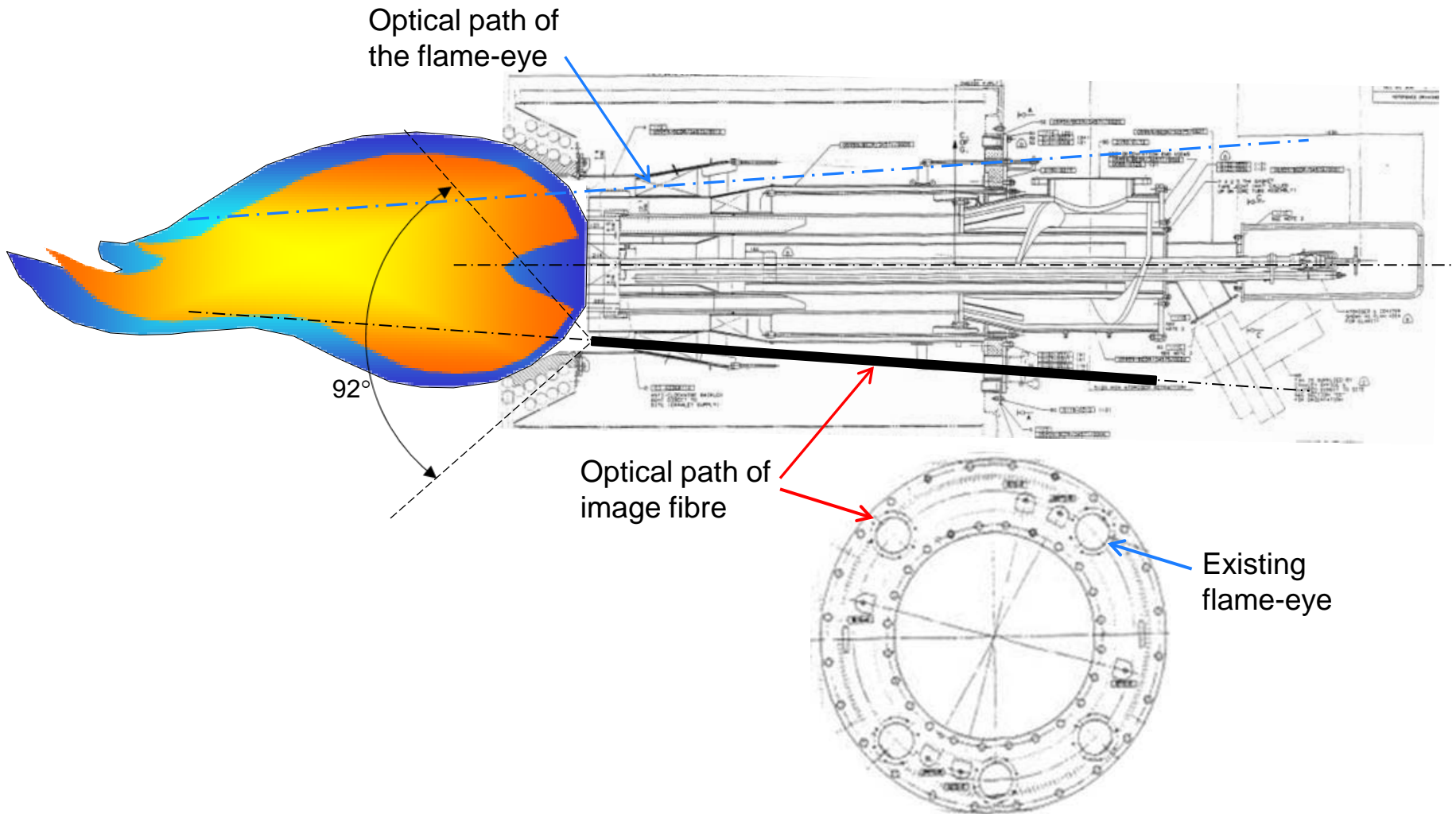


**A platform**  
**Biomass & Coal**

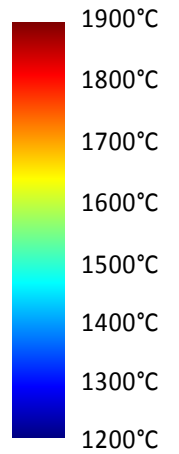
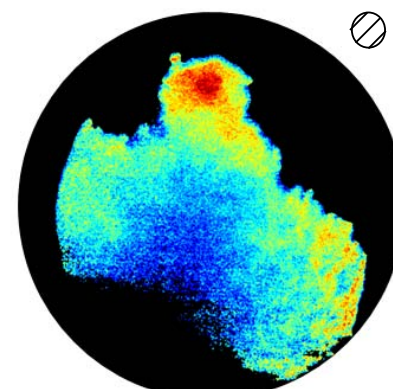
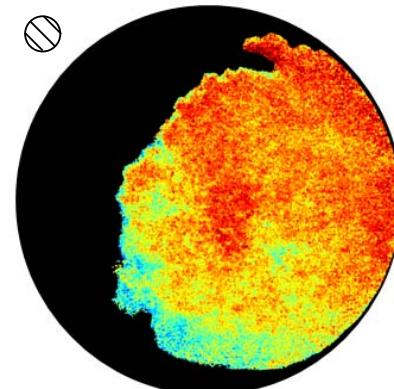
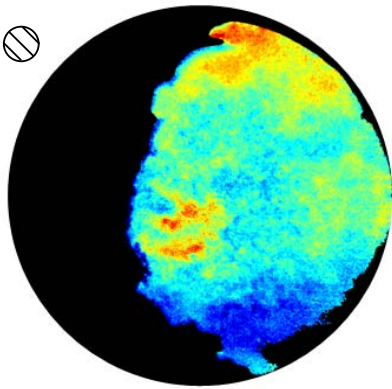
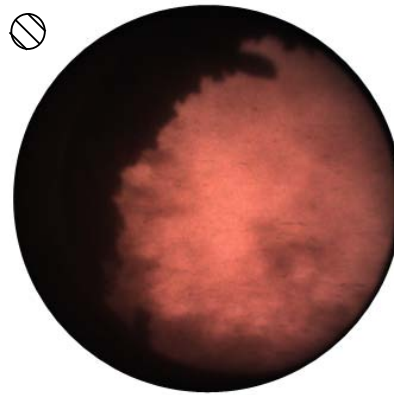
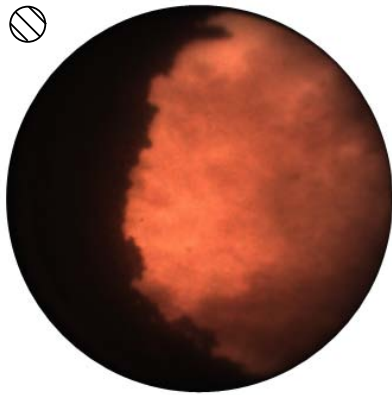
**K platform**  
**Biomass**

The imaging fibre probe was inserted through the existing sighting tubes of Burners 1A5, 1C2, 1C3 and 1E5.

