



U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

biomass program

열적변환의 플랫폼 경제 분석



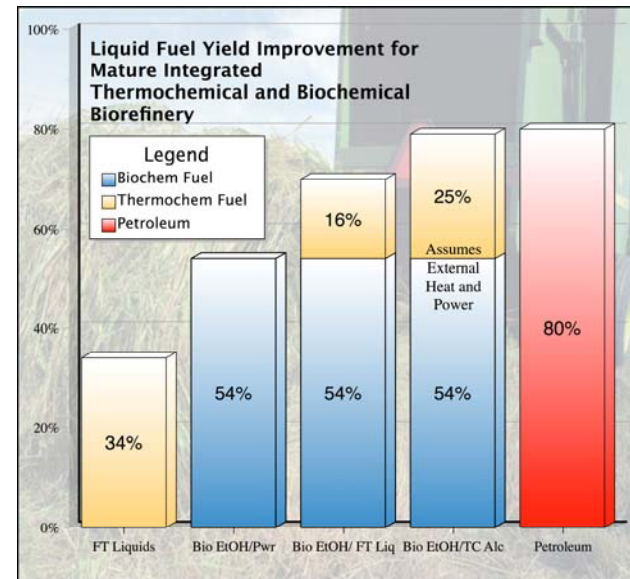
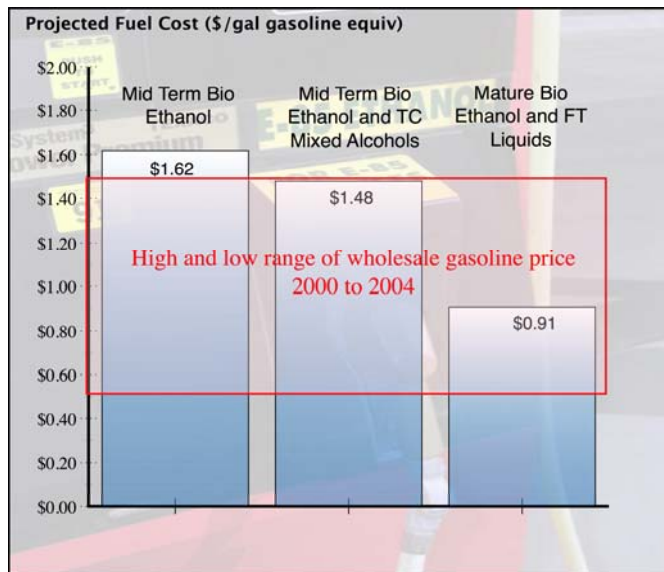
Economics of Thermal Conversion

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Examining economics of syngas in an integrated process & biorefinery design

Examples of specific thermochemical products for which detailed designs exist:

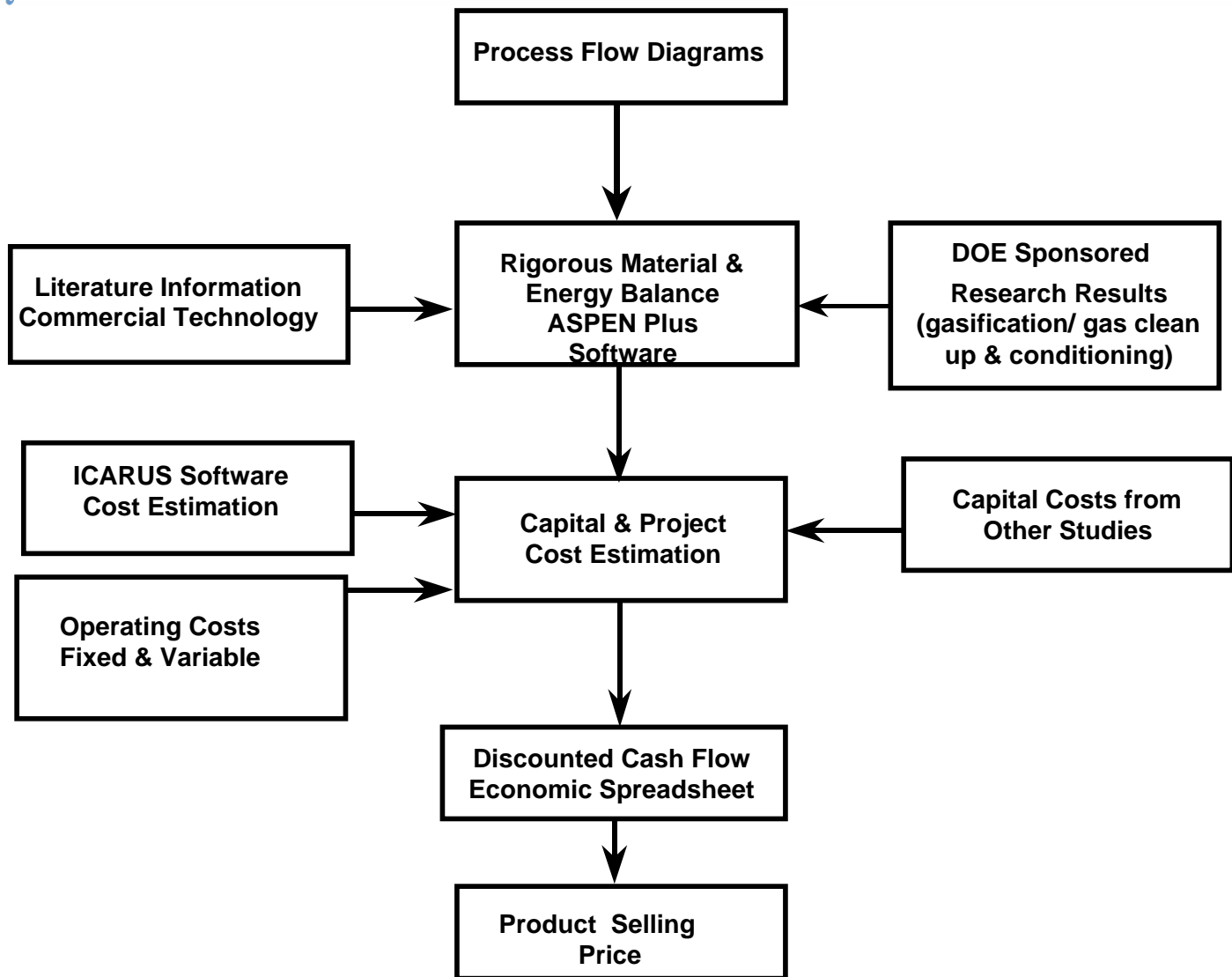
- Biomass syngas to hydrogen (complete)
- Biomass syngas to mixed alcohols with separation of ethanol (on-going)





