## SAFE OPERATION OF TUBULAR REFORMER

Over Fire Protection and Topsoe Furnace Manger

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Aditya Saini Debojyoti Mandal 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022

## TOPSOE

#### **PRESENTATION AGENDA**

1	TOPSOE AT A GLANCE
2	OUR VISION : LET'S DECARBONIZE THE WORLD
3	<b>OVERFIRING PROTECTION &amp; TFM</b>
4	TOPSOE DIGITALIZATION OFFERINGS
5	TAKEAWAYS

## TOPSOE AT A GLANCE

Topsoe is a leading developer and provider of solutions and technologies to produce fuels and chemicals essential to the energy transition. For more than 80 years, we have been perfecting chemistry to help industries produce more efficiently. Today, it is our ambition to lead the global transition of heavy industry and transport to a zerocarbon future.

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March 14, 2022

OUR VISION

## TO BE RECOGNIZED AS THE GLOBAL LEADER IN CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES BY 2024

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#### **TOPSOE SOLUTIONS ACCELERATE THE ENERGY TRANSITION**

#### ENABLING THROUGH SMART DIGITAL OFFERINGS

#### ENERGY SOURCES CHEMICALS AND FUELS UTILIZATION SOLUTIONS Fuels and chemicals can be For our customers, the output is more The societal benefits of these end-Topsoe helps customers on their produced from various ways of decarbonization journey through efficient processes or renewable products come, among other things, in both renewable and fossil feedstocks, that significantly can lower the shape of a cleaner transportation advanced energy solutions, such as feedstocks. Power-to-X, renewable fuels and blue the carbon footprint, and thereby sector and hard-to abate sectors such supporting them in their energy as steel, cement, and mining, who can solutions for the chemicals reduce their carbon footprint transition. $H_2$ Hydrogen Topsoe electrolysis Renewable solutions NH<sub>a</sub> Electricity Transportation Ammonia MeOH Biomass, waste **Topsoe chemical** Methanol & carbon solutions **Chemical & fertilizers** Fuels S Heavy industry Fossil energy **Topsoe fuel solutions** Sulfur removal

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## The steam reformer is the beating heart of the plant

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## **Reformer optimization** Large potential for optimization

Reformer optimizationPotential often not realizedHigh complexity

#### **REFORMER CONDITIONS**

OPERATING UNDER HARSH CONDITIONS



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### **TUBE WALL TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS** WHY ACCURACY IS IMPORTANT? Design TWT +20°C -20°C 2% lost production <50% tube lifetime • Lower production • Tube rupture • Lower energy efficiency • Unplanned shutdowns • Safety risk • 3-4 mill USD lost per year Target TWT Is your reformer operating at the target temperature?

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#### **CASE STORY: 10% HIGHER CAPACITY**

#### BURNER TRIMMING AT ASIAN HYDROGEN PLANT

	Min TWT	Max TWT	Avg. TWT	Deviation	Capacity
Before	922°C	986°C	955°C	-33°C / +31°C	90%
After	945°C	978°C	962°C	-17°C / +16°C	>105%
<ul> <li>Tube lifetime extent</li> <li>Optimizing from 50</li> </ul>	ided 0% to 105% equals 50	) million USD pr. year			

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#### WHAT IS OVER-FIRING?



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#### TOPSOE FURNACE MANAGER ARCHITECTURE

TOPOSE FURNACE MANAGER CONVERTS FIELD DATA TO KNOWLEDGE



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#### TFM'S OVERFIRING PROTECTION CONTROL SYSTEM AVOIDS ANY OVERFIRING OF FURNACE DURING START UP & SHUT DOWN



#### **TFM'S OVERFIRING PROTECTION CONTROL SYSTEM** EXAMPLE OF CONTROL ELEMENTS



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#### **CONVENTIONAL METHODS**

### Unplanned shutdowns are a serious threat to plant economy

If shutdowns are caused by tube rupture, there will be significant costs due to both tube replacement and down time



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#### CASE STUDY OF AN UNSAFE INCIDENT IN AN HGU UNIT AND DAMAGES INCURRED

- A mishap in HGU resulted in replacement of 54 out of 224 tubes – Total repair cost: ~1.3Mn USD
- 10 days Lost production time associated with removal of these 56 tubes and catalyst ~ 9.2 Mn USD
- 30 days shutdown in future to install these 56 tubes Lost production time; Downstream Units may operate at 20% reduced capacity – ~8.0 Mn USD
- Unsafe operation of HGU leads to:
  - Dangerous exposure to plant personal
  - <u>Total cost of 18.5 M USD</u>



