

# Petrogenium.

## Biomass-based liquid fuels by (co)processing in refinery units

Dr Colin Schaverien, *Practice Leader Renewable Resources*

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# Who is Colin Schaverien ?

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## Petrogenium

- **Practice Lead Renewable Resources:** 2017 – present

## Shell

- 30 years in various R&D and Innovation leadership roles including  
**Biorefining R & D Programme Leader:** 2005 - 2015

## Education

- Postdoctoral Fellowships at UC Berkeley and MIT
- BSc & PhD at University of Bristol

# Introduction to Petrogenium.

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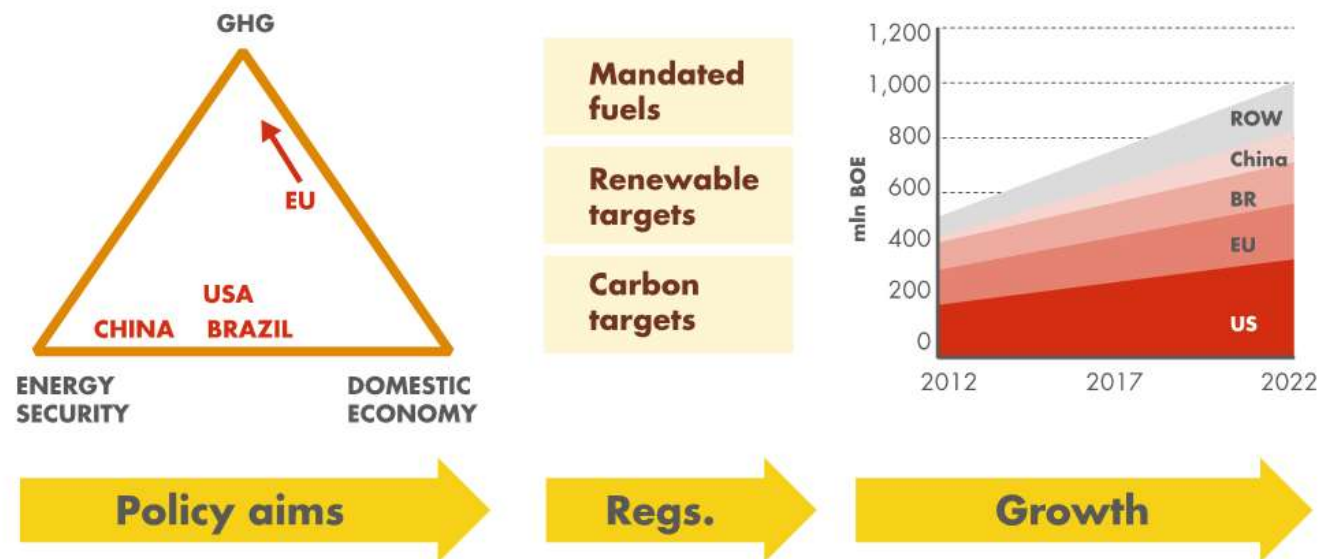
- Company founded in 2015
- Office in Amsterdam area, the Netherlands
- Currently about 50+ consultants, target 65 by end 2019
- Most consultants are international world-class technical, commercial and consultancy experts with 25+ years of oil industry experience in asset owner roles.
- Petrogenium provides support to Downstream Oil, Petrochemicals Industry, Upstream and the Renewable Resources areas in:-
  1. Technical and operational support
  2. Business improvement
  3. Strategy consulting
  4. License to operate

# Why do biofuels ?

Government policies drive change in form of mandates.

