

# **The bioCRACK Process – a refinery integrated BtL-concept**

**BIOFIT Progress Meeting – day 2**

**Edgar Ahn, BDI-Holding GmbH**

## BDI at a glance

- Austrian based, highly specialized plant engineering and construction company
- Tailor-made, turn-key EPC-solutions
- Industrial BioDiesel- & BtL- Multi-Feedstock Technology
- 20 years of experience with >40 reference plants world-wide
- **Key Figures:**
  - Staff: 120 employees
  - Turnover: 30 – 40 Mio.€





- **Growing renewable energy share in transport sector**  
→ mandatory mandates for biofuel portion in RED II post-2020
- **Strong request for 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biofuels**  
→ no „food versus fuel“ in biofuels
- **Continuous development of Benchmark-Technologies for Biofuel production at BDI**
- **Conversion of biogenic waste & residues from „non-food“ areas into high-quality Biofuel**



- Simple process technology
- Compliance with current fuel quality standards in final fuel product
- Useable side-products, no waste streams
- Fit in with conventional process of mineral oil refining
- Liquid phase pyrolysis  
(liquefaction of solid biomass)
- Co-processing of intermediate product  
in refinery (heavy ends) and solid biomass



### ■ Ideal biomass for bioCRACK is renewable lignocelluloses

- Low water content
- Low nitrogen, chlorine, toxics
- Fine particle size (<5mm) possible

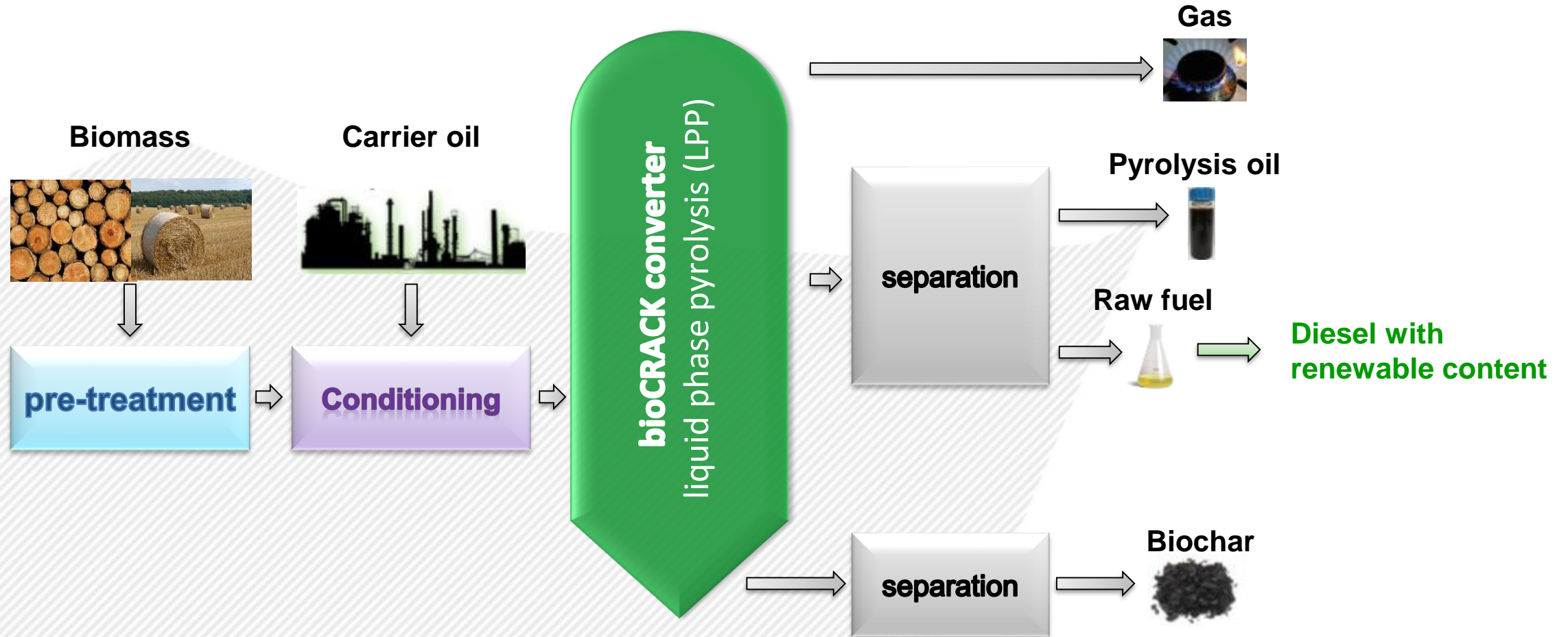
#### Examples:

- Wood chips (soft and hard wood)
- Forestry residues
- Chopped straw/agricultural residue ...



