



# **Modular Gas-to-Liquids Technology**

**John Brophy**

**10th PIN Meeting, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh**

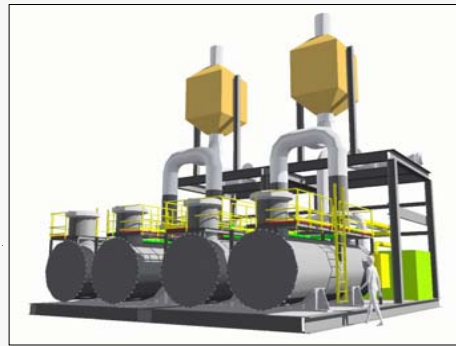
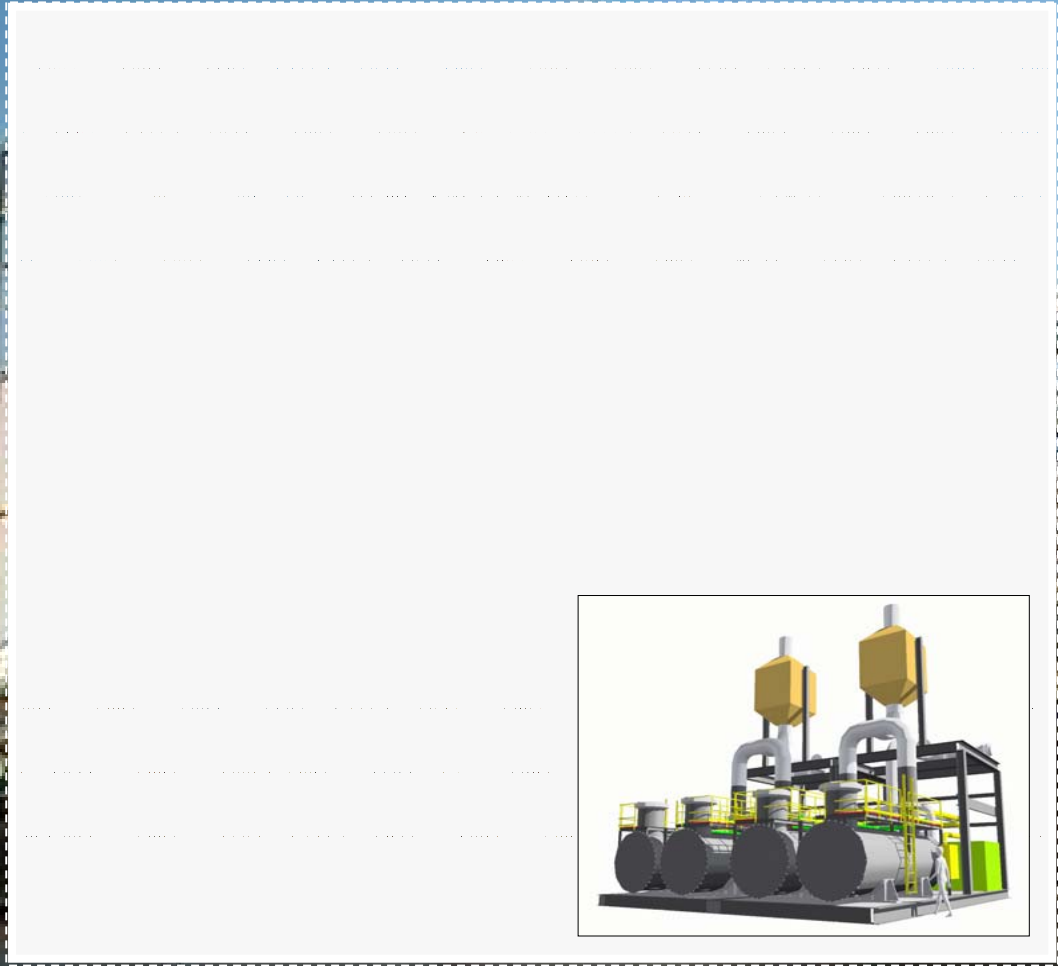
**June 3, 2004**

