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# Manufacturing for Clean Heat in Scotland



# Factsheet 2: Heat Network Distribution

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Main Components:
Pipework
Circulation Pumps
• Valves
Corrosion Control
Storage Buffers
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#### What is Clean Heat?

Clean heat refers to heat generation, distribution, and building energy efficiency technologies that provide heating and hot water with minimal environmental impact. Key technologies include heat pumps, heat networks, and direct electric systems, supported by measures to reduce heat demand and optimise usage through sensors, controls, and efficient design.

These factsheets aim to guide Scottish manufacturers to understand and enter the clean heat sector. Factsheet 2 focuses on key technologies used for Heat Network Distribution.

Factsheet 1	Factsheet 2	Factsheet 3	Factsheet 4 Factsheet 5		Factsheet 6
Heat Generation	Heat Network Distribution	Heat in Properties	Technology Enablers	Building Energy Efficiency	Energy Centre Construction
<ul> <li>Industrial Heat Pumps</li> <li>Domestic Heat Pumps</li> <li>Electrode Boilers</li> <li>Electric Boilers</li> <li>Geothermal Drill Rigs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pipework</li> <li>Circulation Pumps</li> <li>Valves</li> <li>Corrosion Control</li> <li>Storage Buffers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Radiators</li> <li>Underfloor Heating</li> <li>Infrared Panels</li> <li>Hot Water Cylinders</li> <li>Storage Heaters</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Control Panels</li> <li>Thermostats</li> <li>Sensors and Meters</li> <li>Actuators</li> <li>Design Apps</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cladding</li> <li>Insulation</li> <li>Windows &amp; Doors</li> <li>Ventilation Systems</li> <li>Offsite Manufacturing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Large Thermal Store</li> <li>Large Pumps</li> <li>Structural Steel</li> <li>Electrical Switchgear</li> <li>Cabling</li> </ul>

Clean heat presents significant market opportunities for Scotland, UK and internationally. Clean heat is essential for all buildings to meet Scotland's 2045 net-zero target. This will be achieved via Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies, regulations, and the proposed Heat in Buildings Act. Already, from April 2024, all new buildings must include clean heat systems. Existing buildings will require energy efficiency upgrades and clean heat retrofits and urban areas will see new heat networks (Heat Networks Act 2021).



Heat network distribution ensures efficient energy use, precise temperature control, and productivity in industrial operations.

# Key heat network distribution components include:

- District Heat Pipework
- Circulation Pumps
- Valves
- Corrosion Control
- Storage Buffers



#### What is heat network distribution?

Heat network distribution uses a variety of components to transfer and manage the generated heat through insulated pipes, from a central heat centre to the end users in a domestic or industrial site.

#### Benefits of heat network distribution

- Pipework essential to transport hot water or steam from the central heat source to various buildings and back. The quality and insulation of the pipes are crucial to minimise heat loss and maintain efficiency
- Pumps to circulate the heated water or steam throughout the network. Ensuring that the heat reaches all parts of the network, and maintain the necessary pressure
- Valves regulate the flow of water or steam within the network. Isolating sections for maintenance, control the flow rate, and ensure balanced distribution of heat
- Corrosion control prevents significant damage to pipes, pumps, valves, and other components, avoiding leaks and failures
- Buffer Vessels absorb excess heat during low demand periods and releasing it when demand increases. Stabilise the system and reduce the frequency of cycling



Pipes supply heat from a central source to consumers across a heat network.

# A pre-insulated pipe:



# Diagram of pre-insulated pipe.





#### Diagram of twin pipes.

#### Pipework

Depending on the design of the network, there are various configurations of pipes to consider:

**Single-pipe systems** utilise one pipe to transport fluid in either direction. This system consists of two pipes: one for the delivery and another for return. This arrangement is the simplest and most cost-effective, however it is prone to significant heat losses.

