



## Techno-Economy Analysis A Small Scale Reverse Osmosis System for Brackish Water Desalination

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**Abstract** -This study aims to get the design process and the economics of small-scale desalination of brackish water in Indonesia which has interest in the range of 12-14%, electricity cost of \$0.09-0.13/kWh, and groundwater tax regulation. The use of BWRO desalination system in Indonesia has been generally done at small scale. This study based on Bali island with electricity cost at \$0.1/kWh and water tax at \$0.37/m<sup>3</sup>. Techo economy evaluation was analysed for plant capacity of 150-1,00 m<sup>3</sup>/day, recovery of 40% with brackish water water salinity of 5,000 ppm. Price of desalted water during first year a case study is \$1.31/m<sup>3</sup>. It can be concluded that economic evaluation based on NPV and IRR shows that it is worthed.

**Keywords**—Desalination, brackish water, techno-economy

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The development of business activities like hospitality, villas, restaurants, and shopping centers (Lamei et al, 2008; Widiasa and Susanto, 2016) as a result of tourism led to increased need for clean water. Availability of brackish water that can adequately meet the needs of clean water and using membrane technology to process it. Membrane technology is able to lower the Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) or salinity of brackish water into clean water by separating contaminants in brackish water as solid particles, turbidity, cysts, bacteria, viruses, color, organic compounds, and dissolved solids (Widiasa and Susanto, 2016; Shenvi et al, 2015).

Membrane desalination technology has been widely used in many countries (Dore, 2004; Eltawil et al, 2009; Ghaffour et al, 2013; Jaber and Ahmed, 2004; Reddy and Ghaffour, 2007). In every location has a different cost desalination that caused economic parameter values like interest rate, energy (electricity cost), water tax, and capacity plant.

To prevent excessive brackish water exploration which will cause subsidence and seawater intrusion (Widiasa and Susanto, 2016) the government makes a policy of raw water which reached Rp 4,950/m<sup>3</sup> (Regulation No. 1, 2011 Badung). Intake of raw water to the BWRO system calculated with the feed flow rate (m<sup>3</sup>/day) required to produce products in accordance with the capacity plant. In the design, system recovery of BWRO magnitude greatly affect to the desalination cost, especially for the purchase raw water cost.

There were many economic analyses of desalination plants for small and large scale capacity conducted in countries

which have long experience but for developing countries like Indonesia, which only recently using desalination technology, economic analysis usually had not been properly recorded. This study aims to construct the process and economic design of small-scale desalination of brackish water in Indonesia which is has different about regulation of water tax, interest rate and electricity costs.

### II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

This was a Reverse Osmosis (RO) desalination case study plant and conducted in Bali Island. The characteristics of process design and economic parameters were adjusted to Bali Island's condition. Brackish water was used as feed water as Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis (BWRO) with TDS was 5,000 ppm. The plant was operated on small capacity using CSM membrane and simulated using CSM PRO 5 software from Toray Chemical Korea Inc. The control variabel in the simulation was the pressure pump that was needed to pump the feed to RO membrane. In details desalination process parameters are shown in Table 1.

#### Design process

Figure 1 shows the design process of desalination of brackish water that is used in this study. Recovery desalination at 70%. Pretreatment process (sand filter and cartridge filters) is needed before entering the RO membrane to remove contaminants and after passing through the membran, posttreatment process is required to maintain water quality.