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#### **IR PYROMETRY VS TOPSOE FURNACE MANAGER (TFM)**

AUTOMATE SAFE MONITORING OF FURNACE



- Infrequent
- Inaccurate
  - Radiation effects
  - Peephole opening distortion
  - Manual errors
- Unsafe





- Real-time 24 x 7
- Accurate
  - Radiation effects avoided
  - No peephole opening
  - No manual measurement
- Safe Includes Process Control IP for diminishing overheating incidents

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#### **TOPSOE FURNACE MANAGER**

A NEW WAY FORWARD...



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#### **TOPSOE FURNACE MANAGER (TFM)**

TFM information is available 24/7 providing:

- Asset protection
  - Early detection of malfunction
- Safe Operation
  - Protect site personnel
- Plant Optimization
  - Enabling optimal performance



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#### **TOPSOE FURNACE MANAGER**

#### ENABLES OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Enabling online reformer monitoring and automatically record data on:

Tube wall temperatures

**Burner status and performance** 

**Reformer conditions** 



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#### **TFM CAMERA VIEW** SIDE FIRED FURNACE



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## **TFM VALUE RIPPLE EFFECTS**



#### **CUSTOMER VOICE AND COMMERCIAL REFERENCE**

FROM TOPFIRED REFORMER

#### Safe Startup for World Scale H2 Plants with Topsoe Furnace Manager

Large, world-scale H2 plant steam methane reformer (SMR) fireboxes represent safety challenges due to size and complexity, such as personnel safety issues while interfacing with the firebox during the startup and light off of hundreds of burners

> Ken Wohlgeschaffen Chevron

lighting phase. (Figure 3).



Figure 3. First SMR burner light off

Burner Lighting and Heat Up

Figure 4. Burner Rows during Heat Up

#### Firebox Radiation After Plant Trip outs

It is normal, and to be expected, that during the very first startups of complex process equipment plant tryouts will occur.

For an SMR, it is critical to safety to understand the condition of the firebox during a plant tryout. With TFM, the firebox can still be "seen" with images even when burners have tripped offline. The radiation signature from the firebox continFrom: "Wohlgeschaffen, Ken (KWohlgeschaffen)" <<u>KWohlgeschaffen@chevron.com</u>> Date: June 18, 2019 at 4:03:38 PM CDT To: "Scott W. Sexton [SCS]" <<u>SCS@topsoe.com</u>>, "Henrik Rasmussen [HWR]" <<u>HWR@topsoe.com</u>> Subject: TFM Experience at Chevron, Richmond

Henrik & Scott:

Chevron is using your company's TFM technology at our Richmond, CA refinery. We are happy with the functionality and performance of the system.

Best Regards,

#### Ken Wohlgeschaffen

Hydrogen Network Team Leader Chevron Richmond Refinery (510) 242-4268 Office (510) 685-3817 Cell



#### Total number of references worldwide=15

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#### **OPTIMISATION** DELIVERING VALUES TO CUSTOMER EXPECTATION

- Safer and Optimized operation = Peace of Mind.
- Expected increase in the average TWT by 10°C (or more).
  - Better reformer conversion = Lesser Feed Consumption = Lesser Specific Net Energy Consumption = Direct Saving in revenue.
- Result in reduction of a plant's green house gas emissions, as any improvement in the energy consumption will have a positive impact on (especially) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- ZERO Downtime due to Reformer failure "Penny saved is penny earned"
- Increase in Reformer Safety = Decrease in Annual Insurance Premium

#### **TOPSOE DIGITALIZATION OFFERINGS**

#### **CLEARVIEW**

**Enabling you** meeting your targets every day...



#### **TOPSOE FURNACE MANAGER**

#### Asset protection and optimal performance



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Warnings 0

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#### **OPERATOR SIMULATOR TRAINING & REMOTE ASSISTANCE**

Maximize profitability, improve workforce safety and increase reliability.

Assisting the customers 24x7 remotely through advanced certified devices

#### **TOPSOE ACADEMY**

learning on the Go, whenever and wherever - via desktop, tablet and mobile





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#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**





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DM[1 Debojyoti Mandal [DEBO], 08-11-2022