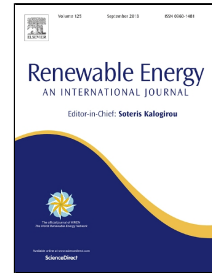


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Numerical analysis of a latent heat thermal energy storage system under partial load operating conditions

Simone Arena, Efsio Casti, Jaume Gasia, Luisa F. Cabeza, Giorgio Cau



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1 Numerical analysis of a latent heat thermal 2 energy storage system under partial load 3 operating conditions

4 **Simone Arena^{1,*}, Efsio Casti¹, Jaume Gasia², Luisa F. Cabeza², Giorgio Cau¹**

5 ¹Dept. of Mechanical, Chemical and Materials Engineering, University of Cagliari, Via Marengo 2, 09123,
6 Cagliari, Italy

7 ²GREiA Research Group, INSPIRES Research Centre, University of Lleida, Pere de Cabrera s/n, 25001,
8 Lleida, Spain

9 **Abstract**

10 One of the features that should be considered when designing a thermal energy storage (TES) system is its
11 behaviour when subjected to non-continuous (partial loads) operating conditions. Indeed, the system
12 performance can be sensibly affected by the partial charging and discharging processes. This topic is
13 analysed in the present study by means of a two-dimensional axisymmetric numerical model implemented in
14 COMSOL Multiphysics. A latent heat TES system consisting of a vertical concentric tube heat exchanger is
15 simulated to investigate the effect of different partial load operating conditions on the system behaviour.

16 The effects of different heat transfer distributions and evolutions of the solid-liquid interface, are evaluated
17 to identify the optimal management criteria of the TES systems. The results showed that partial load
18 strategies allow to achieve a substantial reduction in the duration of the TES (up to 50%) process against a
19 small decrease in stored energy (up 30%). The close correlation between the energy and the duration of the
20 TES cycle is also evaluated during the discharge using detailed maps related to the melting fraction. These
21 maps allow for the evaluation of the most efficient load conditions considering both charging and
22 discharging processes to satisfy a specific energy demand.

23 **Keywords:** Phase change material (PCM), Thermal energy storage (TES), Partial loads, Latent heat,
24 Numerical simulation

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: simonearena@unica.it

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