**Twin pipes** house both the supply and return pipes within a single casing, with efficient insulation to decrease costs and minimise heat loss. Within this configuration, circular twin pipes can be positioned in three variants: horizontally, vertically, or in an egg-shaped form.



Pipes supply heat from a central source to consumers across a heat network.

#### Pipework

Piping needs to withstand external loadings, fluctuating water pressure and be capable of constant operation at elevated temperatures. If designed, manufactured and installed correctly, pipework can have a service lifetime of up to 50 years.

There are several factors that influence the size of pipework selected for a new system.

These include:

- Flow & return temperatures
- Route topology & scale
- Assessment of heat demand
- Acceptable losses
- Pump electricity consumption
- Pipe material/insulation/configuration choices

Subcomponents	Inner pipe, insulation, outer pipe				
Temperature Range	Metal 0 - 150 °C Pl		Plastic	0 - 80 °C	
Max. pressure	Metal	Metal 25 bar Plastic		16 bar	
Diameter	lnner pipe	25 - 1000 mm	Outer pipe	90 - 1200 mm	
Length	Metal	12 m sections	Plastic	> 300 m coils	
Standards	Heat Networks Code of Practice CP1.2 A Technical Guide to District Heating (BRE, 2014) BS EN 15632 - District heating pipes. Pre- insulated flexible pipe systems - Bonded plastic service pipes. Requirements & test methods				

\* The dimensions are approximate and can vary based on the specific requirements of the materials and the manufacturer's design standards.



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The typical manufacturing processes for the assembly of metal pipework.



The typical manufacturing processes for the assembly of plastic pipework.

#### **Plastic Pipework: Manufacturing Process**

#### **Manufacturing Process**

#### **Extrusion:**

In an extruder, plastic pellets are heated, melted and then extruded through a die-head. The extruder usually consists of a heating zone, a melting zone and a cooling zone to ensure the gradual heating and melting of the material, to avoid material degradation due to overheating.

During the heating and melting process, the plastic pellets become molten so they can be shaped through the die head to form the initial pipe profile. The die head typically has multiple extrusion holes, through which the molten plastic is extruded to form the initial pipe shape.

#### Cooling:

A cooling system cools and cures the extruded plastic to maintain the desired shape and size. These systems can include water showers, cold air blowers and cooling rollers.

#### Drawing and Cutting or Winding:

After cooling, the pipe enters the drawing equipment. This stretches the pipe to the desired length and helps to further shape it. Once the pipe reaches the desired size, it can be cut to the appropriate length and collected, ready for the subsequent processing stages, for long pipes, equipment winds the pipes into coils for transport and storage.

#### **Insulation and Outer Pipe**

# Integrated Manufacture:

Pre-insulated pipes can be manufactured in rolls of up to several hundred meters, predominantly in a continuous process.

Insulation is poured into a moving casting mould and flows around the inner pipe whilst on a conveyor belt. The outer pipe is then extruded in place onto the insulation.



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# Main materials and characteristics used in pipework manufacturing.

Materials	Advantages	Advantages Disadvantages			
Inner Pipe					
Steel	<ul><li>Low cost</li><li>Suitable up to 120°C</li></ul>	<ul><li>Susceptible to corrosion</li><li>Lack of flexibility</li></ul>			
Copper	<ul><li>Lightweight</li><li>Ductile &amp; malleable</li></ul>	<ul><li>Higher cost</li><li>Lack of flexibility</li></ul>			
PEX	<ul><li>Flexibility</li><li>Easy installation</li></ul>	<ul><li>Sensitive to UV light</li><li>Not recyclable</li></ul>			
CPVC	<ul><li>Corrosion resistant</li><li>Flexibility</li></ul>	<ul><li>Higher cost</li><li>Can become brittle</li></ul>			
	Insulation				
PUR Foam	<ul><li>Excellent insulator</li><li>Corrosion resistant</li></ul>	<ul><li>Rigid</li><li>Unsustainable</li></ul>			
PET Foam	<ul><li>Withstands high temperature</li><li>Low cost</li></ul>	<ul><li>Low fire resistance</li><li>Sensitive to UV light</li></ul>			
Outer Pipe (can be corrugated or smooth)					
LLDPE	<ul><li>Flexibility</li><li>High impact strength</li></ul>	Complicated manufacture			
HDPE	<ul><li>Flexibility</li><li>Sustainability</li></ul>	<ul><li>Poorer weather resistance</li><li>Stress cracking sensitivity</li></ul>			



Circulation pumps are an essential part of delivering heat across a network.

