

# Oil / Water / Sand Quality Measurement Key Enabler for Subsea Separation Development

SUT Control Down Under - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

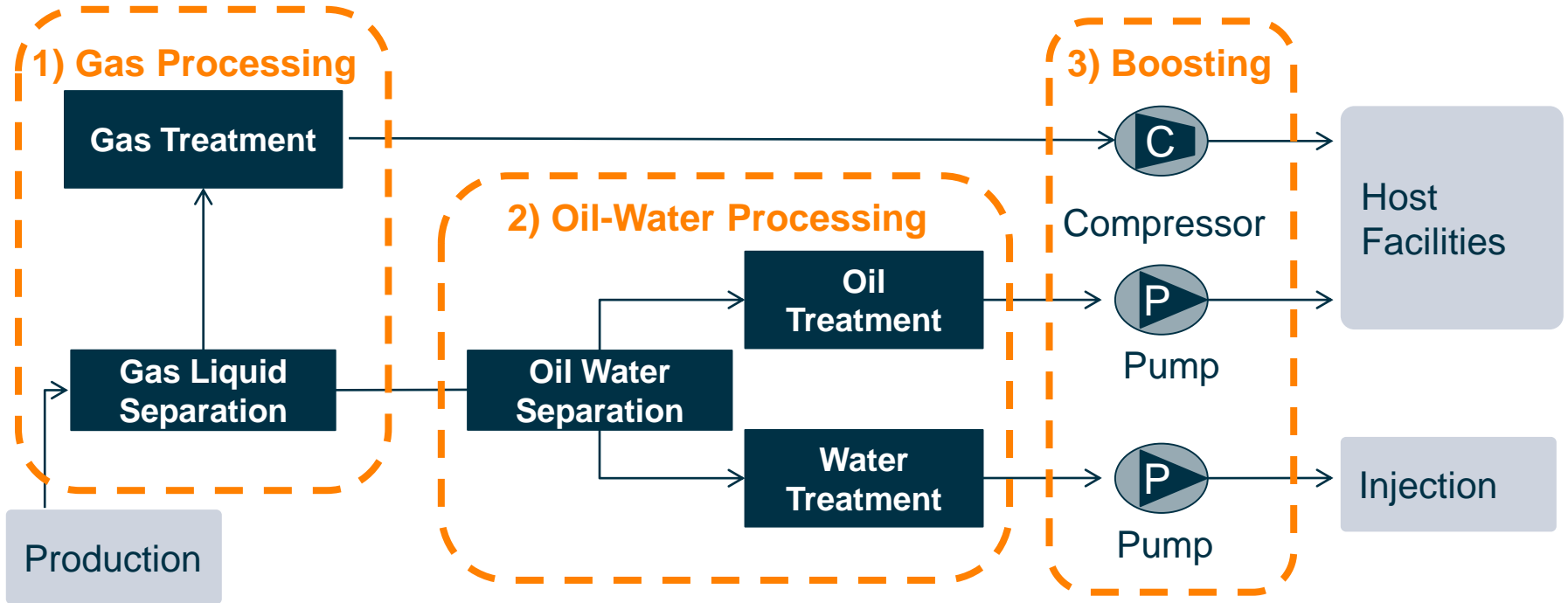
