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THE **GREENCHILL** PARTNERSHIP



# Introduction to CO2 Cascade Systems

June 21<sup>th</sup> , 2012



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- ▶ Recording will be available on GreenChill LinkedIn site and GreenChill website, under “Events and Webinars”: [www.epa.gov/greenchill](http://www.epa.gov/greenchill)
- ▶ Phones are muted (#6 to unmute)



# Q & A

- ▶ Q&A session after presentation
- ▶ Submit your questions using CHAT at anytime; we'll go through them during Q&A
  - ▶ If you'd like to remain anonymous, send your question by CHAT to Keilly Witman instead of to all participants
- ▶ Raise your hand during Q&A (hand button is on lower right of screen)



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**Today's speaker.....**



# Rusty Walker – Hill PHOENIX Learning Center

Rusty Walker

Senior Corporate Trainer

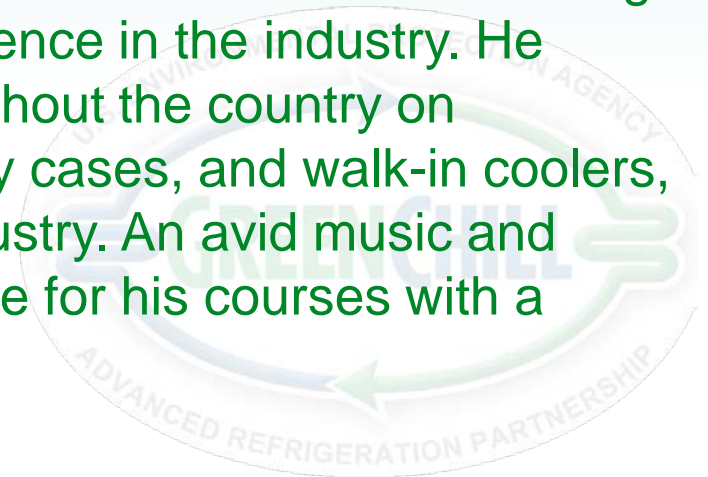
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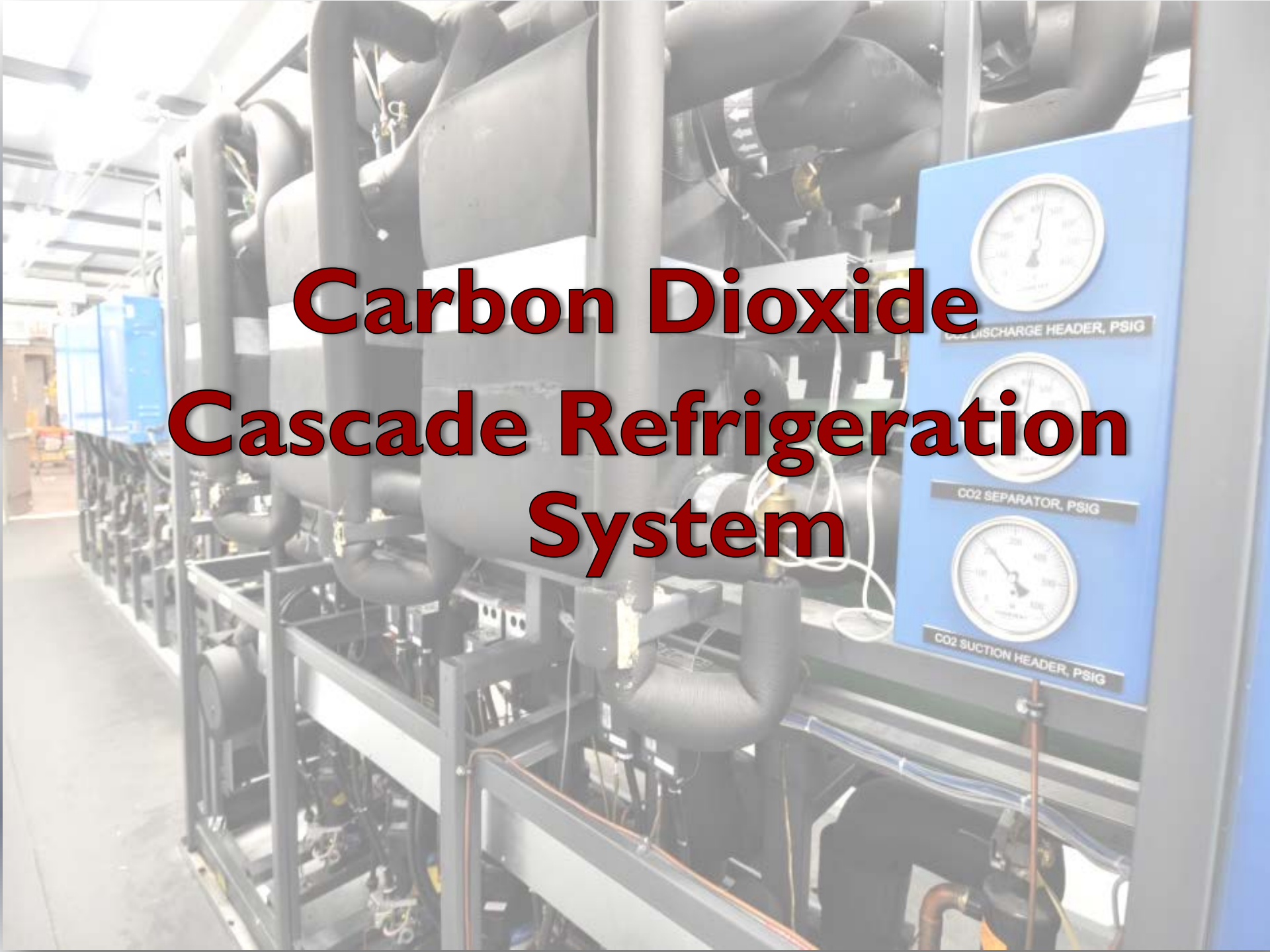


**Rusty Walker** is a Senior Corporate Trainer with Hill PHOENIX Learning Center. He has more than 25 years of experience in the industry. He conducts many courses and seminars throughout the country on refrigeration systems, power systems, display cases, and walk-in coolers, and is well versed in most aspects of the industry. An avid music and baseball enthusiast, Rusty often sets the tone for his courses with a lively tune.





# Carbon Dioxide Cascade Refrigeration System





# Useful Definitions

## Direct Expansion

A refrigeration system that includes a compressor, condenser, evaporator coil, and an expansion device

## Primary Refrigerant

A fluid used to lower the temperature of a secondary coolant (i.e. R-22, R-404a, R-507, R-410A, R-717, etc...)

## Secondary Coolant

(a.k.a Secondary Refrigerant, Secondary Fluid) A fluid used to transfer heat from a heat source (i.e. refrigerated space) to a primary refrigerant.

## Single-Phase Secondary Coolant

(a.k.a Secondary Refrigerant, Secondary Fluid) A fluid used to transfer heat from a heat source (i.e. refrigerated space) to a primary refrigerant.

## Two-Phase Secondary Coolant

a secondary fluid which absorbs heat by means of latent heat transfer resulting in a change in phase (i.e. carbon dioxide, ice-slurries)

# Useful Definitions

## Cascade System

A system having two (or more) refrigerant circuits, each with a compressor, condenser and evaporator, where the evaporator of one circuit cools the condenser of another circuit

## Upper Cascade

the refrigerant circuit in a cascade system that cools the condenser of the lower-cascade and transfers the heat to a heat sink, typically outdoor ambient

## Lower Cascade

The refrigerant circuit in a cascade system that removes heat from a refrigerated load and transfers the heat to the upper-cascade

# Subcritical vs. Transcritical

- **Subcritical** - CO<sub>2</sub> systems where the pressure of the CO<sub>2</sub> is maintained well below the critical pressure of 87°F / ~1055 psig
- Operating pressures for subcritical systems are slightly higher than those in conventional direct-expansion systems but are similar to those seen in air-conditioning applications using **R-410A**.
- **Transcritical** - CO<sub>2</sub> systems that are designed to operate at pressures above the critical pressure, above 1055 psig.

