I Big Data incontrano il Manifatturiero: Opportunità e Vantaggi

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Energy aware supervision for real-time optimization of energy intensive processes

Application to a foundry

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Summary

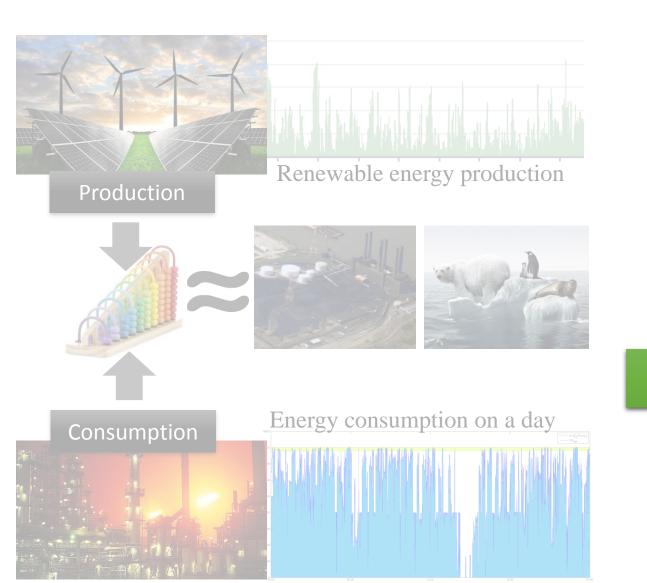
- Challenges and opportunities: Managing flexibility in the most efficient way while increasing energy efficiency and fostering sustainable consumption patterns
- 2. Flexible energy intensive process example: Foundry with melting furnace array and multiple molding lines
- 3. Developed energy-aware optimization system
- 4. Results and next (actual) developments

Key targets and challenges – flexibility and efficiency

- Batch-1 needed also in continuous industries historically characterized by more «stationary» production as Iron & Steel
 - Shorter time to market, reduced times and costs
 - Highly customized products and heterogeneous mixes
 - Frequent operating changes following variable production volumes
- Energy efficiency, minimize wastes (e.g. dissipations due to wait-times)
- Reshape loads: towards sustainable consumption patterns

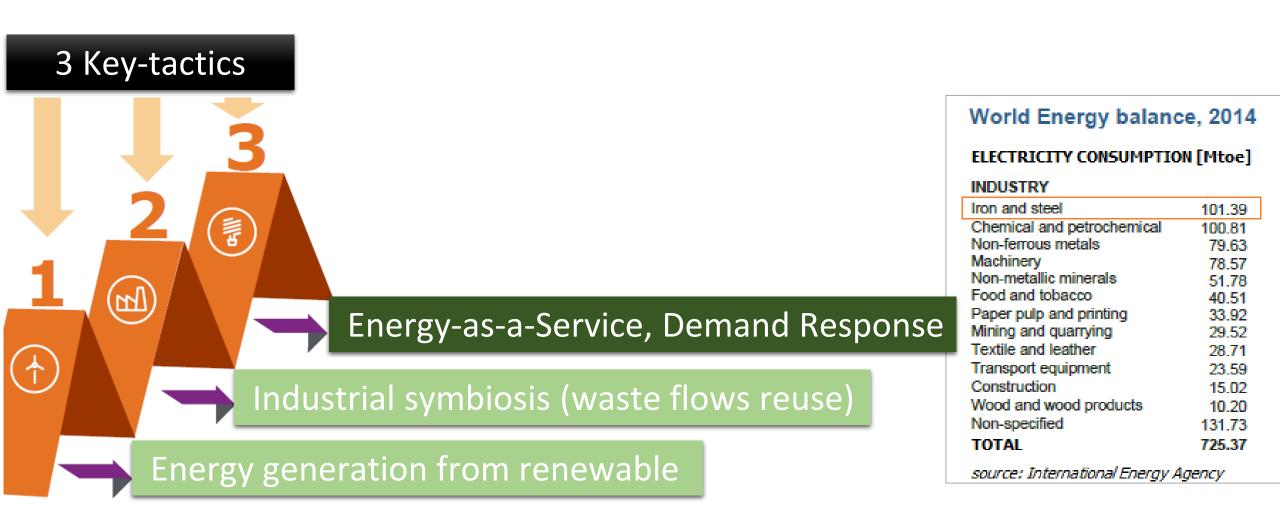
New challenges (opportunities) for sustainable 14.0

