Our company

With more than 4,500 plants built worldwide since 1950, Mahler AGS is one of the leading suppliers of on-site gas plants for hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen generation and gas purification plants.

Mahler AGS manufactures cost-effective, safe and reliable on-site generation systems for high quality industrial gases (i.e. hydrogen plants, oxygen plants and nitrogen plants) as well as plants for the purification and recovery of technical gases and process waste gases. Our plants can be used in a wide range of industries, are exactly tailored to the customer’s requirements and can be easily integrated into already existing processes.

Highlights
Our hydrogen generator was the first remote controlled hydrogen plant in the world, our oxygen generator technology provides lowest consumption figures and our nitrogen PSA systems are applied for one of the biggest on-site projects with this technology.

Our services
Understanding that every application and location is unique, Mahler AGS offers a family of cost-effective and reliable on-site generation systems.
In cooperation with the customer, Mahler AGS’ engineers will analyze the requirements to offer a system, which meets the specifications regarding flow, purity and pressure.
The typical scope of supply includes design, manufacturing, installation and start-up of the system. A service team is always available to provide necessary support or maintenance during the lifetime of the system.

Our goals
The high-quality generation systems have proven reliable and safe, but this is just the beginning. Mahler AGS’ after-sales service, continuous process improvement, trustful cooperation with research institutes and the certification of the Quality Management System (according to DIN EN ISO 9001) will ensure superior products and services.

Plants in over 70 countries show the experience and know-how of Mahler AGS.
Our gas generation plants and purification plants are applied in all kind of industries.
Mahler’s philosophy is to find the most suitable solution for our clients all around the world, having close contact and a relationship built on a long term cooperation.

As an environmentally conscious company, Mahler AGS follows the latest standards for sustainability and energy efficiency. The company’s commitment to responsible business practices and continuous improvement ensures that all projects are not only high quality but also sustainable. Mahler AGS is dedicated to providing innovative solutions that meet the current and future needs of their customers, ensuring a strong foundation for growth and development.
Steam reforming of natural gas, LPG or naphtha (feedstocks) with subsequent purification is the most economic and thus most common process for hydrogen production and serves 95% of the world’s hydrogen demand.

Pretreatment of the feed
The feed is mixed with a small amount of hydrogen, is pretreated (e.g. compressed, warmed-up) and sent to the desulphurization reactor. After desulphurization the feed is mixed with process steam generated in the steam boiler.

Steam generation and reforming
Steam is generated in the optimized waste-heat-recovery unit which includes mainly combustion air preheating, feed superheater, flue gas boiler and process gas cooler. The feed/steam-mixture is reformed within the top-fired reformer furnace into raw hydrogen-rich gas. The required heat is generated by means of combustion of fuel gas and purge gas coming from the HYDROSWING system.

High temperature CO conversion
The process gas is fed to the HT-CO conversion reactor to obtain additional hydrogen according to the water-gas shift reaction.

Gas cooling and heat recovery
After CO-conversion the converted gas is cooled down in a series of heat exchangers by simultaneous economical preheating of process streams. The process condensate is separated and can be reused.

Purification system – HYDROSWING
The hydrogen-rich gas is sent to the HYDROSWING system which usually consists of four or five adsorbers filled with different adsorbents. The purification process is based on pressure swing adsorption by which the impurities are separated to obtain high-purity hydrogen with purities up to 99.9999 vol.-%. The purge gas from depressurization and purging during the regeneration step is used as fuel gas in the reforming section.

Hydrogen is an important utility for numerous applications in multiple industries. Users in a wide range of industries can benefit from operating a cost-effective Mahler AGS hydrogen plant and reduce their production costs significantly.

- Metallurgical and steel industry
- Petrochemical and refining industry
- Glass and Float glass manufacturing
- Chemical and pharmaceutical industry
- Production of H2O2
- Food industry
- Electronics industry
- Technical gases

Applications
HYDROFORM-M
The hydrogen generator

The basic process

The HYDROFORM-M system is based on steam reforming of methanol as feed to produce a hydrogen-rich gas. The purification of the hydrogen-rich gas is done by means of the subsequent HYDROSWING system.

