



**International  
Downstream Conference  
& Exhibition**

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Kingdom of Bahrain

# K-SAAT – A Break-through Solid Acid Alkylation Technology

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**KBR**  
TECHNOLOGY

# Agenda

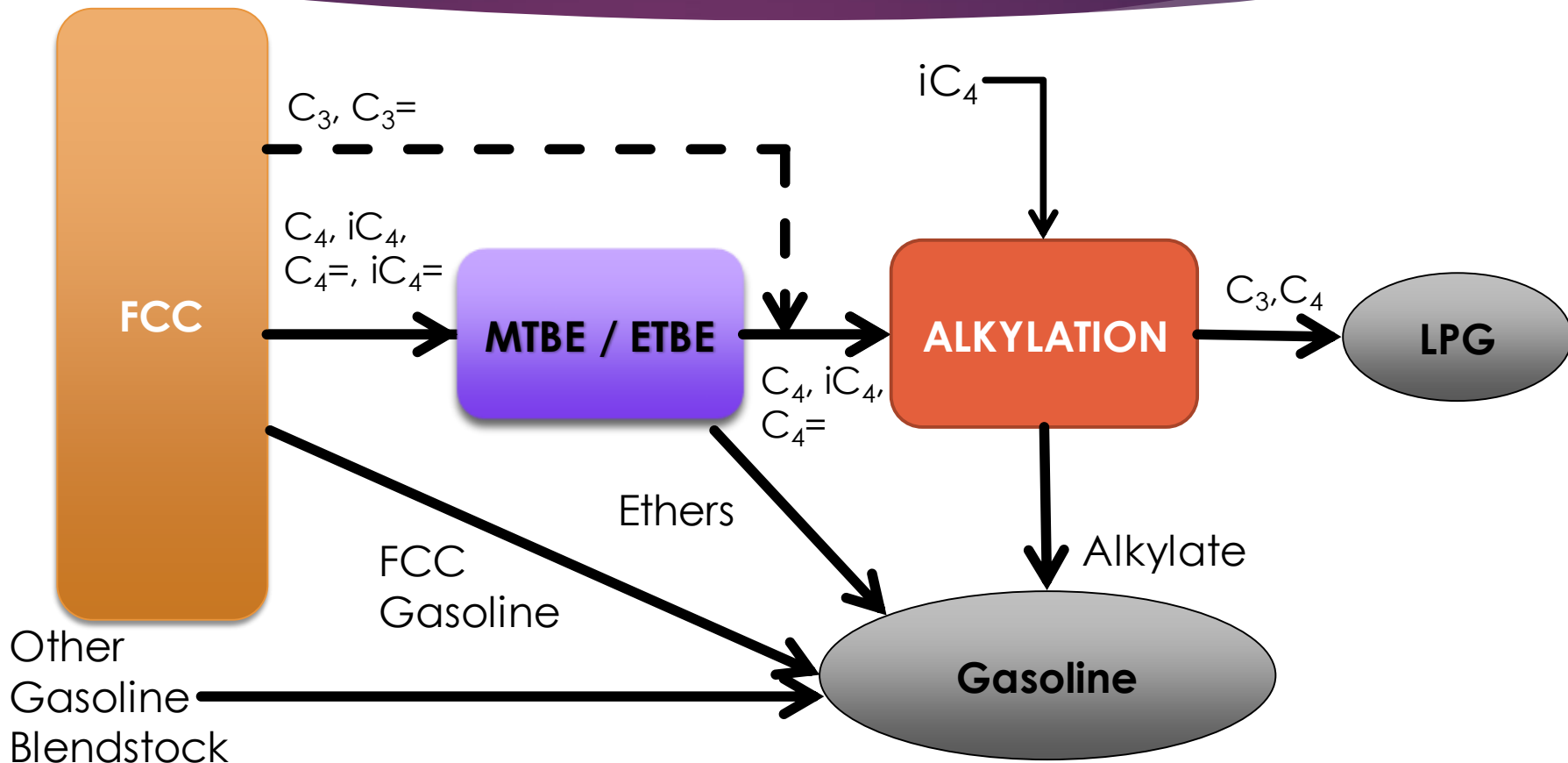
- ▶ Alkylation Overview
- ▶ Moving Beyond Liquid Acids
- ▶ K-SAAT Overview
- ▶ Benefits of K-SAAT
- ▶ Commercialization