Fostering sustainable energy consumption patterns



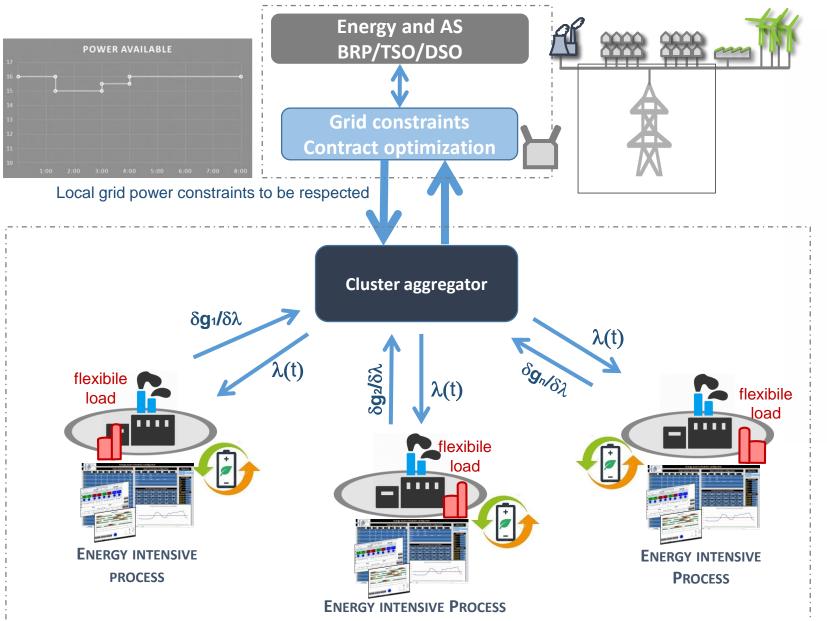


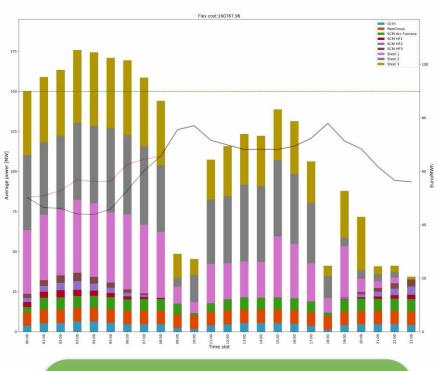
DR as key tactic for energy circular economy



Deloitte. Source: Circular economy in the energy industry. Final report (2018)

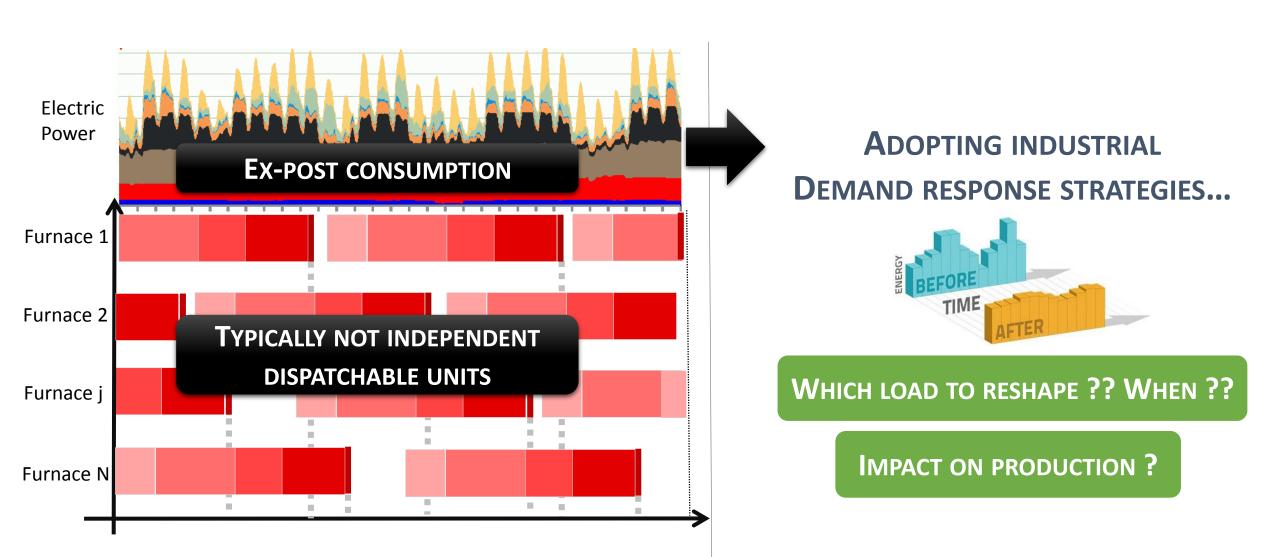
Grid optimization with industrial prosumers





