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# Continuous processes in manufacturing of solid oral dosage forms.

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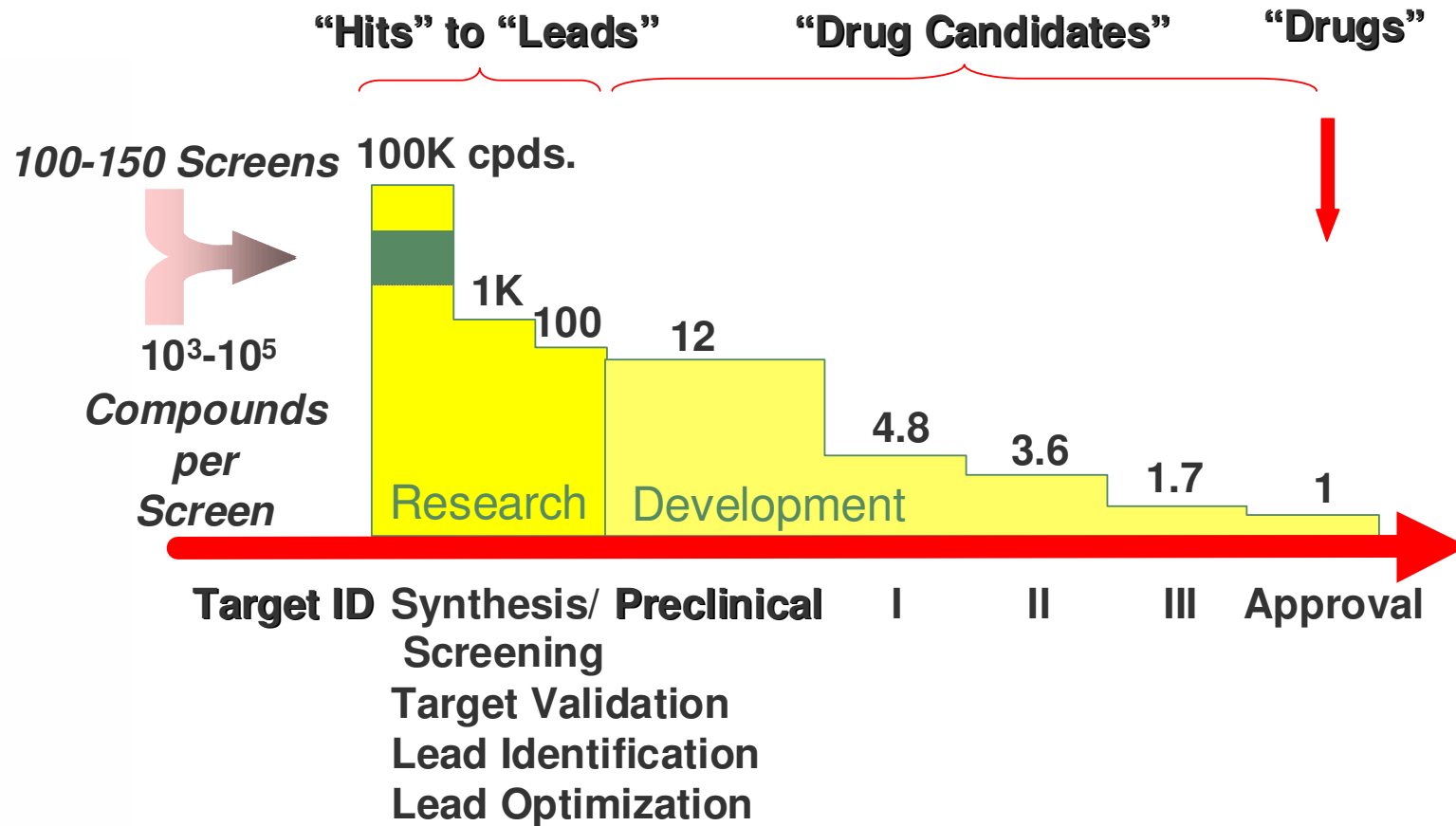
Ifiip  
llc

Institute for innovation in industrial pharmacy

Prof. Dr. Hans Leuenberger



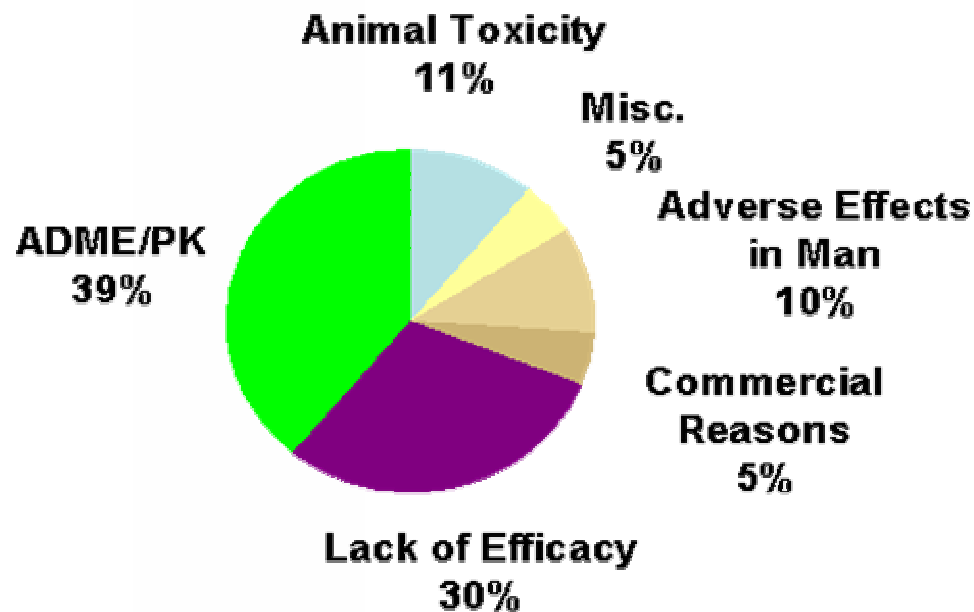
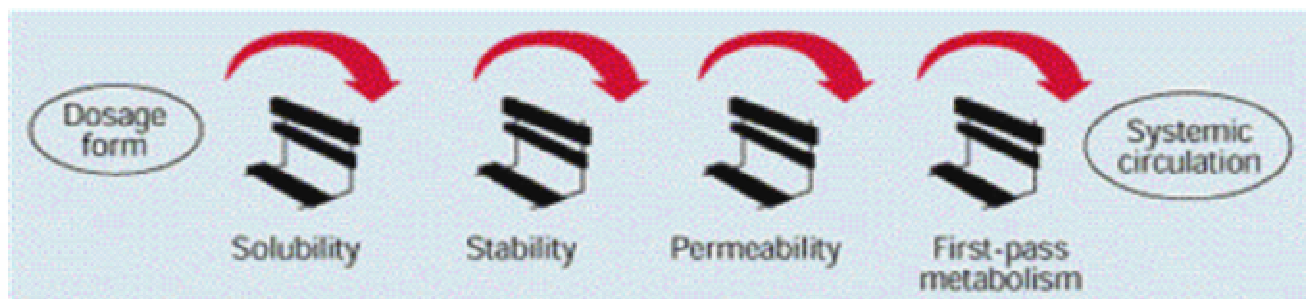
# Traditional Pharmaceutical R&D Suffers High Attrition\*



\*Tufts CSDD, H&Q 1998, after Camitro

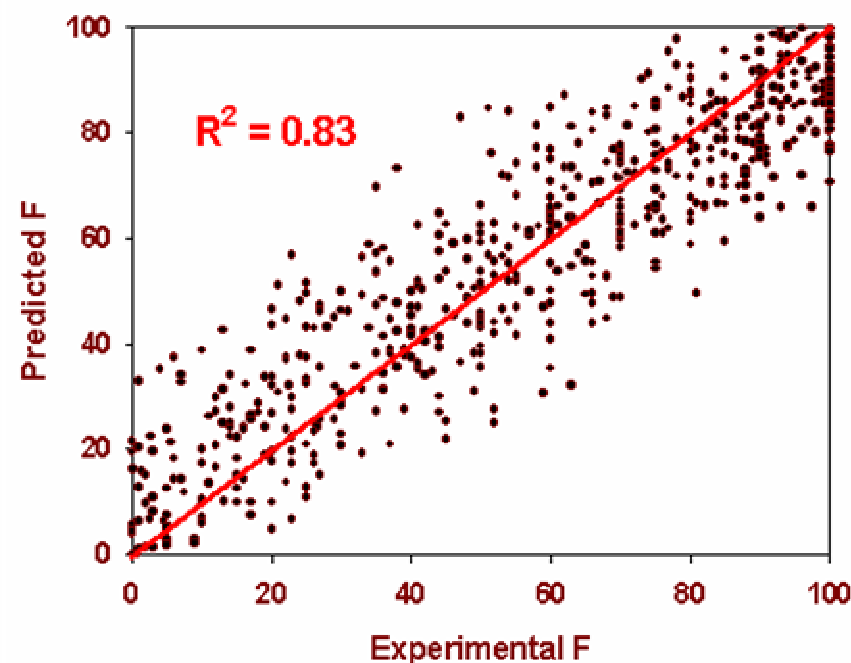
Slide: Courtesy Dr. A. Hussain, FDA

# High Attrition due to? [1]



NMEs (n=198)

Kennedy, T. (1997) Drug Discovery Today, 2, 436-444.



Yu, et al. Quantitative Structure Bioavailability Relationship (QSBR): Pharm Res. 17:639-644 (2000)



# The SIGMA Concept I

**FDA pushes forward the PAT Initiative for very good reasons:**

- ☀ The variability of most pharmaceutical processes needs to be reduced.
- ☀ The performance of a process can be described by its Sigma value.