# Gasoline Blend Components

	C4	LSR	Isomer ate	Other Naph	FCC Light Naph	FCC Heavy Naph	Alkylate	Refor - mate	Ethers	Ethanol
RON	-	--	--	?	+	-	++	++	++	++
MON	+	--	--	?	-	--	++	++	++	++
RVP	--	--	--	?	--	++	++	++	++	--
E70	--	--	--	?	--	++	++	++	+	--
FBP	++	++	++	?	++	-	++	-	++	++
Olefins	+	++	++	?	--	-	++	++	++	++
Aromatics	++	++	++	?	++	+	++	--	++	++
Benzene	++	?	++	?	-	++	++	?	++	++
Oxygen	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	--	--

**Alkylate is the preferred premium gasoline blendstock**

# Alkylation (in the Refinery)



**$C_3 / C_4$  Olefins + iso-Butane  $\Rightarrow$  Alkylate**

# Moving Beyond Liquid Acids

- Challenges of Liquid Acids
  - ▶ High maintenance expense
  - ▶ Safety, Environmental and liability issues
- Solid Acids offer a new opportunity
  - ▶ Reduced Maintenance expenses
  - ▶ Lower Chemical Inventory
  - ▶ Inherently Safe Technology
  - ▶ Tunable (Resemble FCC Catalysts)

**Solid Acids surpass Liquid Acids in many aspects**

# Solid Acid Catalyst Advantages

Catalyst	Tunable Parameters	Advantages
Liquid Acid	None	
Solid Acids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chemical Variables<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acid Site Strength</li><li>• Acid Site Density</li><li>• Acid Site Type</li></ul></li><li>• Physical Variables<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pore Size</li><li>• Pore Configuration</li><li>• Particle Size</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase Octane</li><li>• Decrease Olefin polymerization</li><li>• Eliminate ASO</li><li>• Reduce RVP</li></ul>

>> Improved control & safety, improved product & reliability <<  
>> improved economics <<

# ExSact Catalyst

- Zeolite catalyst
- Precious Metal Free Catalyst
- Produces high octane alkylate
- Eliminates Acid Soluble Oils (ASO)
- Regenerated using hydrogen
- 30 times longer Alkylation Cycle than other Solid Acid catalysts



# K-SAAT Conceptual Scheme

Simple process, no acid neutralization equipment, no refrigeration loops → Reduced CapEx

LPG  
(Olefin,  
Isobutane)