#### **Circulation Pump:**



# Key Bill of Materials

- 1 Casing
- 2 Impeller
- 3 Shaft
- 4 Bearings
- **5** Electric motor

Subcomponents	Casing, impeller, shaft, bearing, electric motor
Temperature Range	-10 - 110 °C
System Pressure	6 - 16 bar
Max. Head	20 m
Max. Flow	5 - 100 m³/h
Standards	Heat Networks UKCA/CE mark - Demonstrates that the pump meets the minimum legal safety, health, and environmental protection requirements to be placed on the market in the UK or any EU member state. ISO 14414 - Pump system energy assessment Ecopump and Europump initiatives

# Diagram of circulation pump.



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Circulation pumps are an essential part of delivering heat across a network.

#### **Circulation Pumps**

A circulating pump moves water around a heat network. These pumps ensure there is sufficient pressure in a circuit to meet possible demand.

As the water may need to be pushed through significant distances of piping before reaching its destination, the operational power, resistance to degradation and reliability of pumps are critical.

Pumps operate under a range of forces and need to be resistant to significant instantaneous forces and operational fatigue, so need to be designed for long lifecycles and regular maintenance to fulfil their system requirements.

Materials	Advantages	Disadvantages
Stainless Steel	<ul><li> Low maintenance</li><li> Durability</li><li> Corrosion resistant</li></ul>	<ul> <li>High cost</li> <li>Difficult to weld</li> <li>Susceptible to temperature fluctuations</li> </ul>
Cast Iron	<ul><li>Durability</li><li>Excellent machinability</li><li>Resistant to deformation</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Susceptible to rust</li></ul>
Aluminium	<ul><li>Durability</li><li>Malleability</li><li>Recyclable</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Weaker than other materials</li></ul>
PES	<ul><li>Corrosion resistant</li><li>Low mould shrinkage</li><li>High load/stress tolerance</li></ul>	<ul> <li>High cost</li> <li>Low resistance to UV light</li> <li>Processing requires high temperature &amp; pressure</li> </ul>

\* The dimensions are approximate and can vary based on the specific requirements of the materials and the manufacturer's design standards.







Valves control, regulate and direct the flow efficiently around a system, crucial for both residential and industrial heat networks.

#### Valves:



Butterfly Valve



Ball Valve

# Key Bill of Materials

- 1 Casing
- 2 Disc
- 3 Seal
- 4 Stem
- 5 Ball
- 6 Handle

#### Valves

Ball Valve - Use 90-degree turn handles and a ball to control flow for easy on-off control.

Butterfly Valve - Compact design, many configurations and use a rotary motion valve.

Subcomponents	Body, Bonnet, Trim
Bore size	10 mm - 700 mm
Temperature	- 20 - 150 °C
Standards	Heat Networks Code of Practice CP1.2 A Technical Guide to District Heating (BRE, 2014) BS EN 15632 - District heating pipes. Pre-insulated flexible pipe systems - Bonded plastic service pipes. Requirements & test methods



Valves control, regulate and direct the flow efficiently around a system, crucial for both residential and industrial heat networks.

