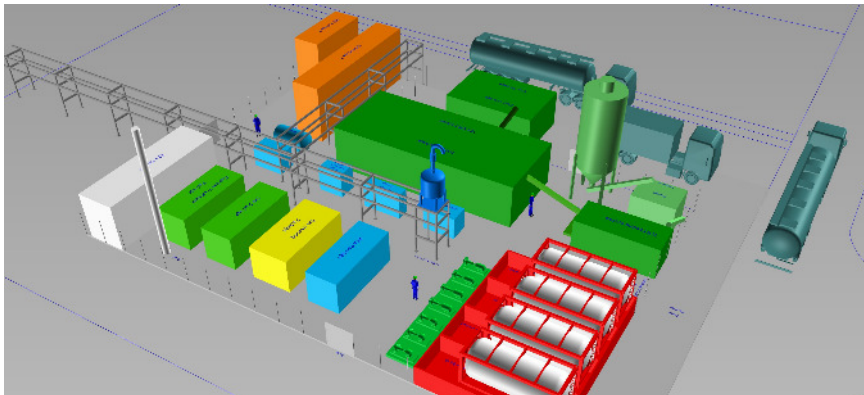


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# TO-SYN-FUEL: Turning Sewage Sludge into Fuels and hydrogen

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Bergamo

Monday 21<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Andreas Apfelbacher

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 745749.



# TO-SYN-FUEL

## Project Overview

- 14,5 Million Euro funding
- Project start May 2017 (project's lifetime 48 month)
- 12 partners from 5 different countries



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# TO-SYN-FUEL

## Overview

- **Project Management:** all
- **Plant (TCR, PSA, HDO) Engineering and Construction:** Engie, Susteen, Fraunhofer, VTS, Hygear
- **Demonstration Phase:** Engie, Susteen, Fraunhofer, VTS, SNB, Hygear
- **Product Fuel Demonstration, Engine Tests, CHP Tests:** ENI, University of Birmingham, Fraunhofer
- **Social Sustainability:** Leitat, University of Bologna, Fraunhofer
- **Environmental Performance:** University of Bologna, Leitat, Fraunhofer
- **Exploitation and Business Potential:** Engie, Susteen, ENI, Fraunhofer
- **Regulatory Issues and Risk Management:** Fraunhofer, University of Bologna, Leitat, VTS, Engie
- **Dissemination:** ETA Florence, WRG, Fraunhofer, ENI, University of Bologna, University of Birmingham, Leitat, VTS



# TO-SYN-FUEL

## The Demonstration of Waste Biomass to Synthetic EN Conform Fuels and Green Hydrogen

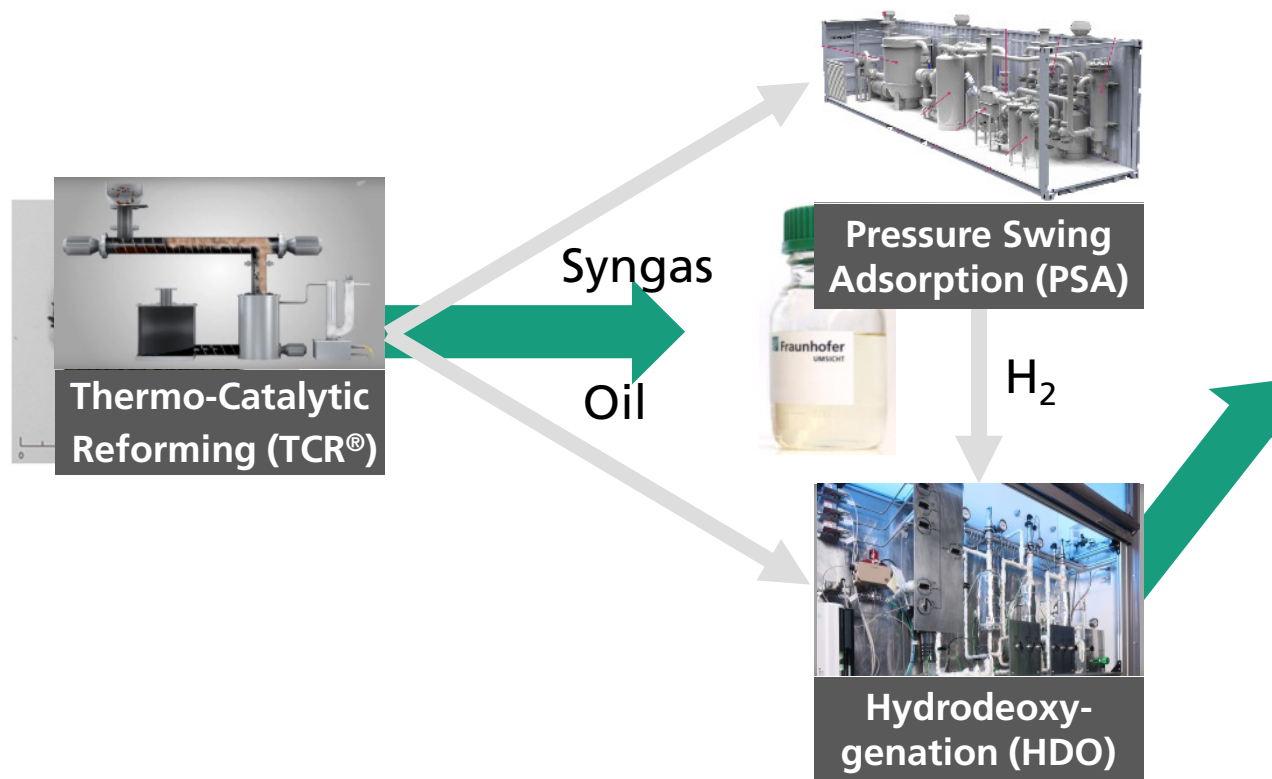
- Contribute to the **Renewable Energy Directive targets** for renewable energy by validating waste feedstocks for the production of fuels
- Production of **green hydrogen, diesel and gasoline equivalent** liquid fuels from sewage sludge