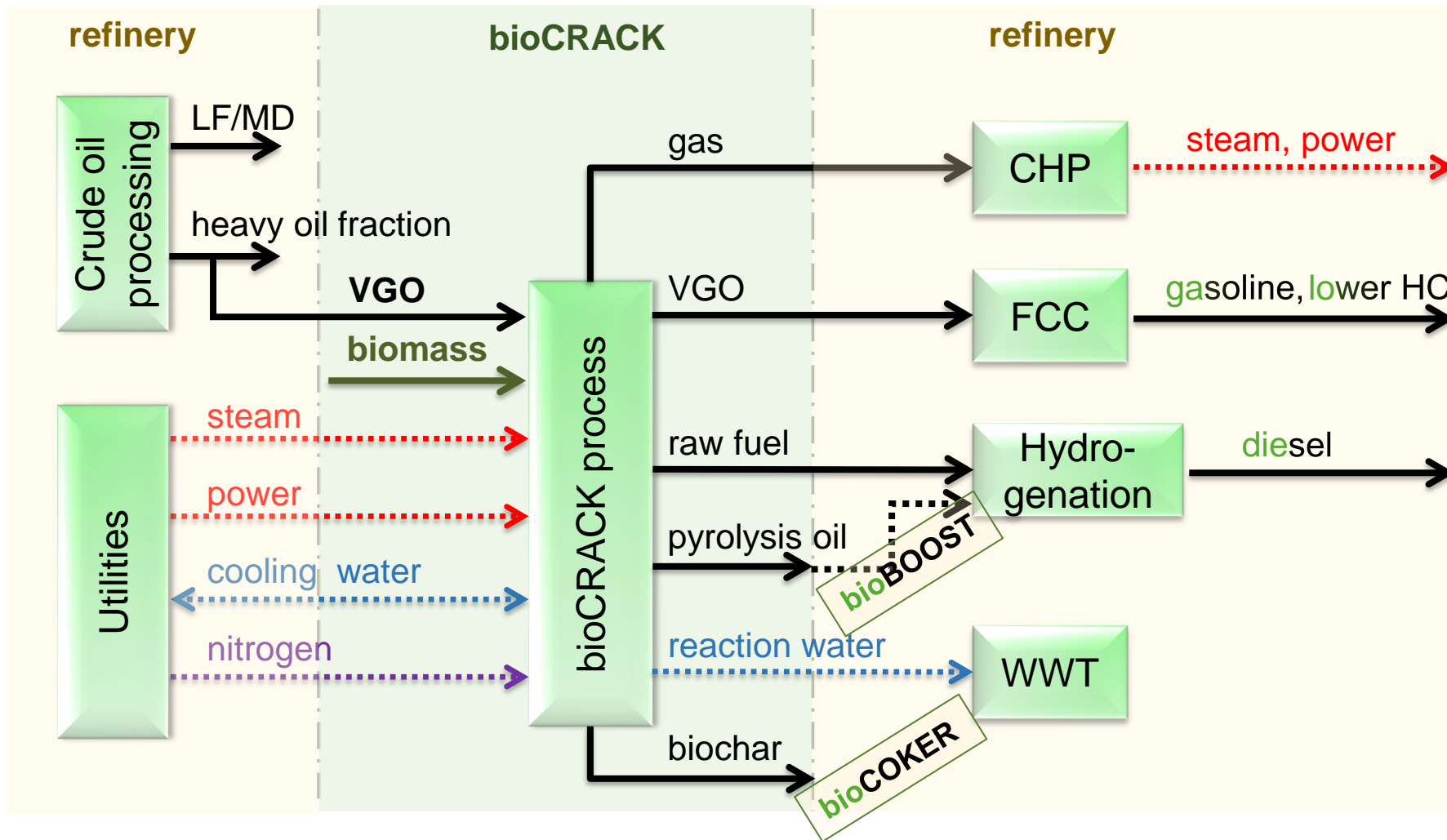
**Biomass contains up to 50% oxygen in complex molecular structure. Oxygen is unwanted element in liquid fuels and has to be removed to reach requested fuel quality!**