Materials	Advantages	Disadvantages		
Stainless steel	<ul><li>Low maintenance</li><li>Durability</li><li>Corrosion resistant</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Heavier</li><li>Lower thermal conductivity</li></ul>		
Carbon steel	<ul><li>Weldability</li><li>High tensile strength</li><li>Yield strength</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Increased brittleness</li><li>Limited formability</li></ul>		
Alloy steels	<ul><li>Enhance durability</li><li>Corrosion resistant</li><li>Versatility</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Limited machinability</li><li>Heavy</li></ul>		
Aluminium	<ul><li>Durability</li><li>Malleability</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Weaker than other materials</li></ul>		
Brass	<ul><li>Cost effective</li><li>Machinability</li><li>Corrosion resistant</li></ul>	<ul><li>Lower tensile strength</li><li>Risk of dezincification</li></ul>		
Bronze	<ul><li>Resists metal fatigue</li><li>Corrosion resistant</li><li>Thermal conductivity</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Soft</li><li>Weaker than other metals</li></ul>		
Cast iron	<ul><li>Durability</li><li>Excellent machinability</li></ul>	<ul><li>Heavy</li><li>Susceptible to rust</li></ul>		
Ductile iron	<ul><li>Superior strength</li><li>Flexibility</li></ul>	<ul><li>Higher cost</li><li>Lower corrosion resistance</li></ul>		

\*The dimensions and weights are approximate and vary based on the specific requirements of valve and the manufacturer's design standards.



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The typical manufacturing processes for the assembly of a valve.



Corrosion monitoring and control are vital to avoid the failure of a heat network due to corrosive degradation of infrastructure.

#### **Corrosion Probes:**



#### **Electrical Resistance Methods**

The electrical resistance (ER) technique is a continuous corrosion monitoring method for the total metal loss of any metallic equipment or structure. This technique measures a variety of corrosive activities, such as erosion or cavitation, making it very useful for application throughout a heat network.

Probe elements are available in a variety of geometric configurations, thicknesses, and alloy materials.

Different designs may also operate differently; either as fixed, retractable or retrievable probes.

Typically, the material of the probe is chosen to match the material of the component where the corrosion is being measured, to give an accurate reflection of the corrosive action taking place. These components are usually some form of steel, such as stainless and carbon steel.



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#### Corrosion monitoring and control are vital to avoid the failure of a heat network due to corrosive degradation of infrastructure.

#### **Corrosion Control**

Corrosion mitigation is typically underappreciated in the district heat sector. 15% of UK heat networks have suffered failures because of corrosion causing water quality issues.

There are various forms of corrosion control, which include careful installation, operations and maintenance of the network, corrosion coupons, linear polarisation and ultrasonic sensors. This factsheet focuses on the manufacture of electrical resistance probes due to the versatility of their application.

Materials	Usually some form of steel, such as stainless and carbon steel.
Thickness	1 – 50 mm
Length	400 – 1000 mm
Standards	BG29/2020 - Pre-commissioning cleaning of pipework BG50/2021- Water treatment for closed heating and cooling systems CIBSE CP1 - Heat networks: Code of Practice for the UK

\* The dimensions are approximate and can vary based on the specific requirements of the materials and the manufacturer's design standards.



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The typical manufacturing processes for the assembly of control corrosion probes and their fabrication.



A storage buffer provides additional water volume or thermal inertia, stabilising temperature and enhancing system efficiency.

#### **Buffer Vessel:**



# Key Bill of Materials

- 1 Tank
- 2 Insulation
- 3 Air separator
- 4 Swing check valve
- 5 Heat source
- 6 Spring loaded check valve
- 7 Mixing valve
- 8 Low temperature distribution system

Subcomponents	Tank, sparge, deflector plates, insulation, heat exchanger, buffer / expansion vessel, sensors, air separators, valves
Typical Capacity	100s - 1000s litres
Typical Pressure	1 - 30 bar
Standards	BS 5422:2023 - Thermal insulating materials for pipes, tanks, vessels, ductwork and equipment operating within the temperature range -40 °C to +700 °C. BS 853-1:1990+A3:2011 - Specification for vessels for use in heating systems. Calorifiers and storage vessels for central heating and hot water supply

\* The dimensions are approximate and can vary based on the specific requirements of the materials and the manufacturer's design standards.