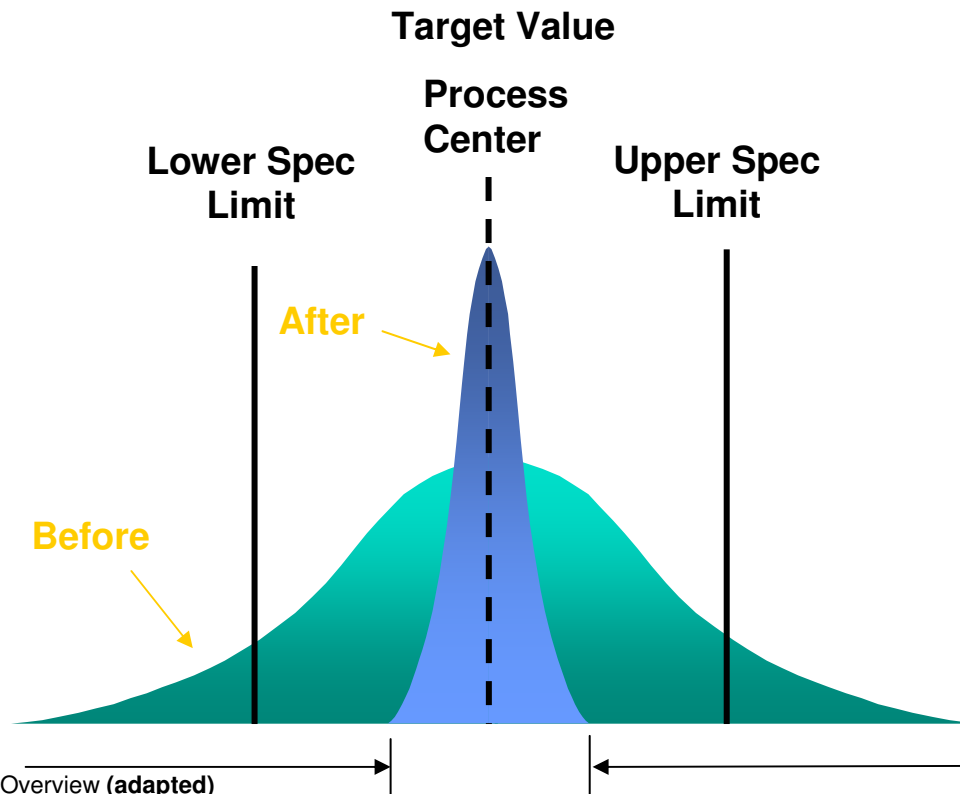


# The SIGMA Concept II

- ✿ The champion is the chip industry with a six Sigma manufacturing performance (**static values**)
  - i.e. with an amount of defective samples  $\leq 2$  ppb.
- ✿ The performance of the pharmaceutical industry is around 2 Sigma ( $\leq 4.6$  % defectives).

# 6 Sigma dynamic value in time !

- A customer-focused, data driven approach to understanding process variation (stability) and defect reduction (capability).
- A performance target of 3.4 defects per million opportunities.

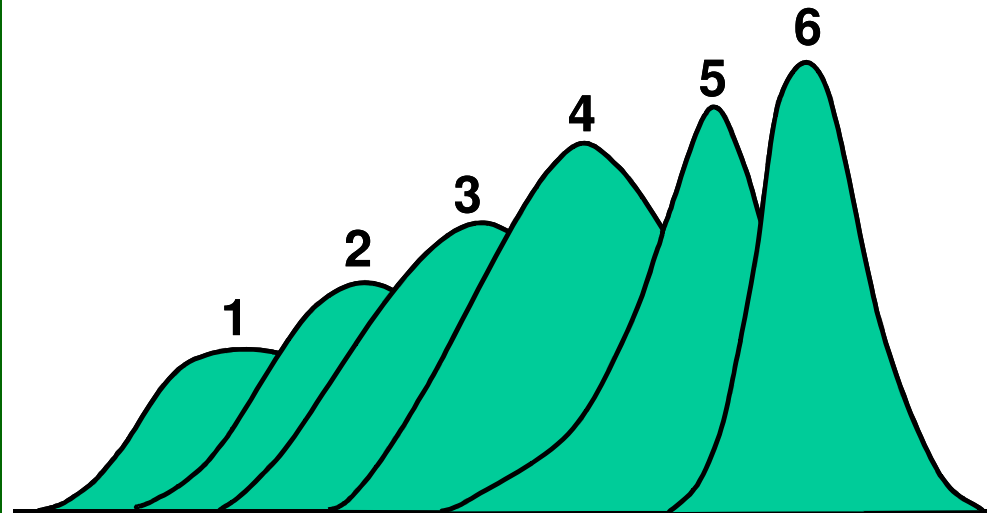


Source: Rath & Strong, Lean Sigma Overview (adapted)

# Sigma: A Measure of Process Capability

☀ Sigma is a measure that focuses on the variation of the process output.

<b>SIGMA</b>	<b>DPMO</b>	<b>YIELD</b>
0.0	1,000,000	0.0000%
1.0	691,462	30.8538%
2.0	308,538	69.1462%
3.0	66,807	93.3193%
4.0	6,210	99.3790%
5.0	233	99.9767%
6.0	3.4	99.9997%



# FDA Whitepaper March 2004

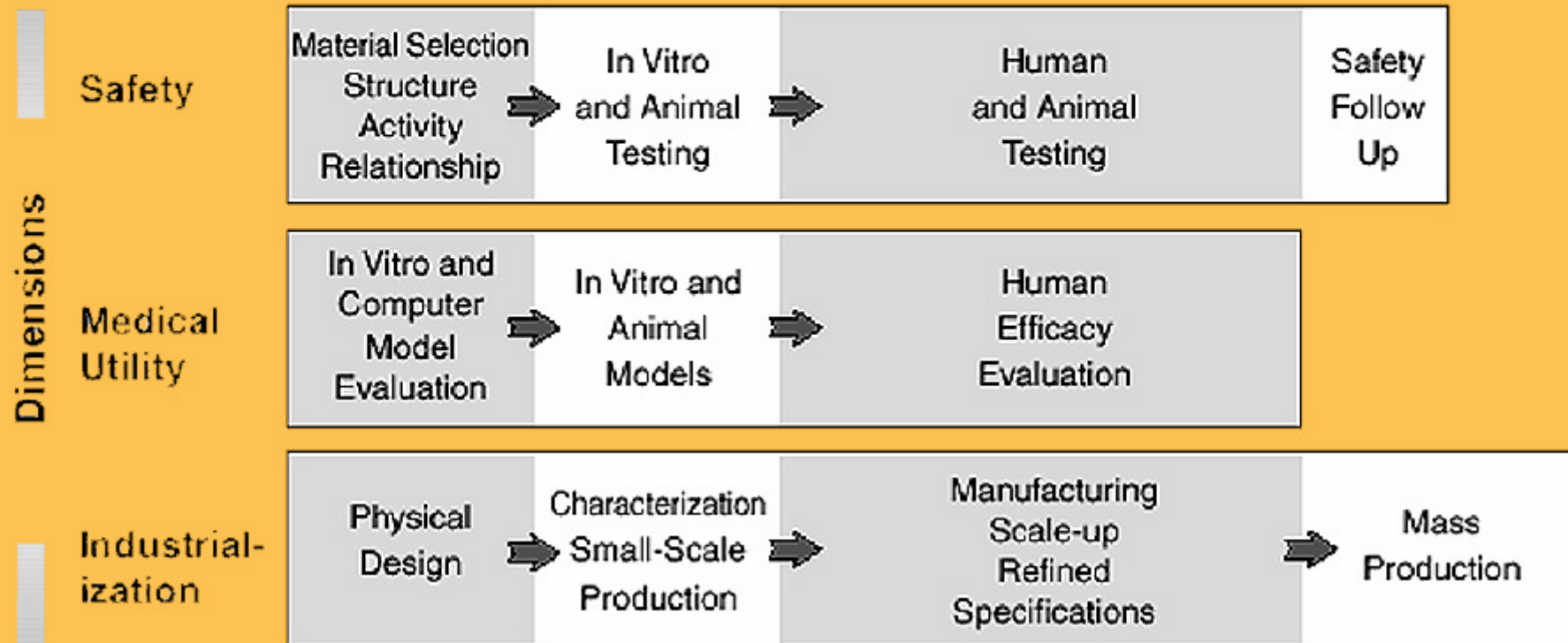
## Three Dimensions of the Critical Path

<b>Assessing Safety</b>	Show that product is adequately safe for each stage of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Preclinical:</b> product safe enough for early human testing Eliminate products with safety problems early</li><li>• <b>Clinical:</b> show that product is safe enough for commercial distribution</li></ul>
<b>Demonstrating Medical Utility</b>	Show that the product benefits people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Preclinical:</b> Select appropriate design (devices) or candidate (drugs) with high probability of effectiveness</li><li>• <b>Clinical:</b> Show effectiveness in people</li></ul>
<b>Industrialization</b>	Go from lab concept or prototype to manufacturable product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Design a high-quality product</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Physical design/Characterization/Specifications</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Develop mass production capacity</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Manufacturing scale-up/Quality control</li></ul></li></ul>



# FDA Whitepaper March 2004

## Three Dimensions of the Critical Path



# Product and Process Quality Knowledge: Science-Risk Based cGMP's

***Quality by Design  
Process Design***

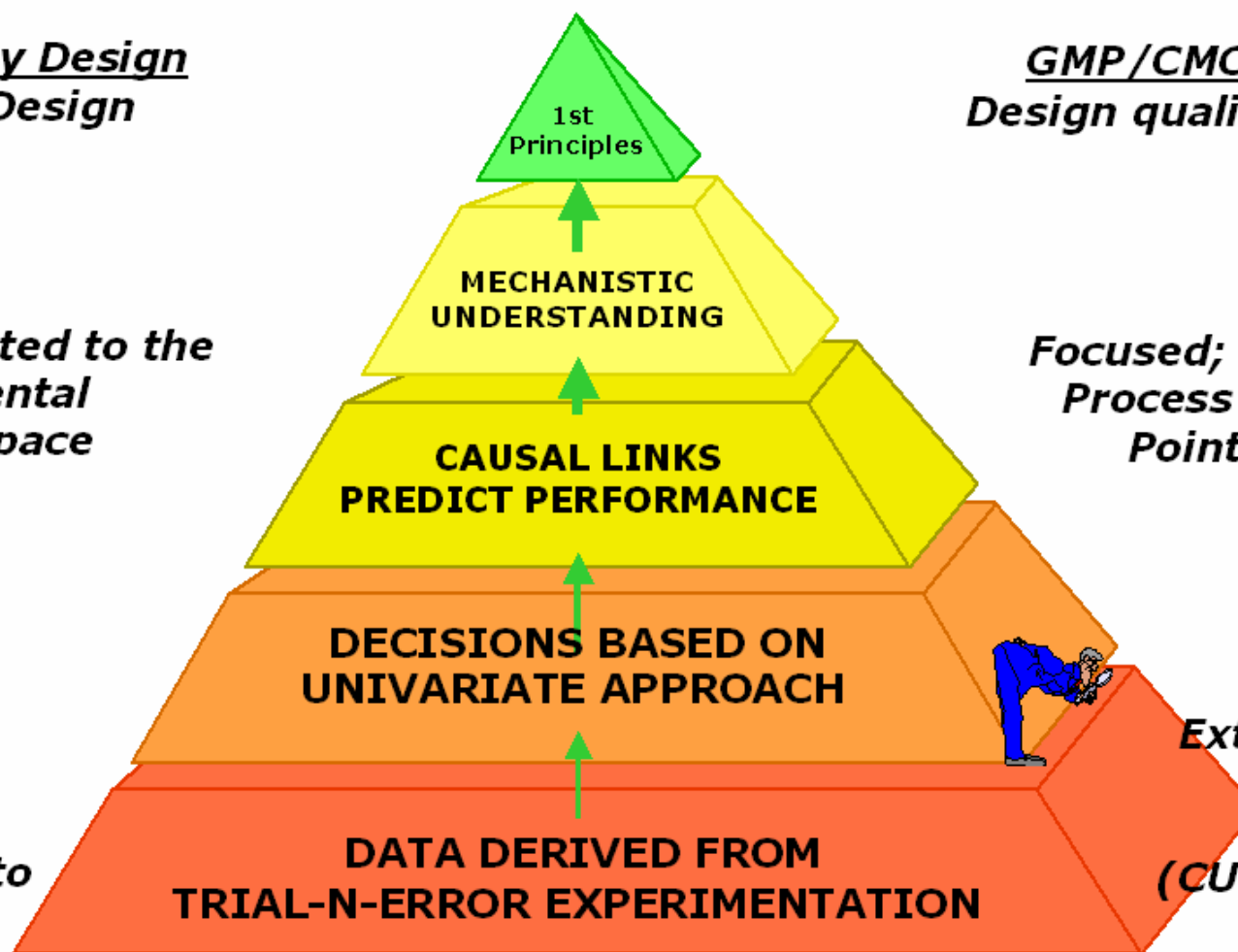
***GMP/CMC FOCUS  
Design qualification***