# Triple Point vs. Critical Point

- Triple Point
- Liquid CO<sub>2</sub> below 60PSIG changes to Dry Ice



- Critical Point
- 87°F = 1055 psig
- No longer able to distinguish between liquid and vapor.
- An undefined gas.
- Only found in a Transcritical system.

**Carbon Dioxide** is used as a secondary coolant or a Direct Expansion Refrigerant

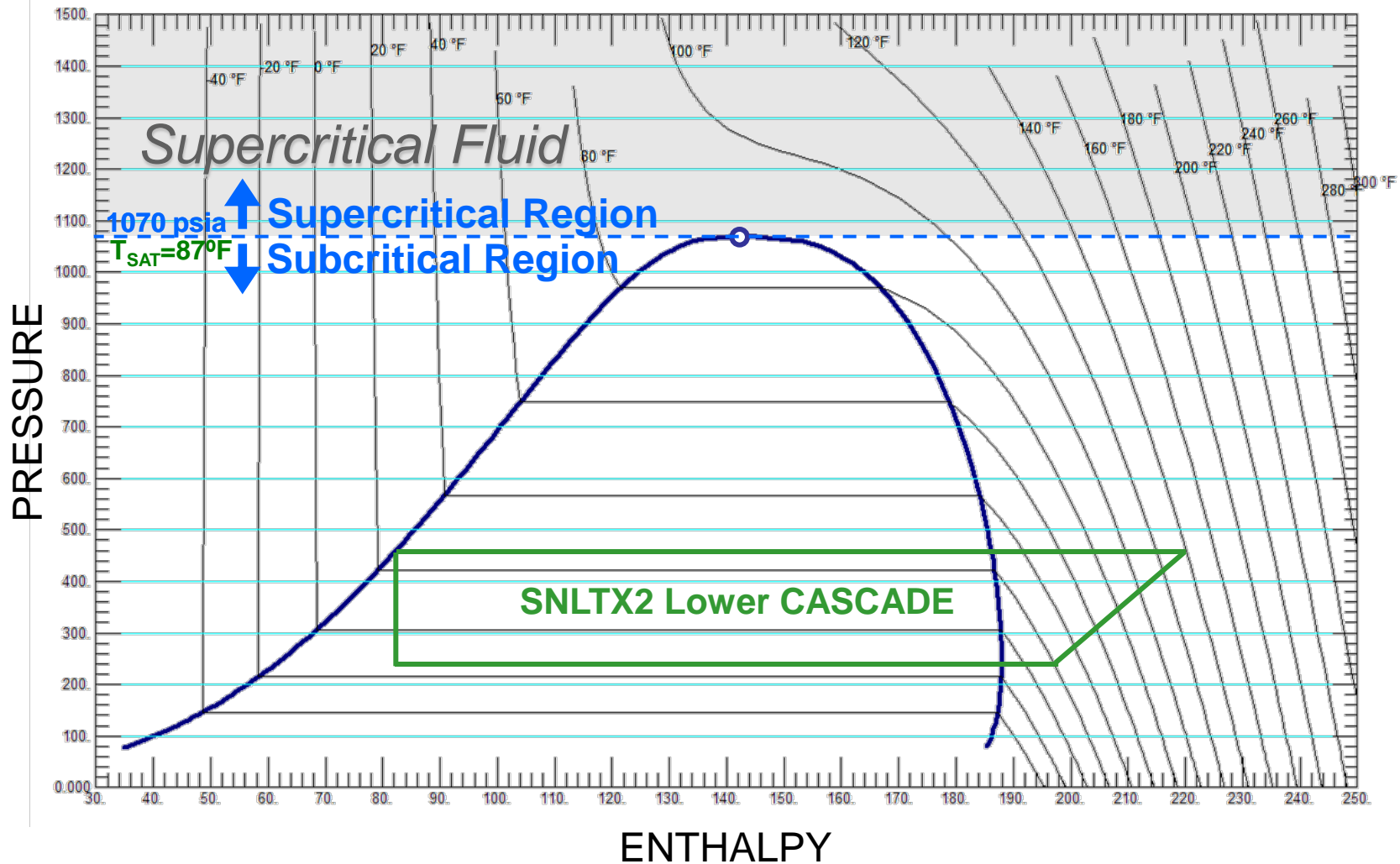
**Carbon Dioxide = CO<sub>2</sub> = R-744**



# Types of CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade Systems

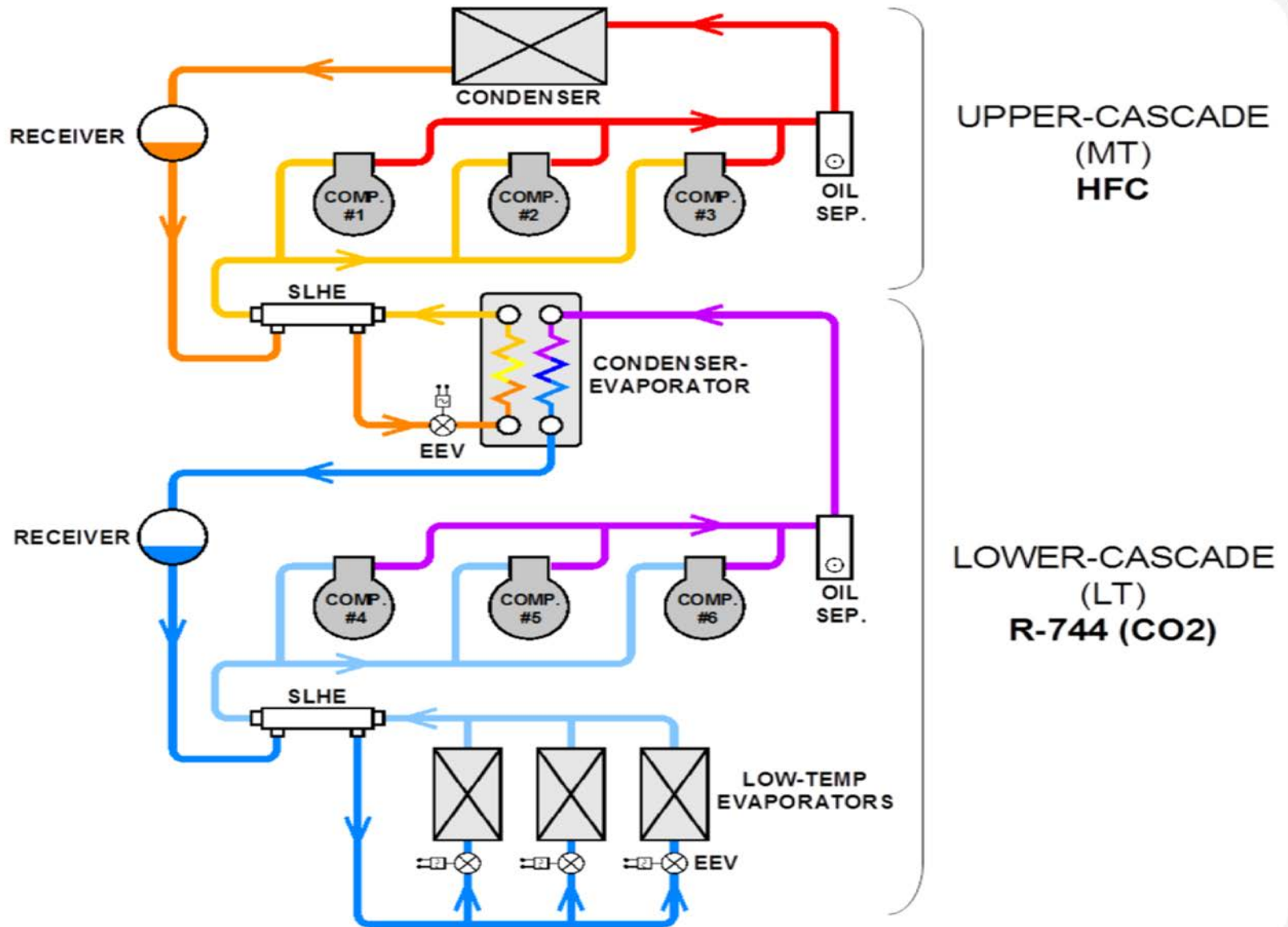
- **Secondary-Low & Medium Temperature**
- **Cascade (Sub-critical) Low Temperature**
- **Transcritical Medium Temperature**

# CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System Types

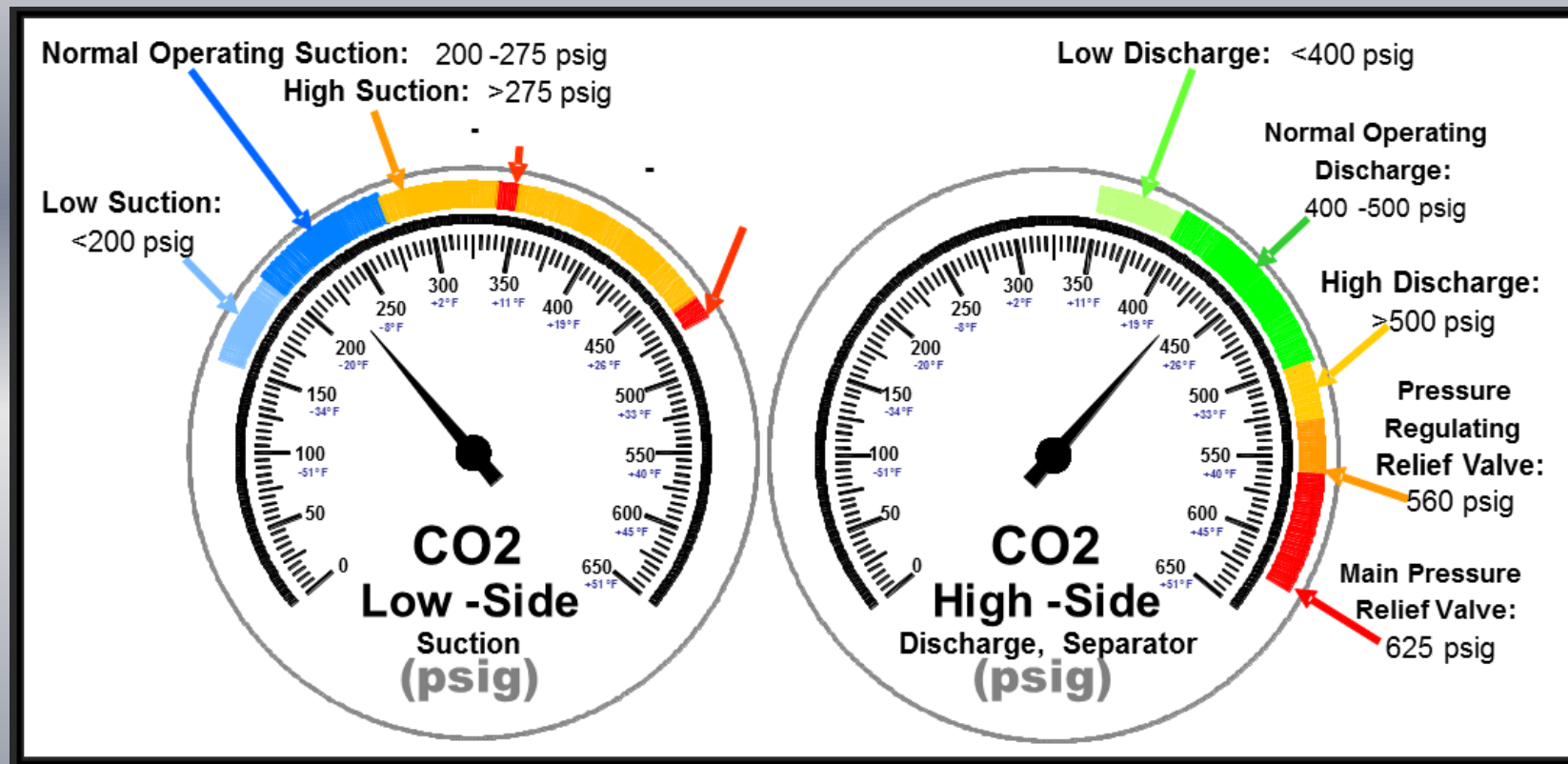




# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System



# System Typical Operating Pressures



**Low-Side  
(Suction)**

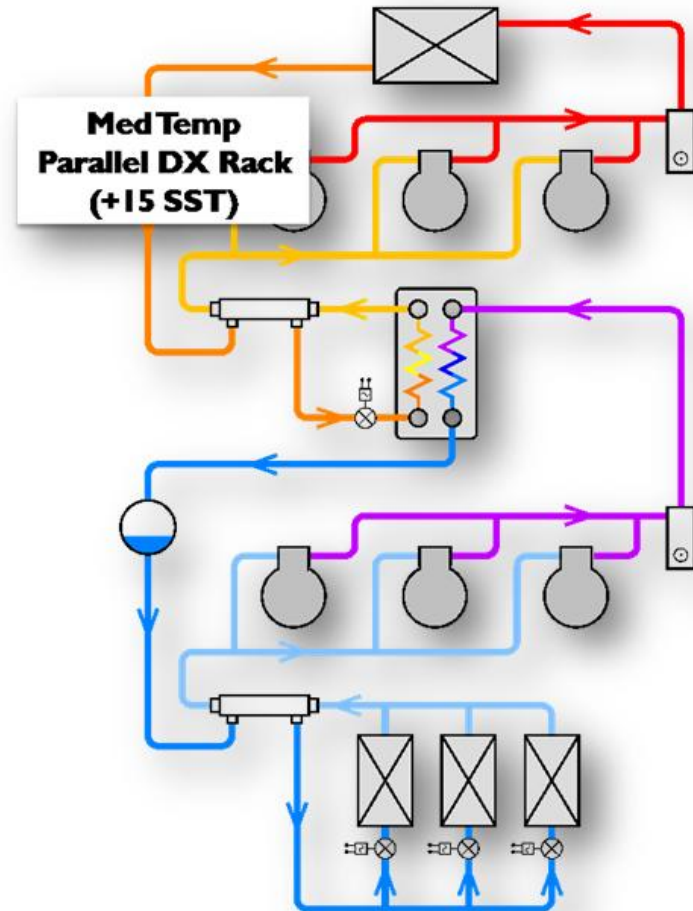
Typ. Operating Suction 200-275 psig

**High-Side**

**(Discharge and Receiver)**

Typ. Operating Discharge 400-500  
psig

# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System



# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

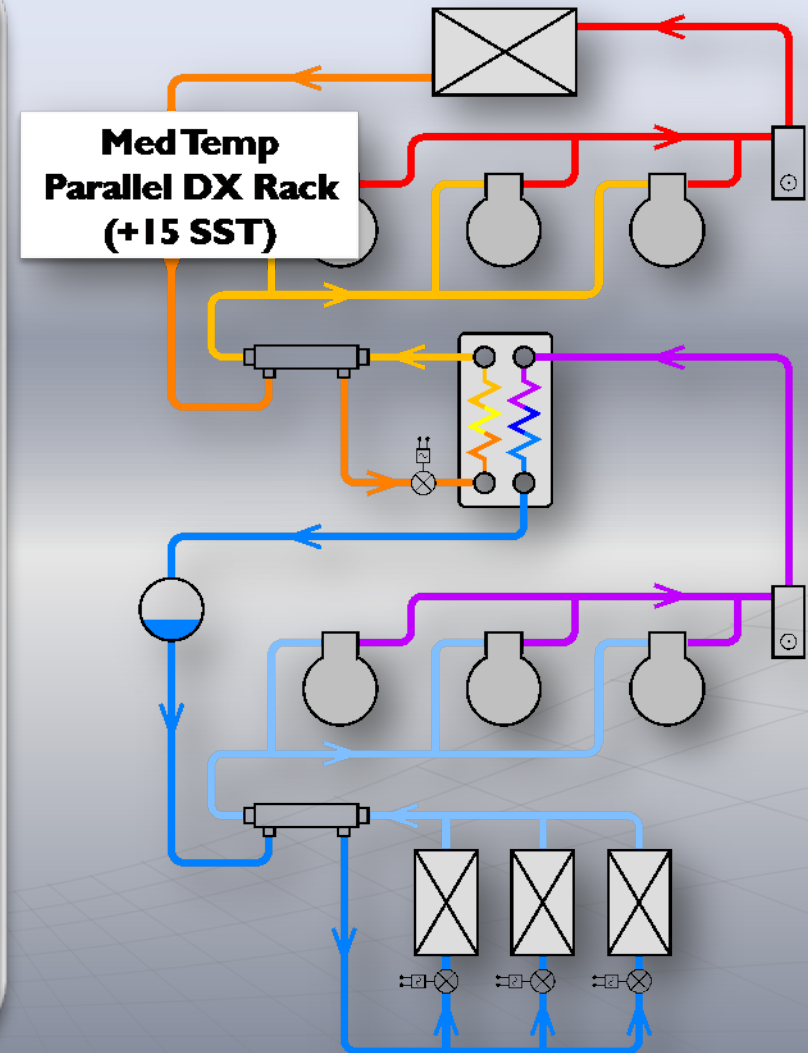


**Advancing CO<sub>2</sub> technology will lead to better energy vs. traditional DX systems**

- Low temperature system that compresses CO<sub>2</sub> to an intermediate pressure (425 psig = 25 degF).
- Even smaller copper piping than CO<sub>2</sub> Secondary.
- Uses components easily available in the aftermarket.
- Better heat transfer properties of CO<sub>2</sub> and better TD's lead to higher compressor SST and better energy efficiency.
- Widely available, low cost natural refrigerant with nearly zero global warming potential.