More than 65 countries have developed renewable transport fuels policies

## Biofuels global demand outlook



# Today's road transport fuels

- The most widely used transport biofuels are ethanol and biodiesel
- Ethanol usually made by fermenting crops high in sugar
- Biodiesel (FAME) is made from vegetable oil crops through transesterification
- Hydro-treating (HVO) uses a different process and can be blended at higher concentrations

## Organic raw material



Sugar cane

Corn

Wheat



Rape seed

Palm oil

Soya bean

## Process

Fermentation

Transesterification

Hydro-treating

## Product

Ethanol

(blend with gasoline)

FAME

(blend with diesel)

HVO

(blend with diesel)

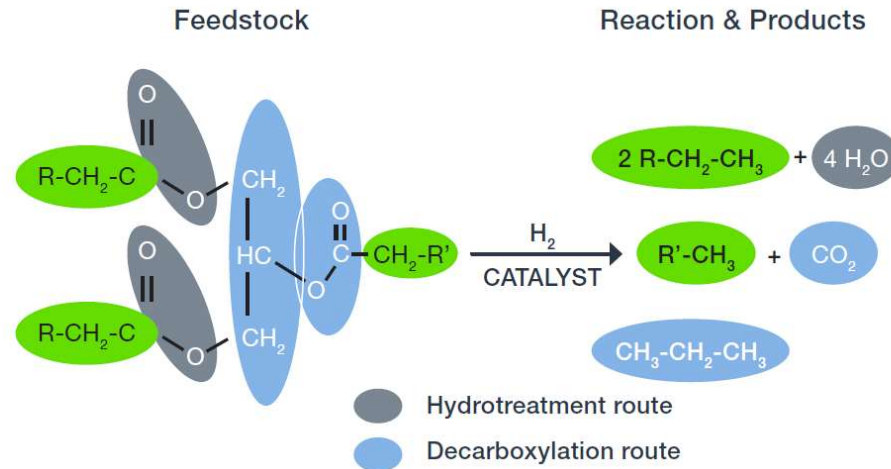
# RED II: Renewable energy targets for 2030

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- Member states must require fuel suppliers to supply a **minimum of 14 %** of the energy consumed in road and rail transport by 2030 as renewable energy.
- Increasing from **1.5 % in 2021** (in energy terms) to **6.8 % in 2030**, including at least **3.6 % of advanced biofuels**.
  - Advanced biofuels: feedstocks in Annex IX, part A (e.g. no vegetable oils). Double-counted towards both 3.6 % and 14% target.
  - Biofuels from feeds in Annex IX, Part B (only UCO & animal fats) **capped at 1.7 % in 2030**. Also to be double counted towards the 14% target.
- Advanced aviation (and marine) fuels count 1.2 times their renewable energy content.
- To minimize indirect Land-Use Change impact, **food-based biofuels** to be reduced from **7 % in 2021 to 3.8 % in 2030**.

# Hydrotreated Vegetable oils (HVO)

FAME blending limited to 7% by OEMs. Constraint overcome with HVO



Yields (wt %):