***Yes, Limited to the  
Experimental  
Design Space***

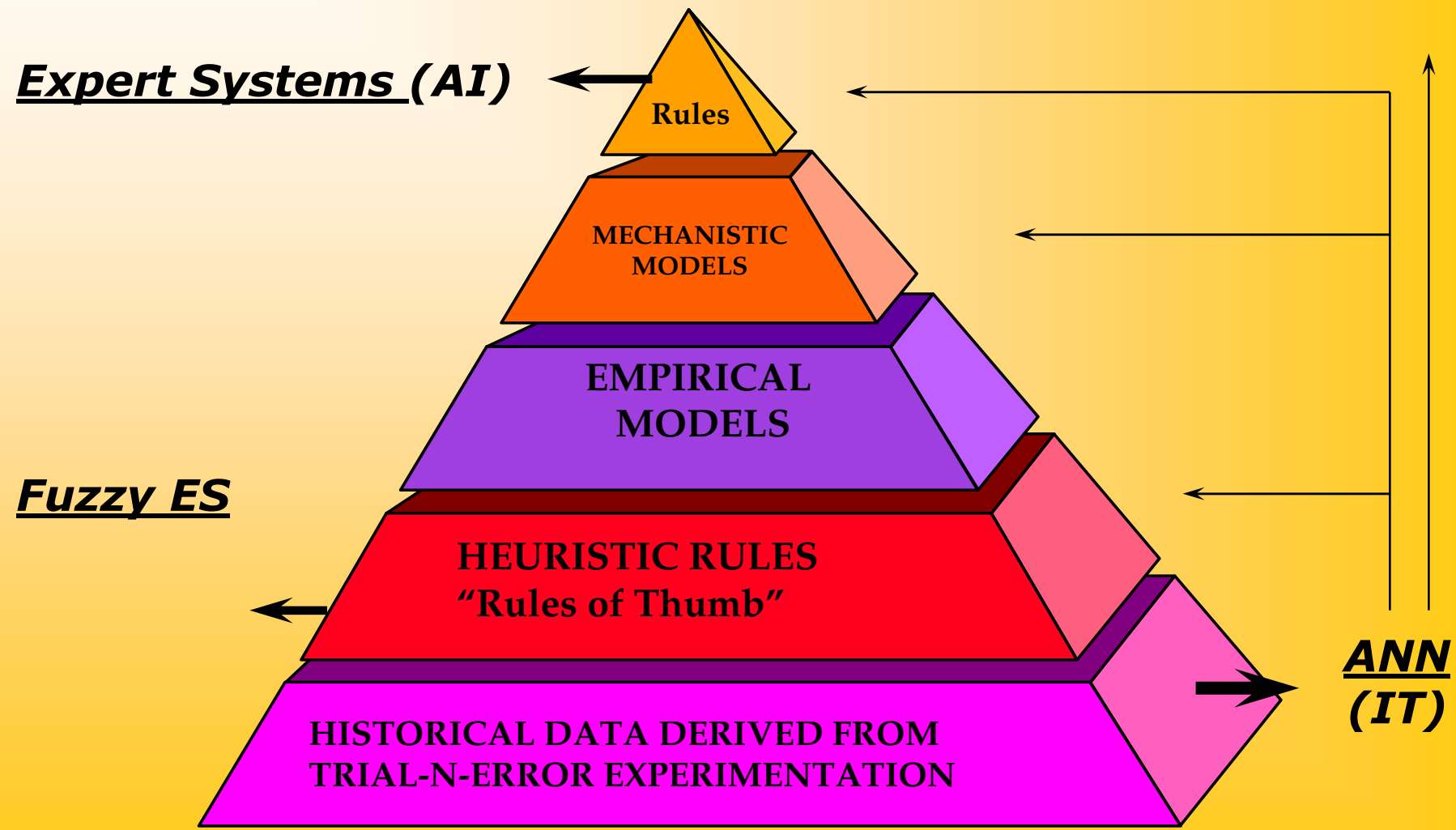
***Focused; Critical  
Process Control  
Points (PAT)***

***Maybe,  
Difficult to  
Assess***

***Extensive;  
Every  
Step  
(CURRENT)***



# Artificial Intelligence AI & Information Technology IT can Improve the Utility of Historical Data



# Prediction of optimum amount of disintegrant . . .

. . . to minimize the disintegration time (use of expert system CINCAP):

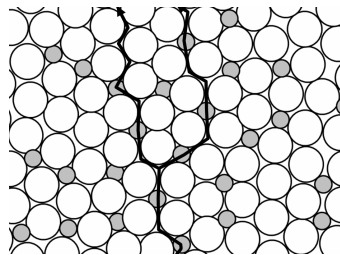
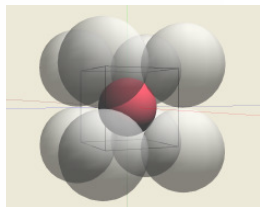
- based on percolation theory and cellular automata

mathematical description based only on geometrical and physical parameters independent on chemical properties of compounds!

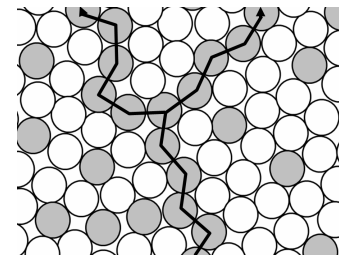
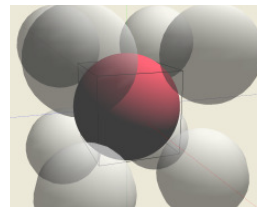


Two cases of water penetration into a tablet as a factor of particles size:

Case1:  $r \leq (\sqrt{3}-1) \times R$



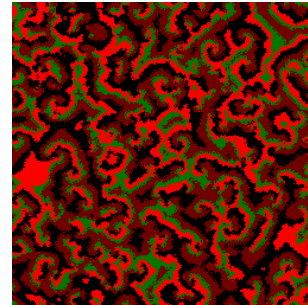
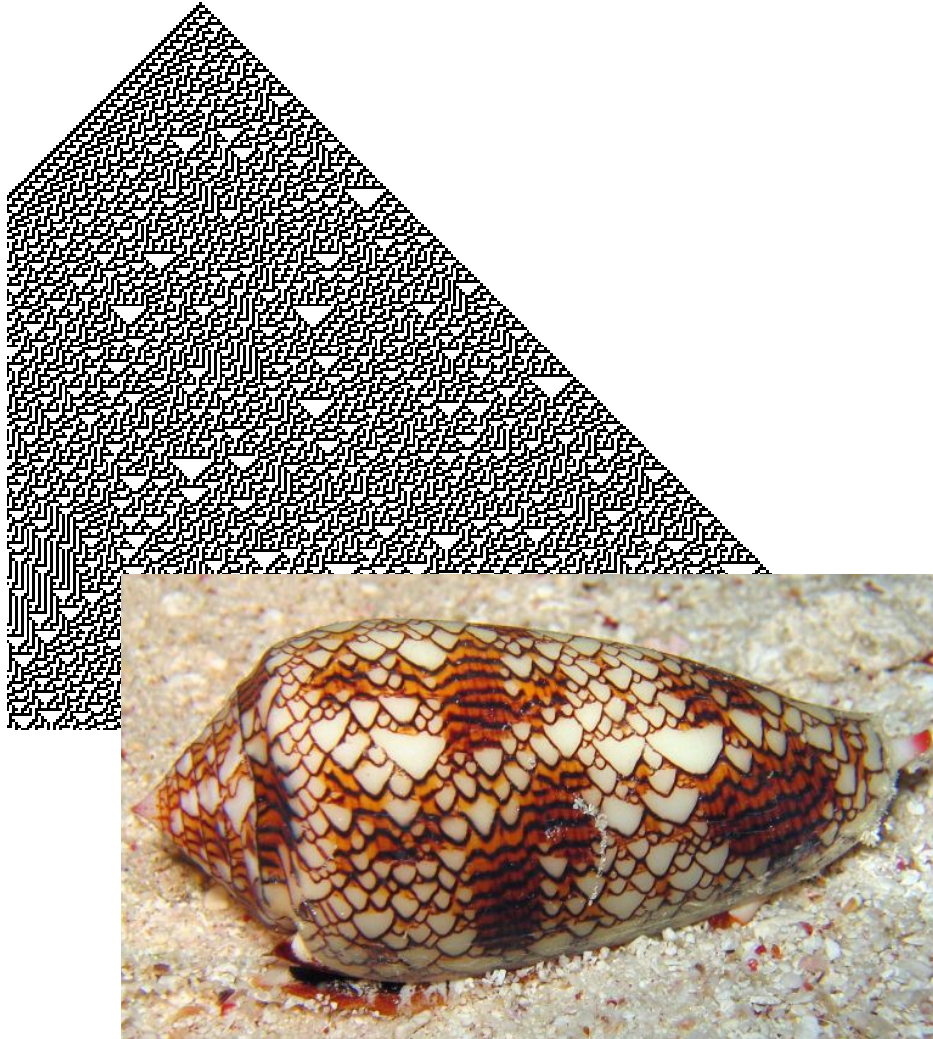
Case2:  $r > (\sqrt{3}-1) \times R$