# LTX2 Cascade Operations and Features

- Utilizes CO<sub>2</sub> as a direct expansion cascade refrigerant for the low-temperature system.
- Uses efficient and quiet CO<sub>2</sub> subcritical compressors.
- Evaporators designed specifically for use with CO<sub>2</sub> as a direct expansion refrigerant.
- Display cases and freezers are equipped With EEV's for steady, automatic control of superheat leaving the evaporators.

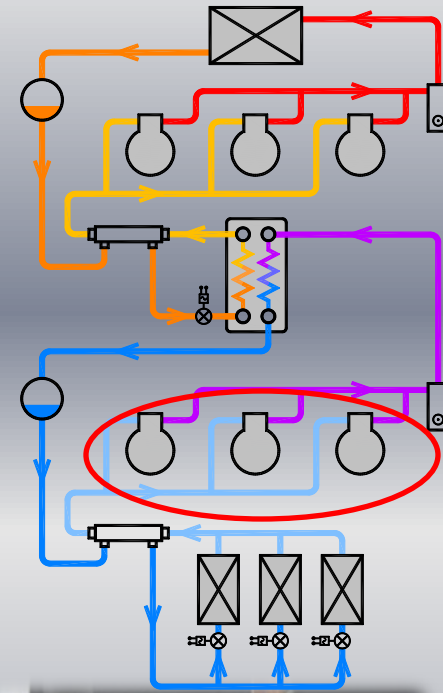




# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

## CO<sub>2</sub> Compressors:

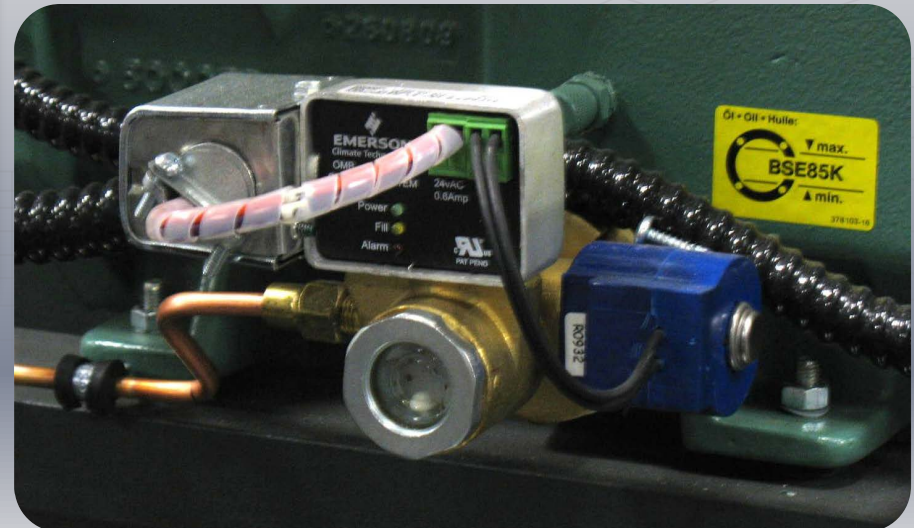
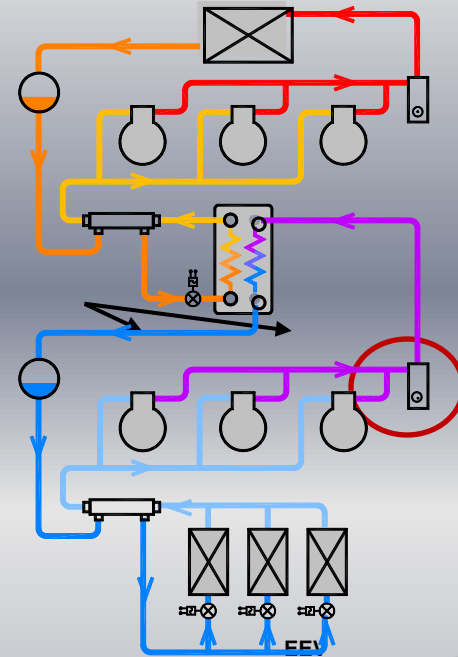
- Typical 3-5 Units in Parallel
- Types Available:
  - Reciprocating – Bitzer
  - Scroll – Emerson
- Accessories:
  - High Pressure Switch
  - Low Pressure Switch
- Capacity Control:
  - VS on Reciprocating
  - Digital Scroll
- UL for Both Models



# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

## Oil Separator:

- Removes Most of the Oil Carried Over from Compression
- Accessories:
  - Oil Filter
  - Sight Glass

