

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

SUT Control Down Under - 19th October 2016

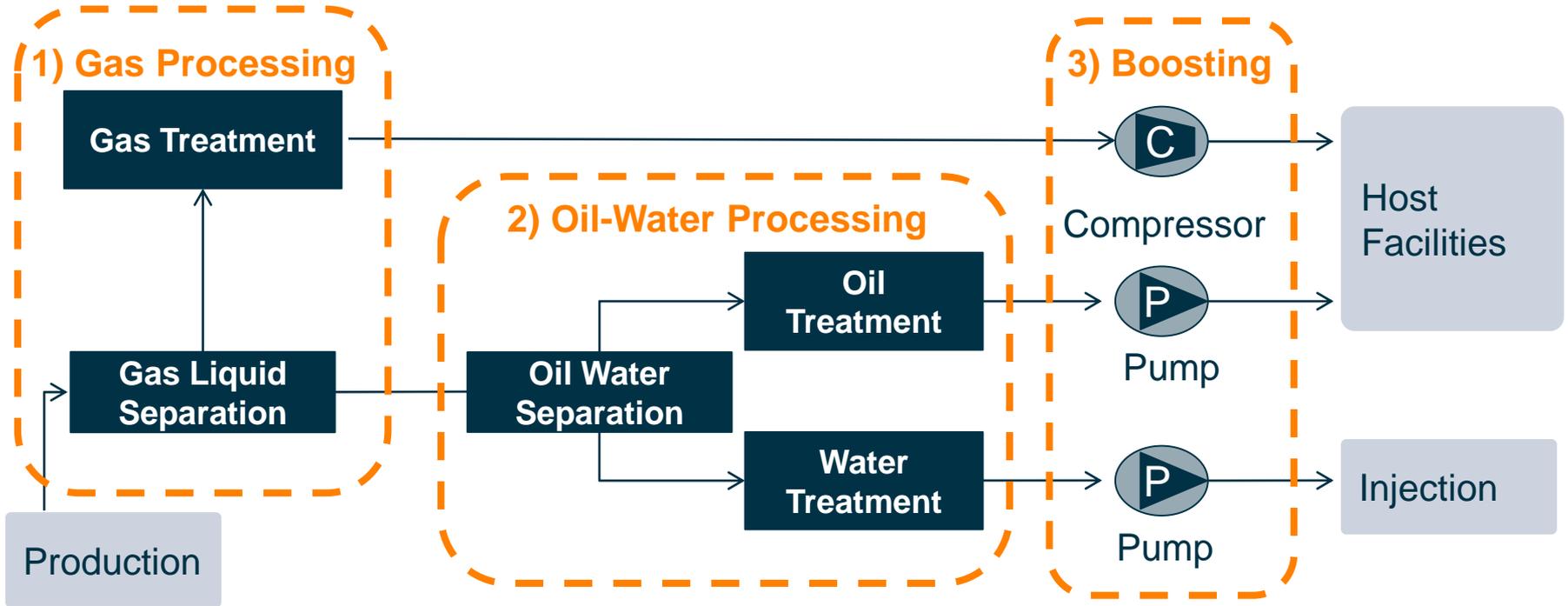
Si Huai Yeaw – Senior Process Engineer