Si Huai Yeaw – Senior Process Engineer

# Agenda

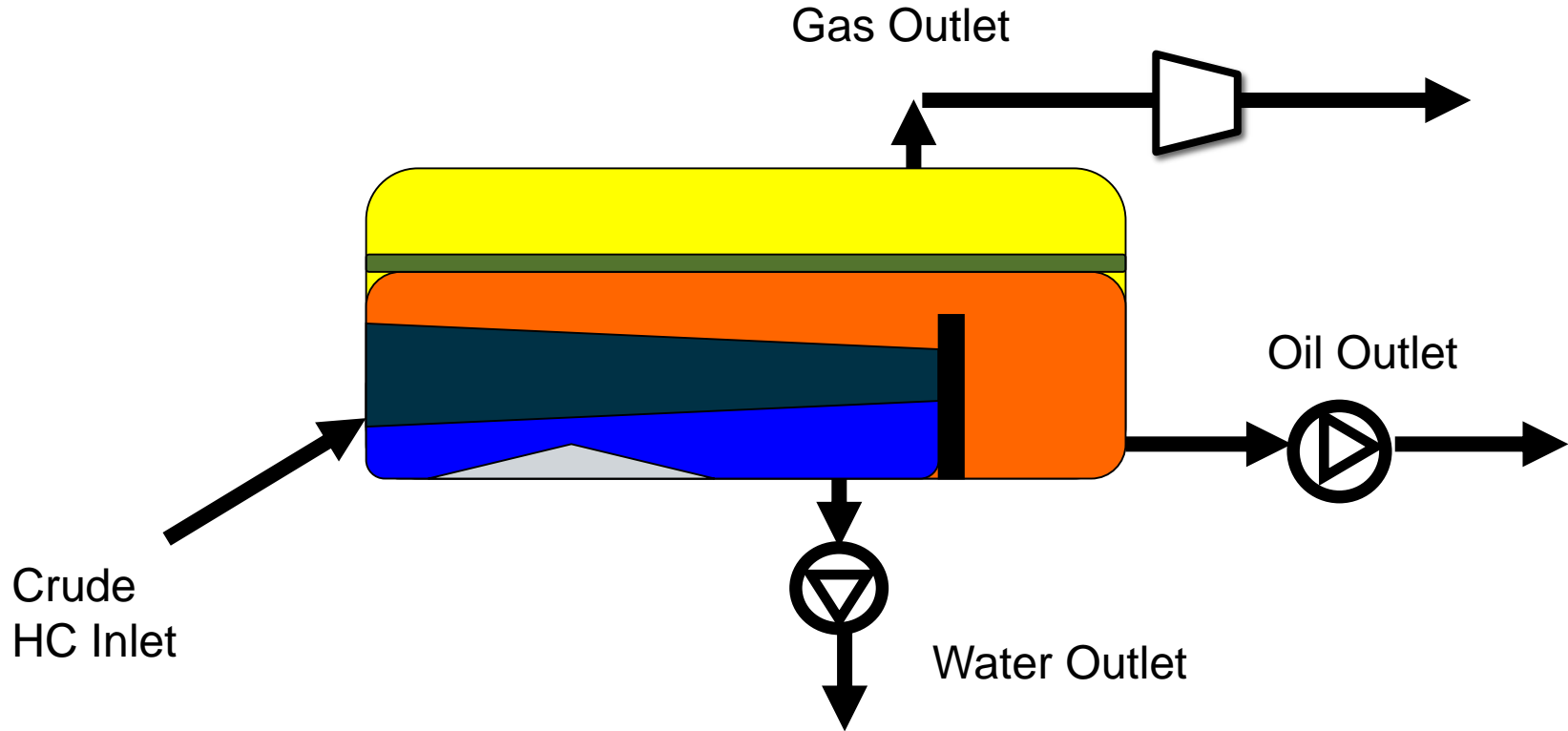
- Introduction
- Subsea Separation Process Overview
- Oil / Water / Sand Quality Measurement
- Conclusion