# bioCRACK – basic Process scheme





# bioCRACK – Refinery Integration



## bioCRACK – Pilot plant (2013 - 2015)

### Integrated pilot plant at the OMV refinery Schwechat/Austria (1.000 to BM/y)





### Upgrading of raw diesel to EN590 quality is possible

Parameter	Untreated raw diesel	After hydro treatment	EN 590
Density (15°C)	868 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	<b>833 kg/m<sup>3</sup></b>	820 - 845 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Viscosity (40°C)	2,53 mm <sup>2</sup> /s	n.a.	2 - 4,5 mm <sup>2</sup> /s
Cetan	44	<b>53</b>	> 51
C/H/O	85/13/2 wt.%	<b>86/14/0 wt.%</b>	n.a.
Volatile <350°C	83 wt.%	<b>86 wt.%</b>	> 85 % (v/v)
Sulfur	177 mg/kg	<b>3 mg/kg</b>	< 10 mg/kg

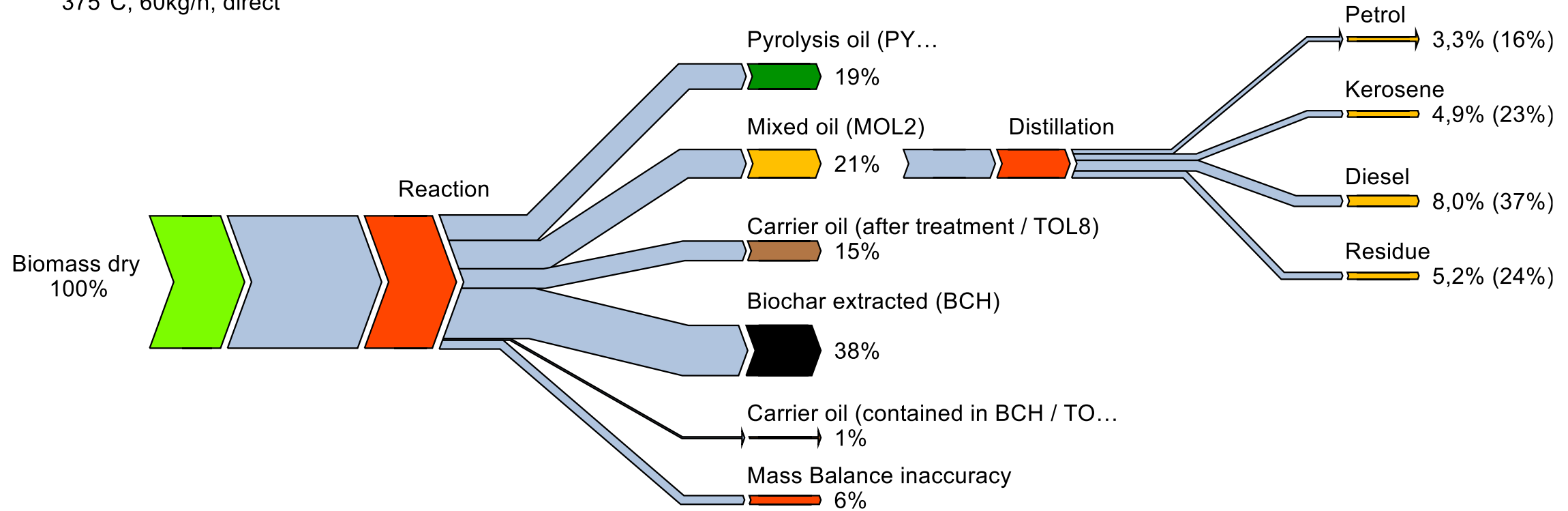
### Example integration bioCRACK in OMV refinery concept:

- general increase of fuel production from VGO by + 5%
- Shift in fuel distribution from **petrol (-11%) to diesel (+25%) and kerosene (+15%)**

