











Funded by the European Union

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## Ethylene Hydroformylation Catalysis

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## Hydroformylation

Hydroformylation is the process by which an olefin reacts with syngas to form an aldehyde.

Also commonly known as the "Oxo" process, hydroformylation **is the first step in the production of oxo alcohols** with the intermediate aldehyde converted to an alcohol by hydrogenation.





## Hydroformylation

### Johnson Matthey and Dow LP OxoSM technology is the world's leading process to alcohols from olefins.

The offer to the licensees is a combination of superior catalyst and a simplified flowsheet, which results in lean design , low investment cost, and high feedstock efficiency in a plant that is environmentally compliant and reliable.



Platinum Metals Rev., 2007, 51, (4), 164 doi: 10.1595/147106707X238211

EU-project Horizon 2020 GA No. 814557 C123 Methane oxidative conversion and hydroformylation to propylene



## C123 HF catalyst challenge

# Coupling a robust heterogeneous hydroformylation process with oxidative coupling of methane could disrupt the current oxo process technology.

- The **hydroformylation** will require to operate in **gas phase** and operate at lower pressure that usual.
- The traditional Rh active complexes anchored with a covalent bond into traditional carriers, polymers and metal organic framework structures.





## **Anchored catalyst Strategies**

Metal Organic Frameworks	<ul> <li>Phosphine modified NU1000 and MOF808.</li> <li>Rhodium complex inserted.</li> </ul>		
Polymers	<ul> <li>Polyphos phoshine modified Synthesis metallated with Rh Complexes.</li> <li>Amine and phosphine Functionalised resin beads.</li> </ul>		
Silica Functionalization	<ul> <li>Organosilane Chemistry.</li> <li>Anchor Rh complex over amine or Phosphine group.</li> </ul>		
	Johnson Matthey Technol. Rev., 2021, 65, (2), 31 doi: 10.1595/205651321X16051060155762		



Polymer beads were synthesized with the help of mechanical stirrer

Using Mowiol 40-88 via suspension technique





C123

EU-project Horizon 2020 GA No. 814557 C123 Methane oxidative conversion and hydroformylation to propylene <sup>16</sup>

## Synthesis of novel MOF based heterogeneous catalysts





- NU1000 synthesis (MOF-808)
- Functionalizing the MOF
- Formulating the MOF
- Testing Heterogenous catalysts





### **Formulation of functionalized NU-1000**

- TRL 5 heterogenous testing requires 500-1.5mm particles
- Previously extruded UTSA-16 by mixing with PVA

#### Steps PVA-method:

- 1. PVA solution
- 2. Mixing PVA with MOF
- 3. Extruding/milling/sifting
- 4. Characterization

#### Pelletising method:

- 1. Tablets pressed by applying pressure
- 2. Milling/sifting
- 3. Characterization









## JM Catalyst Strategy: JM Johnson Matthey Inspiring science, enhancing life

#### **Material family A:**

Amine functionalized materials are reacted with Rh catalysts

#### **Material family B:**

0 <sup>H</sup>

Functionalised TPhP materials react with Rh salts and phosphines

EU-project Horizon 2020



Energy [keV

EDS - SEM



## **Catalyst Testing:**

Catalyst	M-complex	
NU-1000-P-Rh-PVA	Rh(acac)(CO) <sub>2</sub> Rh(H)(CO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	
RhH@Polyphos-1 beads (400- 600 um)	Rh(H)(CO)(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> Rh(acac)(CO) <sub>2</sub>	cnrs
MOF-808-P-RhH-PVA	(CO)HRh(PPh3)3	

Sample code	Catalyst	Initial conversion [%] TOS = 200 min	Recheck conversion TOS = 2150 min	Propanal selectivity* [%]	Stability	Synthesis reproducibility (first estimate)
Mf-C123-90-21	NU-1000-P- RhH-PVA	57%	75%	95-97%	+++	-
Mf-C123-134-21	NU-1000-P- PVA-Rh(acac)	78%	61%	98%	+	+++
PSM-B-033-10	Rh(CO)2(acac) Polyphos	77%	47%	80-85%	-	++



## Results and Synthesis reproducibility



## CO ethylene ratio analysis





*Positive effect of* increased CO content in the feed

**Pressure effect** 

As expected positive effect of increased pressure in the conversion





## Stability





## Summary

- Several interesting candidates for gas phase HF showing good performance
  - Rh-Polyphos exhibited stability issues
  - Rh functionalised NU-1000 is robust but economically unviable
- Rh(acac)(CO)<sub>2</sub> shows overall best performance and is reproducible
- Several attempts of making a Co functionalised NU-1000 not active for HF
- Positive effect of increased CO content in the feed
- Positive effect when pressure is increased as expected
- Small ammounts of O<sub>2</sub> in the feed rapidly deactivates the catalyst
- No negative effect observed with 20 % CO<sub>2</sub> in the feed



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• Didier Bonet (PI) Thomas Michon (Shaping and Formulation)

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