Performing A Detailed Design

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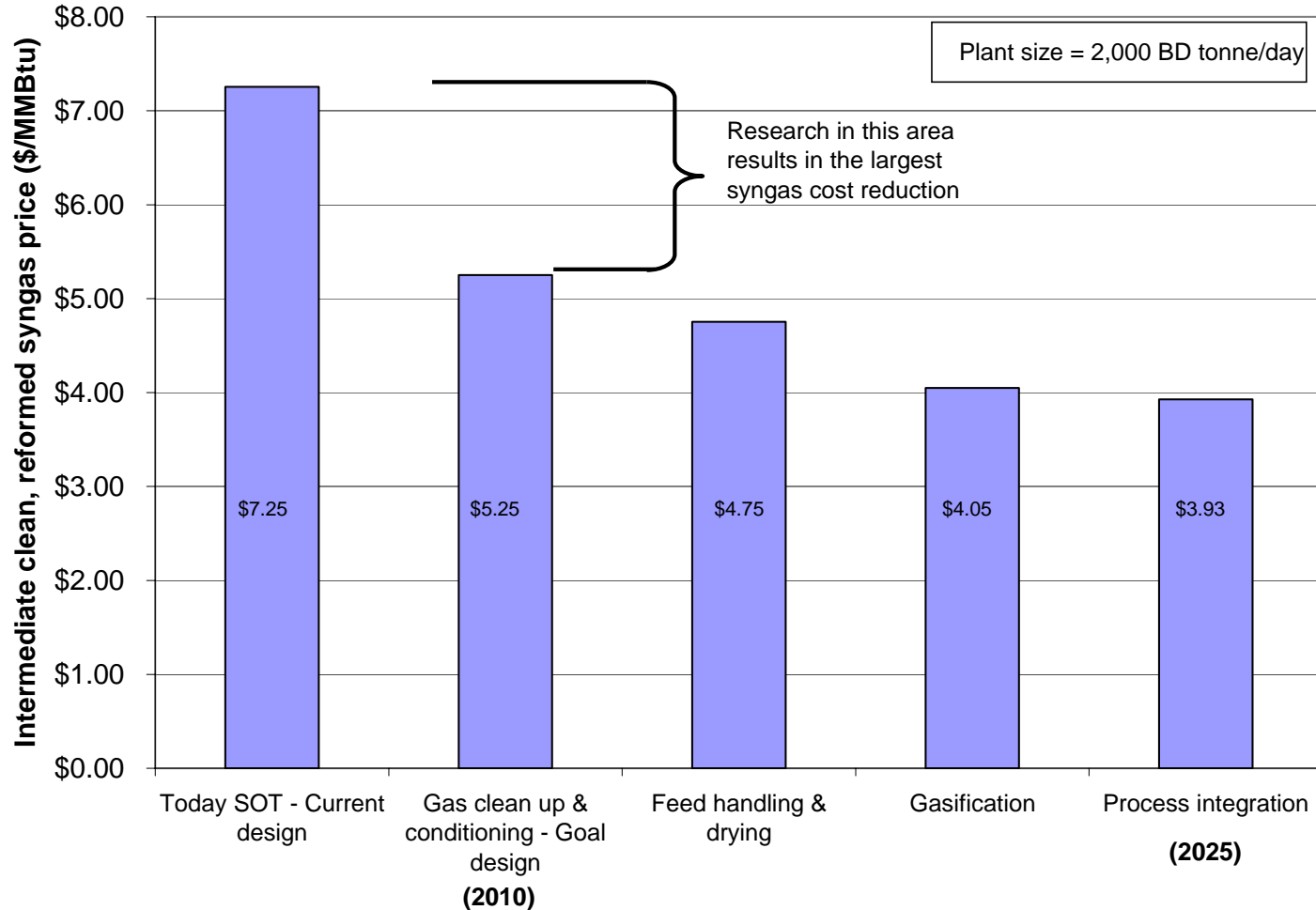




Intermediate Syngas Price – Targets & Barriers

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- DOE program targets based on intermediate syngas price to track progress toward reducing technical barriers



Decrease in syngas price due to increased yields, decreased capital costs, & efficiency gains