# Revolutionary Processing Systems



**Conventional Technology**

# Revolutionary Processing Systems



**Velocys<sup>®</sup> Technology**



# Presentation Agenda

**Velocys Introduction**

**Technology Overview**

**Development and Scale-Up**

**Gas-to-Liquids application**

- Steam methane reforming
- Fischer-Tropsch

# Velocys Introduction



**Formed in 2001 as a spin-out from Battelle Memorial Institute**

**Over \$70 million invested to date**

**50 employees, including 16 PhD's, many with 10+ yrs industrial experience**

**Located in a 27,000 sq. ft. purpose built facility near Columbus, Ohio**

**Established alliances with engineering and manufacturing firms**



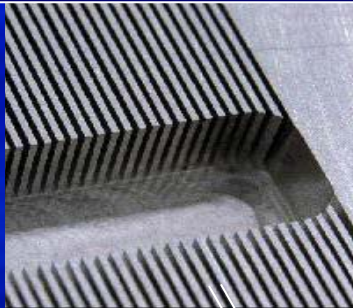


# Enabling Technology



## Velocys vs Conventional Process Technology

**Velocys**

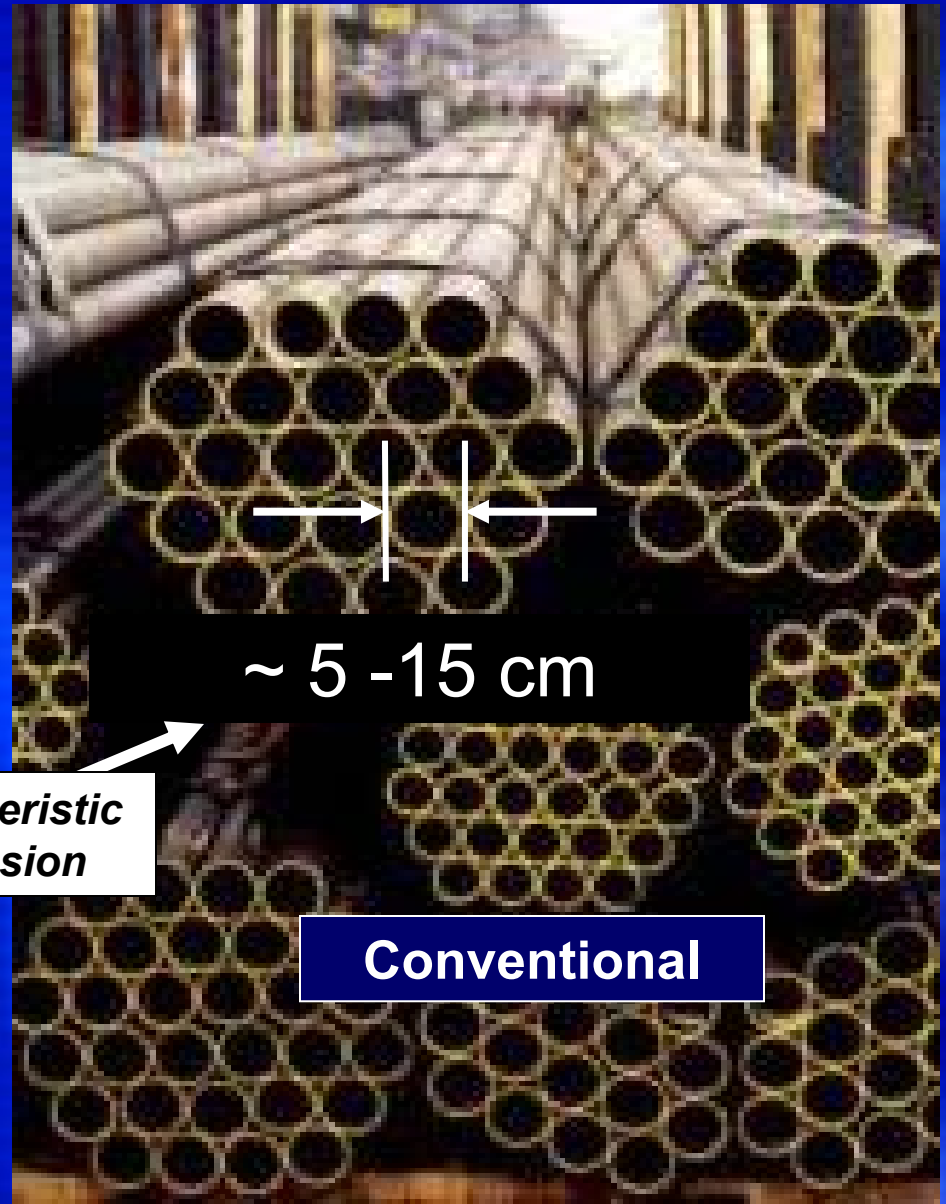


$\sim 0.1-0.3$  cm

*Characteristic  
dimension*

$\sim 5-15$  cm

**Conventional**



# Velocys Technology Advantage



## Very short distances to the wall:

- Enables extremely high rates of heat and mass transfer
- Allows use of new, novel, more active catalysts
- Accelerates chemical processes by factors of 10-1000X
- Results in smaller, more productive reactors
- Facilitates control of reactions under optimum conditions
- Avoids production of undesirable by-products
  - Higher product yields
  - Lower purification requirements



# Benefits of Technology

**Smaller footprint, reduced capital cost, lower operating cost, and shorter deployment time:**

- **Higher performance**
  - High throughput per unit volume of hardware
- **Lightweight and/or compact systems**
  - Modular plant expansion, debottlenecking
- **Large scale economics at smaller scales**
  - Lower initial capital investment
  - Higher yield and efficiency/lower operating costs
- **Greater product yield**
  - Precise control of process conditions





