## Haldor Topsoe views on Sustainable Aviation Fuels

Jostein Gabrielsen, Sylvain Verdier Sustainable Aviation Fuel - Workshop 2018 Copenhagen, November 20 2018

## Introduction about Haldor Topsoe

### Haldor Topsoe In brief

- Established in 1940 by Dr. Haldor Topsøe.
- Private 100% family-owned company.
- Market leader in heterogeneous catalysis and surface science for more than 75 years.
- 2,100 employees in 13 countries.
- Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Production in Frederikssund, Denmark and Houston
- Spends around 10% of revenue on R&D.



2017 operating profit DKK 595m (~USD 90m)

# We provide a full range of products and services for a broad range of chemical processing, hydroprocessing, and emissions management processes

Hydroprocessing

#### **Chemical Processing**

#### Ammonia Syngas Methanol Naphtha Hydrogen Kerosene SNG **Sulfuric acid** Diesel Sulfur removal **Dimethyl ether** VGO Resid **VOC** abatement Formaldehyde **Gasoline synthesis** Renewables **Particulate** filtratio



**Emissions Management** 

## Hydroprocessing of renewable feedstocks Topsoe's expertise

### Market intelligence

Some facts about current units

- About 30 units/refineries processing renewable feedstocks to produce renewable diesel or jet fuel at the moment (mostly in EU and USA)
- Processed feedstocks:
  - 50% of the units are co-processing (2 to 40% renewable feedstock) and 50% are stand-alone units
  - Animal fats/tallow: about 1/3 of units are using animal fat as renewable feedstock (partially or fully)
  - Crude tall oil: 2 units processing pulp mill residue in Northern Europe
  - Used cooking oils used in a handful of units at the moment
  - Vegetable oils used in other refineries (palm oil, soybean oil, rapeseed oil and corn oil mainly)
- The first unit to supply renewable jet fuel on commercial scale is running (AltAir, California)
- More than 50% of the units in the world processing renewable feedstocks are currently using Topsoe catalysts
- Topsoe conducted pilot testing and produced 400 liters of renewable jet fuel from waste fats

### **Topsoe's experience with renewable feedstocks**

Feed	Plant triglyceride	Animal triglyceride	Tall oil	Sulfate turpentine	Hydro- thermal bio crude	Pyrolysis oil	Algae- derived pyrolysis oil
Derived from	Various vegetable oils	Animal fat	Wood	Wood	Biomass or coal	Biomass	Algae
Main product	Diesel and jet	Diesel	Diesel	Gasoline	Jet fuel	Gasoline+ diesel	Gasoline+ diesel
Topsoe's R&D test carried out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industrial operation (Topsoe's catalyst)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

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## Renewable jet fuels Challenges

### **Challenges** SPK-HEFA

- Boiling point vs. freezing point of n-paraffins
- Stable supply and quality of feedstocks (incl. pricing, availability, contaminants)
- Specifications for HEFA-SPK, low aromatic content is critical.
  - Max 0.5 wt% (measured with ASTM D2425 and not ASTM D6591)
  - According to D7566, min 8% aromatics in blend so why max 0.5 wt% in renewable part?
  - It can be challenging depending on the nature of the feedstock.



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- RED II Directive (2021-2030):
  - Specific targets for Annex IX parts A and B feedstocks and cap on food/feed crop-based feedstocks
  - How will these feedstocks be produced and processed?
- Examples of possible technical solutions (not commercial yet):

	Pyrolysis	Hydrothermal liquefaction	Gasification	Hydroprocessing
Algae	*	*	*	* (oil)
Municipal waste	*	*	*	
Agricultural residues (inc. wood)	*	*	*	* (tall oil)
Winter crops				*

## **Renewable – where to start?**

### Some of the basic questions

#### 1 - Renewable feed

- How much renewable do you want to process?
- What is the level of contaminants in your feed?
- Do you plan to pre-treat your feedstock?
- Where will you get your feedstock from?
- Which feedstock do you plan to use
- If you consider co-processing, which fossil feed do you plan to use?

#### 2 - Challenges

- What is the TAN number?
- What is the Cl concentration?
- How much H<sub>2</sub> is available?
- If existing unit, do you have dP issue?
- Pressure drop might affect cycle length of your unit. Are you ready for that?

#### 3 - Desired end product

- Which products do you want to obtain?
- What are the specs of these products (incl. cold flow properties, aromatics, etc.)?

## Thank you for your attention Questions?