- **Showcase for future sustainable investment** and economic growth across Europe
- Development of a **business case, LCA and dissemination** of results

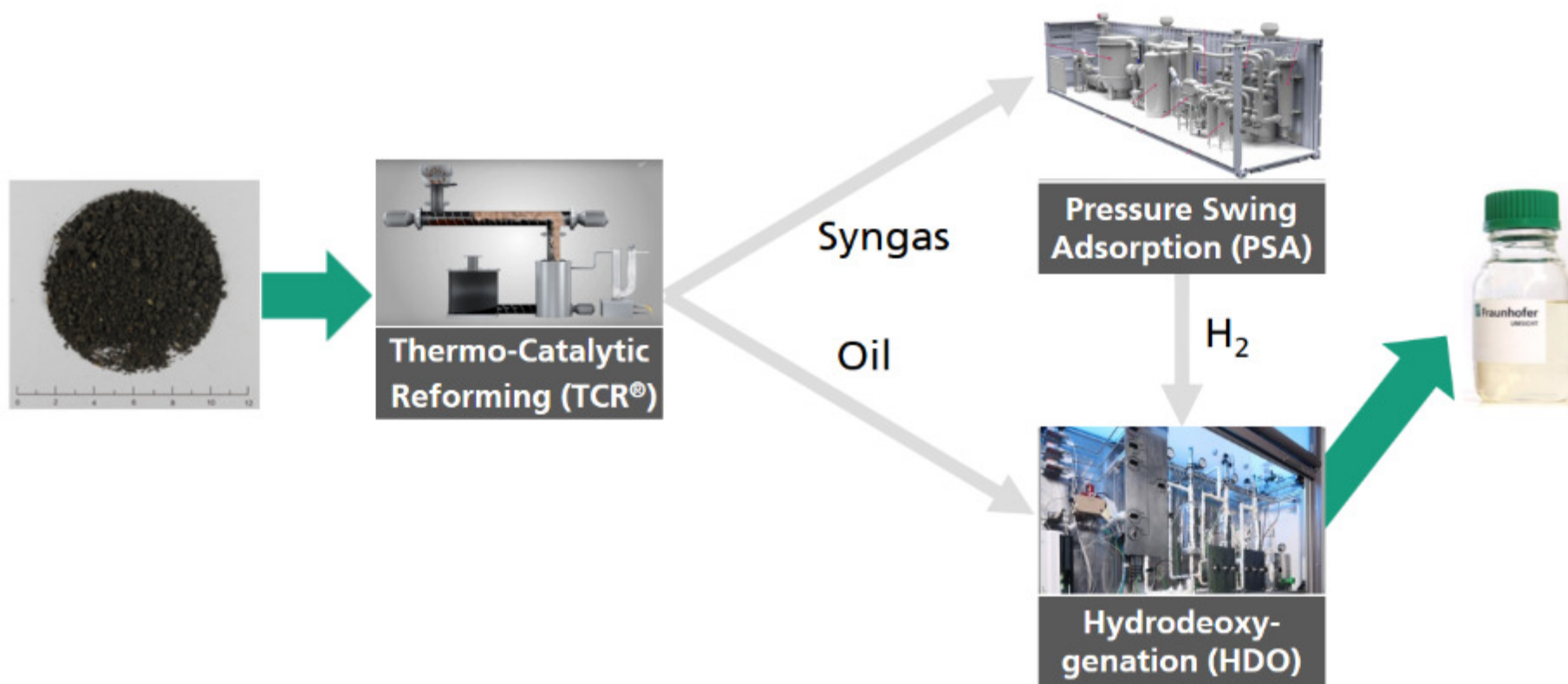
# TO-SYN-FUEL

## Core components



# TO-SYN-FUEL

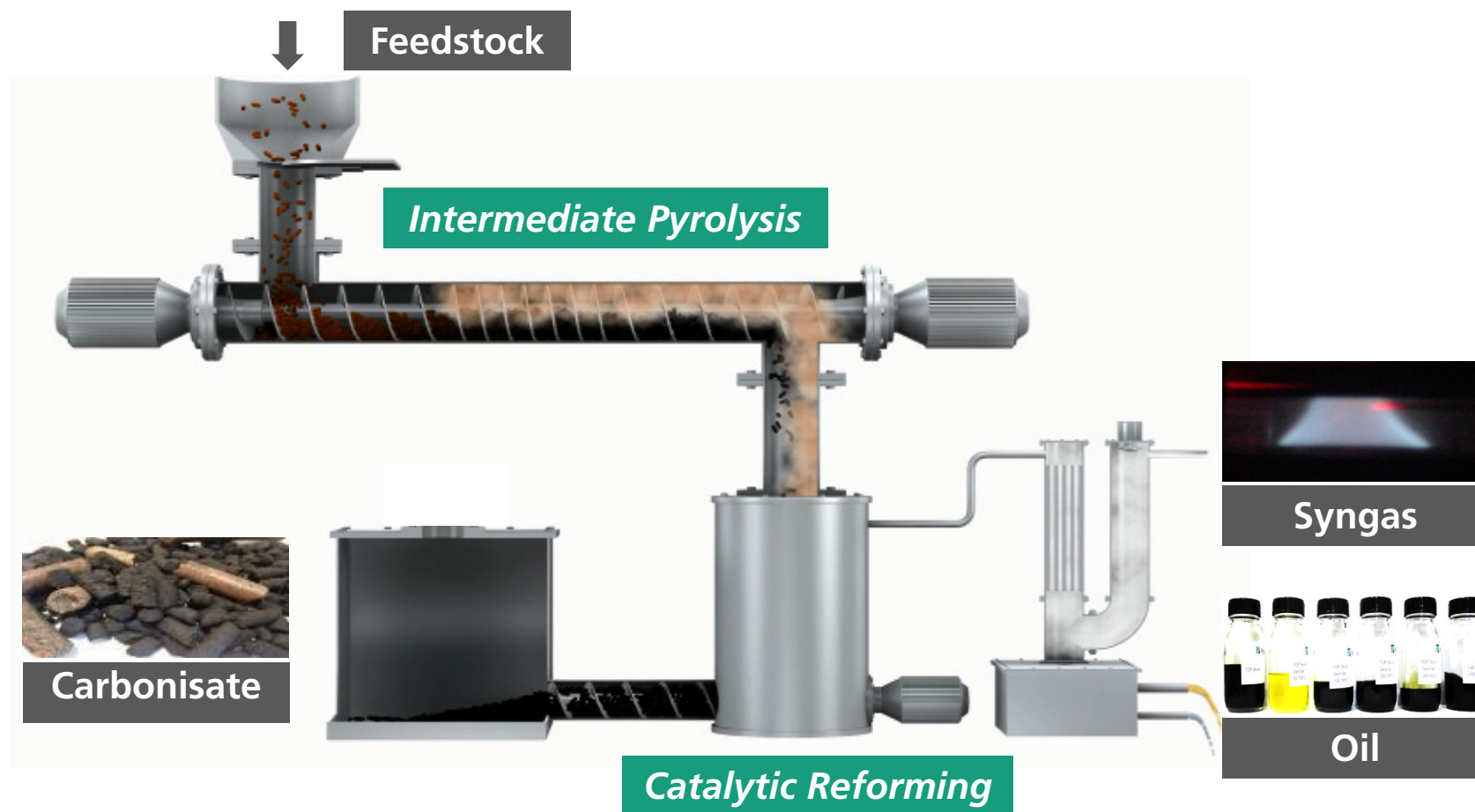
## Core components



Fraunhofer UMSICHT; © MEV; © HyGear

# Thermo-Catalytic Reforming TCR®

A Platform Technology to use residues and to produce storable energy carriers



Fraunhofer UMSICHT



# Thermo-Catalytic Reforming TCR®

## Bio-oil from sewage sludge



**High quality,  
engine-ready**

**LHV:  
≈34 MJ/kg**

C	83.7 wt. %