# Increased Reactor Throughput

## **Velocys<sup>®</sup> Technology systems outperform conventional reactors**

- Steam reforming (highly endothermic)
  - Conventional: >1 second
  - Velocys Technology: < 5 milliseconds
- Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis (highly exothermic)
  - Conventional Fixed Bed: >10 seconds
  - Velocys Technology: < 0.2 second contact time

# Velocys Scale-up Methodology

## Cell

- Internal channel dimensions same as commercial reactor
- Number of channels increase; size of channels does not
- ~ 0.5 - 1 lb/hr

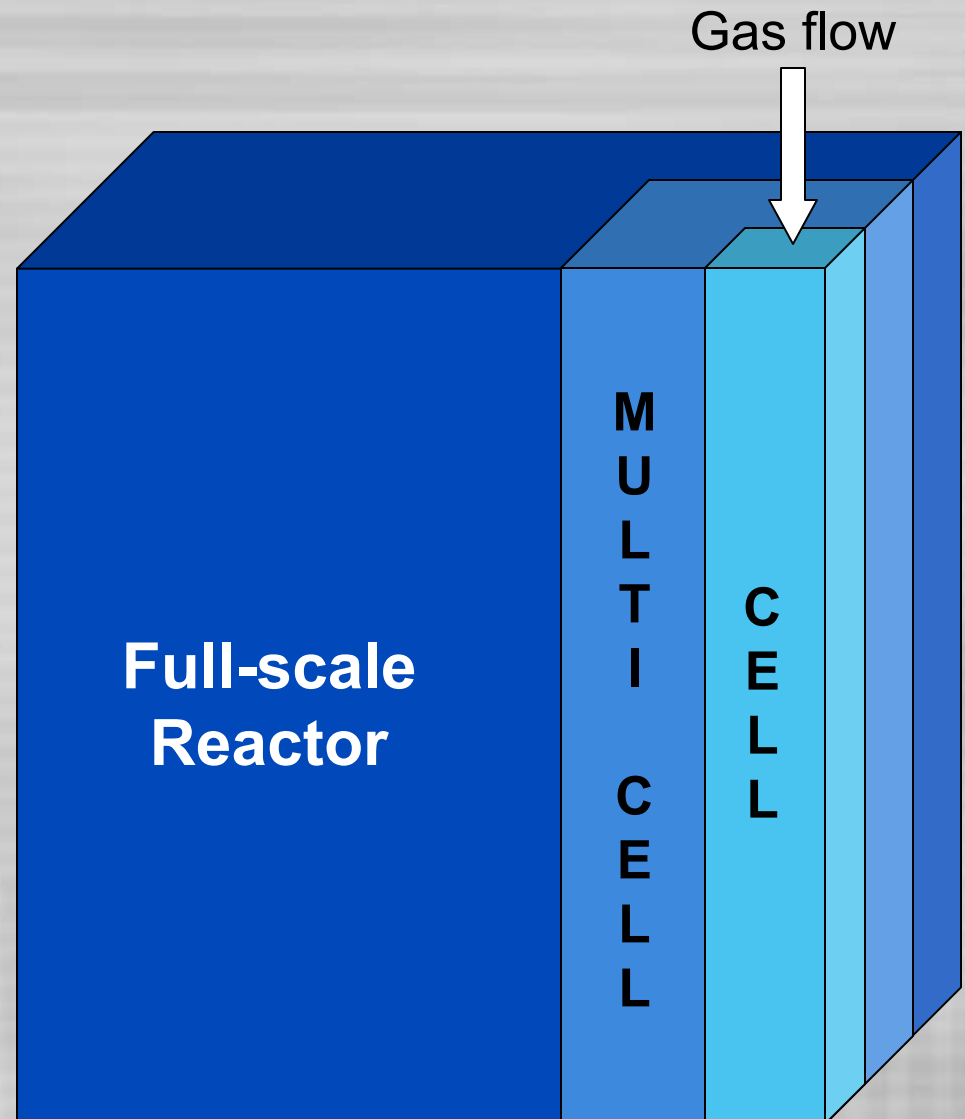
## Multi-Cell

- Many channels
- 10 – 100 lb/hr

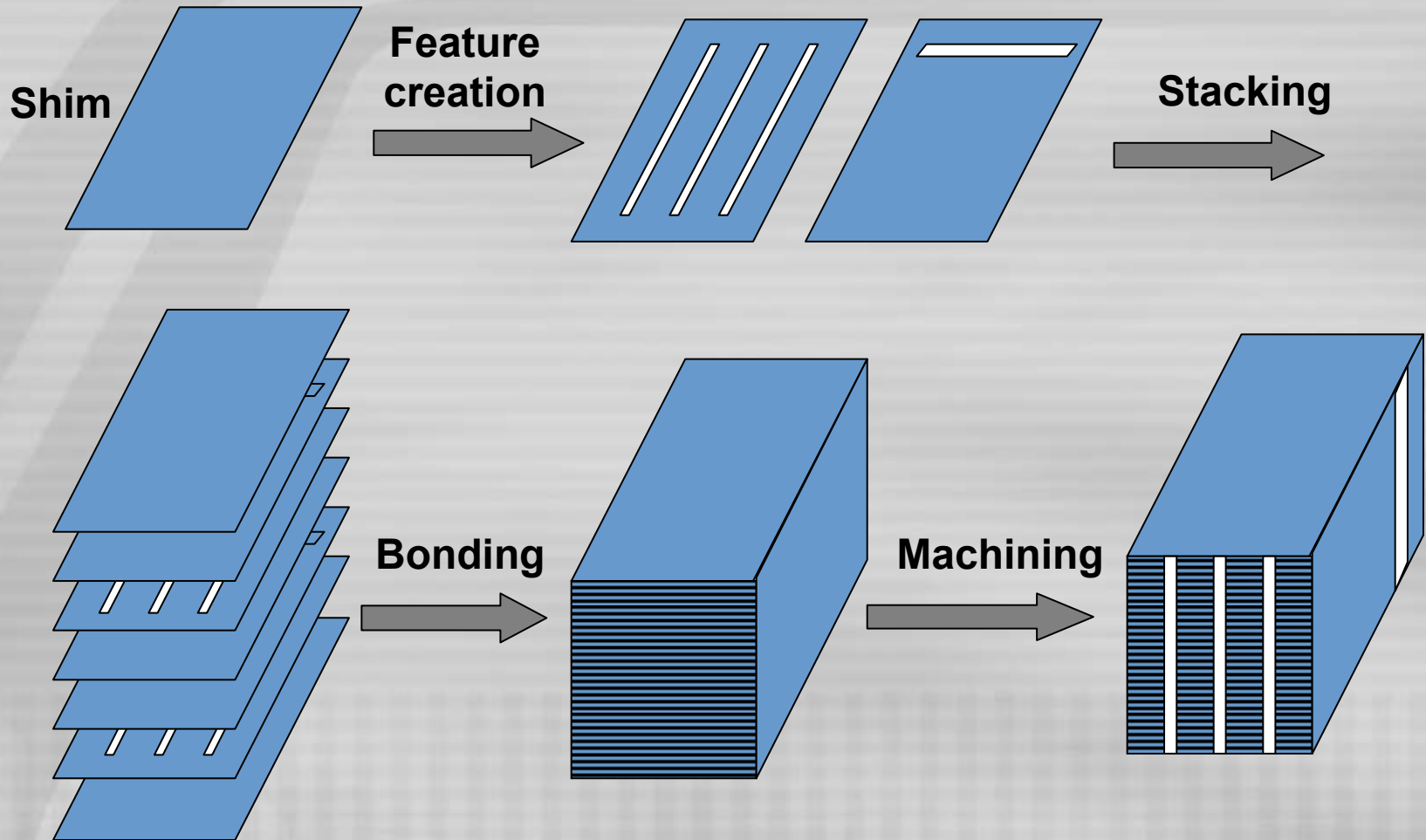
## Full-Scale

- >1000 channels
- 1000-3000 lb/hr

***Full-scale reactor is the basic building block of a commercial plant***



# Microchannel Manufacturing



# Microchannel Manufacturing



## Fabrication development

- Large stacks  
~ 1000 shims
- Demonstration of mass manufacturing techniques
- Established manufacturing supply chain partners

