

Liquefaction technologies at Valmet

Tero Joronen

Bio4Fuels seminar

Helsinki 12th June 2024

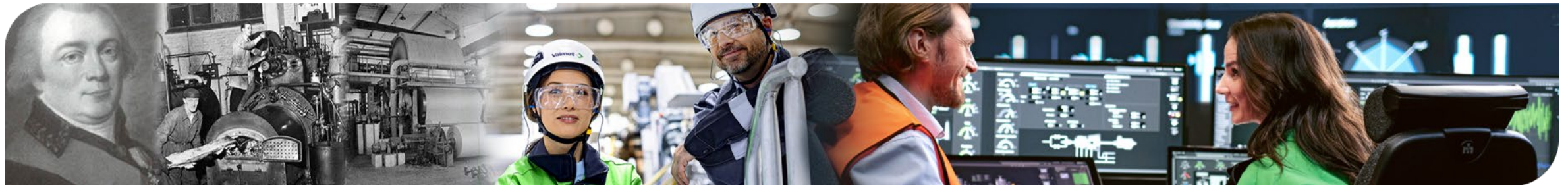
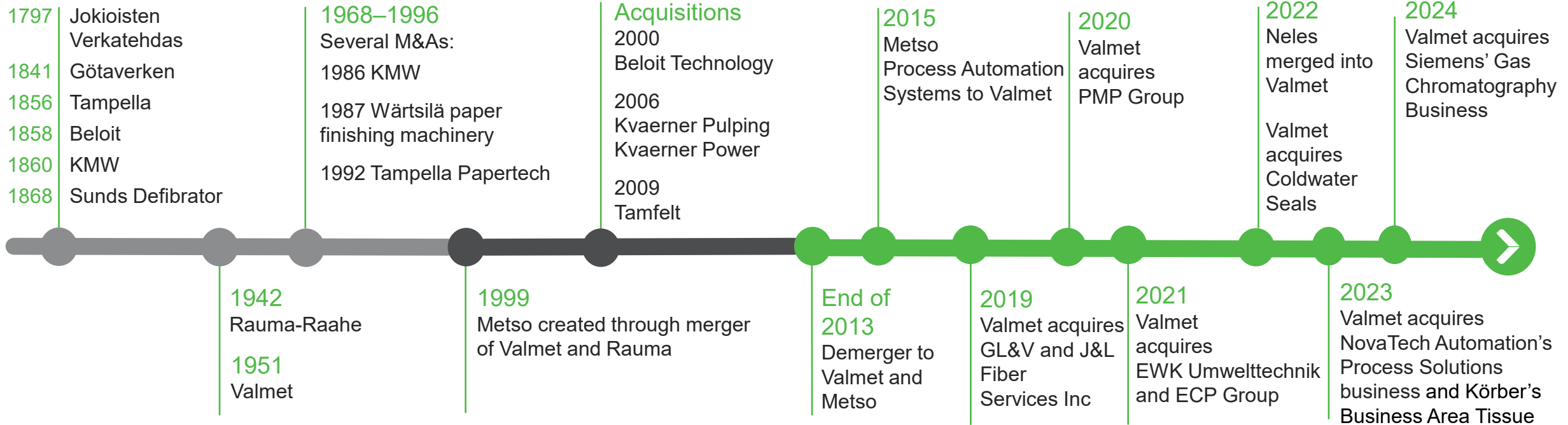
Content

- Valmet today
- Valmet R&D of Thermo-Chemical Conversions
- Valmet fast pyrolysis product
- HTL at Valmet
- BL2F
 - Introduction
 - Major results
 - Conclusion of BL2F
- Conclusion - the liquefaction of biomass at Valmet

Valmet today

Progress built on 220 years of industrial history

From cloth making to high-tech processes



This is Valmet



Unique offering

- Market's widest offering combining process technologies, services and automation, consisting of automation systems and flow control solutions
- Research and development spend EUR 114 million in 2023



Market leadership

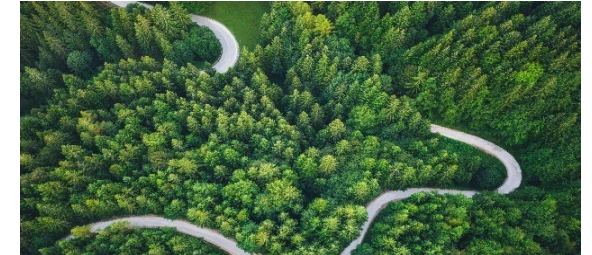
Strong market position

- Pulp #2
- Energy #1–3
- Board #1
- Tissue #1
- Paper #1
- Services #1–2
- Automation
 - Automation Systems #1-4¹⁾
 - Flow Control #1¹⁾



Strong global presence

- Approx. 130 service centers
- Approx. 50 production units
- 29 R&D centers
- More than 19,000 professionals



Leader in sustainability

- Ten consecutive years in Dow Jones Sustainability Index
- Highest ranking in Ecovadis sustainability assessment
- Highest AAA ranking in MSCI ESG rating

Illustrative figures of the combined company.
1) In pulp and paper.

Valmet's R&D addresses global megatrends

R&D focus areas

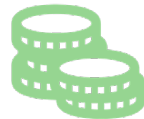
- Promotion of renewable materials
- Raw material, water and energy efficiency
- Emission reductions
- Circularity
- Productivity and environmental improvements with digitalization