HVO 80

Propane 5

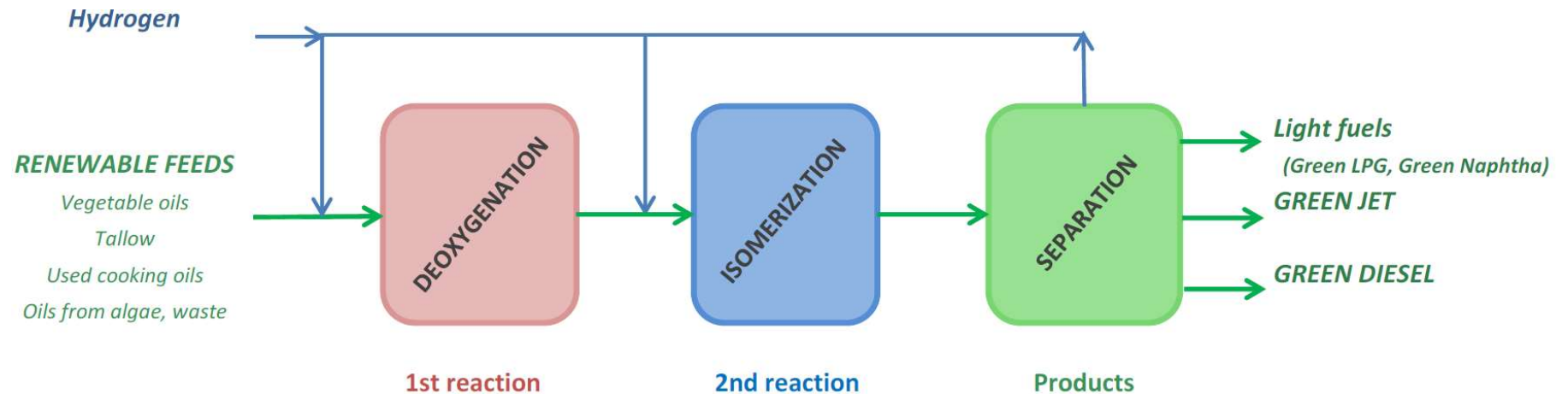
H<sub>2</sub>O 9

CO, CO<sub>2</sub> 6

H<sub>2</sub> consumption 3 wt %

} Ratio depends  
on T, cat, pp H<sub>2</sub>

# Simplified HVO manufacturing scheme



Fatty acids +  
triglycerides

Straight chain  
alkanes

Branched  
alkanes

- T = 320 °C,
- > 60 bar H<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>S
- CoMo or NiMo

- ≥ 350 °C, 60 bar
- Rigorous separation of H<sub>2</sub>S, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O
- Pt/C dewaxing catalyst



# Vegetable oil hydrotreating (HVO)

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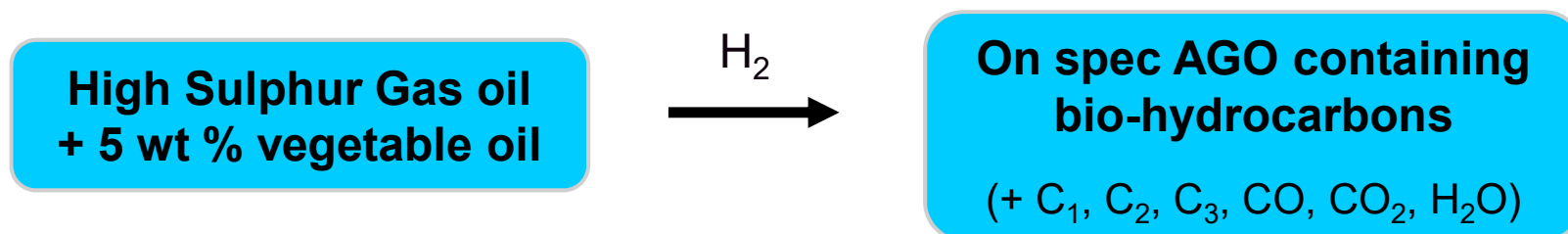
## Advantages:

- Uses known refinery technologies
- The end product is a **high quality pure bio-alkane**, fully fungible with diesel, allowable in multi-product pipelines, with improved cold flow properties, high cetane (~80) and no blend wall limits.
- **WTW GHG emissions** are similar, or lower, than FAMEs based on the same feedstock i.e. ~30 – 50% reduction over fossil diesel (higher if using waste oils)
- **HVO quality premium** in blending versus FAMEs
  - Lower density
  - Similar energy content per unit volume
  - Infrastructure requirements
  - Cost of FAME biodiesel

# Co-processing in AGO HDS unit

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Co-processing ca. 5 wt % vegetable-oil like feeds to make 10 ppm S diesel containing in-situ bio-component



Done at Preem (Gotenburg), Repsol (Cepsa) and Galp (Sines) and others

# Vegetable Oils to biojet

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Aviation growing at 5 %/year. Currently accounts for 2 - 3% of worldwide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

No mandates (RFS2), RINs or subsidies to support low carbon biojet in USA. Although REDII will include renewable jet. Biojet should:-

- Meet fuel performance requirements
- Require no change to airplanes or engines
- Require no change to infrastructure
- 5 pathways qualified in ASTM D7566 “Standard Specification for Aviation Turbine Fuel Containing Synthesized Hydrocarbons”; only 1 of which is commercial
- > 100,000 commercial flights used low carbon fuels in the last 10 years according to IATA
- Almost all biojet from Neste and World Energy (ex AltAir) in Paramount refinery, LA.