Feed  
Treatment

K-SAAT  
Reactor  
Alkylation

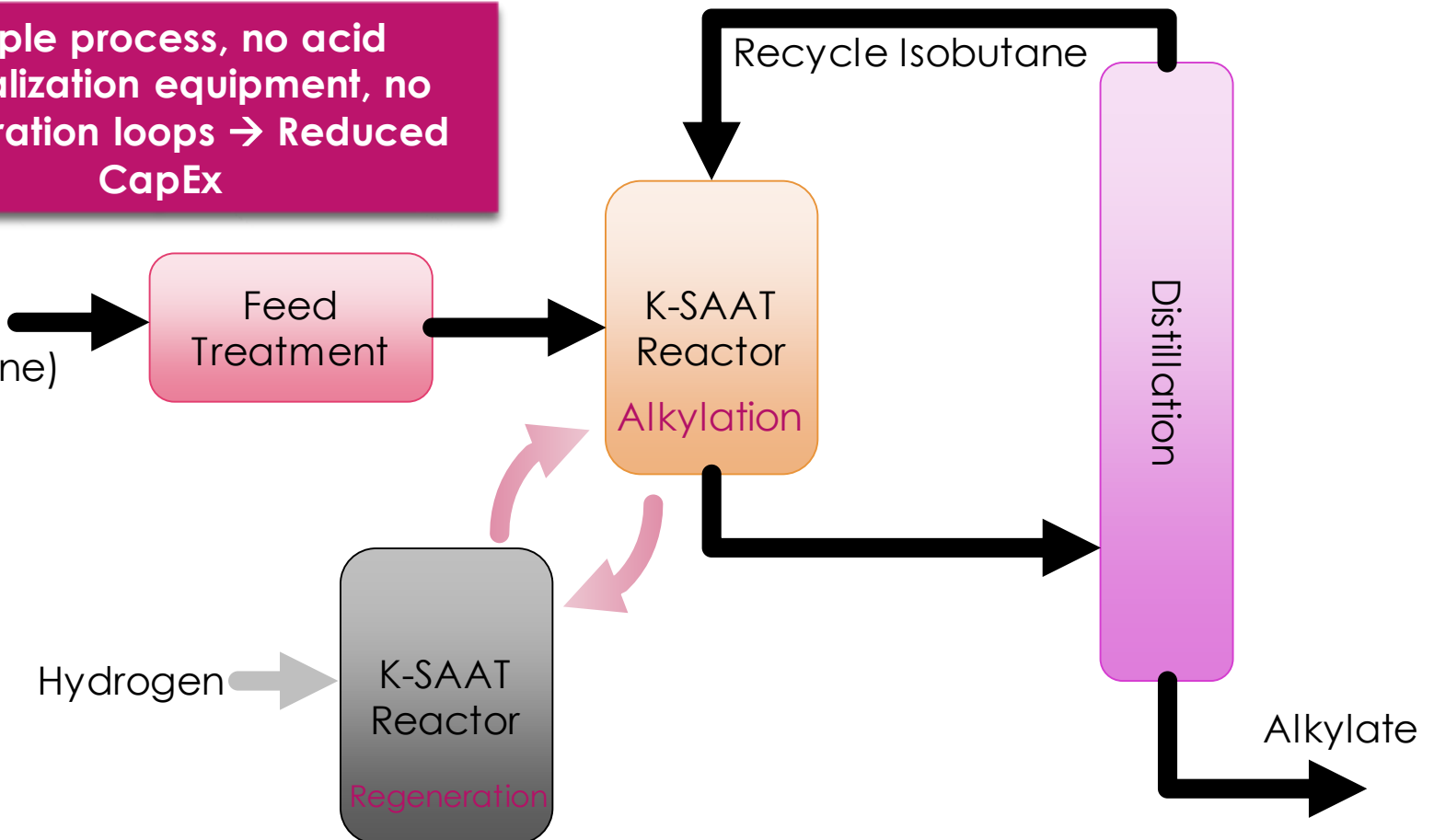