## Finished Device



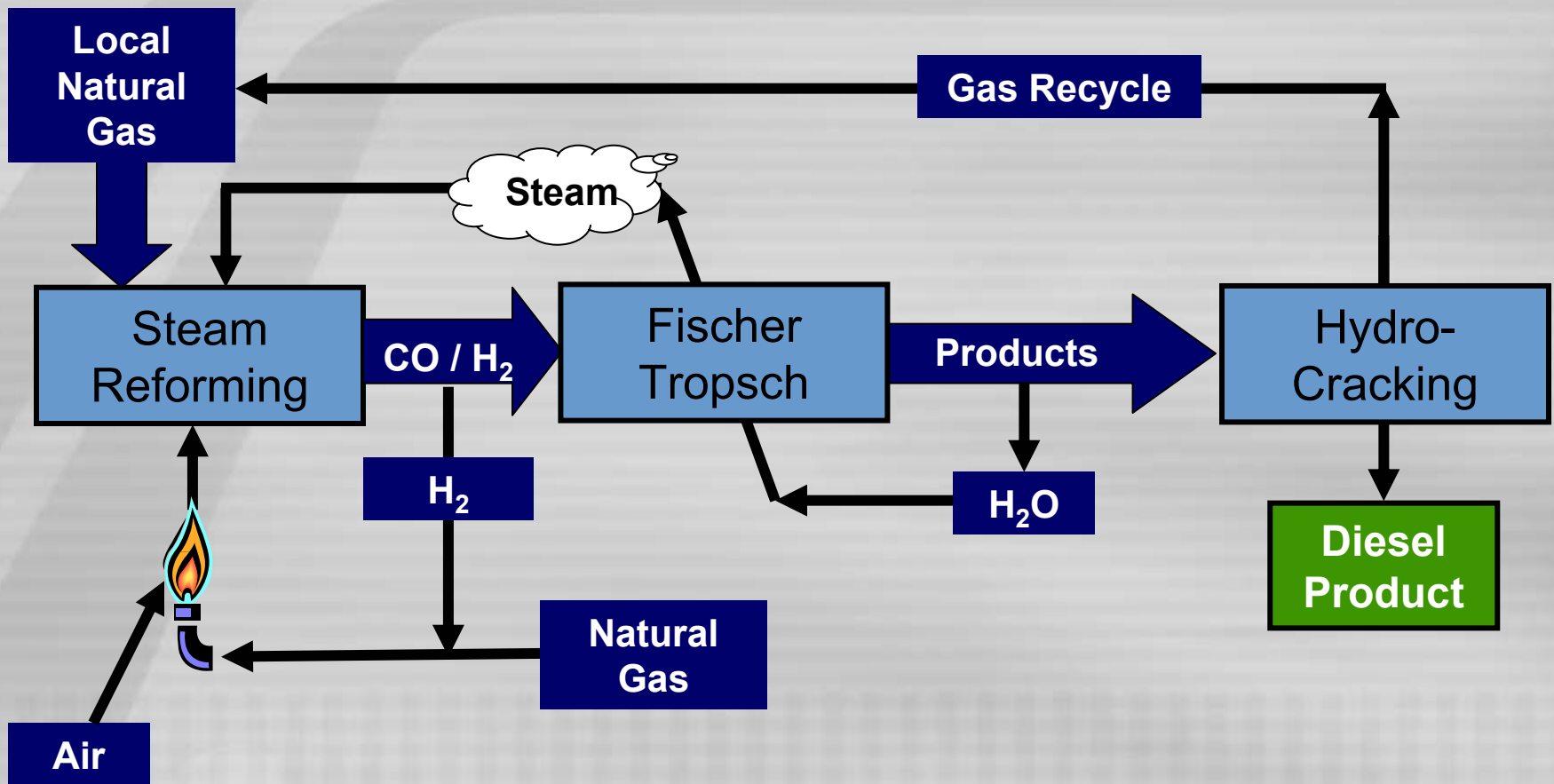


# **Offshore Gas Upgrading by Gas-to-Liquids Process**

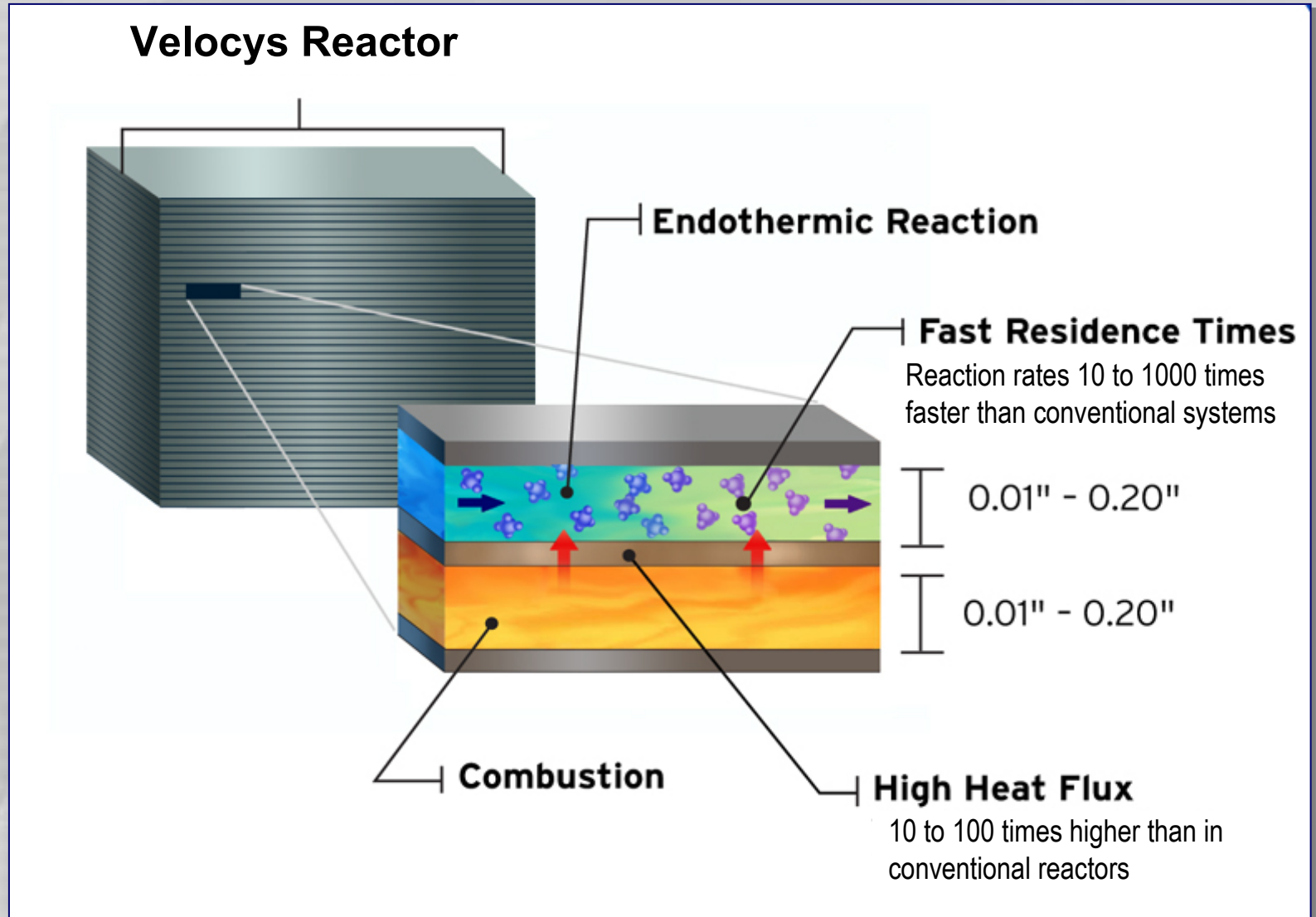
**Producing syncrude from local  
natural gas resources**



# Reviewing the GTL Process



# Velocys Steam Reformer



# Advantages in Steam Reforming



## Transfer heat from combustion reaction directly to reforming reaction

- Avoid high resistance of convective heat transfer
