

28.01.2021

# H2020 HyFlexFuel – project overview

*Hydrothermal Liquefaction: Enhanced performance and feedstock flexibility for efficient biofuel production* 



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 764734

### H2020 HyFlexFuel (2017-2021): Project overview



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### H2020 HyFlexFuel: Main objectives

Develop process chain to sustainable liquid fuels via hydrothermal liquefaction of various biomass feedstock at TRL 5

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- Feedstock potential assessment
- Hydrothermal liquefaction
- Catalytic upgrading
- Co-refining of biocrudes
- Energetic valorization of HTL aqueous phase
  - Catalytic hydrothermal gasification/anaerobic digestion
- Recovery of inorganic nutrients
- System analyses





#### HTL feedstock potentials, wastes and residues in EU

- Identification of HTL preference regions with high biomass concentrations for urban and rural supply concepts
- Generation of biomass supply curves with 50 km road-distances for most promising plant locations











with Heat Recovery and Hydraulic Oscillation, Energies 2018, 11(10), 2695

> 300 kg



Counter current heat exchanger

sludge, manure, wheat straw,

Source: K. Anastasakis et al, Continuous Hydrothermal Liquefaction of Biomass in a Novel Pilot Plant

• Total biocrude production:

Heat recovery 75-85% (EROI\* 3-7)

In-line filtration to separate solids

corn stover, pine, digestate fibres...

10-20 min, 60 L/h

 Typical conditions: 160-220 bar, 300-350°C, • Tubular system: 140 m, 14.7 mm diameter











Source:

Thomsen et al, Hydrothermal liquefaction of sewage sludge; energy considerations and fate of micropollutants during pilot scale processing, Water Reseach 183, 2020, 116101

#### Pilot-scale HTL campaigns

- HTL of sewage sludge:
  - Dry matter content after rotary vacuum drum filter & mixer: 16%
  - Campaign: 15 h, 970 kg feed slurry, 39-94 L/h
  - 325°C: Highest biocrude yield (40.8%) & EROI (3.4)
  - Destruction of micropollutants
- HTL of further feedstocks:
  - Dry feedstock: Water phase recycling enhances yield
  - High DM slurries produced (up to 23% DM content)
  - Co-liquefaction can increase yields (batch experiments)





#### Valorisation of aqueous phase and solids

- Energetic valorization of aqueous phase
  - Catalytic hydrothermal gasification (cHTG)
  - Anaerobic digestion

Source: E. Ovsyannikova et al., Feedstock-Dependent Phosphate Recovery in a Pilot-

Scale Hydrothermal Liquefaction Bio-Crude Production, Energies 2020, 13, 379









- Nutrient recovery (phosphates)
  - Precipitation of struvite from solids, cHTG brine and HTL process water









## **Biocrude upgrading**

 Continuous catalytic hydrotreatment (Spirulina & sewage sludge)



HALDOR TOPSOE









**Boiling point** 

#### Co-processing of HTL biocrudes



Co-Distillation - Refining Tests: Ratio between Biocrude: Fossil Feed determined according to BioCrude quality

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### Analyses of kerosene samples by H2020 JETSCREEN

- Typical composition of upgraded sewage sludge HTL product
  - Potentially valuable blend component to adjust the density and cold flow properties of other more paraffinic alternative jet fuel blend components









### **HyFlexFuel further information**

 HyFlexFuel information, publications and media material:

www.hyflexfuel.eu/media-centre

• HyFlexFuel project video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDBlxPf06go

JETSCREEN project video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQinw9QCECs













# Thank you!

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