



TRANSFORMERS MAGAZINE'S  
INDUSTRY NAVIGATOR

INVESTMENTS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
AND SUSTAINABILITY  
CONFERENCE 2024

# Sustainability and Industrial Processes Efficiency

*- A Smart Legacy to the Future of Power Transformer -*

Paola Pachera, PhD  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2024





# Presentation Overview

- **Essex Energy**, part of **Superior Essex**, is a leading European producer of winding wires for Power Transformers (PT), HVDC cables and for other market segments
- The main application used by PT customers are the Continuously Transposed Conductors (CTC) and the Paper Wrapped Conductors (PWC)
- Superior Essex is a vertically integrated company specialized in the processing of copper rods with a wide and consolidated product range supporting Small, Medium, Large PT up to HVDC applications





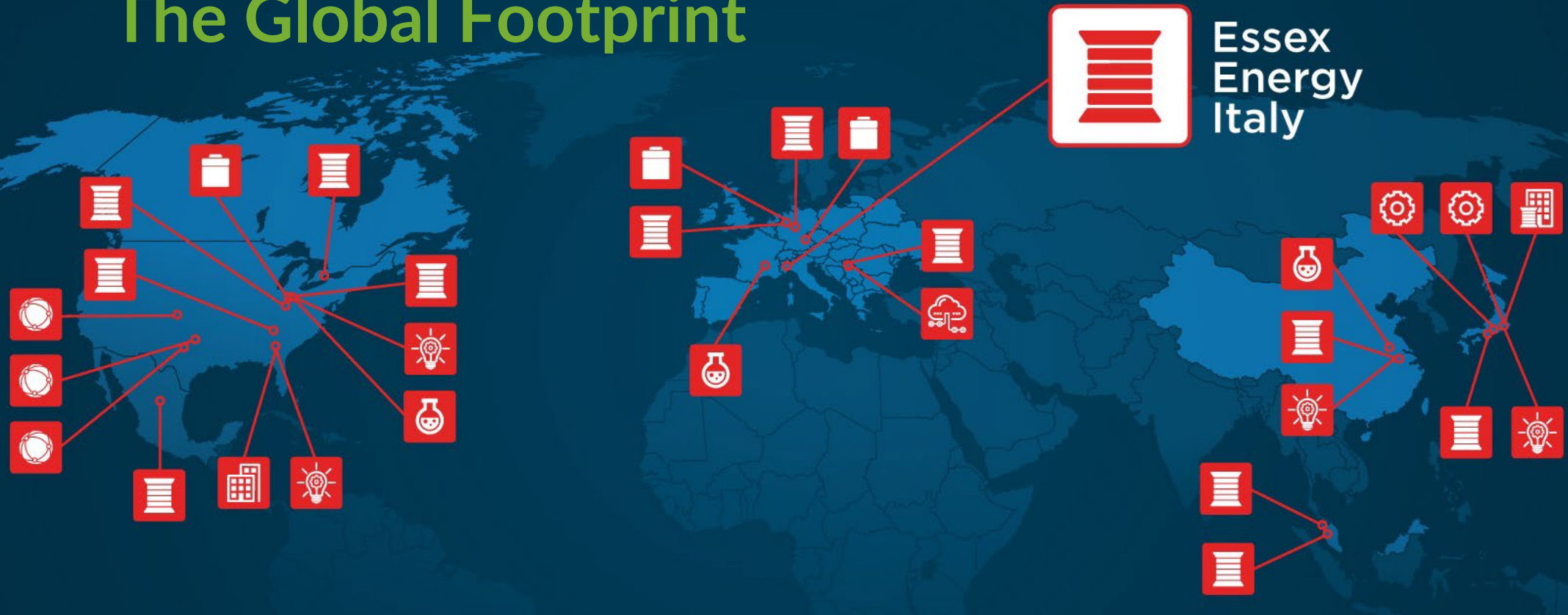
# Presentation Overview

- **Essex Energy** produces custom products exclusively upon the designs of our PT customers
- Only 100% customized products are manufactured
- Essex Italy is an Energy intensive production plant (>1 GWh/Month used)





