



Flexible heat supply
By storing heat in a container, it is possible to heat areas that are removed in both time and space from the heat source. This enables heat from many sources to be used, even if only intermittently available. By drawing on a number of different heat sources, energy can be supplied with a high level of reliability.

Project

LaTherm Utilization of waste heat
www.latherm.de

Key data

Location
Dortmund

Project supported by
Seed capital, hi-tech fund

Project details

LaTherm supplies its customers with heat for warm water and heating at stable prices. To this end, they store waste heat from industrial operations – steel works, chemical/power plants, industrial processes (CHP) – in mobile containers capable of efficiently storing large amounts of heat energy. For this reason this business qualifies for the “CHP incentive” in Germany. The heat storage medium is a PCM substance which is environmentally benign and non toxic (sodium acetate, a commonly used food additive).

Containers are constantly supervised via mobile communications to calculate the optimum exchange time to secure the supply of heat. This system has been shown to have commercial advantages over piped municipal district heating up to a distance of 20 km. As it utilizes “waste heat”, it is able to guarantee long term stable pricing. It also does not require the high initial investment and maintenance of district heating. Typical customers are swimming pools, hospitals and schools. Heat stored in one container is sufficient to heat a family home for 3-4 months, however LaTherm prefers customers who have a heat demand of > 1 MWh/day.

Business and investment opportunities

LaTherm is interested in rolling out this business model globally and is therefore keen to explore possible strategic alliances.