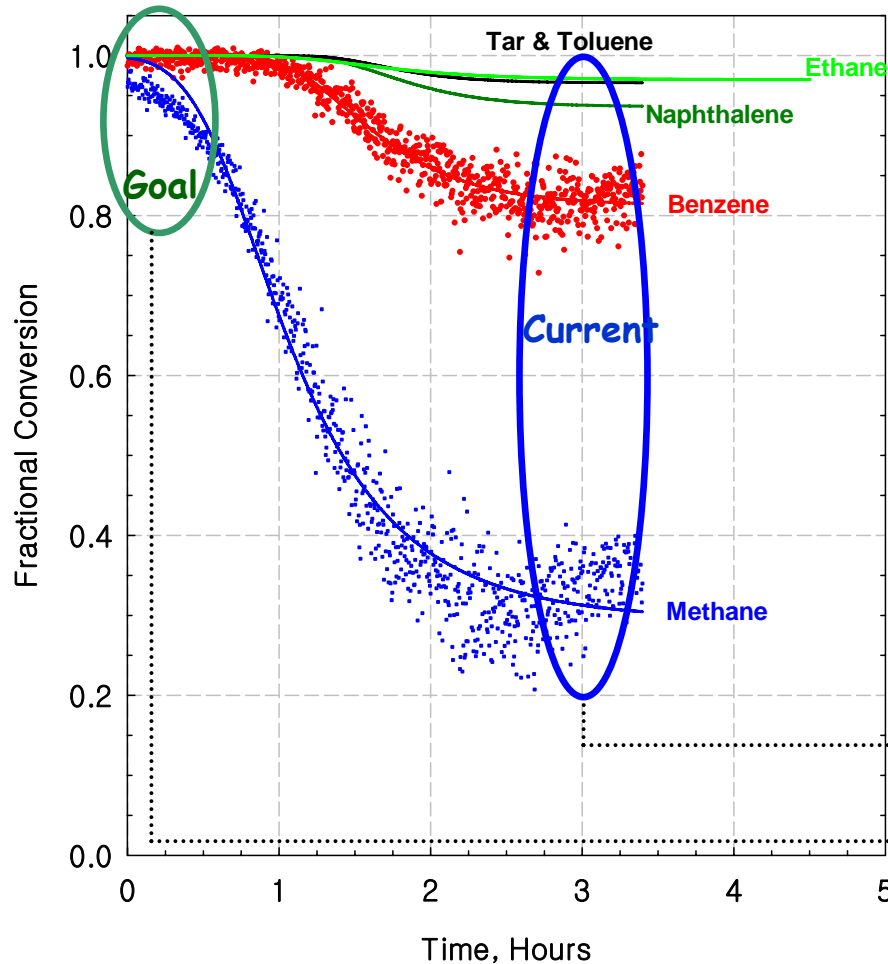


Tie in With Research

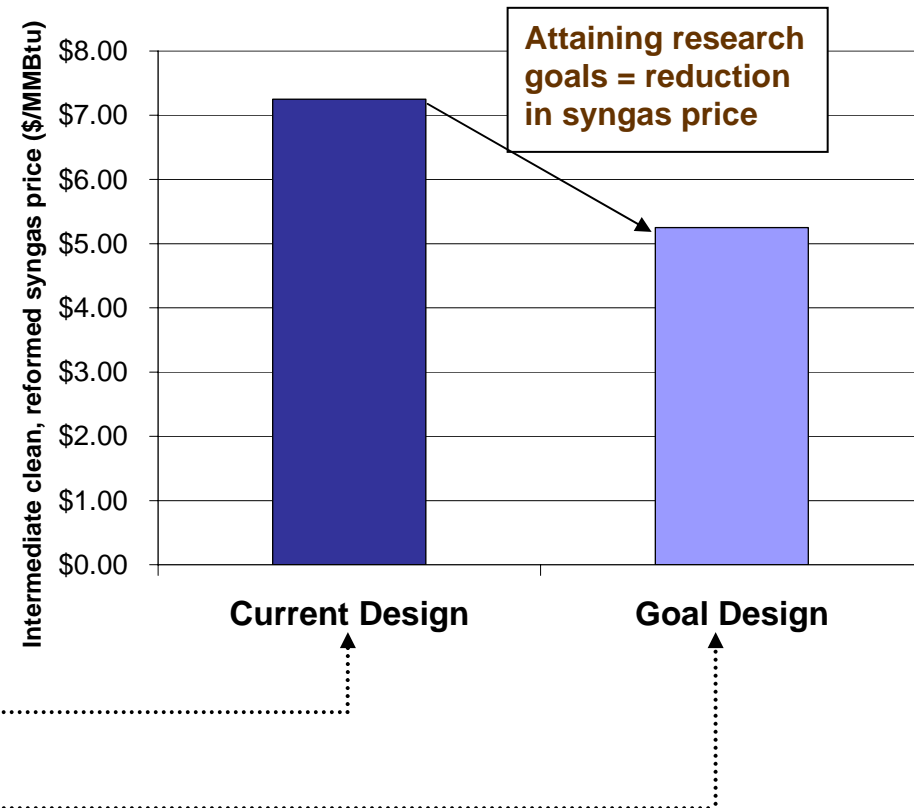
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Fractional Conversion at 875°C
Model N1D1

Results from NREL's PDU tar reformer



Potential Impact of Reformer Efficiency on Syngas Price



- Goal case yield is increased & capital cost is less

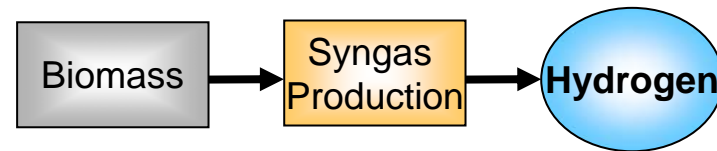


Progression of Analysis

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Progression of analysis toward integrated biochemical/thermochemical biorefinery design

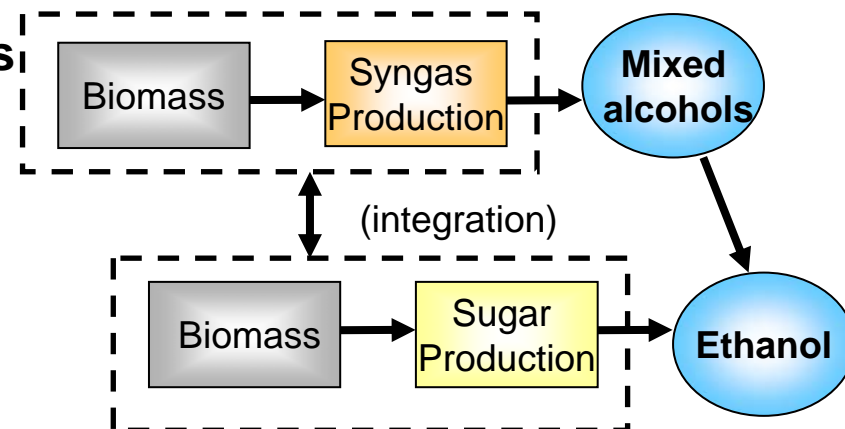
- Using results of biomass to H₂ detailed design to move forward for mixed alcohol detailed design



- Begin by building stand-alone mixed alcohol design



- Build off of stand-alone mixed alcohol analysis and stand-alone ethanol analysis to create a biochemical/thermochemical integrated biorefinery design