#### Diagram of buffer vessel.

A storage buffer provides additional water volume or thermal inertia, stabilising temperature and enhancing system efficiency.

#### Storage Buffer Vessel

A typical storage buffer vessel has internal sparge pipes and deflector plates which prevent the flow bypassing the stored water.

Accurate sizing of the storage buffer tank is a critical part of the overall heat network distribution design, to ensure there is sufficient space to permit proper installation and any necessary maintenance. In addition, the integration and control of the buffer should be matched to the overall system.

Please note that large thermal stores are covered in Factsheet 6.

Materials	Advantages	Disadvantages			
Mild Steel	<ul><li>Low cost</li><li>Versatility</li><li>Durability</li></ul>	<ul><li>Susceptible to corrosion</li><li>Lower strength</li><li>Limitation to heat treatment</li></ul>			
Stainless Steel	<ul><li>Low maintenance</li><li>Durability</li><li>Corrosion resistant</li></ul>	<ul><li>High cost</li><li>Difficult to weld</li><li>Susceptible to temperature fluctuations</li></ul>			
Galvanised Steel	<ul><li>Durability</li><li>Longevity</li><li>Protection from contamination</li></ul>	<ul><li>Heavier material</li><li>Difficult to weld</li></ul>			
Fibreglass	<ul><li>Dimensional stability</li><li>High strength</li></ul>	<ul><li>Moisture issues</li><li>Susceptible to mould</li><li>Air exchange issues</li></ul>			
Aluminium Cladding	<ul><li>Lightweight</li><li>Malleability</li><li>High weight to strength ratio</li></ul>	<ul><li>Susceptible to corrosion</li><li>Thermal conductivity</li><li>High cost</li></ul>			

\* The dimensions are approximate and can vary based on the specific requirements of the materials and the manufacturer's design standards.



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Summary of the key processes and equipment required for manufacturing heat network distribution components.

Process	Equipment/Facilities	Pipework	Large Pumps	Valves	Corrosion Control	Storage Buffers
Design and Prototyping	CAD Software, 3D Printers, CNC Machines	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Casting, Milling, Drilling	Furnaces, CNC Machining, Drilling Machines		Х	Х		
Tube / Metal Forming and Bending	CNC Tube Benders, Roll Bending Machines, Stamping Presses, Wire Drawing	Х			Х	Х
Manufacturing Facilities	Furnaces, CNC Machines, Mandrel Milling Equipment, Cutting Stripping and Assembling Machines, Injection Molding and Extrusion and Foaming Machines, Blowers and Fans	Х	Х	Х	х	Х
Welding, Brazing and Soldering	Welding Machines, Cutting Torches, and Fabrication Tools, Furnace	Х	х			Х
Painting Powder Coating and Plating	Spray Booths, Powder Spray Guns, Powder Feed System, Curing Ovens, Electroplating, Mixing and Dispensing Systems	х	Х	Х		Х
Assembly Line	Conveyors, Robotic Systems, Assembly Machines	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Testing and Quality Control	Inspection Tools, Testing Equipment	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Calibration Facilities	Calibration Equipment, Testing Benches		Х	Х	X	Х

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# Market size and growth.

#### Market Size and Outlook

Both the UK and Scottish Governments are supportive of the further development of district heating. The Committee for Climate Change forecasts that 20% of heating demand in the UK could be met by district heating by 2050.

In Scotland, heat networks provide hot water to 28,000 homes to meet 1.1% of heat demand. By 2035, the Scottish Government has the ambition to reach 7TWh meeting 9.5% of demand.

The UK district heating industry had a value of over £1.15 billion in 2023. Globally, district heating is expected to grow by 5.2% per year for the next decade.