H	9.0 wt. %
N	2.1 wt. %
S	0.9 wt. %
O (diff.)	3.7 wt. %
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.6 wt. %
TAN	0.6 mg KOH/g
Ash	< 0.005 wt. %

- Thermal stable
- Low in O;S;N
- Low water content
- High heating value



**Excellent  
Precursor for  
Hydrotreatment**





# Thermo-Catalytic Reforming TCR<sup>®</sup>

## Syngas from sewage sludge



**Engine-ready gas**

**HHV:  
≈14-18 MJ/m<sup>3</sup>**

H <sub>2</sub>	38 ± 3 v/v%
CO	8 ± 2 v/v%
CO <sub>2</sub>	30 ± 3 v/v%
CH <sub>4</sub>	14 ± 2 v/v%
C <sub>x</sub> H <sub>y</sub>	3 ± 1 v/v%

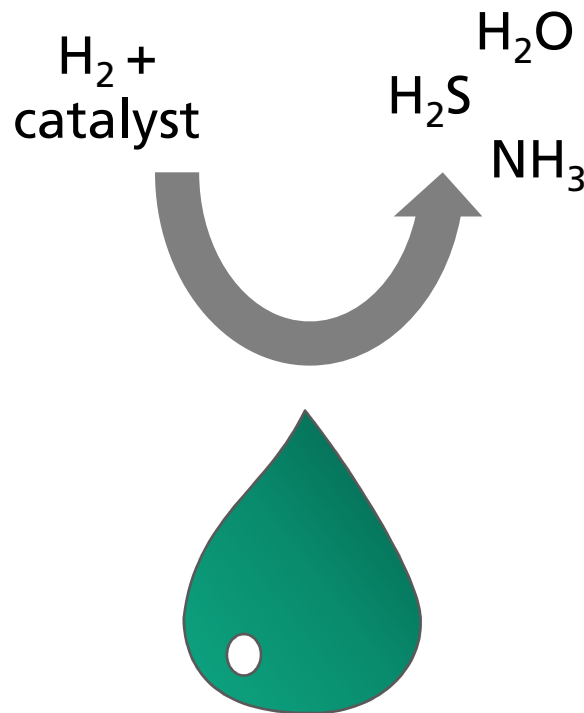
**High Hydrogen Content Essential for Hydrogenseparation by PSA**

# Upgrading of TCR<sup>®</sup> bio-oil for renewable fuels

## Hydrotreating of TCR<sup>®</sup> bio-oil



TCR<sup>®</sup> bio-oil



thermal stability required!



Hydrotreated TCR<sup>®</sup> bio-oil (HBO)

# Upgrading of TCR<sup>®</sup> bio-oil for renewable fuels

## Hydrotreating of TCR<sup>®</sup> oil

## TCR<sup>®</sup> BIO-OIL

C	83.7 wt%
H	9.0 wt%
N	2.1 wt%
S	0.9 wt%
O (diff.)	3.7 wt%
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.6 wt%
Ash	< 0.005 wt%

LHV	34.0 MJ/kg
TAN	0.6 mg KOH/g
Viscosity	4.4 mm <sup>2</sup> /s
Density	1014.4 kg/m <sup>3</sup>

