



Status and Outlook for bioliq-Project – Syngas Platform for High Performance Fuels Nicolaus Dahmen

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Institut für Katalyseforschung und -technologie IKFT Institut für Technische Chemie, Vergasungstechnologie, ITC vgt Engler-Bunte-Institut, Chemische Energieträger – Brennstofftechnologie, EBI ceb





Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

bioliq®fast pyrolysis

Tasks in the bioliq process:

- Produce an intermediate bioenergy carrier to maintain as much of the biomass energy as possible
- Provide a fuel suitable for pressure loaded gasification
- Make use of a multitude of ash rich, residual types of biomass
- Fast pyrolysis char and condensate(s) are mixed to form a biosyncrude, conserving up to 85 % of the biomass energy



bioliq[®]central plant



- High pressure gasification high temperature gas cleaning methanol/dimethyl ether and gasoline synthesis (MtG)
- Technical innovations: Biosyncrude preparation and conditioning, high pressure gasification, and hot gas cleaning

Biosyncrude preparation



bioliq® pilot plant at KIT





Technical demonstration

Mass and energy balances
 Scale-up, practicability
 Production costs

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Research platform

- Further development and optimization
- Diagnostics, modeling, simulation
- New applications

bioliq[®] impressions



12 km pipelines, 50 km wiring, 250 motors, 1500 t steel,



1200 I/Os, 40 pumps, 100.000 engineering hours





R&D implementation



- Program oriented funding of Helmholtz Association
 - Pilot plant operation and R&D themes addressed in HGF ENERGY program 2015-2020
- bioliq PhD network at KIT
 - Actually 25 students working on fundamental, bioliq technology related aspects at 5 institutes of KIT
- HVIGasTech Network of Young Scientists
 - 12 PhD students with partners for modeling gasification of solid/liquid fuel in an entrained flow reactor (www.hvigastech.org)
- Funded joint projects





Systems analysis

- Biomass potential studies
 - Regional
 - National
 - EU 27+CH, NUTS 3 level
- Logistic models and simulation
- Life cycle assessment:
 > 82 % CO₂ reduction potential
- Techno-economic assessment
 - Different studies: 1-1.85 EUR/L
 - Target price: 1.0-1.4 EUR/L





F. Trippe et al., Fuel Processing Technology 106 (2013) 577-586







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Institute for Catalysis Research and Technology



The dimethyl ether (DME) issue

- Single step DME production by mixed/bifunctional catalysts
- DME formation is favored at CO/H₂ ratio around 1
- DME principally is an excellent fuel component, but....
- DME as intermediate for high performance fuel additives
 - Full compatible (drop-in)
 - Emission reduction



Ogawa et al., J. Nat. Gas Chem. 2003,12, 219-227

$$3 \text{ CO} + 3 \text{ H}_2 \iff \text{CH}_3 \text{OCH}_3 + \text{CO}_2$$

Tailor made fuel (components) via DME



- Reduction of aromatics content in DME to gasoline synthesis
- Improve gasoline quality towards advanced IC engines
- Alkylate based petrol
- Polyoxymethylene ethers (OME) as diesel additives
- ...by new and improved catalysts



Polyoxymethylene ether (OME 4)





bioliq® essentials



- Energy densification of a multitude of lignocellulosic biomass in regionally distributed plants by biosyncrude production
- Economic conversion in large scale to syngas and further refining into synthetic fuels & chemicals
 - Network scalability: combination of local pre-treatment of biomass with centralized synthesis at high feedstock flexibility
- Syngas offers a broad application range for fuels and chemical
 - High product quality: Targeted production of drop-in capable fuels with high energy density and improved emission behavior
- biolig[®] pilot plant for process demonstration and research platform for optimization, further development, and scale-up
 - Critical mass and expertise along the full process chain with aligned R&D program and appropriated partners

Lessons learned



- Trivial: Things take longer than expected
- Biofuels development is a long term task, stable frame conditions for R&D required
- Consider co-utilization of fossil fuels to improve specific production costs
- If applicable, use additional H₂ to increase carbon efficiency and product yield
- Make use of the oxygen contained in biomass
- Care for cost determining biomass supply logistics



Next steps

- Increase pilot plant availability (1000 h/a)
- Perform proof of concept
- Improve and optimize process (steps)
- Establish R&D platform for the development of high performance fuel components
- Establish commercialization platform to prepare business model(s) & market implementation



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