# The Global Footprint



- |                                                                                       |                                  |                                                                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | MAGNET WIRE                      |  | CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS         |
|  | ROD & FOUNDRY,<br>SPECIALTY WIRE |  | MAGNET WIRE HEADQUARTERS JAPAN |
|  | CHEMICAL PROCESSING              |  | MAGNET WIRE SALES JAPAN        |
|  | INNOVATION                       |  | GLOBAL IT SERVICE CENTRE       |
|  | COMMUNICATIONS                   |  | 16 DISTRIBUTION CENTERS*       |
|                                                                                       |                                  |  | 2 FABRICATION*                 |

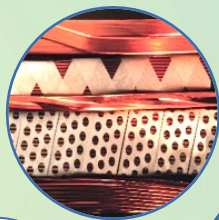


# Solutions for the Energy Market: *PT and HVDC cables*

## PRODUCTS

### Continuously-Transposed Cable/Conductor

Available with B-Stage Epoxy



### Specialty CTC

Netting CTC, Twin CTC, Cordex®



### Wrapped Wire

Polyimide/Polyamide/Glass/Paper



### Bare Copper



## APPLICATIONS

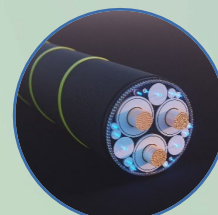
### Large Power Transformers



### HVDC Power Transformers



### HVDC Cables (CU & AL)



### Distribution Transformers







# Company Key Figures

## CAPACITY

- ~20.000 T/y  
(365 days a year)

## PRODUCTS

- **CTC:** ~12.000 MT/y  
(actual mix)
- **Bare:** ~6.300 MT/y
- **Paper:** ~1.200 MT/y
- **Glass/Tapes:** 800 MT/y

## EQUIPMENT

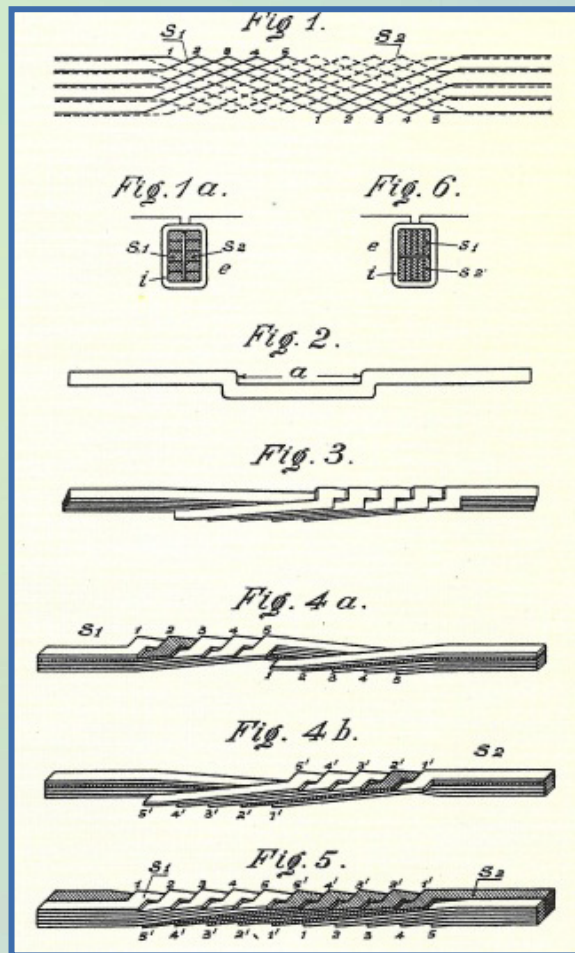
- Drawing, Rolling Mills and Konform machines
- Annealing Oven
- Vertical Enameling Ovens
- CTC & TWIN CTC lines
- Paper and Glass Wrapping lines

## PEOPLE

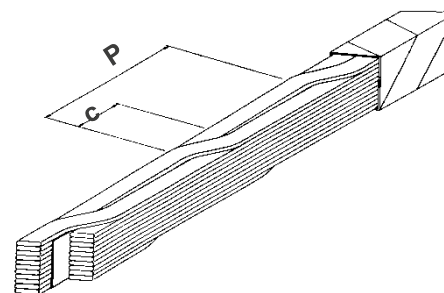
- 160 people
- Production running 24/7

# History of Continuously Transposed Cable

- Ludwig Roebel faced big losses due to the skin effect when designing generators above 10 MW
- In 1912 he had a great idea: single insulated and transposed strands to replace the large cross-section conductors that were currently in use within generator designs
- Since 1940, transformer designs have used the ideas of Ludwig Roebel. CTC is now the best winding wire solution for the active part of the PT