# Detailed C<sub>14</sub> Balance → Biocarbon transfer

**H06.2**

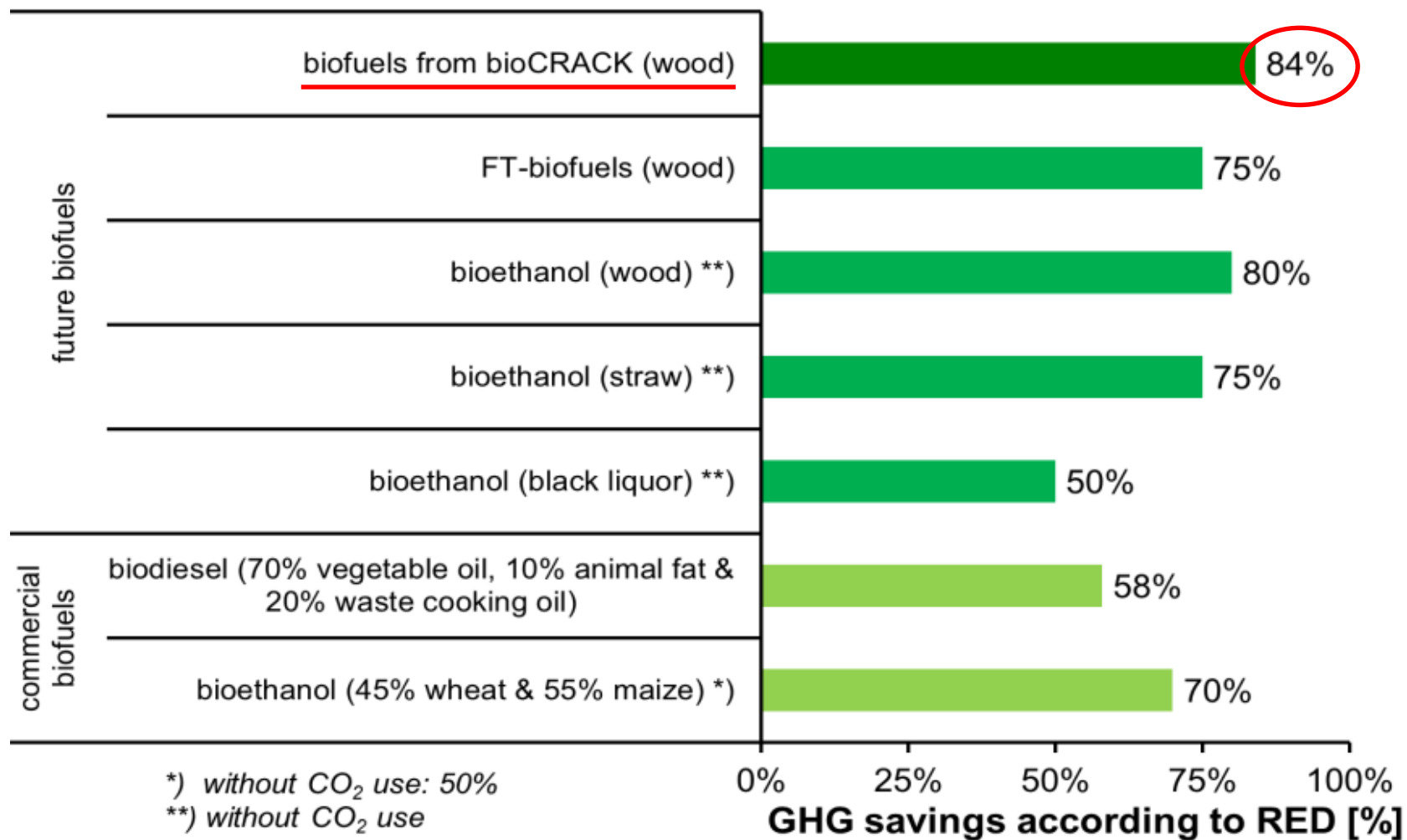