## HYDROTREATING

## HYDROTREATED TCR<sup>®</sup> BIO-OIL (HBO)

C	86.2 wt%
H	13.0 wt%
N <sup>x</sup>	0.5 - 0.0 wt%
S <sup>x</sup>	< 0.01 wt%
O <sup>x</sup> (diff.)	0.7 - 0.0 wt%
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.003 wt%
Ash	< 0.005 wt%

LHV	42.25 MJ/kg
TAN	< 0.1 mg KOH/g
Viscosity	0.97 mm <sup>2</sup> /s
Density	815 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Flash point	< - 20 °C
Yield	83 wt%

<sup>x</sup>: Depending on P, T

Neumann, J.; Jäger, N.; Apfelbacher, A.; Daschner, R.; Binder, S.; Hornung:  
Biomass and Bioenergy, 2016

# Thermo-Catalytic Reforming TCR<sup>®</sup>

## Carbonisate from sewage sludge



**Very low H and O  
content**

**HHV:  
≈10.5 MJ/kg**

C	33.5 wt. %
H	0.1 wt. %
N	3.5 wt. %
S	0.7 wt. %
O (diff.)	<2 wt. %
H <sub>2</sub> O	<1 wt. %
Ash	62 wt. %

# Thermo-Catalytic Reforming TCR®

## Phosphorous recovery from TCR-char

Gasification of char:

- Additional  $H_2$  : Overall process **produces more  $H_2$**  than required for HDO
- **Recovery of Phosphorous** out of gasification ash better
- **Additional energy** for process heat.
- Gasification of TCR char is **technically tar free**



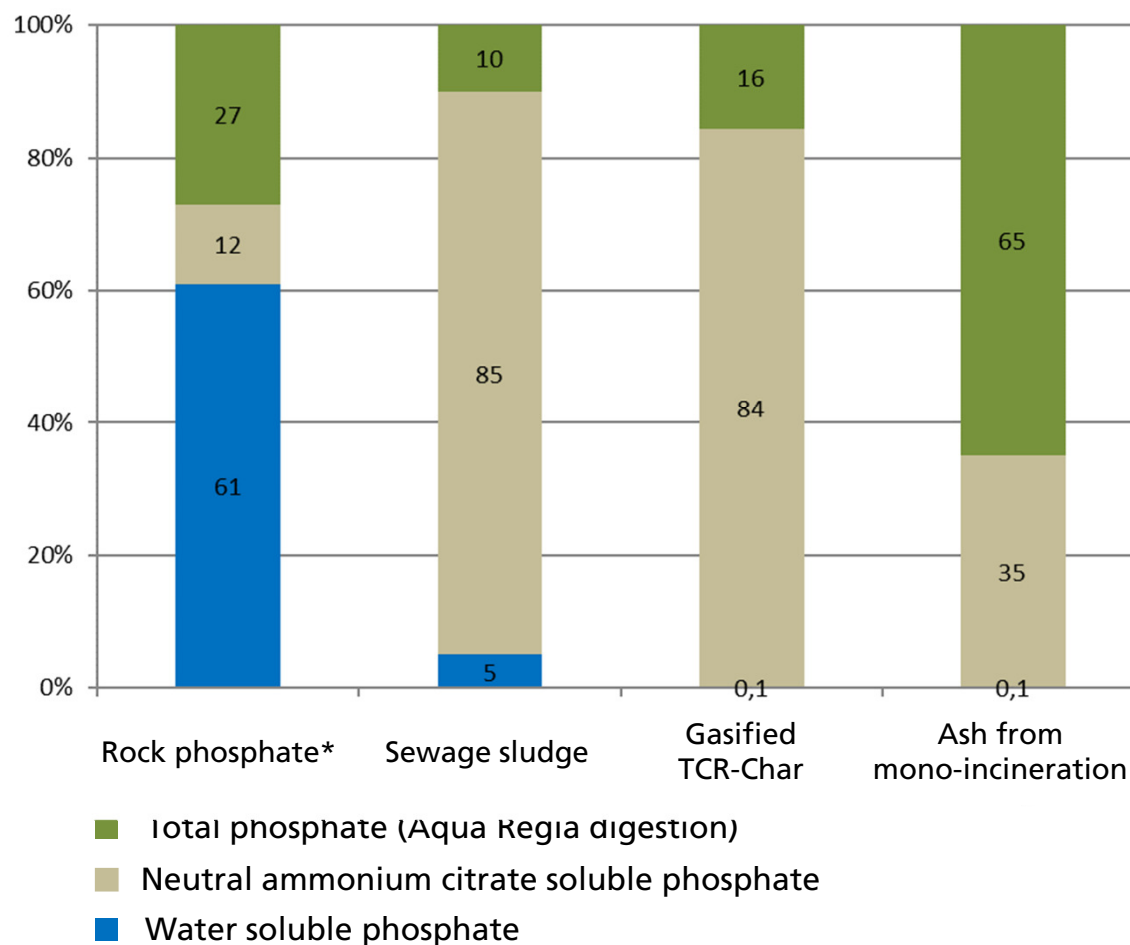
TCR char and gasifier ash



Updraft gasifier at UMSICHT (cheap, no tar)