## CTC Calculation Rules



**Pitch**  $P = \frac{D \times \pi}{n}$

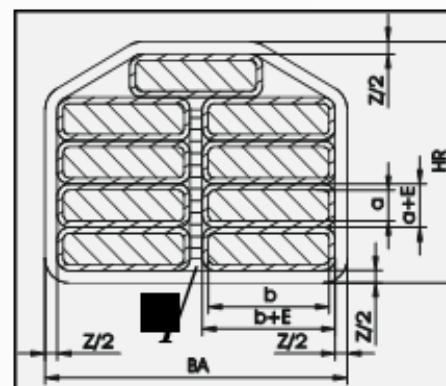
**Transposing Factor**  $F_T = \frac{D \times \pi}{b \times n}$

$d$  = Winding diameter

$n$  = number of strands

$b$  = width of conductor

$c$  = crank length



**Radial Size HR** =  $\frac{(n+1)}{2}(a+E)+Z$   
(odd numbers)

**Radial Size HR** =  $\frac{(n+2)}{2}(a+E)+Z$   
(even numbers)

**Axial Size BA** =  $2(b+E)+I+Z$

**Intercolumn Paper I** =  $\frac{(n-1)}{2}(b+E)$   
(min. 8 mm)



# Essex Italy Production Plant

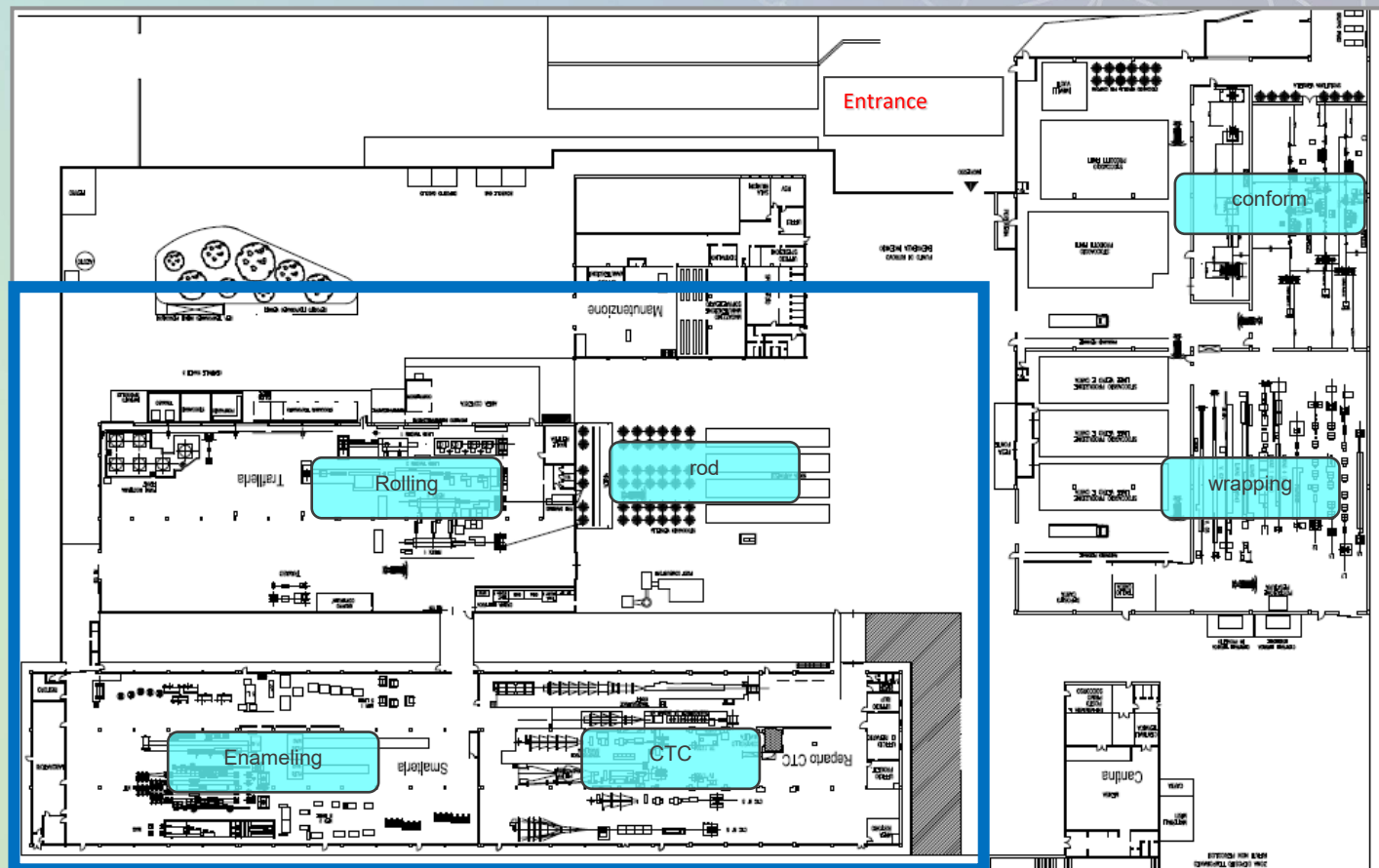
**CTC production** starts from  
the copper rod:

