



# WSA Technology a competitive solution for sulfur management

**REFCOMM**<sup>®</sup>  
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RESEARCH | TECHNOLOGY | CATALYSTS

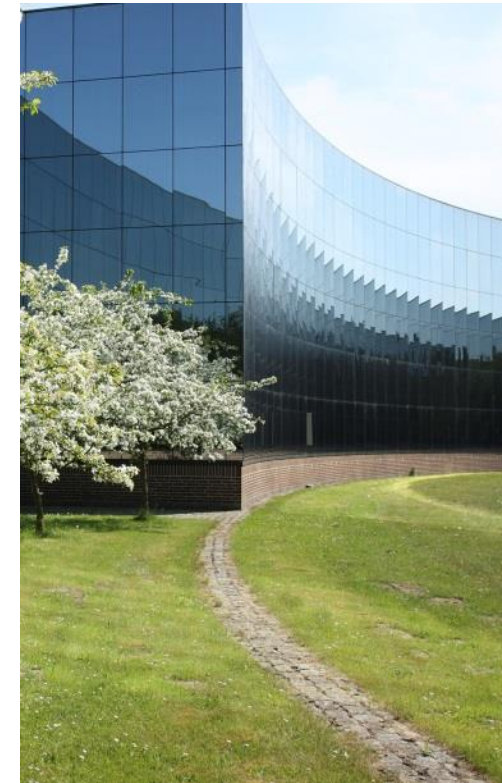
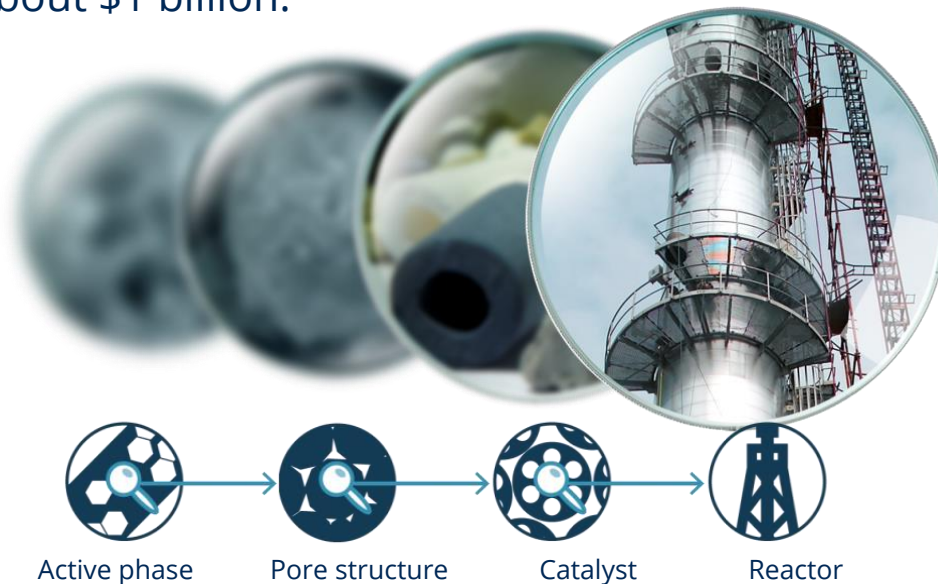
Livia Sierra Llorens – [lisl@topsoe.com](mailto:lisl@topsoe.com)

# Agenda

- A few words about Haldor Topsoe
- Handling sulfurous streams
  - ✓ the traditional way
  - ✓ the WSA way
- Introduction to WSA technology
- WSA process and lay-outs
- References
- Summary

# Haldor Topsoe Company

- Established in 1940 by Dr. Haldor Topsoe. Private 100% family owned company
- Global market leader in heterogeneous catalysis with a 75 year long track record
- ~2,700 employees in 11 countries across five continents.
- HQ in Lyngby, Denmark, HT Inc. located in Houston ~250 employees
- Revenue about \$1 billion.