29

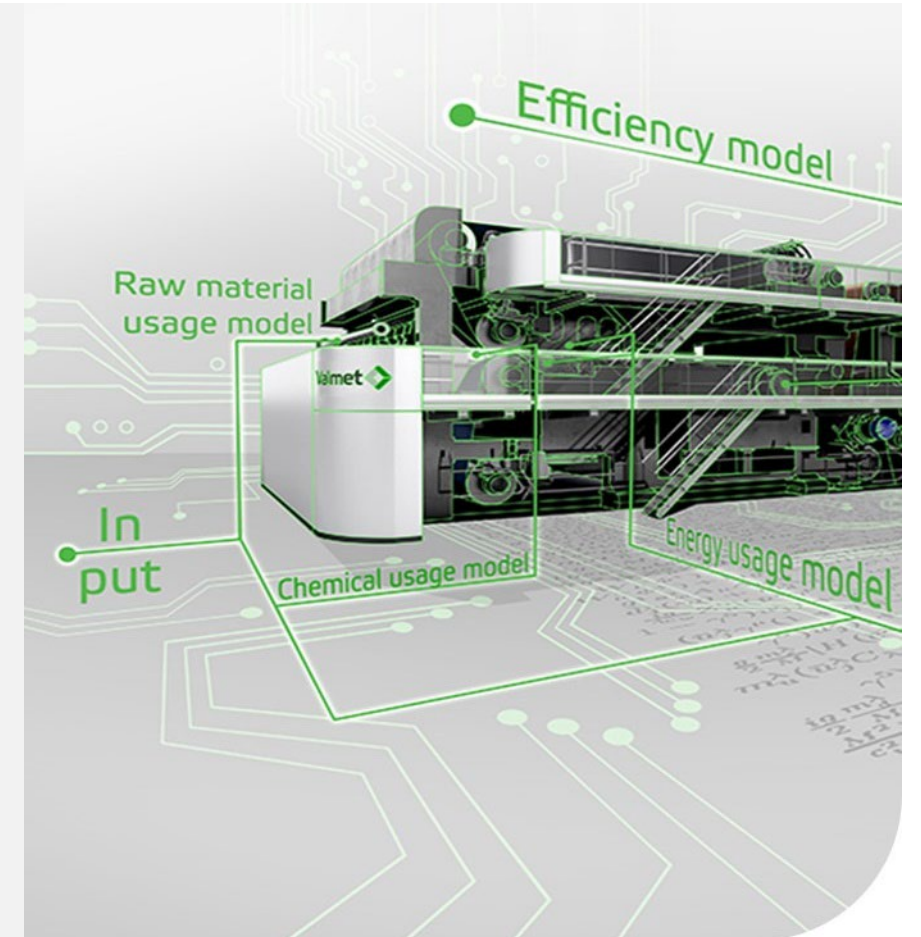
research and
development centers



EUR **114** million
R&D spending
in 2023



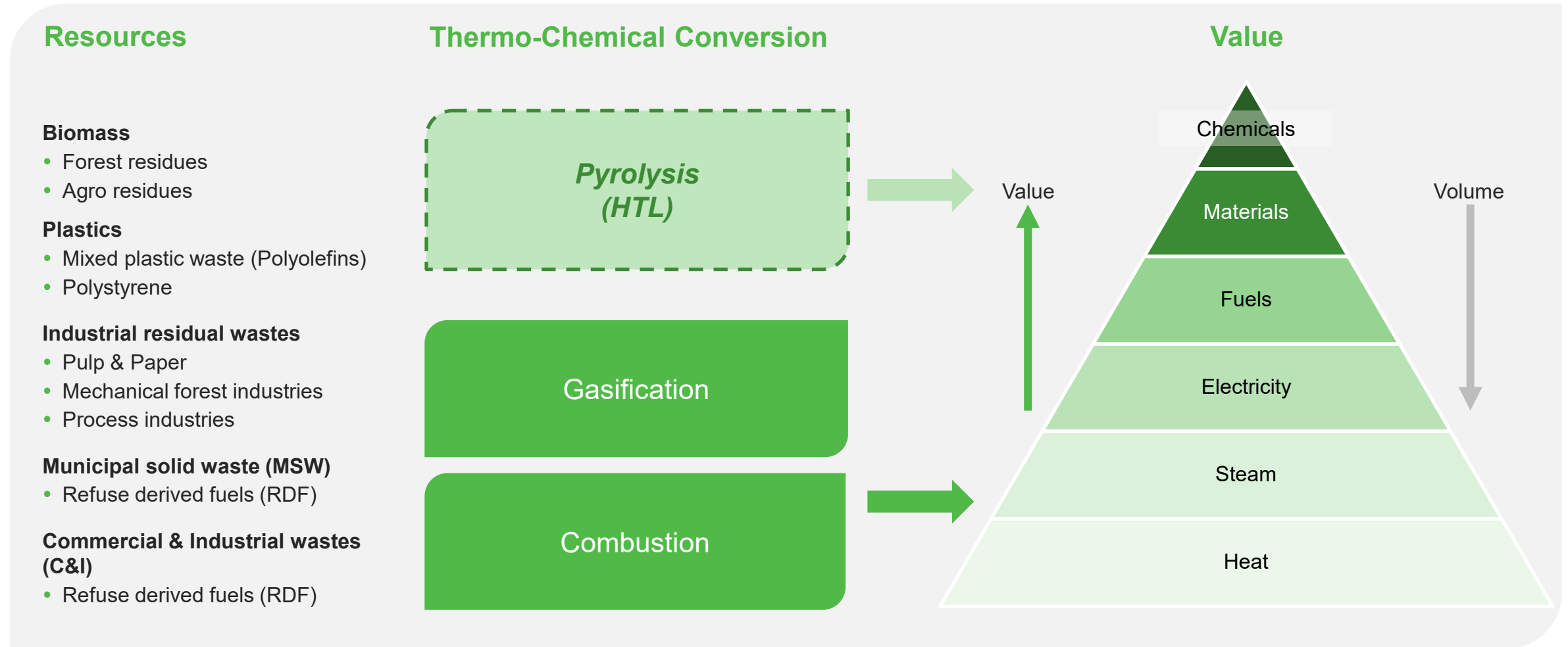
~1,300
protected
inventions



Illustrative figures of the combined company.

