

# *Application of Synthetic Diesel Fuels*

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***“Future Fuels : Issues and Opportunities”***

*11<sup>th</sup> Diesel Engine Emissions Reduction  
Conference, Chicago, August 21-25, 2005*

***Paul Schaberg, Sasol Technology***

# Presentation Outline

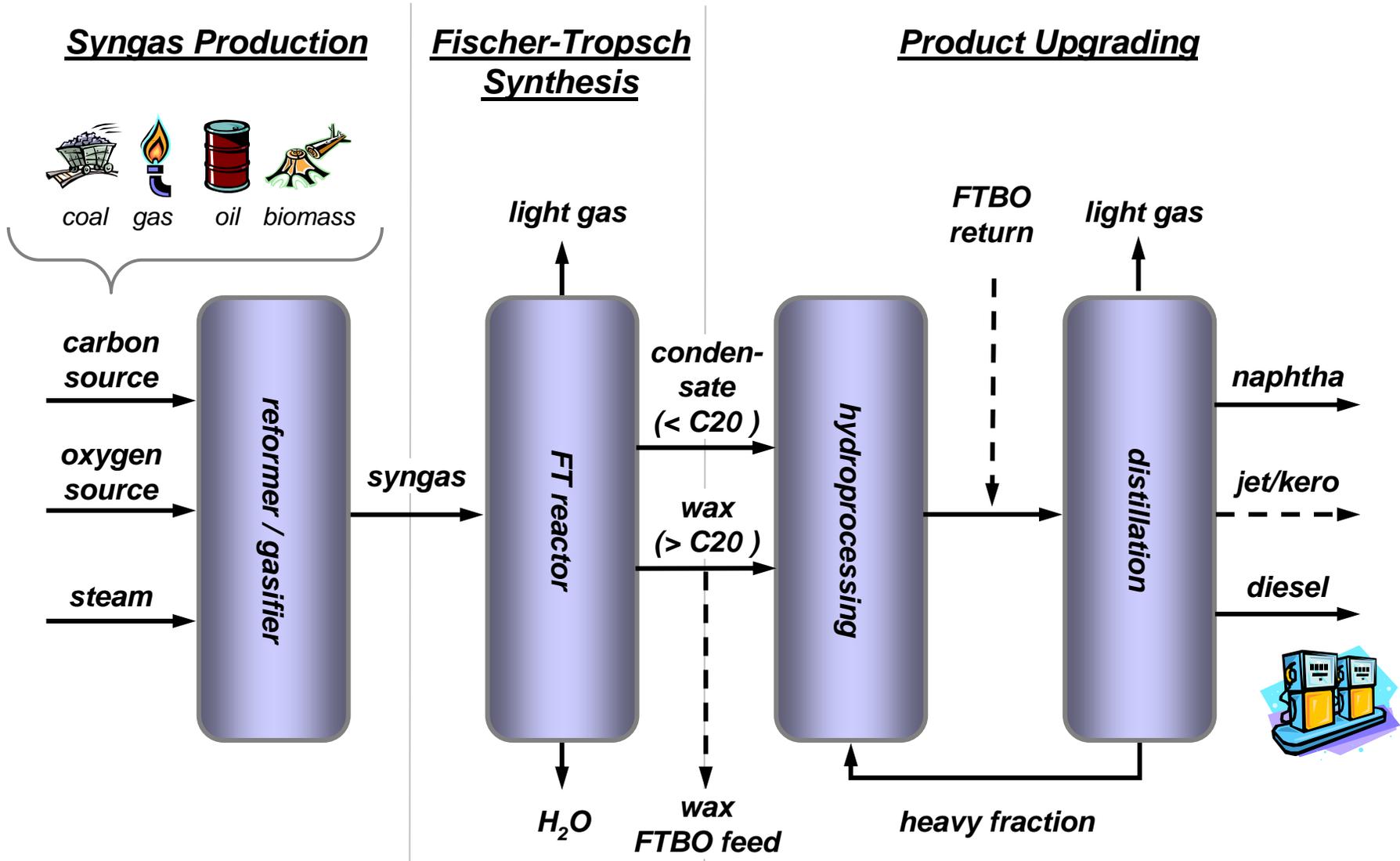
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- ***Description of synthetic diesel fuel production processes***
- ***Description of synthetic diesel fuel properties***
- ***Overview of Sasol's current GTL and CTL plans***
- ***Possible market introduction scenarios***
- ***Combustion and exhaust emissions with GTL diesel fuel and blends***
- ***Opportunities for engine optimisation***
- ***Summary and concluding remarks***