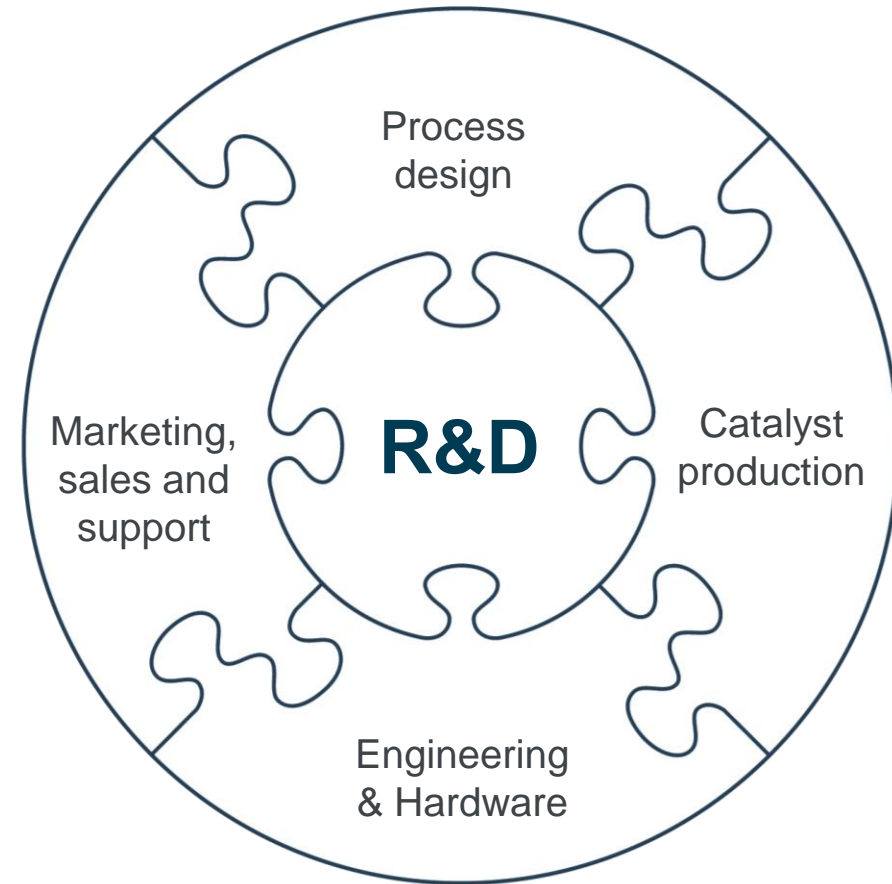


## Services:

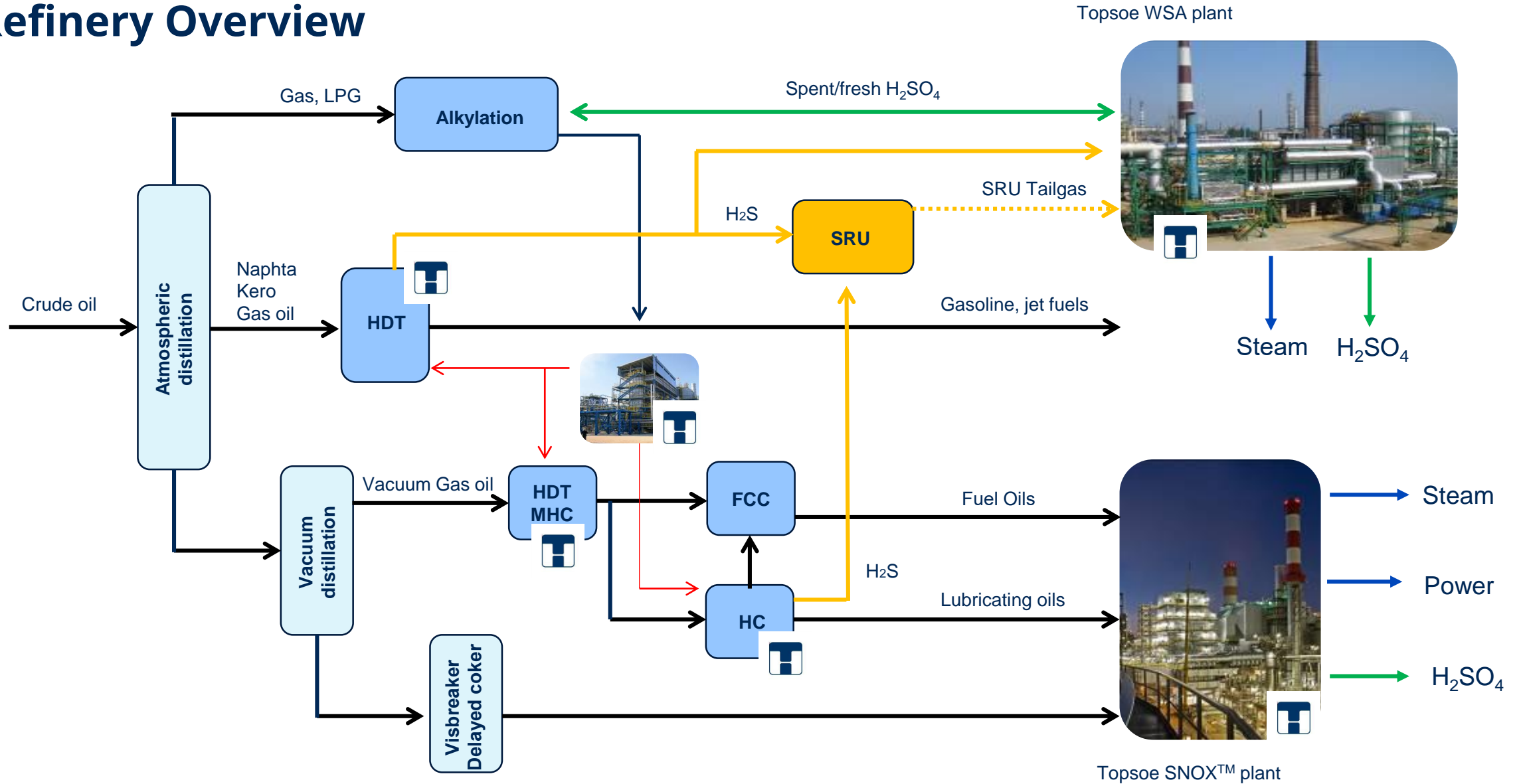
- Catalysts
- Technology/licensing
- Engineering
- Hardware
- Operation assistance