Valmet – R&D of Thermo-Chemical Conversions

Strategic direction towards more valuable products



Catalytic pyrolysis pilot plant commissioned successfully

Valmet Energy R&D Center (Tampere, Finland)

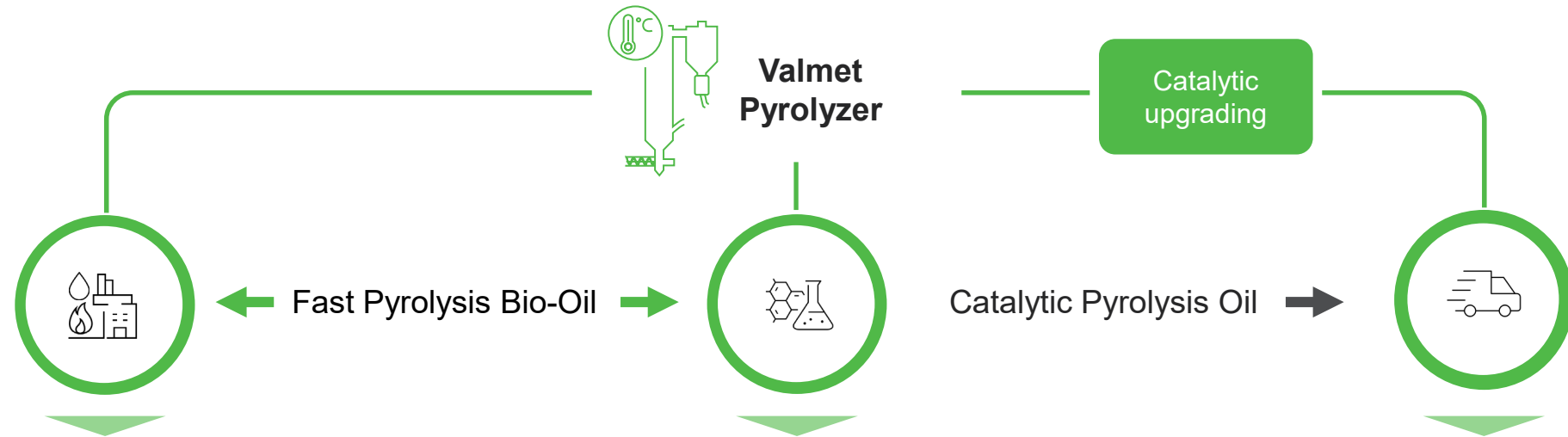
- Pyrolysis pilot with continuous catalytic treatment of pyrolysis vapors
 - Design of demo/commercial unit, Feeds 10 tons/d
 - Utilizes commercially available catalyst
- Separate pyrolysis and catalytic upgrading stages
- Product yield & quality in line with targets¹
 - Feedstocks: dried & milled biomass
 - Energy yield > 40% to liquid products
- Product liquid properties
 - Low oxygen content: 10-20 %
 - Low acidity: TAN 10-30
 - High heating value: > 35 MJ/kg
 - Distillable²

¹Based on previous and current pilot scale

²According to batch distillation / Simdist



Fast pyrolysis at commercial scale, focus now on catalytic pyrolysis



FPBO **TRL 9**

- Fast pyrolysis system proven in operational environment
- Commercial plant (50 kt/a) started 2013 (Joensuu, Finland)

Specialty chemicals **TRL 8**

- Circa small industrial plant to produce commercial bio-solvent, Cyrene™
- Pyrolyzer input 2 t_{DS}/h, start-up 2025

Transport fuels **TRL 7**

- Piloting ongoing on small industrial scale (400 kg/h feed)
- Target to reach readiness for 5 t/h in 2024 and 50 t/h by 2027
- Commercial target: 100 kt/a product

HTL at Valmet

Long history

- Already studied at Chalmers University of Technology in early 2010's
 - Valmet build there a bench-scale research system
- Biomass alternatives were explored in 2014 – 2017
- Participation in BL2F and an IIT Madras R&D projects
- Support for piloting equipment EHTA at Tampere University
- HTL technology has a monitoring status in Valmet – participating in selected projects

BL2F

*Main results and
lesson learned*

*Bio4Fuels seminar
12 June 2024, Tero Joronen, TAU/Valmet*



Basics revised and recalibrated



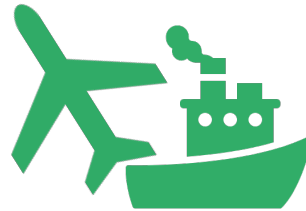
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Project Goals



**Create a high-quality
drop-in biofuel**



**Decrease carbon
emissions
from aviation and
shipping**



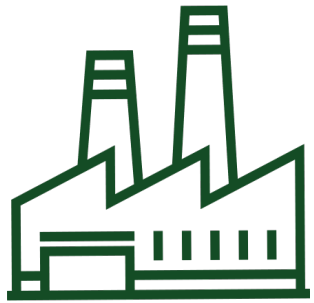
**Decrease the use
of fossil fuels**



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The BL2F Process



Pulp Mill

Black Liquor

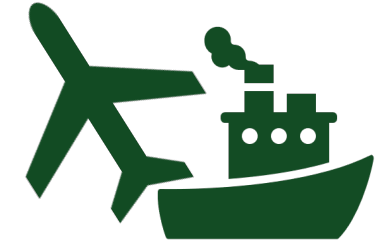
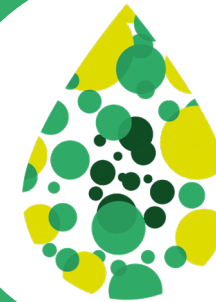
**Fuel
Intermediate**