Table 1.Parameters process design desalination

Parameter	Unit	Value
Plant capacity (m)	m <sup>3</sup> /day	150, 200, 300, 500, 750, 1000
Pump Efficiency	%	70
TDS	ppm	5.000
Number of stage		1
Recovery	%	70
Power consumption (w)	kWh/m <sup>3</sup>	2
Membran type		RE8040-BE
Pressure pump	bar	20
Membrane life time	year	3

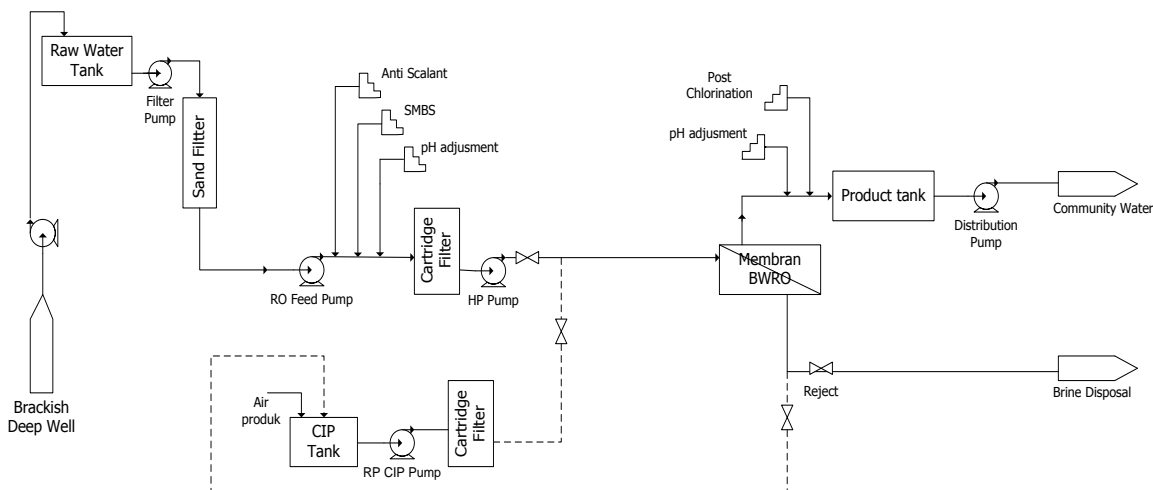


Figure 1.Schematic of Brackish Water Desalination

**Economic evaluation**

The desalination cost was calculated as the total cost (\$/year) and the cost of water per meter cubic (\$/m<sup>3</sup>). The total cost was derived from the sum of water tax, capital, electricity, chemical, labor, membrane, cartridge, and maintenance. The cost calculation was conducted using Microsoft Excel 2010. Economic calculations refer directly to the price of the field shown in Table 2 to set a real desalination cost. Equation (1)-(11) were conducted in order to find the desalination cost (Al Wazzan et al, 2002; Avlonitis et al, 2003; Ettoney et al, 2002; Shahabi et al, 2015):

$$A_{total} = A_{air} + A_{kapital} + A_{listrik} + A_{kimia} + A_{tenaga} \tag{1}$$

$$+ A_{membran} + A_{cartridge} + A_{perawatan}$$

$$A_{unit} = \frac{A_{total}}{f \times m \times 365} \tag{2}$$

$$A_{air} = (t)(m)(f)(365) \tag{3}$$

$$A_{kapital} = (a)(DC) \tag{4}$$

$$A_{listrik} = (c)(w)(f)(m)(365) \tag{5}$$

$$A_{kimia} = (l)(f)(m)(365) \tag{6}$$

$$A_{tenaga} = (y)(p)(13) \tag{7}$$

$$A_{membran} = (30\%)(x)(jumlah\ membran) \tag{8}$$

$$A_{cartridge} = (k)(m)(f)(365) \tag{9}$$

$$A_{perawatan} = (2\%)(DC) \tag{10}$$

$$a = \frac{i(1+i)^n}{(1+i)^n - 1} \tag{11}$$

Table 2. Values of Economic Parameter

Parameter	Value	Unit
Plant's life time	n 10	Year
Plant availability	f 90	%
Interest	i 13	%
Electricity <sup>a)</sup>	c 0.1	\$/kWh
Labour	y 224.72	\$/labour/month
Amount of labour	p 3	people
Water tax <sup>b)</sup>	t 0.37	\$/m <sup>3</sup>
Price of membrane	x 674.16	\$/membran
Price of cartridge	k 0.04	\$/m <sup>3</sup>
Capital cost	DC 360	\$/m <sup>3</sup> /day
Cchemical cost	k 0.07	\$/m <sup>3</sup>