# Fischer Tropsch routes (BtL)

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## **CHORen history**

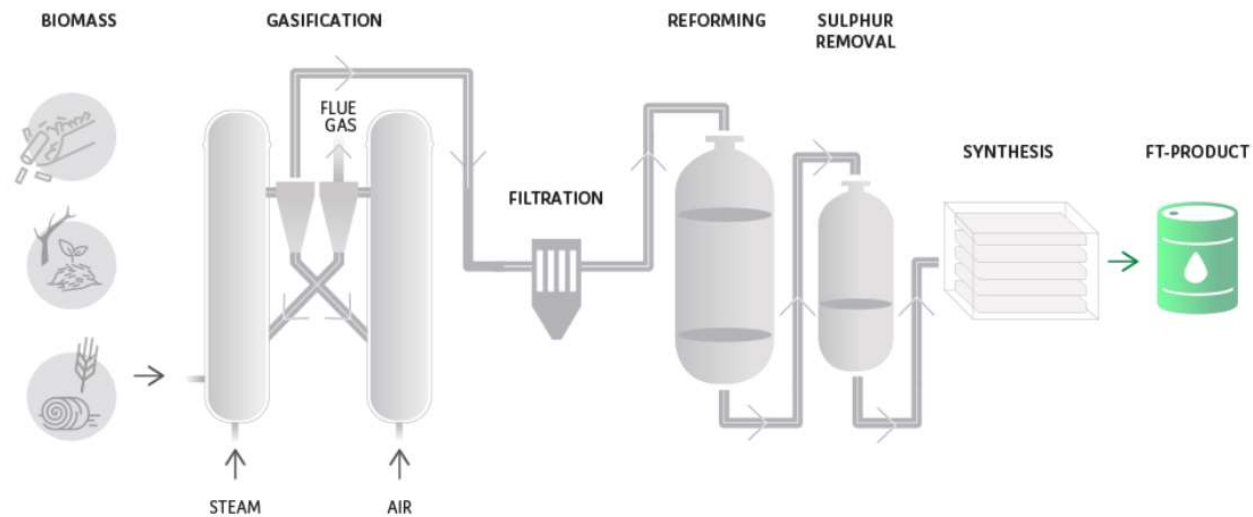
- 1 MW<sub>th</sub> pilot plant in Freiburg operated 1988 – 2004. Fuel to DaimlerChrysler & VW for testing
- In 2003, gasifier scaled up from 1 MW<sub>th</sub> to 45 MW<sub>th</sub> (= 15 kta BtL)
- In 2005, Shell Fischer Tropsch technology licensed. Shell, DC and VW invested.
- In 2009, gasification section commissioning started
- In 2011, bankruptcy proceedings began
- **CHORen technical challenges**
  - FT very sensitive to syngas impurities
  - Technology works - pilot plant ran for many years. But i) getting correct H<sub>2</sub>/CO ratio and ii) high enough purity - as syngas from biomass very different to syngas from NG or coal

## **Current BtL projects**

- Fulcrum Bioenergy to convert Municipal Solid Waste via gasification and FT.  
Constructing commercial plant (“Sierra plant”) near Reno, NV, USA. To start up early 2020.
- Red Rock Biofuels to construct demo in Oregon

# COMSYN

Compact Gasification and Synthesis process for Transport Fuels for the decentralized production of FT-wax



## Challenges

- Syngas clean up before FT
- Route to technology maturation and scale up ?
- Consistency of biomass composition ?
- Although chain length needs to be reduced for transport fuel applications, FT wax is, in itself, a valuable product.

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# Petrogenium.

*Renewable Resources: because  
carbon matters*

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