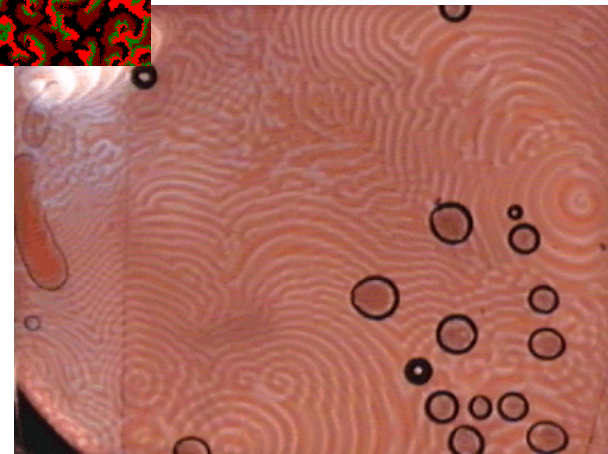
$$\chi_{dis} = \left( \frac{P_s^{rcp}}{1 - \epsilon} - \epsilon \right) \times 100$$

$$\chi_{dis} = \left( \frac{P_s^{rcp}}{1 - \epsilon} \right) \times 100$$

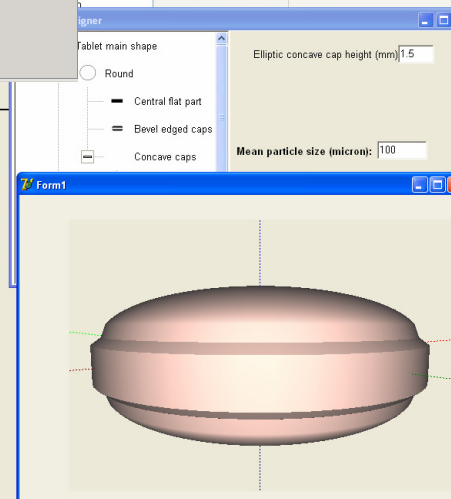
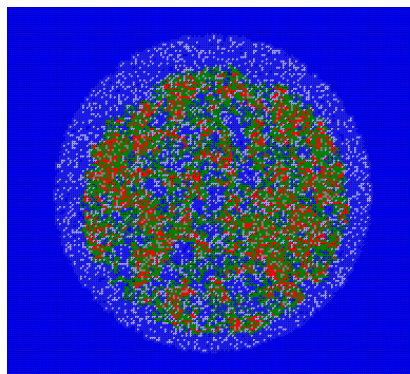
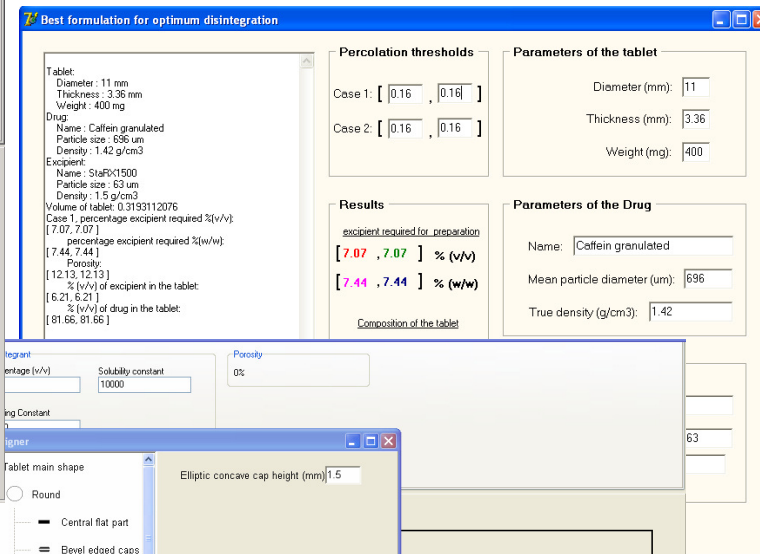
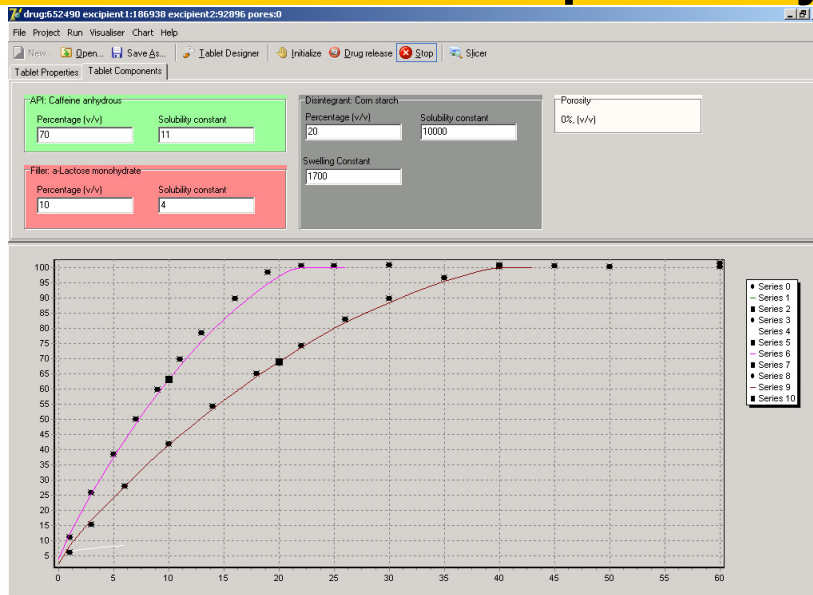
# Cellular automata enable to model natural phenomena



Belousov-Zhabotinski Reaction



# Formulation Design Studio: Expert System CINCAP





# Identification of critical processes

The wet agglomeration process

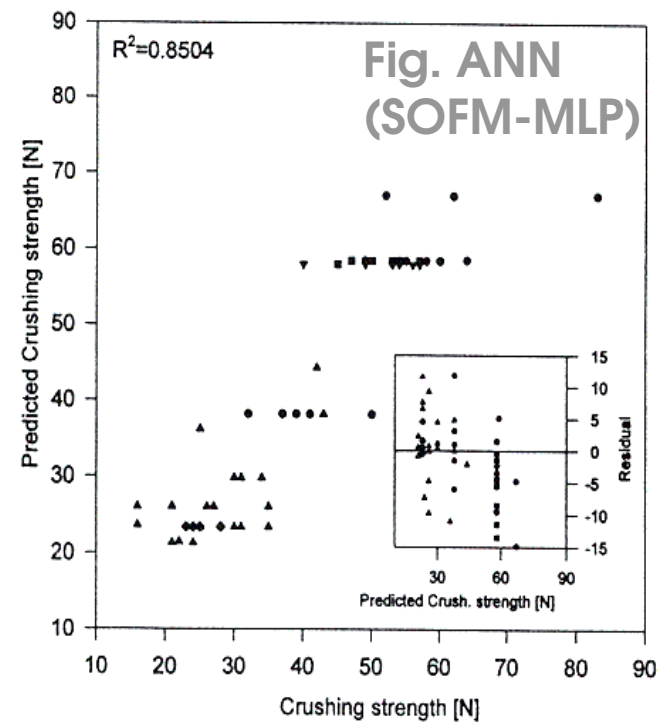
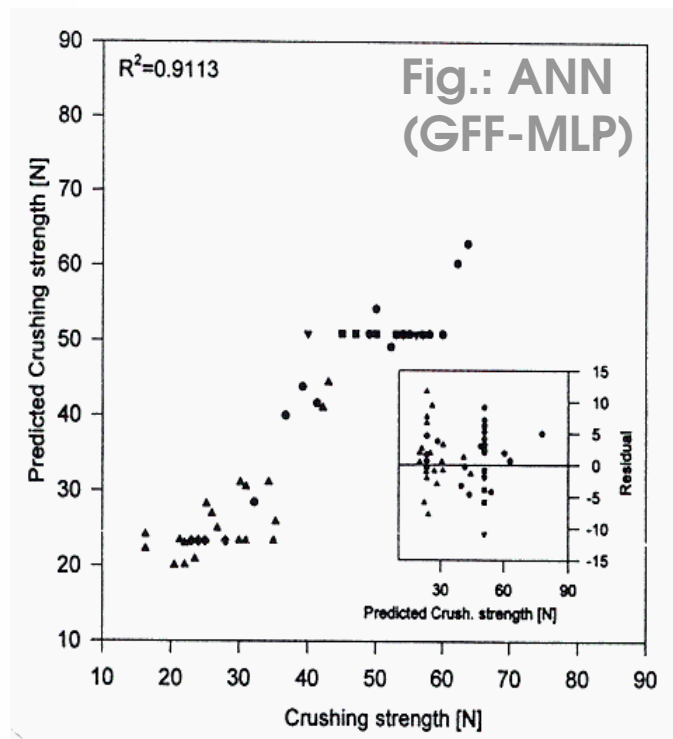
☀ Critical parameters

- The amount of granulation liquid
- The massing time
- The drying process

☀ Next slide: results of a experiments analysed with two ANN (Artificial neural networks)