# Generic xTL Process

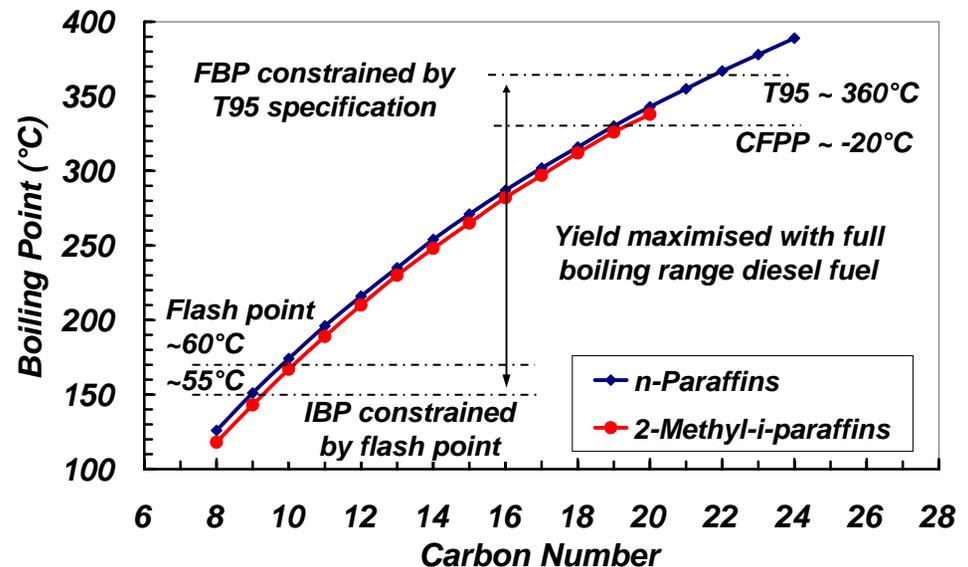
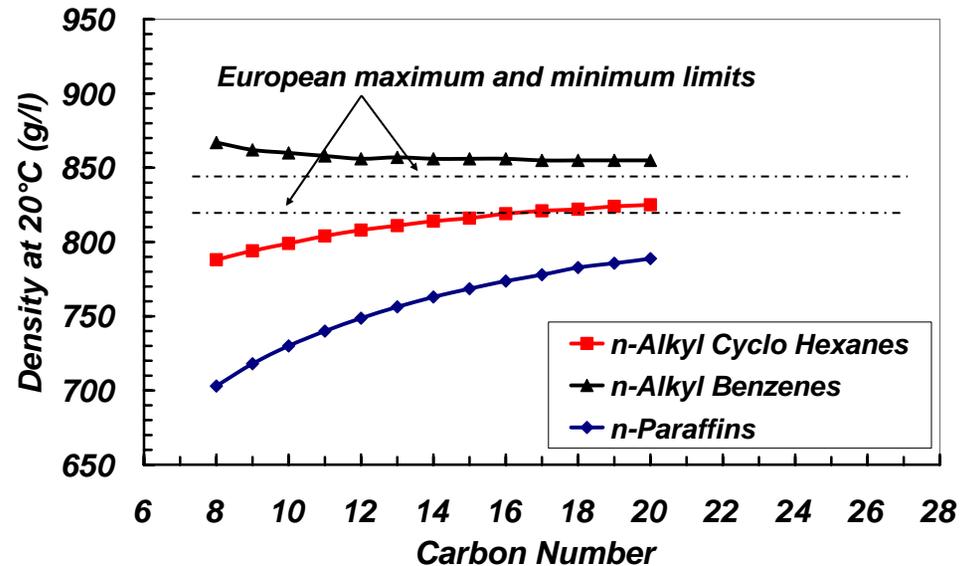