375°C, 60kg/h, direct



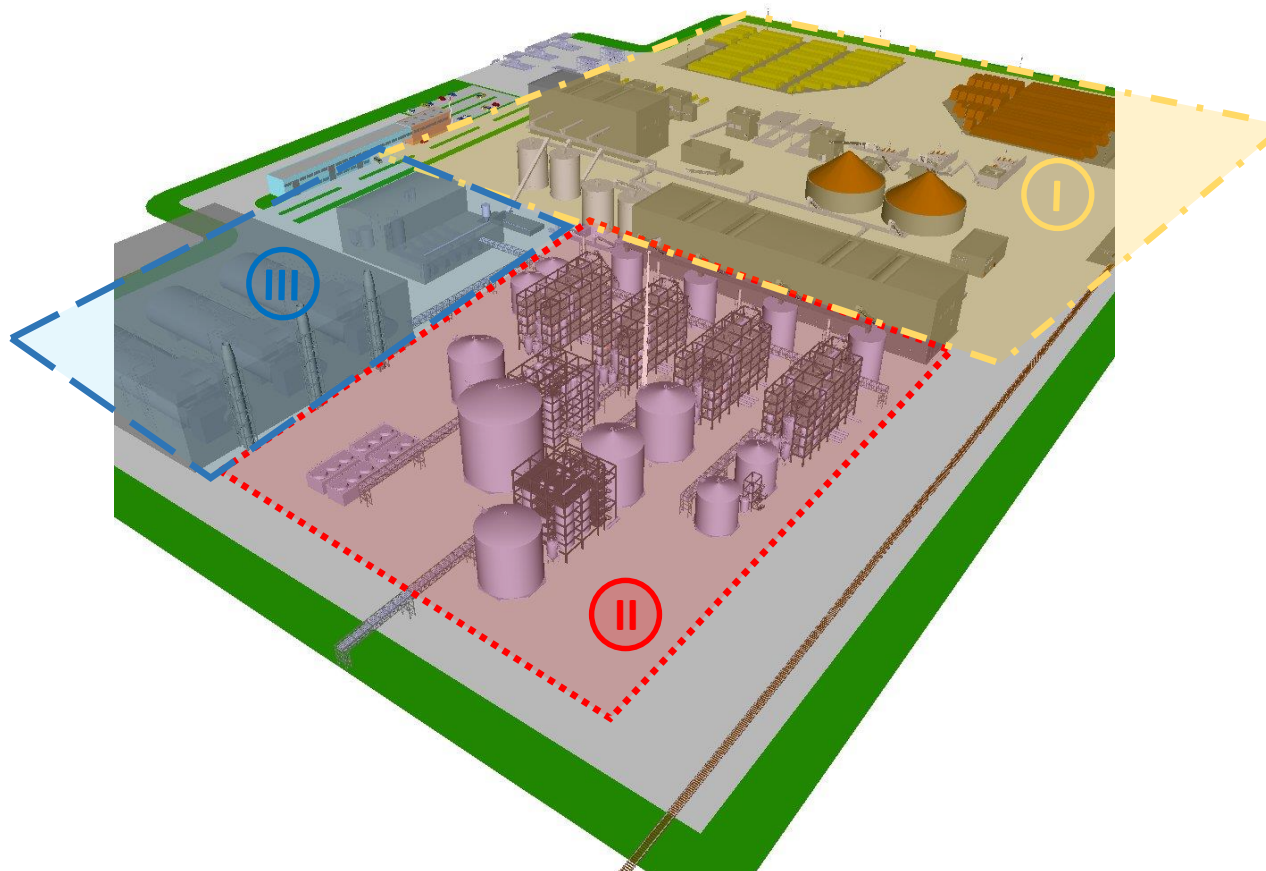
Results from bioCRACK pilot plant Schwechat  
Feedstock: spruce