Recycle Isobutane

Distillation

Hydrogen

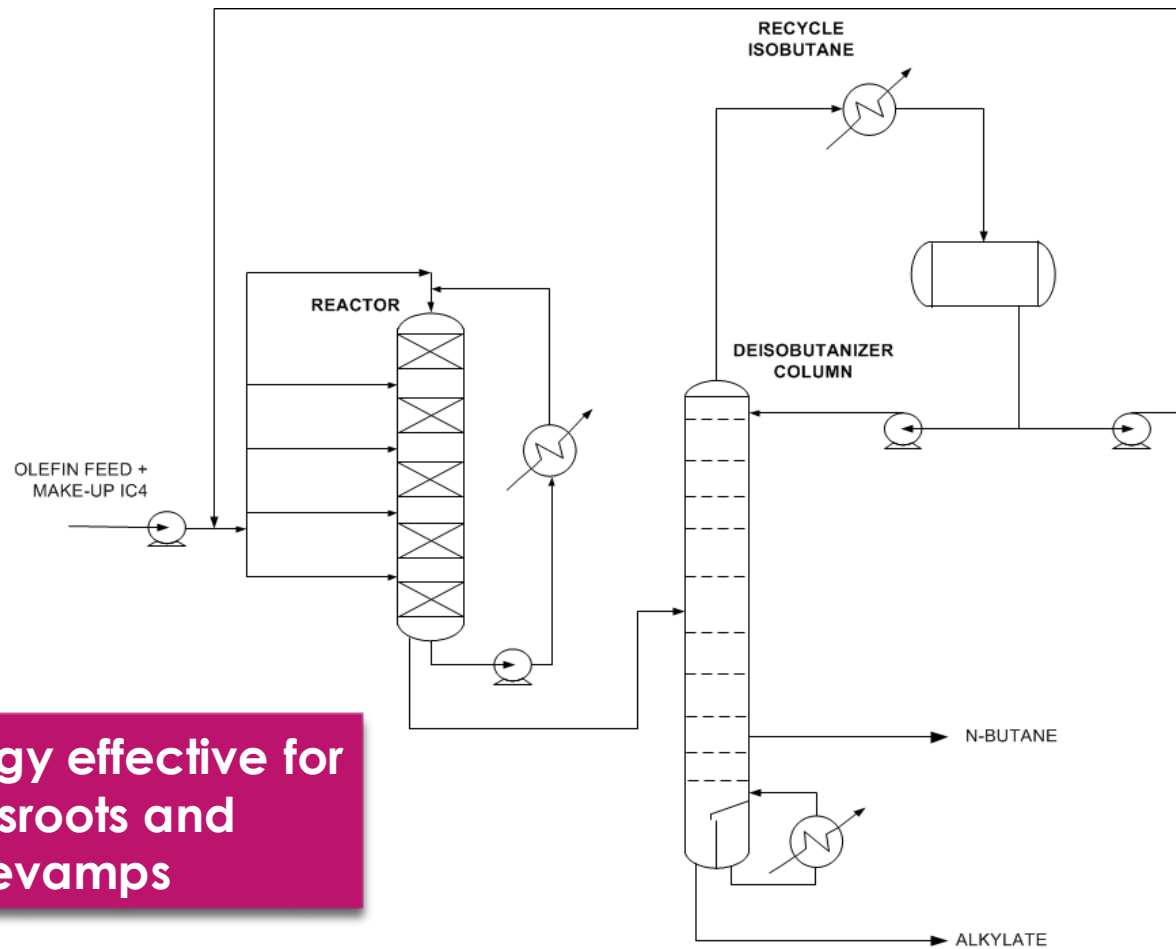
K-SAAT  
Reactor  