# Advanced Subsea Production

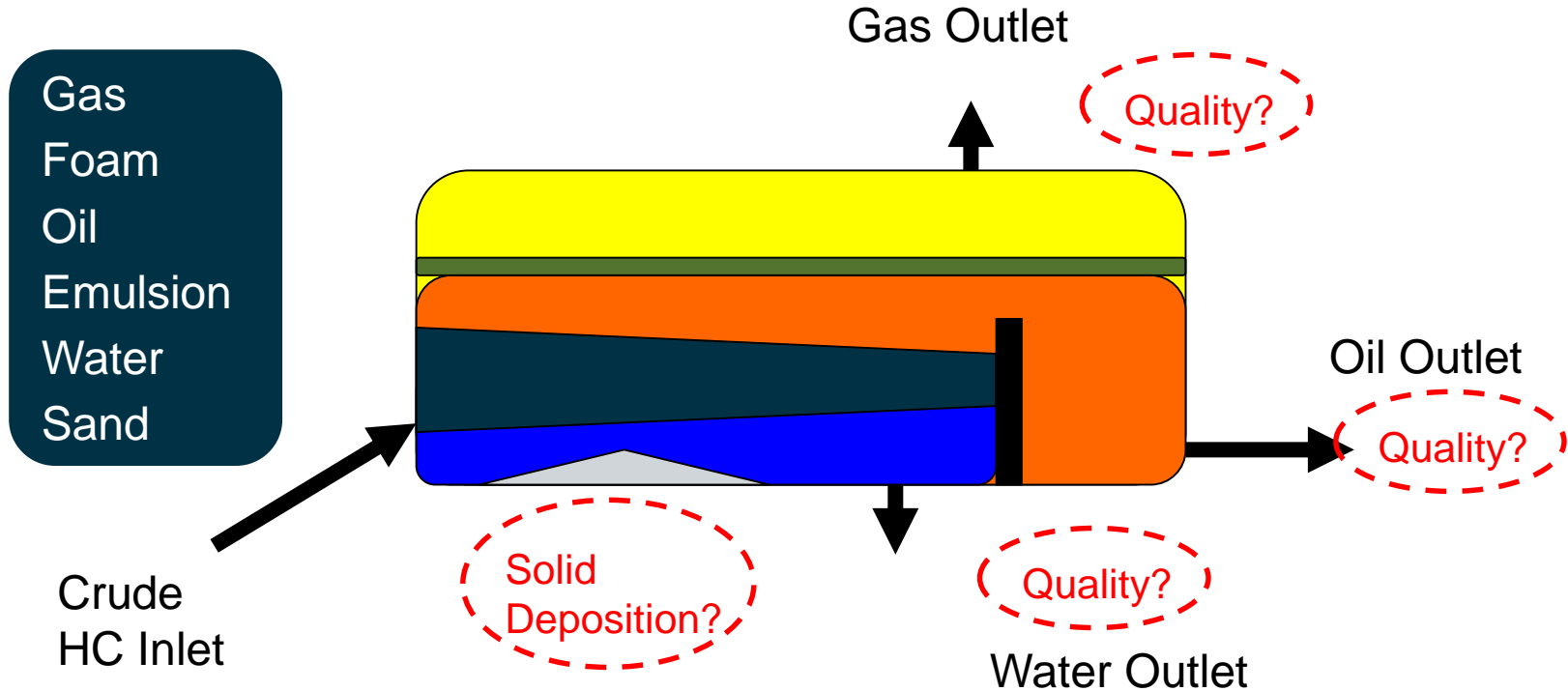
## Typical Subsea Process Block Diagram - Building Blocks



