Laura Barrio PIN-24, Newcastle, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016

## **Intensified smaller scale GTL process**

 $\left(\cdot\right)$ 

 $\cdot$ 

 $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$ 

 $\cdot$ 

 $\overline{}$ 

 $\overline{( \cdot )} \cdot \overline{( \cdot )}$ 

 $\left(\cdot\right)$ 

•

 $\overline{(}$ 

 $\cdot$ 

 $\overline{}$ 

 $\overline{(}$ 

•

 $\left( \cdot \right)$ 

 $\cdot$ 

 $\left(\cdot\right)$ 

 $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$ 

**(** )



•

 $\overline{(}$ 

 $\cdot$ 

 $\bigcirc$ 

 $\left( \cdot \right)$ 

### **Overview**

- Our business
- Our technology at a glance
  - Catalyst
  - Microchannel technology
- Commercialising our offer
  - Development tools & scale-up methodology
- Current & future projects





### Velocys

The company at the forefront of smaller scale GTL

- Leader in smaller scale gas-to-liquids technology
  - 15 years and >\$300 million invested in product development
  - Exhaustive global patent protection
  - Robust technology
    - >1.3 million hours of laboratory scale tests
    - >26,000 hours testing at the pilot/demonstration scale
- First class **partners** offering a **complete GTL solution:** Haldor Topsøe, Ventech, Hatch, Mourik, SGS, Shiloh
- Commercial roll-out underway
  - ENVIA Energy project under construction
  - Ashtabula GTL
  - Red Rock Biofuels
- International presence
  - Commercial center in Houston, Texas; technical centers near Columbus, Ohio and Oxford, UK
  - Permanent pilot plant in Ohio

Our business: the gas-to-liquids (GTL) process Chemical conversion of natural gas to refined products



## Velocys' technology at a glance Super-active catalyst & microchannel reactors

· · · <sub>·</sub> · · · ·

### Key catalyst criterion: super-active catalyst

Velocys catalyst is an order of magnitude more productive than competitive FT catalysts



### **Origin of exceptional catalyst performance** Patented organic matrix combustion (OMX) method

- Traditional catalyst
  manufacturing
  - Produces broad distribution of cobalt particle sizes

### • OMX catalyst manufacturing

- Produces optimized and more uniform cobalt particle sizes
- Higher activity from smaller particles
- Greater stability from narrower particle size distribution



### Key reactor criterion: reaction intensification Microchannels intensify chemical processes



Tube length 30+ feet (9+ meters)

Tube length 2 feet (0.6 meters)

### Key reactor criterion: exceptional heat removal Microchannels keep the catalyst bed more isothermal

• Microchannel coolant and process channels more effectively transfer heat out of the catalyst bed giving better control and performance





Temperature (°C)

### • Tubular reactors

operate with a greater temperature gradient from the center of the tube to the tube wall, risking thermal instability





### Thinking smaller is bringing GTL to the mainstream Large-scale economics at smaller scales





Velocys Fischer-Tropsch reactor

Note: Reactor capacities differ considerably

## **Commercialising our offer** Development tools & scale-up methodology

•••••

## **Commercial catalyst manufacturing**

Ensure performance is maintained at commercial scale



### From lab-scale to commercial reality



#### Laboratory

Multiple tests and experiments to determine

- Impact of catalyst composition on performance (optimal formulation and QA/QC)
- Parameters used in statistical and flow modelling
- Procedure for regenerating the catalyst and discharge
- Impact of deviations from normal operation



#### **Pilot Plant**

- A pilot plant reactor was operated for a complete run, prepared for discharge, discharged, reloaded and restarted successfully – all within commercially acceptable time constraints
- Measured performance and validated models
- Demonstrated efficacy of our procedures and methods for loading and discharge



#### Commercial

- Commercially produced cores are used for extensive long term life cycle tests
- Demonstration plants include Gussing and Petrobrass
- A full scale (3-core) commercial unit was used to develop catalyst loading procedures
- A single core commercial variant is used to improve and innovate new catalyst handling techniques

## Developing tools for engineering studies

Process model development

- Designed experiments to cover wide range of FT operations
- Independent variation of parameters: e.g. P<sub>co</sub>, P<sub>H2</sub>
- >60 data points
  - Close monitoring of outlet H<sub>2</sub>:CO ratio and CO conversion
  - Product sample at each point
- Assessment of ageing and regeneration on process response
- Field demonstration unit data in agreement with model prediction



Inlet pressure: 200 - 450 psig Inerts: 10% - 70%Contact time: 150 - 500 ms Feed H<sub>2</sub>:CO ratio: 1.4 - 4.5Temperatures: 175 - 235 °C









### **FT performance**

Performance of the microchannel reactor and catalyst demonstrated in the Velocys Pilot Plant (VPP)





### **Pilot plant runs in the 18 months to November 2015** Process intensification

- Successful piloting of commercially produced catalysts
- Continuous improvement without changing our technology basis
- Process intensification results in significant capital cost improvement



### Pilot plant runs in the 18 months to November 2015 Reduced start-up time: minimising reactor downtime



## **Commercial roll-out underway**

٠

### ENVIA Energy's plant being built Adjacent to WM East Oak landfill in Oklahoma City, USA





Coogle

# ENVIA Energy - Oklahoma City project

Significance and progress

- Landmark for GTL
- Landfill gas & natural gas as feedstock
- Major companies committing to smaller scale GTL
- Construction underway
  - Manufacture of FT catalyst and reactors completed in 2015
  - Fabrication of modules complete
  - All modules, including those incorporating Velocys' reactors, set in place on site
- Will be our commercial reference plant a **major milestone** 
  - Demonstrate parallel operation of full-scale Velocys reactors











### ENVIA Energy's Oklahoma City GTL plant All major process units on site



Syngas compression

Landfill gas inlet

CO<sub>2</sub> wash column

Thank you

Laura Barrio Principal Chemist Iaura.barrio@velocys.com

Oxford, UK office

+44 1235 841 721

www.velocys.com







## **Think Smaller**