# Diesel Fuel Properties

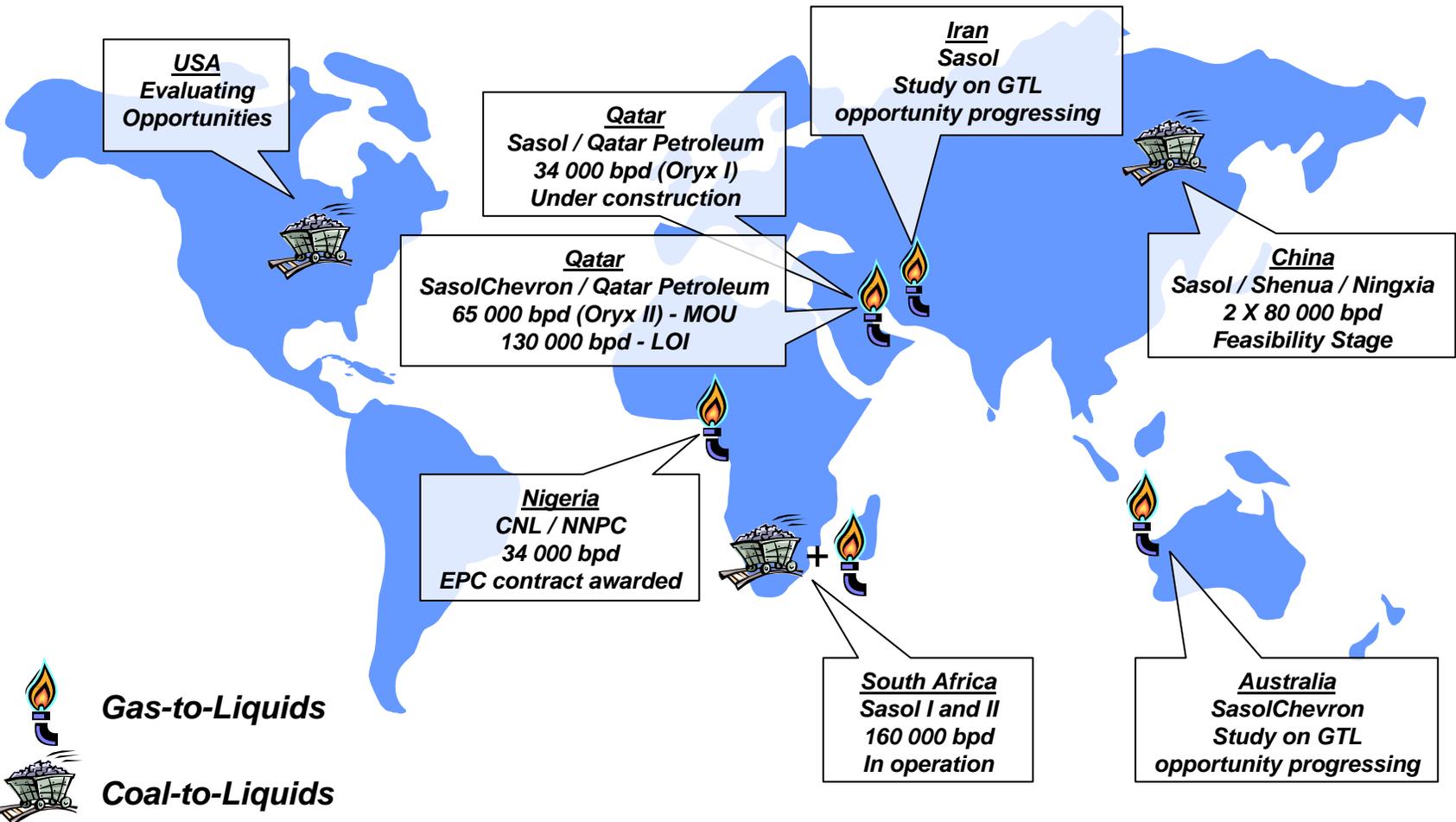
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- Clear, odourless liquid
- Highly paraffinic (total aromatics < 1%, polycyclic aromatics < 0.05%)
  - Density ~ 770 g/l
  - H/C ratio ~ 2.10 mol/mol
  - LHV ~ 43.8 MJ/kg
  - Cetane number > 70
- Very low sulphur (< 1ppm)
- Good thermal stability
- Distillation range determined by:
  - Applicable specifications (T90, flash point, cold flow properties)
  - Jet / kerosene production



# Current GTL and CTL Plans



# Oryx GTL, Qatar

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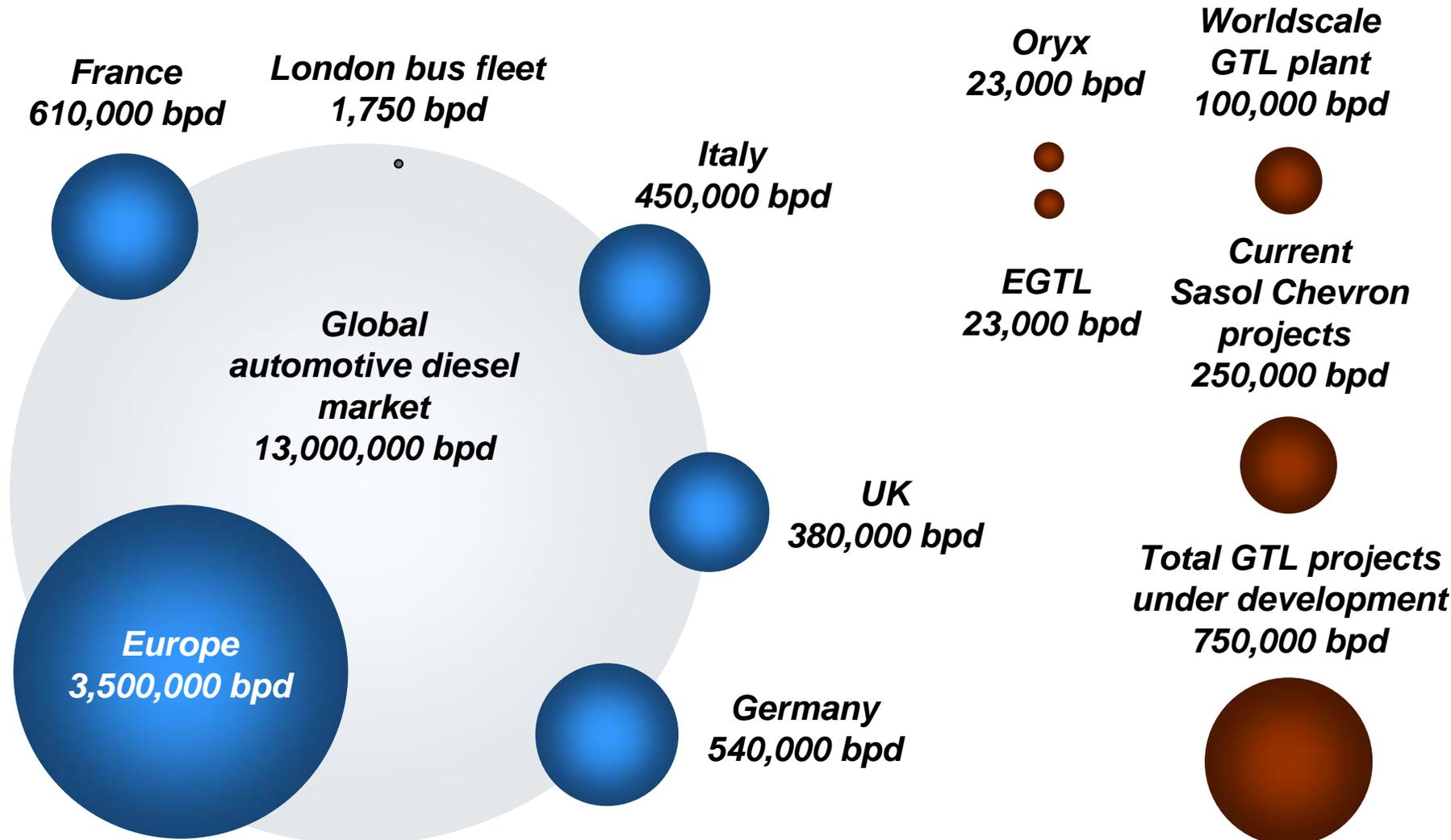