# Subsea Separation Process

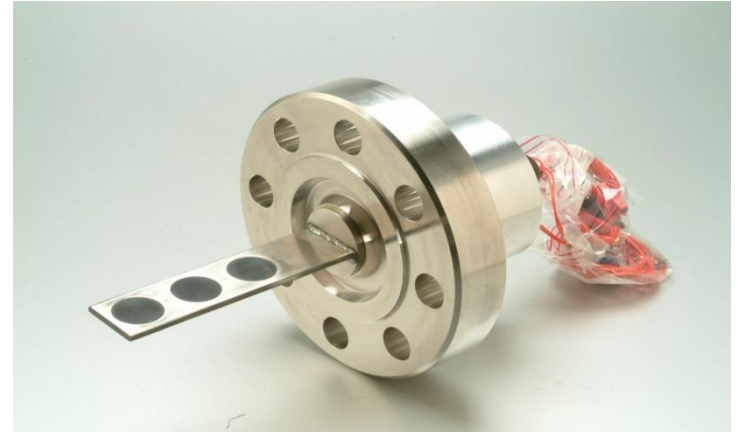


# Subsea Separation Process – Sensing & Control



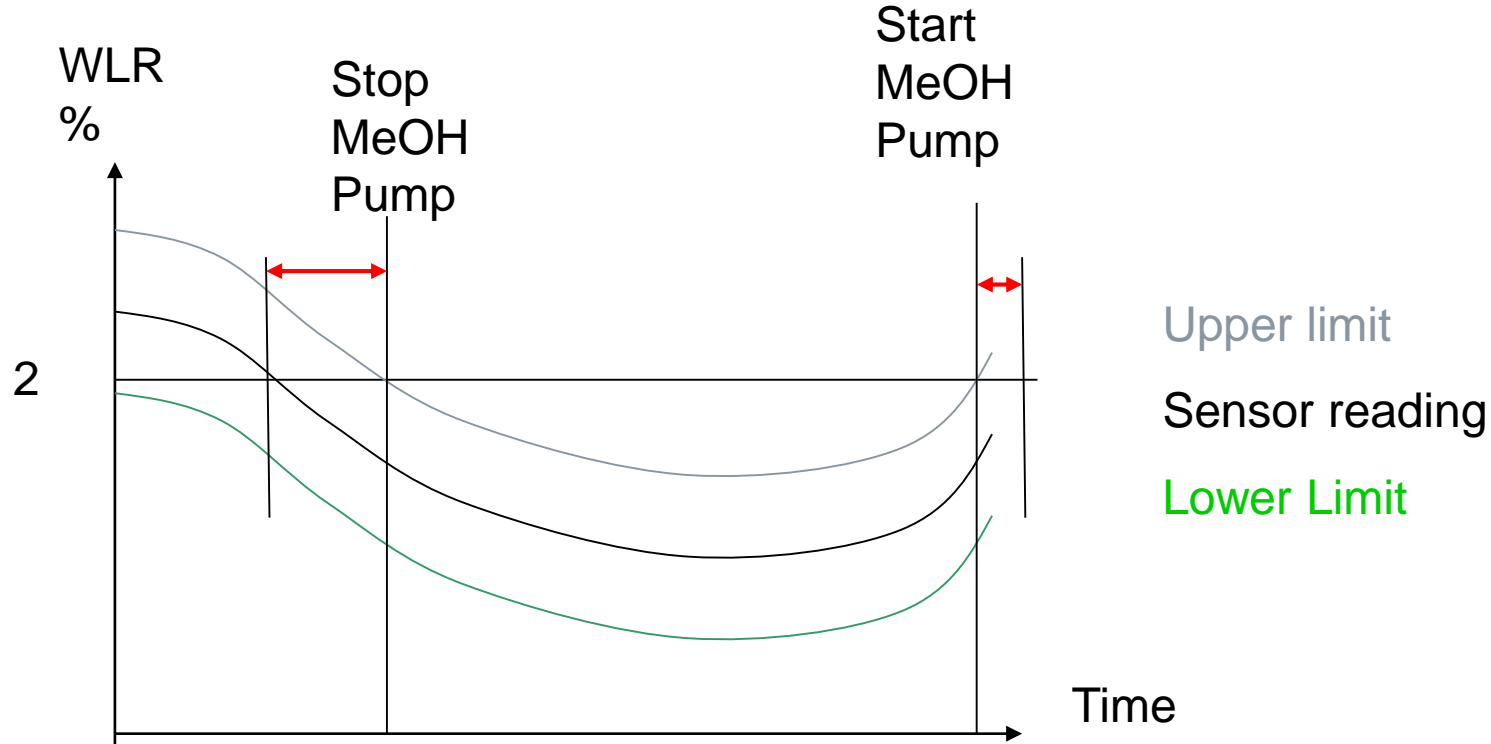
# Oil Quality - Sensing

- What to measure?
  - Water in oil (WIO) quality
- How to measure?
  - Water content sensor
  - Typically – microwave, capacitive
- Why measure?
  - Understand the performance of separator
    - Lower the oil/water interface level, increase oil retention time
    - Addition of chemicals (eg. emulsion breaker)
  - Injection of hydrate inhibition chemicals (MEG / Methanol), as hydrate prevention measurements