a) PLN tarif adjusment

b) Water tax regulation in Badung

1\$= IDR 13.350

After the cost of desalination was obtained, further economic evaluation in terms of economic engineering principles was conducted with regard of installation cost, operation and maintenance costs (O&M). Economic paramaters as feasibility asessment of the economic shown on the Table 3 to get the value is more real.

Table 3. Parameter economic feasibility assessment

Describe	Unit	Value
Water price in first year	\$/m <sup>3</sup>	17,500
Increase water price	\$/2year	2,000
Increase water tax	%/year	5
Increase electricity costs	%/year	3
Increase chemical costs	%/year	5
Increase cartridge costs	%/year	5
Increase spare parts costs	%/year	5
Increase labour costs	%/year	8
Interest	%	13

The evaluation was done in terms of Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return. NPV is the difference between cash in flow and cash out flow by taking into account the time value of money. Time value of money or Present Value was used to determine the value of money at this time because the money generated will be received in the future. If  $NPV > 0$  profitable investments and projects can be executed. NPV calculation:

$$NPV = C_0 + \frac{C_1}{(1+i)^1} + \frac{C_2}{(1+i)^2} + \dots + \frac{C_n}{(1+i)^n} \quad (12)$$

Where:

- $C_0$  = money invested (negative)
- $C_{1,2,n}$  = money generated in year-1,2, until n
- $i$  = interest rate

IRR is an indicator of the efficiency of an investment. A project as an investment is acceptable if the rate of return greater than the rate of return if invested elsewhere (interest on deposits bank, mutual funds and others). IRR is determined by Present Value inflow equals outflow ( $NPV=0$ ).

IRR calculation:

$$IRR = i_1 + \frac{NPV_1}{NPV_2 - NPV_1} (i_2 - i_1) \quad (13)$$

Where:

- $i_1$  = lower of interest rate
- $i_2$  = higher of interest rate
- $NPV_1$  = present value at  $i_1$
- $NPV_2$  = present value at  $i_2$

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the process and economics design of small-scale desalination of brackish water in Indonesia was discussed in detailed elaborations.

#### Design process

Design system brackish water desalination can be done in single stage or double stage. This aims to reach higher recovery (El-Zanati and Sherif, 2004; Fritzmann et al, 2007; Greenlee et al, 2008; Lamei et al, 2008; Vince et al, 2008; Shenvi et al, 2015) that serve in the figure 2 and 3. In the double stage system feed used for the second Pressure Vessel

(PV) is concentrate from the first PV. Based on simulation results, desalination capacity plant ( $m^3/day$ ) will affect the amount of membranes. The distribution permeate flux in membrane should not exceed 39.05 LMH (Toray Chemical Korea Inc, 2009) so that a larger capacity plant will require more membrane. Basically, the increasing the number of membrane will decrease the necessary pump pressure but in the BWRO design especially at 200  $m^3/day$ , the required pressure pump is greater than the capacity of 150  $m^3/day$  that uses only seven pieces of membrane. This is due to the flow of concentrate recycle to feed water so that the concentration (TDS) feed water increases. The use of recycle streams is intended to achieve high recovery (70%) and achieve minimum feed flow rate is 2.73  $m^3/h$  (Toray Chemical Korea Inc, 2009).