# Pipework

- The Heat Networks Industry Council estimates a £60bn investment is required, alongside 30,000 jobs, to meet the UK's 20% ambition.
- The length of insulated pipework in the UK is currently estimated at 1,800km with considerable growth potential GB gas infrastructure is around 282,000km.

# **Circulation Pumps**

• The UK pump manufacturing industry had revenues of £2.3 billion in 2023, a 7.6% increase. Whilst manufacture of pumps is a mature industry, the heat network sector provides a growth opportunity.

#### Valves

• The UK tap and valve manufacturing industry market was £1.2 billion in 2024. Whilst the manufacture of valves is a mature industry, the heat network sector provides a growth opportunity.

# **Corrosion Control**

- The global corrosion monitoring market was worth £270 million in 2023. This market is expected to experience a 9.3% compound annual growth rate from 2024 to 2029.
- As industries mature, regulatory compliance becomes more comprehensive, which supports the adoption of advanced corrosion monitoring technologies.

#### **Buffer Vessels**

• At a global level, this market is expected to experience a 7.8% compound annual growth rate from 2024 to 2031.



#### Support available and competitor analysis.

#### Scotland

- The <u>Heat Network Support Unit</u> provides funding, information and signposting to support district heat networks in Scotland
- The Scottish Government's Heat Network Fund is a capital fund to support low or zero emission district heat networks.
- The Scotland Heat Map shows demand for domestic and non-domestic buildings.
- Scottish Local Authorities have a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and LHEES Officers with a local view clean heat system plans.

# UK

The <u>Heat Network Exchange</u> database connects companies with suppliers, bringing together organisations that design, build, operate, and maintain heat networks.

#### **England and Wales**

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero provides guidance and support for heat network projects. <u>Heat networks - GOV.UK</u>

- The Heat Network Investment Project (HNIP) provides funding to support the deployment.
- The Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) offers grants to support the development of low-carbon heat networks.

# **Competitor Analysis**

**Insulated pipes:** CPV Ltd (UK), Isoplus and Logstor (Denmark) (owned by Kingspan), Powerpipe (Sweden). TrentENERGY and ThermaMech are specialist suppliers (UK)

**Pumps:** Carrier, Aermec, AVT Pump (UK), Grundfos Pumps (Denmark), Danfoss (Denmark)

Valves: Danfoss (Denmark)

**Corrosion control:** RCSL Corrosion Monitoring, BAC Corrosion Control, Teledyne Cormon (all UK)

**Storage buffers:** Kingspan Environmental (N. Ireland), Flexiheat (UK)

Scottish Enterprise can support you to explore growth in clean heat.

#### **Clean Heat Market Opportunities**

Clean heat will play a crucial role in meeting Scotland's net zero targets. There is a huge growth potential for Scottish businesses too.

- For general enquiries, and to access our Clean Heat team, please contact us
- For specialist advice on manufacturing and productivity, <u>contact the</u> <u>Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS)</u>
- For information on domestic and international markets contact our
   <u>Market Research service</u>
- If you are based in the Highlands and Islands, or the south of Scotland, please contact <u>Highlands and Islands Enterprise</u> or <u>South</u> <u>of Scotland Enterprise</u> respectively.

#### Newsletter

Please complete this subscription form if you would like to receive an occasional newsletter from Scottish Enterprise on market opportunities relating to clean heat.

#### <u>Subscribe here</u>

# **Further Reading**

- Economic Value of Clean Heat in Scotland (2024)
- Heat Pumps and Heat Networks Assemblies and Key Component Analysis (2022)
- <u>Cost Analysis of a Typical 4th and 5th Generation</u> <u>Heat Network (2024)</u>
- <u>Analysis of potential for Scotland to be leader in</u> <u>5th Generation Heating and Cooling Networks</u>
   <u>Scottish Enterprise</u>

# **External Support Services in Scotland**

- <u>National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS)</u> world-leading manufacturing facilities for collaborative R&D projects
- <u>Built Environment Smarter Transformation (BE-ST</u>) innovation and expertise for projects / materials for the built environment