# Synergies in the Topsoe business model

- Founded on the belief that applied fundamental research is key to build and retain a leading position in catalysis and technology supply
- Basic research and catalyst characterization done by 300+ world class scientists
- Approx. 10% of revenues annually applied to support R&D efforts
- Bringing science to the market
- Improving our products through customer interaction



# Refinery Overview



# What to do with H<sub>2</sub>S?

The traditional way



Claus plant



Sulfur

Other uses  
of sulfur  
~ 10 %



~ 90 %  
of all sulfur



Sulfuric acid plant



Sulfuric acid

# What to do with H<sub>2</sub>S?

The direct way



Sulfuric acid plant (WSA)

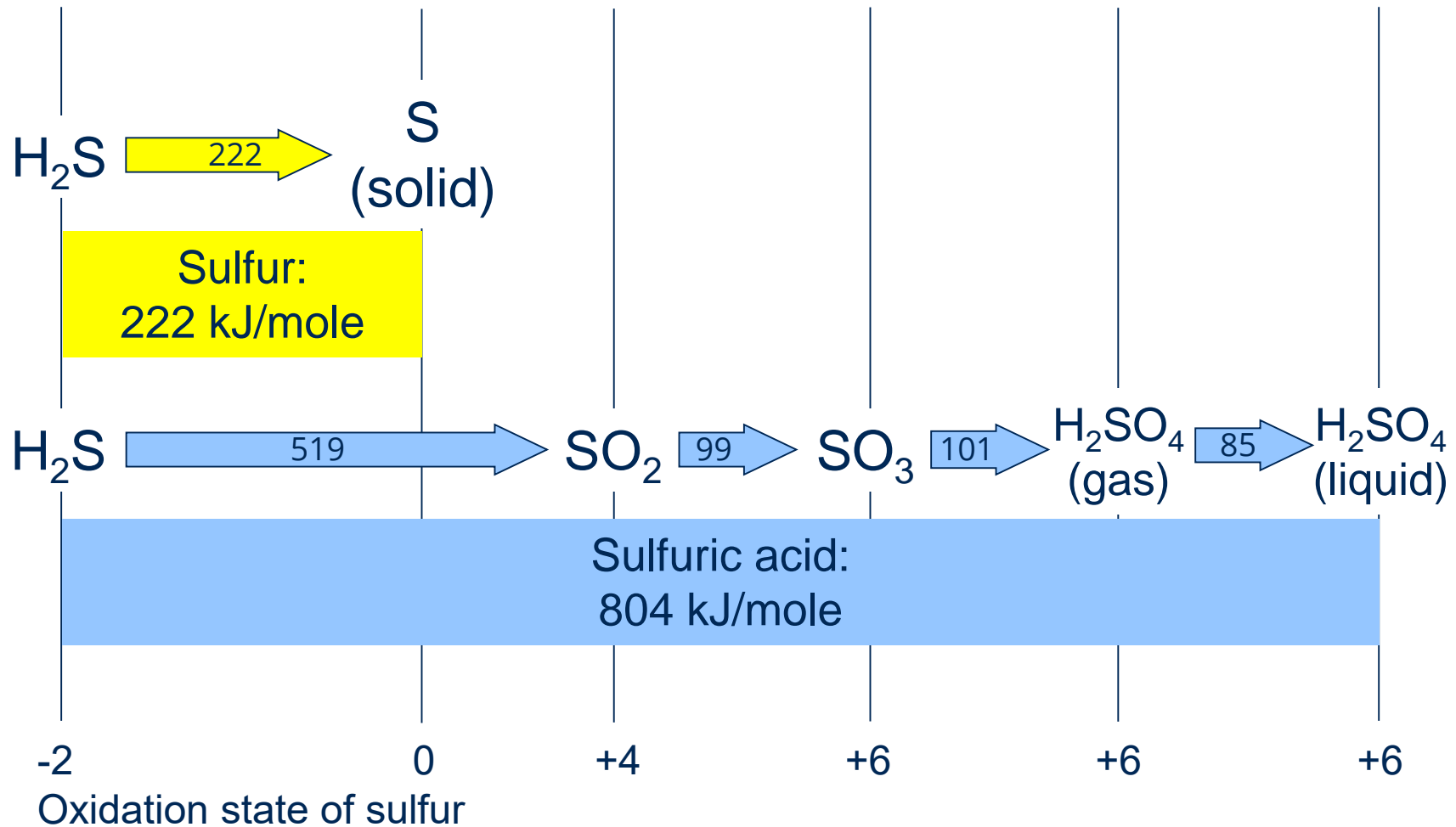


Sulfuric acid



## Four times more energy

when producing sulfuric acid instead of sulfur





## Limitations when producing sulfur in a Claus plant

- Minimum H<sub>2</sub>S content in feed gas of 20 vol.-%
- Other combustibles than H<sub>2</sub>S (like NH<sub>3</sub> and hydrocarbons) make air control more complex
- Ammonia requires very high furnace temperature
- Hydrocarbons give risk of carbon formation and catalyst deactivation
- COS and CS<sub>2</sub> require special design
- Sulfur solidifies below 120°C and gets viscous above 160°C.