# Thermo-Catalytic Reforming TCR®

## Phosphorous recovery from TCR-char



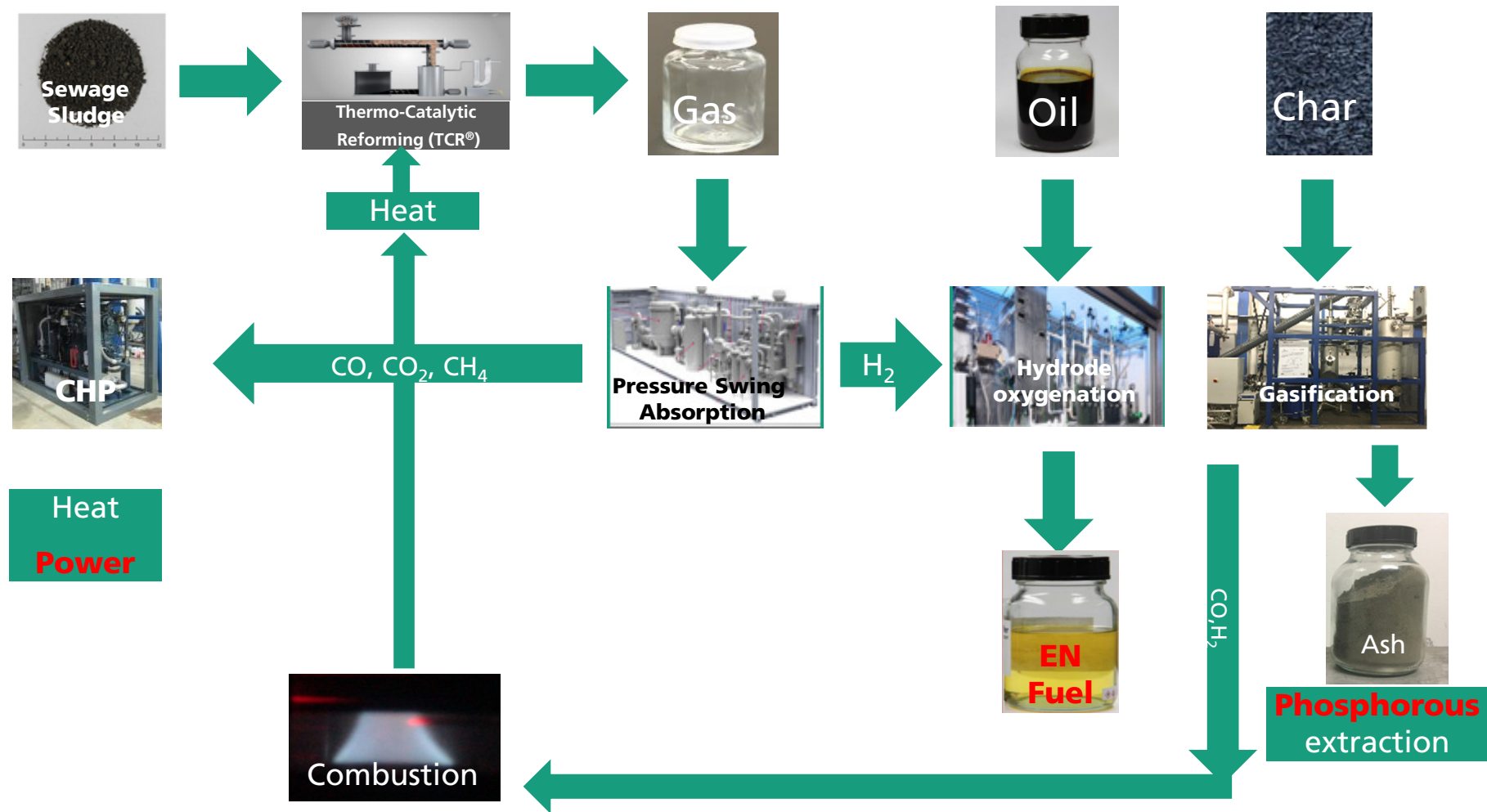
\*partial solubilisation

Sources: Kratz&Schnug 2008; FhU 2016, Krüger&Adam 2015