Agenda

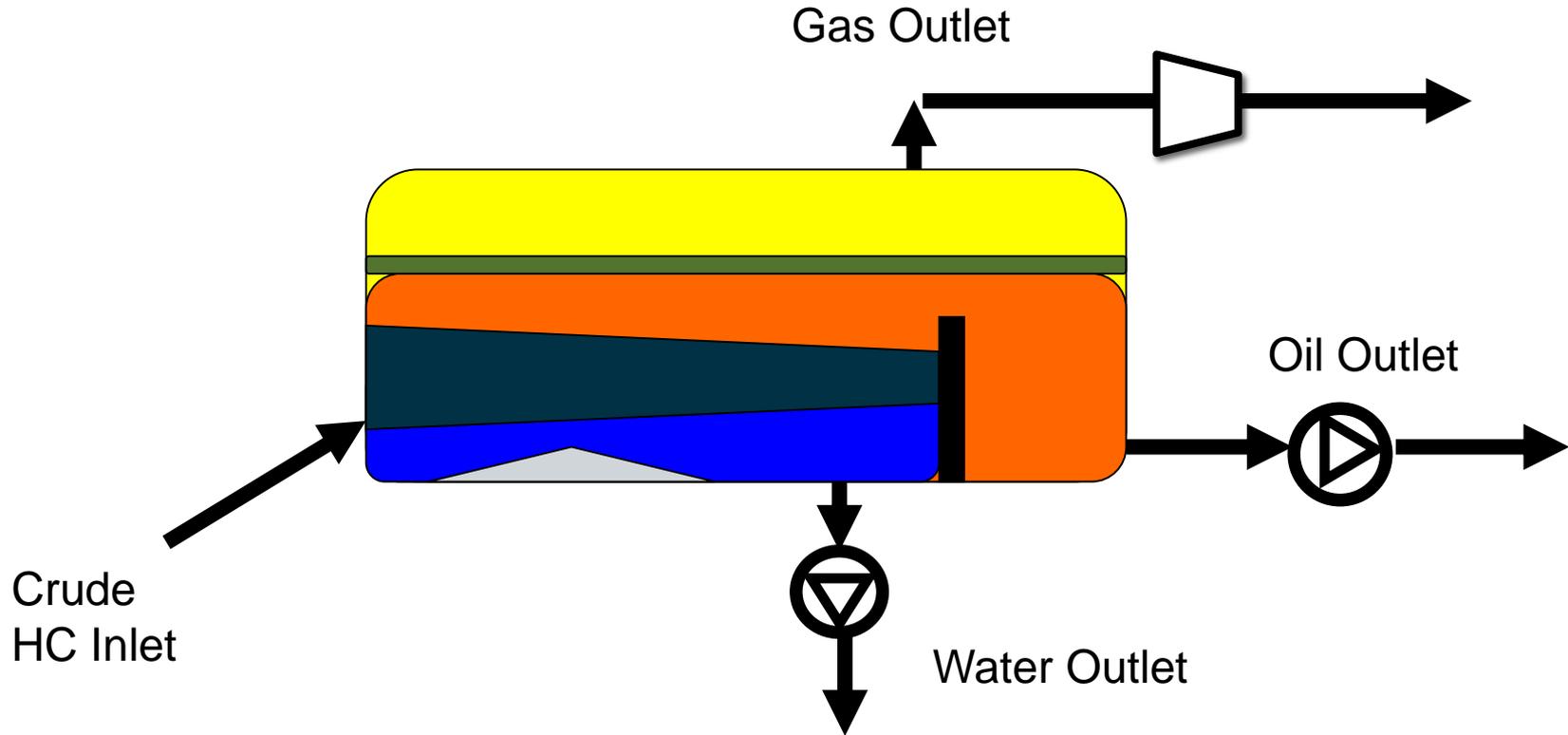
- Introduction
- Subsea Separation Process Overview
- Oil / Water / Sand Quality Measurement
- Conclusion