# Comparison WSA vs. Claus

## Operating expenses (OPEX)

**3 x more steam  
and better quality**

Item	Unit price	Topsoe's WSA technology		Claus technology	
		Production/day	USD/year	Production/day	USD/year
Sulfur, MT	80			100	2,640,000
Sulfuric acid, MT	40	306	4,040,000		
HP steam, MT	20	710	4,690,000		
MP steam, MT	12			225	891,000
<b>Production revenues, USD/year</b>			<b>8,730,000</b>		<b>3,530,000</b>
		Consumption/day	USD/year	Consumption/day	USD/year
Fuel gas, Nm <sup>3</sup>	0.28			6,100	563,000
Cooling water, m <sup>3</sup>	0.01	2,800	9,000		
Electric power, KWh	0.08	37,000	976,800	6,400	169,000
Waste water, MT	10			57	188,000
<b>Production cost, USD/year</b>			<b>985,800</b>		<b>920,000</b>
<b>Net income, USD/year</b>			<b>7,740,000</b>		<b>2,600,000</b>

# Comparison WSA vs. Claus

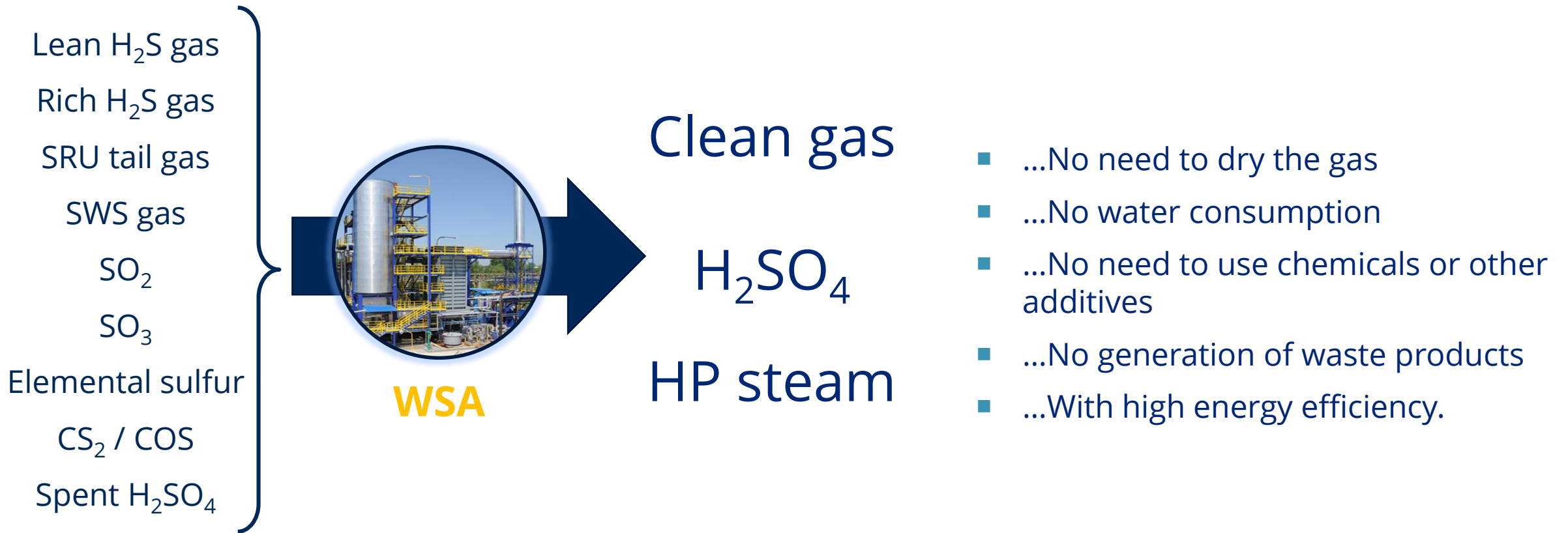
## Summary

- WSA offers larger revenues and less CAPEX
- WSA produces 3 times as much steam; this means saving in fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- WSA produces HP steam; Claus produces mostly MP steam
- WSA handles NH<sub>3</sub>, COS and hydrocarbons
- DeNOx is conveniently included in the WSA process, when required
- Smaller plot area for WSA than for Claus
- Less equipment is required
- WSA is simple and easy to operate.



