

Recent Advancements of a Solvent Liquefaction Pilot Plant

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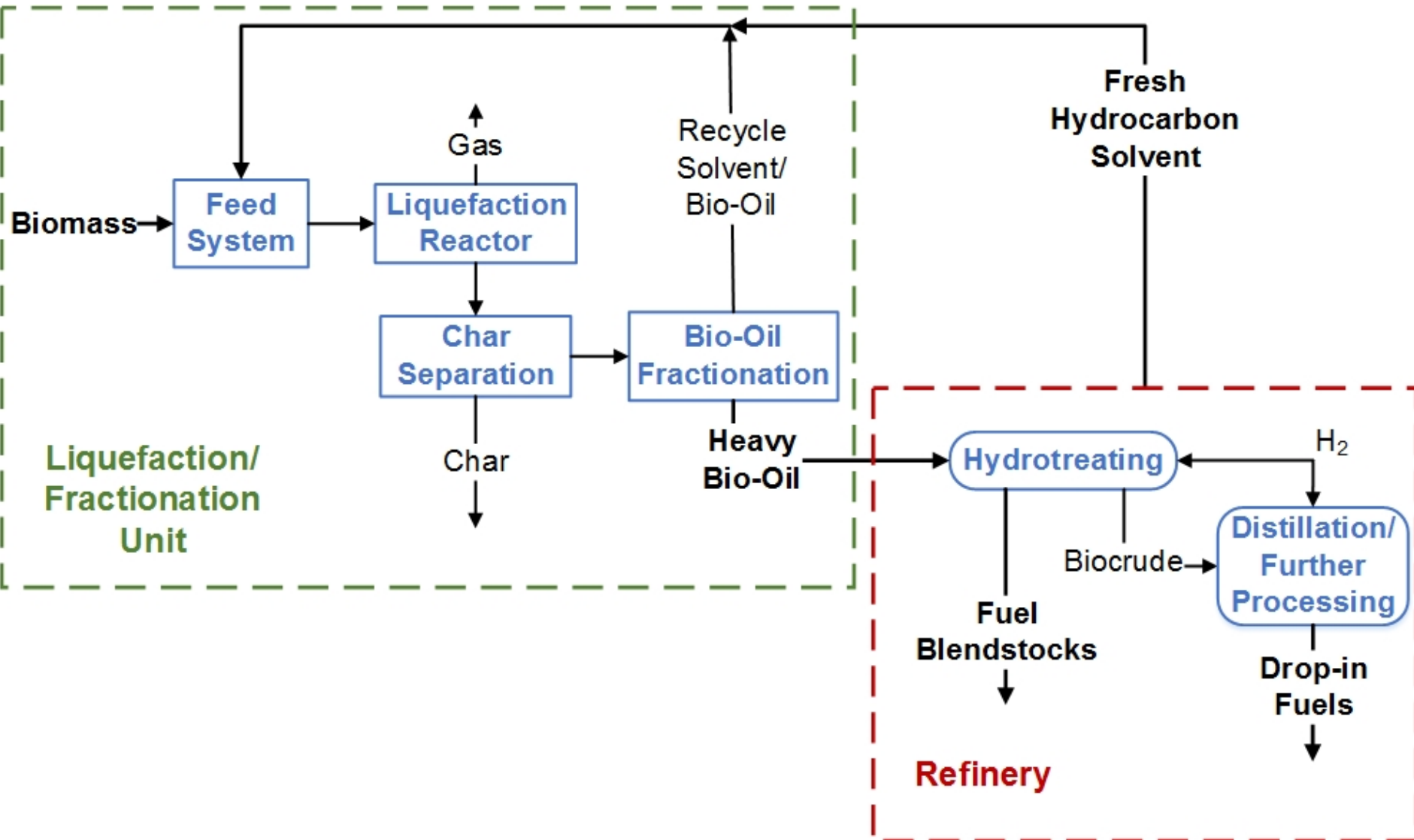
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Project Background

- **Chevron & Iowa State University**
 - Department of Energy BRDI Grant: DE-EE0005974
 - Biomass to “green crude” to gasoline and diesel drop in fuels
 - Solvent Liquefaction in a hydrocarbon solvent
- **Project Benchmarks**
 - Convert biomass with 50% bio-oil yield
 - Generate bio-oil with oxygen content <20 wt. %
 - Recycle wood oil product for use as solvent, displacing initial hydrocarbon solvent
 - Bio-oil hydroprocessing to biocrude (<2 wt. % oxygen)

