



# IMPROOF

Welcome to the IMPROOF Stakeholder meeting

 Please consider muting your microphone throughout the presentation

 Q&A will be held at the end of the presentations  
Questions can be posed continuously in the chat



# IMPROOF

### Emission & Energy reduction

Energy efficiency is a crucial factor for today's steam cracking furnaces.

Opposing factors like cost efficiency and a simultaneous reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and NO<sub>x</sub> needs to be controlled.

Innovative technologies will allow:

- to increase energy efficiency by at least 20%
- to reduce greenhouse gases and NO<sub>x</sub> / ton ethylene produced by at least 25%
- to increase the time on stream by a factor 3

PROJECT DETAILS  
Duration 48 months  
EU Grant 6 878 401 €

### CONSORTIUM

**GHENT UNIVERSITY**  
COORDINATOR:  
Kevin Van Geem  
[Kevin.VanGeem@UGent.be](mailto:Kevin.VanGeem@UGent.be)

**CERFACS**

**JOHN ZINK HAMWORTHY COMBUSTION**

Schmidt + Dennis Group

**AVGI**

**SC TechnipFMC**

**DOW**

**CRSS**

**Emisshield**

Associated partner:

ayming

POLITECNICO MILANO 1863

Acknowledgment: This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, under Grant Agreement No 723706

**OBJECTIVE**  
Develop new techniques to reduce coke formation, use high emissivity coatings, and include biogas and bio-oil as fuels to drastically improve the energy efficiency of steam cracking furnaces in a cost effective way, while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutant emissions.

**INNOVATIONS**  
New 3D reactor design for improved process control and increased run length  
Renewable fuels (biogas and bio-oil) for lower net CO<sub>2</sub> production  
High emissivity coatings

**METHODS**  
Chemical kinetics for oxy-combustion and biofuels  
Advanced numerical simulation

Integrated model guided process optimization of steam cracking furnaces

improof

HOME PARTNERS PEOPLE WORKSHOPS EVENTS OUTPUTS & RESULTS PUBLICATIONS APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

## Welcome to IMPROOF

IMPROOF is a European Project aiming at improving the energy efficiency of steam cracking furnaces, while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and NO<sub>x</sub>. The strongly industrial oriented consortium is composed of 7 industrial partners, including 2 SME completed by 2 RTD and 2 Universities, showing a clear and strong path to the industrial and economical world.

Duration  
Start date 1 September, 2016  
End date 31 August, 2020

### News

7 March 2017

- On November 5-6, 2016 '10th International Conference on Chemical Reactors (ICHEMREACTOR-23)' to be held in Ghent, Belgium

Two partnership members are keynote Lecturers in CHEMREACTOR23 Dr. Benedicte Cuynet (Centre Européen de Recherche et de Formation Avancée en...)

[READ MORE](#)

### Leaflet

# Agenda

**Meeting Name:** Stakeholder meeting  
**Meeting Date:** Sunday 16 August 2020, 17h CET  
**Meeting Venue:** online



## Stakeholder meeting

	Remark	Leader	Starting Time	Duration
	Introduction, Presentation of the expected results and outcomes: new capacity / improvements of the plant, productivity	Kevin Van Geem	17:00	00:25
	Materials, pilot results and tube production	Marko Djokic, Steffen Heyland	17:25	00:30
	Low emission furnaces	Georgios Bellos, Peter Oud	17:55	00:15
	Conclusion + Q&A session	Kevin Van Geem	18:10	00:45
	<i>meeting closed</i>		<b>18:55</b>	



IMPROOF - a European Project supported within H2020 Framework program



Technical field

Industrial furnace design - SPIRE04-2016

Integrated model guided process optimization of steam cracking furnaces

## Academy



## Technology developers



## End user



## Project

September 2016-August 2020  
6.8 MM€ consortium grant

# Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and NOx by 20% per ton of C2=

Biofuels combustion



POLITECNICO  
DI MILANO

Ultra low NOx burners



Oxy-fuel combustion



POLITECNICO  
DI MILANO



High emissivity coatings on walls

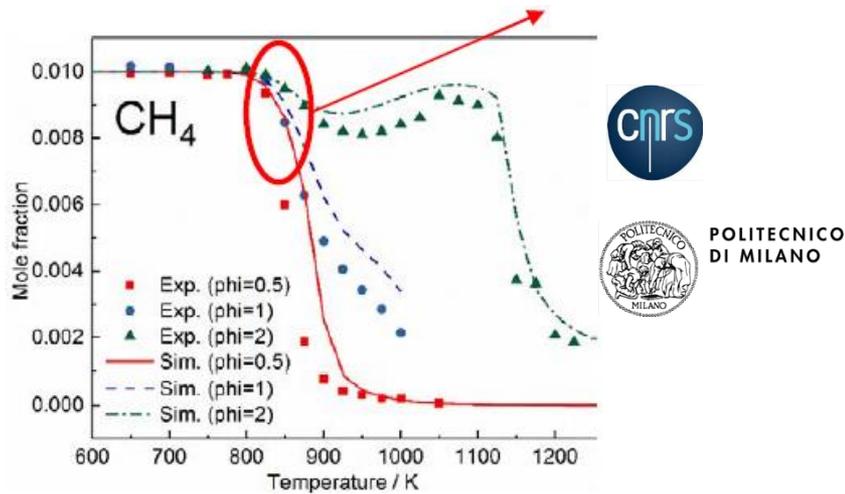


New radiant coil metallurgy

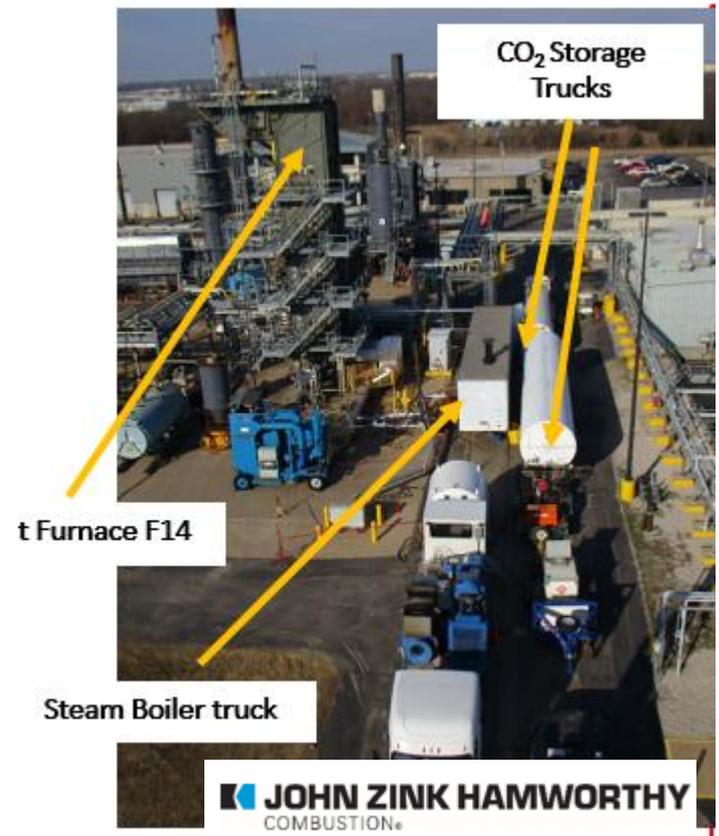
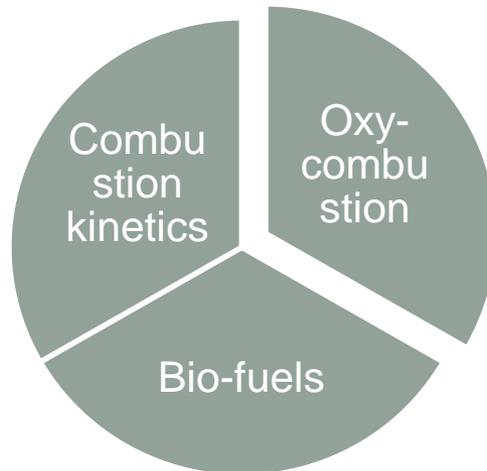


New radiant coil morphology

# Combustion kinetics



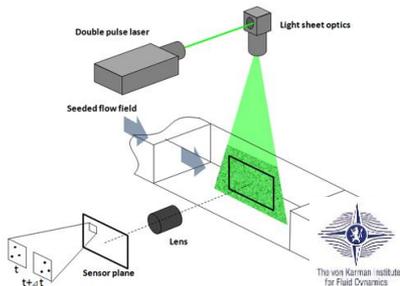
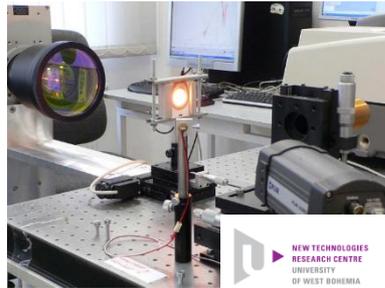
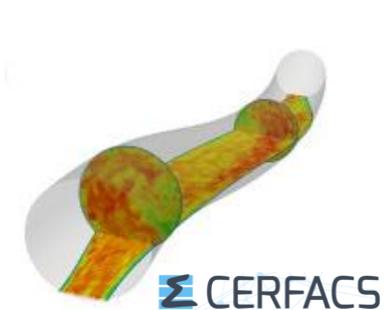
POLITECNICO DI MILANO



**JOHN ZINK HAMWORTHY**  
COMBUSTION

# Demonstration of new technologies

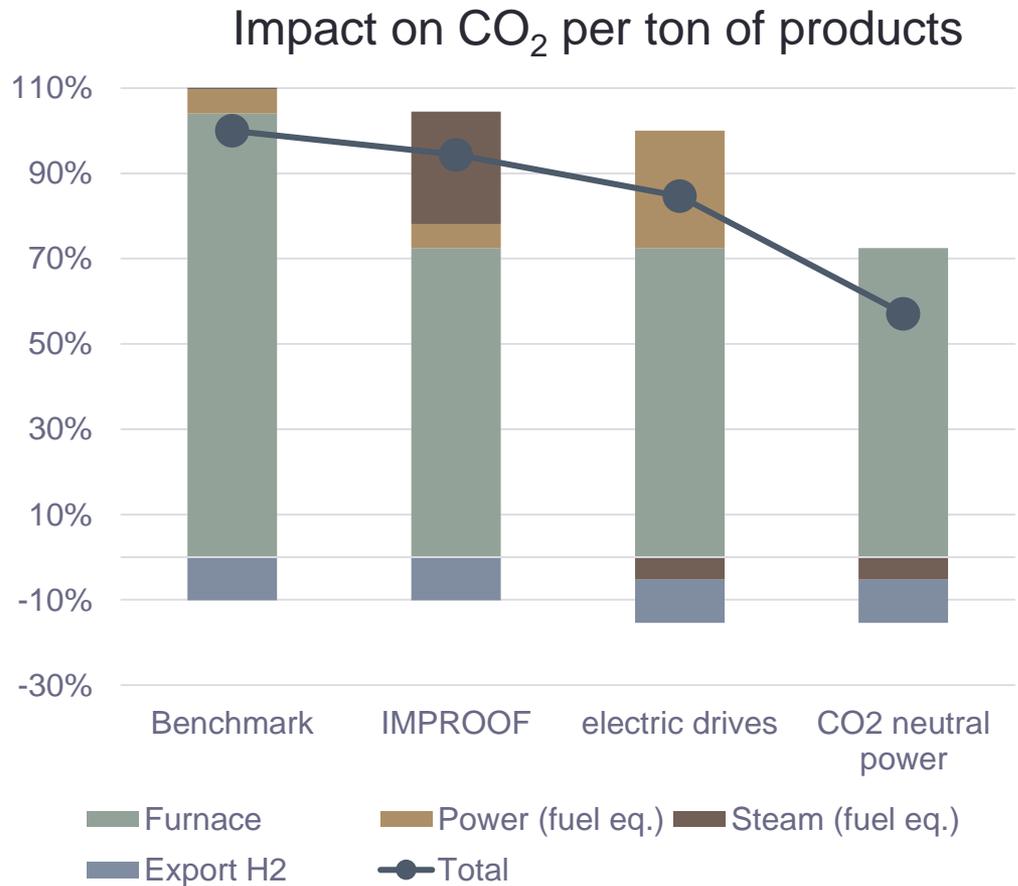
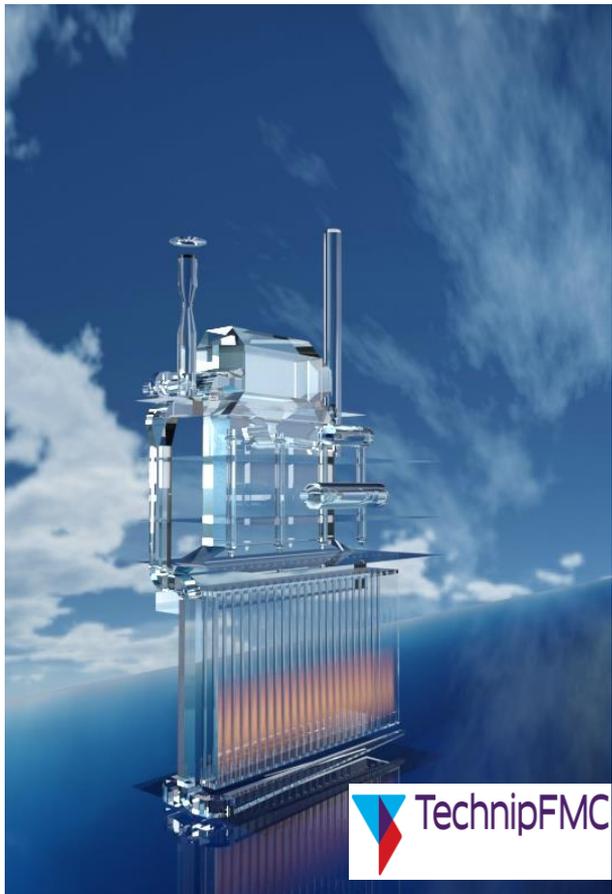
## Modeling & TRL5