- $> 20 \text{ W/cm}^2$  (defined by plane separating SMR and combustion reaction)
- $> 50 \text{ W/cm}^3$  (defined by total reactor volume)

## Intense reforming reaction

- Conventional reformer:  $\sim 1$  second contact time
- Velocys reformer:  $< 5$  millisecond contact time

# Transportable Modules

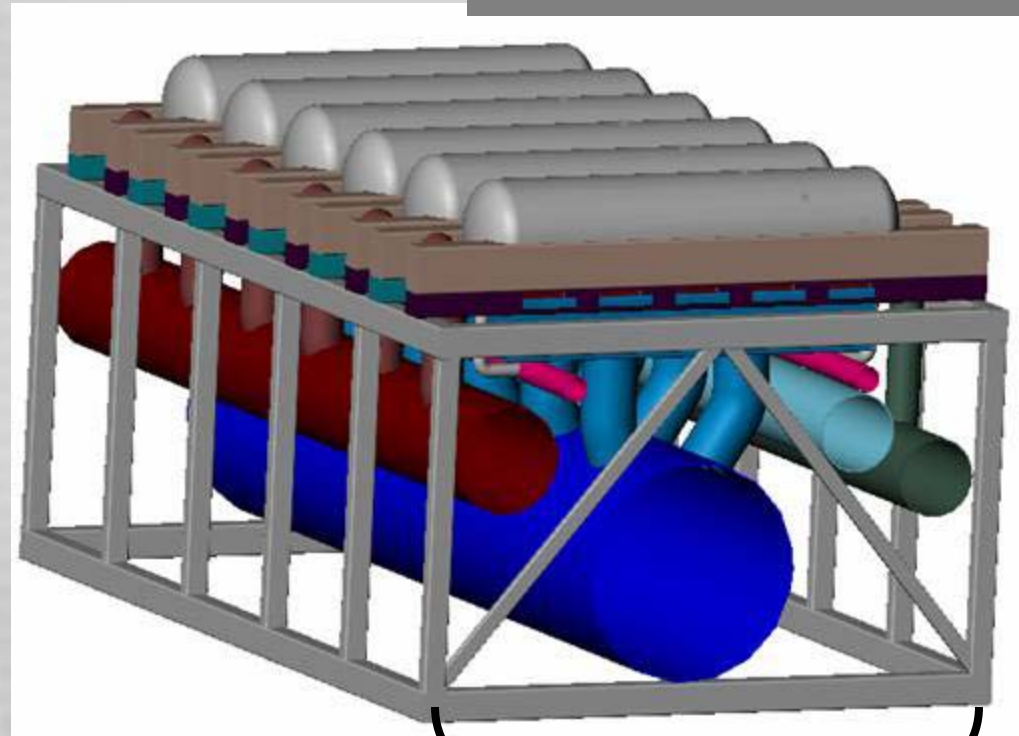
Modules can be scaled to fit on a truck or a barge depending on plant site