Water and gases



Oil Refinery

**Refining step to
create a
drop-in biofuel**



Distribution

**Fuel
used in jet &
marine
engines**

Pulp Mill Integration

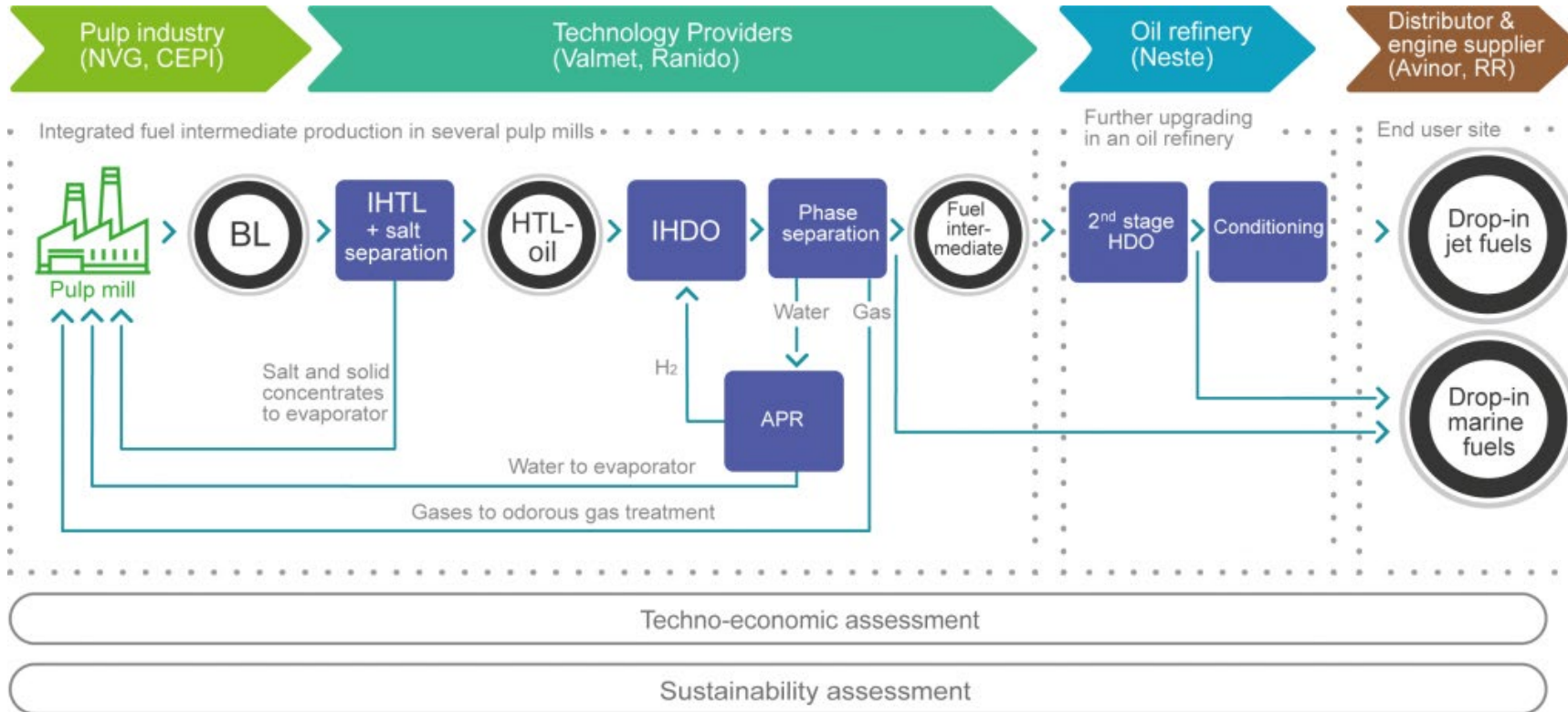
- Great benefit, but also a challenge



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The BL2F value-chain



1. Salt separation
2. Solids/salt handling
3. Water handling
4. Gas handling
5. Hydrogen production



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Reactor design



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Requirements

HTL reaction in supercritical conditions

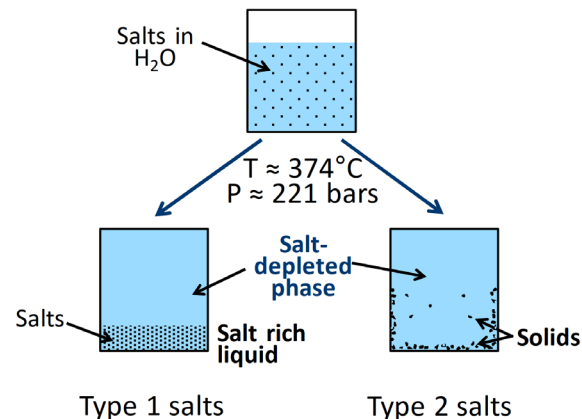
Salt separation from product (SC conditions)

- Separation of salts (> 90 %)
- Enough residence time for HTL reaction
- Extraction of the brine

Heating

Salt separation Integrated-HTL (IHTL)

- Salts have limited solubility in supercritical water
- Salts 1 and 2 behave differently
- Black liquor contains both types



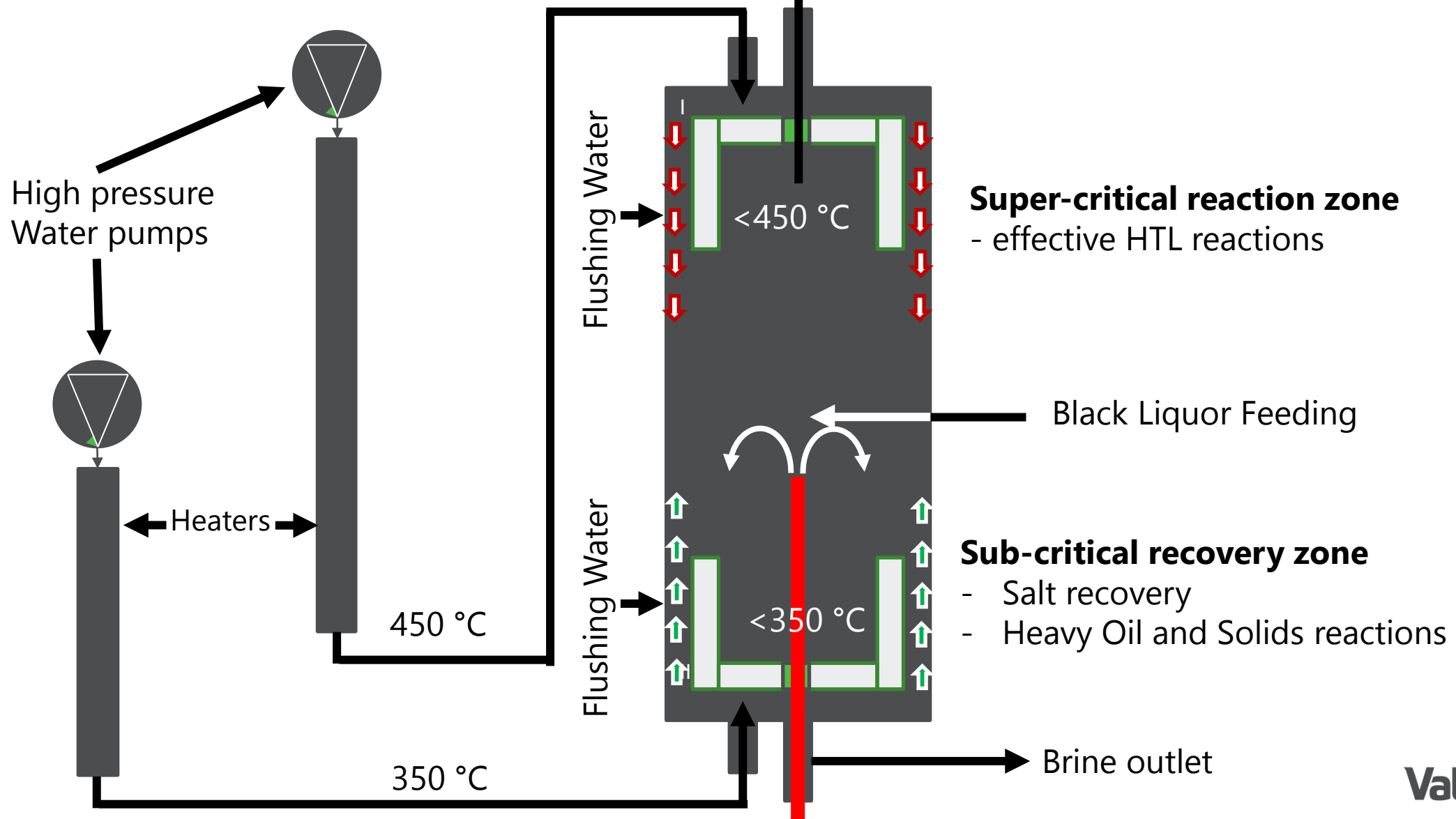
Ions	HO ⁻	Cl ⁻	CO ₃ ²⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻
Mg ²⁺	2	1	2	2
Ca ²⁺	2	1	2	2
Na ⁺	1	1	2	2
K ⁺	1	1	1	2