# Flame Imaging



# Flame Imaging

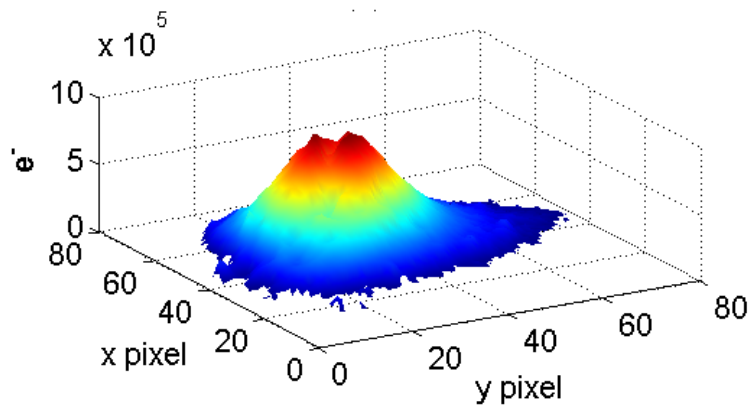


**1A5 Biomass-On**

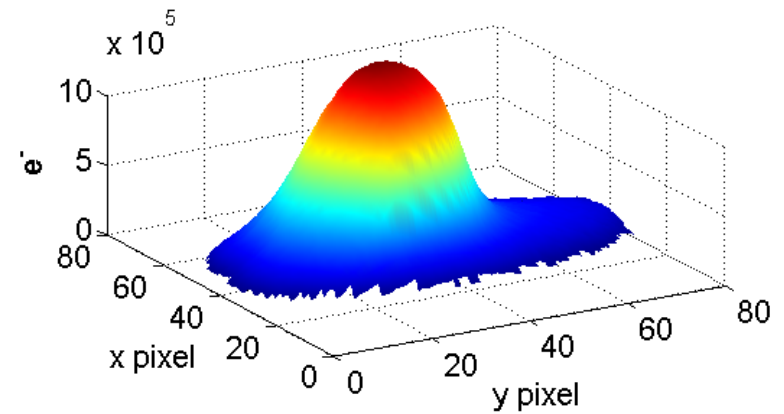
**1A5 Biomass-Off**

**1C2 Biomass-On**

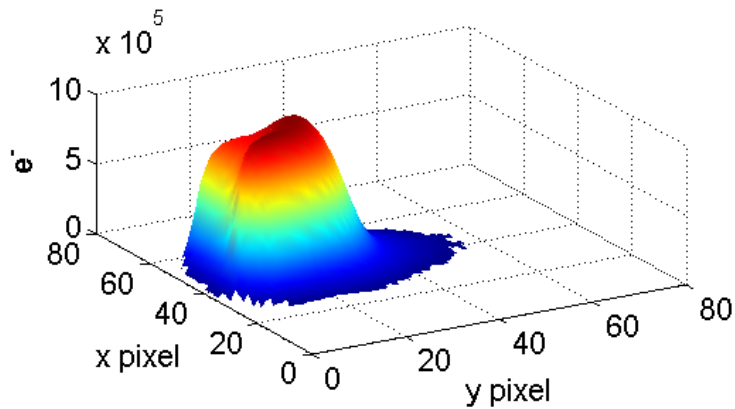
# Imaging of Flame Radicals



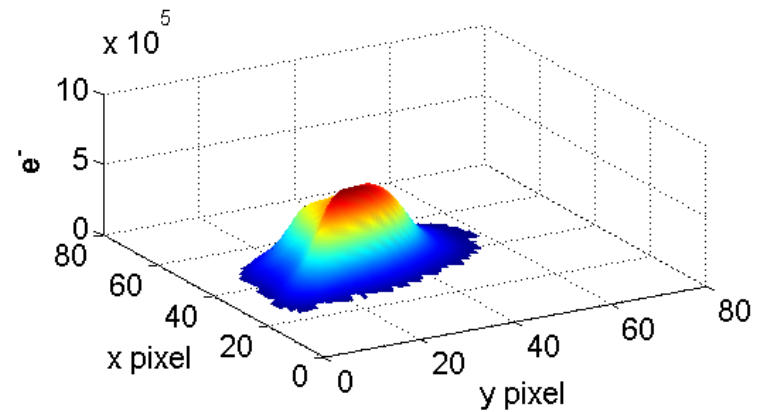
$\text{OH}^*$



$\text{CN}^*$



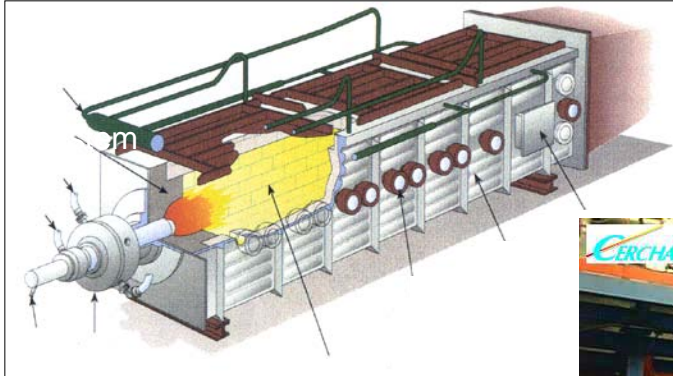
$\text{CH}^*$



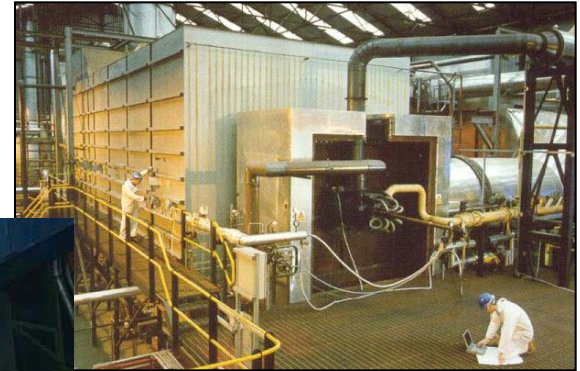
$\text{C}_2^*$

Premixed air-propane flame

# Industrial Trials



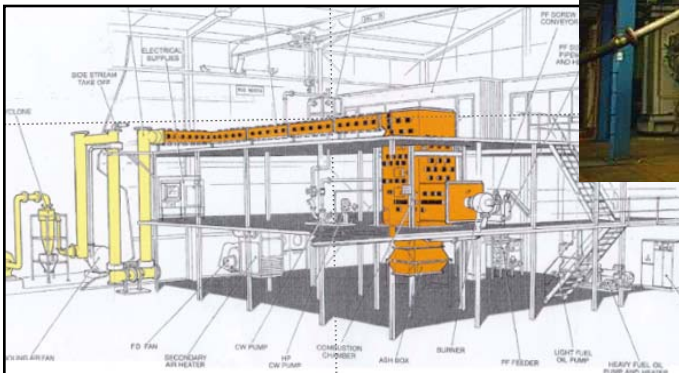
0.5MWth Combustion Test Facility, RWE npower



90 MWth Combustion Test Facility, Doosan Babcock



3MWth Combustion Test Facility, Cerchar (France)



1MWth Combustion Test Facility, E.ON UK



Tilbury Power Station

# Summary

- A range of new sensors and instruments are available for the optimization of coal and biomass fired power plants.
- Embedded digital signal and image processing plays an important part.
- Making the sensors and instruments cost-effective, robust and reliable has been a challenge.
- Good progress has been made in 2D and 3D flame imaging.
- Further trials on full-scale power stations are being undertaken to assess the operability and effectiveness of the new sensors and instruments.
- Significant research in biomass/air two-phase and biomass/coal/air three-phase flow is required.