- 34 000 bpd initial capacity, expansion to 100 000 bpd
- Startup end Q1 2006
- FT reactor
  - Mass = 2200 tons
  - Height = 60m
  - Diameter = 10m

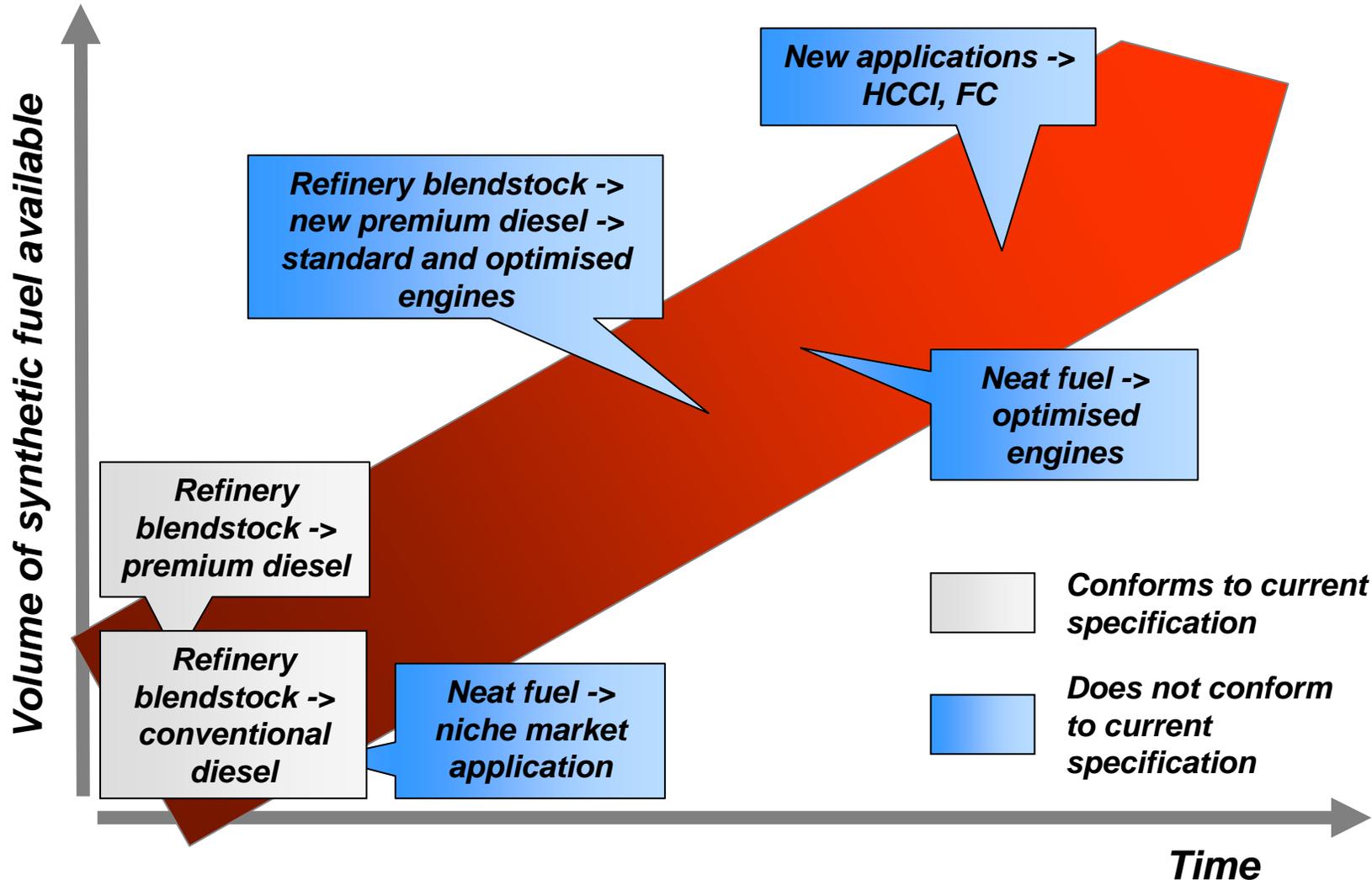


# GTL Diesel Relativity

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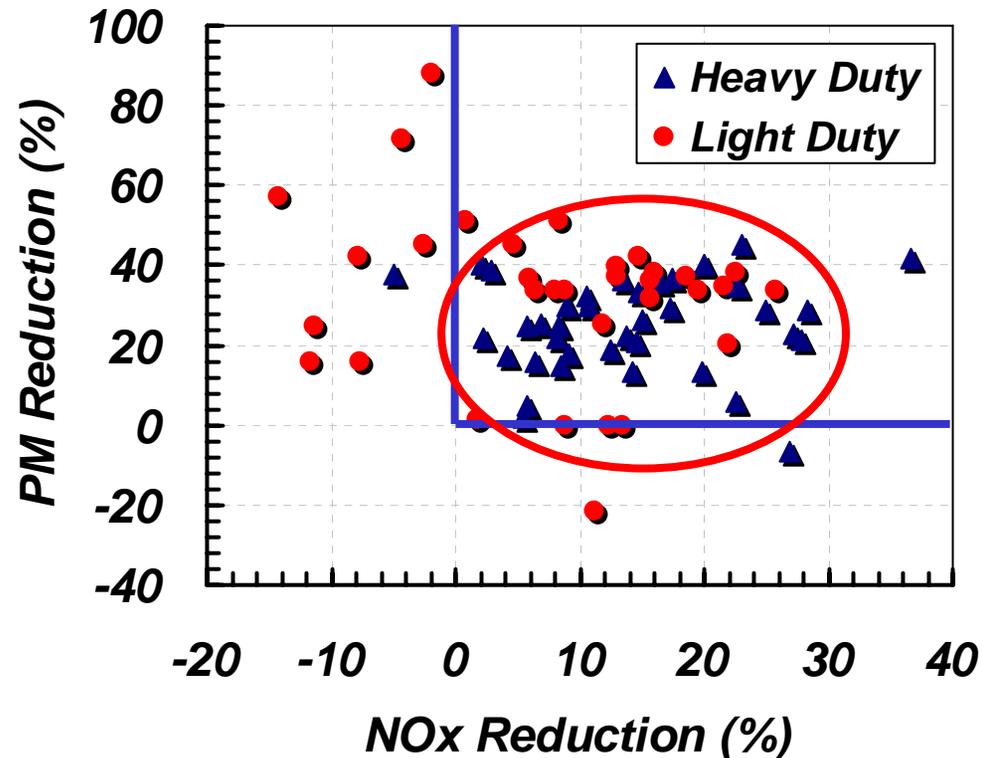
# Some Application Scenarios



# Exhaust emissions with GTL diesel fuel, conventional engines



- Typically