Energy intensive factories as Smart Nodes of the Smart Grid

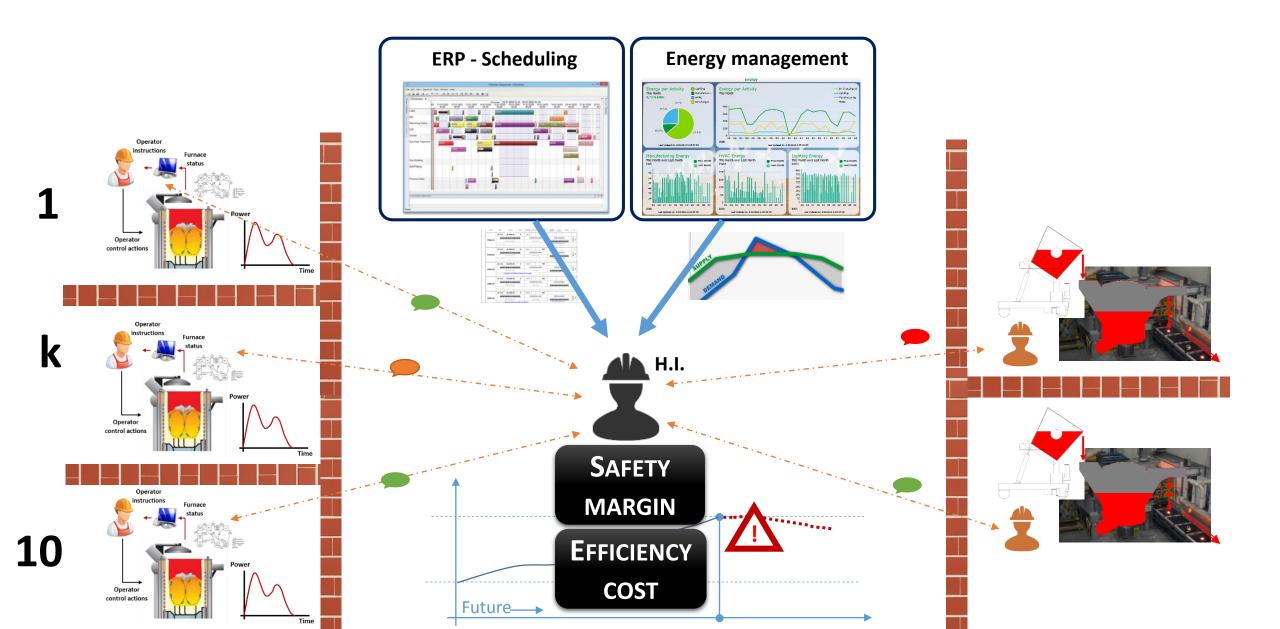
Major open issues limiting the evolution



2 – Flexible energy intensive process example:

Foundry with melting furnace array and multiple molding lines

Typical situation today in foundries

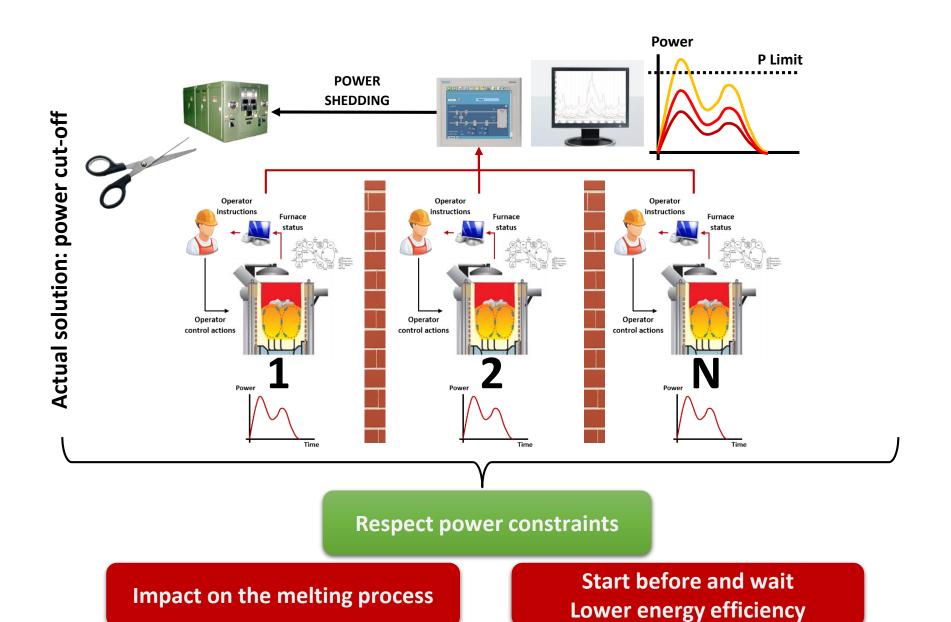


Efficient Agile production in hybrid manufacturing Need for Level 2.5



HYBRID MANUFACTURING PROCESS

Partial solutions on the market



3 - Developed energy-aware optimization system

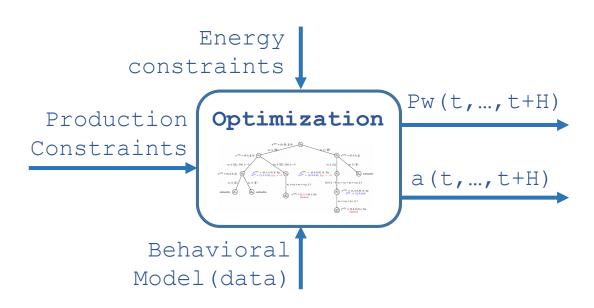
Optimization kernel and implementation in melt-shop SCADA

Addressed issues and adopted approach

- First approach considered: predictive consumption model
- Do not provide a solution to the commitment of furnace and power allocation to address production and Demand Response targets.
- Too complex to find a solution by what-if analysis exploiting prediction models