# Results<sub>1</sub> of the 2 networks

and of the RSM – technique



Hardness (Crushing strength) values and  
dissolution rate data



# Results<sub>2</sub> of the 2 networks

and of the RSM - technique

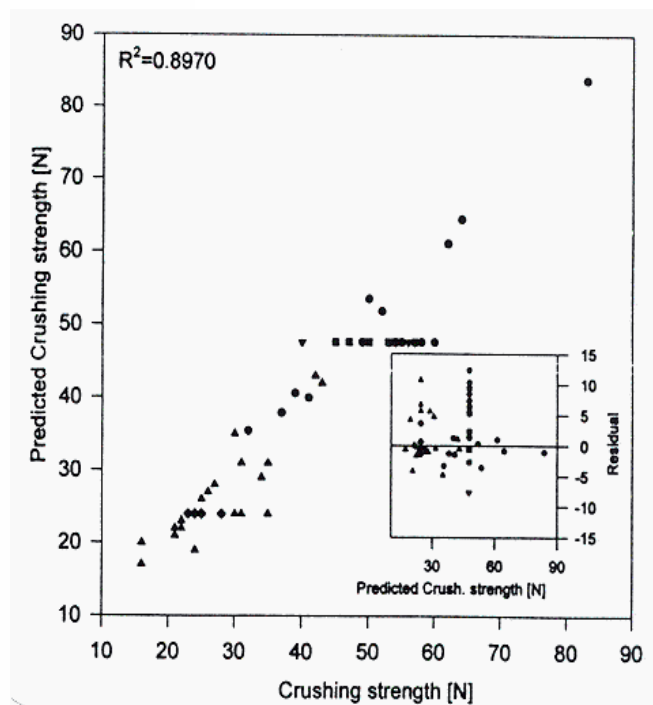


Fig.: RSM - technique

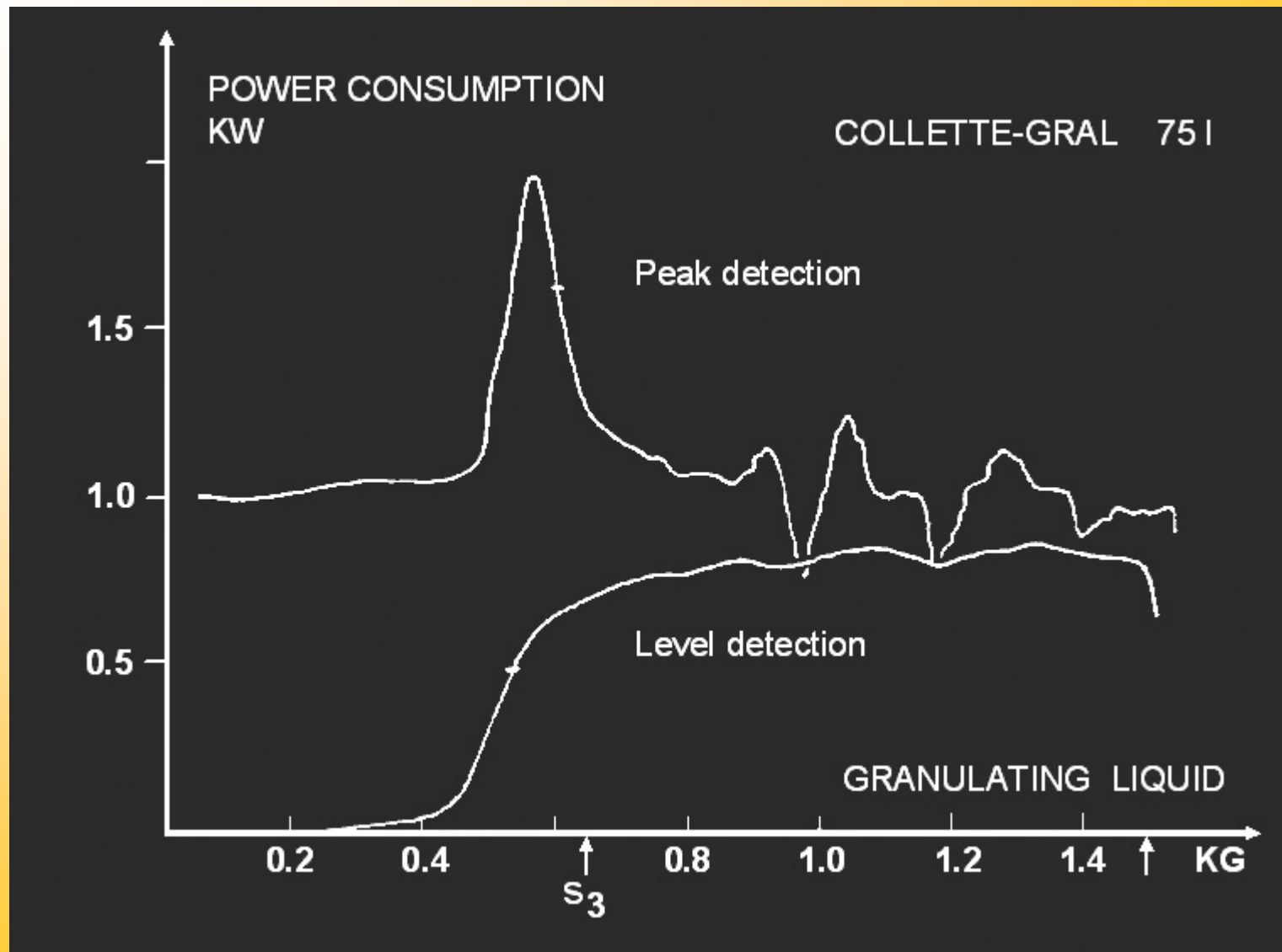
*Percentage of Drug Dissolved After 15 min (%)*  
*R-Square Results for the Tablet Compression Study*

	GFF-MLP	SOFM-MLP	RSM
$R^2$ without factor "Batch"	0.2589	0.1040	0.1366
$R^2$ with factor "Batch"	0.8809	0.8775	0.8679

*Time to 50% Drug Dissolution (min)*  
*R-Square Results for the Tablet Compression Study*

	GFF-MLP	SOFM-MLP	RSM
$R^2$ without factor "Batch"	0.3411	0.2942	0.2739
$R^2$ with factor "Batch"	0.8709	0.8536	0.8449

Fig. R<sub>2</sub> - Results „Dissolution Rate“



# Wet agglomeration process - manual and automatic mode

Type of mode	yield (% w/w) 90 - 710 $\mu\text{m}$	% undersize < 710 $\mu\text{m}$	undersize < 90 $\mu\text{m}$
Manual mode n = 20 batches	81.03 $\pm$ 2.42	88.30 $\pm$ 2.05	6.80 $\pm$ 0.51
Automatic mode n = 18 batches	91.45 $\pm$ 0.36	96.80 $\pm$ 0.31	5.40 $\pm$ 0.35



# Identification of critical processes

## 2. Scale-up exercise

☀ the major problem consists in the fact, that the formulation is optimised on a small scale equipment, but is no longer optimal on a large scale equipment.

→ Leuenberger H., New Trends in the Production of Pharm. Granules: The classical batch concept and the problem of scale-up / Batch versus continuous processing.

Eur. J. Pharm. Biopharm. 52(3), 2001, 279-296.

# Classical scale-up: Pfizer Technology Service Center Freiburg



## **Total area:**

4,240 m<sup>2</sup>

2,450 m<sup>2</sup> GMP related

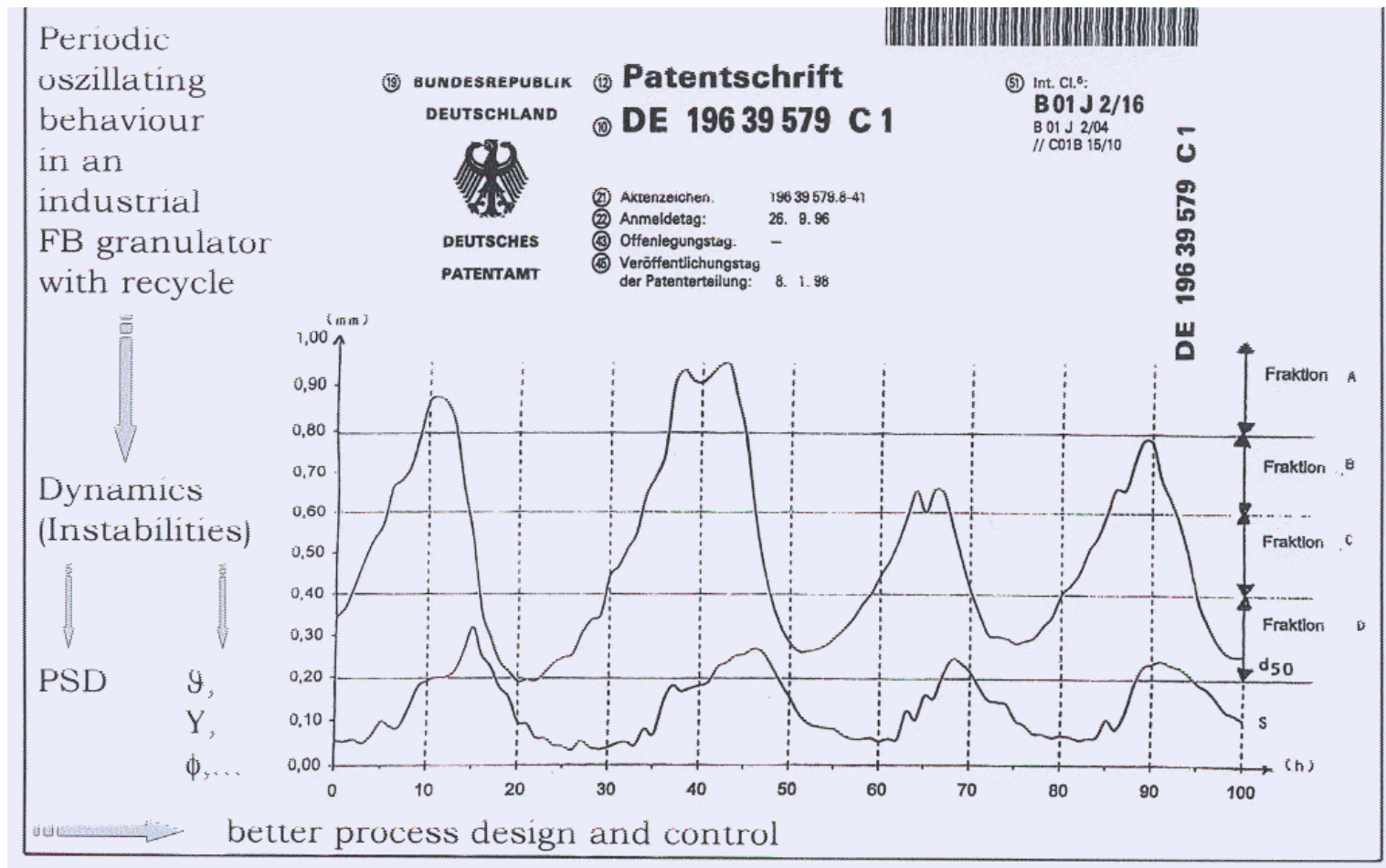
1,790 m<sup>2</sup> Tech. Infrastructure

## **Capacity:**

250 Mio. - 1,500 Mio.  
SKUs/Year

# Real continuous or preferably a quasi-continuous process?

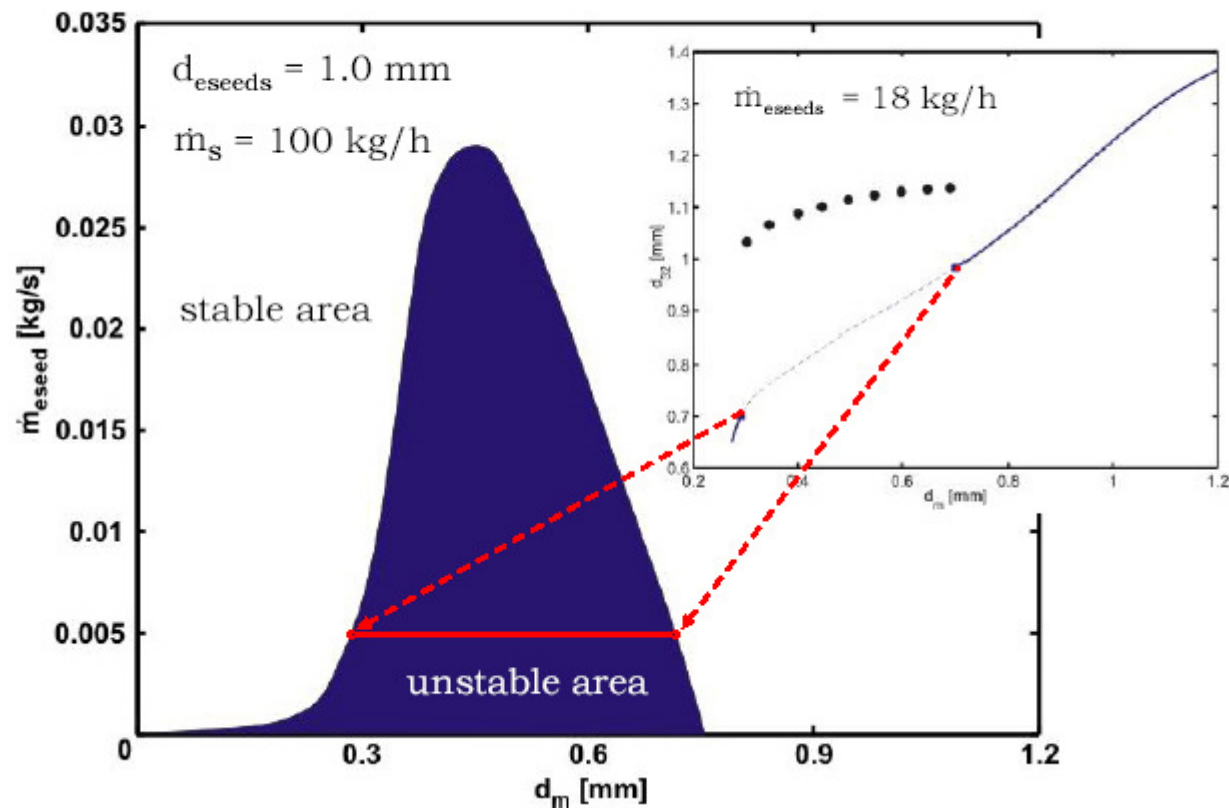
Problem of a dynamic instability in the real continuous granulation process



# Real continuous: instability (Numerical Bifurcation Analysis)

## 2 Parameter Continuation

Influence of milling and external seeds





# Literature

Heinrich, S., Peglow, M., Mörl, L.:

*Unsteady and steady state particle size distributions in batch and continuous fluidized bed granulation systems,*  
Chemical Engineering Journal, 6 (2002) 1-2, 223-231.

