

Flue Gas Waste Heat and Water Recovery Organic Rankine Cycle

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Extended Abstract

Fossil fuel-based power plants consume significant amount of water. Therefore, the power plants can cause an environmental impact and its locations are very limited by the availability of water. Water recovery from flue gas in the power plants could contribute to reduce water requirement. For example, a 600MW coal power plant releases 45 ton/min of flue gas including 7.2 ton/min of moisture [1]. Several technologies including water condensation by cooling water [1], liquid desiccant dehumidification system (LDDS) [2], and transport membrane condenser (TMC) [3] have been developed.

In this study, in order to condense the moisture in flue gas, the flue gas is firstly cooled down by a waste heat recovery (WHR) organic Rankine cycle (ORC) system and is further cooled down below dew point (55°C) by a pumped heat pipe cooling loop combined with the ORC system. Two-phase cooling by the organic working fluid instead of cooling water can reduce the large surface area [4] of condensing heat exchanger for low-temperature flue gas. Furthermore, an ejector cooling system or vapor compression refrigeration system driven by the waste heat of flue gas [5], combined with the ORC system, can be used to further cool down the flue gas because it is very difficult to condense the moisture in the flue gas with a high ambient temperature.

In the case of the 600MW coal power plant releasing 150°C of flue gas, the WHR ORC system can produce about 6.7MW of additional power and recover 50% of water in flue gas by cooling the flue gas to 40°C at the evaporation temperature of 30°C for R134a. Furthermore, with the help of the vapor compression cooling system driven by the heated high pressure working fluid, it can recover 70% of water in flue gas by cooling the flue gas to 30°C at the evaporation temperature of 20°C for R134a. Along with the water recovery in the condensing heat exchanger, condensable particulate matter (CPM) can be separated from the flue gas for environmental friendliness [6,7].

References

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