Hitachi Group’s Involvement in Oil and Gas Industry

Masanobu Obana
Mutsumi Horitsugi
Tsukasa Miyazaki

OVERVIEW: The persistent trend towards long-term growth in international energy consumption is exacerbating the problem of global warming caused by increasing CO₂ emissions. The oil and gas industry is working proactively in its role as a global citizen to deal with this problem within its own sector and elsewhere. Through a number of energy-saving technologies developed over the years, Hitachi Group has reduced CO₂ emissions and contributed to environmental conservation in the oil and gas sector. This article describes how Hitachi is applying its energy conservation technologies to tackle environmental challenges, particularly in oil and gas plants.

INTRODUCTION
AS typified by the drastically expanding energy consumption in emerging countries in recent years, global demand for oil and gas resources is expected to continue to grow significantly, requiring efficient use and sustained supply of limited resources (see Fig. 1). On the other hand, there is a pressing need to improve oil and gas plants and make their systems more environmentally friendly in order to deal with the problems of global warming and increased CO₂ emissions resulting from this growth in energy consumption. This is as true of existing plants as it is of new plants.
Hitachi Group has developed various technologies and offers solutions for oil and gas plants to meet these challenges.

REFERENCES OF HITACHI GROUP’S ACTIVITIES
Hitachi Group has delivered a wide variety of equipment, materials and systems for individual applications in oil and gas plants. Major items include centrifugal compressors, which are important items for production, pumps, HV (high voltage) motors, data control systems, and power supply equipment such as gas turbine generators and substations (see Fig. 2).

Reducing life cycle costs is a key issue for centrifugal compressors which also need to maintain high efficiency and provide a wide operating range. As a manufacturer of centrifugal compressors, Hitachi Plant Technologies, Ltd. undertakes ongoing research into a wide range of technologies aimed at these objectives of high efficiency and wide operating range.

In the field of gas turbine generators, reliability, higher performance and efficiency, fuel flexibility, and the ability to comply with special specifications are important criteria and are key considerations in gas turbine development at Hitachi Group.

Details of this work are explained further in later sections.

Based on its considerable experience in supplying equipment, Hitachi has also been actively involved in recent years in supplying various solutions that combine the technologies and products described in the previous sections to deliver environmentally friendly equipment and energy saving measures for the reliable supply of resources to meet the ever-growing demand for energy.
That is, improving the efficiency of industrial motor drives also provides a significant contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions, making it an example of an extremely effective solution to the concerns of plant owners described above.

Features of Hitachi All-electric Drive Solutions

Given the above background, although one-third of energy consumed in industrial plants is in the form of heat, the “All-electric Drive Solution” is targeted primarily at rotating machineries in industrial plants for reasons associated with ability to retrofit, avoiding the need for process redesign, and minimizing CAPEX (capital expenditure) and shutdown times (see Fig. 3).

In the field of plant equipment, Hitachi’s experience is particularly strong in the area of rotating machineries. Hitachi, Ltd. was founded in 1910 as a repair plant attached to Kuhara Mining Co.’s Hitachi Mine. The company’s first products were motors. Since then, Hitachi has developed various rotating machineries and related technologies.

Hitachi has focused on solutions that utilize this machinery and technologies. The following section provides some references of typical three solutions.

REFERENCE OF ALL-ELECTRIC DRIVE SOLUTIONS

Coupling Inverters with Fixed-speed Electric Motors

Plant facilities that are required to operate flexibly have an increasing need to use VSDs for rotational speed...
There are several ways of driving compressors such as steam turbine drive, gas turbine direct drive, and motor drive. Each system has advantages and disadvantages as summarized in Table 1 and motor drive systems with the features listed below represent a good solution for energy saving and CO2 reduction:

1. Minimum investment in existing plant, shutdown time, and modifications to the operating process and utilities
2. High availability, operability and maintainability with sustainable and redundant power supplies
3. High efficiency by applying state-of-the-art CCGT (combined cycle gas turbine) and VSD
4. Sustainable production that is not affected by hot weather and periodic overhauls
5. Flexible design and short project lead times by using standard materials

**Optimization of Existing Power Plant System**

However, in addition to the demand-side efficiency improvements described above, where possible, improvements in the efficiency of supply-side systems (existing power plant systems) can also be an important factor in maximizing total plant efficiency and availability while minimizing CO2 emissions.

The simplest way to reduce CO2 emissions from industrial plants is to switch fuel source from coal to oil or from oil to gas because the ratio of CO2 emissions from coal, oil, and gas is 10 : 8 : 6 respectively. The efficiency of electricity generation using a simple-cycle gas turbine fueled by gas is approximately 35%. Other methods for increasing energy efficiency include converting the generation system to use CCGT or steam injection and cogeneration (see Fig. 4).
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Energy efficiencies above 50% can be obtained from a CCGT fitted with a HRSG (heat recovery steam generator) and steam turbine. This works by using the 560°C exhaust gas from the gas turbine to generate super-heated steam at a temperature of 520°C and pressure of 5 MPa in the HRSG, and then feeding this into the steam turbine.

Adding a steam injection system can further improve efficiency by several percent. Steam injection system can be installed simply by extending a medium-pressure steam line rated at more than 2.5 MPa and spiking into the gas turbine combustor.

Furthermore, the basic advantage of cogeneration is that the conventional mechanical efficiency is increased to more than 80% by recovering and using the energy contained in flue gases.

CONCLUSIONS

These solutions not only supply the products needed for energy saving and CO₂ reduction, they are also available as a practical solution package to answer the questions that plant owners inevitably have about the actual improvement in the energy efficiency of their plants. For this reason, Hitachi offers a customized service to help clients identify potential efficiency improvements in electricity and other energy sources.

Hitachi will continue to use these methodologies to offer solutions to oil and gas plants proactively.

REFERENCES


ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Masanobu Obana  
Joined Hitachi, Ltd. in 2006, and now works at the Industrial Electric & Machine Systems Division, the Public & Industrial Systems Division, the Industrial Systems. He is currently engaged in the management of the industrial electric and machine systems business.

Mutsumi Horitsugi  
Joined Hitachi, Ltd. in 2000, and now works at the Global Business Development Division, the Power & Industrial Systems. He is currently engaged in business promotion for oil and gas projects.

Tsukasa Miyazaki  
Joined Hitachi, Ltd. in 1991, and now works at the Innovative Marketing Department, the Global Business Strategy Operation, the Industrial Systems. He is currently engaged in new business promotion in the Middle East region.