Pretreatment of the feed mixture
Methanol and fully demineralized water are fed to a storage vessel. Continuous measuring of density and level ensure the availability of the correct ratio of methanol and water. This feed mixture is pumped up and then preheated by heat recovery from raw hydrogen-rich gas. Vaporization of the feed and superheating to the optimal reactor inlet temperature is done by means of thermal-oil in the subsequent heat exchanger.

Methanol reforming reactor
The vaporized methanol-water mixture is catalytically reformed within the tubular thermal-oil heated reactor over copper catalyst into a hydrogen-rich synthesis gas. The reaction is endothermic and the required heat is transferred to the process by means of thermal-oil which ensures an even temperature distribution inside the reactor. The thermal-oil is heated by combustion of purge gas from the HYDROSWING system.

Gas cooling by heat recovery
The hydrogen-rich synthesis gas coming from the methanol reactor is cooled down in heat exchangers by simultaneous economical preheating of the feed mixture. The process condensate is separated and sent back to the feed storage vessel to be reused.

Gas purification - HYDROSWING
The hydrogen-rich gas is sent to the HYDROSWING system, which usually consists of four or five adsorbers filled with different adsorbents. This process is based on pressure swing adsorption by which the impurities are separated to obtain hydrogen with purities up to 99.9999 vol-%. The purge gas from depressurization and purging during the regeneration step is used as fuel gas in the thermal-oil system.

Applications

Hydrogen generation based on methanol reforming with subsequent purification is a well-established process for hydrogen production and the alternative method at locations with limited access to hydrocarbons (e.g. natural gas, LPG or naphtha).

- Metallurgical and steel industry
- Petrochemical and refining industry
- Glass and float glass manufacturing
- Chemical and pharmaceutical industry
- Production of H₂O₂
- Food industry
- Electronics industry
- Technical gases

Highlights

With the use of thermal-oil the hydrogen production plant will keep its operating temperature extremely stable and can be restarted at short notice e.g. if a power failure occurs.

With Mahlers’ technology and design an overheating of the reactor is prevented and the low temperature catalyst, which is highly temperature sensitive, is protected by using a heat transfer medium (thermal-oil) buffering any temperature peaks. This helps to protect the catalyst for the complete lifetime.

PLANT FEATURES

- Capacities from 200 to 5,000 Nm³/h
- Product pressure between 10 to 30 bar(abs)
- Purities up to 99.9999 vol-%
- Design for long lifetime
- High operational reliability: Many years of experience in plant design, engineering and manufacturing guarantee high reliability of the HYDROFORM-M system.
- Low investment cost
- High quality and high safety standard
- First class sub-suppliers for equipment and components
- Fully automatic operation and remote control
- The system is designed for automatic and unattended operation, e.g. change of capacity. Even automatic start-up, shutdown, control and automatic load adjustment from long distances is possible.
- Prefabrication in skids/modules:
The system is pre-assembled and delivered in prefabricated skids.
- Easy maintenance and accessibility
- Optimized consumption figures:
  - Optimal heat recovery, e.g. preheating of combustion air and recovery of process condensate.
  - Thermal-oil system to protect the catalyst even in part load operation
- Additional/Optional features:
  - Individual plant concepts with respect to product compression, turn-key delivery, water treatment, hydrogen product storage etc. can be offered.
HYDROSWING
The hydrogen purification system

The basic process
HYDROSWING systems are designed for the recovery and the purification of hydrogen from different hydrogen-rich gases coming from steam reforming, methanol reforming or from various refinery or petrochemical off-gases. For this task the principle of pressure swing adsorption (PSA technology) is applied.

Depending on customer’s focus and demands the hydrogen PSA systems are designed with either 4, 5 or 6 adsorber vessels and different modes of operation.

The PSA technology applies the principle of physically binding the impurities contained in the hydrogen-rich gases by individually selected adsorbent materials. Since the binding forces for such impurities depend on the pressure, the PSA operates on an alternating cycle of adsorption at high pressures and desorption at low pressures.