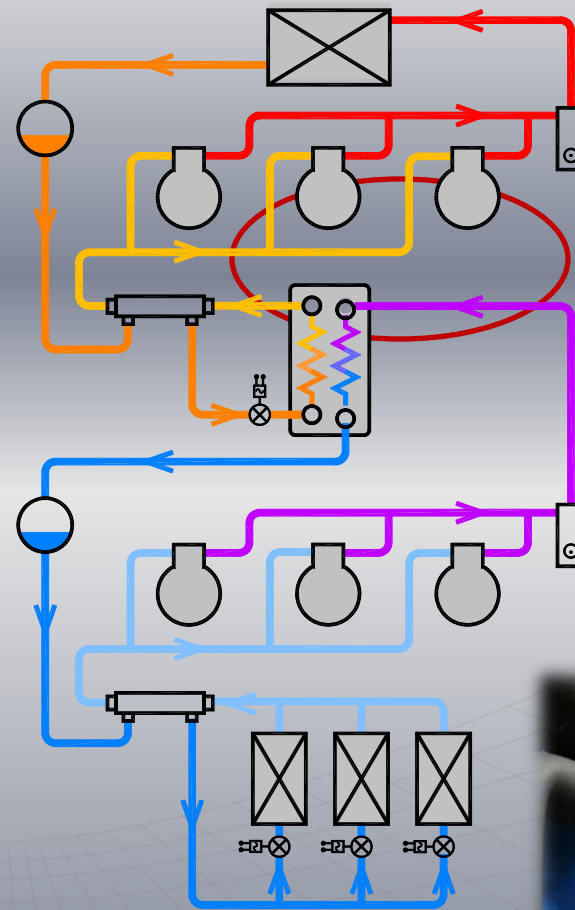




# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

## Condenser-Evaporator:

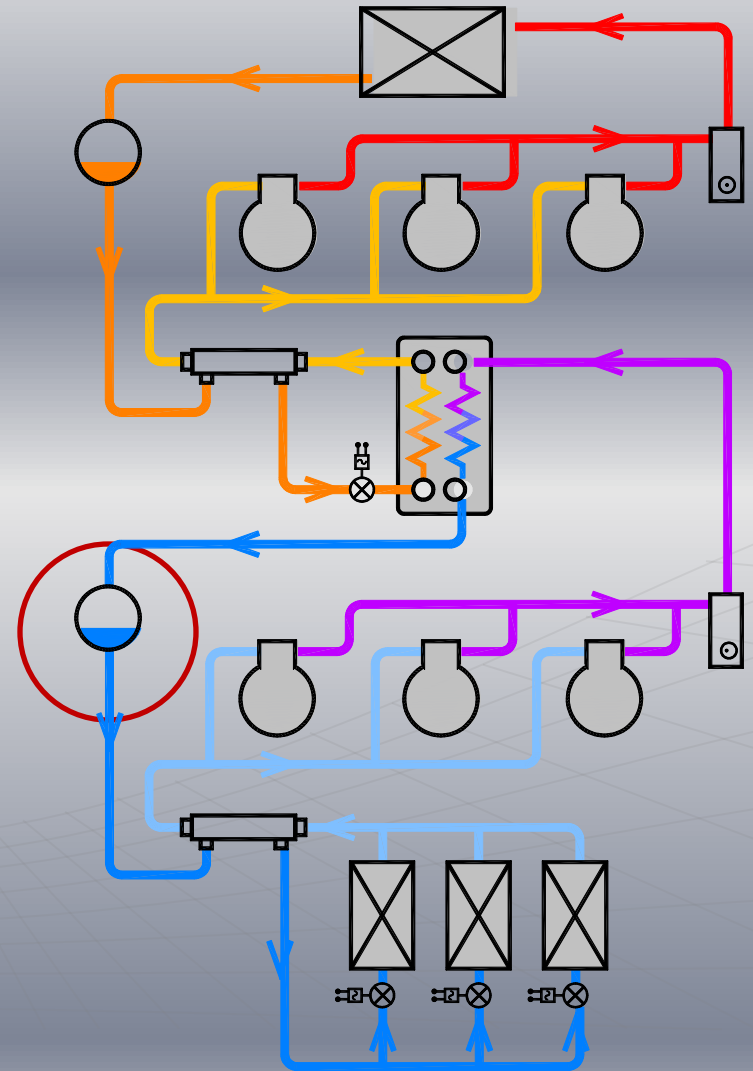
- Condenses CO<sub>2</sub> Discharge Gas into Liquid
- Evaporates Primary HFC Refrigerant
- Typically 2-4 Units in Parallel



# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

## CO<sub>2</sub> Receiver:

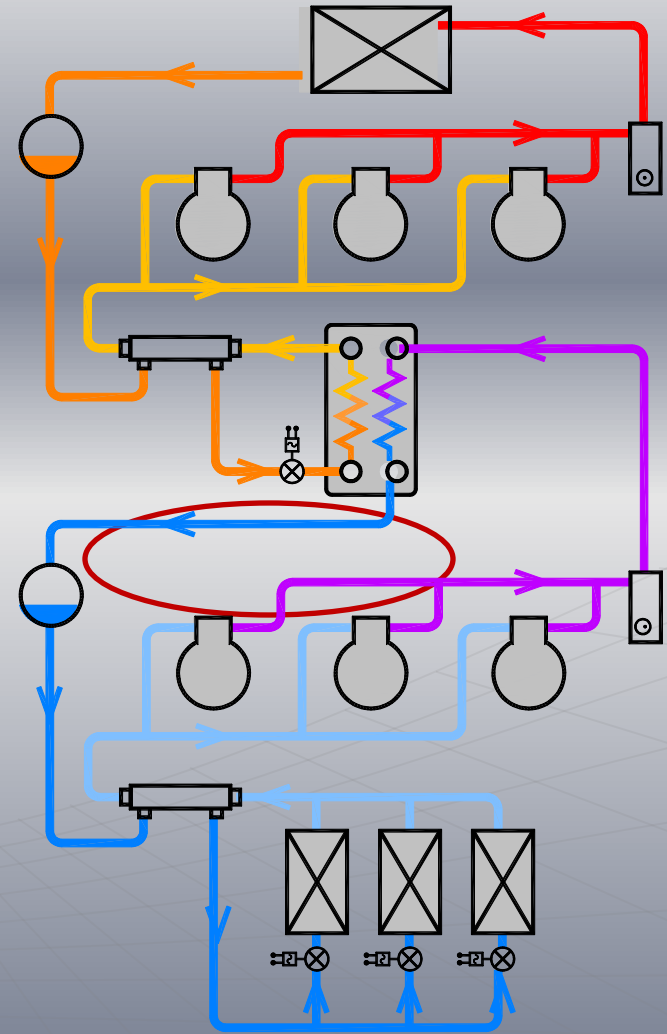
- Compensates for Level Fluctuations during Defrost
- Can be UL or ASME Vessel
- Accessories:
  - Sight Glasses
  - Dual Pressure Relief Valve
  - Liquid Level Switch
  - Liquid Filter-Drier
  - Charging Valve



# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

## Evaporator Electronic Expansion Valves:

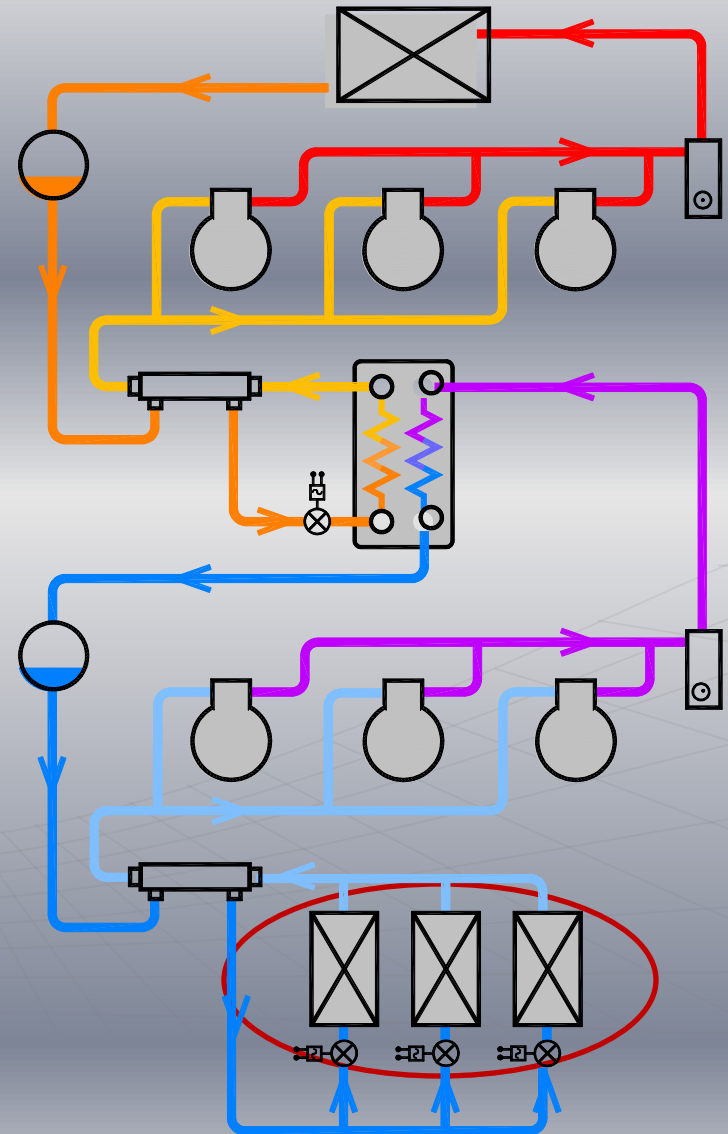
- Regulates flow of CO<sub>2</sub> into Coil to Maintain Desired Superheat
- Stepper or Pulse Valve from
- Accessories:
  - Pressure Transducer
  - Temperature Probe



# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

## Evaporator Coils:

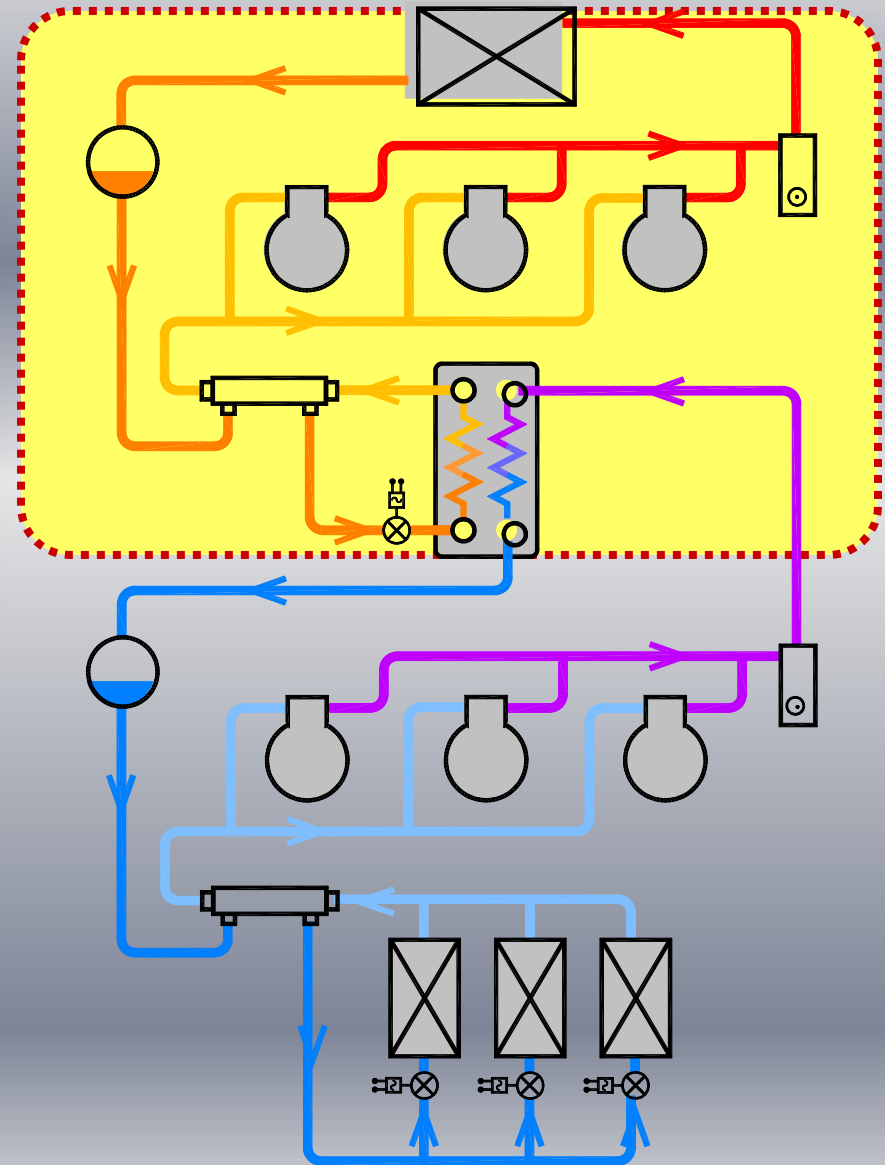
- Evaporates CO<sub>2</sub> to Refrigerate Case or Walk-In
- Hill PHOENIX Display Cases
- Heatcraft's RPD Unit-Cooler
- Same Cross-Section as HFC DX but Re-Circuited for CO<sub>2</sub>
- Electric Defrost
- Accessories:
  - SLHE
  - Solenoid from Sporlan (possibly one per circuit, if needed)



# Low Temperature – CO<sub>2</sub> Cascade System

## Upper-Cascade:

- Refrigerates Condenser of Lower-Cascade
- Can Refrigerate other MT Loads Also (either DX or Secondary Coolant)
- Typical HFC System