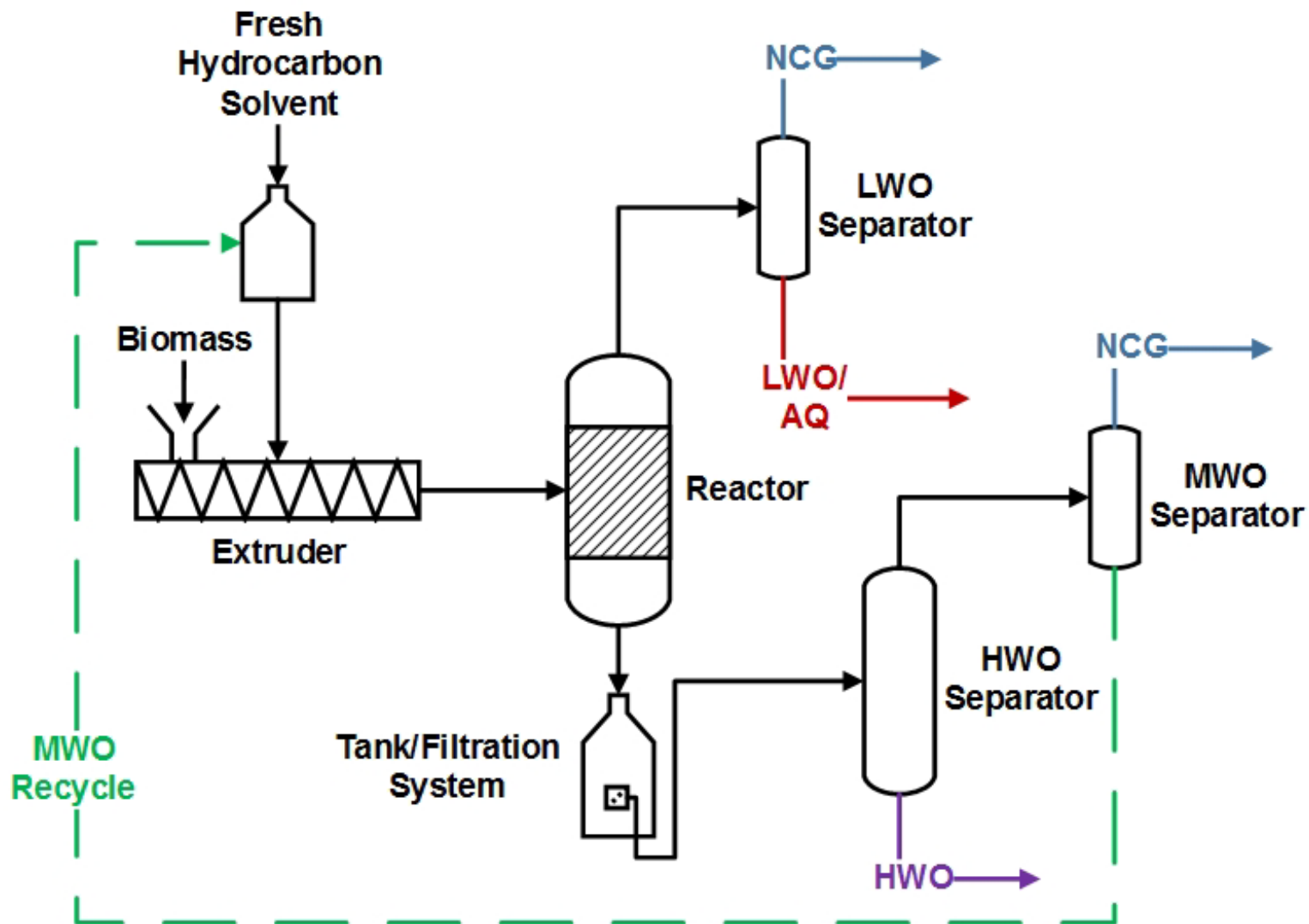
Project Overview



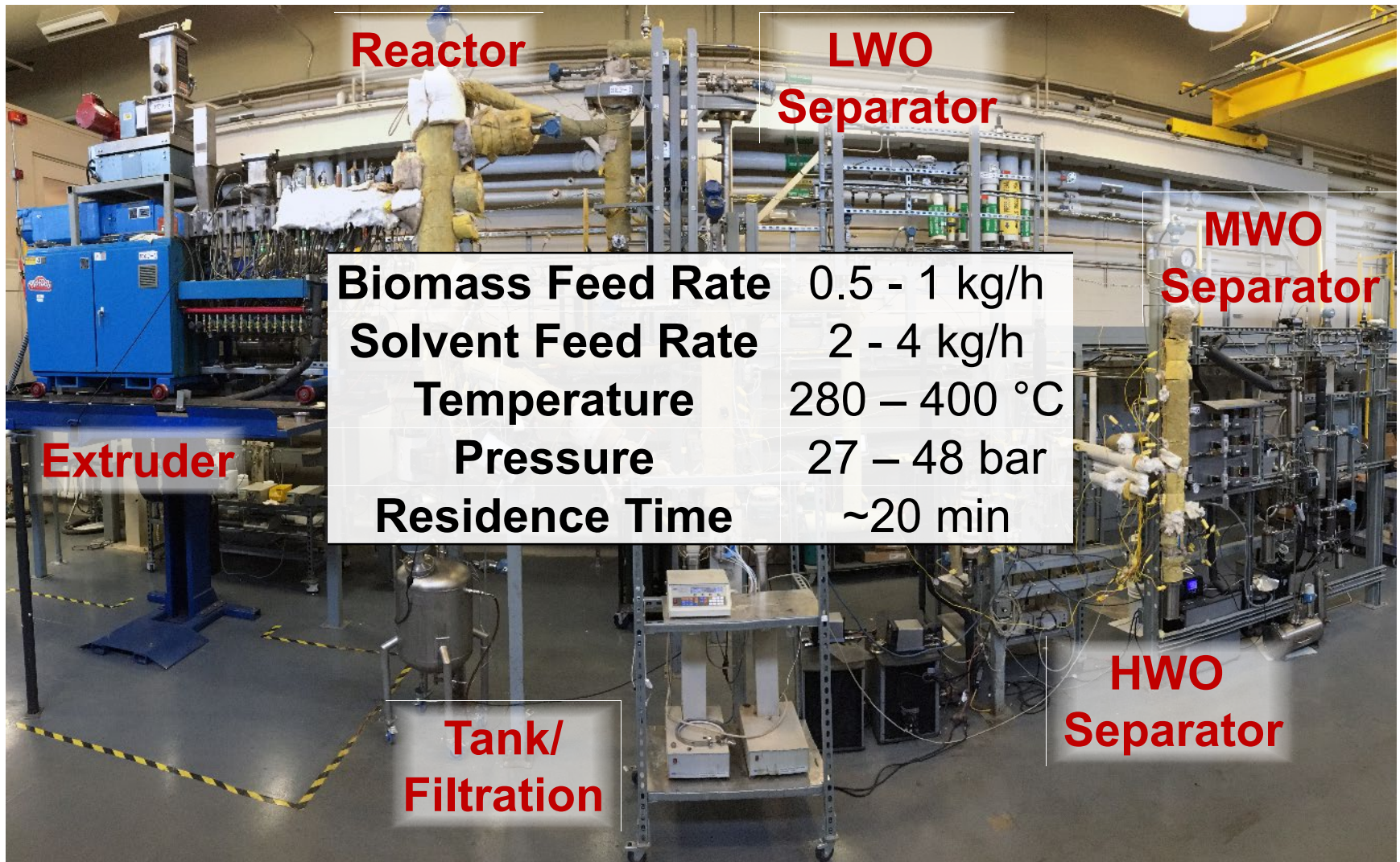
Definition of Terms

Initialism	Name	Primary Components
SCLU	<i>Small continuous liquefaction unit</i>	-
NCG	<i>Non-condensable gases</i>	CO, CO ₂ , CH ₄
AQ	<i>Aqueous products</i>	Fed/product H ₂ O and light acids
LWO	<i>Light wood oil</i>	Lighter phenolic monomers and solvent components
MWO	<i>Medium wood oil</i>	Phenolic monomers and solvent
HWO	<i>Heavy wood oil</i>	Heavier solvent components and phenolic monomers, phenolic oligomers, sugars