To achieve a continuous hydrogen product flow at least one adsorber is in operation, while the others are in various stages of regeneration. The process is defined by four main steps.

Adsorption
The feed gas enters the bottom of the adsorber at high pressure, the impurities are adsorbed by e.g. molecular sieves and high purity hydrogen leaves the adsorber at the top. Before the adsorption capability of the adsorbents is exhausted, a regenerated adsorber is automatically switched on to adsorption, thus a continuous product flow is ensured.

Desorption
The regeneration is done in several pressure reduction steps. First hydrogen-rich gas is used for repressurization and purging those adsorbers that are in different stages of regeneration. By further depressurization the adsorbed impurities are released and fed to a ventline or to a buffer vessel to be used as fuel gas.

Purging
At the lowest pressure level the adsorber is purged with hydrogen-rich gas from another adsorber. The purge gas is either vented or sent to a buffer vessel.

Repressurization
The pressure of the purged adsorber is stepwise increased to the required adsorption pressure by several pressure equalizations with other adsorbers and finally by recycled pure hydrogen.

Applications
HYDROSWING systems are suitable for many different applications in the refining, metallurgical and steel industry, petrochemical and chemical/pharmaceutical industry.

Feed gases
Hydrogen can be recovered by the HYDROSWING system from very different feed gases, e.g.:
- Synthesis gas from steam reforming, partial oxidation or gasification processes
- Hydrogen-rich refinery off-gases
- Ethylene off-gases
- Methanol and ammonia purge gases
- Coke oven gases

Due to the flexibility of the control system the HYDROSWING system can be adapted to a certain change in feed gas composition or temperature.

PLANT FEATURES
- Capacities from 100 to 20,000 Nm³/h
- Feed pressure between 6 to 40 bar(abs)
- Purities up to 99.9999 vol.-%
- Design for long lifetime
- High availability due to special control system and the feature to switch-back to an operation with reduced number of adsorber vessels
- High operational reliability: High reliability due to proven first class plant components for PSA applications e.g. PSA valves or butterfly valves and instruments. Many years of experience in plant design, engineering and manufacturing guarantee high reliability.
- High quality and high safety standard
- Fully automatic operation and remote control: The HYDROSWING system is designed for automatic and unattended operation and automatic adaptation of cycle times according to plant capacity. Even automatic start-up, shut-down, control and automatic load adjustment via remote control is possible.
- Completely pre-manufactured valve skid
- Easy maintenance and accessibility
- High yield
  - Individual design according to feed gas composition
  - Programmable control system ensures high recovery even at part load operation
- Cost efficiency
  - Low power consumption
  - Minimized maintenance and operating cost
  - Minimized cost for supervision
OXYSWING
The oxygen generator

The basic process

Mahler AGS’ OXYSWING systems employ the basic principle of air separation at ambient temperatures using high performance zeolite, a material that adsorbs preferably nitrogen to leave a rich stream of oxygen. The adsorptive separation of air is effected in three main process steps.

Purification
The ambient (inlet) air is filtered before being compressed moderately by a blower system.

Adsorption
The pre-treated air passes into a vessel containing zeolites to remove any moisture and/or CO₂ and adsorbs the nitrogen while oxygen passes through the vessel outlet. Before the adsorption capability of the zeolite is exhausted the adsorption process is interrupted.

Desorption
The saturated zeolite is regenerated (i.e. the adsorbed gases released) by means of pressure reduction below adsorption pressure. This is achieved by a dry running vacuum pump. The resulting off gas is vented to atmosphere. To maintain a continuous flow of oxygen supply a surge tank is installed.