Table 4. The effect of capacity plant to minimum number of membrane and energy consumption

Capacity ( $m^3/hari$ )	Number of membrane	Pressure (bar)	Energy consumption HPP ( $kWh/m^3$ )	Total energy consumption ( $kWh/m^3$ )
150	7	16.9	0.96	2
200	8	18.2	1.03	2
300	12	18.5	1.05	2
500	20	17.1	0.97	2
750	30	17.3	0.98	2
1000	40	17.1	0.97	2

On the Table 4 in addition the effect capacity plant to number of membrane also shown of energy consumption or requirement to High Pressure Pump (HPP). Energy consumption of BWRO desalination is 0.96-1.05  $kWh/m^3$  of the total energy 2  $kWh/m^3$  for pumping feed water to the RO membrane (Avlonitis et al, 2003; Fritzmann et al, 2007; Ghobeity and Mitsos, 2004).

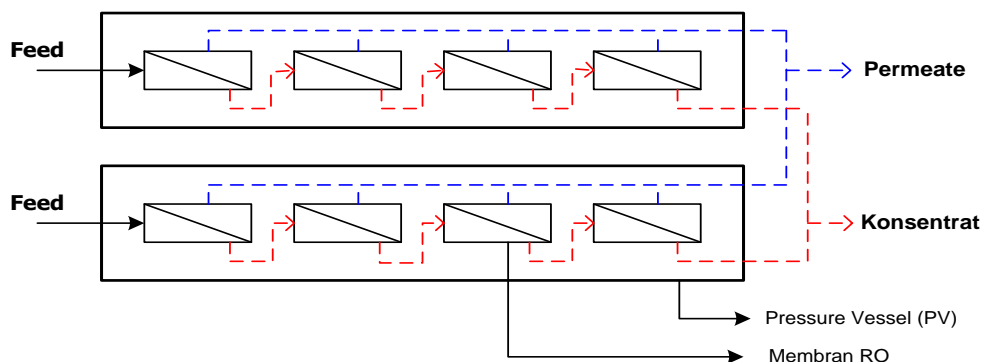


Figure 2. Single stage design

Installation system of BWRO desalination can be arrangement based on the availability of space at desalination plant. In the simulation, capacity plant of 300  $m^3/day$  needs 12 pieces using 2 of PV and contains 6 membranes of every

PV (2-6) in single stage system. If the length of the room is limited the membrane can be arranged at double stage using 2 of PV on the first stage and 1 of PV on the second stage that contains 4 membranes of every PV (Figure 3).