- Cu-ETP1, Cu-OF1, CuAg0.1

## 3 MAIN PRODUCTION STEPS:

- Copper drawing → A single copper strip
- Copper enameling → Applied to this copper strip
- CTC Assembly → Create the finished conductor

CTC Production



Quattordio Plant Layout





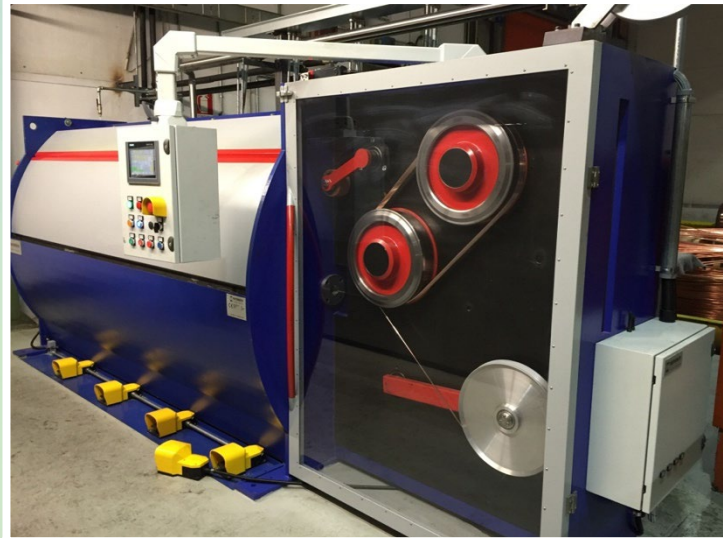
# Drawing Department

## BASE MATERIAL:

- Cu-ETP1, Cu-OF1, CuAg0.1

## EQUIPMENT:

- 3 Five-stands rolling lines
- 2 Break down lines
- Production range: 4 – 150 mm<sup>2</sup>
- Inline process control:
  - Dimensions with visualization and print
  - Surface and inclusions of print material by inductive sensor