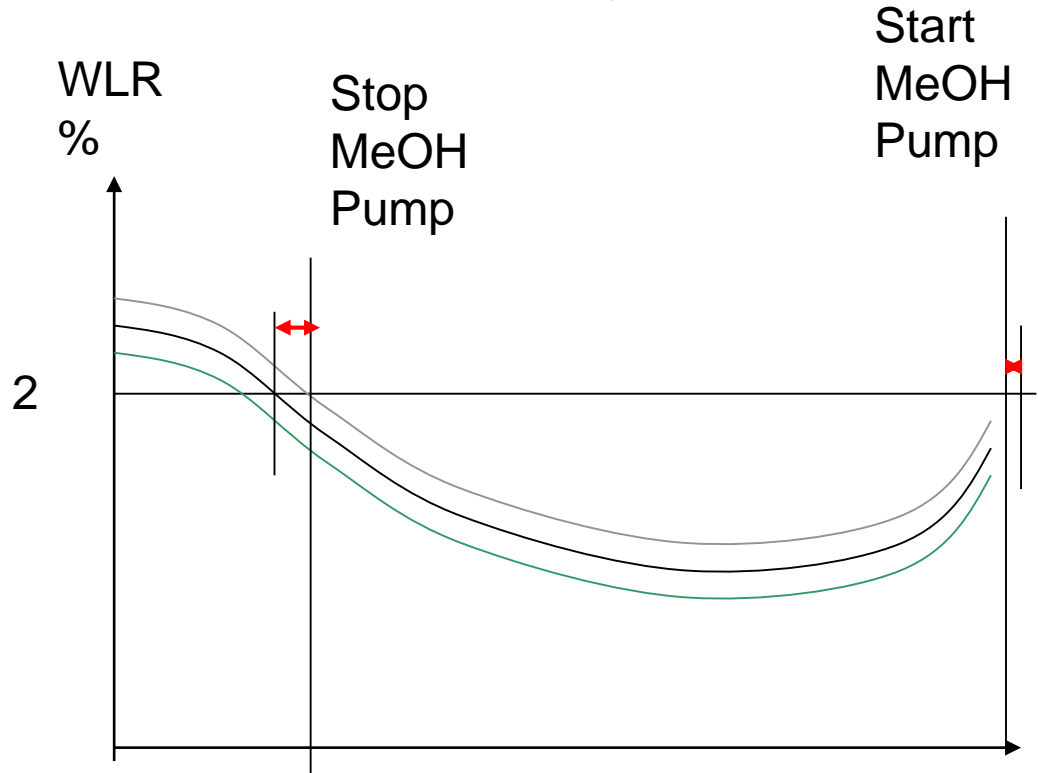
# Oil Quality Sensing Example (1)