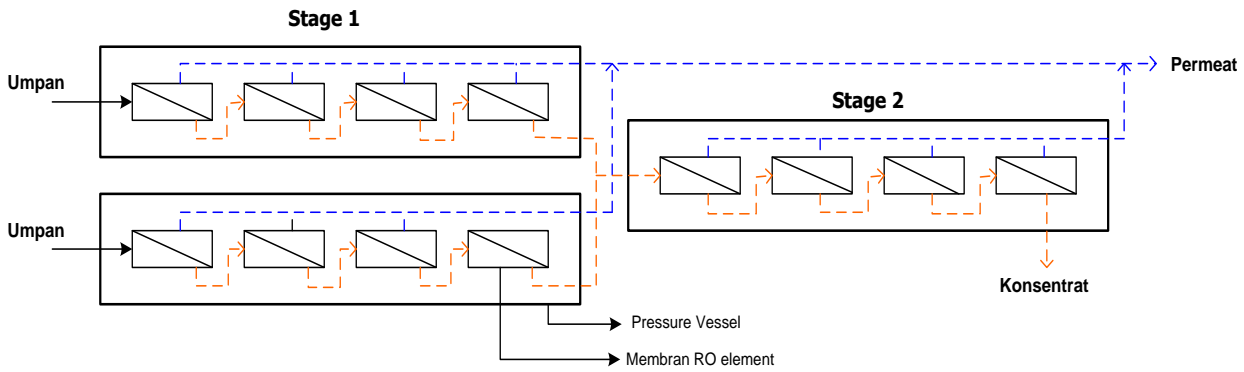


Figure 3. Double stage design

**Desalination costs**

The desalination cost is obtained from the sum of raw water cost, capital cost or investment cost, electricity cost, chemicals cost (pre and post treatment), maintenance cost, labor cost, cartridge filters cost. Table 5 is shown of desalination costs in which the desalination cost is influenced by capacity plant. In addition to the capacity plant also give an effect of labor cost as the operator. The larger capacity provide much smaller of labour cost so that the cost of desalination obtained will be cheaper. Therefore, labor costs can be reduced by minimizing the amount of operator, especially for small capacity (Avlonitis et al, 2003; Greenlee et al, 2008; Lapunte, 2012; Karagianis and Soldatos, 2008; Jaber and Ahmed, 2007; Karagiannis and Soldatos, 2007; Lamei et al, 2008; Mezher et al, 20112008; Rayan and Khaled, 2002; Reddy and Ghaffour, 2007).

The amount of recovery in the brackish water desalination system would affect the costs incurred for raw water cost. Raw water cost is calculated according to the amount of feed used to produce water desalination (m<sup>3</sup>/day). The average recovery of brackish water desalination between 70-85% so the greater recovery is used the raw water cost will decrease and cause the desalination cost more affordable. The effect of recovery to the desalination cost is shown in Figure 4.

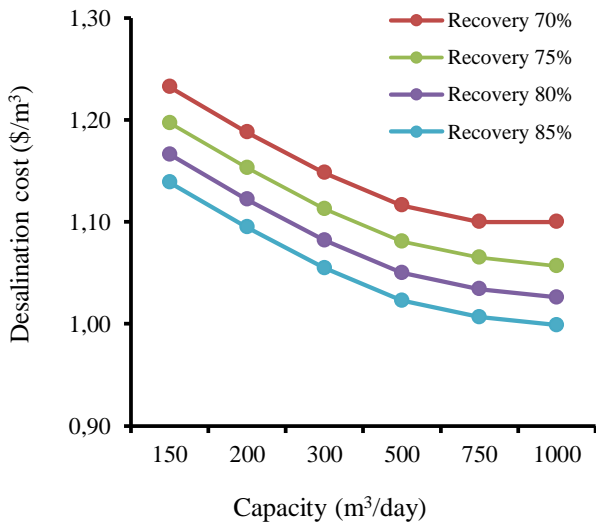


Figure 4. The effect of recovery on the desalination cost in electricity cost of \$0.1/kWh and interest of 13%

The electricity cost in Indonesia reached \$0.1/kWh (electricity adjustment, March 2016). Unlike in other countries that electricity costs of about \$0.04-0.09/kWh (Etouney, 2002; Fritzmann et al, 2008) so that electricity costs will impact the desalination cost is shown in Figure 5.

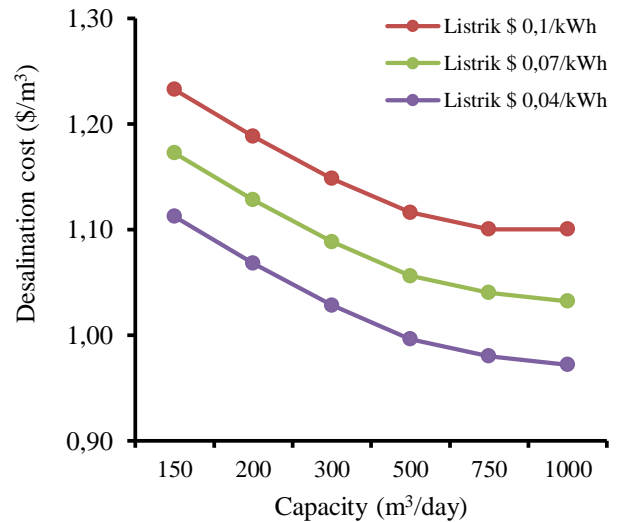


Figure 5. The effect of electricity cost on the desalination cost in recovery of 70% and interest of 13%