# Enamelling Department

**NUMBER OF LINES:** 31

**OVEN HEIGHT:** 22 – 25 meters

**PRODUCTION RANGE:** 4 – 80 mm<sup>2</sup>

**INLINE PROCESS CONTROL:** Surface Control

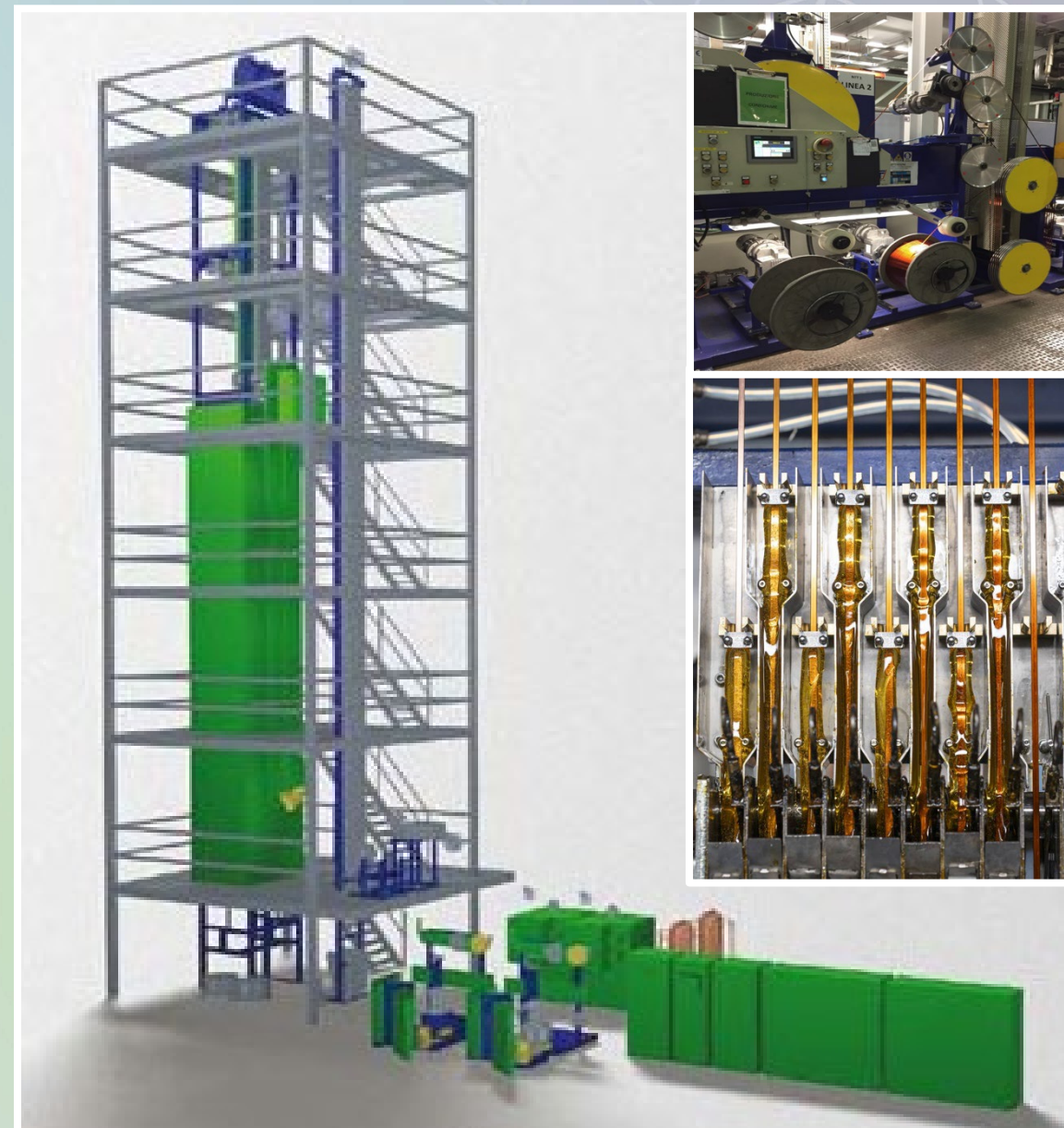
## INSULATION COATINGS:

- PolyVinylFormal (PVF) - Class 120°C
- PolyEsterImide (PEI)+ Polyamideimide - Class 200° C
- PolyAmideImide (PAI) – Class 220°C

## BONDING EPOXY RESINS:

- Bi-Stage - Thermosetting Epoxy
- Thermoplastic Epoxy

**ENAMEL THICKNESS:** 0.06 mm (ETE) – 0.18 mm



Source MAG





# CTC Department

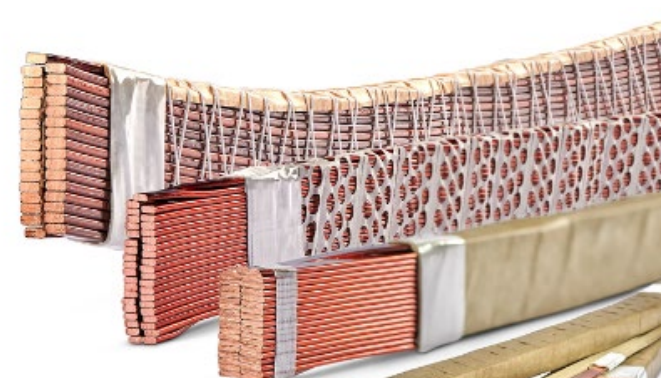
**NUMBER OF LINES: 6**

**CHARACTERIZATION:**

- Number Strands: 5 – 79
- Cross Section Strand: 4 – 36 mm<sup>2</sup>
- Bundle Size: 5,6 – 26,0/4,5 – 82,0 mm