# GHG-Saving potential (accord. to RED) Comparison to other biofuels in Austria

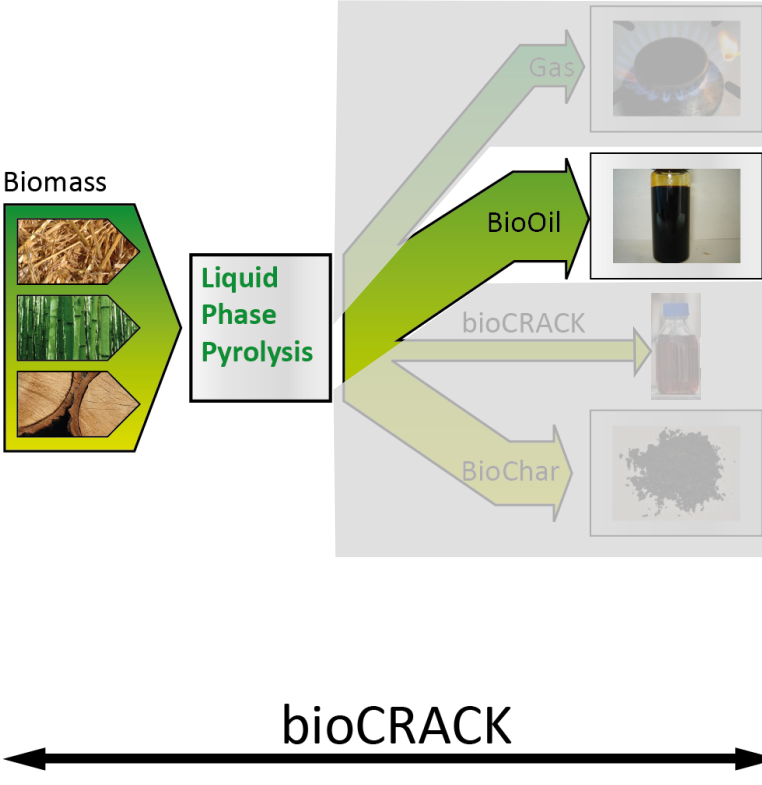


Source: JOANNEUM RESEARCH (2008 – 2014)



- **Capacity:**  
400.000 to/y BM → 60.000 to/y biofuels;  
Total Area: 235.000m<sup>2</sup>
- **Area I:**  
Multi-Feedstock biomass preparation
- **Area II:**  
bioCrack Refining 1- 4, product treatment  
VGO-Conditioning
- **Area III:**  
Energy central station, bioChar treatment
- **Estimated Capex 400.000 t**  
**p.a. biomass: 200 - 300 Mio €**





LIQUID PHASE PYROLYSIS OIL

Water content	[wt.%]	57.0%
LHV	[MJ/kg]	7.4
Density	[kg/m³]	1092
Viscosity	[mPa·s]	3.5
Carbon content	[wt.%]	22.3
Hydrogen content	[wt.%]	9.4
Rest	[wt.%]	67.8
Nitrogen content	[wt.%]	<1
Biogenic Carbon	[wt.%]	100%

### ■ **Brown liquid with a few hundred compounds**

- Low pH
- High water content
- High corrosivity
- High viscosity
- Low stability (polymerisation reactions)
- Smoky smell

### ■ **Differences to fast pyrolysis oil:**

- Lower molecular size distribution ( $< 2.000$  g/Mol)
- Higher water content
- Lower viscosity





- **Material utilization (Extraction of phenols, acetic acid, „liquid smoke“,..)**
- **Electro-chemical upgrading (stabilization)**
- **Steam reforming**
- **Gasification & Fischer Tropsch Synthesis (e.g. KIT)**
- **Usage as fuel additive (emulsions)**
- **Usage in fuel cells (sugar in pyrolysis oil)**
- **Hydrodeoxygenation (HDO)**

**Goals:**

- **Value-adding utilization of side-product „pyrolysis oil“ from bioCRACK-process**
- **Increase biogenic carbon transfer, preferably into fuel → production of additional biogenic portion of fuels from biomass feed**
- **Using standard Hydrotreating / HydroCracking process parameters**



- **Hydro-deoxygenation of pyrolysis oil from bioCRACK Process successful, using low-pressure/-temperature Hydrocracking parameters**
- **Endproduct complies with fuel specification, depending on boiling range**
- **In combination with bioCRACK-Process yield increase in production of biogenic fuel portion**
- **Increase in GHG-saving potential up to 86%**
- **Concept for Multi-feedstock BiomassPyrolysisRefinery proven**



# Green Chemistry

PAPER

[View Article Online](#)

[View Journal](#)