Regeneration

Alkylate



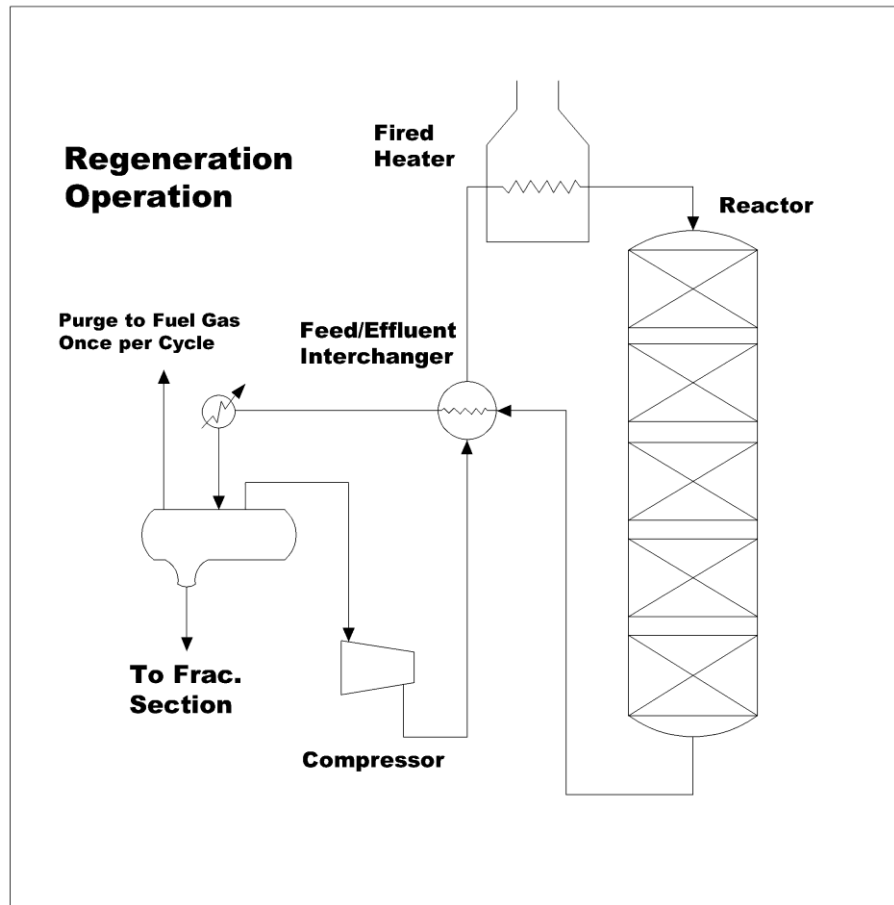


# Process Scheme