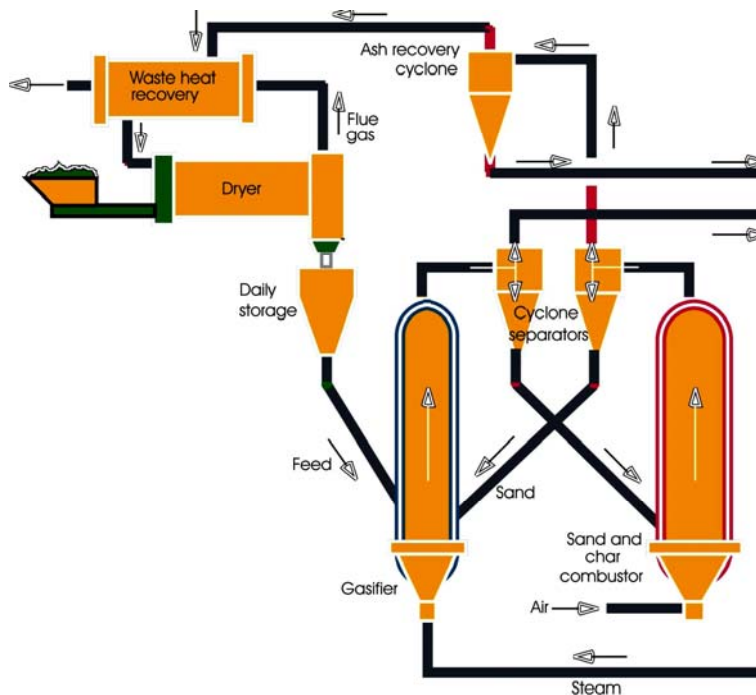




Biomass Gasification – Syngas to Products

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- **FY 2003 NREL's preliminary screening study showed H₂ to be technically and economically feasible product from biomass gasification**
- **H₂ was picked as a model product to show effect of process integration & economics of a final product from biomass gasification**
- **Performed detailed process design and modeling using Battelle Columbus Laboratory (BCL) low pressure, indirectly-heated gasifier**



Gas composition	mol% (dry)
H ₂	23.85
CO ₂	12.79
CO	42.18
CH ₄	15.36
C ₂ H ₂	0.41
C ₂ H ₄	4.35
C ₂ H ₆	0.29
C ₆ H ₆	0.13
tar (C ₁₀ H ₈)	0.23
NH ₃	0.32
H ₂ S	0.07
H ₂ :CO molar ratio	0.57
Gasifier efficiency	72.1% HHV basis 71.8% LHV basis



Syngas Clean Up & Gas Conditioning

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Two designs examined based on catalytic tar destruction and heteroatom removal work at NREL:

- **current design** – defines today's state of the technology
- **goal design** – shows the effect of overcoming R&D technical barrier

Tar reformer conversion #'s

Compound	Current	Goal
Methane (CH ₄)	20%	80%
Ethane (C ₂ H ₆)	90%	99%
Ethylene (C ₂ H ₄)	50%	90%
Tars (C ₁₀₊)	95%	99.9%
Benzene (C ₆ H ₆)	70%	99%
Ammonia (NH ₃)	70%	90%

← Higher conversions for goal case; notably methane.



Biomass Gasification - Detailed Design

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Both designs broadly consist of:

- feed handling, drying, gasification, gas clean up and conditioning, shift conversion, and purification integrated with a steam and power generation cycle

Main design differences:

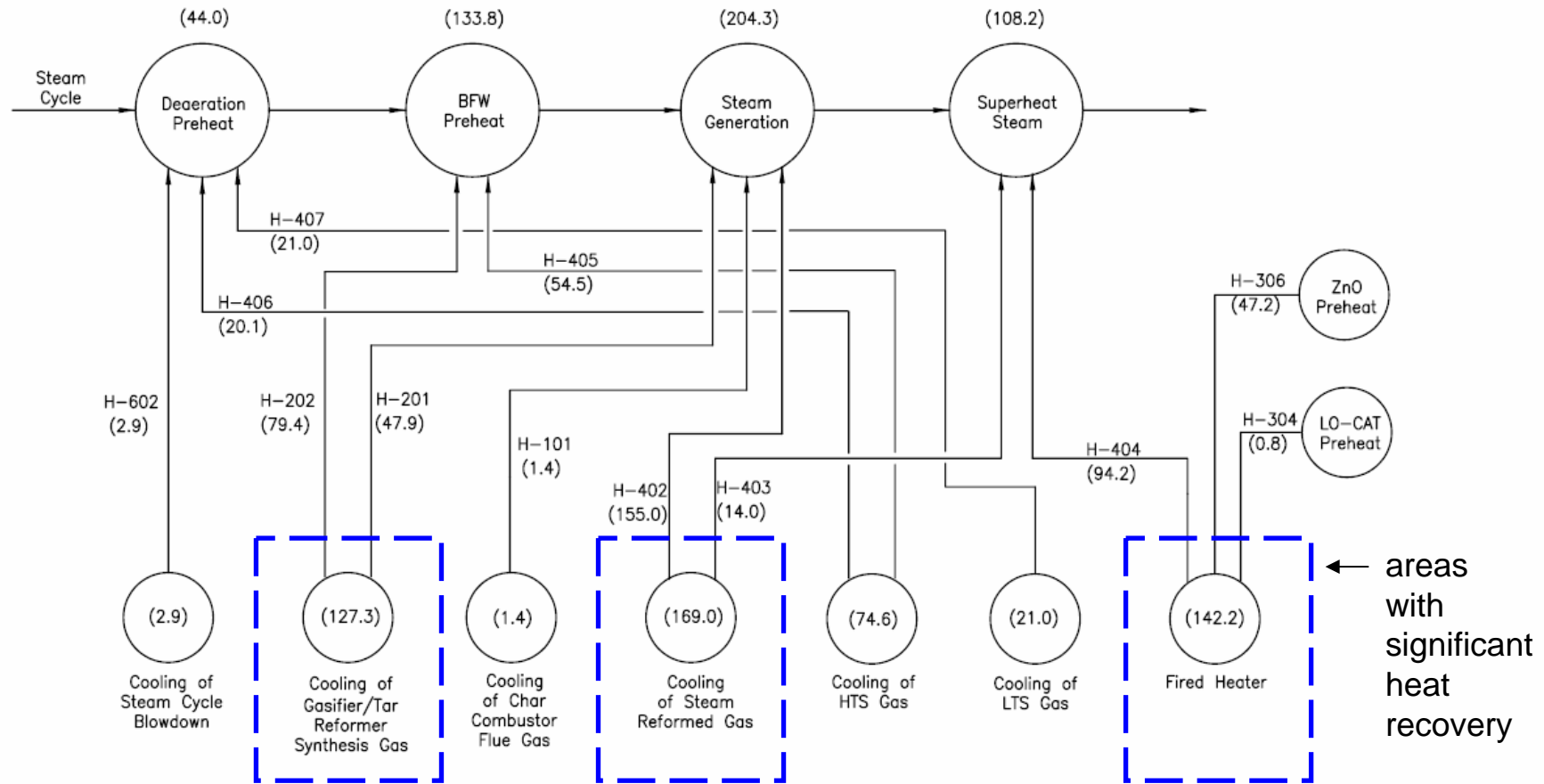
	Current	Goal
Tar reformer	Bubbling fluidized bed with 1% per day catalyst replacement	Reactor vessel & catalyst regeneration vessel operating isothermally
Steam methane reformer (SMR)	SMR downstream of sulfur removal	None (SMR eliminated)



Integration is Important

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- FT & mixed alcohols will have large amount of heat available in synthesis step due to exothermic reactions



Duty in MM BTU/hr shown in ()

Note: This diagram does not show the integration of all the heat exchangers, only the heat network.