# TO-SYN-FUEL: At a Glance





# TO-SYN-FUEL

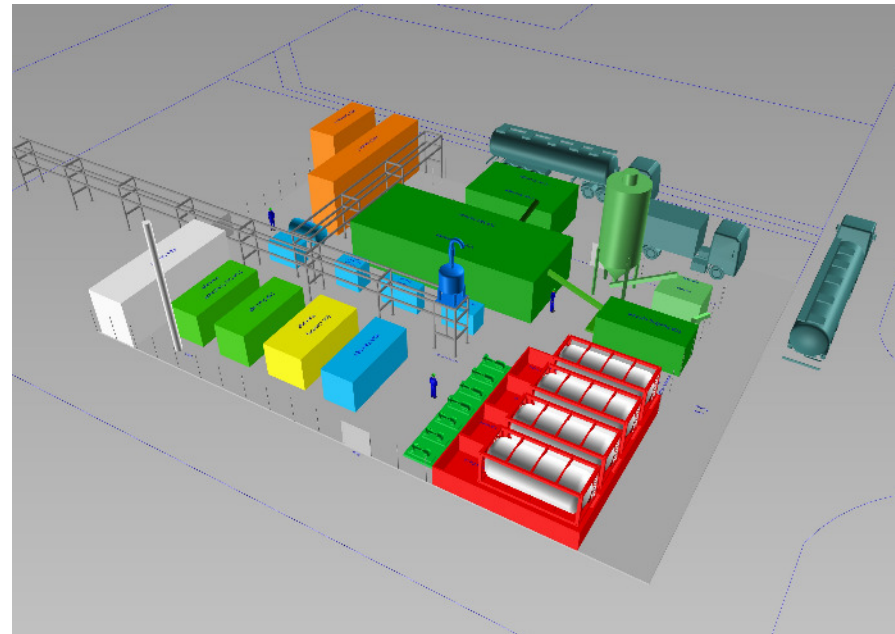
## Next steps

- Construction phase
- Commissioning phase
- Demonstration phase
  - 7000 h of operation
  - 500 kg/h of sewage sludge
  - 200 t of HDO liquid fuels