Advanced Subsea Production

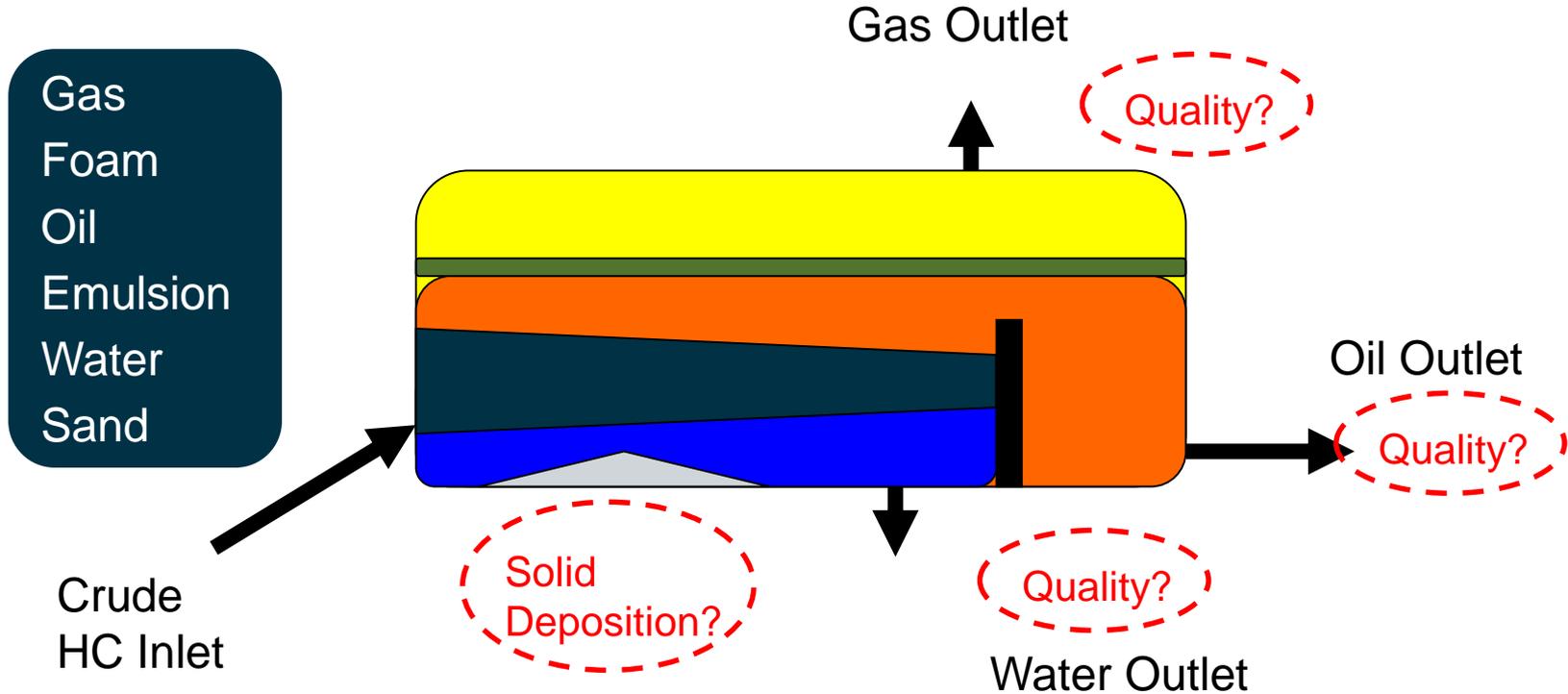
Typical Subsea Process Block Diagram - Building Blocks