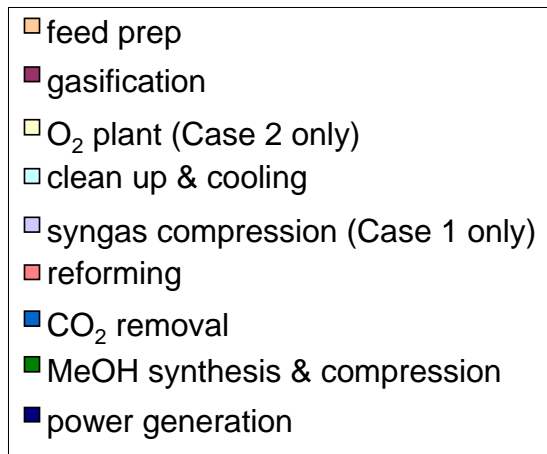
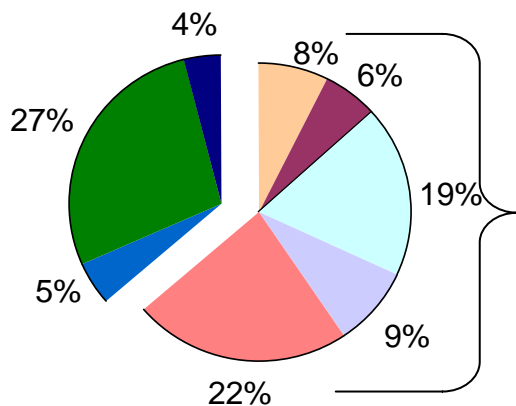
Syngas Production is Large Contribution to Product Price

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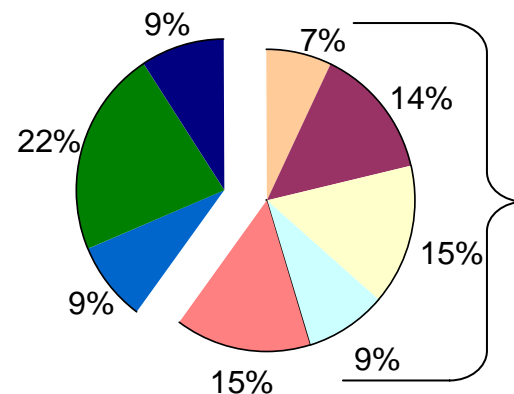
- This is true of other products, not just H₂
- An estimation of the syngas cost can be made and used as a benchmark.....however, it doesn't make sense to look at just stand-alone syngas production because integration is important and a key to economical process designs

From FY 2003 preliminary screening study

Case 1 - Indirect: BCL, scrubbing, stm reformer, shift, conv MeOH, stm turbine



Case 2 - Direct: GTI, HGCU, ATR, shift, conv MeOH, stm turbine



Clean, reformed syngas generation = 60-64% of total capital in thermochemical conversion



Syngas Price – Integration Results & Lower Price

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- **Intermediate** – Price of clean, reformed syngas in an integrated process.
- **Stand-alone** – Price of syngas with synthesis steps downstream of gas clean up & conditioning removed, natural gas used as fuel, and heat balance is reconfigured.

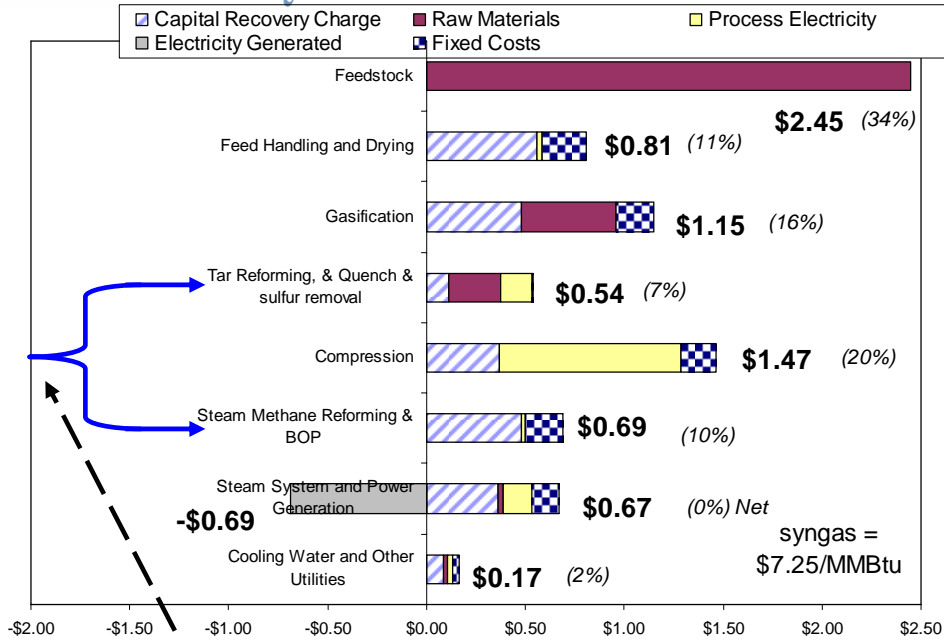
	(\$/MMBtu, LHV)	
	Current	Goal
Intermediate syngas price	7.25	5.25
Stand-alone syngas price	8.67 (20% higher)	7.10 (35% higher)

- More economical to build entire syngas generation to fuels production plant than to purchase syngas due to process integration advantages
- Completed analysis; NREL technical report available at www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05psti/37408.pdf