Heinrich, S., Peglow, M., Ihlow, M., Henneberg, M., Mörl, L.:

*Analysis of the start-up process in continuous fluidized bed spray granulation by population balance modelling,*  
Chemical Engineering Science, 57 (2002), 4369-4390.

Heinrich, S., Peglow, M., Ihlow, M., Mörl, L.:

*Particle population modeling in fluidized bed-spray granulation - Analysis of the steady-state and unsteady behavior,*  
Powder Technology, 130 (2003) 1-3, 154-161.

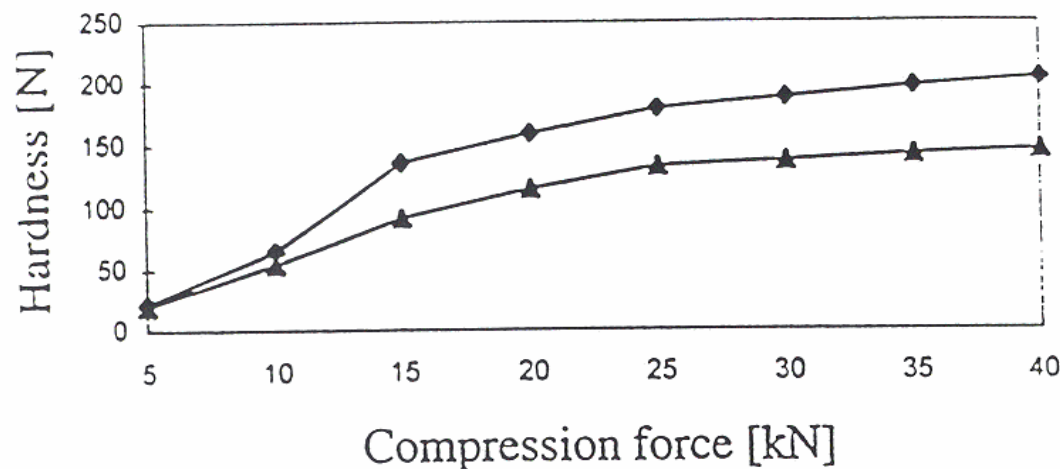
Radichkov, R., Kienle, A., Heinrich, S., Müller, T., Peglow, M., Mörl, L.:

*A numerical bifurcation analysis of continuous fluidized bed spray granulation with external classification,*  
Chemical Engineering and Processing (submitted).



# Scale – up Surprises

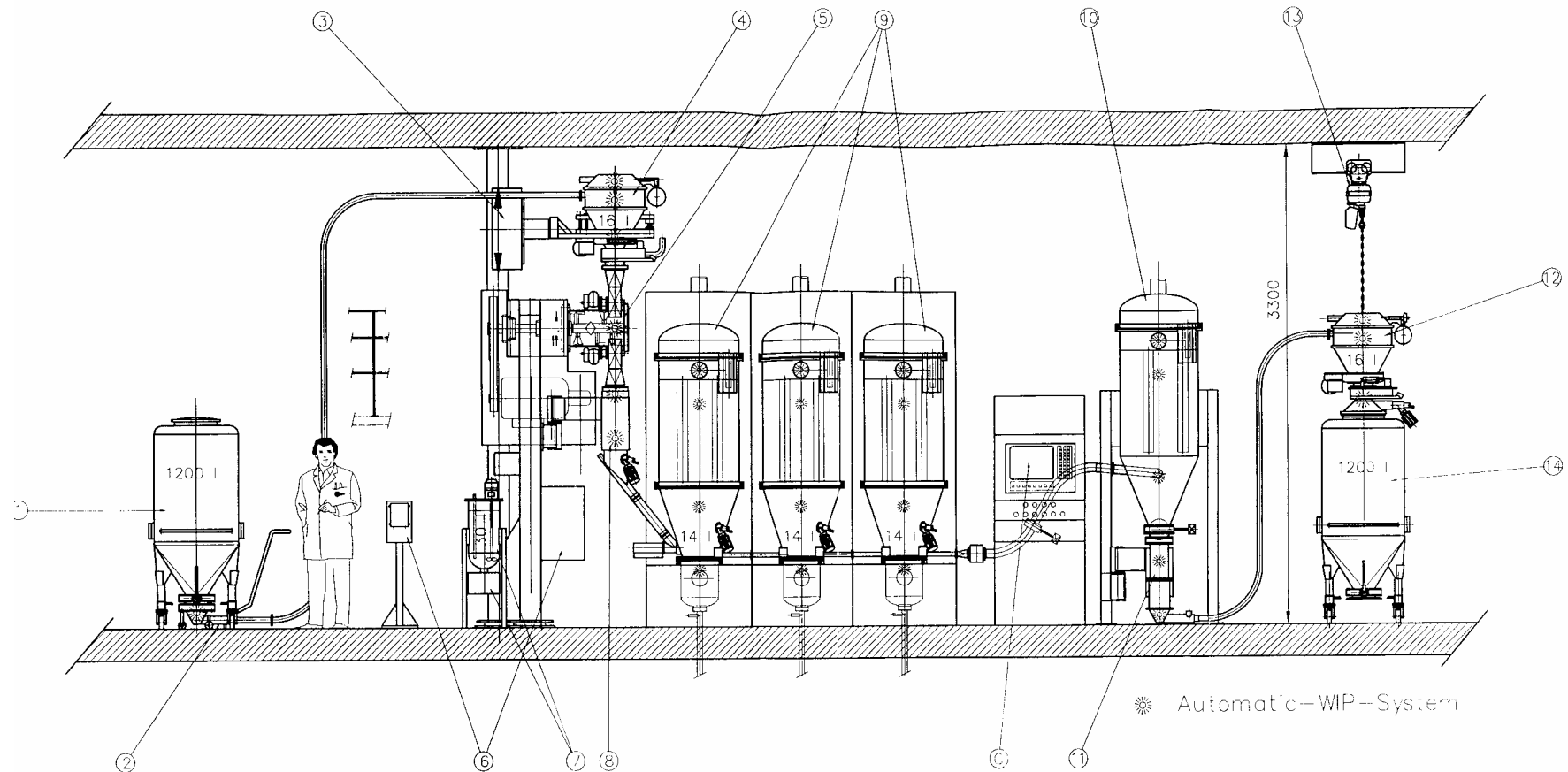
- Granule properties manufactured at a small scale (e.g. 7kg subunit Glatt Multicell) may differ from a large scale operation (Diosna P-600, 600 Liters)
- Comparison Glatt Multicell™ and Conventional



—◆— Glatt Multicell  
—▲— Diosna P-600

Tablet Properties:  
Compression  
profile  
(scale-up effect!)

# How to avoid conventional scale-up



The Glatt® Multicell™ equipment  
for small and large batches

# Glatt® MULTICELL™

Pfizer - Goedecke  
Technology Center  
Freiburg, Germany





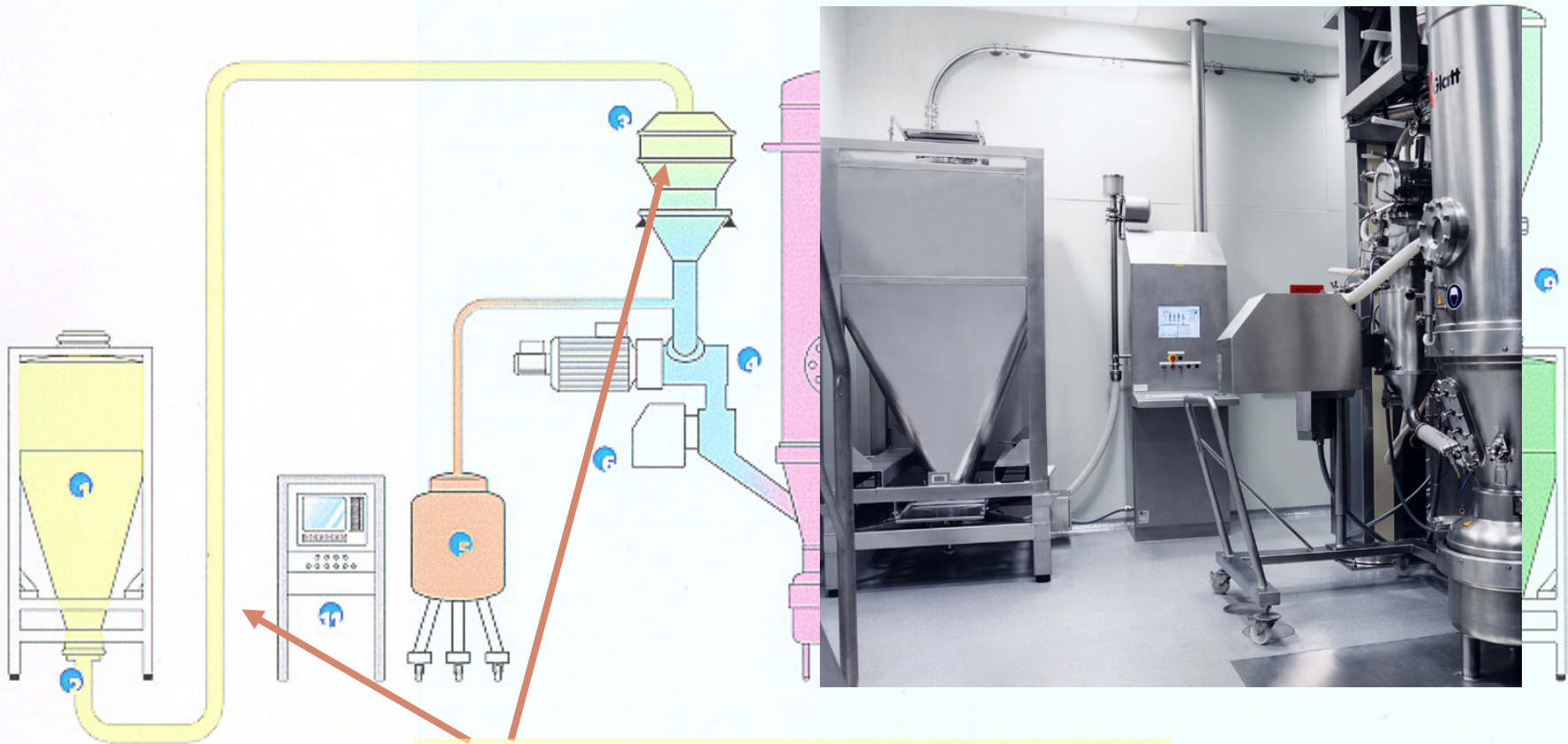
# Case Study for Innovation

- ✦ Development of new solid oral dosage technologies should focus on four targets
  - **Move away** from batch concepts to full continuous processes for manufacturing.
  - **Optimize** manufacturing processes with regard to floor space and cycle times.
  - **Support** parametric release through in-line testing.
  - **Minimize** scale-up requirements during drug product development.