The average interest rate in Indonesia between 12-14% every year. This value will affect the cost of desalination as a result of bank loans that must be returned each year. The higher the interest rate, the return value will be greater. In Figure 6 presented influence of interest rates on the desalination cost compared with overseas of interest rate between 5-9% (Atikol and Aubar, 2005; Etouney et al 2002; Fritzmann et al, 2008; Lamei et al, 2008; Keseime, 2013; Zelji, 2004). In Figure 7 shown the cost of desalination due to limited space that requires a system arranged in double stage design. Based on the graph, the different cost occurred about 2% on capital costs in double stage system. Some of the differences that occur (raw water cost, electricity costs, and interest rate) desalination cost in Indonesia will be greater than other countries which give a value of about \$0.78 to 1.33/m<sup>3</sup> (Dore, 2005; Ahmed and Jaber, 2004; Karagiannis and Soldatos, 2008). The capital cost assumed from a bank loan with an interest rate of 13% for 10 years. Projected profits along 10 years is presented in Figure 8 that delivers results with a larger capacity then the benefits will be even greater.

Table 5. Desalination costs

Year	Capacity (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Capital cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Maintenance cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Water cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Electrical cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Chemical cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Cartridge cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Membrane cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Labour cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Desalination cost (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )
		$(DC*a)/(m*f*365)$	$(DC)/(m*f)$	$t+(3%*t)$	$(w*c)+(3%*w*c)$	$k+(5%*k)$	$l+(5%*l)$	$(x*\sum membran/3)+(5%*x*\sum membran/3)$	$(p*y*13/m)+(8%*p*y*13/m)$	
1	150	0.18	0.02	0.53	0.20	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.16	1.23
2	150	0.18	0.02	0.55	0.21	0.08	0.04	0.03	0.17	1.27
3	150	0.18	0.02	0.56	0.21	0.08	0.04	0.03	0.19	1.32
4	150	0.18	0.02	0.58	0.22	0.09	0.04	0.03	0.20	1.36
5	150	0.18	0.02	0.59	0.22	0.09	0.04	0.03	0.21	1.40
6	150	0.18	0.02	0.61	0.23	0.09	0.05	0.04	0.22	1.44
7	150	0.18	0.02	0.63	0.24	0.10	0.05	0.04	0.24	1.48
8	150	0.18	0.02	0.64	0.24	0.10	0.05	0.04	0.25	1.52
9	150	0.18	0.02	0.66	0.25	0.10	0.05	0.04	0.26	1.57
10	150	0.18	0.02	0.67	0.25	0.11	0.05	0.04	0.28	1.61
1	1000	0.18	0.02	0.53	0.20	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.02	1.09
2	1000	0.18	0.02	0.55	0.21	0.08	0.04	0.03	0.03	1.12
3	1000	0.18	0.02	0.56	0.21	0.08	0.04	0.03	0.03	1.15
4	1000	0.18	0.02	0.58	0.22	0.09	0.04	0.03	0.03	1.18
5	1000	0.18	0.02	0.59	0.22	0.09	0.04	0.03	0.03	1.21
6	1000	0.18	0.02	0.61	0.23	0.09	0.05	0.03	0.03	1.25
7	1000	0.18	0.02	0.63	0.24	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.04	1.28
8	1000	0.18	0.02	0.64	0.24	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.04	1.31
9	1000	0.18	0.02	0.66	0.25	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.04	1.34
10	1000	0.18	0.02	0.67	0.25	0.11	0.05	0.04	0.04	1.37