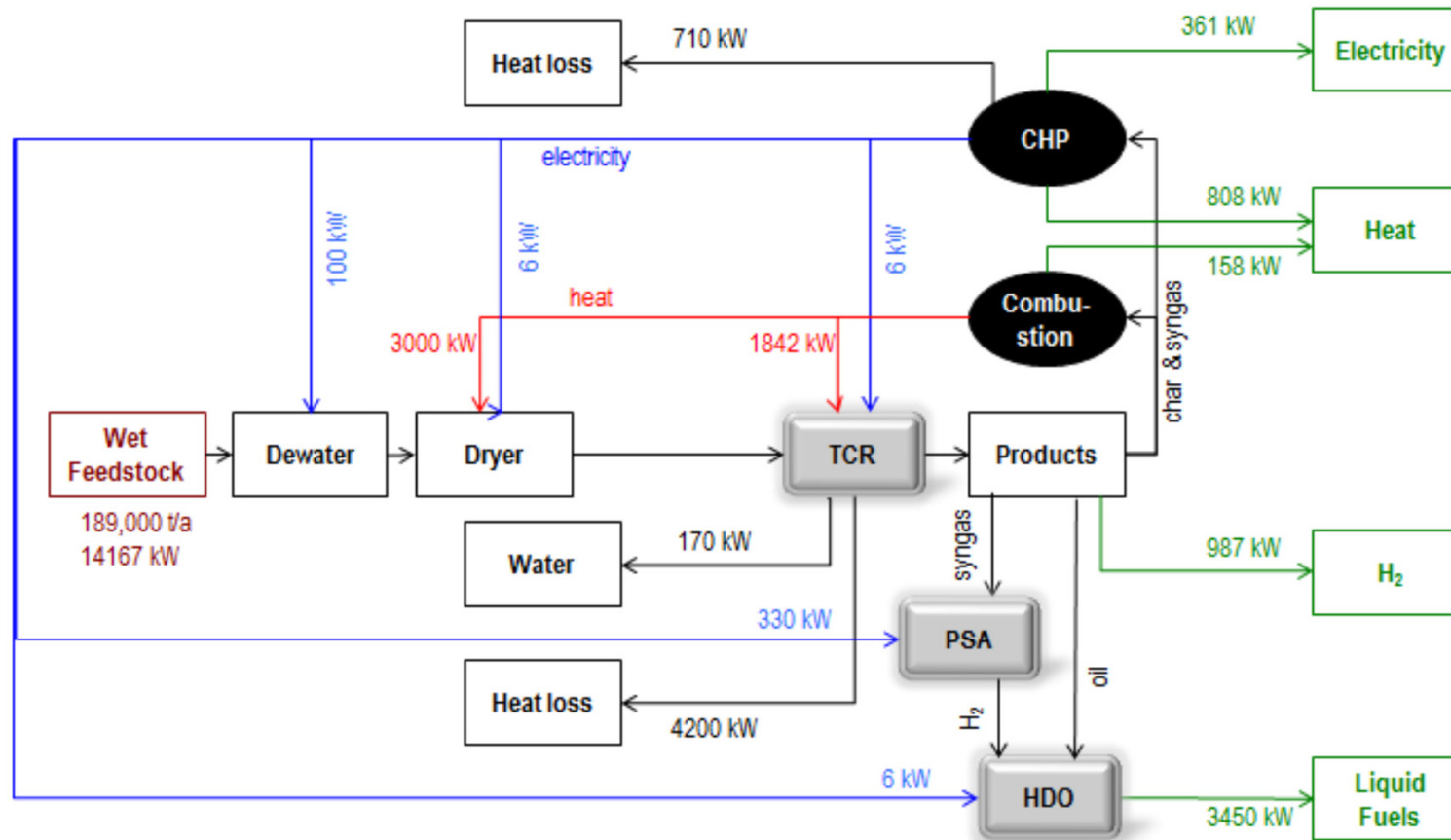
Q1/2018

Q1/2019

Q2/2019-2021



# After TO-SYN-FUEL: Scale up to a 3000 kg/h Unit



Operating Hours = 7000 per/a

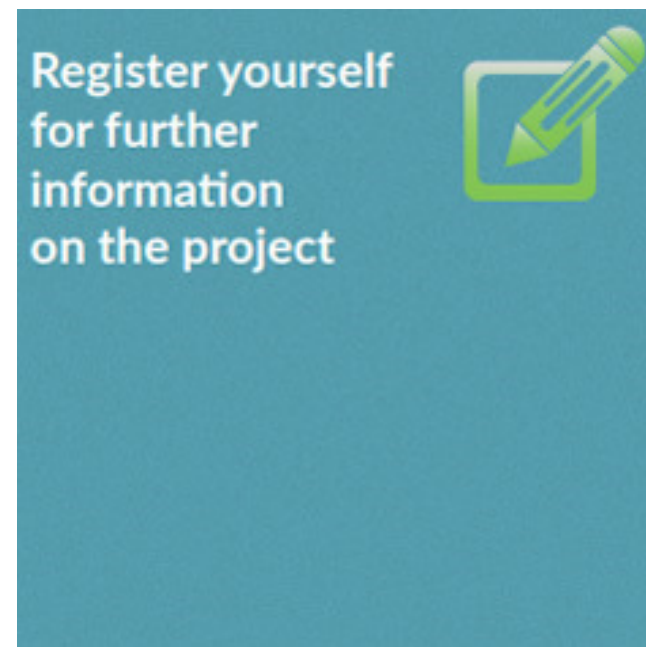
# TO-SYN-FUEL

## Stakeholders engagement

If you would like **to become more involved** with the project platform and include your organisation details in the TO-SYN-FUEL Stakeholder Database, please use the **Stakeholder Registration Form**.

[http://www.tosynfuel.eu/?page\\_id=2489](http://www.tosynfuel.eu/?page_id=2489)

**Keep in touch with the project** to learn about the development of best practices regarding market implementation, commercialization and deployment of new technologies and processes.



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# Fraunhofer

## UMSICHT

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**Thank you very much for  
your attention**



**This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grand agreement No 745749.**



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