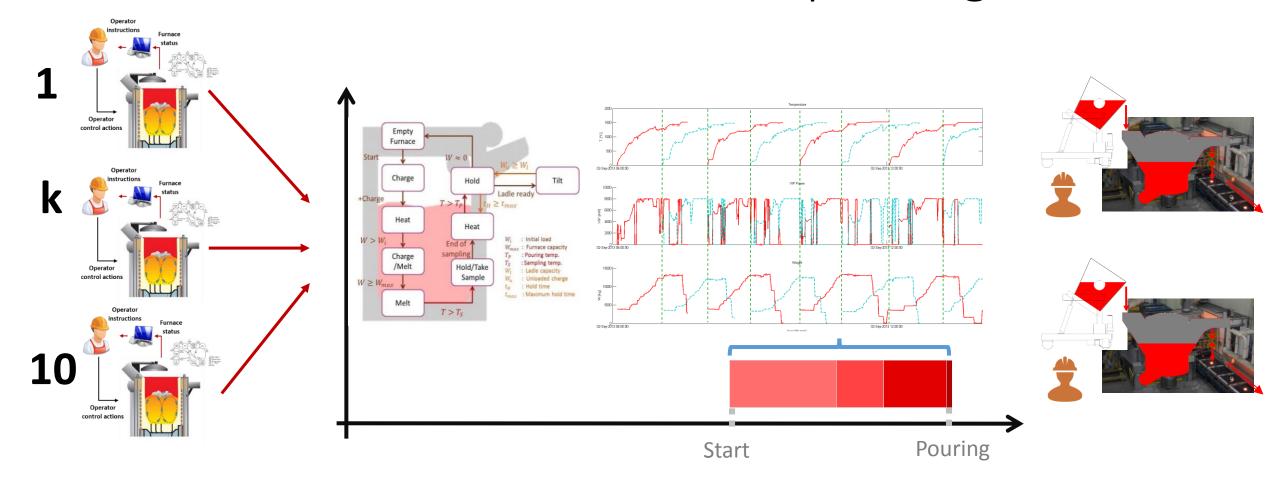
Adopted approach:

- Exploit models fitted on data within an optimization tool
- Predictive vs Prescriptive analytics



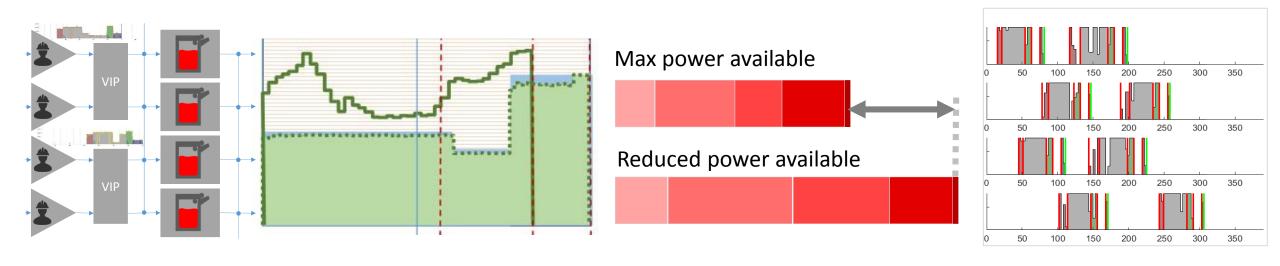
"Data is Dead...Without What-If Models" [2011] - The final phase is prescriptive analytics, which goes beyond predicting future outcomes by also suggesting actions to benefit from the predictions and showing the implications of each decision option

Guarantee molten metal in pouring lines



- Choose when to start each melting phase on each furnace
- Hybrid model: phases specific behaviour with guarded transitions
- Furnace commitmnet + power allocation → Mixed integer problem

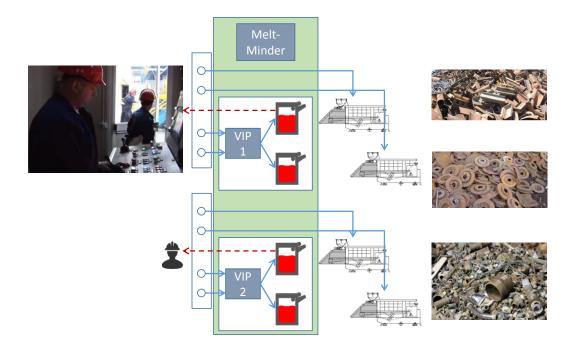
Overall power consumption policy



- Respect of overall power constraint (or considering hourly price)
- Minimize overall melting time to minimize dissipations
- Different PW requests depending on the phases (e.g. chargMelt vs test)
- Allocation of Power(t) to each furnace (3 min. discretized optimization)
- Considering multiple meltings over receding horizon (5 hours)
- > 15K continous and discrete variables > 80K constraints = Large MIP problem