Subsea Separation Process



Subsea Separation Process – Sensing & Control



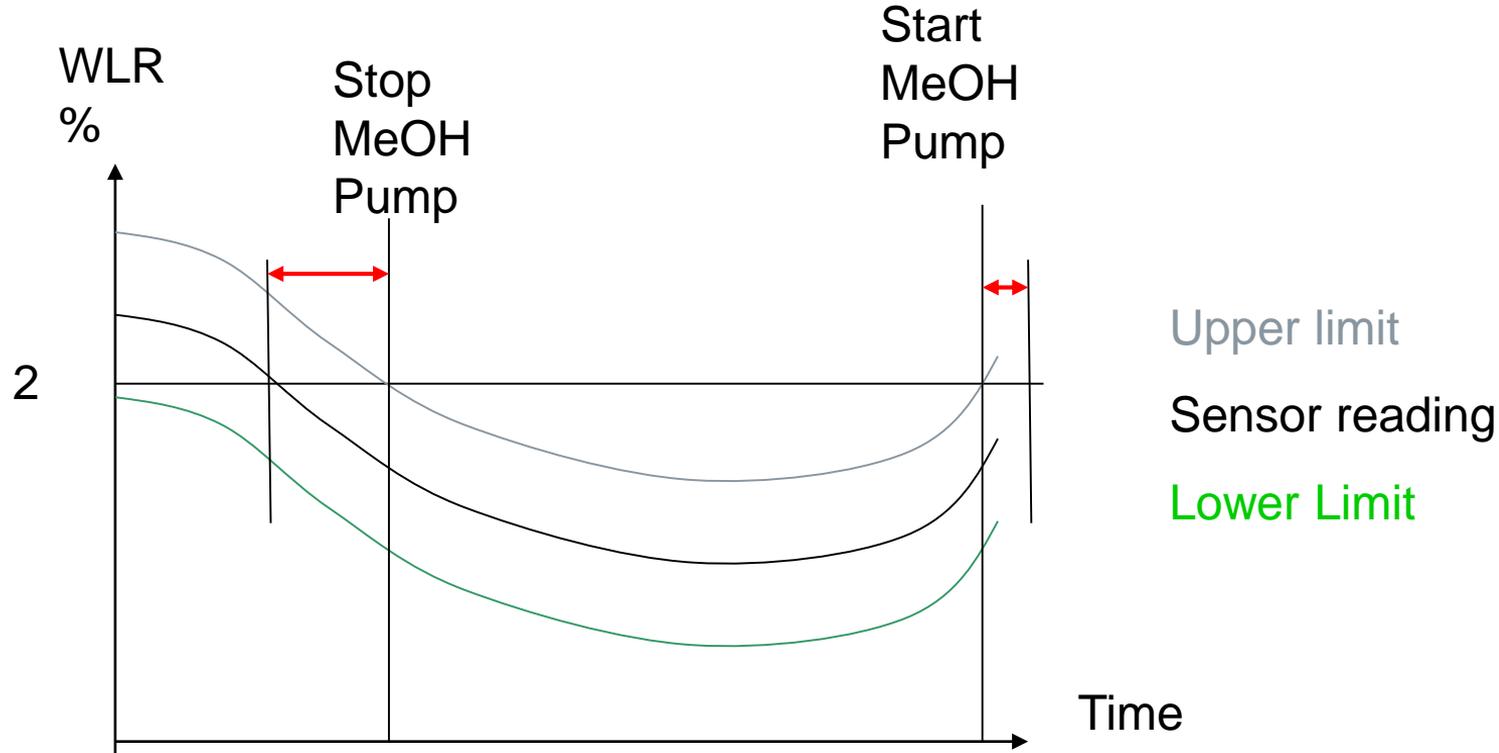
Oil Quality - Sensing

- 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



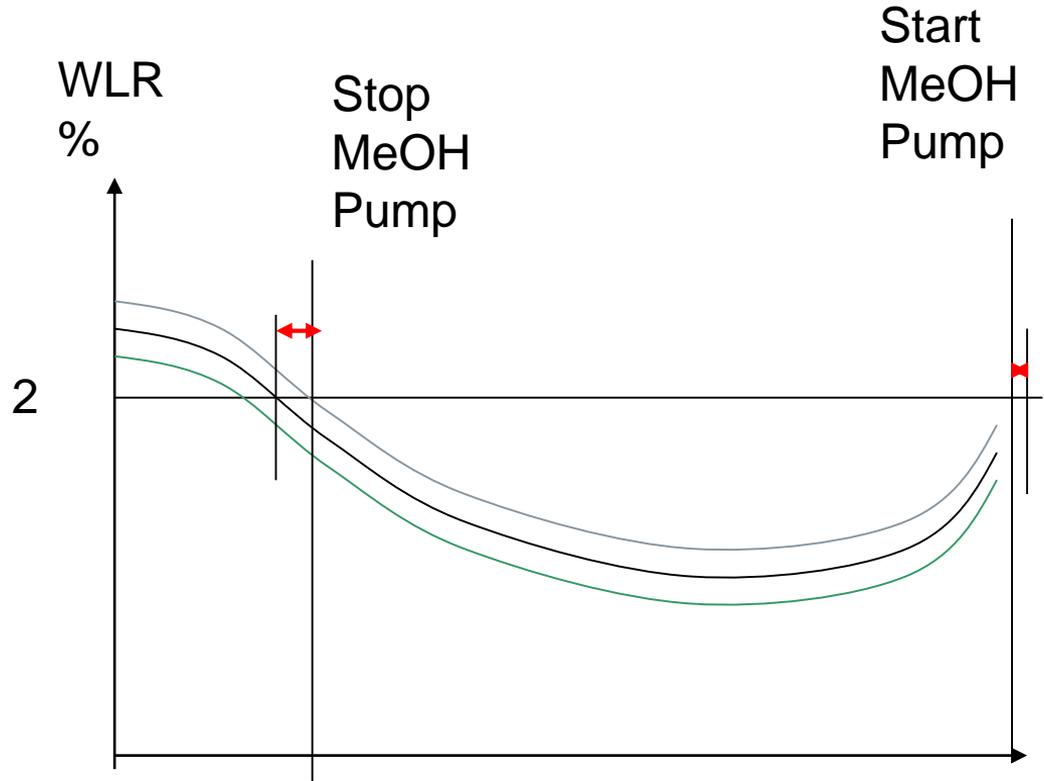
Oil Quality Sensing Example (1)