**INLINE PROCESS CONTROL:**

- Short Circuit Inline Test
- Final HV Test Up to 500 V
- Transposition Failure Test
- Inline Dimensional Controls







# Strategy

## CHALLENGE:

Reducing the environmental impact—in terms of consumption, pollution, and emissions—is particularly challenging for CTC producing in energy-intensive companies such as Essex Energy

## OUR GOAL:

Using less energy, fewer solvents and generating less emissions, Essex Energy believes we can provide our customers with greener products

**Our aim is to reduce the energy required to produce 1 kilogram of finished product through a continuous improvement of the process and systems**

## ACTION PLAN:

- Use of alternative energy sources:
  - Installation of a photovoltaic system
  - Preliminary evaluation for a cogeneration plant
- Recycled copper
- Increase Efficiency:
  - Technological Scrap Reduction
  - Equipment Revamping
  - New Investments
- Production process and product optimization:
  - ETE products: reduced enamel thickness (0.06 mm)  
➔ fewer solvents
  - Industrial processes optimization
  - Double drawing productions reduction  
➔ less energy, fewer emissions





# Cogeneration Plant Project



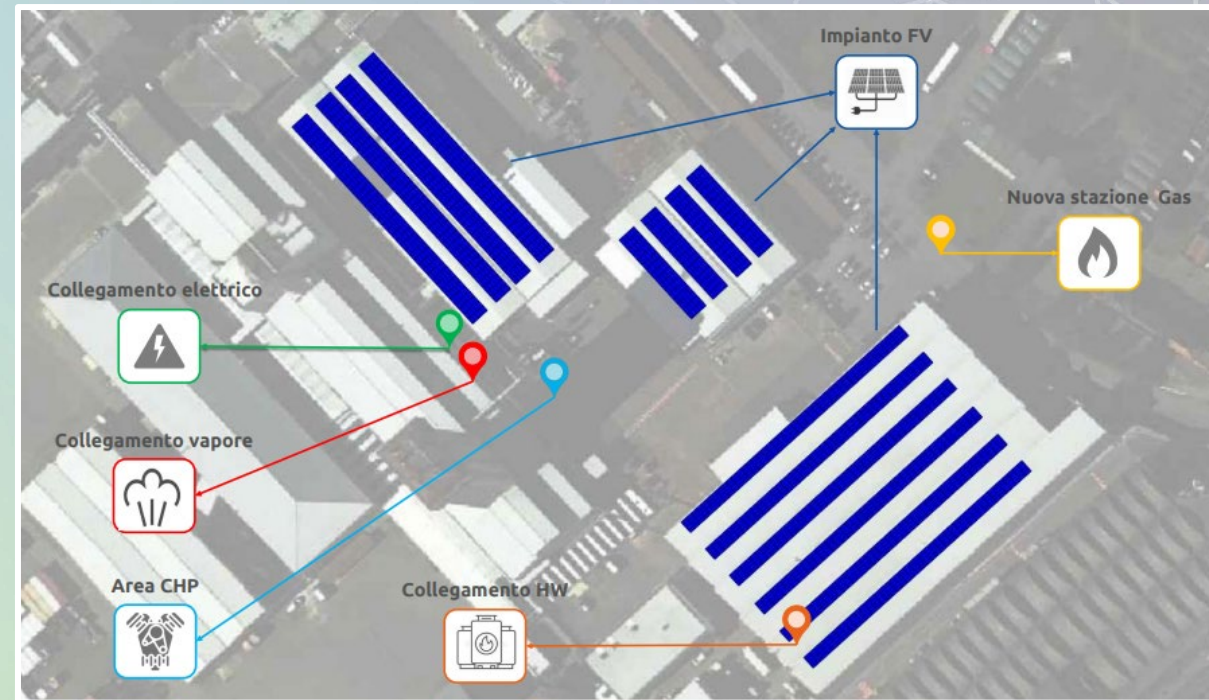
**INTERNAL  
COMBUSTION  
ENGINE**