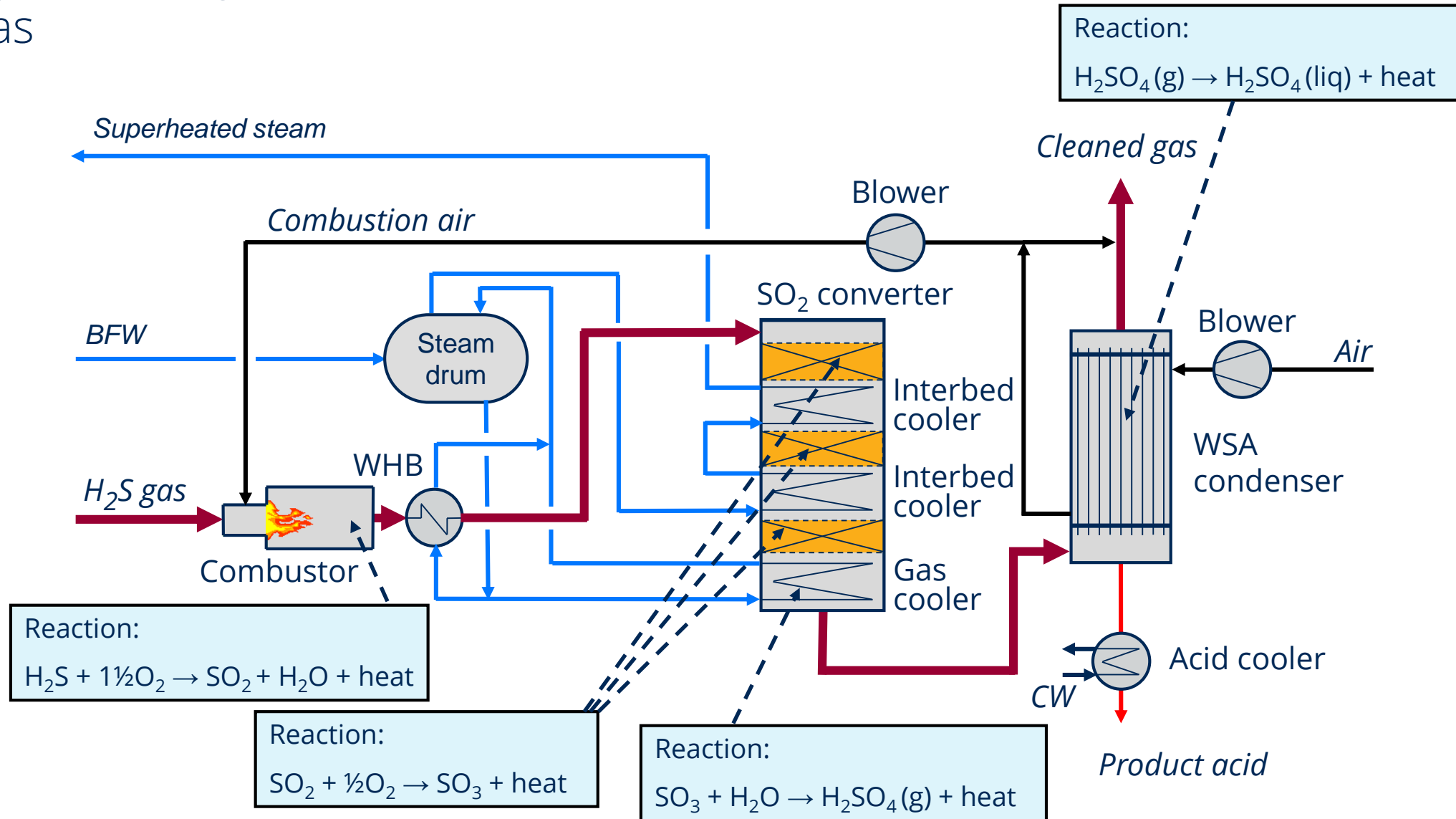
# What is WSA - Wet gas Sulfuric Acid

A process for cleaning sulfur containing streams under production of concentrated sulfuric acid