- 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

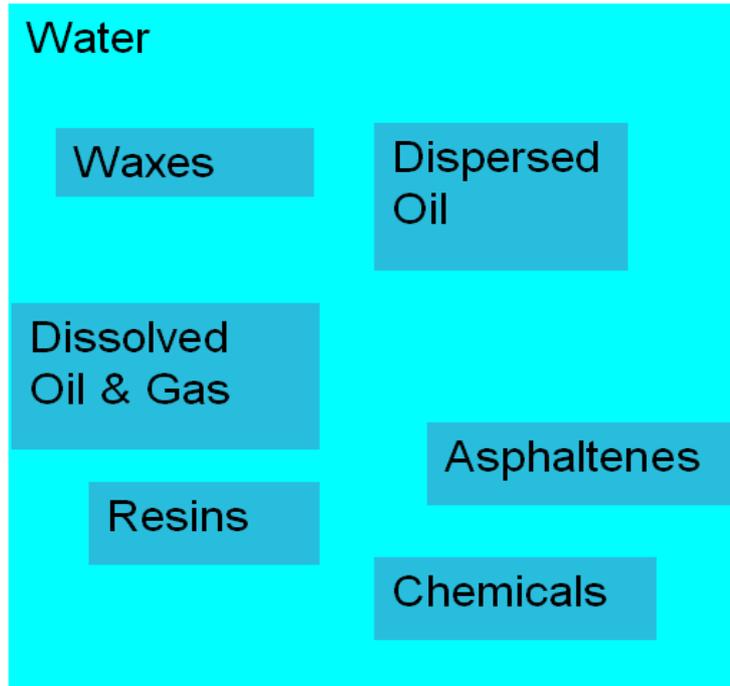
Lower Limit

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

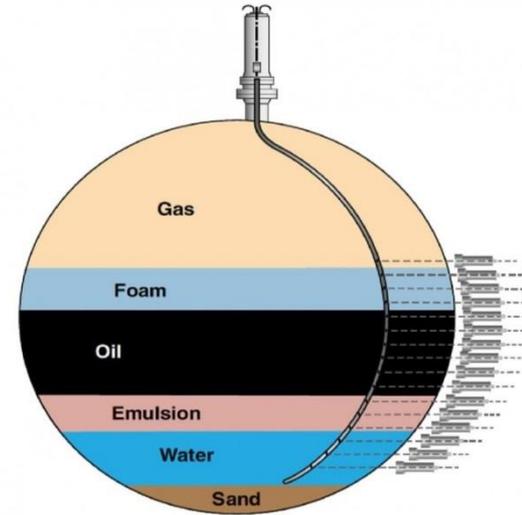
Water Quality Sensing – What is the “Oil in Water (OiW)”?