SCLU Block Flow Diagram



SCLU and Process Conditions



Biomass Characterization



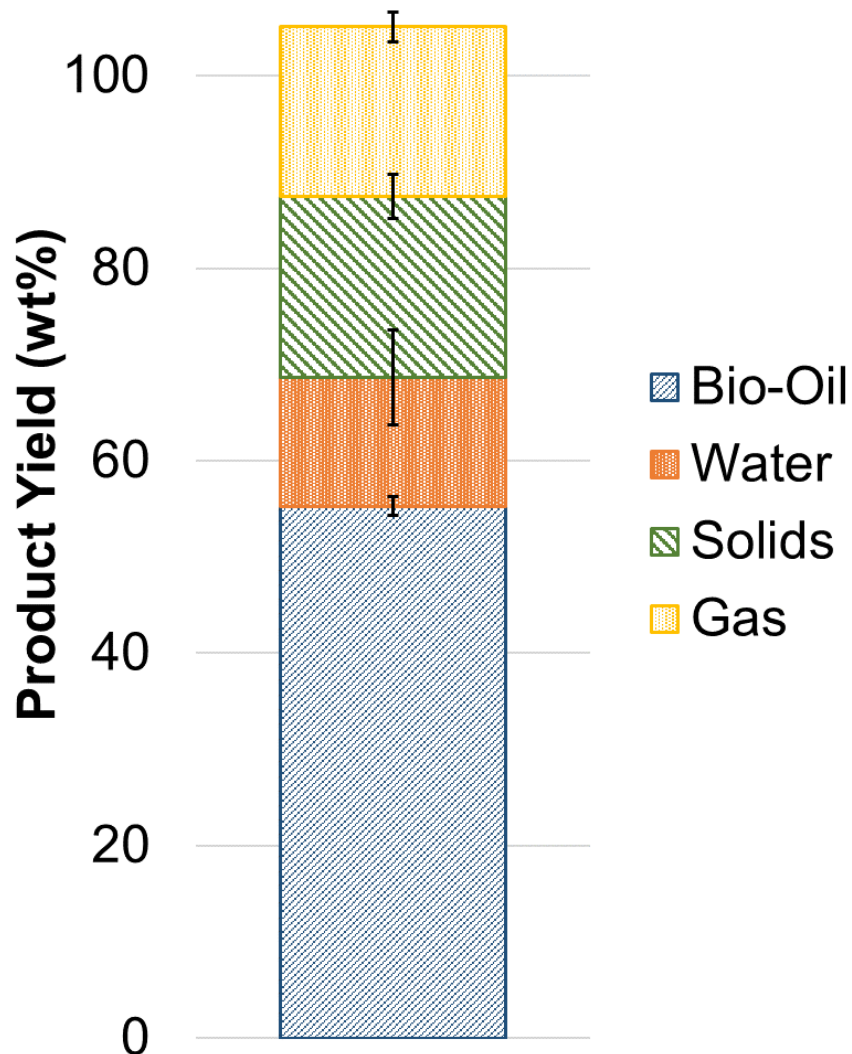
1/4" Loblolly Pine Chips

Proximate Analysis (wt. %)	
Moisture	~5
Volatiles (AF/MF)	84.4
Fixed Carbon (AF/MF)	15.6
Ash (MF)	3.71

Ultimate Analysis (wt. %, AF/MF)

C	52.0
H	5.37
O	42.6
N	0.05
S	0.02

Hydrocarbon Solvent Processing



*Average of three runs.

- Three continuous liquefaction experiments with fractionation for >4 h
- Retention of char particles in mixing tank via barrier filtration
- Sufficient selectivity to MWO to close recycle loop at 25% makeup solvent – more expensive test case

Liquefaction Metrics

Bio-Oil Yield (wt. %)^a	55.3
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^aSolvent-less, dry biomass basis

Hydrocarbon Bio-Oil Analysis

Sample	LWO	MWO	HWO
Moisture (wt. %)	1.08	0.76	0.914
Elemental Analysis (wt. %, MF/AF)			
C	86.4	86.7	88.0
H	7.80	7.25	6.93
O ^a	5.43	5.75	4.69