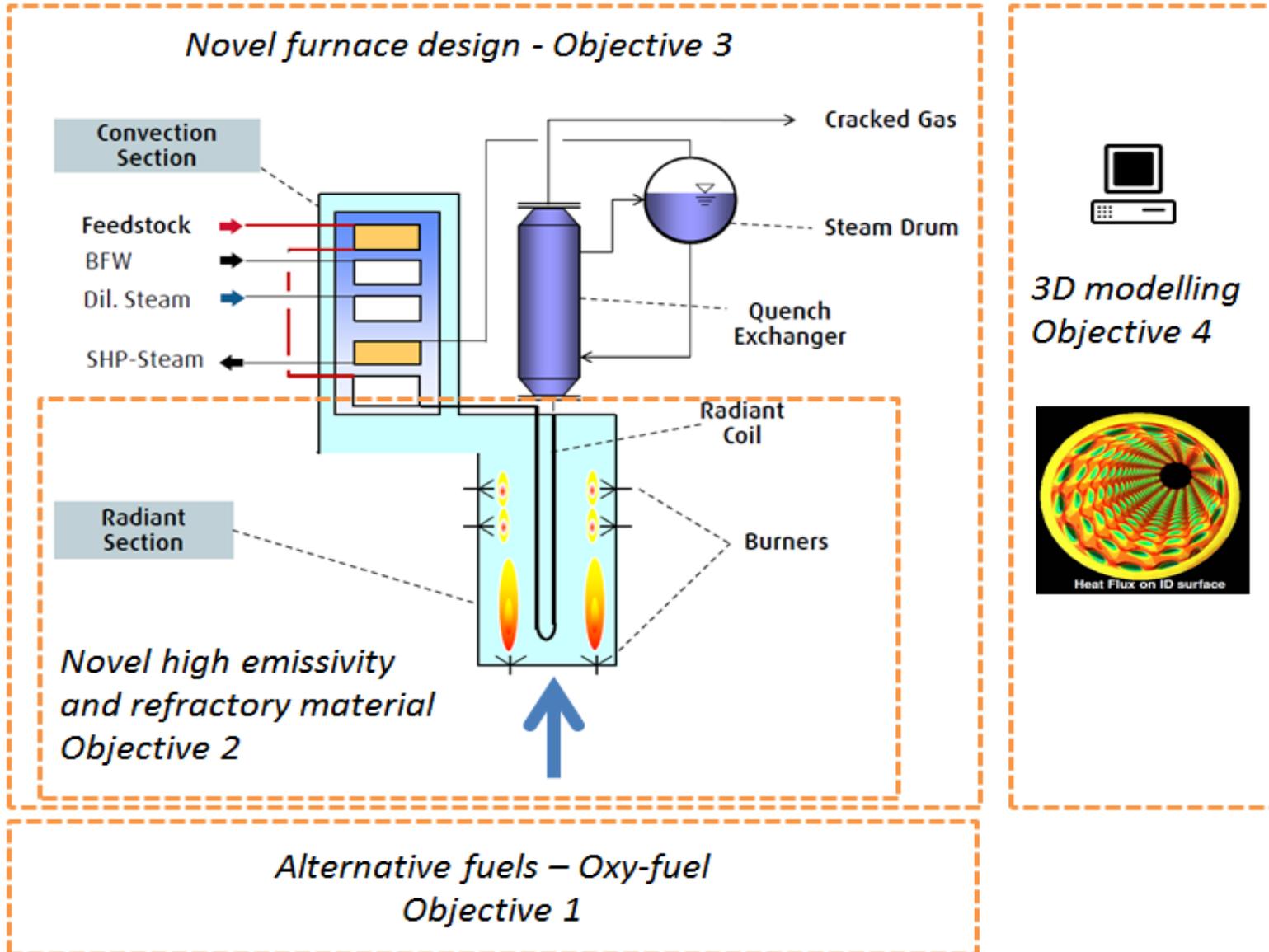
## TRL6 demonstration



# LCA on new process design



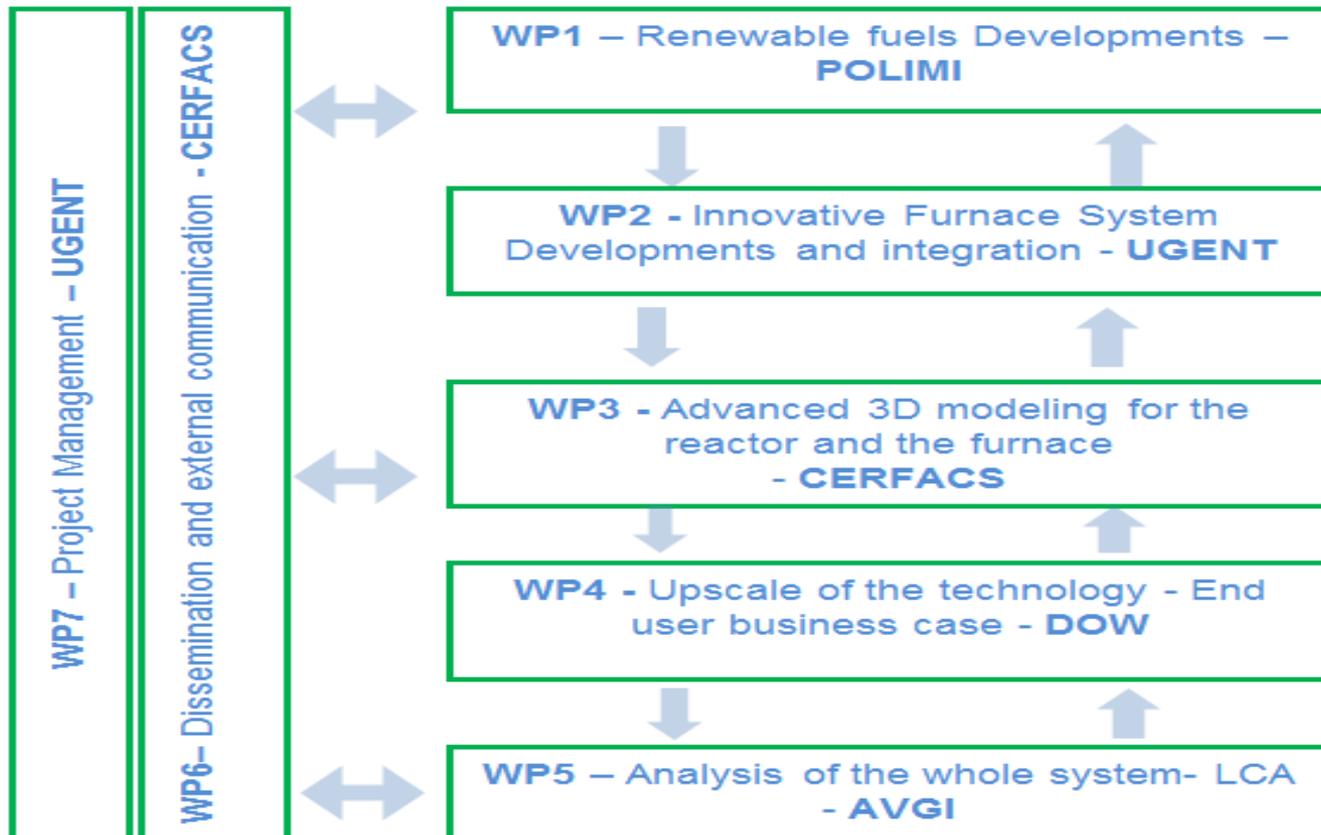
# Objective: Furnace of the future



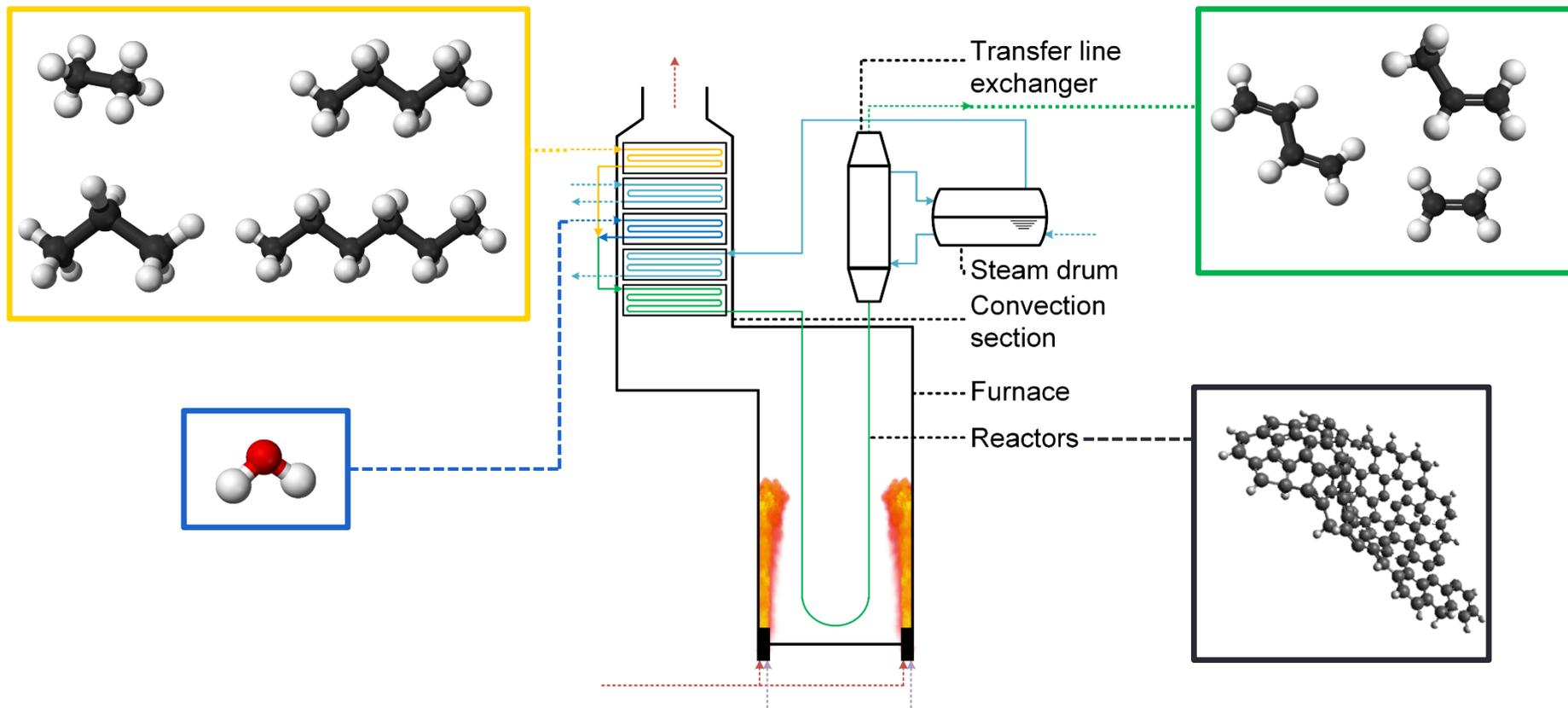
# 5 sub-objectives

1. Demonstrate the individual impact of **novel emissive, reactor and refractory materials** on pilot scale (TRL5)
2. Demonstrate the power advanced process simulation (**high performance computing and CFD**) for furnace design and optimization
3. Demonstrate the technical, economic and environmental sustainability of the IMPROOF furnace at **TRL6**
4. **Coke formation reduction** and real time optimization
5. Novel combustion technology using **alternative fuels and oxy-fuel** combustion.

# WP structure with related WP leaders



# state-of-the-art



Furnaces have had no spectacular advances for the last 10-20 years

S. Vangaever, P. A. Reyniers, C. Visser, D. Jakobi, G. J. Heynderickx, G. B. Marin, *et al.*,  
"Computational Fluid Dynamics-Based Study of a High Emissivity Coil Coating in an Industrial Steam Cracker," *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research*, vol. 57, pp. 120782-120794, 12018.

IMPROOF - a European Project supported within H2020 Framework program

# Review articles



Review

Cite This: *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2018, 57, 16117–16136

pubs.acs.org/IECR

## State-of-the-art of Coke Formation during Steam Cracking: Anti-Coking Surface Technologies

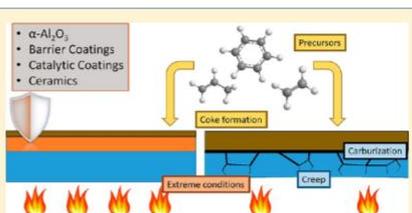
Steffen H. Symoens,<sup>†</sup> Natalia Olahova,<sup>†</sup> Andrés E. Muñoz Gandarillas,<sup>‡</sup> Hadiseh Karimi,<sup>‡</sup> Marko R. Djokic,<sup>†</sup> Marie-Françoise Reyniers,<sup>†</sup> Guy B. Marin,<sup>†</sup> and Kevin M. Van Geem<sup>\*†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Ghent University, Laboratory for Chemical Technology, Technologiepark 914, 9052 Gent, Belgium

<sup>‡</sup>AVGI bvba, Technologiepark 19, 9052, Gent, Belgium

### Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Although steam cracking is a mature technology, mitigation of coke formation remains one of the main challenges in the petrochemical industry. To increase the olefin output of existing plants, coil materials that can withstand higher temperatures are desired. This work reviews material technologies that were developed and tested in the past three decades to minimize the rate of coke deposition and extend the furnace run length. The material not only determines the mechanical properties of the coil but also affects the coking rate substantially. In some cases, differences in coking rates by more than a factor 10 have been observed. SiC materials could be operated at significantly higher temperatures, and this leads to higher olefin selectivity if one includes acetylene hydrogenation; however, the mechanical joints make it currently impossible to take advantage of their superior temperature resistance. On the industrial scale, operational improvements have been reported with advanced reactor surface technologies such as high-performance alloys and coatings during the past decade. Catalytic coatings go a step further than barrier coatings by actively removing coke that is deposited on the coils. Another trend is to add aluminum to the coil material, which forms a protective aluminum oxide layer on the reactor wall during operation and results in reduced carburization. To optimize the coking mitigation capabilities of the coils, the state-of-the-art materials and/or coatings should be combined with 3D reactor technologies, which is not always possible for all materials because of the advanced machining that is needed.



### 1. INTRODUCTION

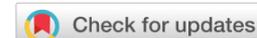
Steam cracking is the most important petrochemical process

Commercial steam cracking of hydrocarbons is performed almost exclusively in fired tubular reactors. The hydrocarbon feed stream enters the furnace and is preheated by heat exchange



From the journal:  
**Reaction Chemistry & Engineering**

## Sustainable innovations in steam cracking: CO<sub>2</sub> neutral olefin production

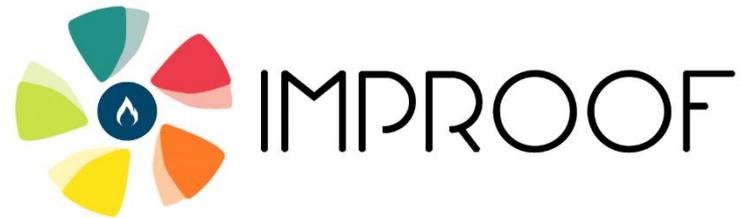


Ismaël Amghizar,<sup>a</sup> Jens N. Dedeyne,<sup>a</sup> David J. Brown,<sup>b</sup> Guy B. Marin <sup>a</sup> and Kevin M. Van Geem <sup>\*a</sup>

Author affiliations

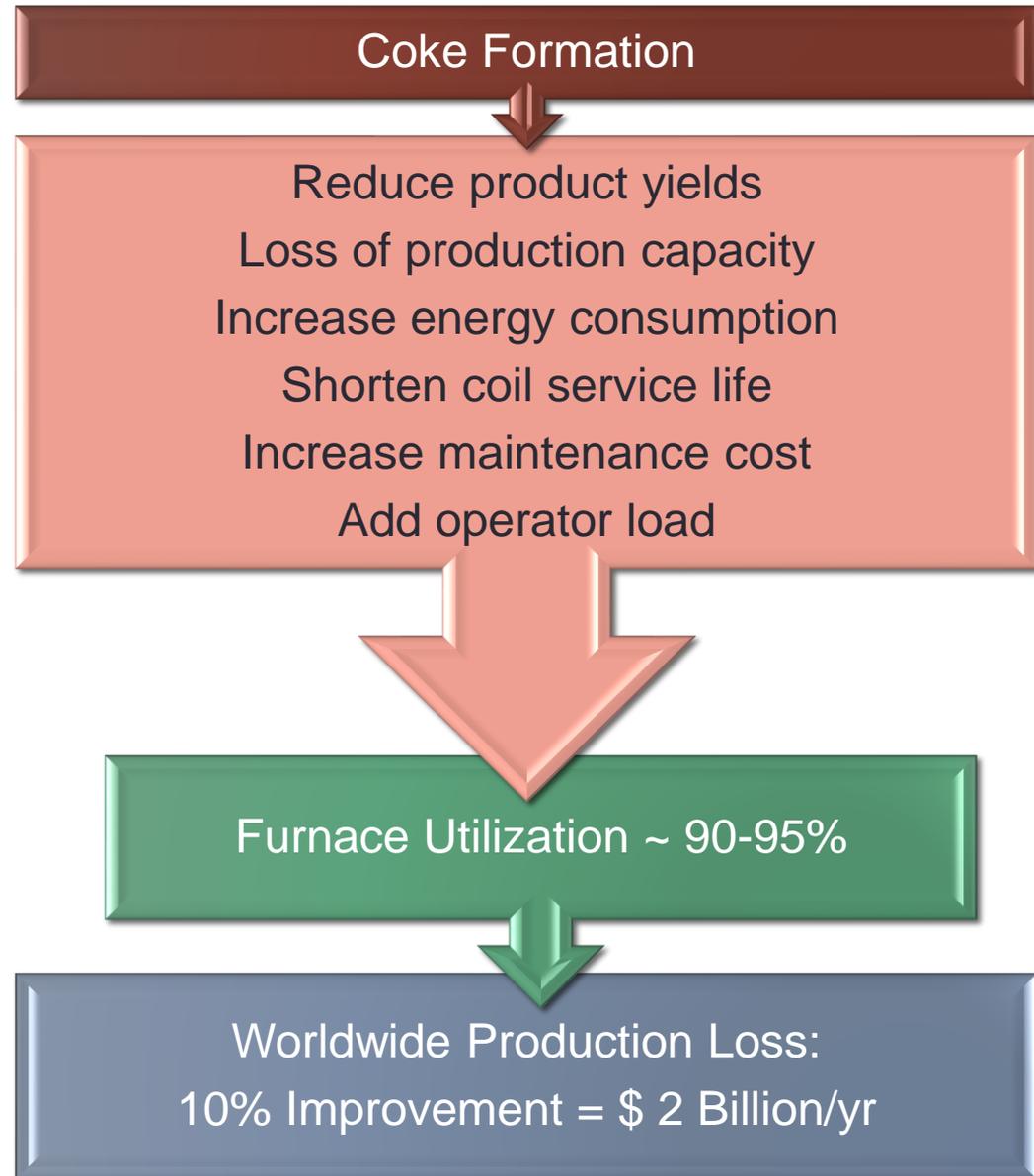
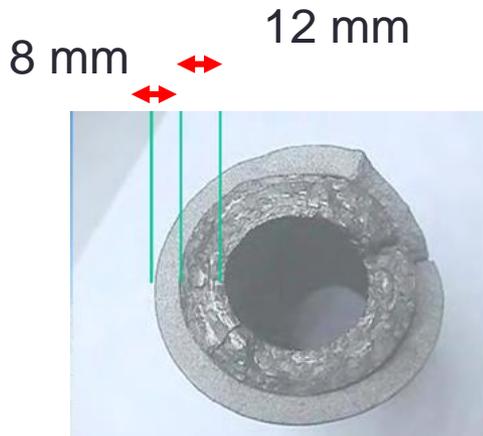
# Evolution of the state-of-the-art

- a new wind is blowing: *IMPROOF is partly driving this*
  - *New concepts related to energy are being considered*
  - *Novel technologies are being vetted more quickly*

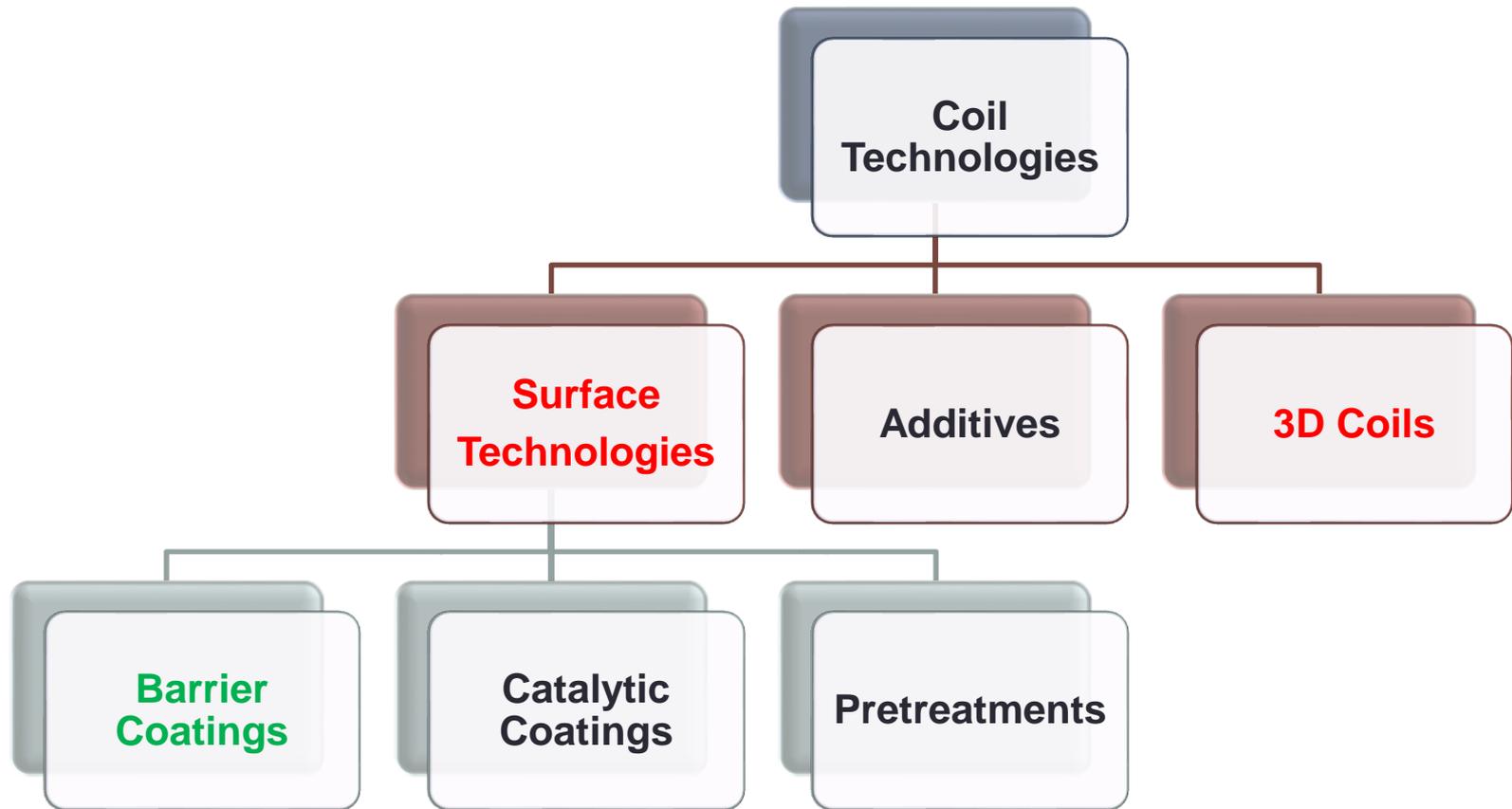


- **Examples:**
  - *Novel materials for high emissivity coatings*
  - *3D reactor technologies are being more and more embraced by industry*
  - *Reactor materials are revisited based on better understanding and better testing procedures*

# Coke Formation



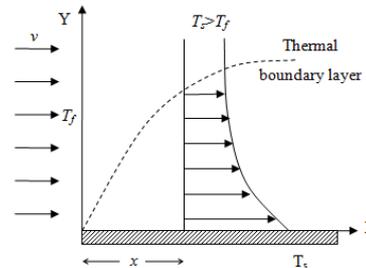
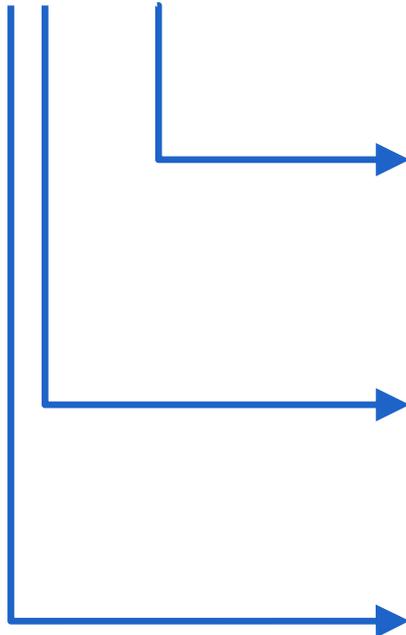
# Technologies for Coke Reduction and Heat Transfer Improvements



# Process Intensification in steam cracking

Improve reactor design by accelerating heat input

$$\dot{Q} = h A (T_{\text{inner reactor wall}} - T_{\text{fluid}})$$



Thermal efficiency



Product selectivity



Decoking procedures



More reactor material needed



More friction with wall ~  $\Delta p$

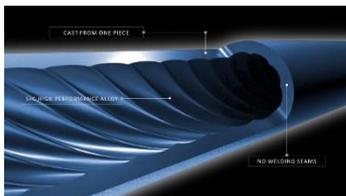


Disrupt the boundary layer

Fig.4.3: Thermal boundary layer flow past a flat surface

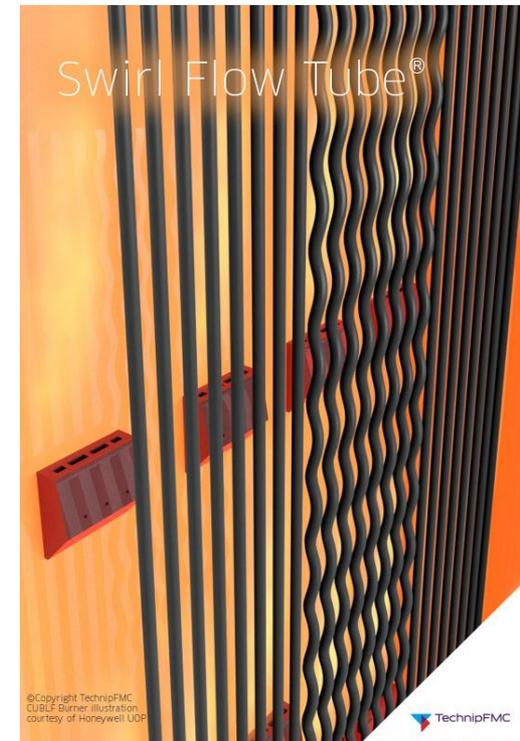
# 3D Coils

- 3D geometries to enhance heat transfer by
  - Increased internal surface area
    - Fin-like structures
  - Enhanced mixing
    - SCOPE (S+C)
    - Swirl Flow Tube (SFT)