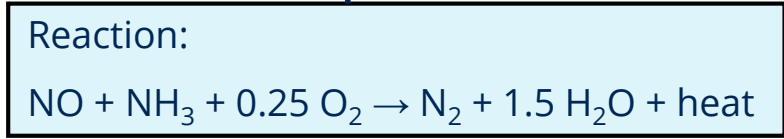
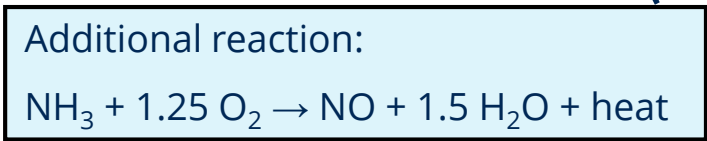
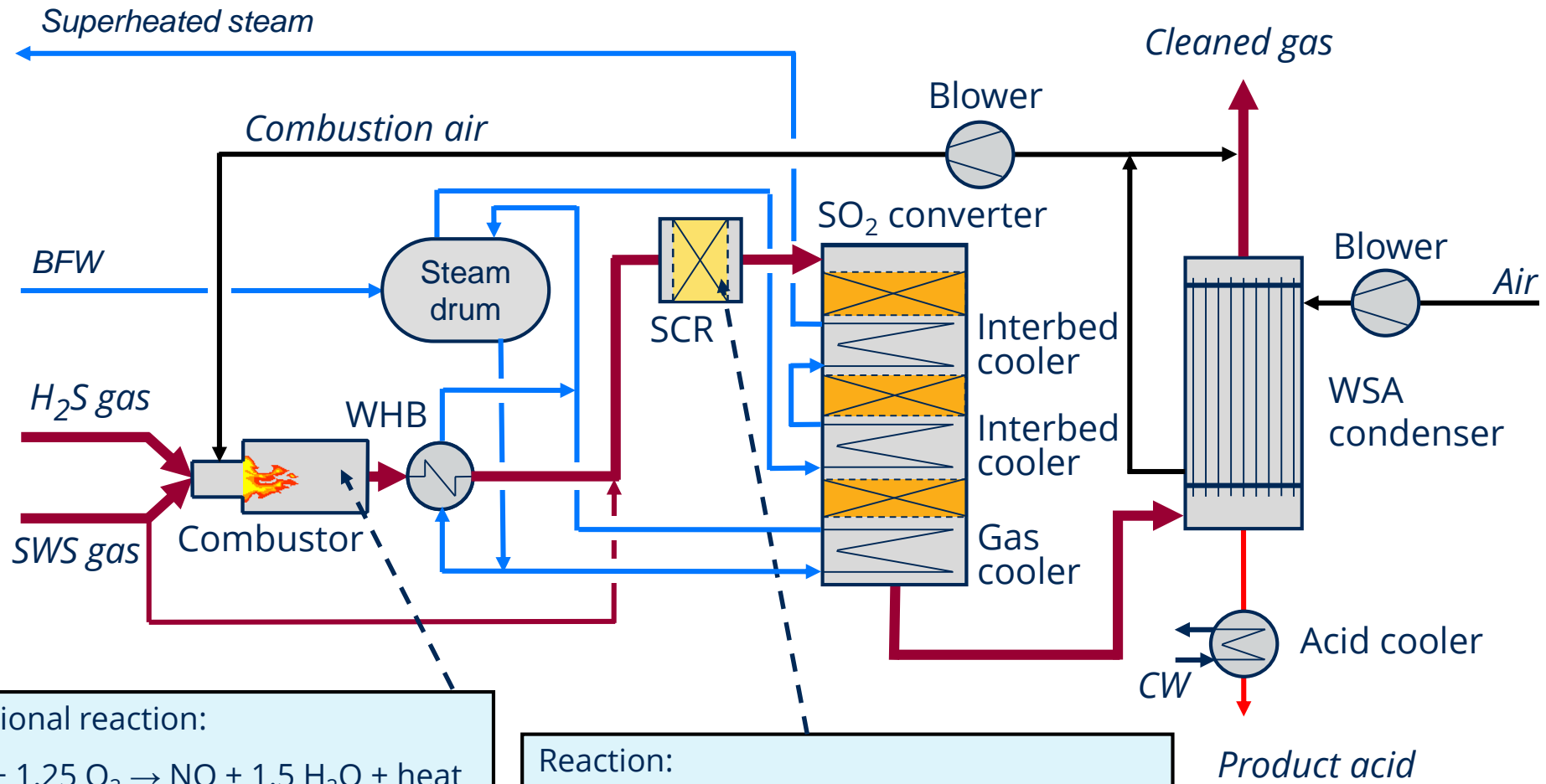
# WSA process lay-out