## Flexible Capacity

- 100 - 1,000+ BPD
- Multi-module, transportable system

## Reformer Modules

- Contain 6 reactor assemblies
- ~13 ft wide x 19 ft long x 13 ft high
- approx 40-50 tons
- 2,000 – 3,000 bpd of GTL fuels



Feed and Product piping manifolds  
all connections flanged on ends

# High-Capacity Microchannel Systems



## High Capacity

- 10,000+ BPD
- Land-based or ship mounted with conventional marine hulls
- Current design work for commercial floating, production, storage and off-loading facility
- Project completed by external engineering firm

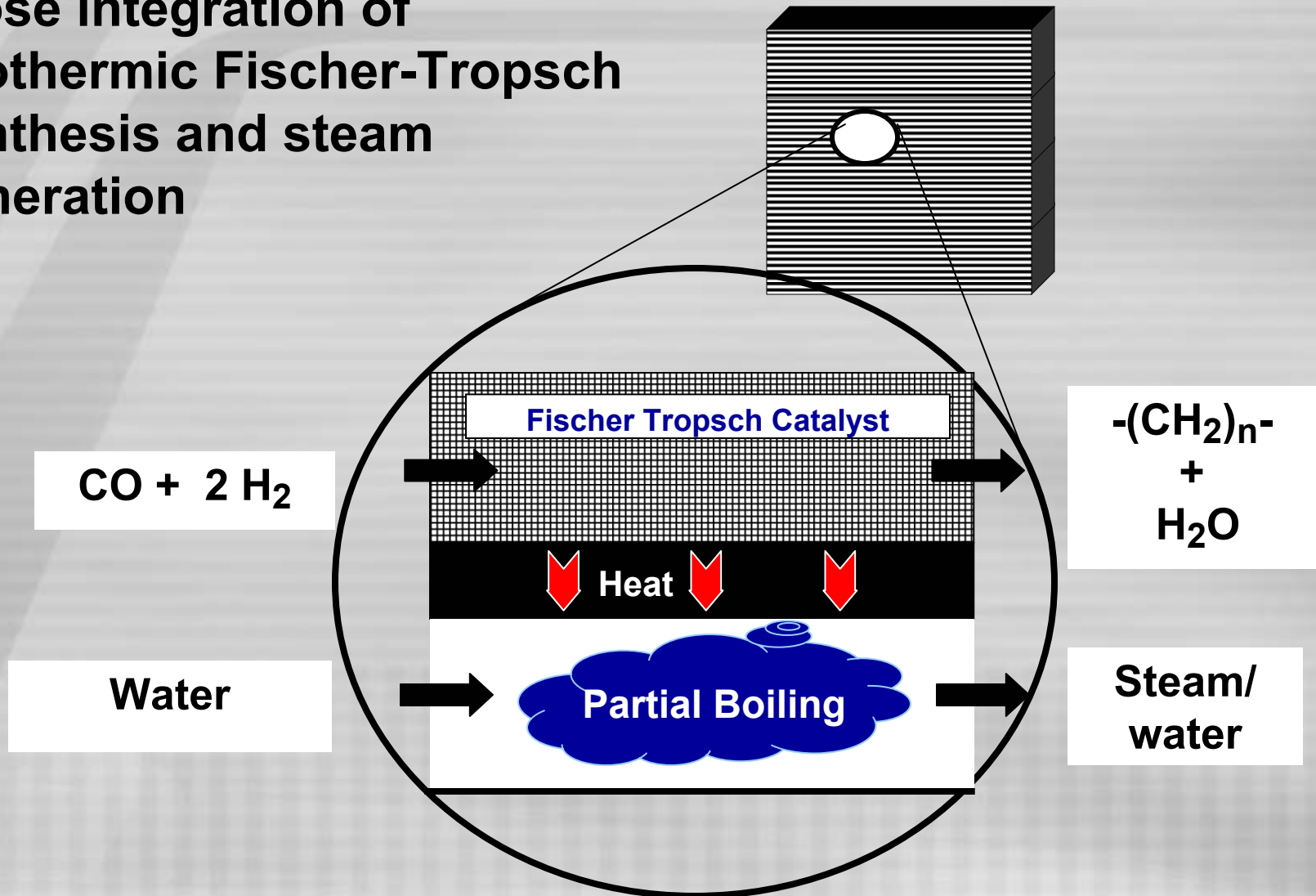




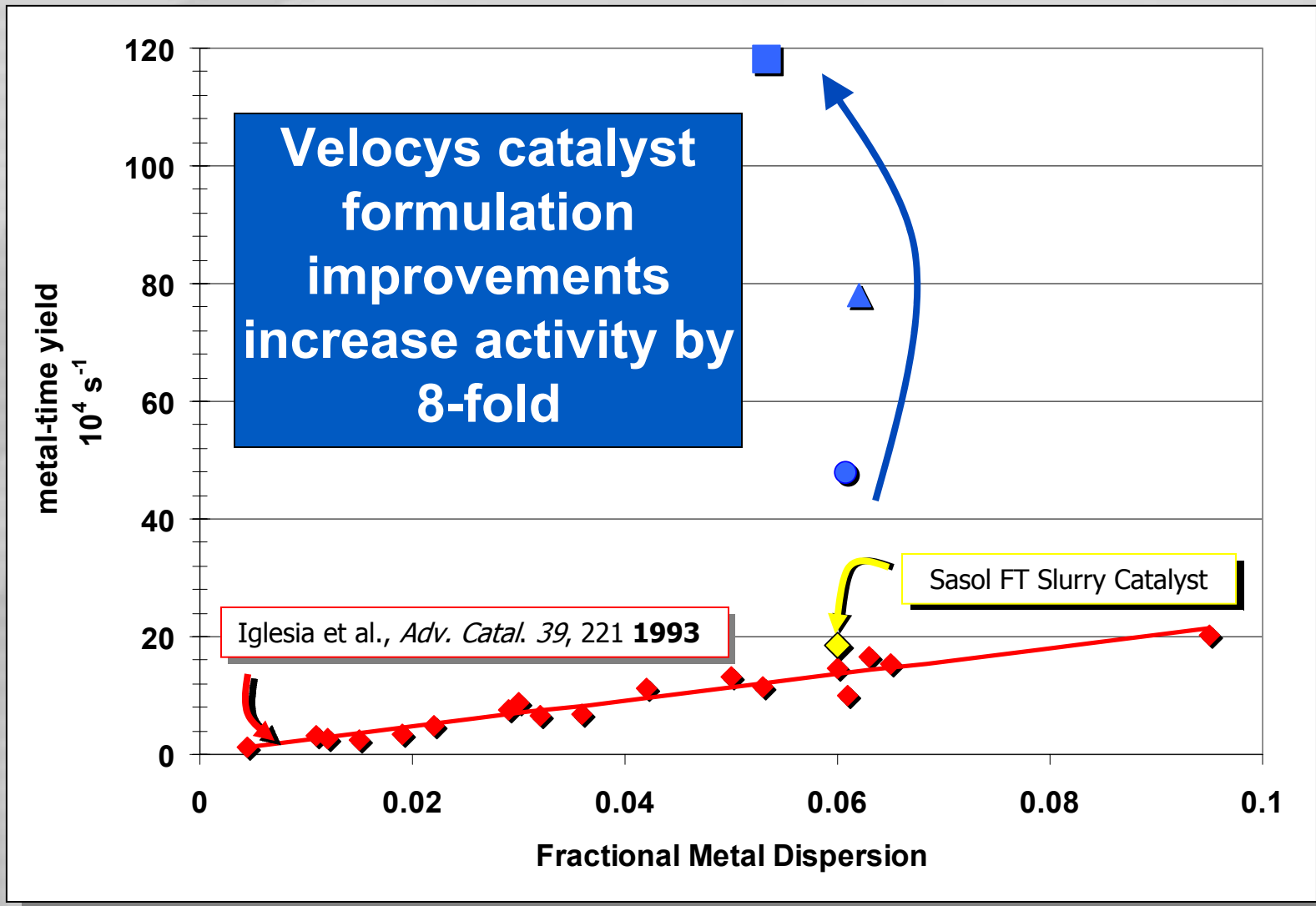
# Advantages in Fischer-Tropsch



Close integration of exothermic Fischer-Tropsch synthesis and steam generation



# Catalyst Activity Improvements Enabled by Velocys Technology



# Advantages in Fischer-Tropsch



## Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis (highly exothermic)

- Remove heat via integrated steam generation
- Excellent temperature control enables short contact time
  - Conventional Fixed Bed: ~10 seconds
  - Velocys reactor: < 0.2 second contact time

	Slurry *	Tubular Fixed Bed *	Velocys
<b>Capacity, bpd</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>Reactor wt, tonnes</b>	<b>1,800-2,000</b>	<b>1,400-1,700</b>	<b>300-500</b>
<i>Reactor productivity, bl/day/te</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>85</i>

**Velocys FT reactor efficiency is ~ 7 times  
conventional**

# Summary

**Velocys  
Technology  
will change  
how,  
where, and  
at what cost  
fuels and  
chemicals  
are produced**

*Velocys*



~ 0.05-0.1 cm



30 feet

*Conventional*



~ 5-10 cm



100 feet

# Contact Information



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