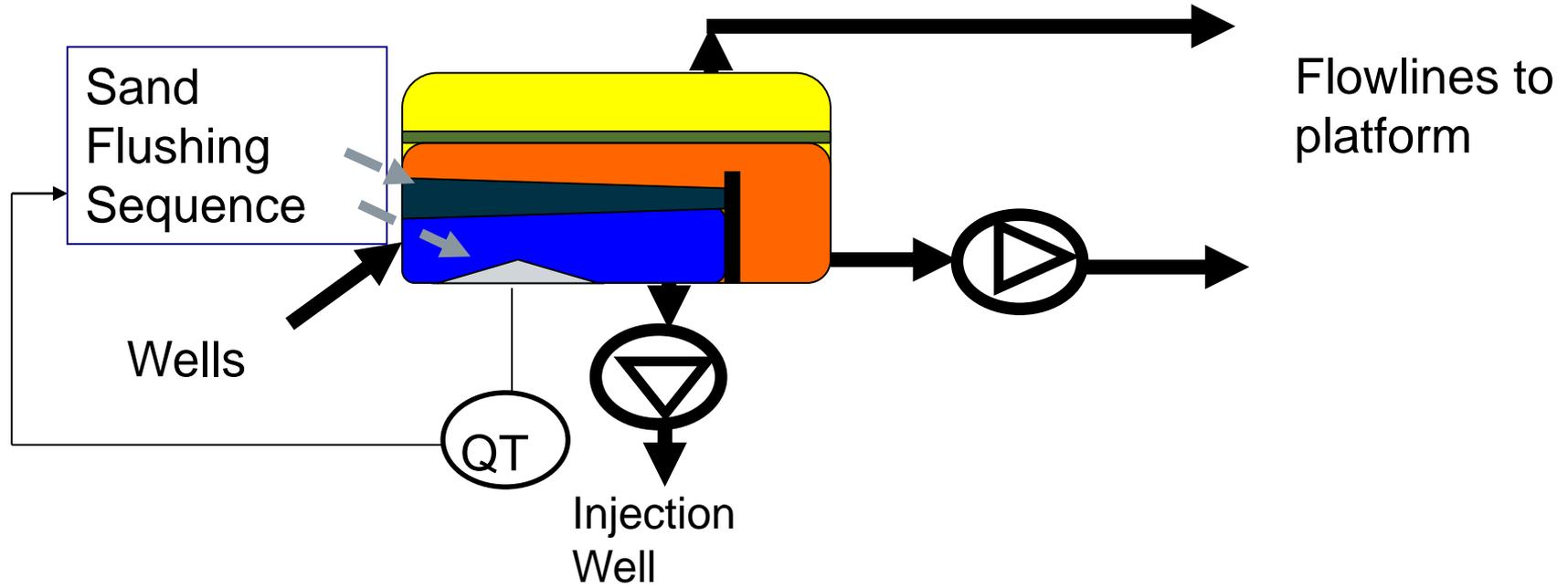
- Oil (HC) may exist in different forms in the continuous water phase
- The definition of OiW is not uniform
- Also, different types of oil sensors and analysis react to different HC components in the mixture.
- Key → understand the definition of OiW for any given specific application

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)

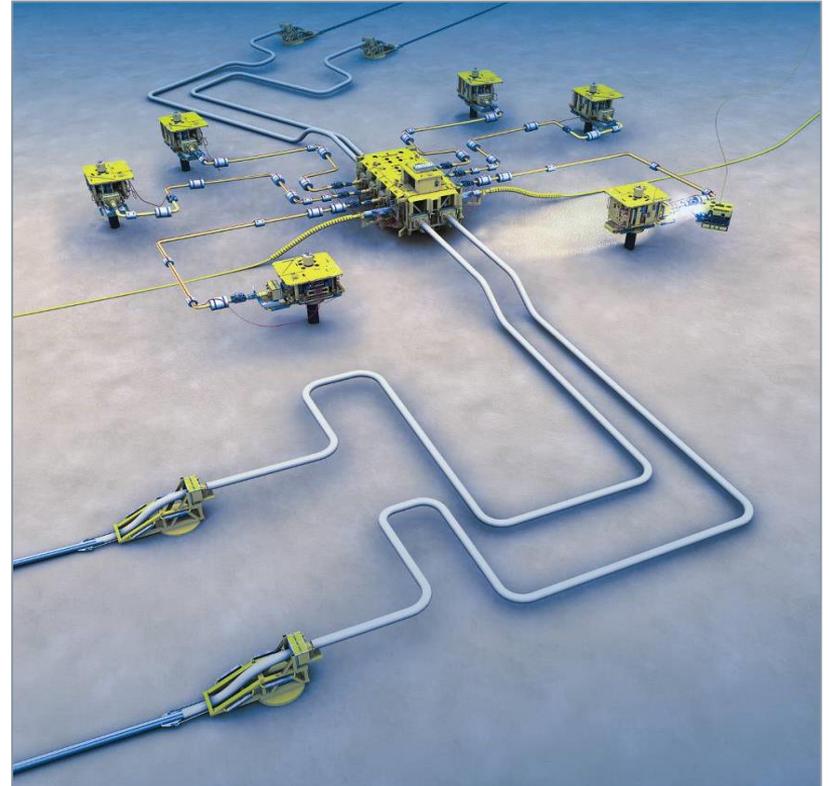


Quality Control Loops: Sand Flushing



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



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