Biofuels make an important contribution to sustainable transportation

What is “Co-Processing”?

The term "co-processing" means in other words "working together". Through this innovative technology, biogenic feedstocks can be processed together with fossil based raw materials in an existing refinery hydrotreating plant. Co-processing is a key technology for enabling higher sustainability of transportation fuels. At the same time, a higher fuel quality is achieved by co-processing.

Co-Processing …

► …enables a simple and efficient integration of high quality biofuel production in existing refinery operating units.
► …allows the use of flexible and sustainable feedstocks, ranging from domestic rapeseed oils, used cooking oils to even highly promising algae based oil.
► …makes a significant contribution to increasing the share of renewable energy in the transport sector.

Installing industrial scale co-processing technology

OMV has addressed the subject of co-processing since 2004 and is driving the development of this innovative processing technology. The co-processing of different biogenic feedstocks has been extensively and successfully researched in pilot plants and laboratory facilities.

In 2016, the first field trial in a commercial production plant was successfully completed. A further increase in the bio oil processing quantity is planned in the next field trial. The technical modifications necessary in each of the OMV refineries to enable permanent continuous bio-oil co-processing have been identified and implementation projects are currently in progress. Due to the high complexity of a refinery - the individual operating units and processing steps which must be harmonized like clockwork down to the smallest detail – it is expected that continuous bio-oil co-processing will be possible as of year 2020.

Co-processing as a production step for biogenic fuels as well as for the refinery specific individual greenhouse gas balancing according to EU standard have already been successfully certified with the cooperation of well-known partners.

Experiences

► Co-processing of biogenic oils in refineries efficiently uses existing hydrotreating units.
► The operational adaptations required for continuous co-processing are relatively inexpensive.
► In contrast to conventional bio component blending, co-processing improves the fuel quality – including energy content and the cetane number.
► Due to the high integration within the OMV refineries, a lower individual greenhouse gas footprint for co-processed biofuels can be achieved in comparison to the relevant EU standard values. The greenhouse gas footprint of refinery integrated co-processing is up to 85% less when compared to the relevant EU standard values for comparable finishing step of conventional biofuels.

Contact

OMV Aktiengesellschaft  Tel.: +43 1 40440-21357
Public Relations  E-mail: public.relations@omv.com
Trabrennstraße 6-8  Web: www.omv.com
1020 Viena, Austria  Social: www.omv.com/socialmedia

Factsheet

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April 2017

OMV Downstream