^aDetermined by difference

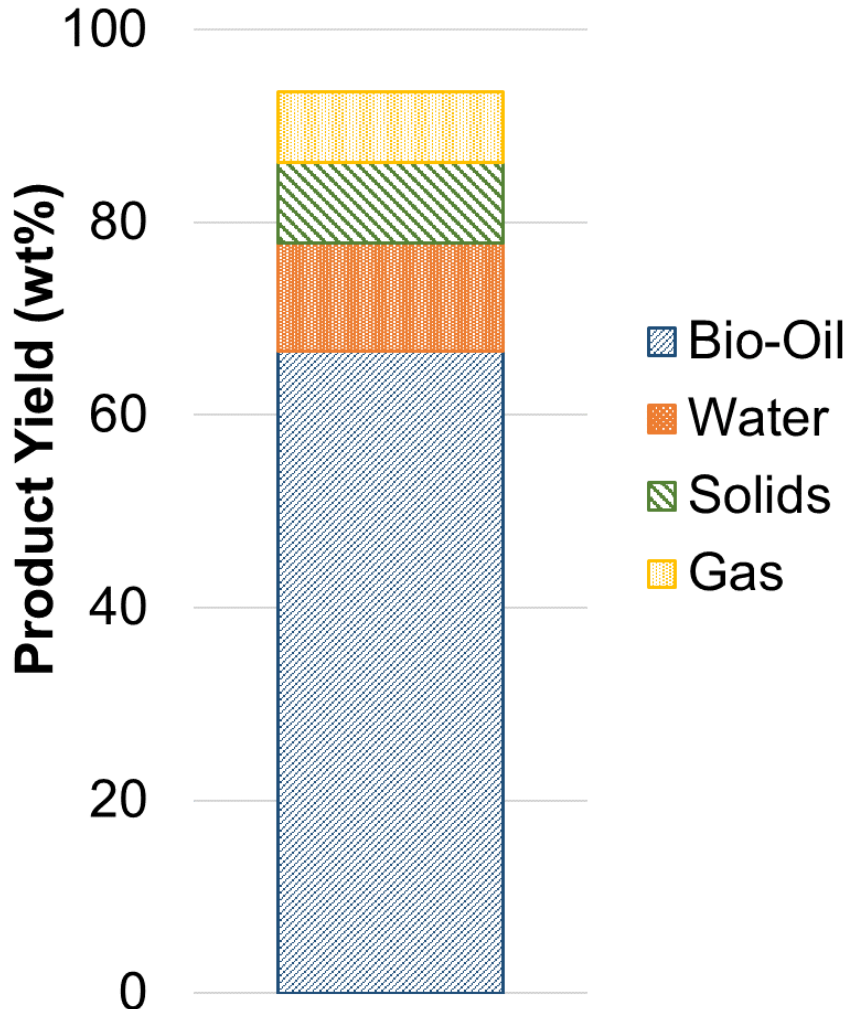
- MWO mix of hydrocarbon solvent, phenolic monomers/oligomers, and biopolymers
- HWO viscous liquid at room temperature



**MWO
Product**

**HWO
Product**

Phenolic Solvent Processing



*Based on single run.

- Solvent mix simulates expected composition for full recycle operation with 5% makeup solvent
- Phenolic solvent generated smaller char particles requiring offline separation
- Insufficient selectivity to MWO to close recycle loop at these conditions

Liquefaction Metrics

Bio-Oil Yield (wt. %)^a	66.7
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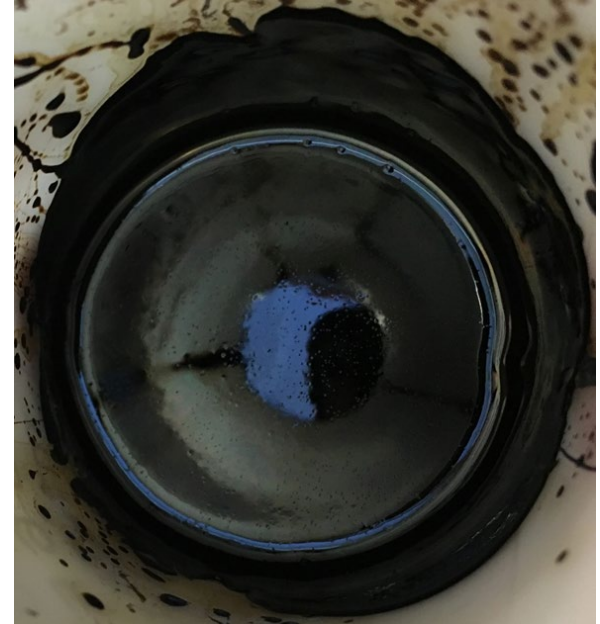
^aSolvent-less, dry biomass basis