Adaptive to time varying conditions





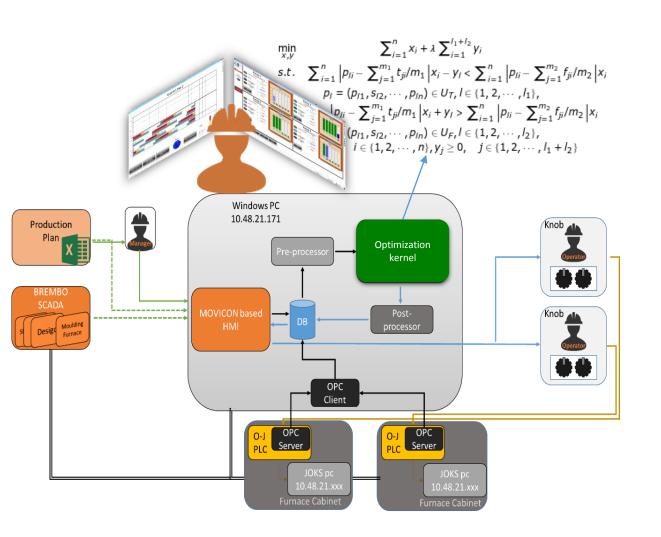
- Run-time variations in absortions of the molding lines
- Scrapt material stochasticity (e.g. impact on induction behaviour)
- Receding horizon solution to compensate deviations
- 30 seconds cycle time adopting mixed discretization

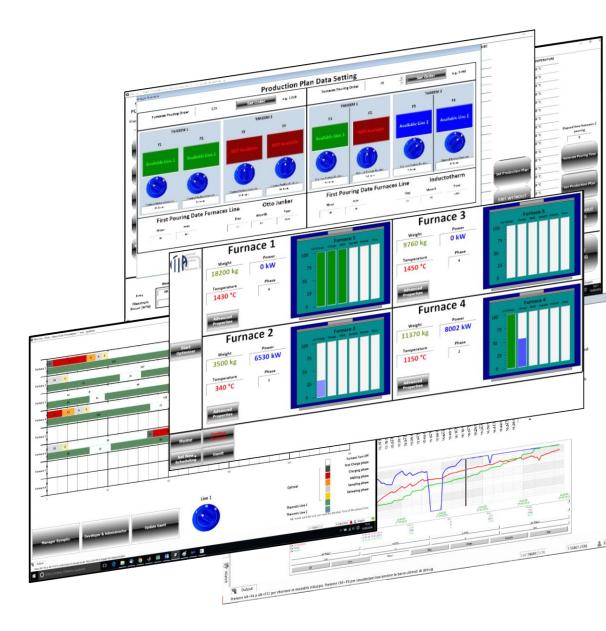
Integration of process constraints

- Modelling of process constraints, e.g., flows, precedences, VIP tandems, etc.
- Both norm-2 on hourly energy profile and min energy cost (market price)
- Optimization kernel and pre/post-process heuristic implemented in Python
- Gurobi solver integrated to solve the dynamically built MIP problem
- Connection to induction furnaces and molding lines by OPC interface
- HMI implemented in Movicon SCADA
- Connection and processing of data from ERP (production plan)

Managing complexity behind the scene

Implemented within Movicon SCADA





Achieved results

- Software installed in Brembo plant in Poland, Q4-2018
- Tested over different profiles and regimes
- Achieved savings (without change in electricity contract)
 - 5-7% saving in first 6 months (40% of software usage)
 - 10-13% at full rate (varying operating conditions)
- Now proceeding with second phase (flexible energy contract)
- Expected further savings:
 - 6 % of energy costs due to improved contract

Critical issues and lesson learned

- Getting historical data could take more time than predicted (development of new interfaces, data not available in system APIs, etc.)
- Connection to plants in brownfield could be tricky (e.g. custom driver for IF)
- Fundamental involvement of all company stakeholder from the beginning (e.g. furnace chief operator, plant manager, logistic, IT, furnace operators)
- Involvement of suppliers could be key for a successfull implementation
- Try to avoid new issues/requirements during project execution could be particularly tricky for innovation projects
- Fundamental training of operators as well as further involved personell





Questions?

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