- Consider 0.5% accuracy



# Oil Quality Sensing Example (2)

- Consider 0.2% accuracy



A more accurate sensor will give less MeOH usage

Upper limit

Sensor reading

Lower Limit

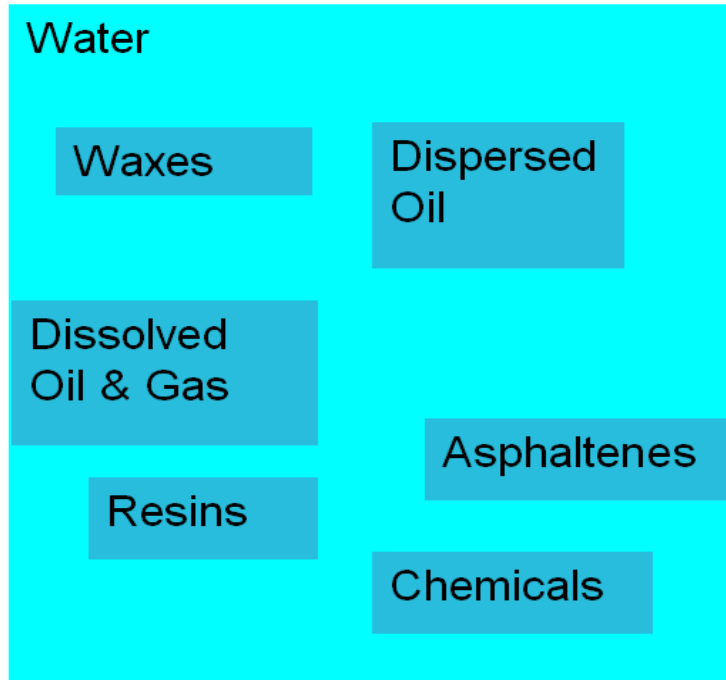
Time



# Water Quality - Sensing

- What to measure?
  - Amount of the oil (HC liquid) in the water phase
- How to measure?
  - Several types of technology
  - Photo-acoustic, fluorescent, optical, ROV sampling
- Why measure?
  - For water disposal to sea
    - Satisfy the environmental limits for water disposal to sea
  - For water reinjection to well
    - Ensure that the smooth operation, as offspec water may affect well injectivity
    - Reduced injectivity from excessive oil content is often reversible, i.e. will get better over time when clean water is injected

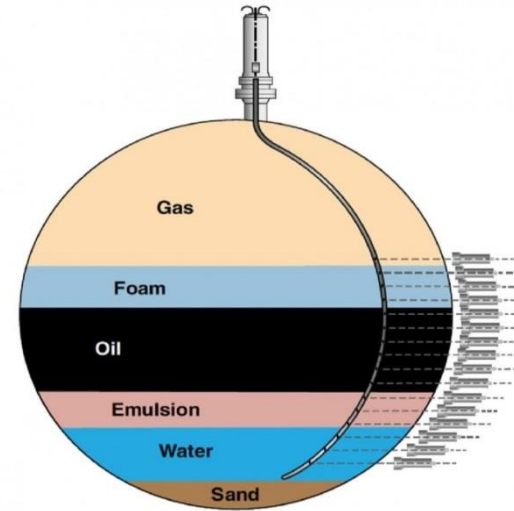
# Water Quality Sensing – What is the “Oil in Water (OiW)”?



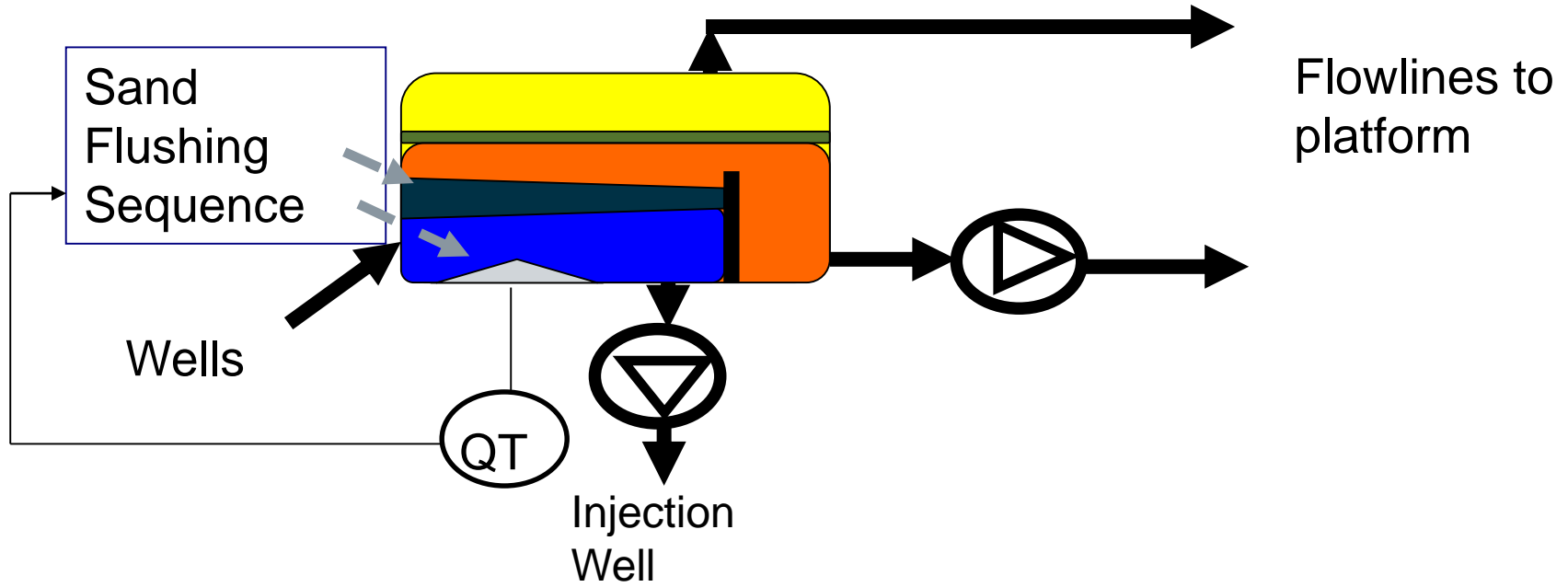
- Oil (HC) may exist in different forms in the continuous water phase
- The definition of OiW is not uniform
- Also, different types of oil sensors and analysis react to different HC components in the mixture.
- Key → understand the definition of OiW for any given specific application