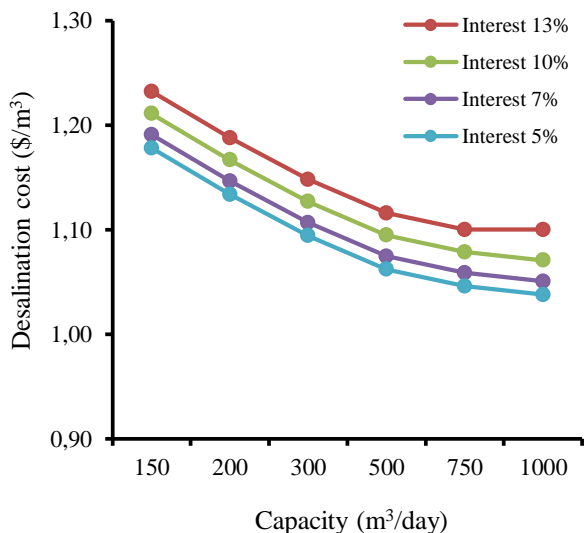


Figure 6. The effect of interest rate on the desalination cost in recovery of 70% and electricity cost of \$0.1/kWh

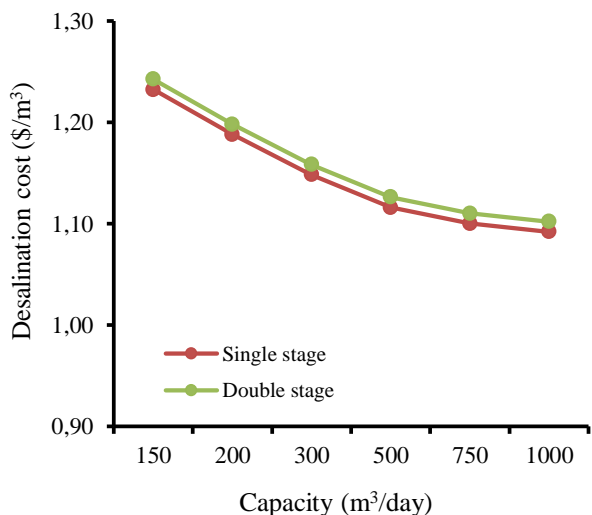


Figure 7. The comparative desalination cost in single stage and double stagesystem

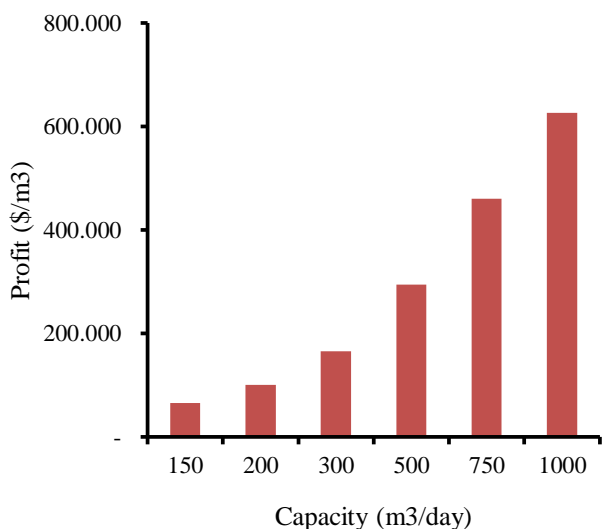


Figure 8. Profit desalination plant along 10 years

Desalination costs are evaluated based on Net Present Value (NPV) dan Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is presented in Table 6. NPV indicate has positive value and IRR greater

than fixed deposito and reksadana so that BWRO desalination is worthed.

Tabel 6. Economy evaluation

Capacity (m³/hari)	NPV (\$)	IRR (%)	Deposito (%)	Reksadana (%)
150	40.846	34	6.75	9.29
200	76.683	35	6.75	9.29
300	145.492	36	6.75	9.29
500	283.108	36	6.75	9.29
750	455.129	37	6.75	9.29
1000	627.149	37	6.75	9.29

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The study of Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis (BWRO) desalination on small capacity (150-1000 m³/day) recovery of 70% has a result that a brackish water desalination systems can be done in single stage or double stage system that caused by the avalaibility of space desalination plant. Price of water desalination of \$1.31/m3 in first year and will rise to \$0.15/m³ every two years. Desalination costs are evaluated based on the NPV and IRR provide results that installation is worthed.

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