SCOPE®

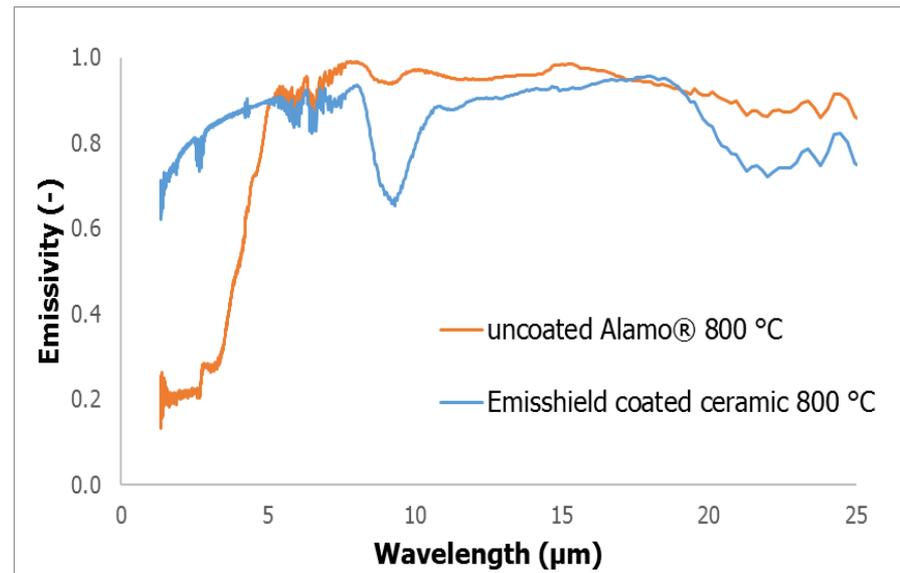
SFT®



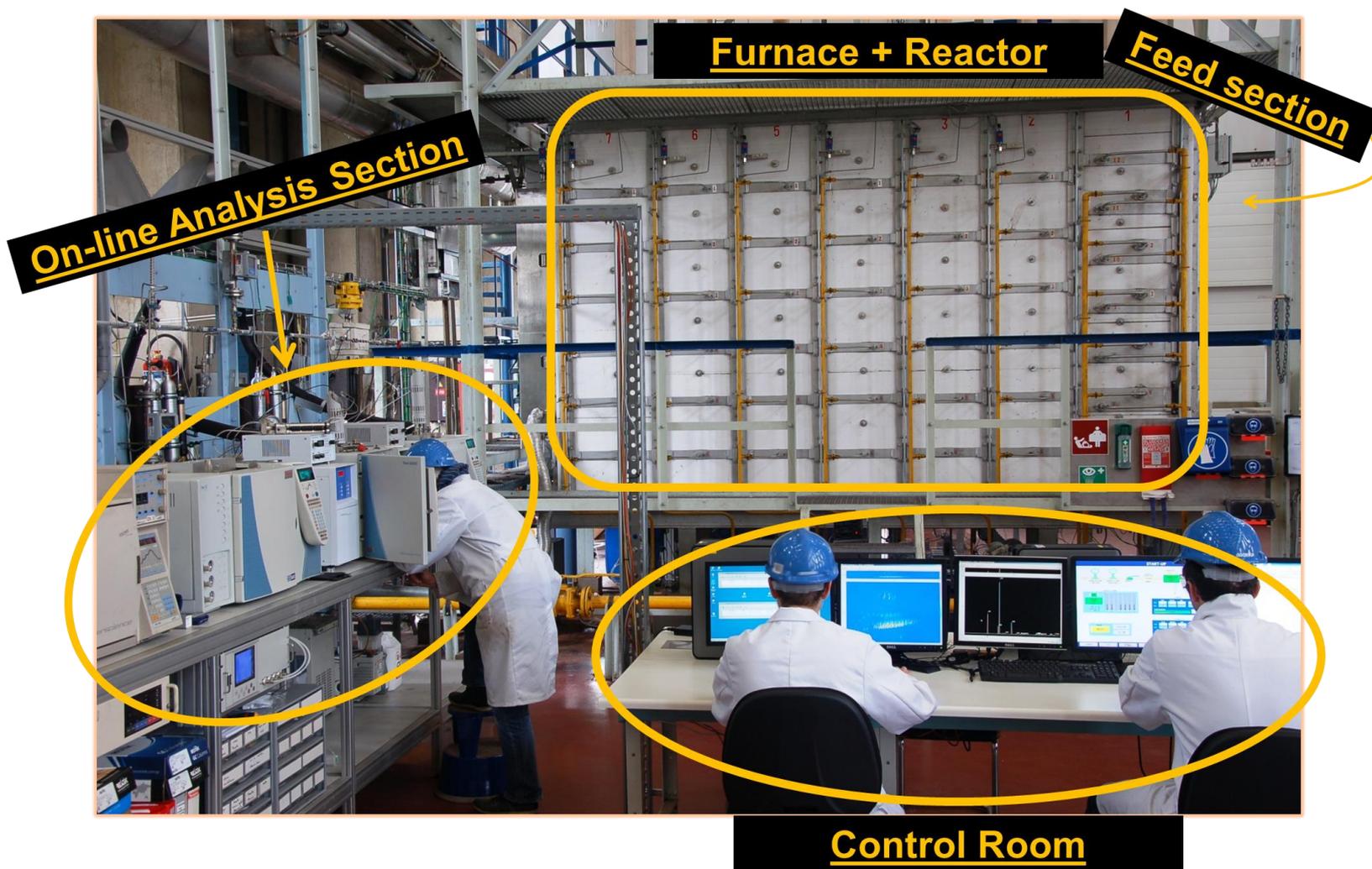
- Major drawback: **Increased pressure losses**

# High Emissivity Coatings

- Application of high-emissivity coatings:
  - on furnace walls improves heat transfer and thermal efficiency of furnace
  - on reactor tubes increases capacity of reactor tube to transfer heat to process gas
- Emissivity of a high-emissivity ceramic coating increases with temperature
- CFD modeling showed:
  - Application of high-emissivity coatings on walls of a naphtha furnace increased thermal efficiency (~1%) & improved yield of ethylene(~0.5%)



# Pilot tests proved there value



# Techniques for Lowering NO<sub>x</sub>

- Steam injection in the combustion zone
- Modifications to create a larger flame
  - Produces a lower flame temperature and lower NO<sub>x</sub>
- Low or ultra-low NO<sub>x</sub> staged fuel burners
- Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) system
  - NO<sub>x</sub> and ammonia react on a titanium-vanadium based catalyst to produce nitrogen and water
- Improved Combustion
  - Oxy-fuel combustion
  - Moderate or Intense Low-oxygen Dilution (MILD) combustion

Bussman, W., Poe, R., Hayes, B., McAdams, J. & Karan, J. *Environ. Prog.* **21**, 1–9 (2002).

Walker, J. S. & Salbilla, D. L. Analysis of NO<sub>x</sub> Reduction Techniques on an Ethylene Cracking Furnace.

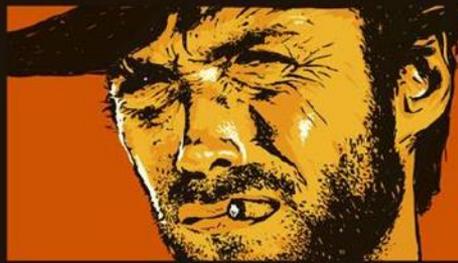
Zimmermann, H. & Walzi, R. in *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry* 547–572

# Improved Combustion

- **Oxy-fuel** process is based on removal of nitrogen from air to carry out combustion with nearly pure oxygen and part of the flue gases
- Advantages:
  - Production of a highly concentrated stream of CO<sub>2</sub>, ready for capture and storage (CCS).
  - Significantly reduce size of combustor unit
  - Higher adiabatic flame temperature
  - Reduce NO<sub>x</sub>

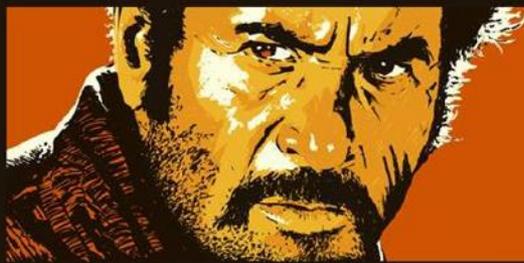


Only results will tell how ugly things get



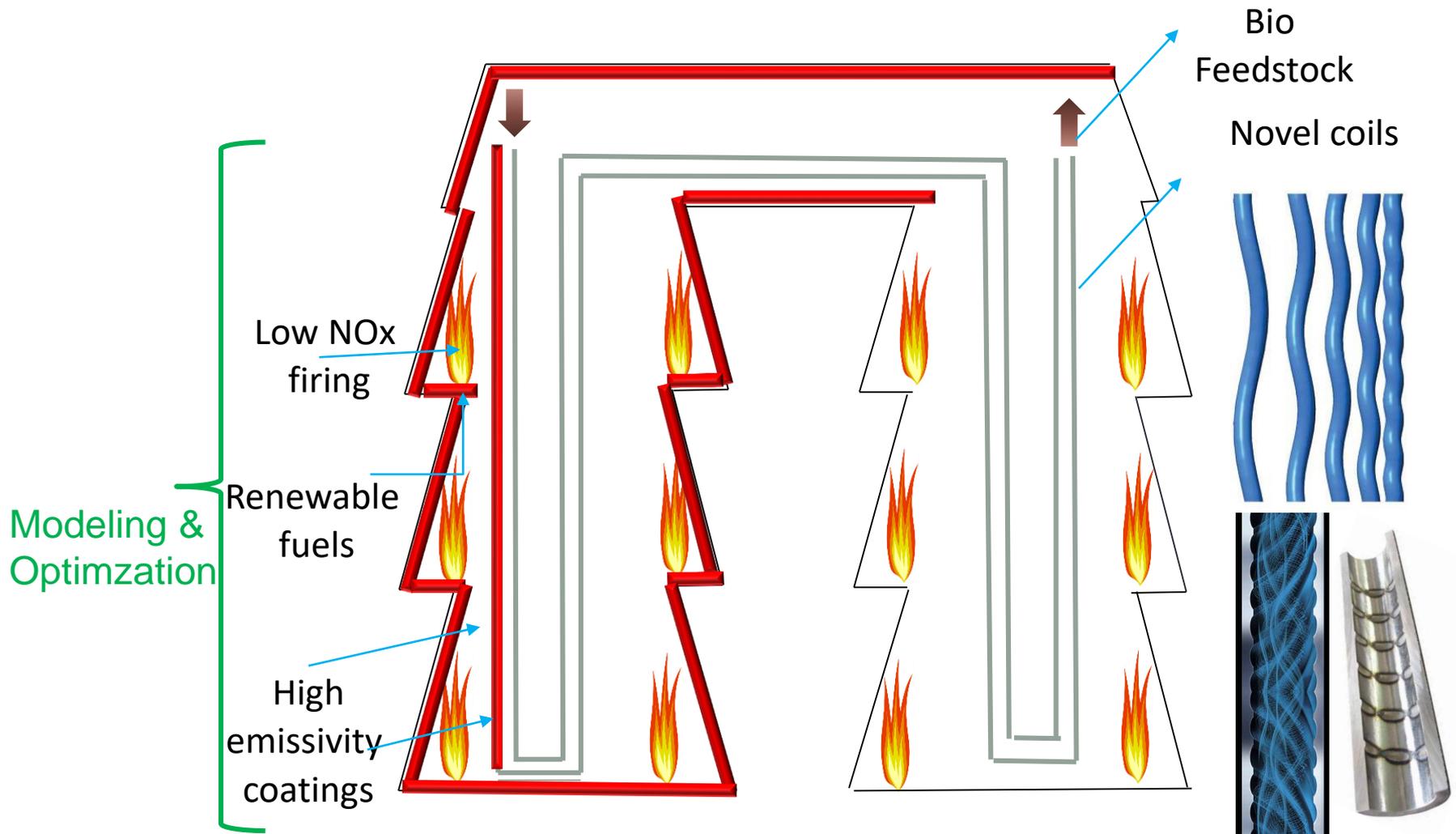
Enhanced heat transfer & mixing -> Less cokes?

Increased pressure drop  
Lower olefin selectivity?



Long term performance and stability?

# On 31 August 2020 it does not stop: Models are essential to make further progress



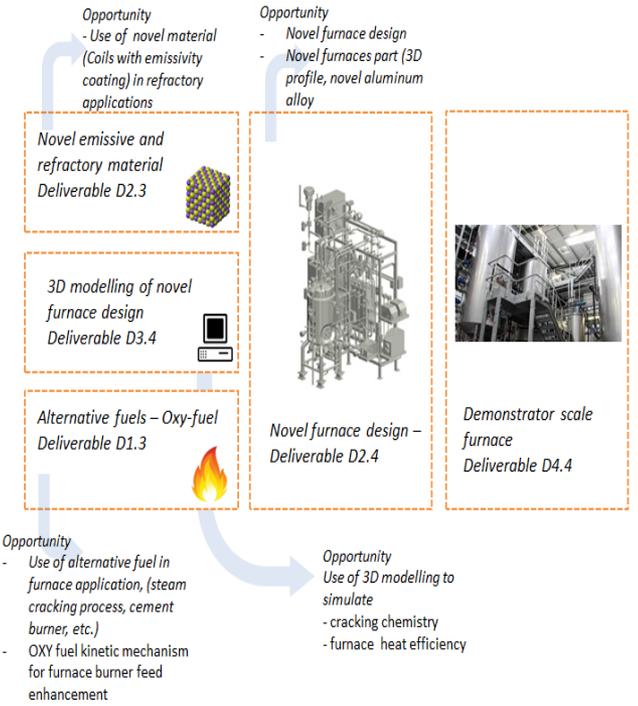
# General project progress

- *Regarding the objectives defined:*
  1. *Demonstrated the individual impact of novel emissive, reactor and refractory materials on pilot scale (TRL5)*
  2. *Demonstrate the power advanced process simulation (high performance computing and CFD) for furnace design and optimization*
  3. *Demonstrate the technical economic and environmental sustainability of the IMPROOF furnace at TRL6*
  4. *Coke formation reduction*
  5. *Novel combustion technology using alternative fuels and oxy-fuel combustion*

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# IMPROOF risk mitigation plan



# Questions



# *ADVANCEMENTS IN RADIANT COIL TECHNOLOGY*

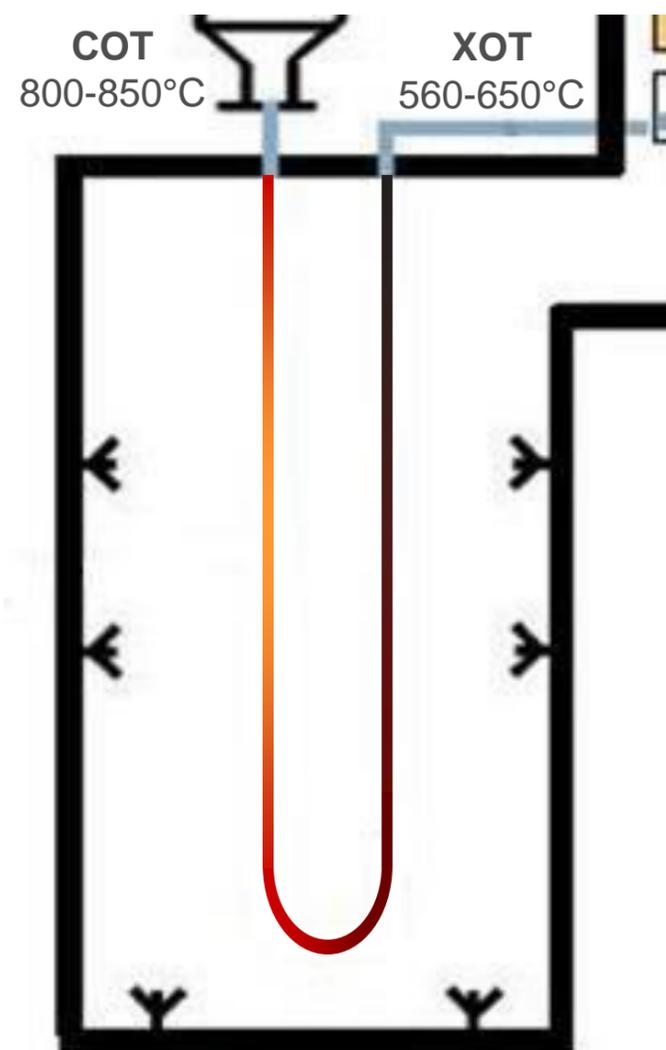
M.R. Djokic, S. Vangaever, K.M. Van Geem, D. Jakobi, S. Heyland/ EPC Workshop/ 16-Aug-2020

# INTRODUCTION

- Main target of the IMPROOF-Project is to increase the energy efficiency of steam cracking furnaces by at least 20%
- A substantial efficiency increase can be achieved by optimizing the radiant section, the “core” of the steam cracker

# INTRODUCTION

## Steam Cracking Process



### Outer Tube Surface heated by Firebox

- Max. Tube Metal Temperature: 1100-1150°C
- Oxidizing flue gas atmosphere

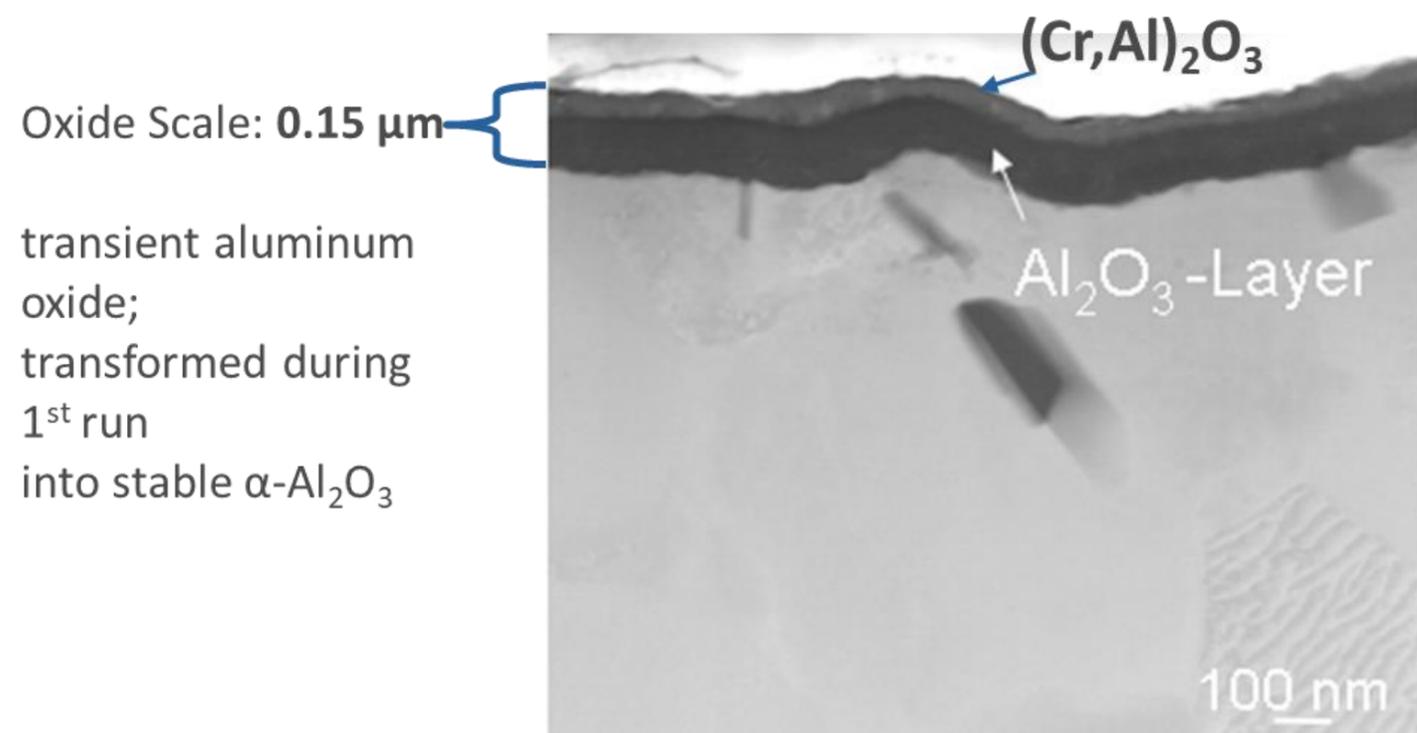
### Inner Tube Surface with Alternating Corrosive Conditions