# Sand Deposition - Sensing

- What to measure?
  - Sand accumulation in the separator
- How to measure?
  - Several types of sensor available
  - Nucleonic, thermal, ultrasonic
- Why measure?
  - To determine the when sand flushing is required
    - Flushing has a cost (performance of the separation, pump duty etc.), so one does not want to flush too often
  - If you flush too late, you may not be able to get the sand out (flushing system overwhelmed)

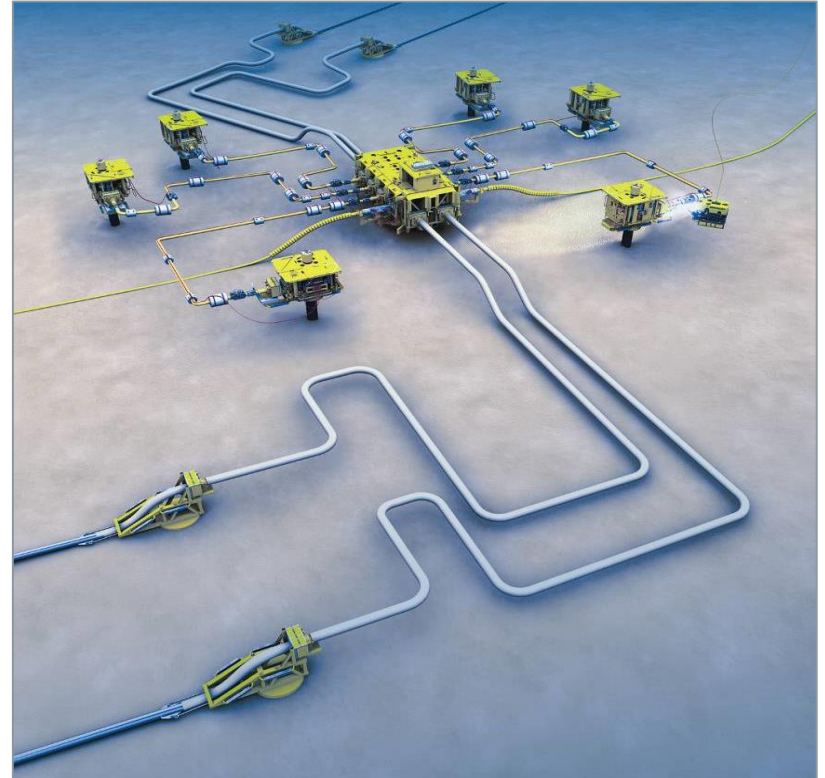


# Quality Control Loops: Sand Flushing



# Key Takeaway

- **Quality measurements** are vital during the design and operation phase of any given subsea system
- The **type and suitability** of the sensors are dependent on the system design and specific applications
- **Key to involve** subsea system vendor for the system design prior determining the sensors requirements



# Thank You / Questions



# Ready for the Advanced Subsea Production Systems



Uniquely positioned to **design, equip, build and maintain** the subsea systems of the future

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