Applications
Users in wide range of industrial applications can cut the production costs by using the Mahler AGS OXYSWING systems:

Glass and enamel industry
- Melting of glass in melting ends
- Melting of enamel in rotary drum type kilns and tank furnaces
- Heating of effluent grooves

Steel industry
- Arc furnaces
- Cupola melting furnaces
- Holding furnaces
- Forge furnaces

Pulp and paper industry
- Oxygen delignification
- Black liquor oxidation
- Feed gas for the ozone production at the ozone bleaching stage

Chemical industry
- Oxidation processes such as production of H₂O₂

Potable water supply
- Feedgas for ozone production for potable water treatment

Public and private waste water treatment and waste disposal industries
- Aerobic waste water treatment
- Thermal refuse incineration

Biotechnology
- Fermentation processes

Highlights
Mahler AGS supplies plants with the top overall performance and cost ratio:
- Low electrical energy consumption
- Highest availability
- No injection water
- Plants in operation for more than 15 years with original equipment.

PLANT FEATURES
- Capacities from 300 to 5,000 Nm³/h
- Purities up to 94 vol.-%
- Product flexibility regarding flow and purity
- Design for long lifetime
- Completely pre-manufactured skids
- Automatic turn down
- High availability and reliability:
  - Many years of experience in plant design and manufacturing guarantee high reliability of all OXYSWING systems.
  - Fast start-up: All OXYSWING systems are “on-spec” within minutes.
  - Full automation and remote control: All OXYSWING systems are designed for unattended operation and automatic load adjustment.
  - Independent and low-cost on-site production:
    - Production is not affected by road transportation or weather conditions
    - Low power consumption
    - No injection water
    - Minimized maintenance and operating costs
  - Sound abatement:
    - Professional sound abatement to meet highest requirements.

Users in wide range of industrial applications can cut the production costs by using the Mahler AGS OXYSWING systems:

- Oxygen costs
NITROSWING
The nitrogen generator

The basic process
Mahler AGS’ NITROSWING systems are based on the principle of physical adsorption and regeneration. Nitrogen is obtained by separating the oxygen from compressed air. The whole process is defined by three main steps.

Pretreatment of process air
Ambient air is filtered before being compressed by an air compressor and dried by an air dryer system. Mahler AGS applies only state of the art compressors from renowned suppliers and can offer either oil-free or oil-injected compression solutions, depending on the process and environmental conditions. Also available process air can be used as feed for our NITROSWING plants.

Generation of nitrogen
The pre-treated process air enters one of the two available adsorption vessels which are filled with a selected carbon molecular sieve (CMS). This CMS is the adsorption material which removes the oxygen from the process air. Thus a nitrogen rich product is obtained. The residual oxygen content within the product gas can be as low as 100 ppm (higher purities on demand). While one adsorption vessel is producing nitrogen the other is in regeneration. The crucial and important regeneration step is achieved by lowering the pressure inside the vessel.

Continuous production
By means of a process buffer vessel and a flow control unit, NITROSWING plants are constantly providing nitrogen at a given flowrate, pressure and quality. A particle filter is applied to ensure a clean product. The dew point of the generated nitrogen is well below the atmospheric freezing point (-40 °C and less).

Applications
The Mahler AGS’ NITROSWING systems give a broad spectrum of applications, e.g.:

- Petrochemical industry
  - Purging and blanketing

- Metallurgy / Heat treatment
  - Annealing
  - Hardening and brazing
  - Powdered metal sintering

- Chemical and pharmaceutical industry
  - Purging of tanks and vessels
  - Pipelines blanketing
  - Prevention of oxidation during processing and storage of plastics
  - Pneumatic conveyance

- Food industry
  - Controlled atmosphere storage of fruits and vegetables
  - Packaging of foods
  - Blanketing of wines and oils

- Electronics industry
  - Nitrogen atmosphere for manufacturing of semiconductors and electrical components

- Mining industry
  - Nitrogen plants for explosion protection and firefighting

Highlights
- Mahler AGS has built one of the world’s biggest nitrogen plants with a total capacity of 210 tpd
- Mahler AGS has installed more than 200 industrial plants in the range of 1-210 tpd worldwide
- Plants in operation for more than 30 years with initial filling of carbon molecular sieve

Fast start-up:
Each NITROSWING system has a start-up period less than 5 minutes.