- Oxidizing conditions (furnace start-up & decoking)
- Reducing conditions (after coke deposition on inner tube surface)

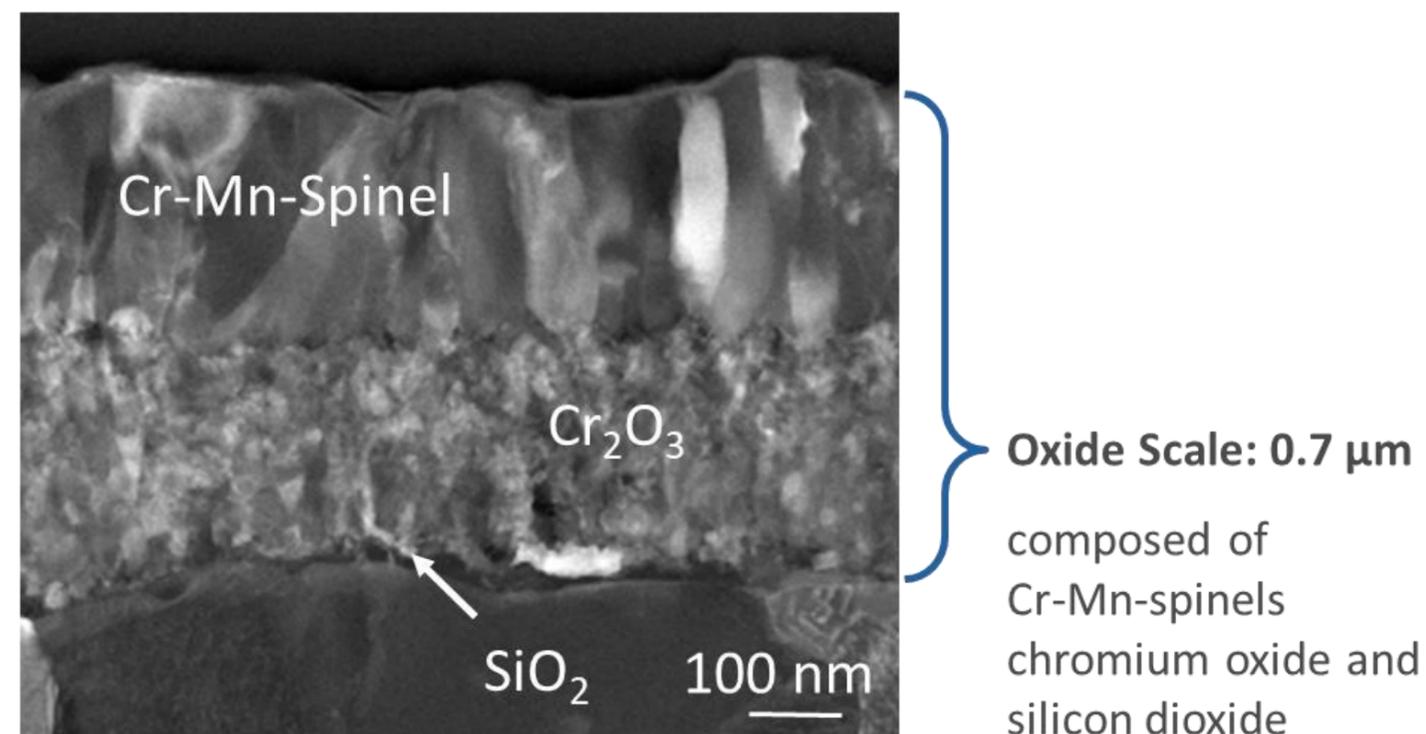
# MATERIALS

## Initial Oxide Layer after Start-Up

Centralloy® HT E Alumina Former



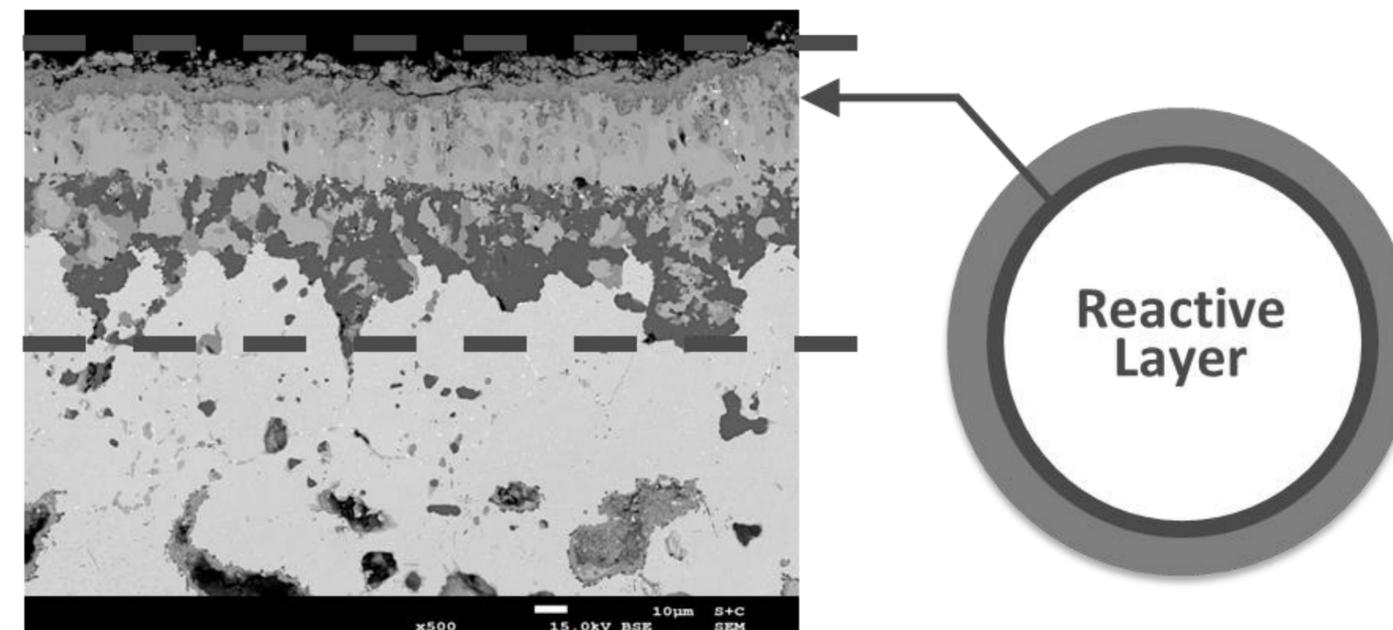
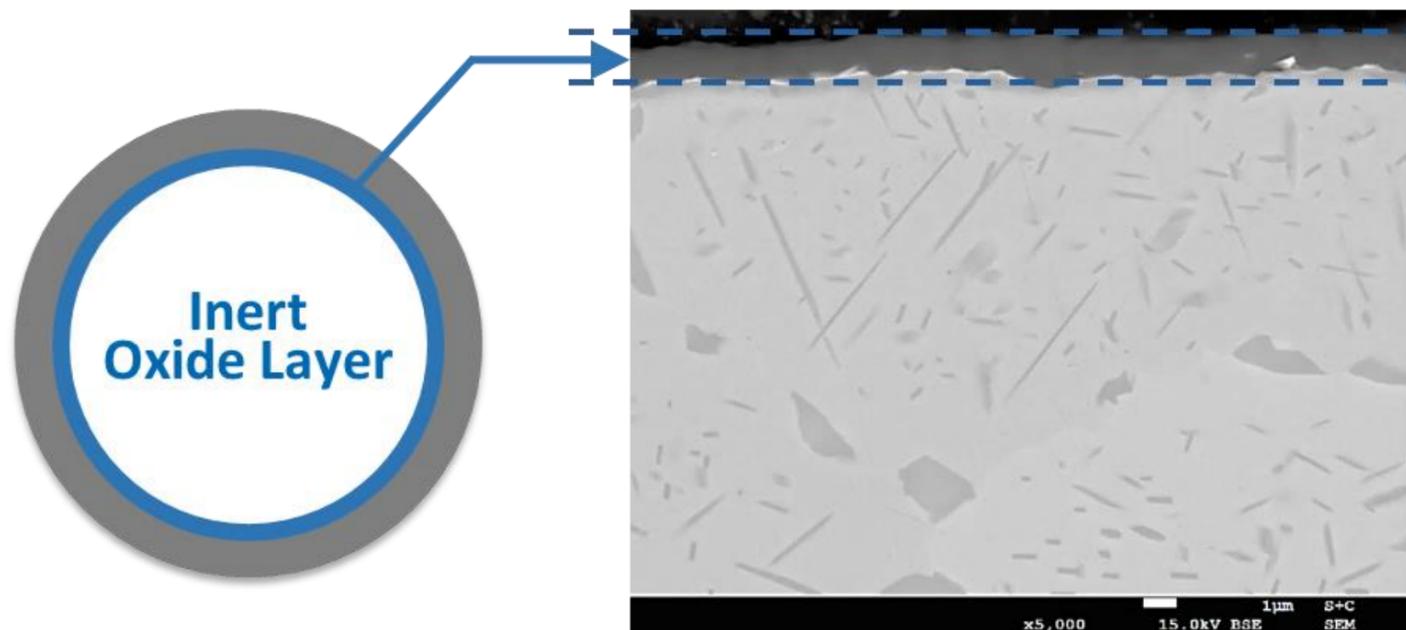
Common Chromia Forming Alloys



## Oxide Layers after Cyclic Operation

Centralloy® HT E Alumina Former

Common Chromia Forming Alloys



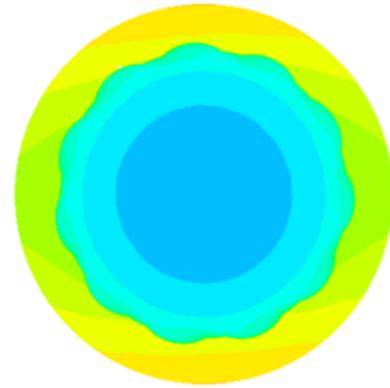
- + Dense inert Aluminium Oxide layer – 1 µm
- + Complete protection, no carburization
- + Low coking rate

- Destroyed Chromium Oxide layer – reaction zone 90 µm
- Open structure, causing carburization
- High coking rate

# ENHANCED HEAT TRANSFER

## Inner Profiled Tubes

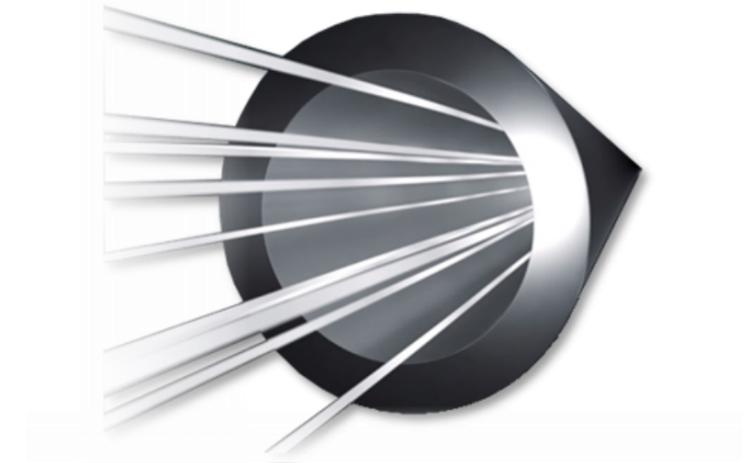
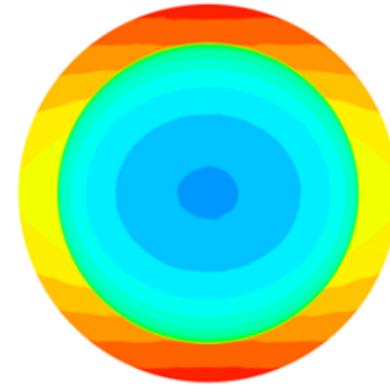
S+C SScope®



### Rotating flow pattern

- + Improved heat distribution across tube shell
- + Reduced gas temperature gradients
- + Balancing of sunny/shady sides
- + Less carburization/maintenance
- + Customizable profile (amount of fins & profile depth)

Common Bare Tube

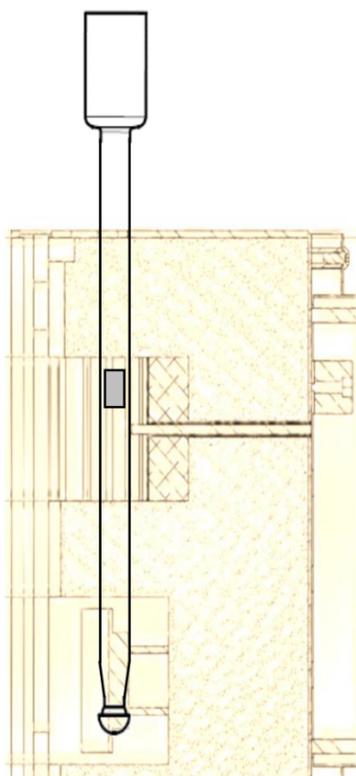


### Linear flow pattern

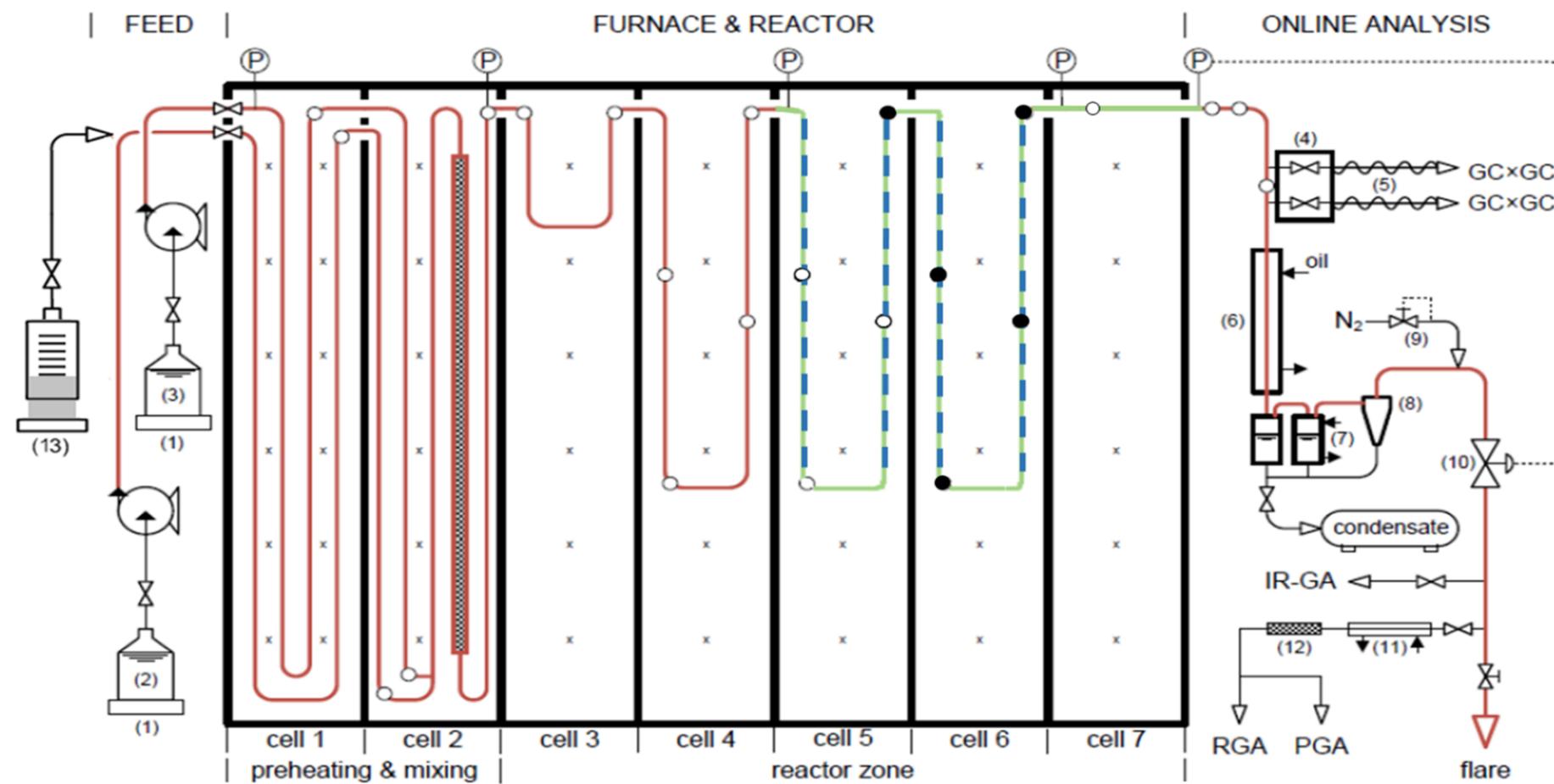
- Local heat concentration
- Internal stresses due to temperature difference
- Imbalance of sunny/shady sides
- More carburization/maintenance

# TEST RIGS

## Plug-Flow-Reactor + Electrobalance



## Pilot Plant



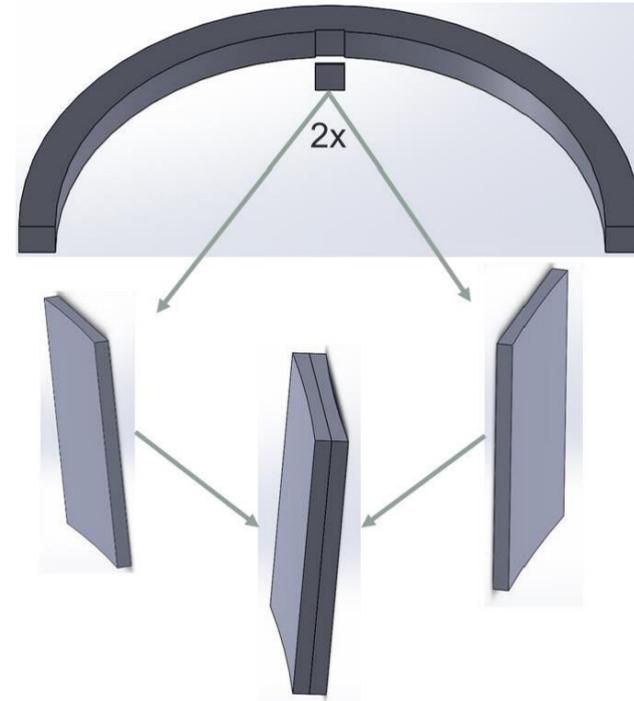
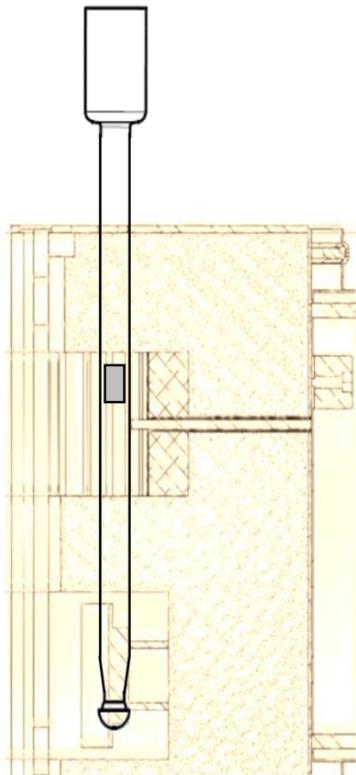
A. Muñoz Gandarillas, K. Van Geem, M.-F. Reyniers, and G. Marin, "Influence of the reactor material composition on coke formation during ethane steam cracking," *INDUSTRIAL & ENGINEERING CHEMISTRY RESEARCH*, 2014.