Lappalainen, Jukka, David Baudouin, Ursel Hornung, Julia Schuler, Kristian Melin, Saša Bjelić, Frédéric Vogel, Jukka Konttinen, and Tero Joronen. "Sub- and Supercritical Water Liquefaction of Kraft Lignin and Black Liquor Derived Lignin." *Energies* 13, no. 13 (2020): 3309

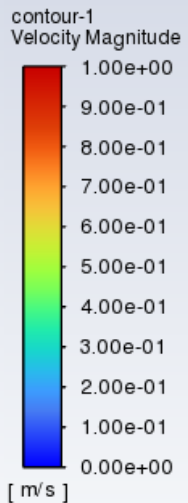
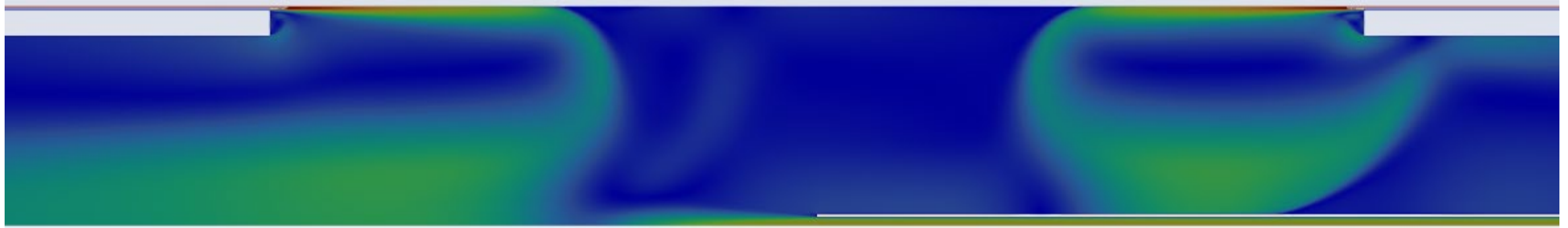


IHTL Reactor

- Dual Zone Design



Simulation-1 Result – Velocity Magnitude



Simulation Conditions

Velocity

Flushing (Top) – 0.4m/s (3 L/hr)

Flushing (Bottom) – 0.4m/s
(3 L/hr)

Feed – 0.49m/s (3 L/hr)

Temperature

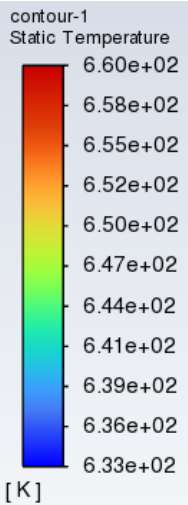
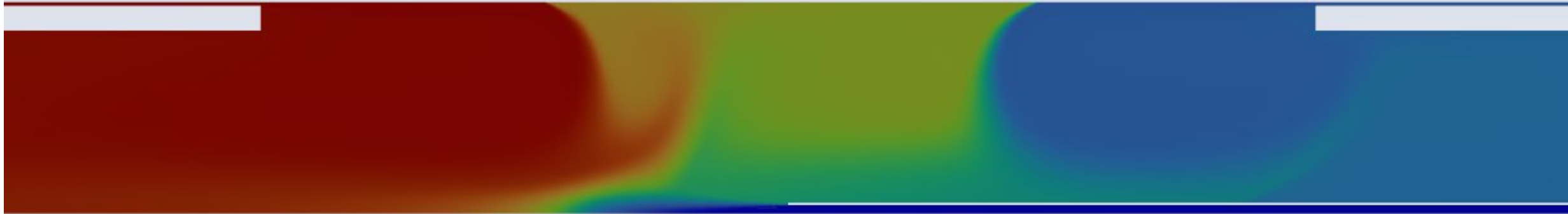
Flushing (Top) – 387.1 °C