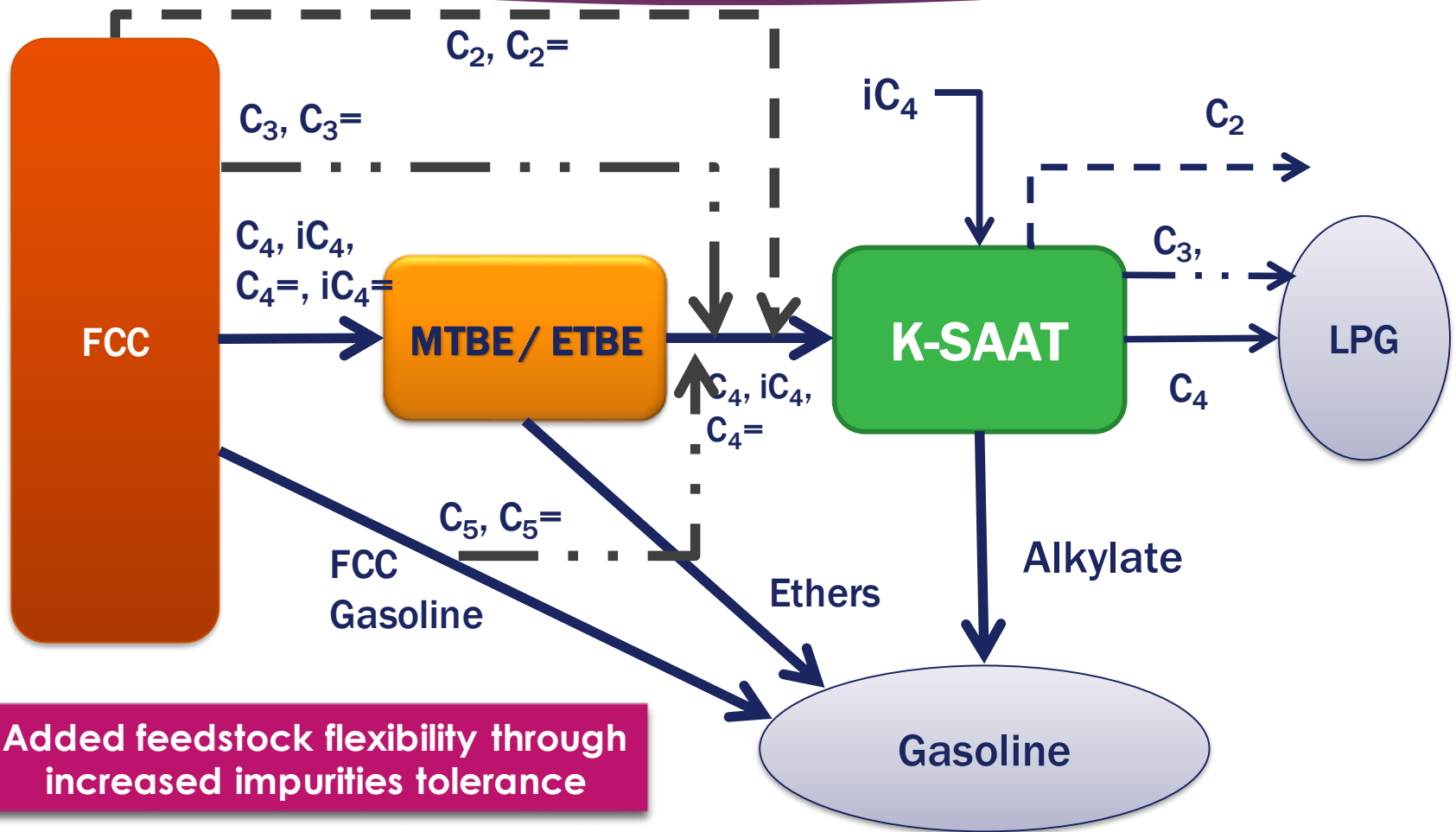
**Technology effective for  
Grassroots and  
Revamps**