K. Van Geem, S. Pyl, M.-F. Reyniers, J. Vercammen, J. Beens, and G. Marin, "On-line analysis of complex hydrocarbon mixtures using comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography," *JOURNAL OF CHROMATOGRAPHY A*, 2010.

# TEST RIGS

## Plug-Flow-Reactor + Electrobalance

...can measure exact coking rates of real tube surfaces under industrial steam cracking conditions



Process:

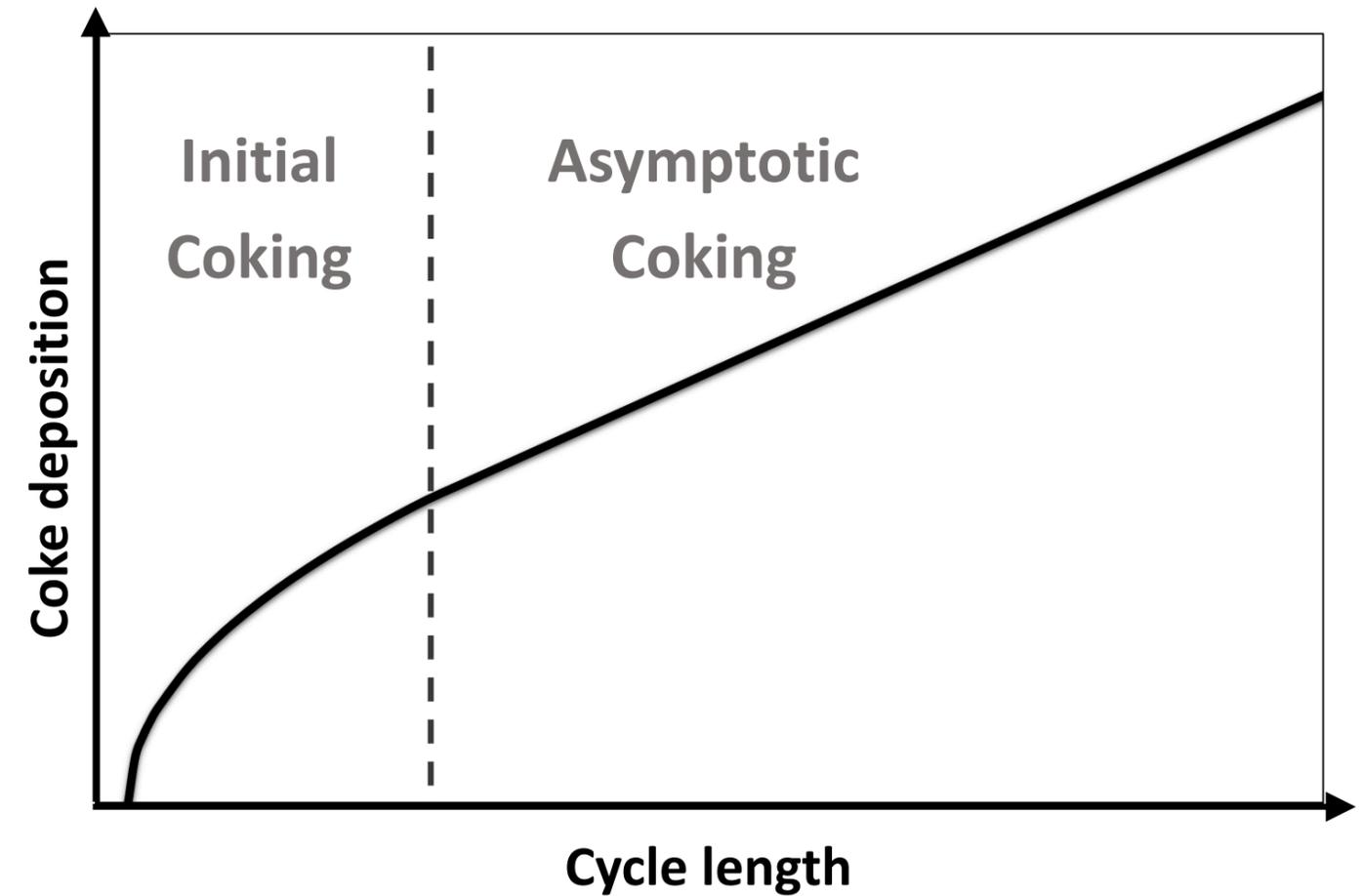
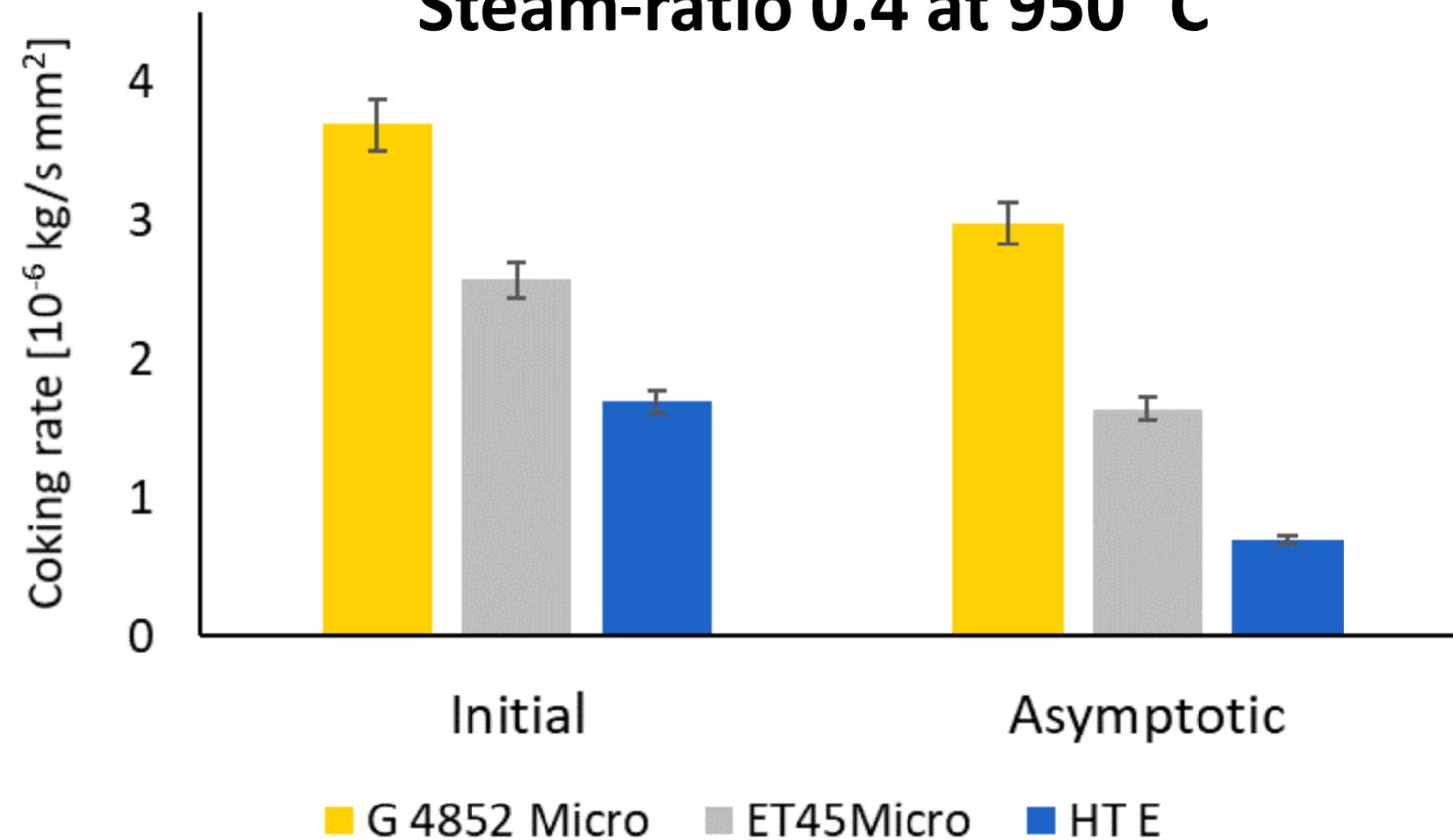
1. Start-up with steam
2. Ageing Procedure (TMT 1050°C)
3. Cracking/Coking test

# COKING RATES PFR

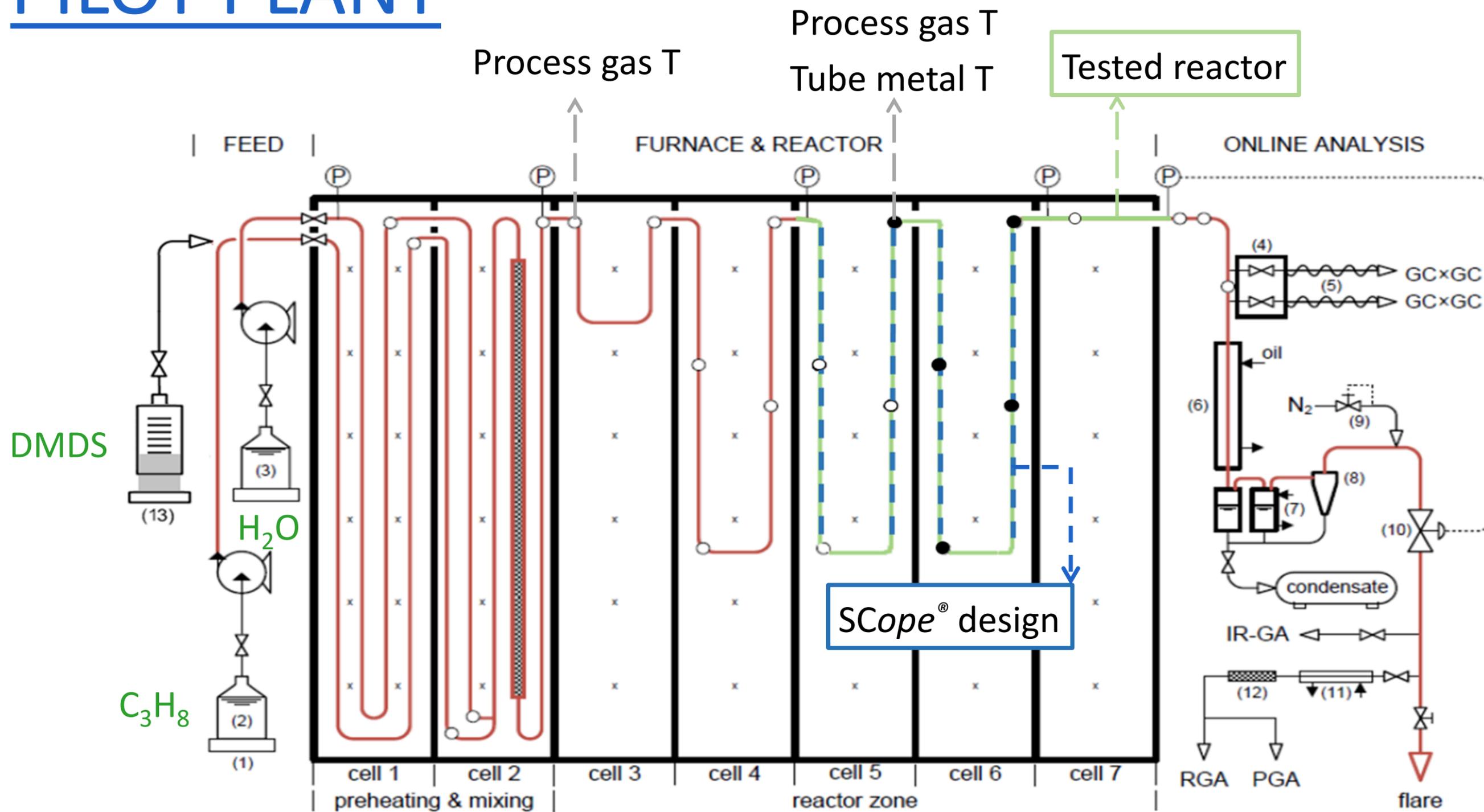
## Coking Test

### Propane

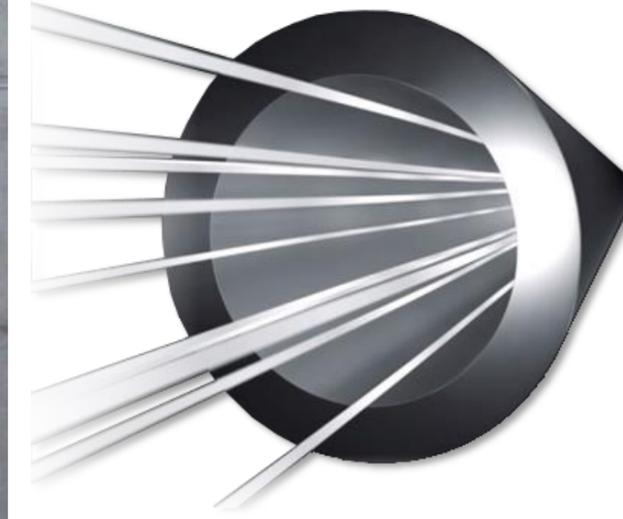
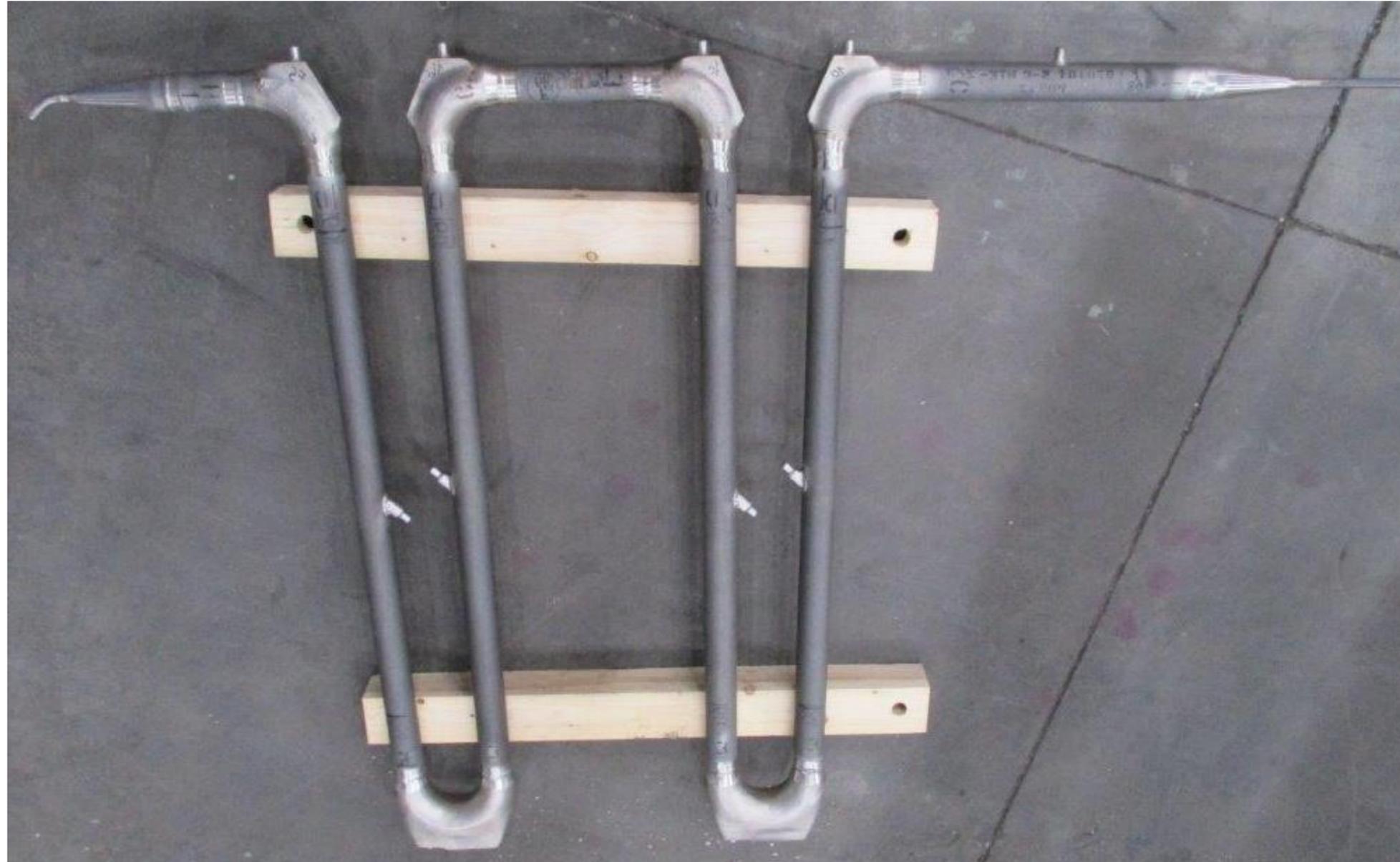
Steam-ratio 0.4 at 950 °C