**INDUSTRIAL  
BOILER**

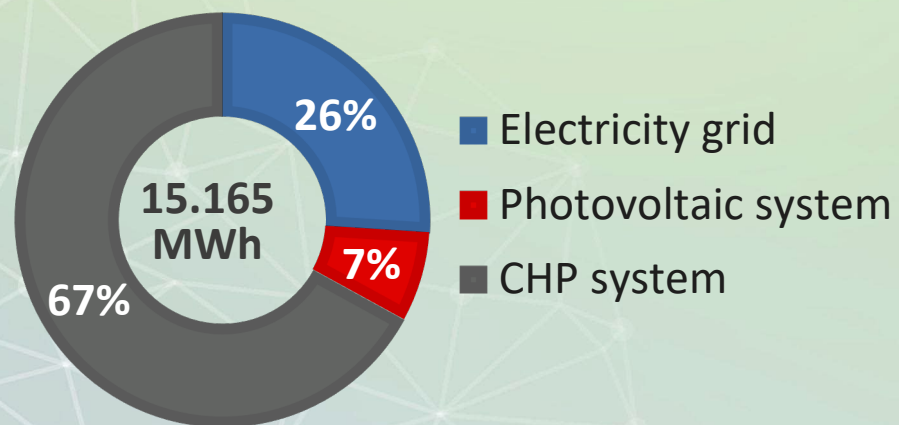


**ADDITIONAL  
PHOTOVOLTAIC  
SYSTEM**

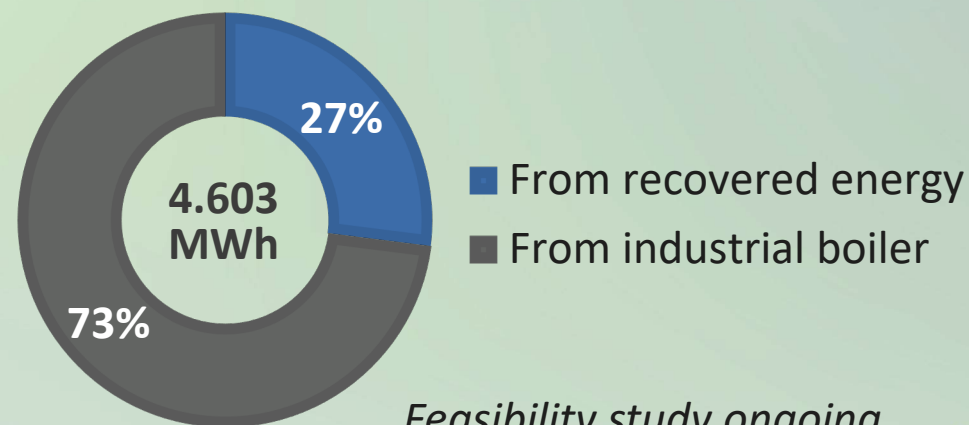


*Layout in progress*

## ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENT



## STEAM REQUIREMENT



*Feasibility study ongoing*

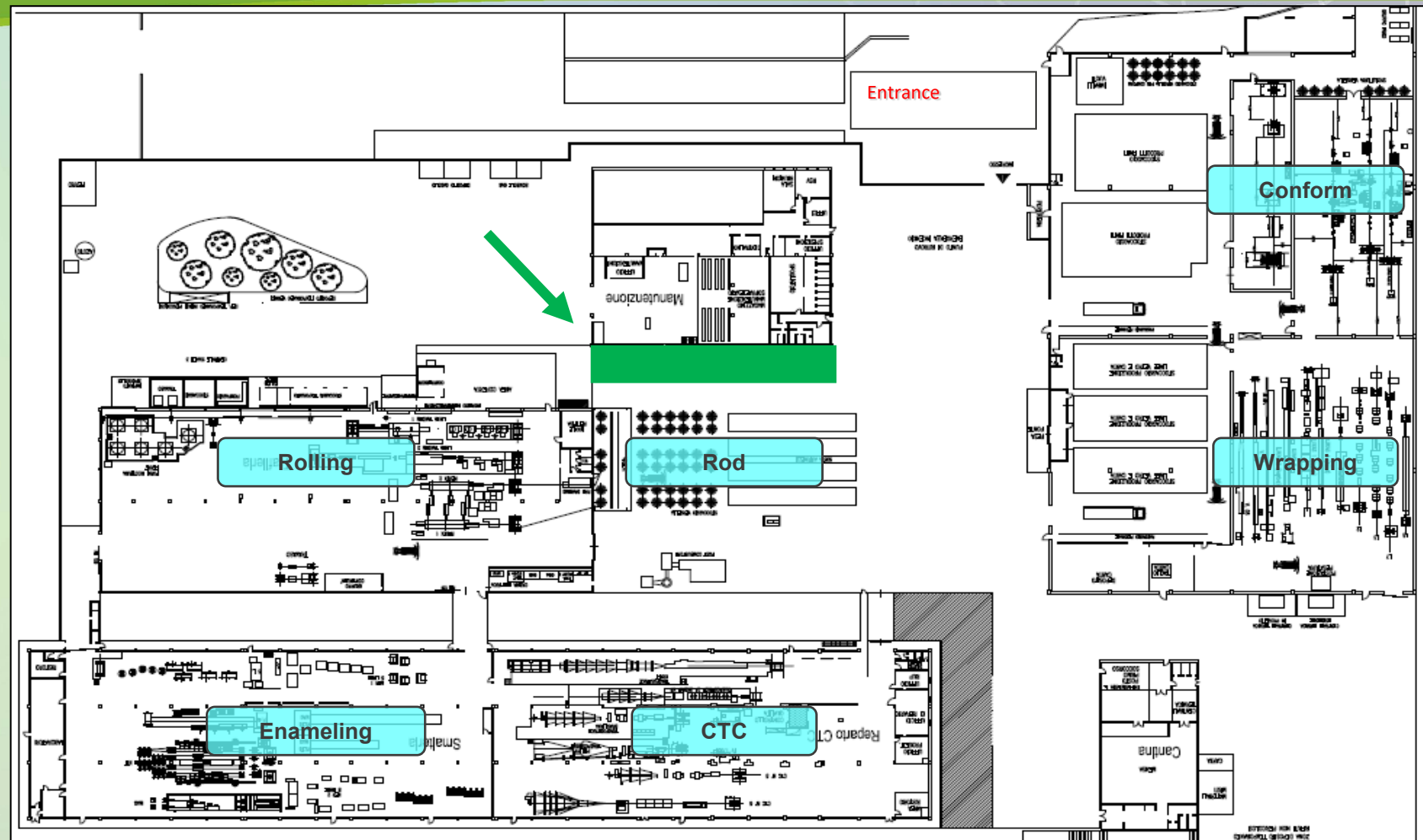




# Photovoltaic System Project

## PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION:

- Surface: 50 m<sup>2</sup>
- Power: 11.00 kWh/year
- Mandatory for the Italian regulations
- To cover the energy needs from the office buildings



*Feasibility study ongoing*





# Gas Consumption Reduction 2022–2023

## OPTIMIZATION ACTIONS:

- Annealing Oven Revamping
- Reduction of Production Processes Requiring an Annealing Cycle
- Solvents Post Burner Revamping

**Gas Consumption Reduction  
(m<sup>3</sup>/ton) achieved Q4/2022 – Q4/2023:  
-18% Gas Consumption**





# Electricity Consumption Reduction 2021–2024

## OPTIMIZATION ACTIONS:

- Process Optimization
- Overall Equipment Effectiveness Increase (OEE) + Technological Scrap Reduction
- Equipment Revamping
- New Investments (Industrial Compressors and Chillers)
- Raw Materials Optimization Vertically Integrated within Superior Essex