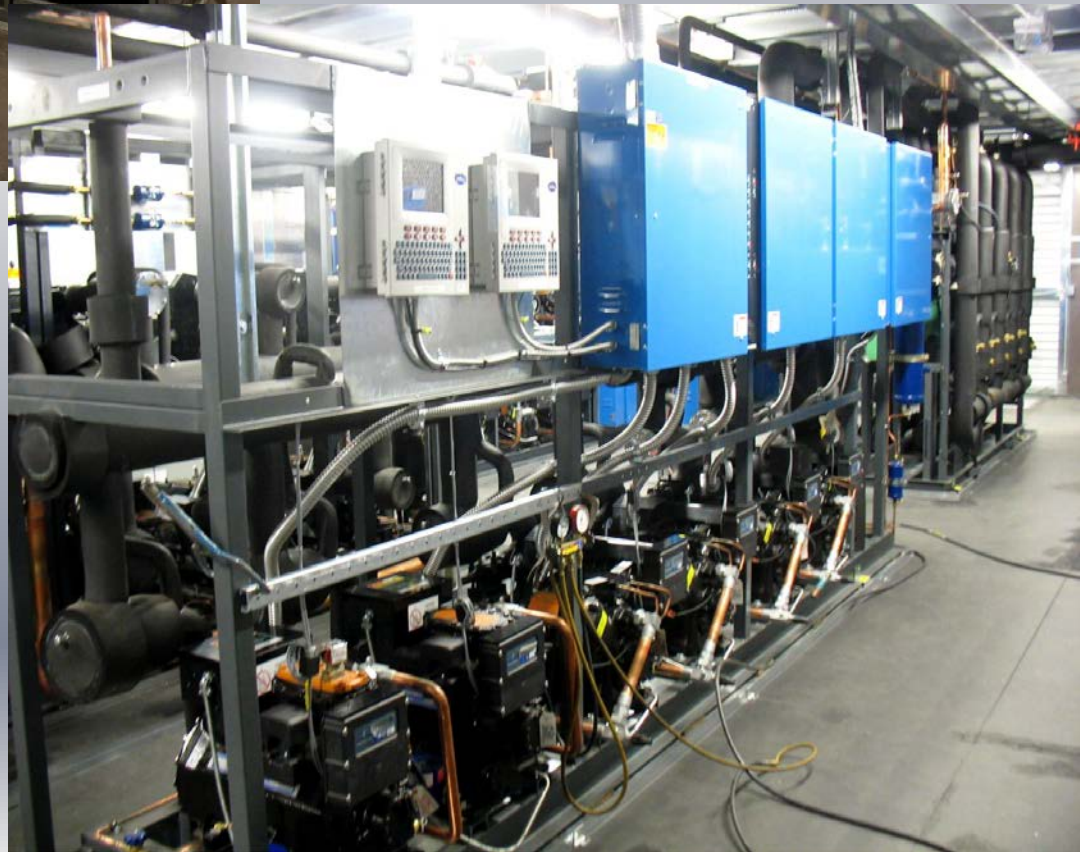




# Upper-Cascade Systems

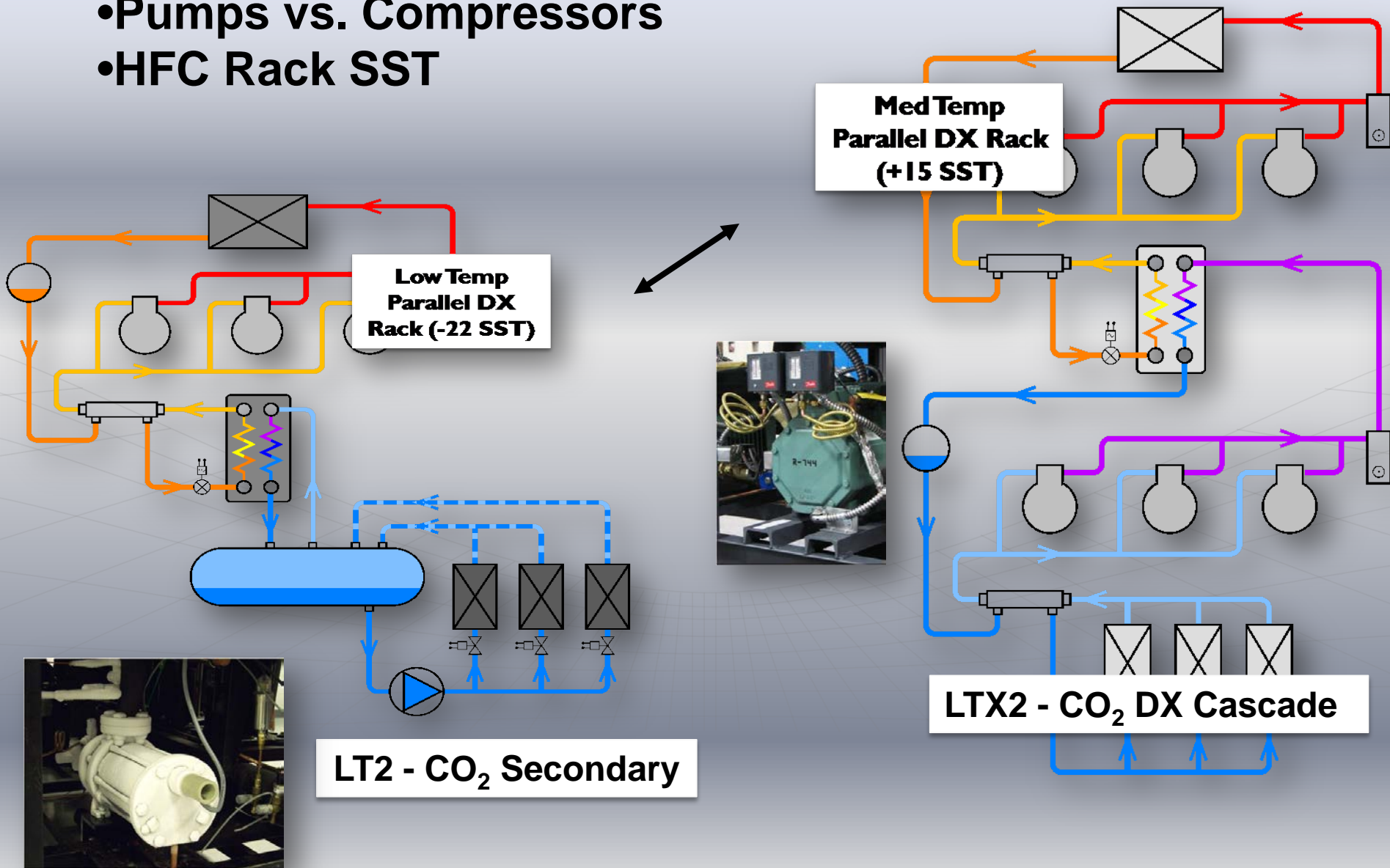


- Any refrigerant
- Any compressor
- Any condenser



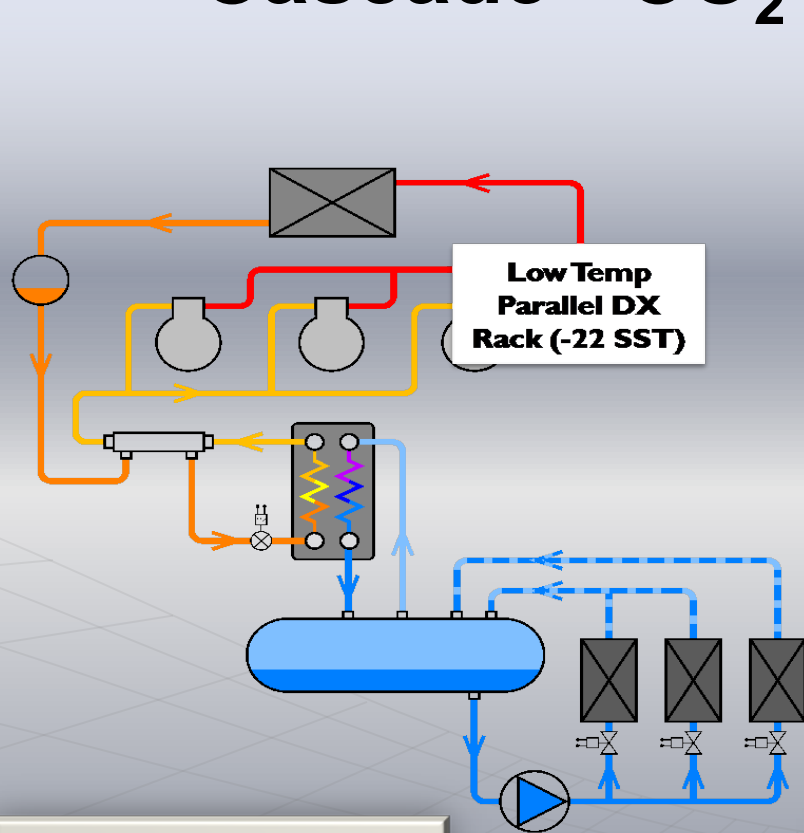
# The Difference Between Secondary & Cascade