Intermediate Syngas Cost Contribution – Current & Goal Design

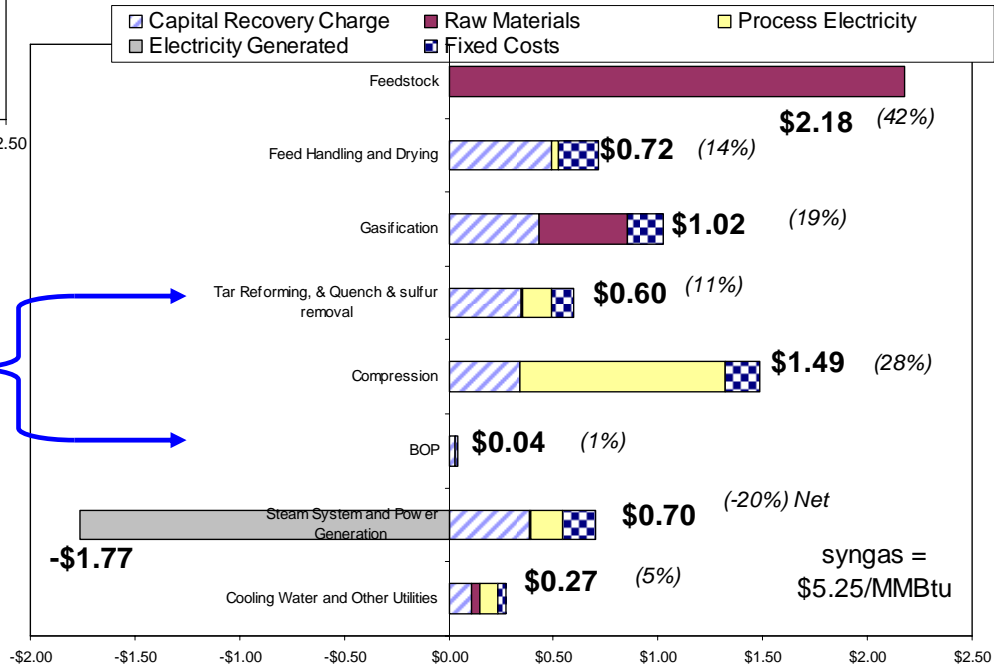
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Current Design



Reforming cost is reduced and shifted to a different plant section (\$0.64 vs \$1.23/MMBtu contribution to syngas price)