Phenolic Bio-Oil Analysis

Sample	LWO	MWO	HWO
Moisture (wt. %)	1.48	0.208	2.53
Elemental Analysis (wt. %, MF/AF)			
C	73.0	73.3	83.7
H	6.42	5.98	5.76
O ^a	20.2	20.3	10.3

^aDetermined by difference

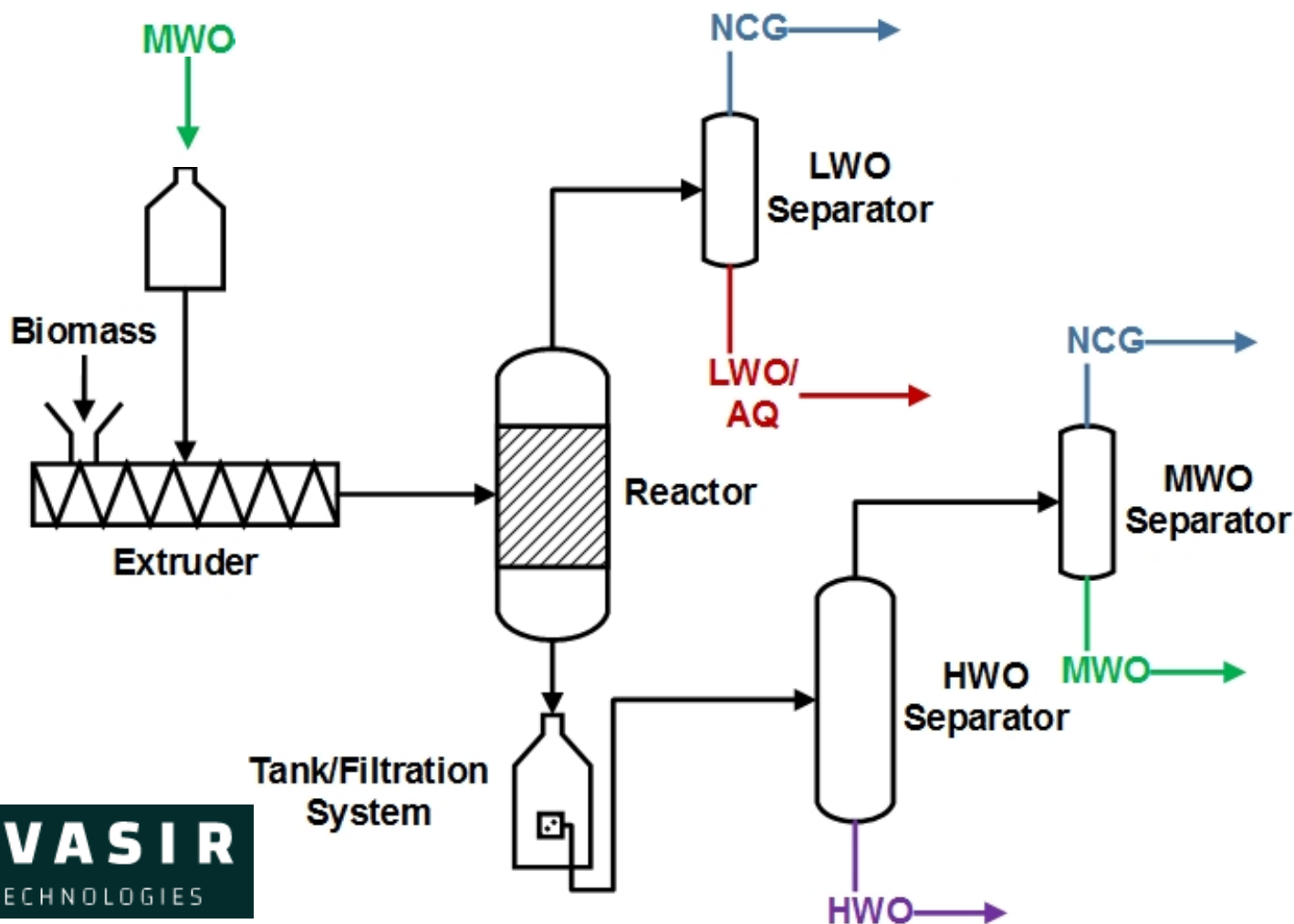
- MWO mix of phenolic monomers/oligomers and biopolymers, some hydrocarbon
- HWO solid at room temperature with melt point ~80 °C