Full automation:
All NITROSWING systems are designed for unattended operation and automatic load adjustment.

Minimal space requirements:
Packaged units minimize the space required (containerization possible).

Completely pre-manufactured skids:
Independent and low-cost on-site production:
- Production is not affected by road transportation or weather conditions
- Low power consumption
- Minimized maintenance and operating costs
**HNX**

The protective gas generator

The process is based on the substoichiometrical combustion of hydrocarbons with air.

**Ratio control**

The ratio between combustion gas and air is kept constant by means of a fully automatic ratio control. In case of a deviation the ratio is immediately corrected.

**MEA (Mono Ethanol Amine) boiler and CO₂ stripper**

The combustion is effected in a refractory lined reaction chamber. This chamber is equipped with an electrical ignition, an ignition burner and an automatic self-controlling UV-flame monitoring device.

The hot flue gas, generated by this process, releases its heat by means of a heating register to the MEA-boiler, thus regeneration steam for the CO₂ stripper is produced. The flue gas leaves the MEA-boiler at approx. 350 °C and is routed to the CO₂-converter.

The CO₂ enriched MEA lye coming from the CO₂ scrubber is removed in the CO₂ stripper column.

**CO₂ scrubber**

A regenerative organic alkaline solution (MEA) is used as CO₂ absorbent. The loaded alkaline solution is routed to the CO₂ stripper column where the CO₂ is removed by means of the strip-steam generated in the MEA-boiler.

**Gas drying**

The "wet" HNX protection gas is dried in a thermically regenerated two bed absorption drier. Molecular sieve is used as drying agent. While drying is applied in one absorber the other is regenerated at temperatures exceeding 200 °C. After drying the HNX gas is provided to the customer.

**Applications**

Mahler’s HNX protective gas generators cut the production cost considerably, e.g. in the following industrial applications:

- Heat treatment of steel in the metallurgical / steel industry (e.g. bright annealing, galvanizing)
- Float glass manufacturing

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**PLANT FEATURES**

**Product flexibility:**
- Plant capacity up to 1,000 Nm³/h
- Adjustable H₂ content between 0.5 to 15 vol.-%
- Gas analysis, typical values:
  - H₂: 0.5 - 15 vol.-%
  - CO: 50 - 1,000 ppmv
  - CO₂: 50 - 100 ppmv
  - CH₄: 20 - 100 ppmv
  - O₂: < 5 ppmv
  - N₂+Ar in balance
- Dew point: -70 °C
- Delivery pressure as required

**High reliability:**
- Many years of experience in plant design and manufacturing guarantee high reliability of all HNX protective gas generators.

**Full automation:**
- All HNX protective gas generators are designed for unattended operation and automatic load adjustment.

**Independent and low-cost on-site production:**
- Production is not affected by road transportation or weather conditions.

**Cost efficiency:**
- Minimized maintenance and operating costs.
Permags-Pro
Process gas membrane systems

The basic process
Process gas membrane systems are designed for the recovery of process gases from crude feed or off-gas streams. Often referred to as HRU (Hydrogen recovery unit), a membrane separation system is not only limited to the recovery of hydrogen. Also the adjustment of synthesis gas ratios, recovery and separation of methane, helium, carbon dioxide, as well as oxygen and nitrogen from ambient air have to be mentioned as few of many possible applications in the industry. The process is continuous and divided into two main steps.

Pretreatment and conditioning of the feed
The pretreatment section consists of a filter unit which protects the small membrane fibers from solid particles and fluids. The design of this protection system depends on the feed conditions. Humid feeds require coalescers, while dry gas streams are treated by means of a particle filter.

Subsequently a heat exchanger is applied to control the temperature of the process gas. Temperature is a crucial parameter for the performance of the unit and ensures stable operation also during part-load and changing process conditions.