# PILOT PLANT



# PILOT PLANT



**bare**



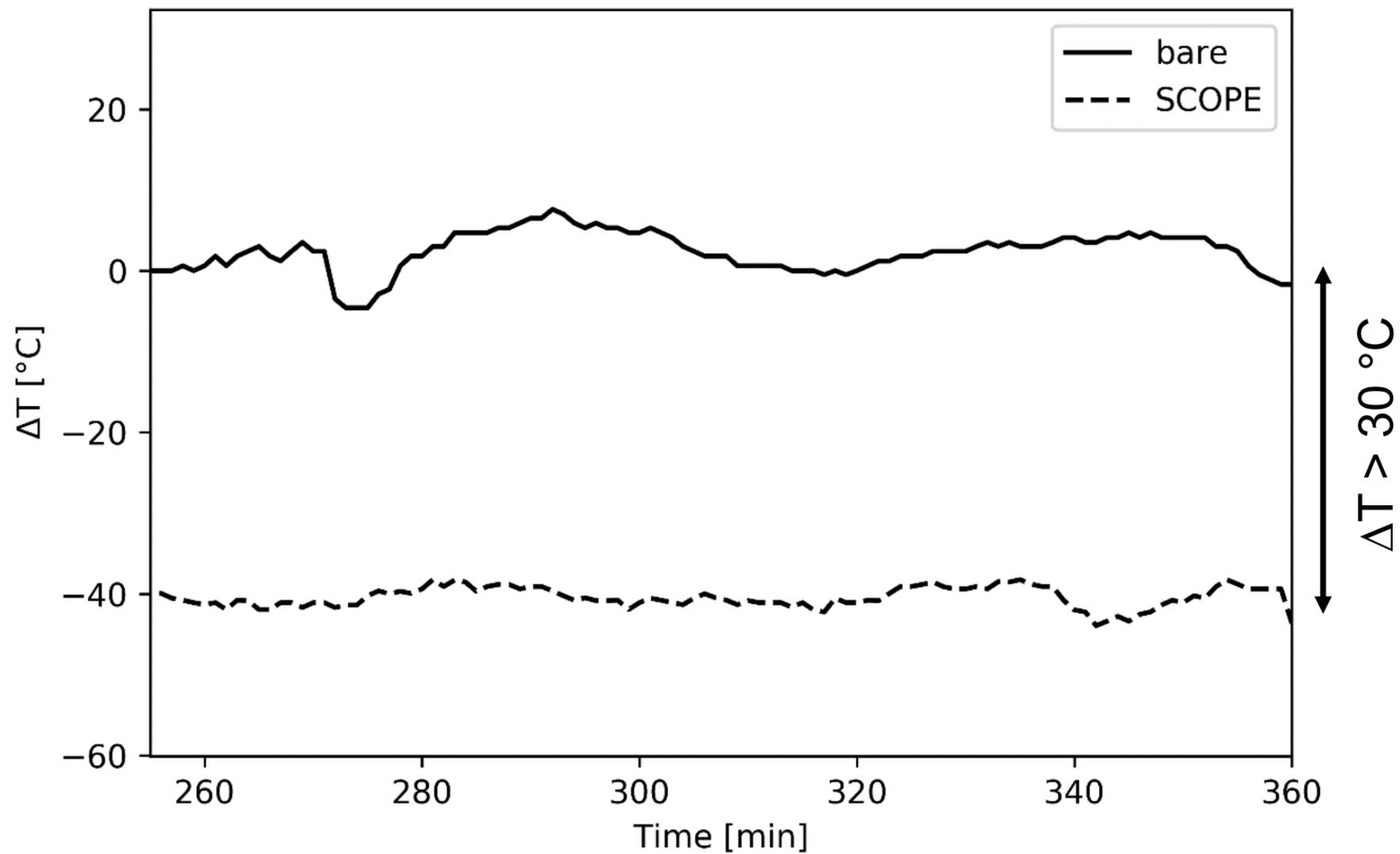
**SScope<sup>®</sup>**

# EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

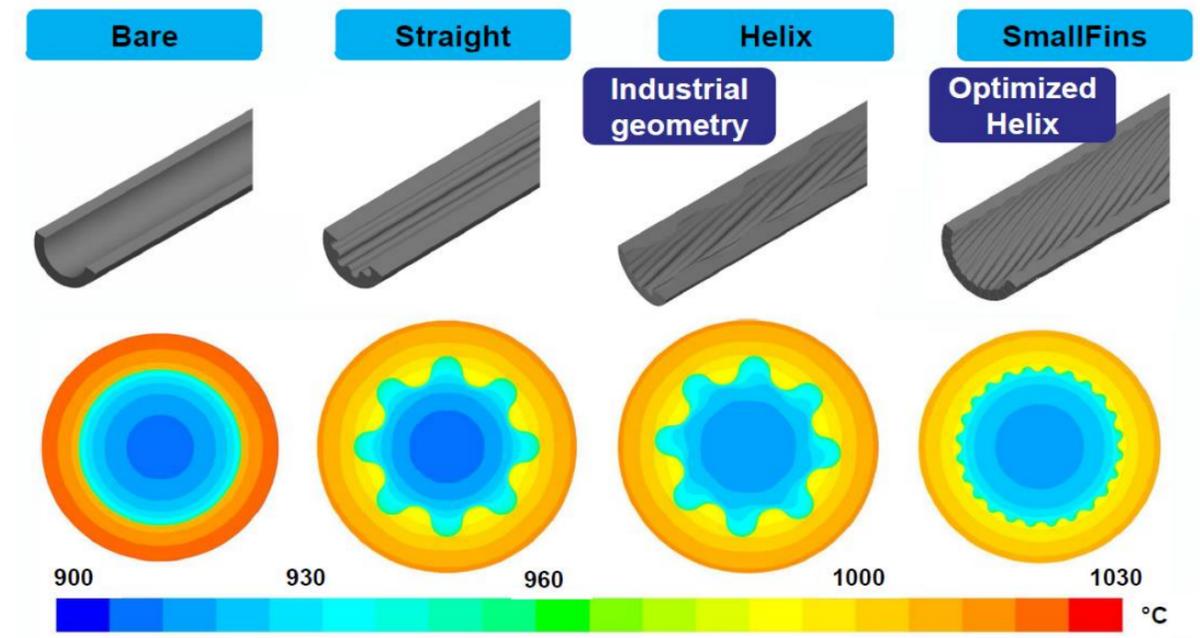


✓ Prior to each Cracking Cycle (CC) a presulfiding step was performed

# TUBE METAL TEMPERATURES

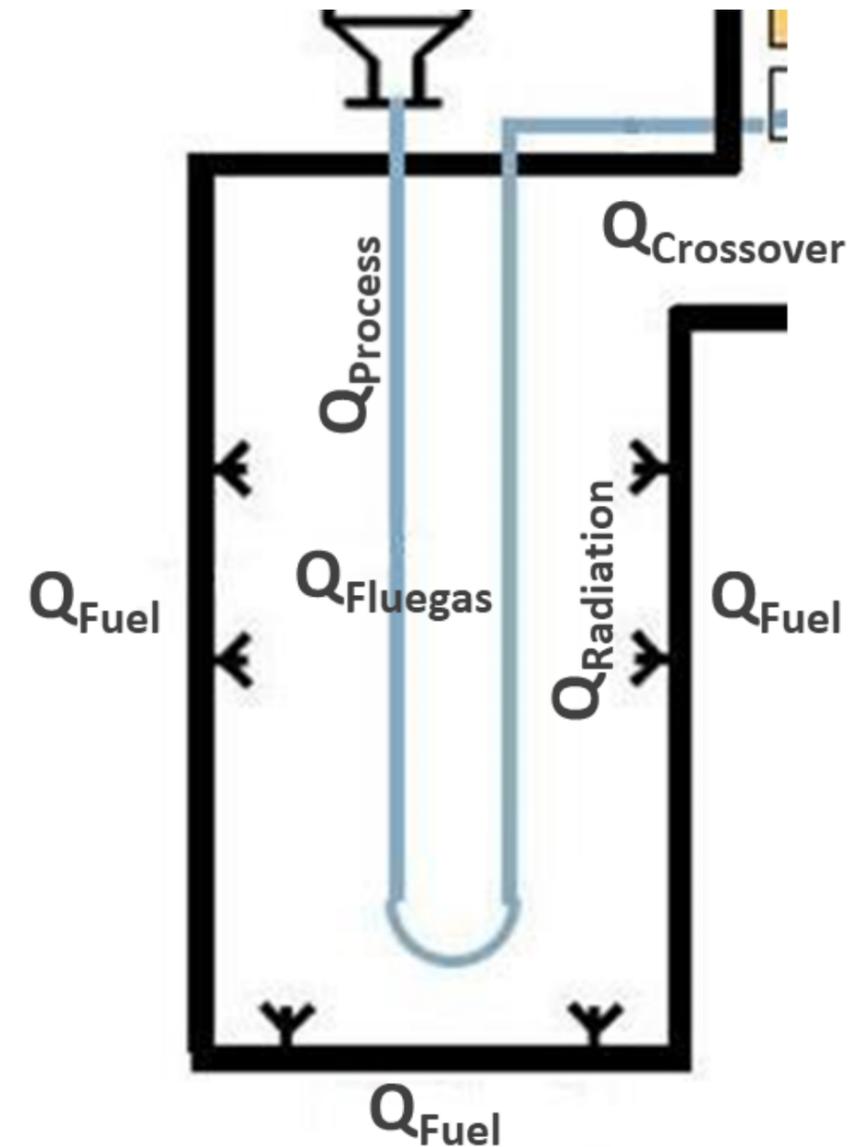
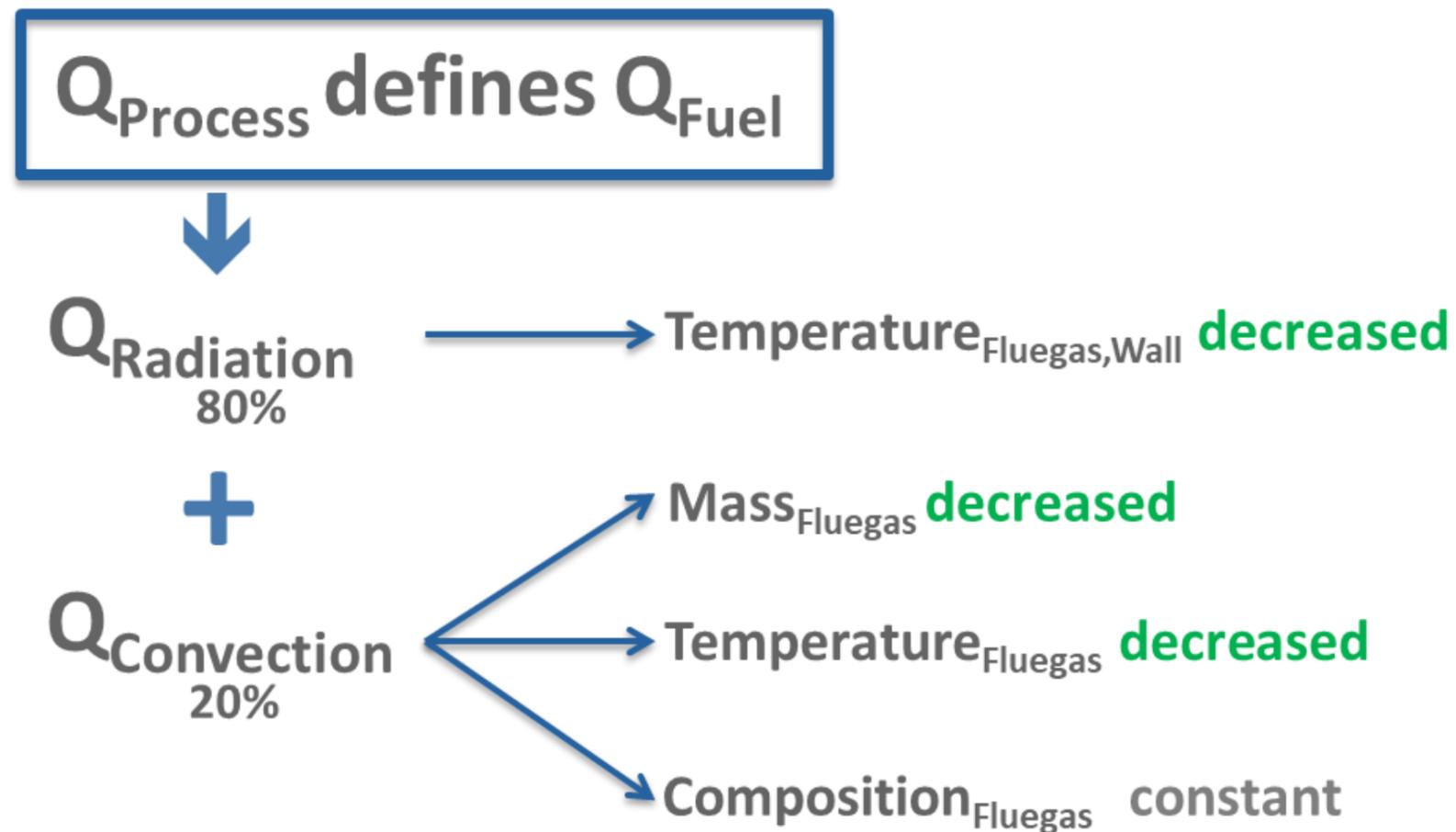


**Result**  
~10% lower  
Fuel gas consumption

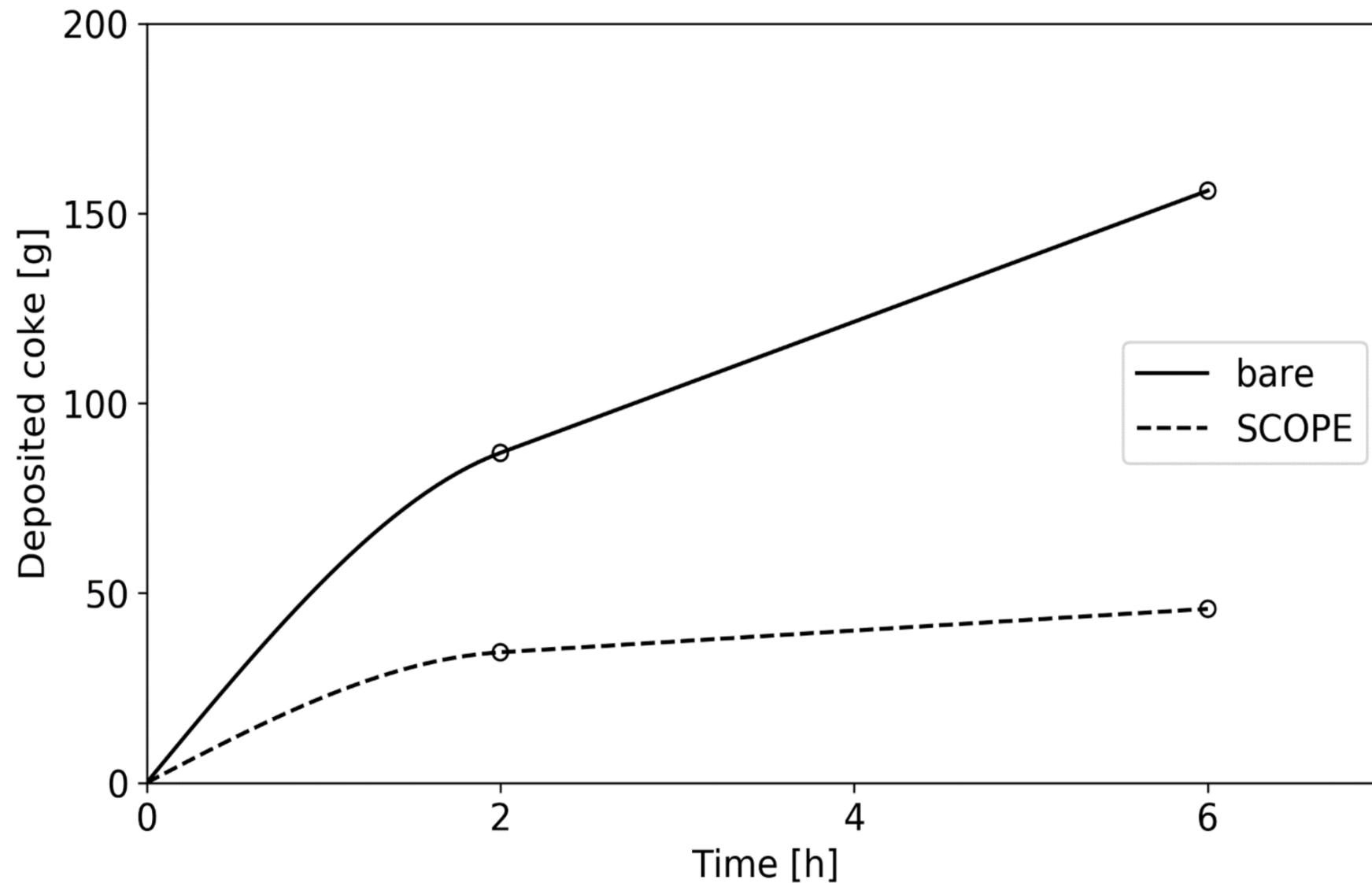


# TUBE METAL TEMPERATURES

30 °C lower tube metal temperature reduces fuel consumption by ~ 10 % (based on Pilot Plant measurement)

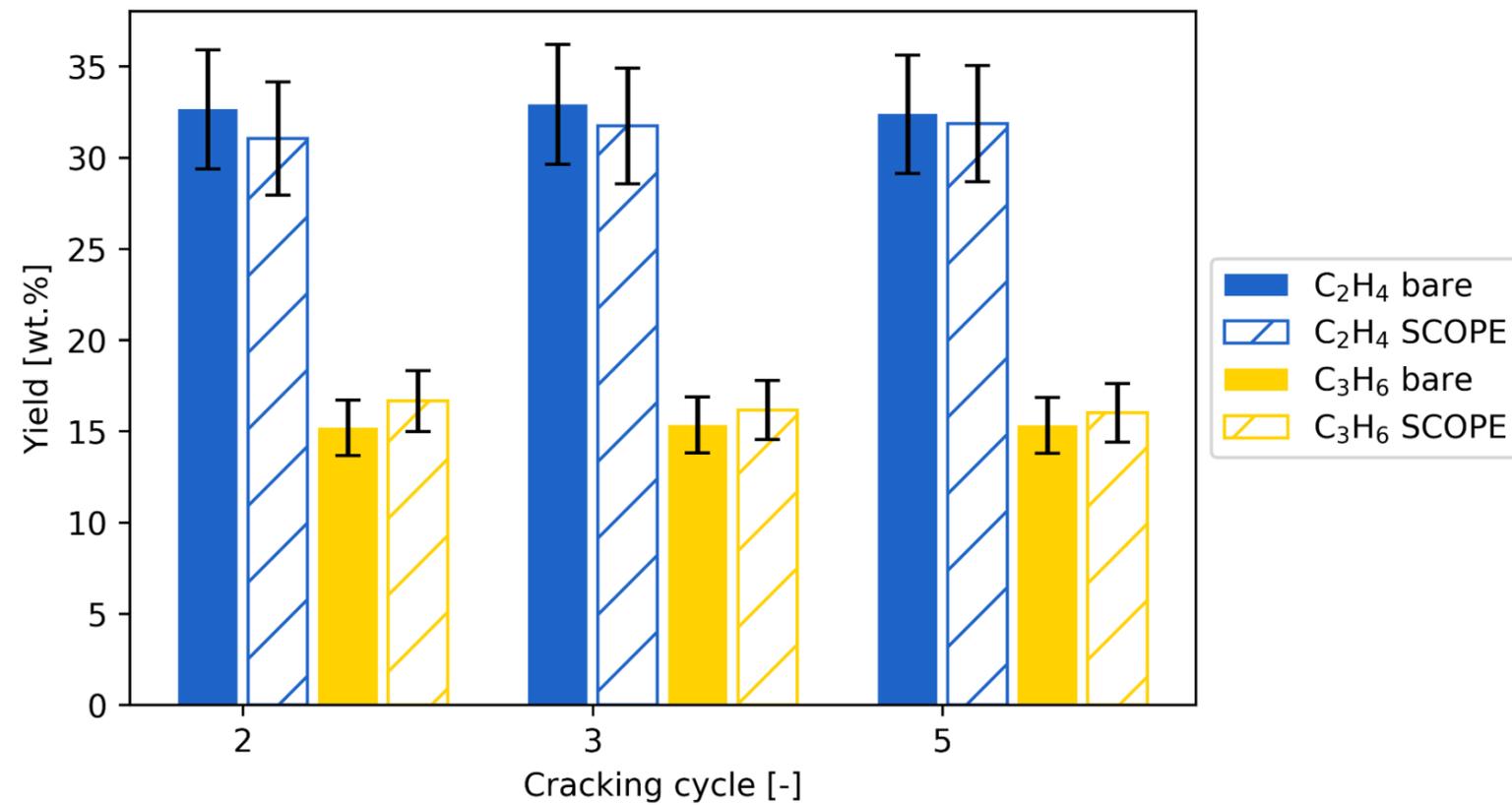


# COKE DEPOSITION

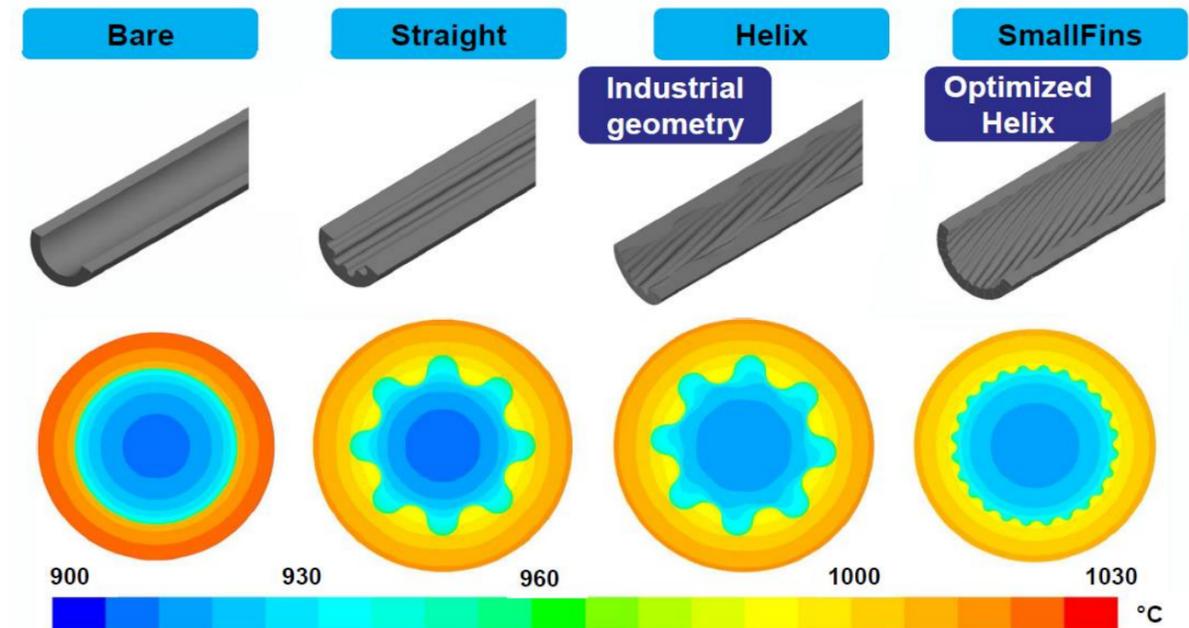


- Homogenisation of the cracking gas temperature due to better mixing  
→ reduced coke formation
- Better mixing in combination with increased heat transfer leads to lower tube metal temperatures, while maintaining the same cracking severity  
→ reduced firebox firing rate
- Overall positive effect on initial and asymptotic coking rate

# PRODUCT YIELDS



## Reduced over-cracking near wall



# CONCLUSIONS

- HT E features the lowest coking rates due to formation of stable  $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  scale (initial and asymptotic)
- After high temperature (end-of-run) exposure HT E performs better  
(S. Symoens et al. EPC 2018 [ref])
- Combining the advanced coil material (HT E) and novel 3D reactor design (SCOPE<sup>®</sup>) leads to:
  - ✓ Increased run lengths
  - ✓ Improved product selectivity
  - ✓ Longer lifetime of the reactor coils
  - ✓ Higher energy efficiency of the furnace

# HT E & SCOPE – APPLICATIONS IN INDUSTRY

## HT E: 365

No. of Furnaces	Design	Feed
10	SRT I	Gas
1	PC 1-1	Gas
7	USC M	Gas
1	HS-I	Gas
3	MS	Gas
64	SRT III	Gas / Naphtha
9	SRT IV (HC)	Gas / Naphtha
30	SRT IV (HS) / V	Gas / Naphtha
16	PC 2-2	Gas / Naphtha
11	PC 4-2	Gas / Naphtha
28	USC U	Gas / Naphtha
16	USC W	Gas / Naphtha
18	MK	Gas / Naphtha
42	SMK	Gas / Naphtha
33	Individual	Gas / Naphtha
13	UDC	Gas / Naphtha
21	SRT VI	Gas / Naphtha
2	SRT 1.5	Naphtha
21	PC 1-1	Naphtha
4	GK2	Naphtha
3	GK3	Naphtha
5	GK4	Naphtha
7	GK5	Naphtha
365		

## SCOPE: 17

No. of Furnaces	Design	Feed
2	MS	Gas
1	1-Pass	Gas
2	2-Pass	Gas / Naphtha
1	U-Coil	Naphtha
1	Individual	Gas
3	PC 1-1	Naphtha
1	PC 2-2	Naphtha
1	GK2	Naphtha
1	GK4	Naphtha
4	SRT V	Naphtha
17		

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (H2020-SPIRE-04-2016) under grant agreement No 723706.