H<sub>2</sub>S gas



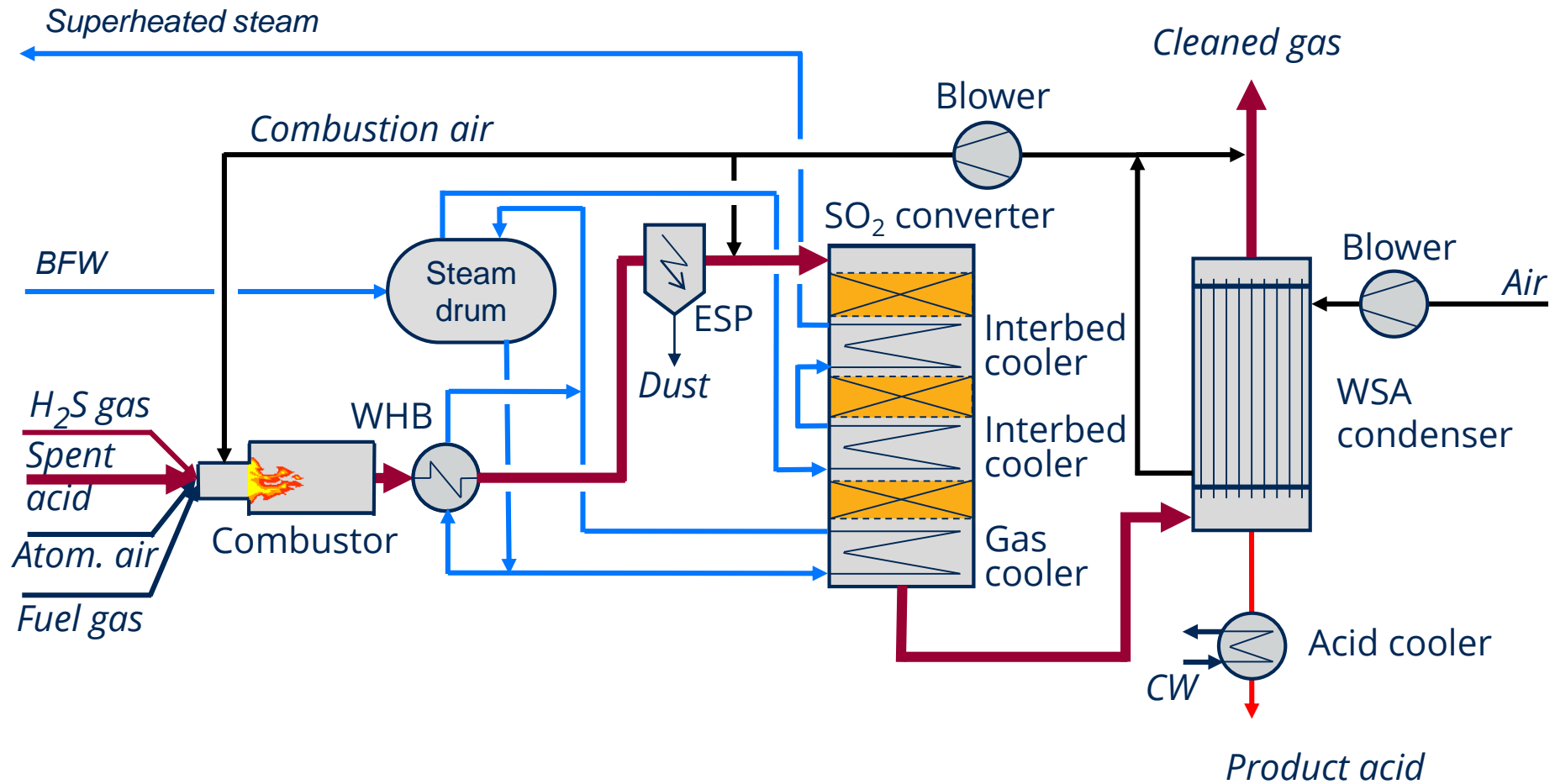
# WSA process lay-out

H<sub>2</sub>S gas + SWS gas



# WSA process lay-out

## Spent acid regeneration



# SO<sub>2</sub> conversion catalyst series VK-W



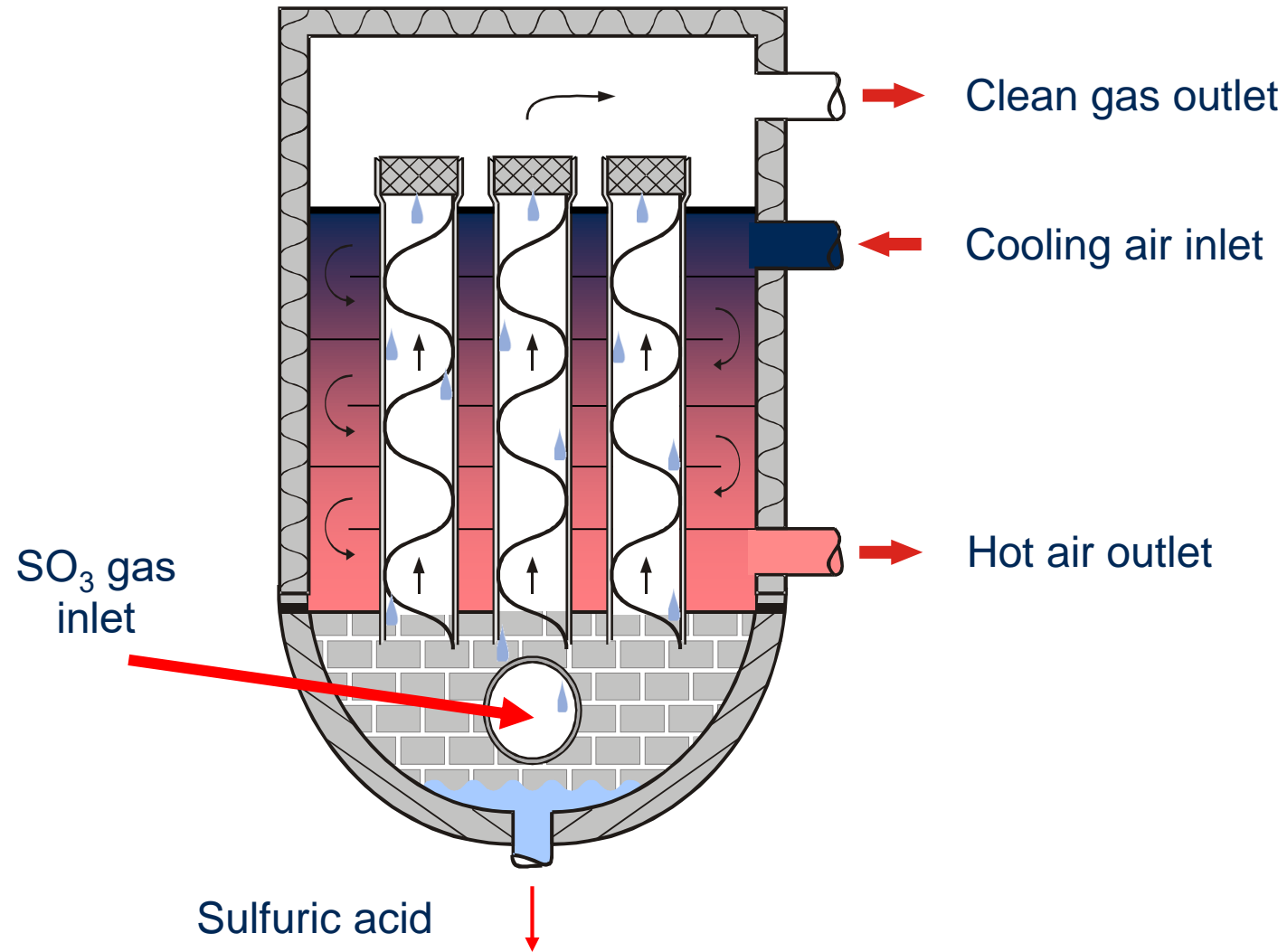
VK-WSX / VK-WL  
9 mm Daisy

VK-WSA  
25 mm Daisy

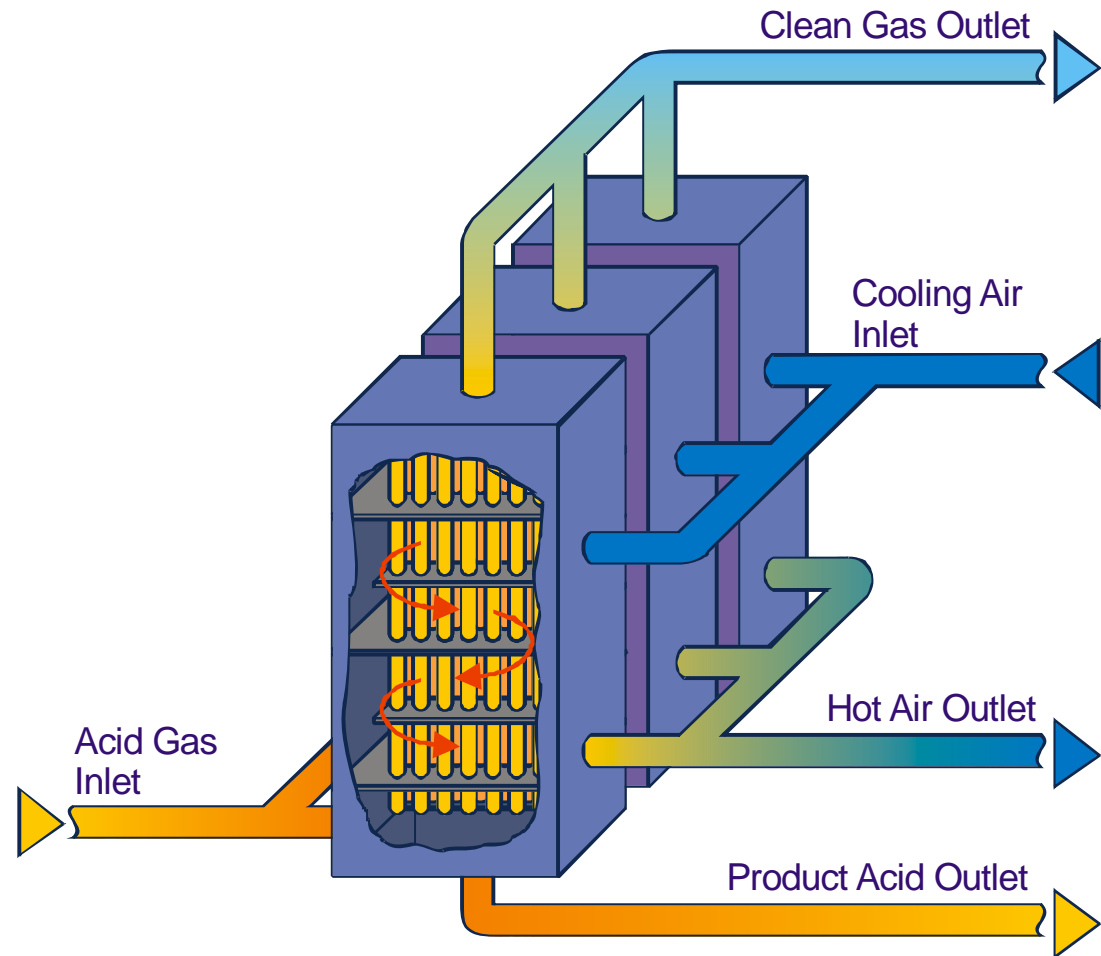
VK-WSA / VK-WH  
12 mm Daisy



# WSA condenser



# WSA condenser – modular construction



# WSA condenser design



# WSA/SNOX™ references

March 2018

Acid production: 4 – 1,140 MTPD  
155+ references



# Refinery WSA plants



Irving Oil Limited, NB,  
Canada

Claus plant  
tail gas treatment  
40 t/d sulfuric acid



OSC Slavneft (YaNOS)  
Yaroslavl, Russia

Spent acid regeneration  
260 t/d sulfuric acid

# Too good to be true??

## Conclusions



Traditional SRU

**WSA technology - a better solution**

- Attractive OPEX and CAPEX
- Simple process and easy to operate
- Proven and reliable technology (155+ references)
- Low emissions and no waste materials
- No issues with  $\text{NH}_3$  and hydrocarbons.