Separation step
Crude feed gas at high pressure enters the membrane modules and is separated into two streams, which are defined as permeate and retentate. The permeate stream is reduced in pressure and usually contains smaller molecules like hydrogen, thus often referred to as “hydrogen rich product”. The retentate is equal in pressure to the feed gas and is made up of mostly larger molecules like methane. The performance of the separation step depends on:
• Membrane material
• Surface area of the membranes
• Feed temperature
• Feed pressure
• Differential pressure across the membrane modules
• Flow rate of the feed

Permeation process
Permeation is the working principle of a membrane system. For this reason membranes and membrane modules are often referred to as “permeators” and the process as “permeation”. Mahler AGS only applies state of the art membrane modules from renowned suppliers. A membrane bundle consists of numerous hollow fibers which can be as thin as a human hair and are made up of special kinds of polymers. Each polymer is different in its effect on the separation process. Some polymers are designed to achieve maximum recovery, while others are optimized for high purities. Also the resistance to chemicals, humidity and physical forces are different for each polymer.

The way a permeator works can be compared to a particle filter operating on molecular level. The crude feed gas flow is directed through the membrane fibers. Small molecules can pass the wall of the hollow fibers. The molecules permeating the fibers are now separated from the feed gas and are obtained as the pressure reduced product. The residue which cannot permeate through the wall of the hollow fibers forms the retentate product. Depending on the application the flow direction of the permeate can be either from inside of the fibers to the outside or vice versa.

Applications
Petrochemical industry, chemical industry, refineries, oil & gas industries, ammonia and methanol production
• Recovery, separation and purification of feedstock and rejection of inert gases from purge gas streams
• Syngas ratio adjustment
• Separation of carbon dioxide from natural gas
• Drying of gases

Nitrogen generation

PLANT FEATURES
All kind of possible feedstocks, e.g. air, natural gas, off-gas, crude hydrogen, ammonia purge gas, syngas
Capacities from 500 to 200,000 Nm³/h and even more
Feed pressure between 20 - 200 bar(abs)
Recovery up to 99.9 %
Purities up to 99.99 vol-%
Completely pre-manufactured skids
• Unattended and automated operation
• Continuous process without any moving parts
• Installation on a common, single base frame (standard unit)
• Options for vertical and horizontal installation for spatial optimization
• Dimensions equal to a 40” container (standard unit)

Online adjustment of recovery and product purity possible
High availability and reliability
Design for long lifetime
Our service concept

Whether construction, maintenance or customized solutions, Mahler AGS provides the complete service package.

Installation
Experienced and competent field engineers assure the correct installation of a plant. At any time they can revert to the assistance of our qualified office staff. In addition Mahler AGS provides time and working schedules as well as documentation in order to ensure completion in due time.

Commissioning
After mechanical completion and final check of erection until performance test we provide all commissioning services. The commissioning includes catalyst and adsorbent loading of reactors and vessels, carrying out numerous function tests, plant start-up, adjustment of process parameters and check of all safety functions. Our target is to reach the specified performance parameters and client’s full satisfaction while keeping the time schedule.

Spare part service
We offer the best and most economical solution for your purposes for either defective or modification parts. Our strength is to react fast and to come up with cost-effective solutions to keep the plants in operation throughout the service life of your plant, even if the plant is more than 40 years old.

Inspection and maintenance
Regular inspection and maintenance ensures long-term functioning, avoids damages and prevents unexpected malfunctions. This service includes a comprehensive check of the plant status and functional tests of all relevant components. Also service on sub-suppliers’ equipment and machinery can be provided.

Remote service
Mahler AGS offers a direct line between your plant and our experienced office personnel. The possibility of remote access and data transfer between your plant control system and our service center enables us to assist quickly, whenever required, all over the world, in case operational problems or malfunctions occur.
In addition Mahler offers remote service packages, individually adapted to your requirements, with access to our service hotline.

Revamp, overhaul and relocating
If you require capacity or performance upgrades, modernization of individual components or complete systems or even a relocation of a plant, Mahler AGS plans and carries out all necessary activities considering local regulations and clients’ specifications.

High availability, long lifetime and reliable performance, these are the major requirements for process plants. With our broad variety of service capabilities we offer our customers active support based on highest technical standards all around the world during the complete life time.
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