obtain reductions in all regulated emissions (HC, CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM)
- Reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> and other unregulated emissions
- NO<sub>x</sub> and PM critical:
  - 13% avg. NO<sub>x</sub> reduction
  - 26% avg. PM reduction



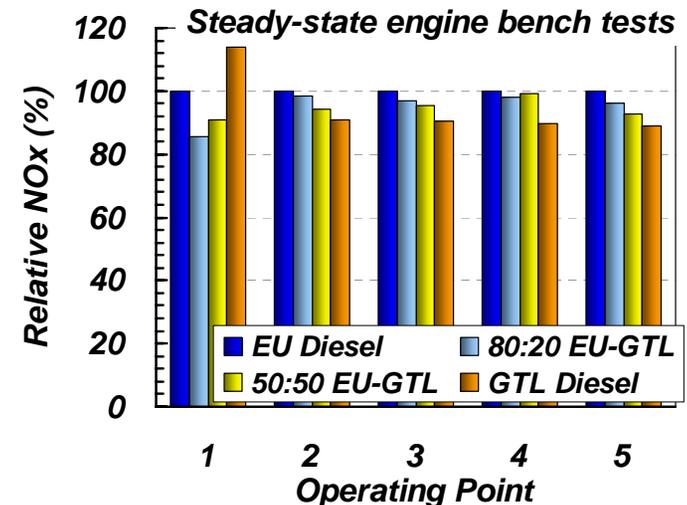
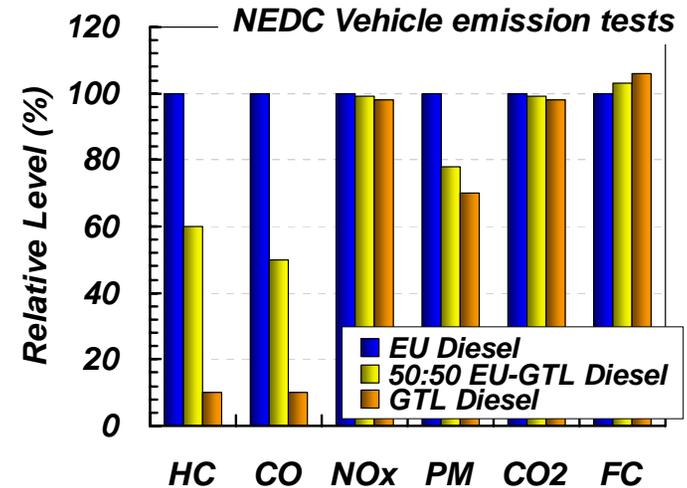
Source : NREL SAE Paper 2003-01-0763