**Electricity Consumption Reduction  
(MWh/ton) achieved Q1/2021 – Q1/2024:  
-12% Energy Consumption**



# Conclusions

## PRODUCTION PROCESS:

- No repetitive orders: In 90% of the cases, every order is a unique item code produced just once
- All products are customized accordingly to the customer design and requirements

## SOURCING LIMITATIONS:

- 100% Green Energy is not yet widely available nor affordable
- Green Copper as base material is not yet widely available on the market
- Hydrogen-based energy production processes are still being developed and will need HVDC PT and cables

**Essex Energy has embraced the concept of 'conscientious use' in regards to its resource consumption, in order to create a greener future. We believe that by focusing on our production processes we can reduce carbon emissions and industrial waste**





## Our Motto



# The future is **NOW**





# Back Up Slides





# Other Departments

## PAPER DEPARTMENT

- Number of lines: 6 (for single or multiple conductors)
- Paper, Nomex, Polyester, Mica tapes
- Max triple possible
- Range: 4 – 130 mm<sup>2</sup>

## GLASS AND GLASS-POLYESTER DEPARTMENT

- Bare and enameled conductors
- Range: 4 – 80 mm<sup>2</sup>
- Capacity: ~ 300 t/month
- Inline Controls:
  - Copper surface
  - Blister
  - Optical layer control