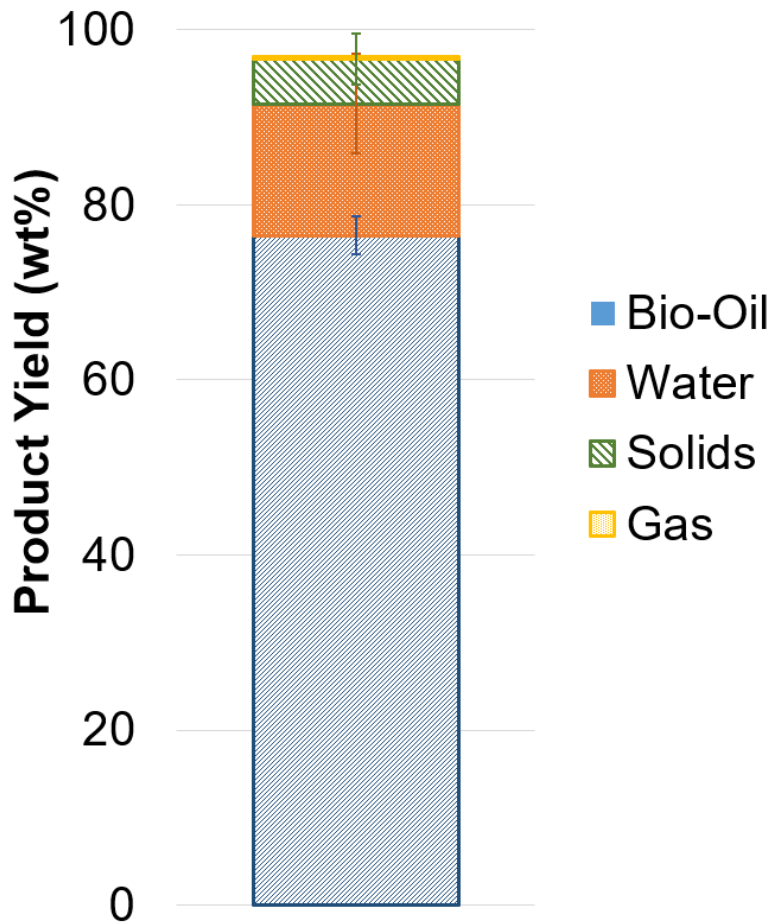
**HWO
Product**

Once-Through MWO Processing

Project conducted with Kvasir Technologies



Neat Phenolic Solvent Processing



- Solvent mix simulates potential composition for full recycle operation with MWO
- Phenolic solvent generated low yields of very fine char particles with very little gas production
- Over 96% conversion to liquids and gases demonstrated



Liquefaction Metrics

Bio-Oil Yield (wt. %)^a	76.5
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^aSolvent-less, dry biomass basis

Summary and Future Work

- **Summary**

- Demonstrated increased conversion/yield with MWO solvent during continuous liquefaction of pine with high selectivity to liquid products
- Achieved >96% biomass conversion and ~76.5 wt. % bio-oil yield

- **Future Work**

- Conduct separation and product analysis
- Contents intended to serve as subject matter for publication
- Conduct additional trials using MWO obtained from separation process, implementation of MWO direct recycle

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- **Kvasir Technologies**

- Joachim Bachmann Nielsen
- Nikos Montesantos
- Christian Ejersbo Strebel



References

1. Haverly, M. R., Schulz, T. C., Whitmer, L. E., Friend, A. J., Funkhouser, J. M., Smith, R. G., Young, M. K., & Brown, R. C. (2018). Continuous solvent liquefaction of biomass in a hydrocarbon solvent. *Fuel*, 211. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2017.09.072>

Questions?