# Case Study for Innovation

## Glatt Multicell GMC 30

Semi continuous granulation and drying process

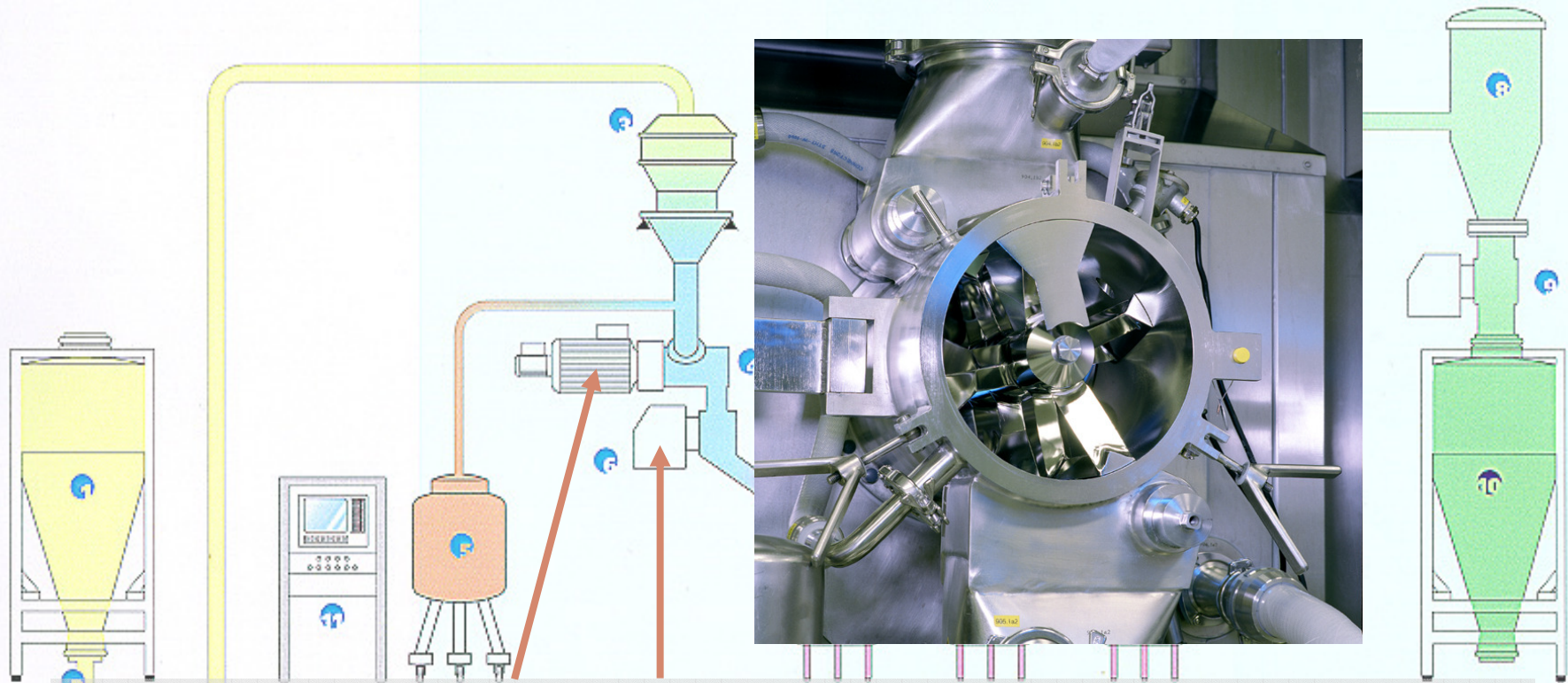


**Feeding and dosing system**

# Case Study for Innovation

## Glatt Multicell GMC 30

Semi continuous granulation and drying process

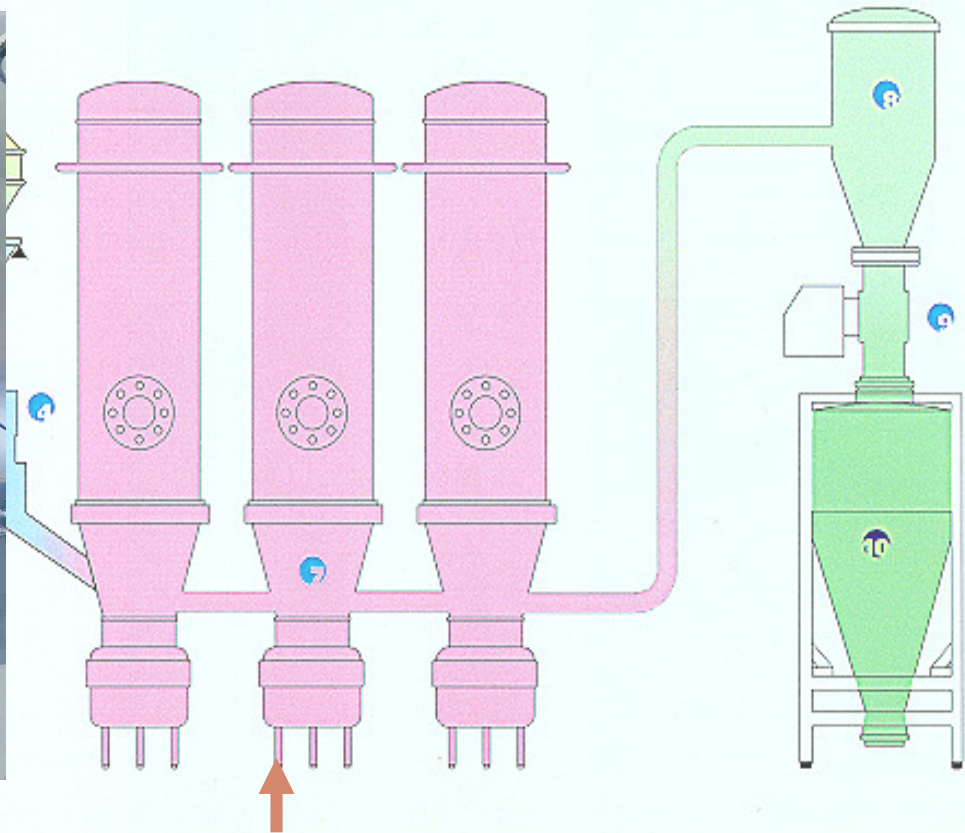


**Horizontal 30 liter high-speed plough-shear mixer and rotary high-speed sieving machine for wet sieving**

# Case Study for Innovation

## Glatt Multicell GMC 30

Semi continuous granulation and drying process

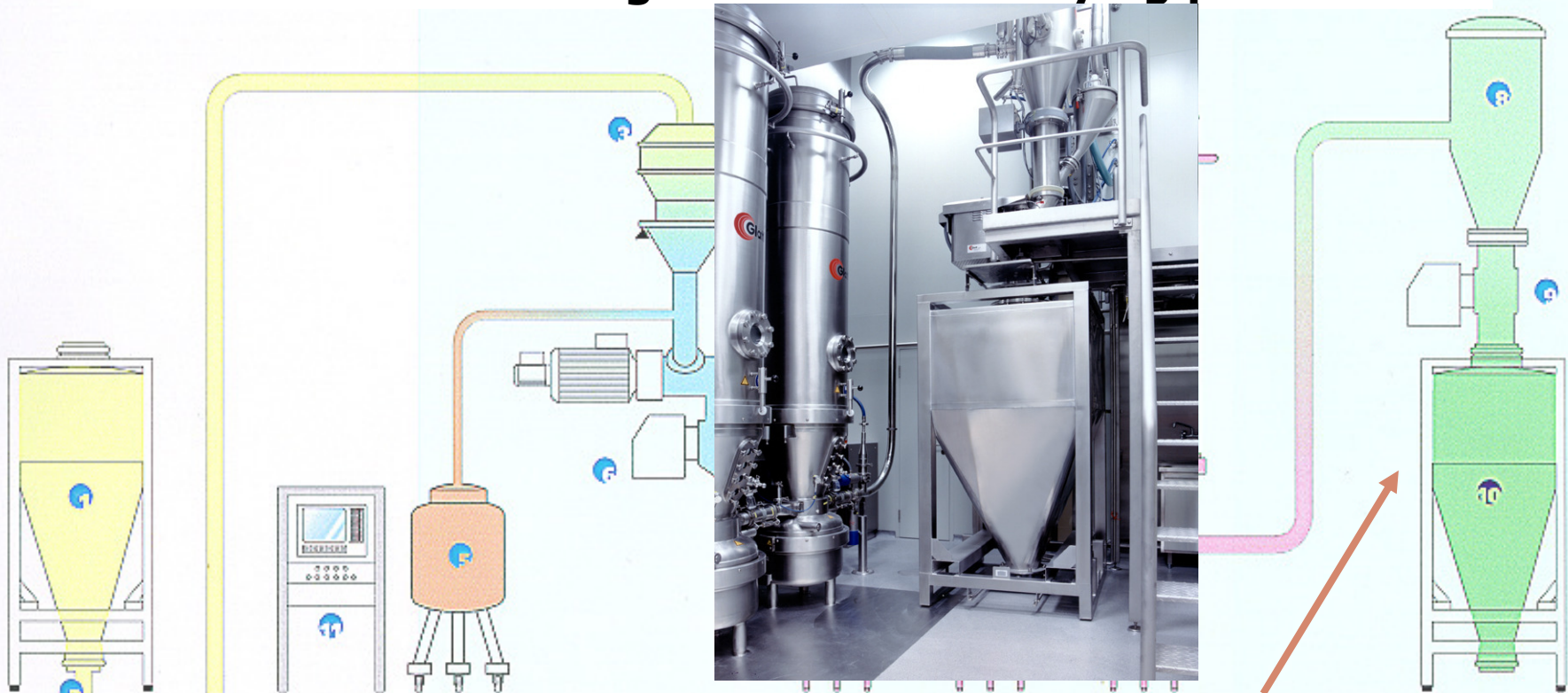


**Three sequential fluid-bed dryers**

# Case Study for Innovation

## Glatt Multicell GMC 30

Semi continuous granulation and drying process



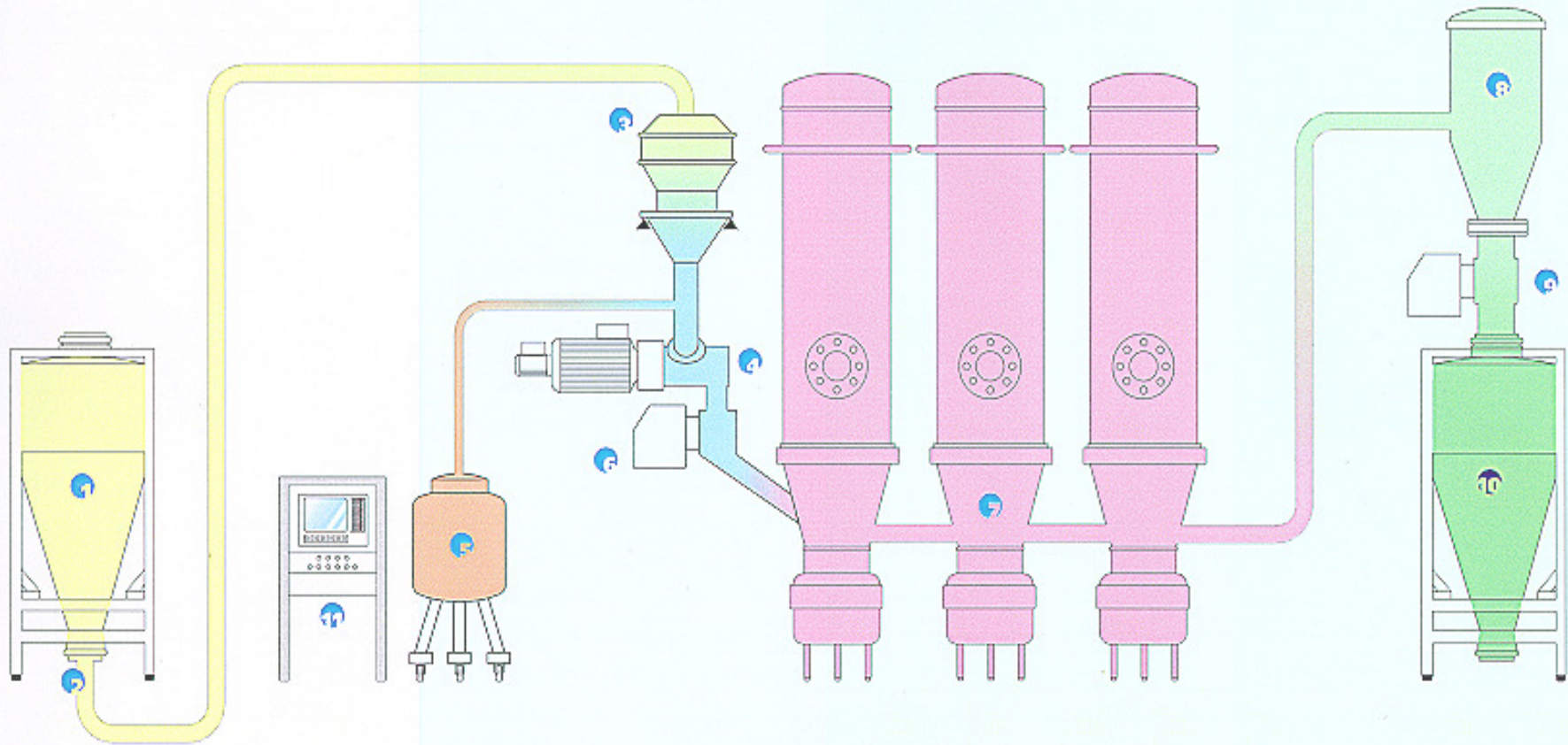
**Rotary high-speed sieving machine for dry sieving and final product container**



# Case Study for Innovation

## Glatt Multicell GMC 30

Semi continuous granulation and drying process





# Highlights of the Glatt MULTICELL™ CONCEPT

## ☀ Reduction of Time to Market

- can be best achieved if the R+D Department and the Production Department has the identical equipment to avoid any scale-up exercise, which means in practice:

## ☀ Optimize and validate

- only once your formulation and process!

## ☀ A top quality and robust formulation

- can be developed, which is not only optimal for small but also for large scale production.

## ☀ There is no need

- for a “Bioequivalence” test between small and large scale batches due to a difference in the equipment/performance.



# Highlights of the Glatt MULTICELL™ CONCEPT

## ☀ Early small scale batches

- have the same quality as large scale production batches and can be used for long term stability trials etc.

## ☀ An Increase in the Productivity

- as a result of Unattended Production, Lights-out operation

## ☀ Goal:

- Significant Reduction of Cycle Time and Better Use of the capacity of the equipment



# Case Study for Innovation

## Summary of the Glatt Multicell Technology

- ☀ Process optimization of a small scale.
- ☀ No scale-up as pilot scale is identical with commercial scale.
- ☀ Stability results are available at an early development stage.
- ☀ No need for multiple bio-studies.



# Case Study for Innovation

Technology	Lödige 900/WSG 300	Multicell	
Process	Batch process	Continuous process	
Batch size	Fixed to equipment capacity	Flexible depending on process time	
Mode of operation	Manual-driven and monitored	Almost lights-out-operated	
Floor space	130 m <sup>2</sup>	100 m <sup>2</sup>	-23%
Investment	1,6 Mio. US\$	2 Mio. US\$	+25%
Volume of equipment	900 l (270 +/- 50 kg)	30 l (8 +/- 2 kg)	
Output	55 kg/h	96 kg/h	+75%
Overall output	10 kg/24 h/m <sup>2</sup>	20 kg/24 h/m <sup>2</sup>	+100%

# Glatt® MULTICELL™

Pfizer - Goedecke  
Technology Center  
Freiburg, Germany





# Continuous Dry Agglomeration

## Roll compaction

### Advantages

- ☀ Fully continuous
- ☀ Ideal for water sensitive drugs
- ☀ Addition of water and removal of water by drying not necessary