Goal Design

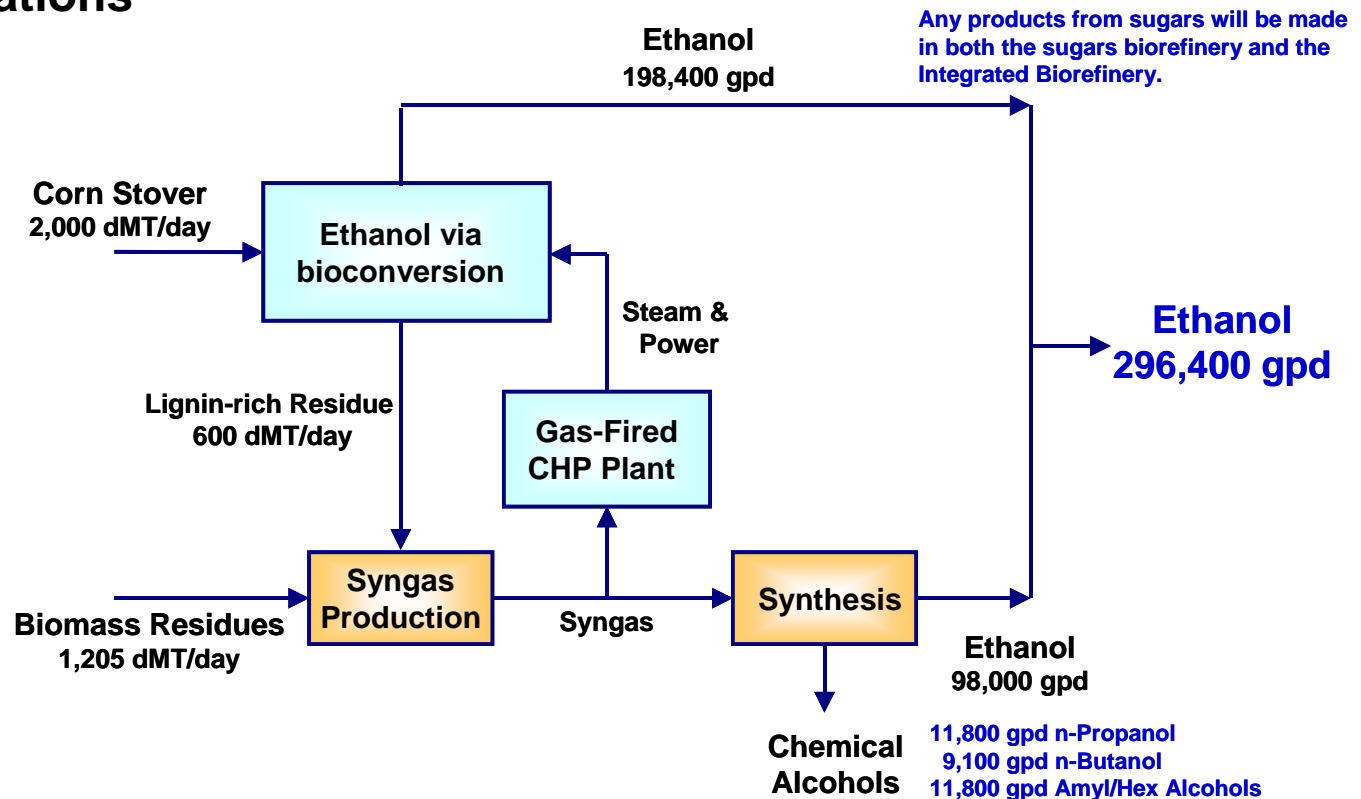




Mixed Alcohols Analysis

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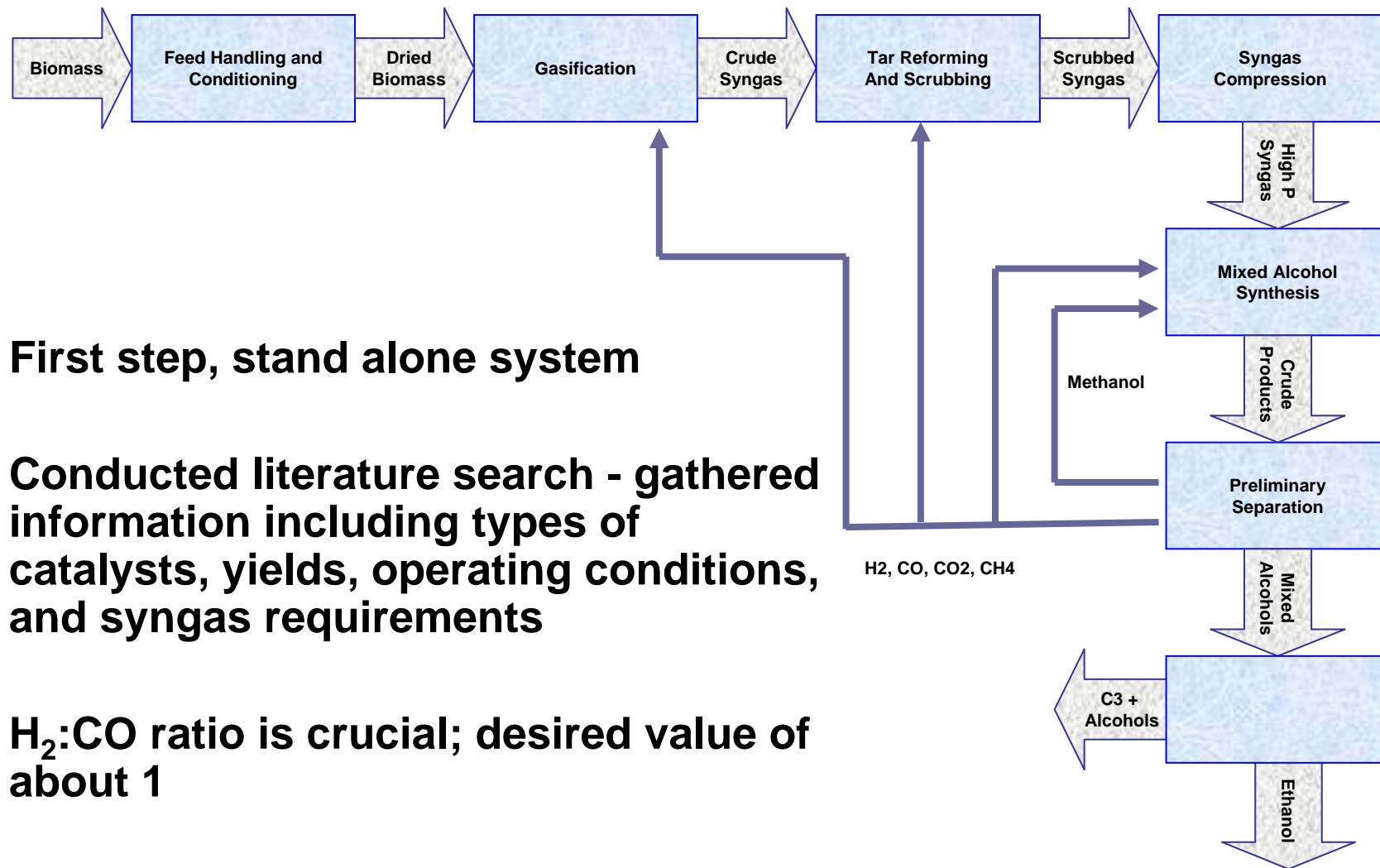
- Dec 2004 refocused thermochemical conversion to examine synergies & integration into a sugars biorefinery
- Mixed alcohols detailed design is a follow on to the biomass to H₂ study and validates initial December spreadsheet material balance & cost calculations





Stand Alone Mixed Alcohols

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- **First step, stand alone system**
- **Conducted literature search - gathered information including types of catalysts, yields, operating conditions, and syngas requirements**
- **H₂:CO ratio is crucial; desired value of about 1**



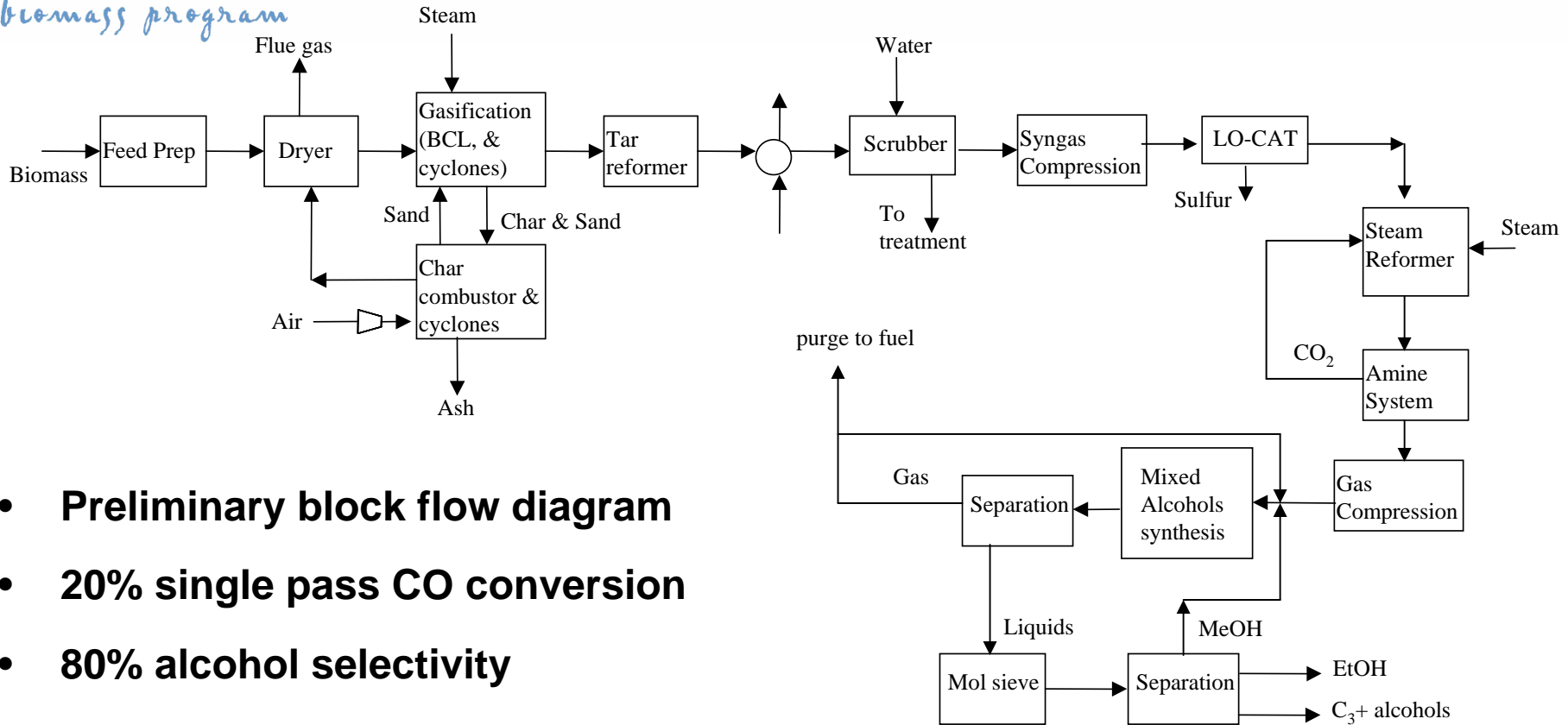
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- **Maximum hydrocarbon conversion in conjunction with optimal/most economical gas clean up and conditioning steps is challenging**
- **Selected modified FT catalyst (MoS_2 -variation) based on its ability to produce linear alcohols & higher sulfur tolerance**
- **Working on modifying biomass to H_2 model for mixed alcohols production using BCL gasifier**
- **Milestone report due 7/18/05**