Flushing (Bottom) – 364.6 °C

Feed – 360.3 °C



Simulation-1 Result – Temperature



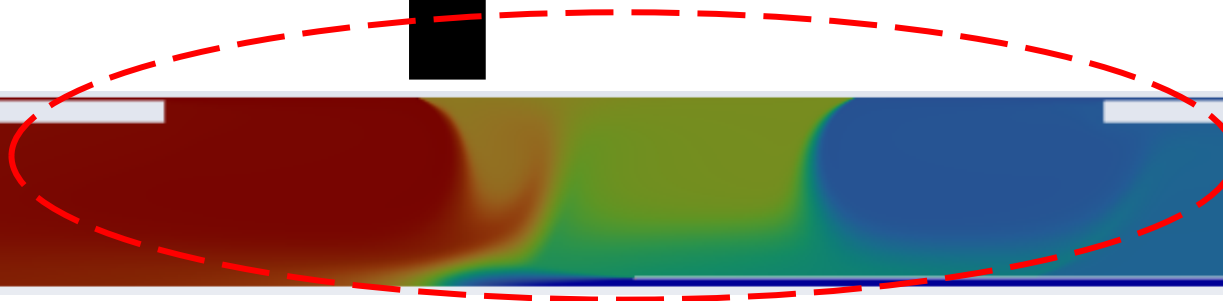
Simulation Conditions

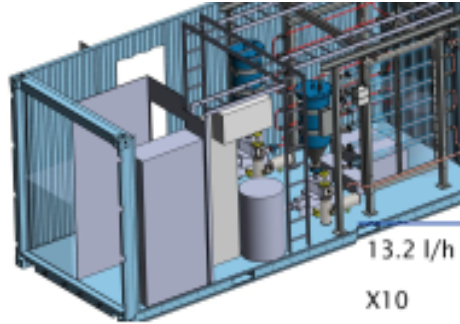
Velocity

Flushing (Top) – 0.4m/s
Flushing (Bottom) – 0.4m/s
Feed – 0.49m/s

Temperature

Flushing (Top) – 387.1 °C
Flushing (Bottom) – 364.6 °C
Feed – 360.3 °C

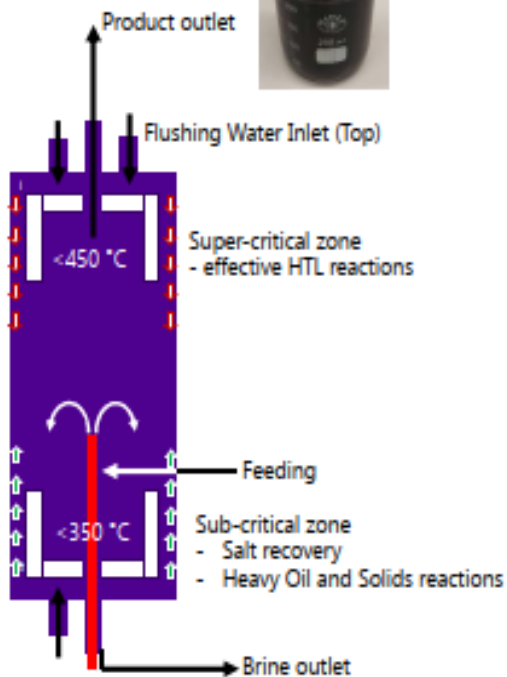




13.2 l/h
X10
400 °C
30 MPa

EHTA

Equipment for HydroThermal Applications



Benefits of HTL

- Good yield (Energy >80%, mass >45%)
- Good quality (O₂ <10%, HHV >37.5MJ/kg)
- Refinable product, flexible wet feedstock
- Fast reaction <10 min

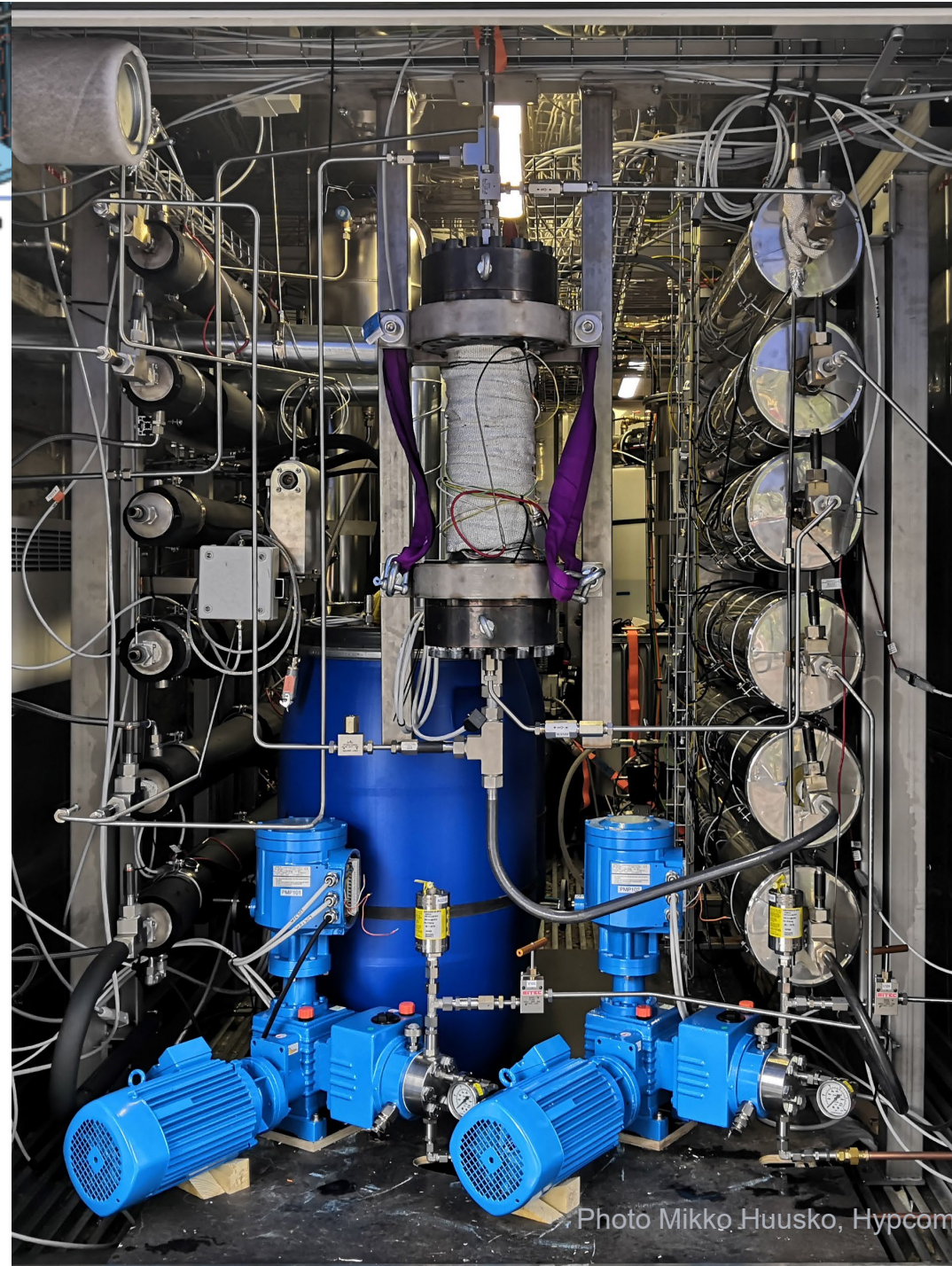
Features of EHTA

- Continuous
- Special separator reactor design
- Corrosion resistant (X10)
- High temperature and pressure (SC)
- CE marked, fully automated, mobile system