- Pumps vs. Compressors
- HFC Rack SST

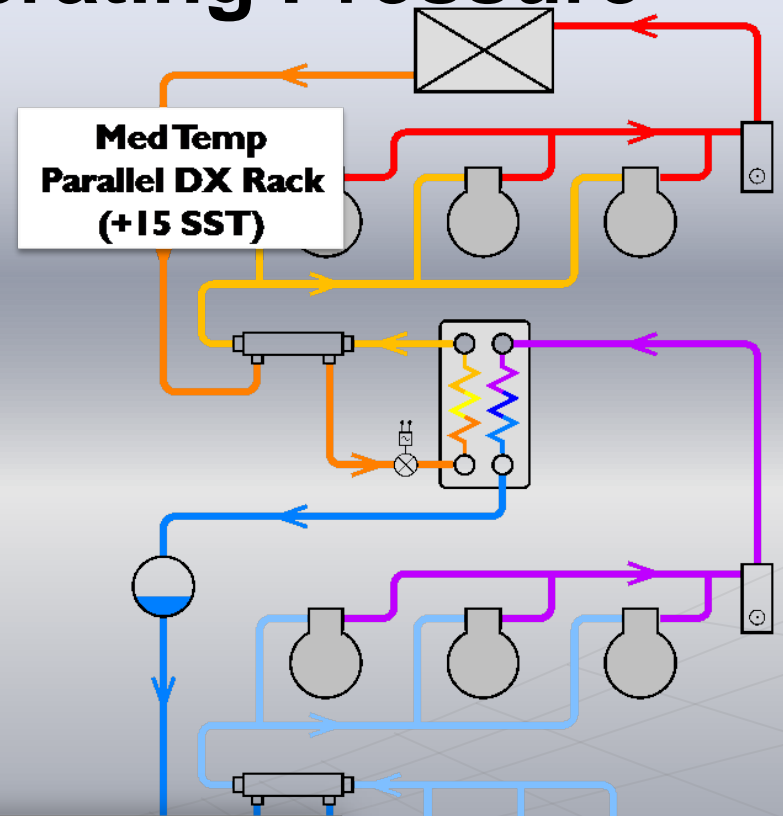
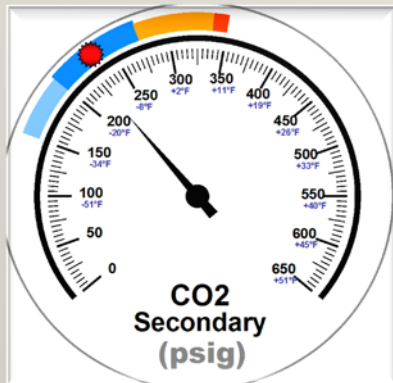




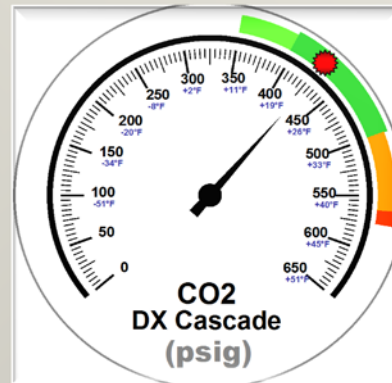
# The Difference Between Secondary & Cascade - CO<sub>2</sub> Operating Pressure



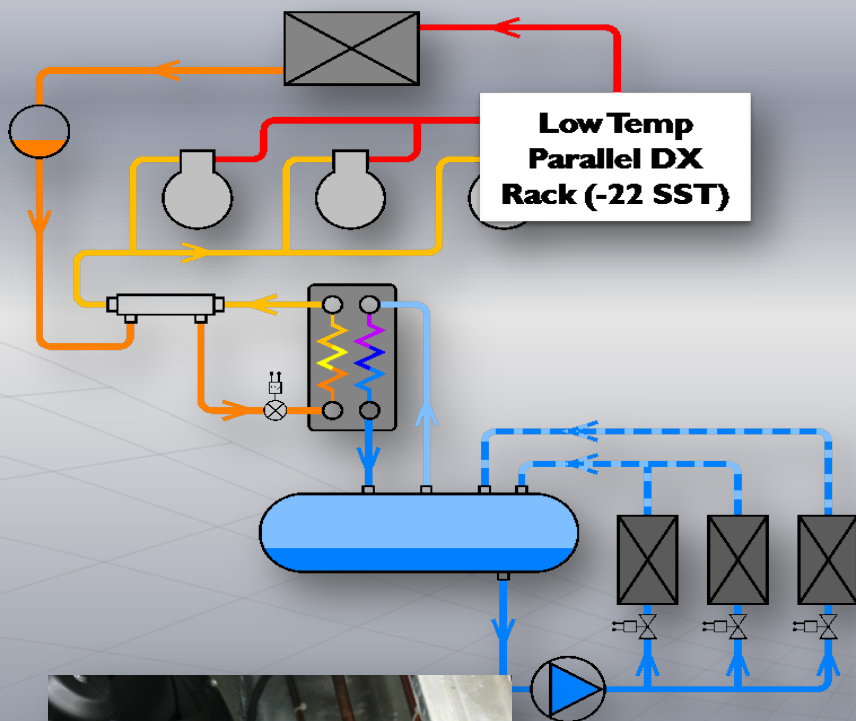
LT2 - CO<sub>2</sub>  
Secondary



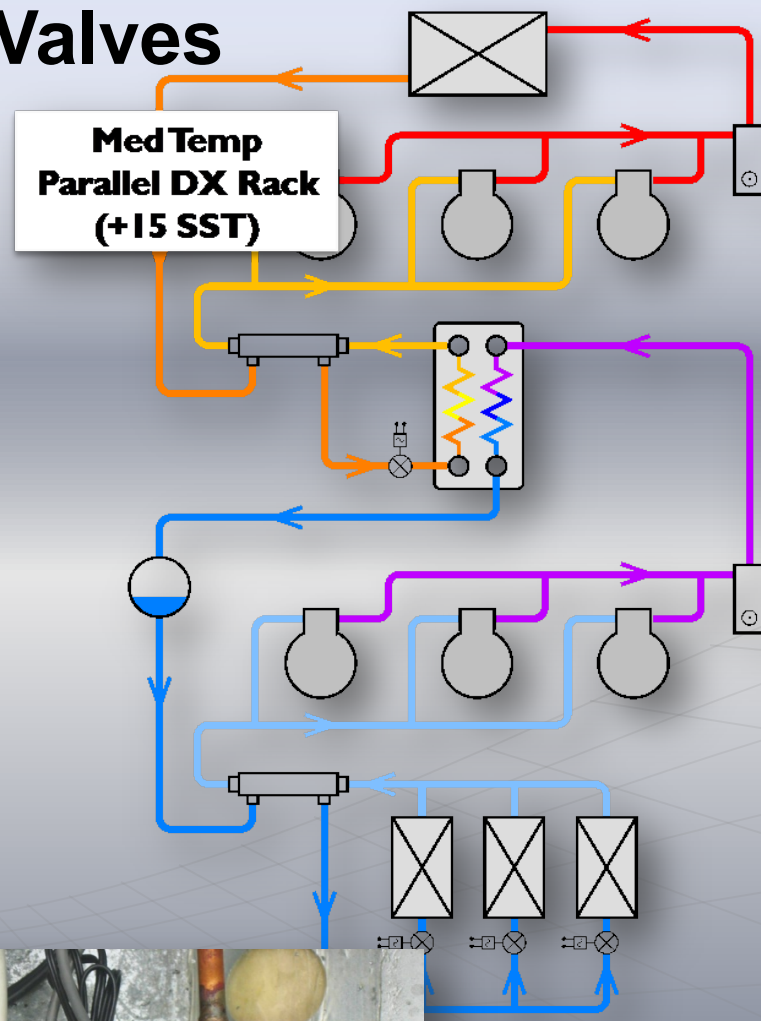
LTX2 - CO<sub>2</sub> DX Cascade



# The Difference Between Secondary & Cascade Case Control Valves



**LT2 - CO<sub>2</sub>  
Secondary**



**LTX2 - CO<sub>2</sub> DX Cascade**

# LT Cascade Advantages

- Smaller line sizes than HFC DX
- Lower energy consumption for CO2 Cascade systems
- Better heat transfer on CO2 side for higher compressor SST
- Coil TD's better than DX Systems