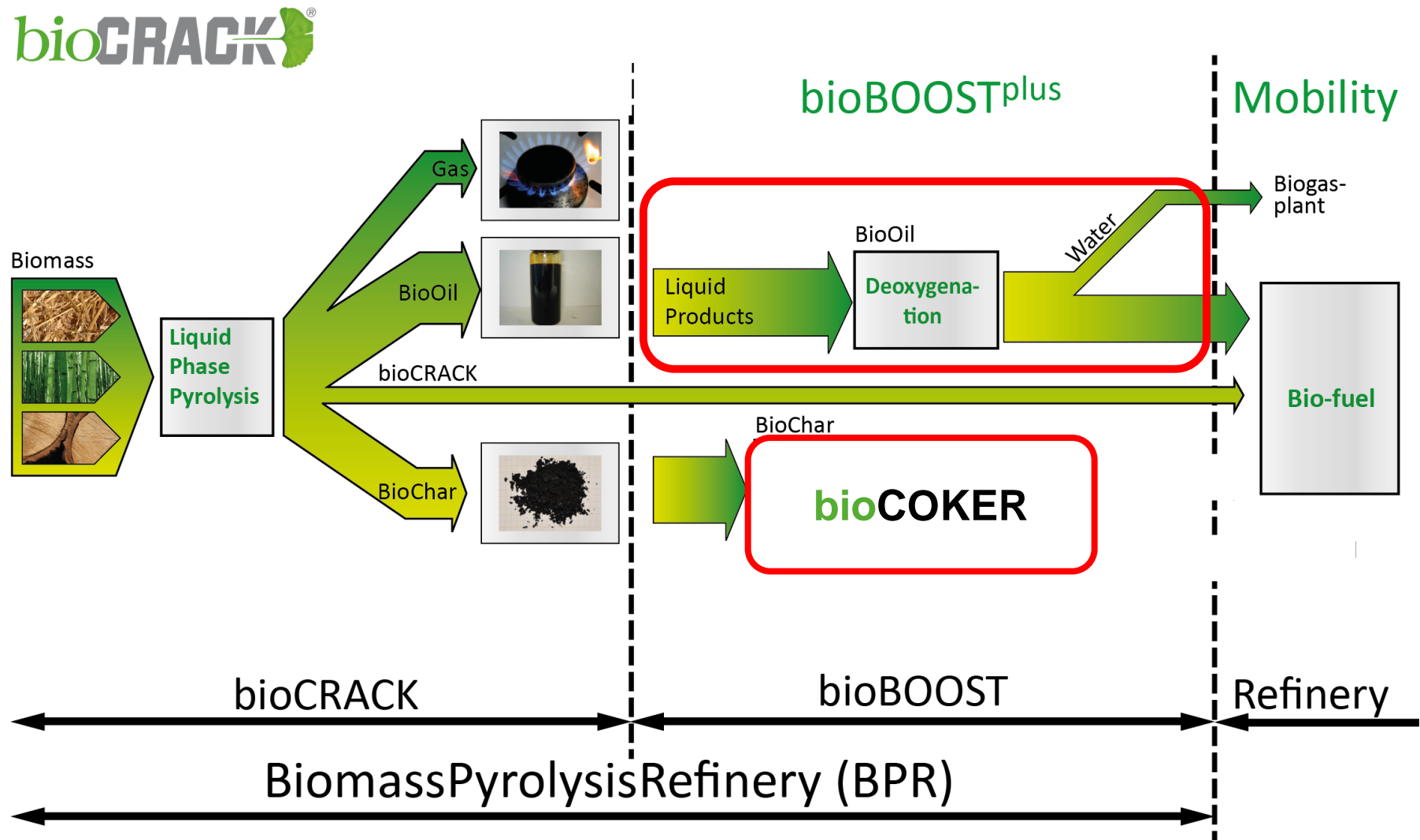


Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/c4gc02344g

## Hydrocarbon liquid production *via* the bioCRACK process and catalytic hydroprocessing of the product oil

N. Schwaiger,<sup>\*a,c</sup> D. C. Elliott,<sup>b</sup> J. Ritzberger,<sup>c</sup> H. Wang,<sup>b</sup> P. Pucher<sup>c</sup> and M. Siebenhofer<sup>a</sup>





## Summary

- **bioCRACK-Process:**  
new, patented BtL-process, as add-on technology to existing mineral oil refinery
- **Tested in pilot scale for 2 years (~1.000 t/y biomass)**
- **Produced raw diesel can be up-graded to EN590-diesel, using standard hydrogenation unit**
- **Biogenic portion up to 20% (C<sub>14</sub> - analysis)**
- **Side-product stream „pyrolysis oil“ can also be up-graded with Hydrodeoxygenation units (project „bioBOOST“) to biogenic fuel.**
- **Search for partners/licensee**



**Thank you for your kind attention.**