# Passenger Car Emission Tests

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- Tests performed with a Mercedes E220 CDI (Euro 3) vehicle and engine
- Neat GTL diesel fuel and blends compared with sulphur-free EN590 diesel fuel
- All calibration parameters kept constant during steady-state tests
- Blends showed disproportionate reductions in soot / PM in both vehicle and engine tests
- Disparity in NOx response between vehicle test and engine tests : non-optimal engine calibration for lower density, higher cetane fuels.



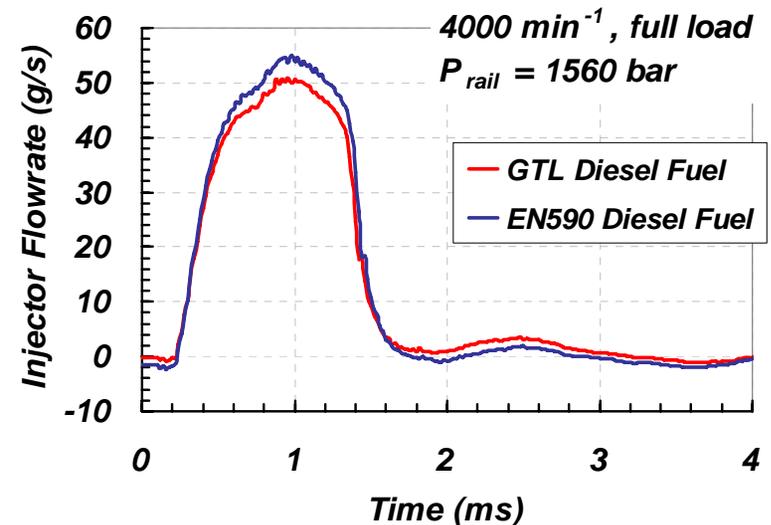
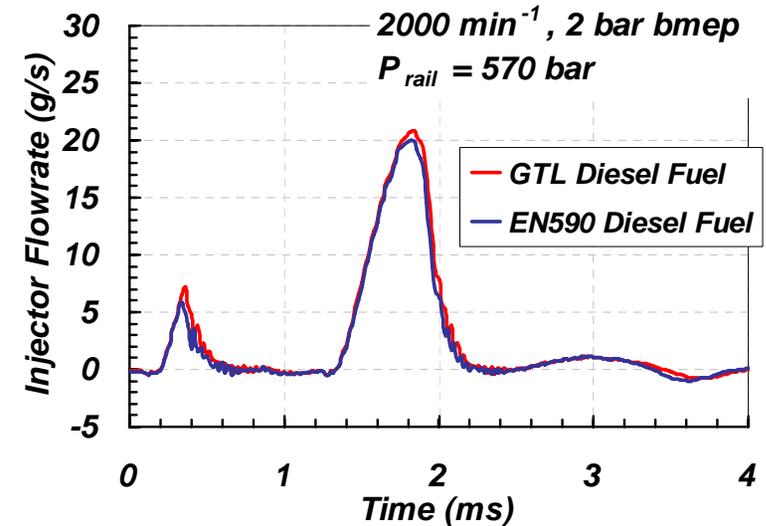
# Injection System Performance

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## Common-rail FIE

- Injection rates for the two fuels are similar at low loads
- Expected deviation due to density difference is evident at higher loads
- No negative effects on operation of FIE
- Besides lower density, lower viscosity of GTL diesel fuel could be influencing parameter