Thank you for your attention!

# Low-Emission Cracking Furnace

Peter Oud – Product Development Manager Ethylene  
Georgios Bellos – Senior Research Scientist, Dow  
Bert-Jan Massop – Finance Director, Dow



IMPROOF workshop  
32<sup>nd</sup> Ethylene producers conference

Sunday 16 August 2020



# Agenda

1. IMPROOF project
2. Conventional cracking furnace flow sheet
3. Low-emission cracking furnace flow sheet
4. Benefits of low-emission cracking furnace
5. Shaping a new integration concept
6. Impact on ethylene plant flow sheet
7. Energy balance across the ethylene plant
8. Relative CO<sub>2</sub> emission per ton of products
9. Operational expenditure evaluation
10. Conclusion

# SPIRE IMPROOF project\*

**IMPROOF is a European project aiming at improving the energy efficiency of steam cracking furnaces, while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and NOx.**

## Objectives

- Reducing specific emissions of greenhouse gases and NOx by at least 25%
- Cost effective



« The work leading to this invention has received funding from the European Union H2020 (H2020-SPIRE-04-2016) under grant agreement n°723706 ».

# Conventional furnace

## Convection section:

- Preheating, evaporation and superheating hydrocarbon feedstock (FPH, HTC I&II)
- Dilution steam superheating (DSSH)
- Boiler feed water (BFW) preheating (ECO)
- High pressure steam superheating (HPSSH I&II)

## Radiant coil:

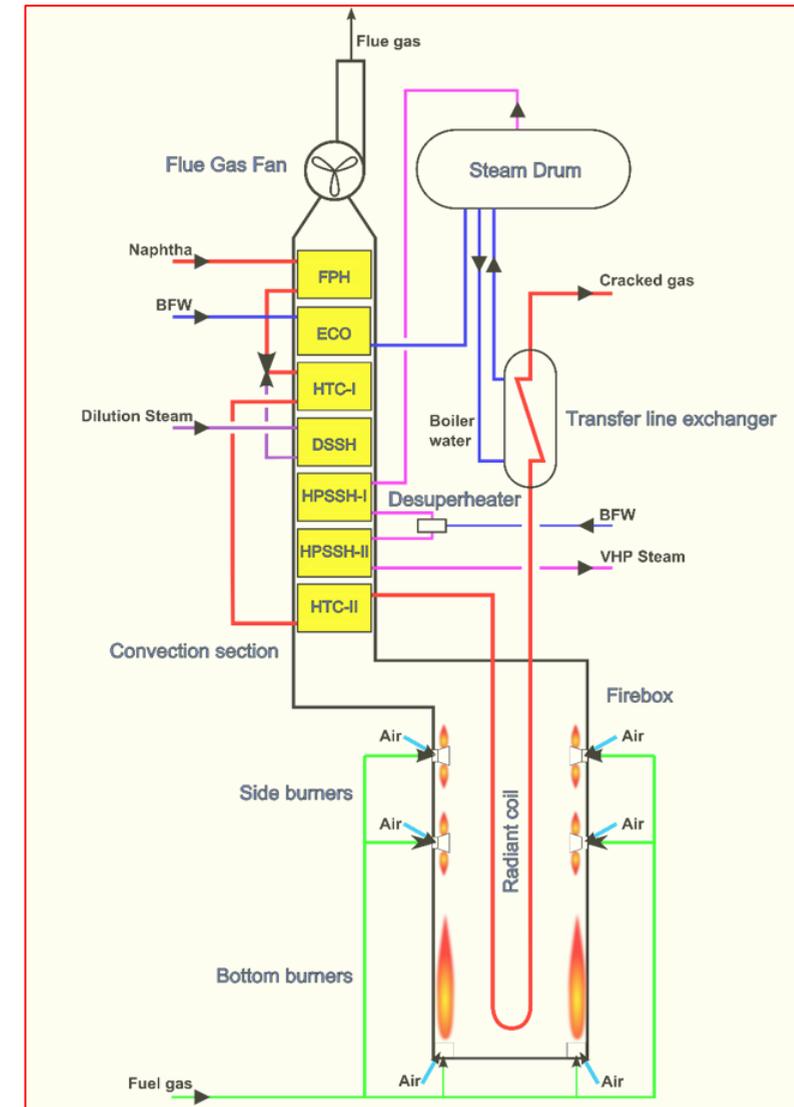
- Pyrolysis of feedstock

## Effluent:

- Saturated steam generation (Transfer line exchanger, TLE)

## Firebox:

- Combustion of fuel gas firing (Bottom and side burners)



# Low-emission cracking furnace

## Convection section:

- *Air preheat (APH)*
- Preheating, evaporation and *initial* superheating hydrocarbon feedstock (FPH,HTC)
- Dilution steam superheating (DSSH)
- High pressure steam superheating (HPSSH I&II)
- *Saturated steam generation (BOILER)*  
*No BFW preheat*

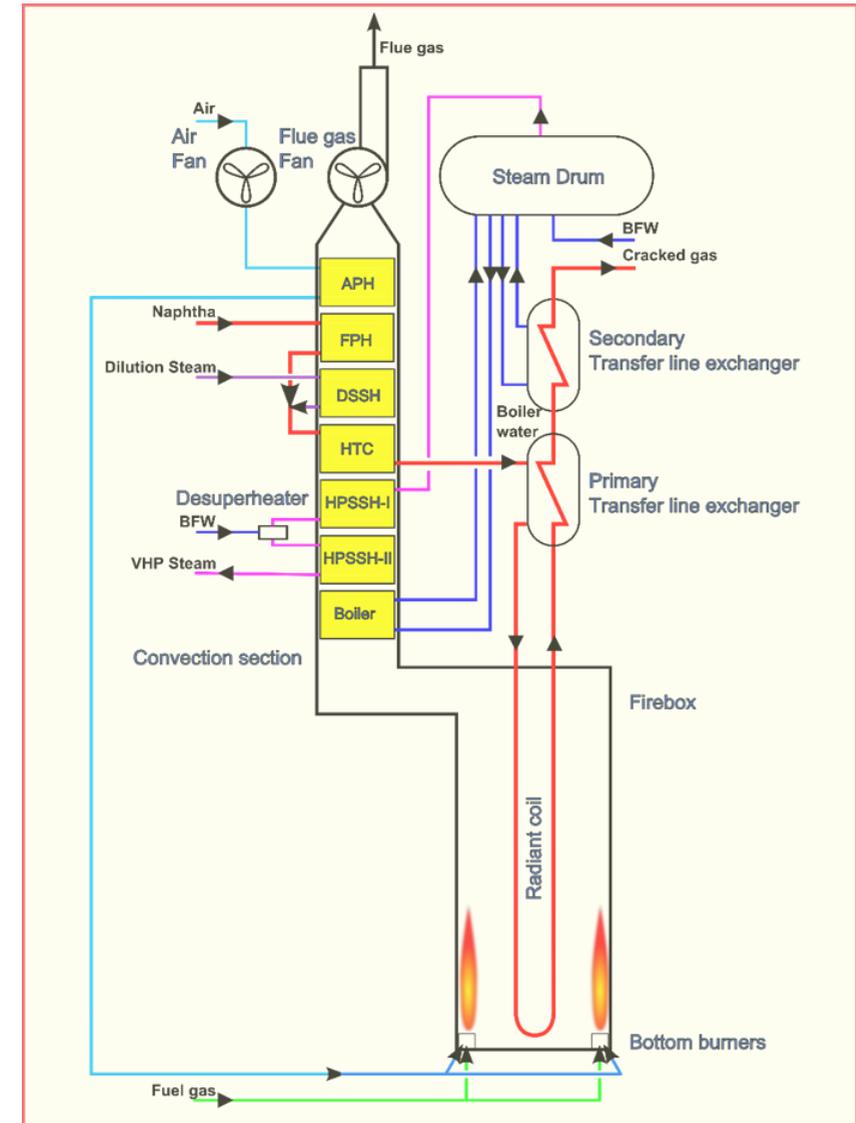
## Radiant coil: Pyrolysis of feedstock

## Effluent:

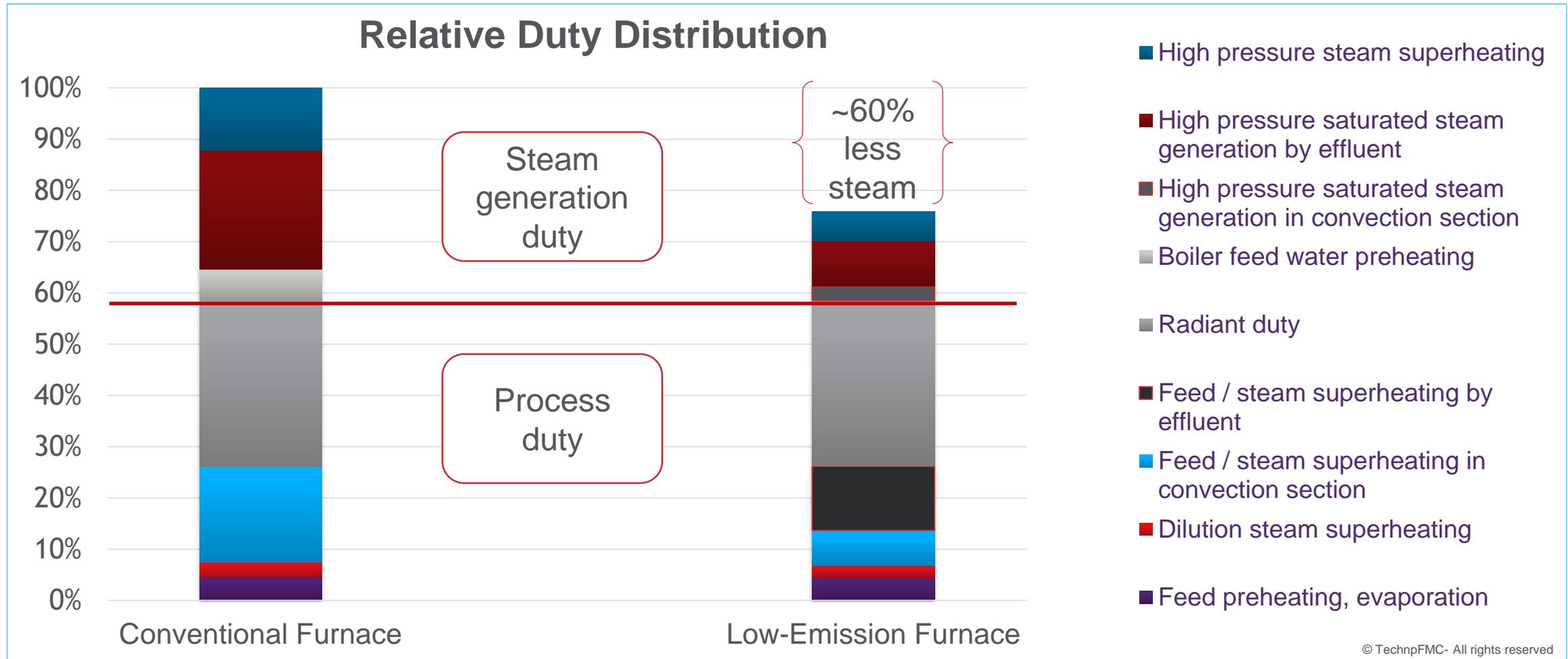
- *Final feedstock superheating (Primary TLE)*
- Saturated steam generation (Secondary TLE)

## Firebox:

- Combustion of fuel gas firing (*Bottom burners only*)



# Redistribution of duties in favor of process duty



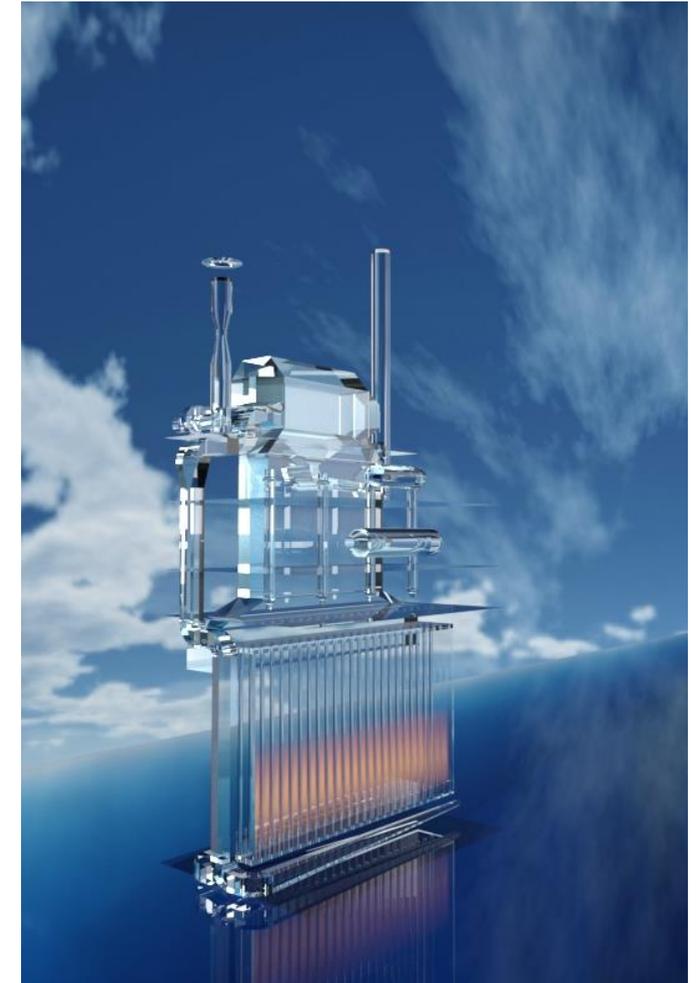
# IMPROOF project targets achieved

## Low-emission cracking furnace

- **CO2 emissions can be reduced by 30%**
  - Exceeding expectations
- **Design is cost effective.**
  - Estimated pay-back time roughly 1 year
  - Improved operating margins, especially under difficult market conditions

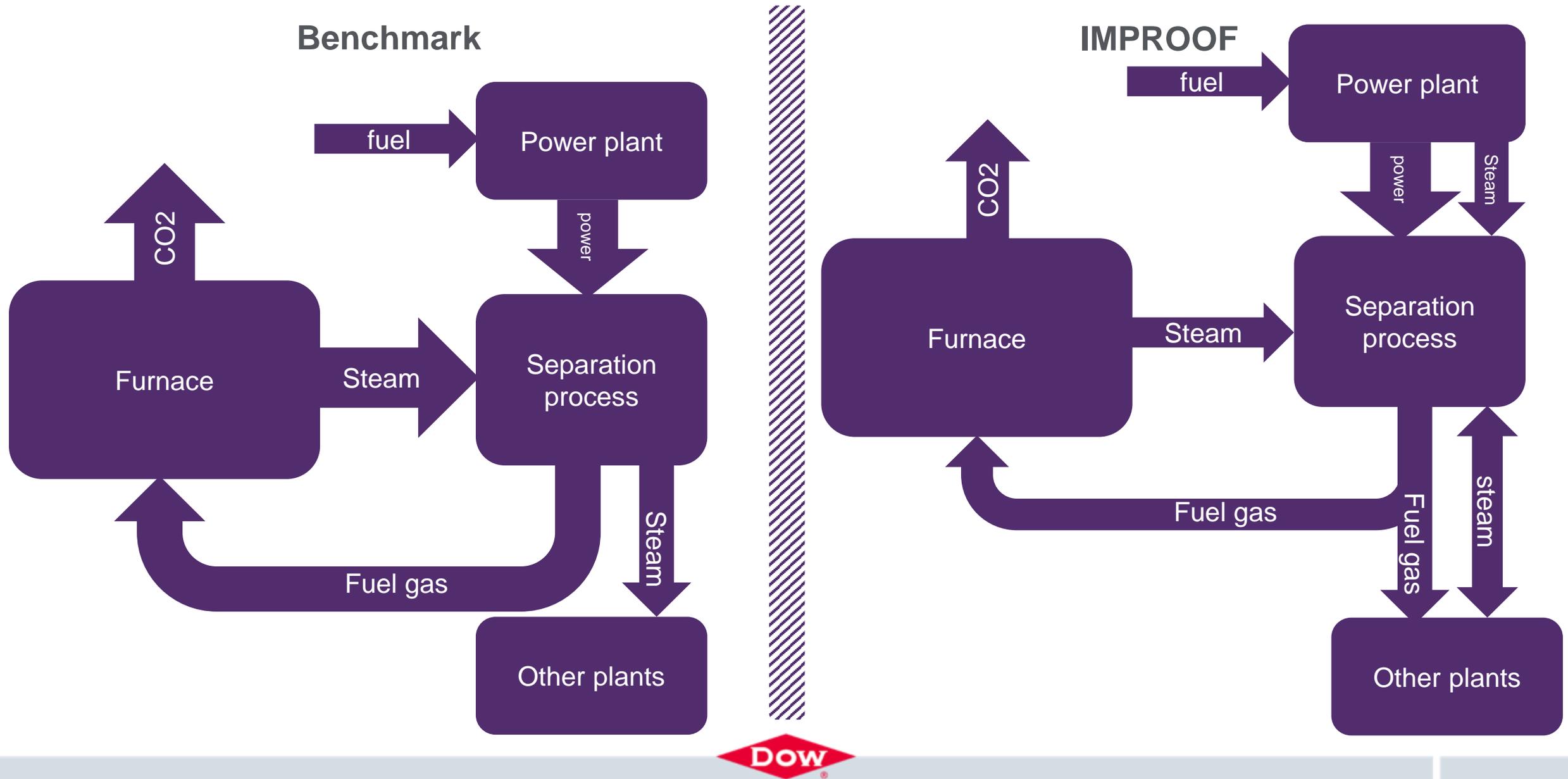
 **Objectives Achieved**

TechnipFMC patented design.