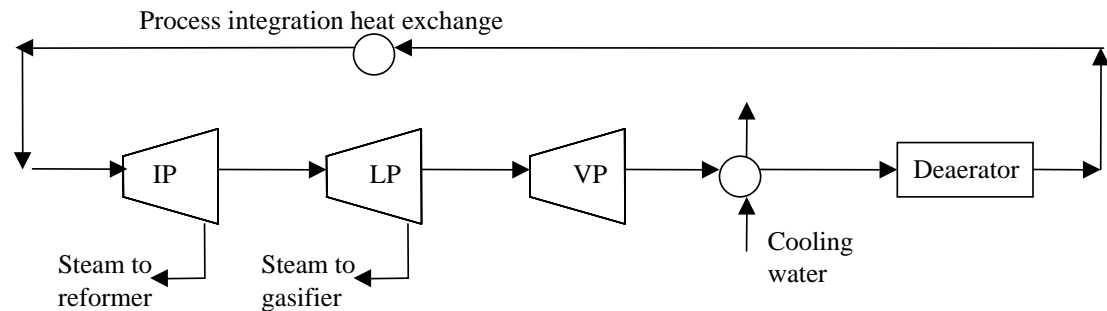


Stand Alone Mixed Alcohols - Simulation

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- Preliminary block flow diagram
- 20% single pass CO conversion
- 80% alcohol selectivity
- Recycle MeOH to extinction

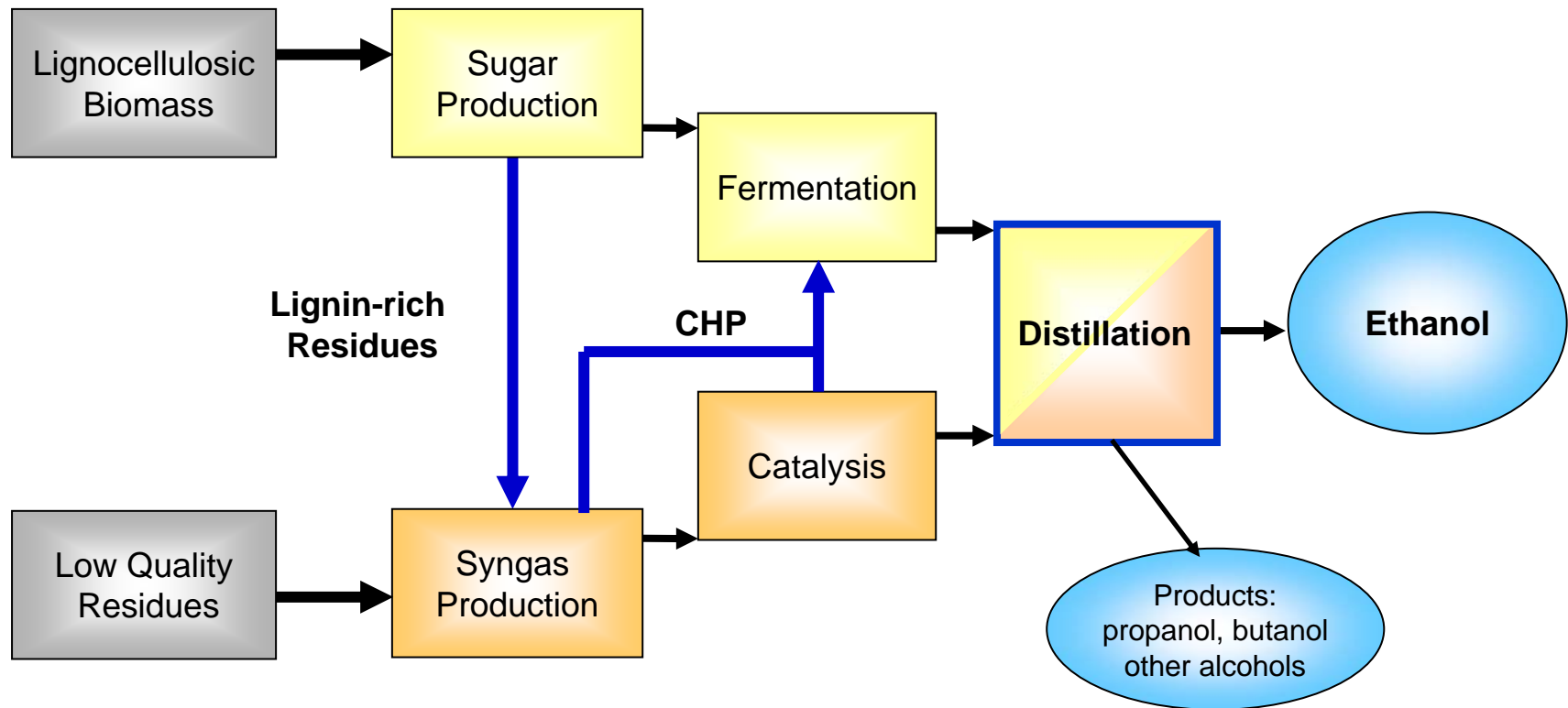




Integrated Sugars/Thermochemical Biorefinery

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- **Next step, in FY 2006 will combine mixed alcohols and ethanol stand alone systems to create an optimized biochemical/thermochemical biorefinery**





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Additional analysts:

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