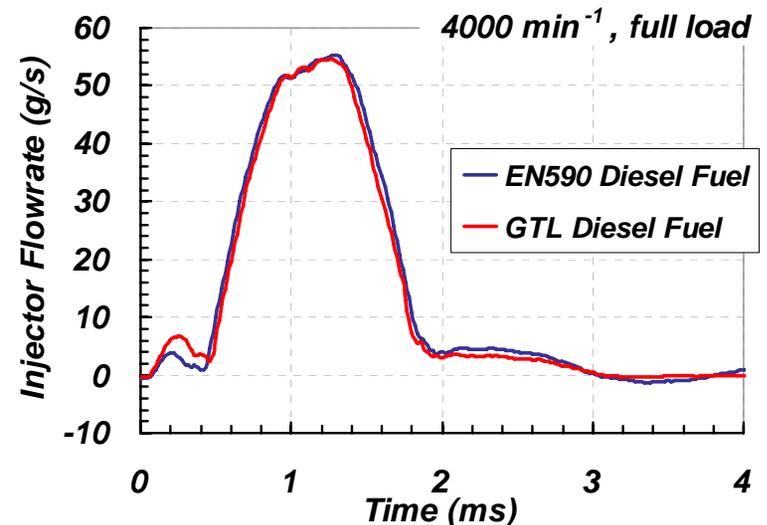
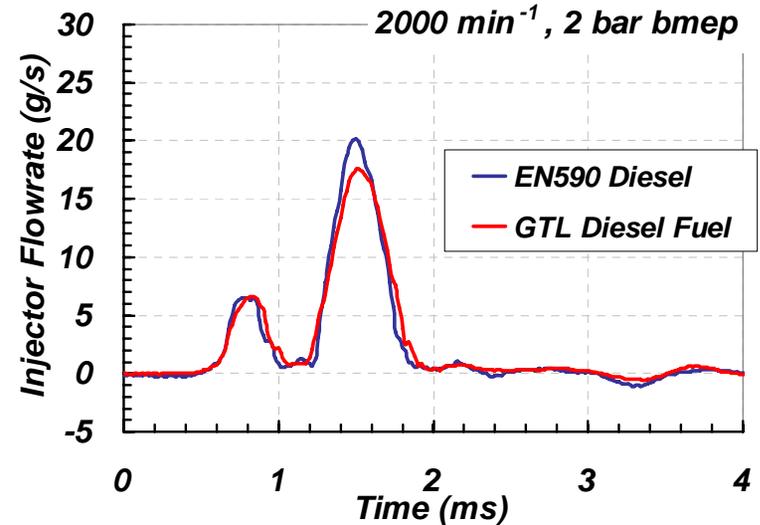
# Injection System Performance

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## Unit Injector FIE

- Injection rate for the GTL diesel fuel is lower than EN590 diesel fuel at low loads
- Deviation at higher loads is smaller
- No negative effects on operation of FIE
- Besides density, lower bulk modulus of GTL diesel fuel could be an influencing parameter

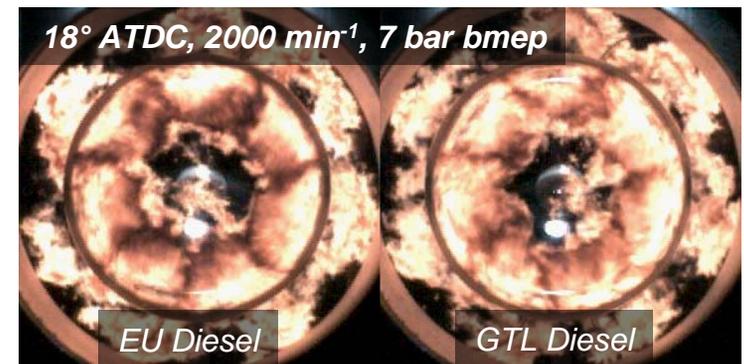
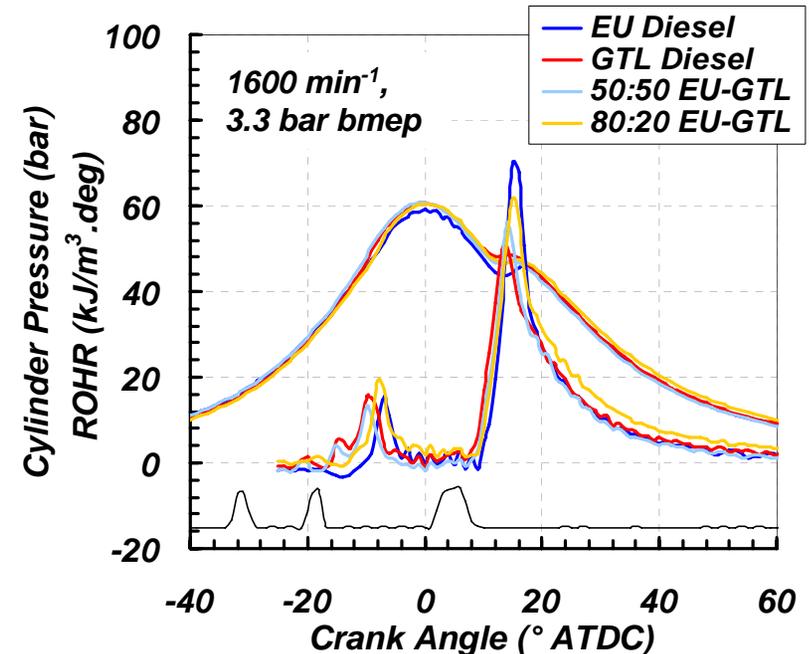


# Combustion Properties

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- Combustion processes of GTL diesel fuel have been compared to EN590 diesel fuel, using both classical and advanced in-cylinder diagnostics
- As expected, differences in ignition properties and soot formation have been observed
- Difference in ignition delay is a non-linear function of cylinder pressure and temperature (load).