# Process Scheme - Regeneration



**Reformer Grade  
Hydrogen (~80%  
purity)**

# Feed Flexibility with K-SAAT



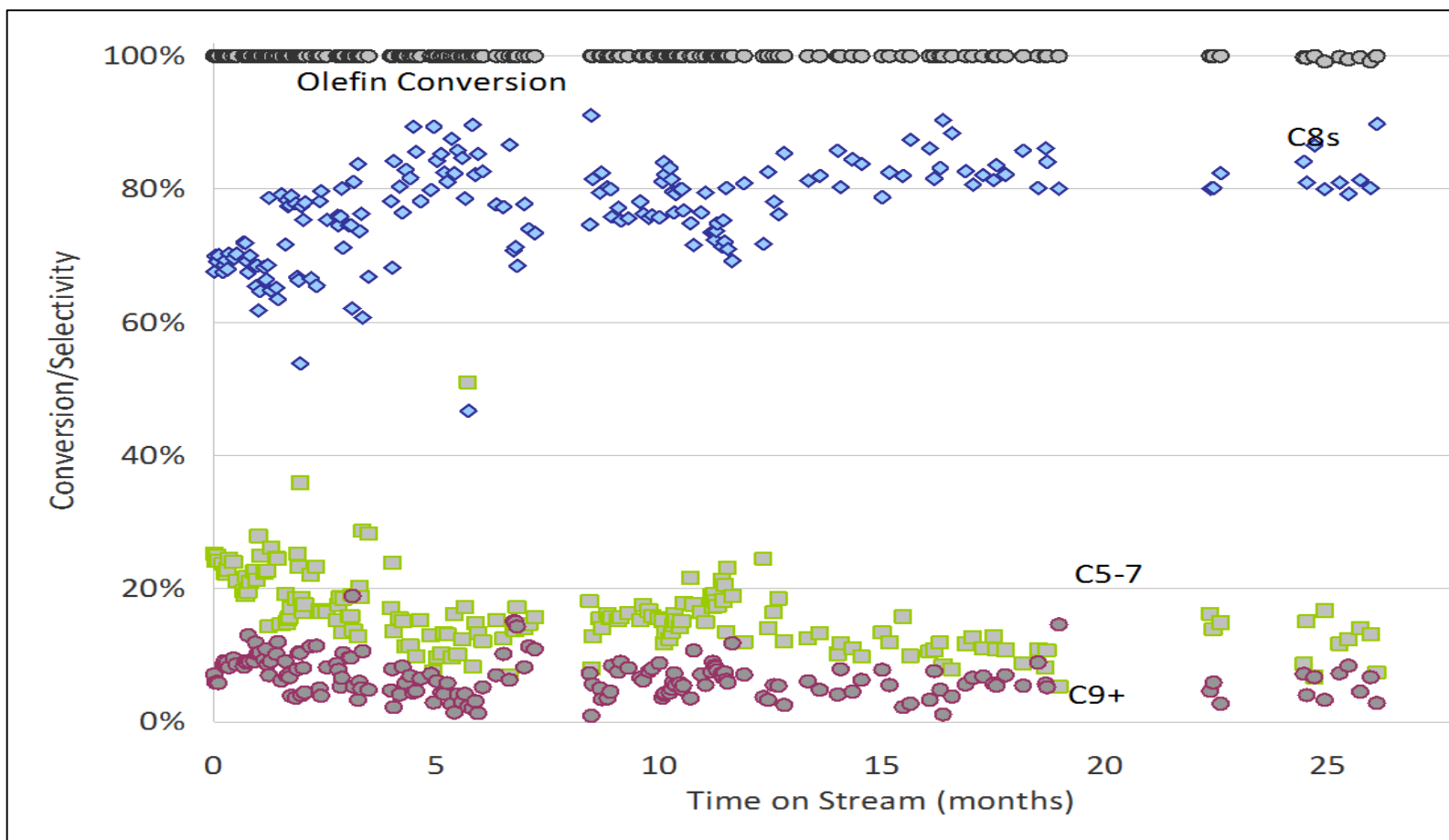
# Enhanced Feed Flexibility

- Feedstock flexibility:
  - ▶ Ethylene, Propylene, mixed Butenes, Amylenes
- Higher Octane (+1 point of octane):

Feed	Ethylene	Propylene ( 70% C <sub>3</sub> =)	MTBE Raffinate	Butenes (30% i-C <sub>4</sub> =)	Amylenes
RON	99	92	99	97	91.0
MON	94.5	90	95	93	89.0

**Note: Liquid Acid Catalyst will not alkylate Ethylene**

# Catalyst Stability



# K-SAAT vs. Sulfuric Acid alkylation

	Sulfuric Acid	K-SAAT
Capital Investment	Base*	40% Base
Yields (vol/vol Olefin)		
Alkylate Yield	1.77	1.84
<b>Utilities (per Metric Tonne of Alkylate)</b>		
10 bar steam (kg)	840	973
Power (Kwh)	159	58
Cooling Water (m3)	71	87
Chemicals (kg)	4.4	--
Fuel Gas (MMkcal)	--	0.12
Hydrogen (kg)	--	0.87

>> Lower CapEx, improved yields, reduced OpEx <<

# K-SAAT vs. other Solid Acid Catalysts

	<b>K-SAAT</b>	<b>Competition</b>
RON	99+	95-97
RVP (KPa)	<30	<50
Layout	2-3 reactors	3 Reactors
Cycle time	16 - 24 hrs	Less than an hour
Noble metal Catalyst	No	Yes

# Commercialization Status

- KBR has signed two K-SAAT licenses
- The first unit
  - ▶ Licensee: Dong Ying Haike Ruilin Chemical Co. Ltd
  - ▶ Location: Shandong Province, China.
  - ▶ Start up: Q2 2018
- The second
  - ▶ Licensee: Luoyang Aiyou Chemical Co.
  - ▶ Location: Henan Province, China



# Summary – K-SAAT

- Superior quality alkylate
  - ▶ +1 Higher Octane
  - ▶ < 1 ppm Sulfur
- Feed flexibility
- Higher octane barrel yield
- Conventional Refinery operations
- Lower capital and operating costs
- Safer alternative to toxic liquid acids (HF and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>)
- Commercial Unit performance exceeds expectations