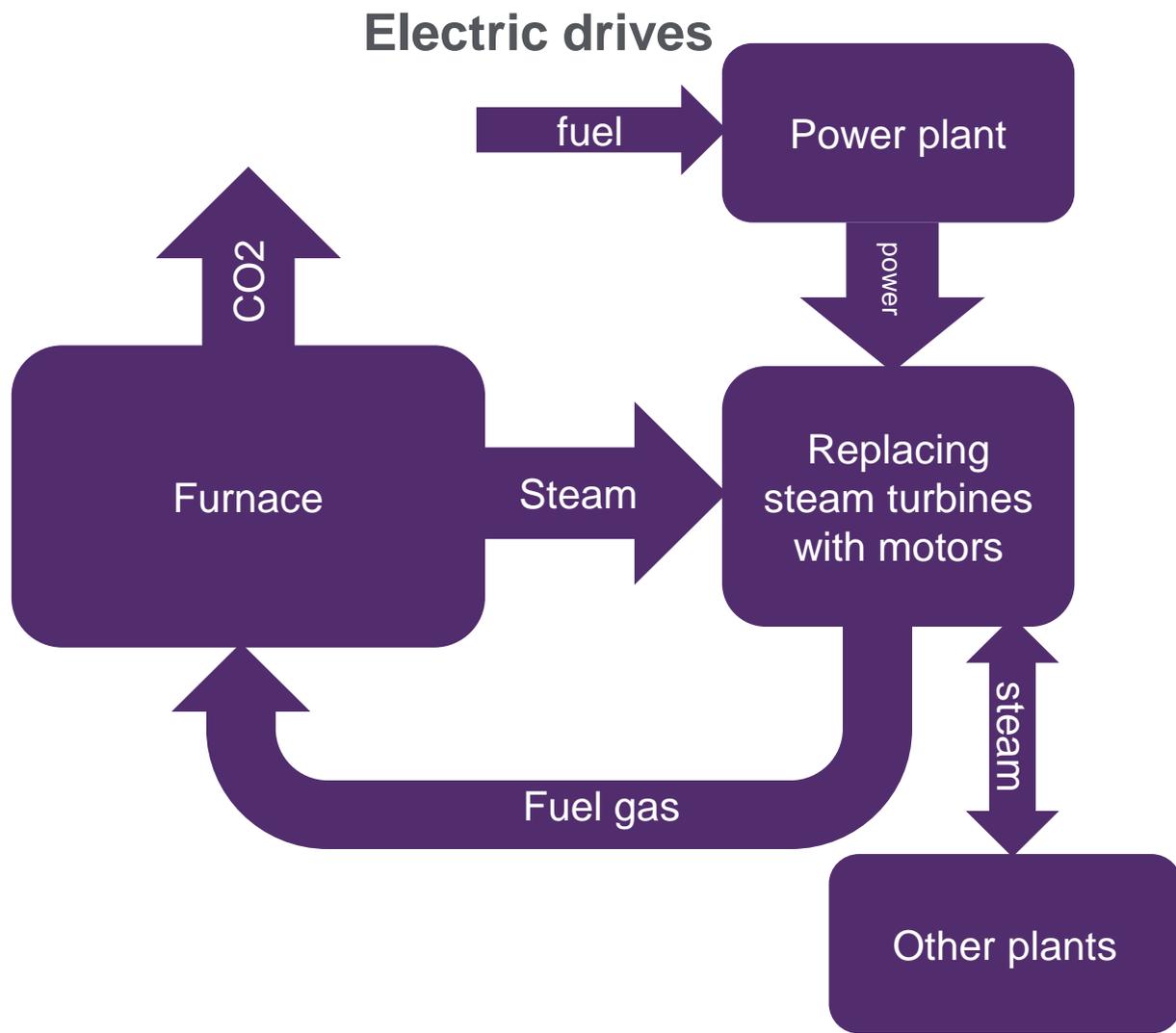
Low-emission cracking furnace

# Shaping a new integration concept

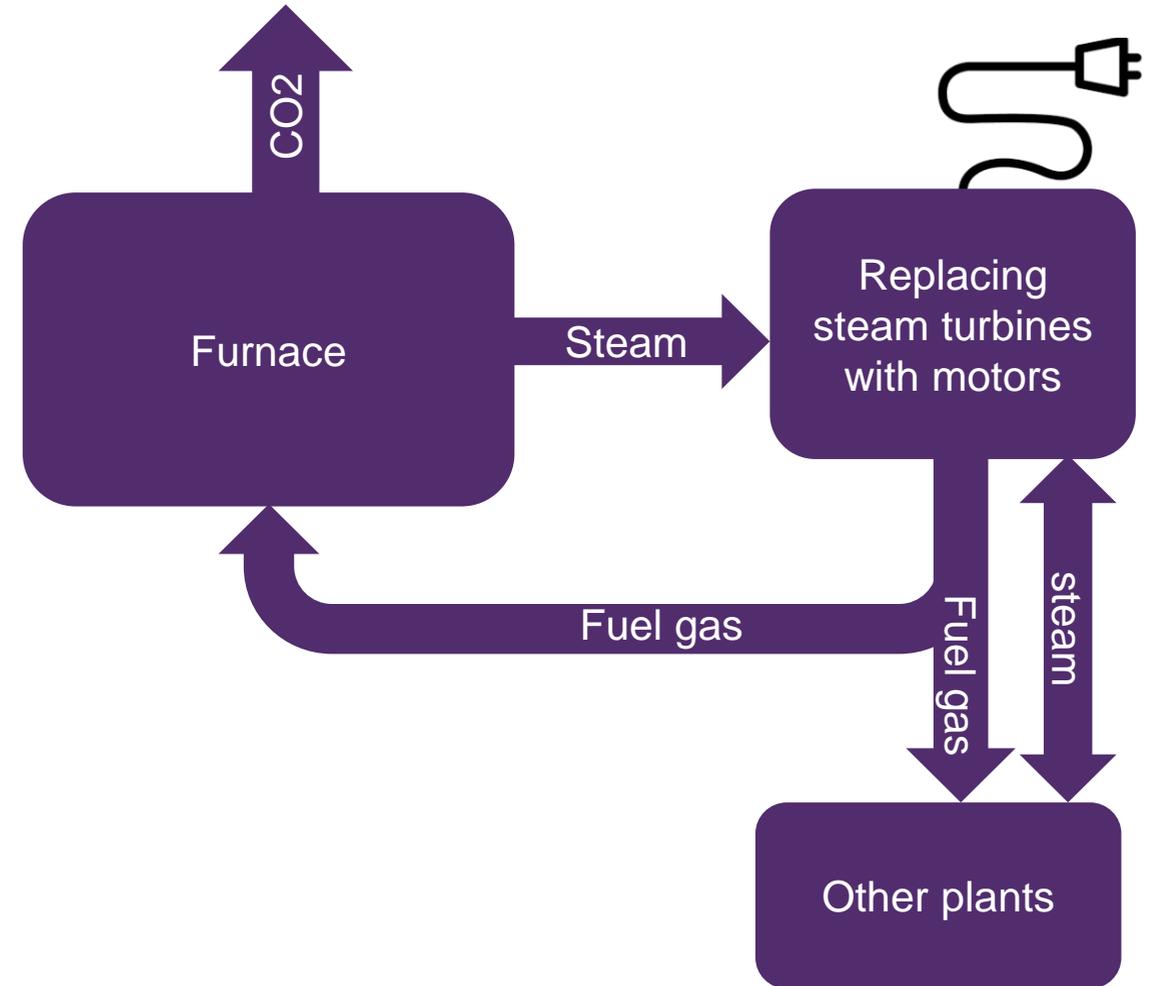


# Shaping a new integration concept

Electric drives



CO<sub>2</sub> neutral power



# Impact on ethylene plant flowsheet

## Existing plant

- Insufficient HP steam to drive all main machines
- Switch to electrical motors
- Adjust steam grid to maintain steam balance
- Effects on cooling water

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**Due to drastic flowsheet changes, long payback times are expected at the current carbon prices**



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## Greenfield Plant

- Flowsheet changes can be implemented in an early stage of the project
- Steam and power integration can be anticipated

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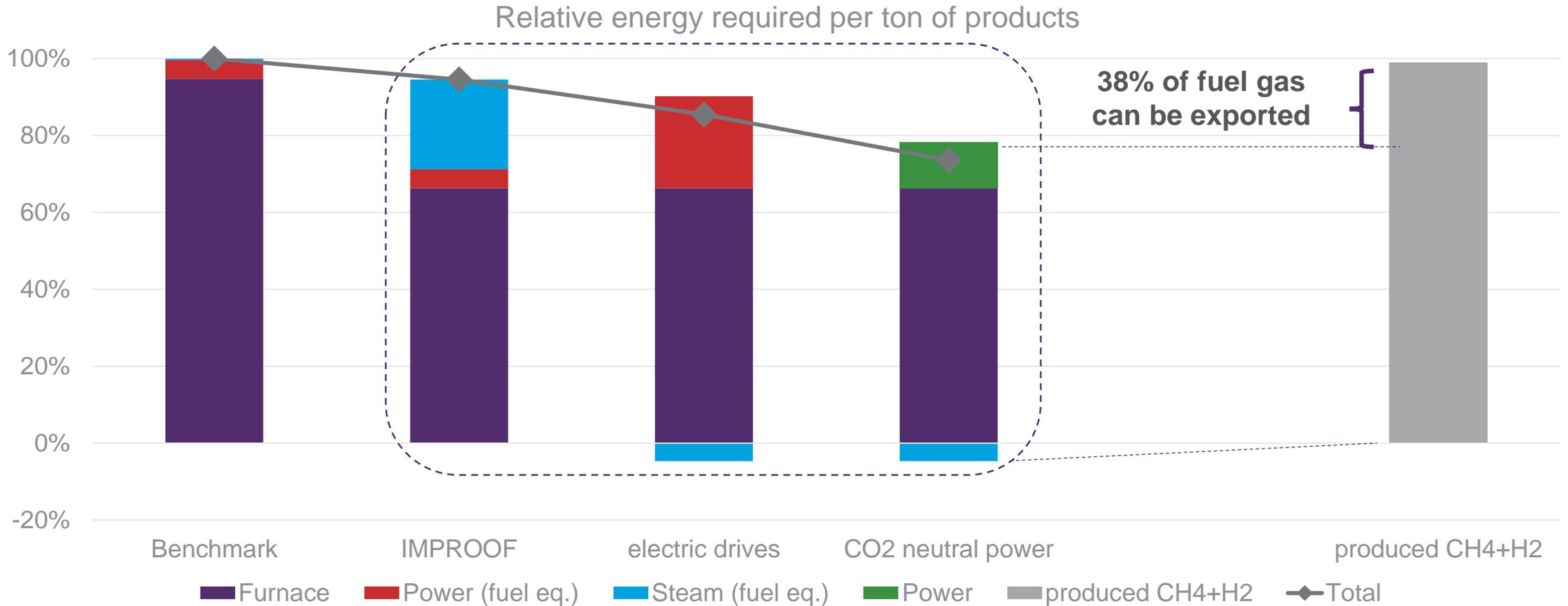
## Greenfield Plant

- Flowsheet changes can be implemented in an early stage of the project
- Steam and power integration can be anticipated

## Add-on cracking furnace

- Possible, especially in plant's with excess high pressure steam production

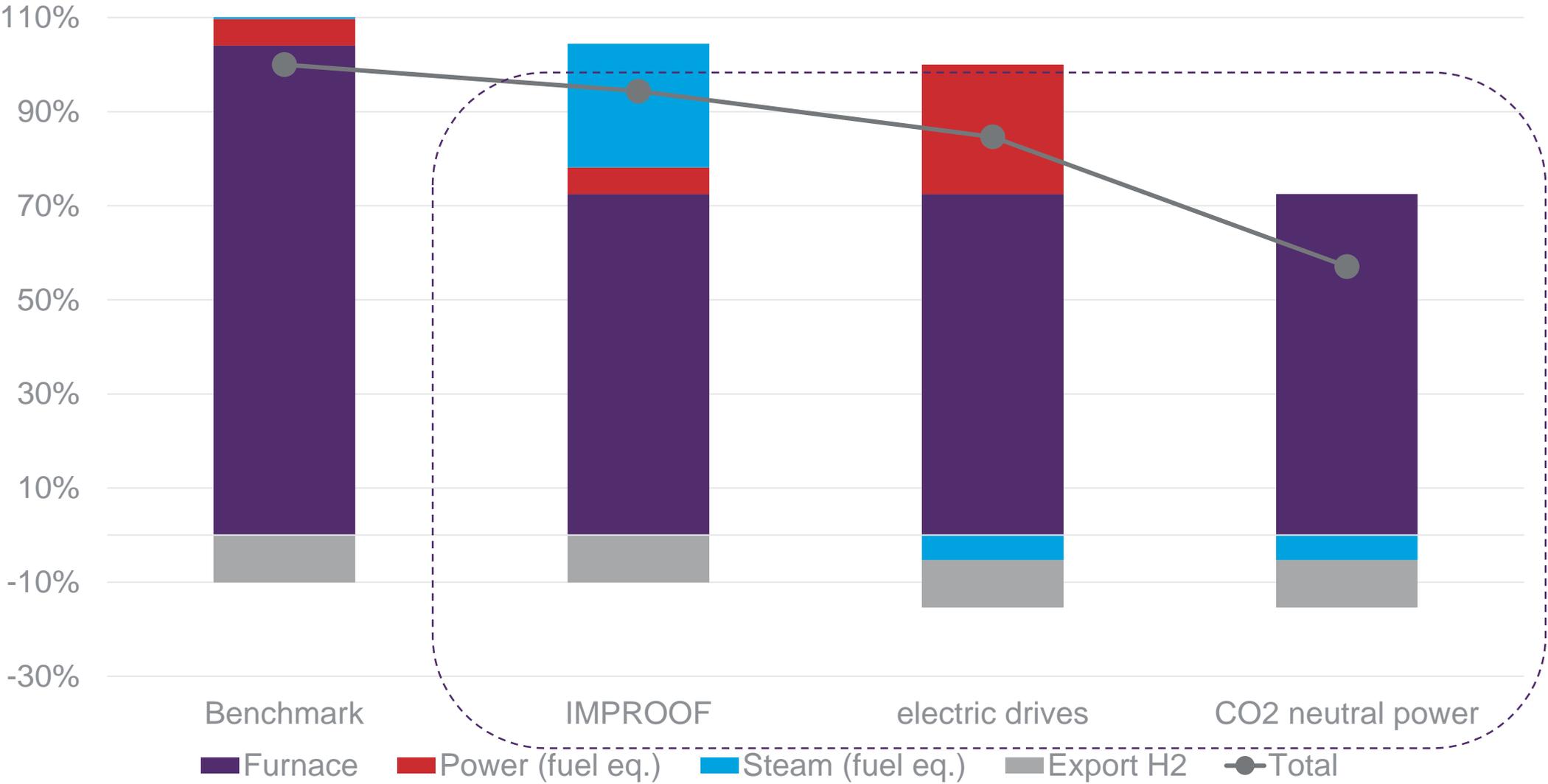
# Energy balance across the ethylene plant



*CO<sub>2</sub> neutral power generated by solar panels or wind turbines  
Electrical efficiency of solar or wind energy not included*



# Relative CO<sub>2</sub> emission per ton of products

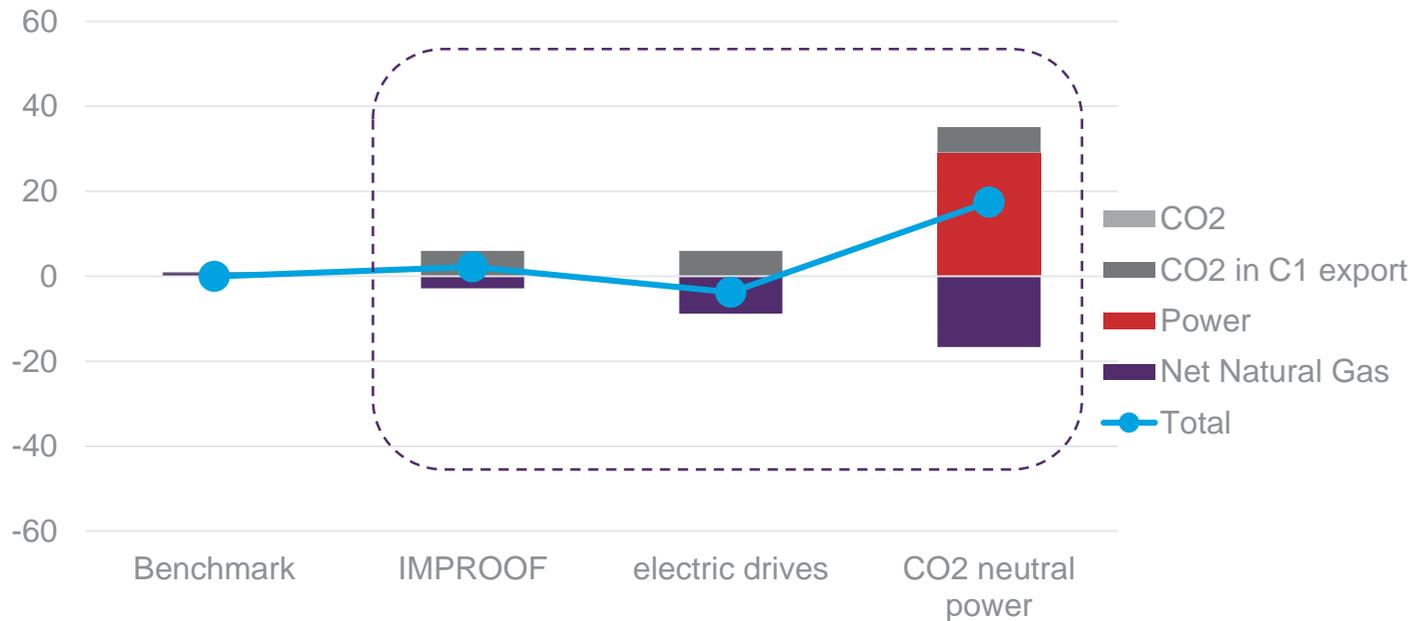


# Operational expenditure evaluation

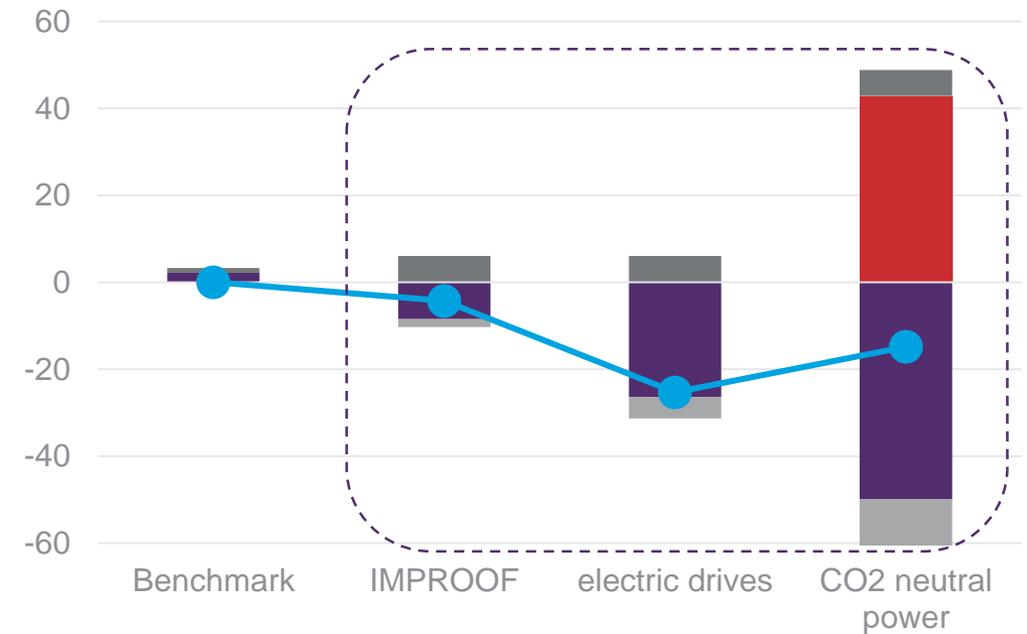
## Cost elements contributing to the differentiation of cost for energy and emissions

### CO2 cost for direct emissions is not included

Relative cost of energy & emissions  
in EUR per ton of ethylene in 2016



Relative cost of utilities & emissions  
in EUR per ton of ethylene in 2035



\*The evaluation relies on CO<sub>2</sub>, natural gas and electric power prices for 2016 as reported by the Dutch Central office of Statistics

Price-set	Units	2016	2035
CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions	EUR/MT of CO <sub>2</sub>	5.2	24.7
Power	Eur/MWh	33.7	49.6
Natural Gas	Eur/MWh	9.1	27.3



# Conclusion

## The Low-Emission Cracking Furnace

- Reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at furnace stack by 30%
- If the low emission furnace is combined with motor drives, net CO<sub>2</sub> reduction is 15%
- Access to CO<sub>2</sub> neutral power can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40%
- Cost of energy depends largely on future natural gas and power prices





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