Feedstocks and projects at TAU

- Biomass
- Municipal solid waste
- Textile waste
- Plastic waste
- Black Liquor
- Pretreated biomass

EHTA (TAU)
ILPO (EAKR)
BL2F (H2020)
Bio4All (BF)



Analytical methods and results



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Analysis of feedstock and HTL products



Feedstock analysis

- Ultimate analysis
- TGA
- HHV



Aqueous phase analysis

- TOC



Hydro-char analysis

- Ultimate analysis
- TGA
- HHV

Bio-crude analysis

- GC-MS
- Ultimate analysis
- TGA
- HHV

Example of elemental analysis of Lignin, Hydrochar, and Biocrude

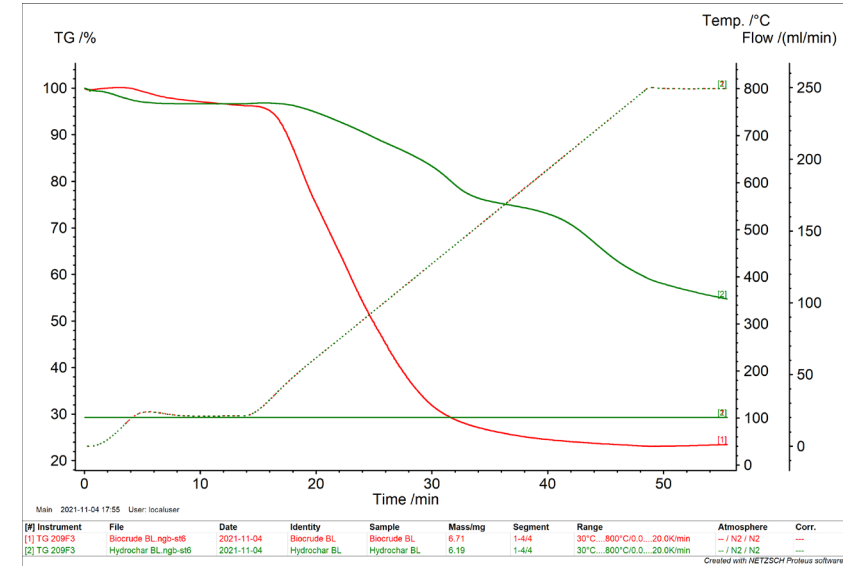
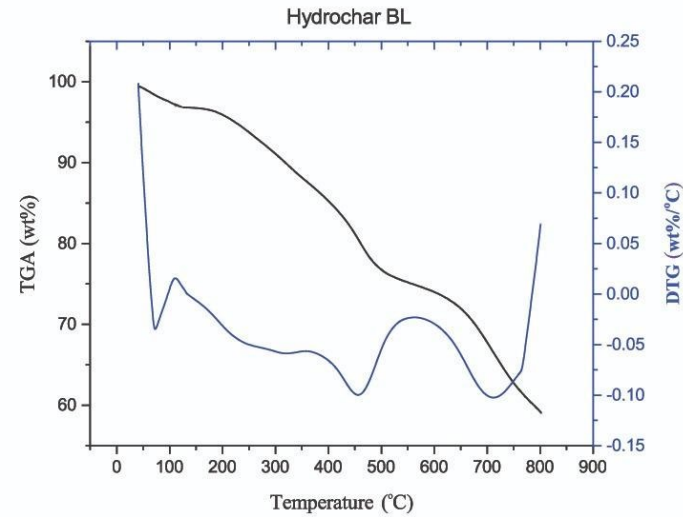
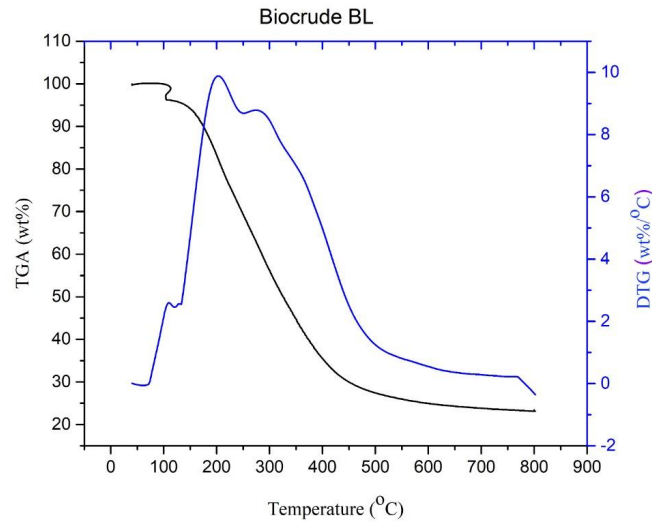
Sample	N	C	H	S	O	Ash	HHV
Lignin	0.47	53.64	5.8	4.85	35.4	0.08	29.556
Hydrochar	0.25	48.4	3.208	0.972	21.44	25.72	23.14
Biocrude	0.412	80.247	7.135	1.127	8.88	2.3	37.52

Babak Arjmand, TAU

Higher heating values (HHV) were calculated according to Boie's formula:

$$\text{HHV} = 0.3516 \text{ C} + 1.16225 \text{ H} + 0.1109 \text{ O} + 0.0628 \text{ N}$$

TGA analysis (Biocrude & Hydrochar)