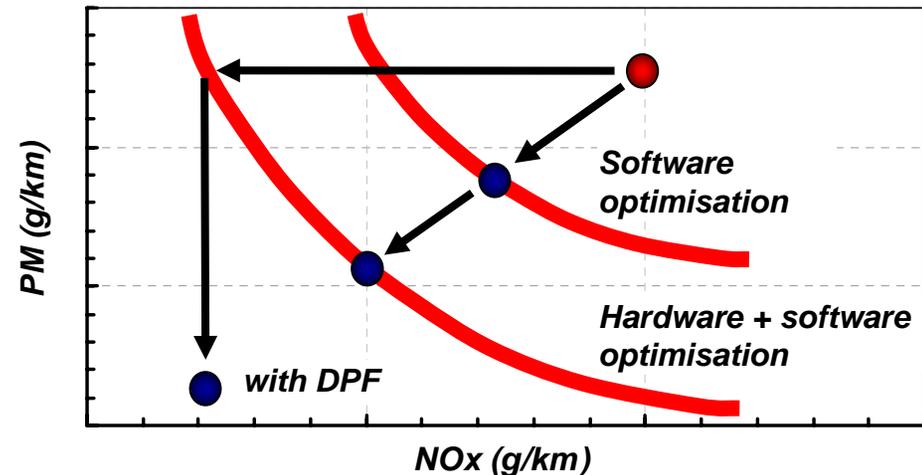
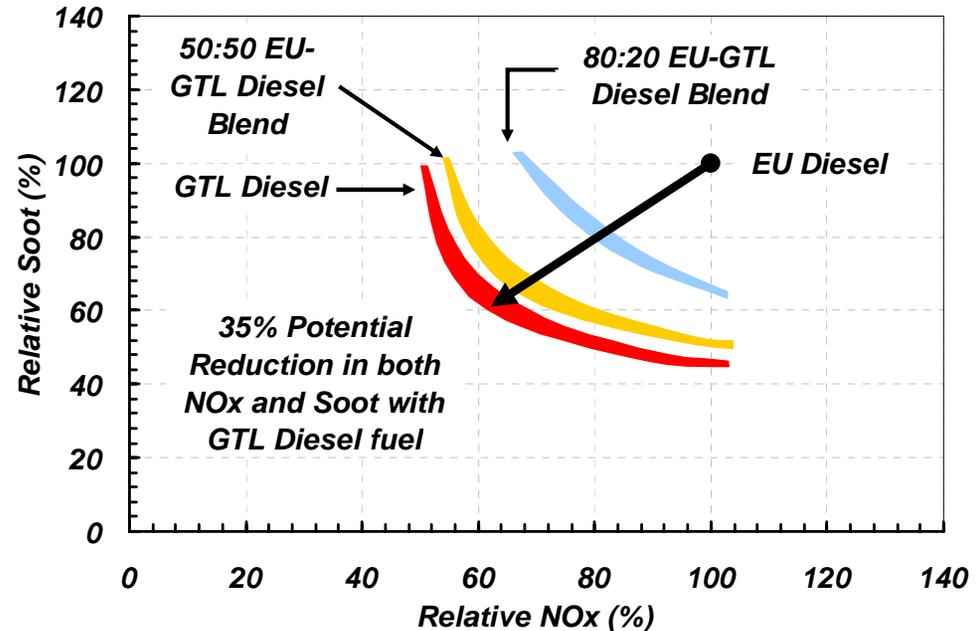


# Opportunities for Optimisation

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- 35% reduction in both soot and NOx through software optimisation
- Hardware optimisation (combustion system, FIE) is expected to compliment this further
- End result could be reduced requirement for exhaust gas aftertreatment, i.e. cost saving



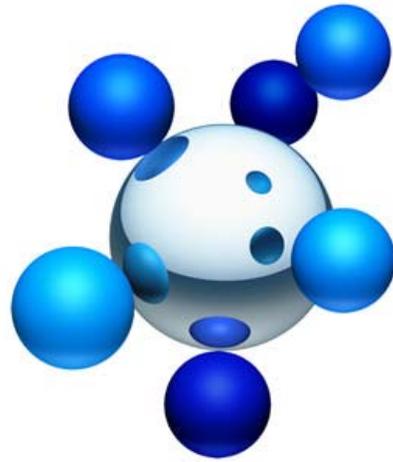
# Summary

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- *Dawn of the synthetic fuels age*
  - *Synthetic fuels technology is enabling the production of clean, very high quality fuels from diverse feedstocks, including non-petroleum and renewable feedstocks*
  - *Plans for a significant number of large scale GTL production plants have been announced, the first of which will start up in 2006*
- *Relative synthetic fuel volumes will be small for many years – global impact will be small, but regional impact can be significant*
- *Developing an understanding of the combustion and emissions properties of synthetic diesel fuels in order to:*
  - *Ensure problem-free operation in both neat and blended form*
  - *Quantify the benefits*
  - *Understand opportunities for engine optimisation*
  - *Understand the opportunities for future combustion systems*



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