# Continuous Dry Agglomeration





# Continuous Dry Agglomeration





# Continuous Dry Agglomeration

## **Roll compaction**

### Disadvantages

- ☀ Not all drugs/excipients are suitable for roller compaction
- ☀ Amount of fines produced can be too high
- ☀ Recycling of fines is not well received by regulatory agencies



# Continuous Dry Agglomeration

## Roll compaction

### Disadvantages

- ☀ Produced quality depends on the compressibility/compactibility properties of the primary material
  - i.e. on the amount of crystalline defects, which can considerably change the properties  
soft iron versus hardened iron
  - and on the purity!



# Continuous processes

## Possible future developments

### ☀ Should we use Micro-Reactors?

- For small specific “batches” (personalized medicine)
- For nano-particulate medicine
- For use in the early development stage, where only a small amount of drug is available



# Continuous processes

## **Example:** Research Project

### Production of nanoparticulate aerosols




### **Aerosol Particle Processing in Micromixers**

**M. Heim<sup>1)</sup>, R. Wengeler<sup>1)</sup>, S. Dreher<sup>2)</sup>, N. Kockmann<sup>2)</sup>, P. Woias<sup>2)</sup>,  
S. Mall-Gleissle<sup>1)</sup>, K-H. Schaber<sup>1)</sup>, H. Nirschl<sup>1)</sup> and G. Kasper<sup>1)</sup>**

Institut für Mechanische Verfahrenstechnik und Mechanik, Universität Karlsruhe (TH), 76128  
Karlsruhe, Germany

Institut für Mikrosystemtechnik, Universität Freiburg, Georges-Köhler-Allee 103, 79119 Freiburg,  
Germany




# Production of nanoparticulate aerosols

Designing particle-based materials with complex product properties is

✦ often more easily achieved


- through continuous, multistage processes,
- rather than using classical unit operations.



# Production of nanoparticulate aerosols

Micro-reactor technology has already demonstrated its

- ✿ suitability for many liquid phase applications and
- ✿ shows considerable potential to improve certain tasks in aerosol processing,
  - e.g. by promoting rapid mixing of aerosol streams to produce more uniform dispersions and coatings.



# Production of nanoparticulate aerosols


The large surface-to-volume ratio of the micro-reactor

- which is advantageous in many applications

☀ requires special attention

to be given to unwanted particle deposition  
on the micro-channel walls.





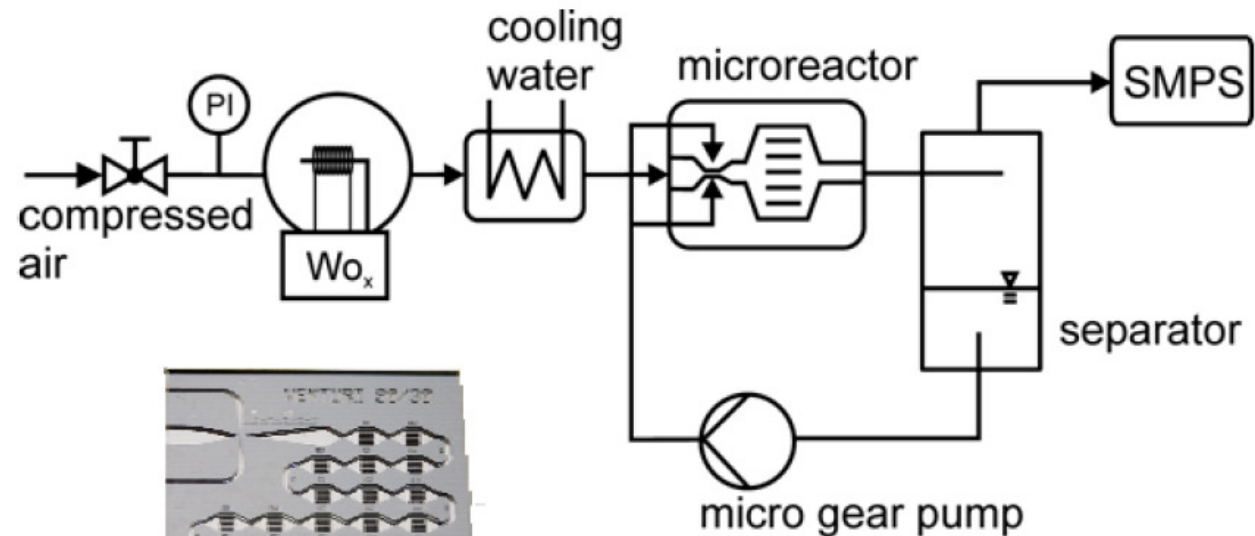
# Production of nanoparticulate aerosols

The large surface-to-volume ratio

☀️ is important for temperature driven processes,  
as it increases the heat transfer greatly.

# Experimental setup for the deposition into a liquid media

The produced particle size distributions were measured by a standard SMPS System\* with optional dilution.



\* M.Heim, G.P.Reischl,  
C.Gerhard and G.Kasper:  
Performance of a new commercial Electrical Mobility Spectrometer;  
Aerosol Sci.Tech. 38 (S2), 2004, 3-14



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Thank you for your attention

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Maxim Puchkov

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llc

Institute for innovation in industrial pharmacy

Prof. Dr. Hans Leuenberger