Babak Arjmand, TAU

	Moisture	VM	FC
Biocrude	5	71	24
Hydrochar	4	35	61

50 °C to 800 °C in N₂ for 90 min (ramp of

Feasibility

Financial estimate of PM integration

Integration to a pulp mill

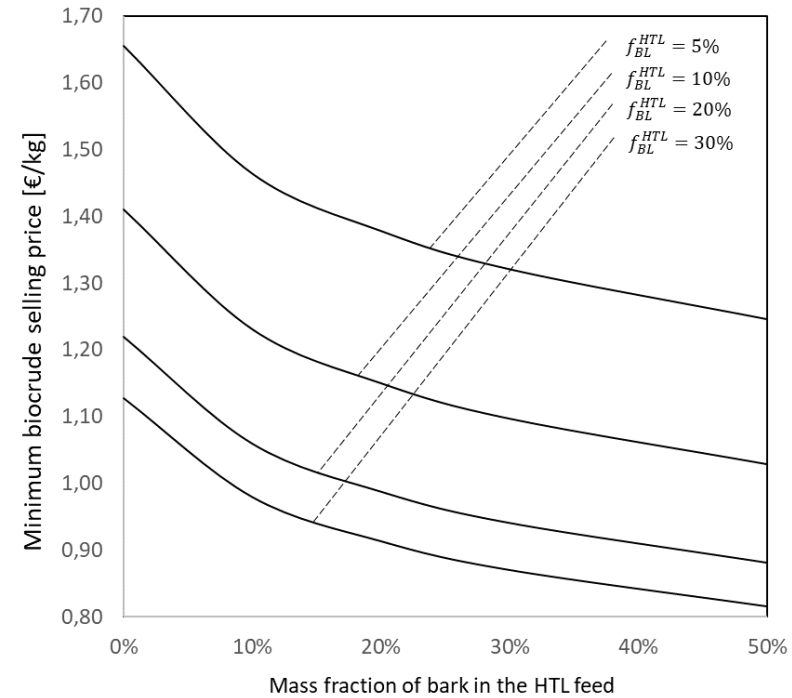
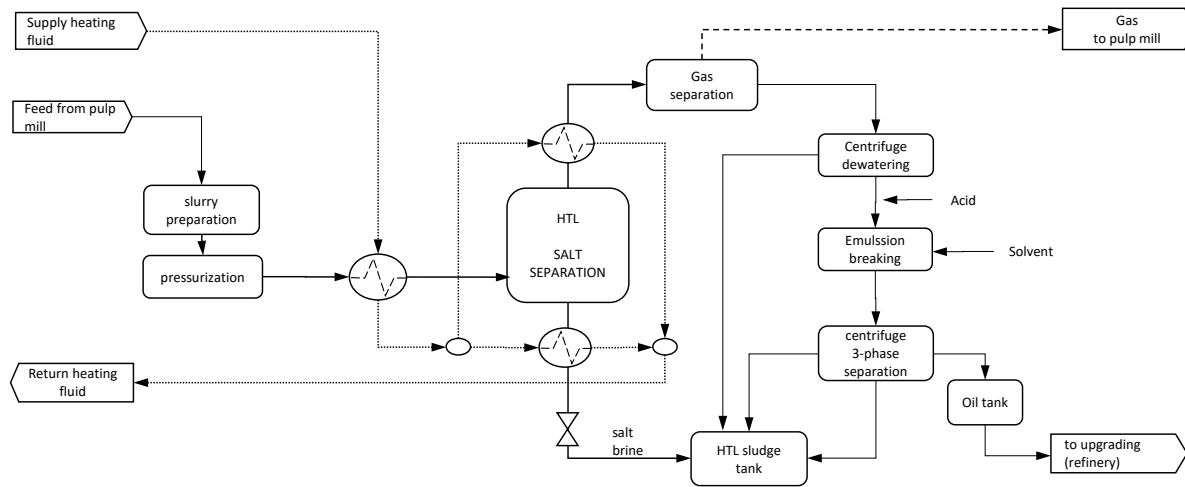
- Abundant and Pumpable feedstock
- Homogenous quality
- Thermal integration (steam system of recovery boiler)
- Evaporator for preheating/ concentration
- Solids, water and gas handling
- Existing operation and maintenance personnel

Biomass conversion technology		IHTL	HTL
Technology development level		R&D	
Plant size	1000t/a	150	180
O&M	M€/1000t	0.40	0.22
Investment	M€/1000t	0.73	2.00
<i>Total</i>	M€/1000t	1.23	2.22

45 % saving



Realized estimates in the BL2F study



Minimum biocrude selling price as a function of the fraction of the black liquor diverted from the pulp mill and the mass fraction of black liquor in the feed to the HTL plant.

Gonzalo del Alamo (SINTEF), Adéola Jaiyeola (LGI), Feasibility assessment of integrating the production of HTL biofuels in conventional pulp mills Deliverable 4.3 of BL2F, 2024



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HTL of Black Liquor

Lessons learned from BL2F project for Valmet

- Black Liquor is abundant and interesting feedstock
 - Available in a point source, relatively constant quality
 - Cooking chemicals require salt separation, IHTL concept approach promising
- The quality of HTL-oil meets requirements ($< 10 \text{ m-}\% \text{O}_2$)
- Salt separation at EHTA $> 90 \%$ (PSI tests $> 98 \%$)
- The mechanical development need further studies
- Integration to Pulp Mill reduces the production cost of fuel intermediate (Price $< 1 \text{ €/kg_Biocrude}$)
 - Potential to use other streams like bark and sludges
- Side streams of HTL have potential for further utilization
- IHTL on a simplified version remains interesting technology for further development

Liquefaction technology at Valmet

- Biofuels are in the core of Valmet's R&D
- Valmet has strong position in liquefaction technology
- Pyrolysis is in main focus currently
 - Fast pyrolysis commercial
 - Cirka project under construction
 - Development in the Catalytic pyrolysis, readiness for 5 t/h in 2024 and 50 t/h by 2027
- HTL at monitoring status
 - BL2F reached significant results
 - Salt separation successfully run
 - Low oxygen content (9 – 10.5 %), high heating value > 37 MJ/kg, feasible price for biocrude (< 1€/kg)
 - Technology requires further development in demonstration

