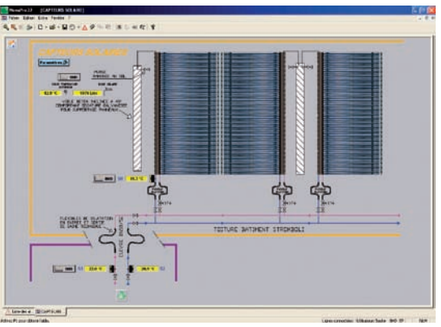
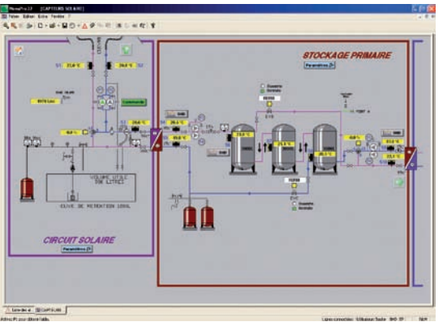
The sun saves energy in three volcanoes.

Solar collectors on the Balcons de Velchée.

World travellers and geography buffs will be shaking their heads: Etna, Stromboli and St. Helena can't possibly have moved to France – and they certainly can't be at one and the same location? Yes they can. What is more, they co-exist peacefully next to one another. Instead of erupting, they are helping to house families in 146 residential units. And instead of pointlessly converting energy into eruptions, energy is being saved here – with the help of 150 m² solar collectors … and SAUTER.

You've probably guessed by now: the volcanoes, or the volcanic islands in Italy and the South Atlantic, have given their names to three buildings which are parts of a residential complex at Malzeville, near Nancy in France. The builders followed what was an innovative and avant-garde concept when the complex was constructed back in 1970.





Teething troubles – but now everything is running smoothly.
One of the first very solar systems was located on one of these buildings but, unfortunately, this technology was still in its infancy in those days. The system broke down after only a short time and the desired effect was not obtained.

Years later, it was decided to refurbish the entire heating installations. "That was the time when SAUTER was on hand to offer expert assistance. And that's remained so until today," according to David Frequelin, installer, operator and employee of the *Elyo Nord Est* company. Countless SAUTER components were built into the solar production plant for domestic hot water, and the heating and water circuits were thoroughly overhauled. *Elyo* installed hot water storage systems and heat exchangers that are controlled by SAUTER valves and actuators so as to ensure highly efficient inflow and outflow.

The operator watches as money is saved.
The entire control technology is monitored by the SAUTER management system, which registers the temperature values in particular, and forwards any errors to the operator who can see exactly how much he is saving in Euros and cents: all the measured values, consumption figures and temperature divergences are stored, converted and reported in a clear format. Not least, the energy saved is due to the work done by two heating pumps. They take in heat extracted from the ventilation systems and feed it back to the underfloor heating.

What about the future of the volcanoes?
Of course, these 'live-in' volcanoes haven't quite achieved their objectives yet. Consideration is currently being given to the idea of centralising the domestic hot water production of the three systems that operate autonomously. The benefits are obvious: energy efficiency would be increased many times over, and ancillary costs for the tenants would fall substantially. The owners of the residential complex would also benefit economically thanks to a major cut in operating costs. At the end of the day, a central building management system from SAUTER would result in an 'eruption' of satisfaction on Etna, Stromboli and St. Helena.