



September 2025

In the Toolbox

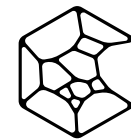
Selective Strategies for SRU Stability & Optimization

Leslie Johnson



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Crystaphase

**We've been
down this
road before.**

142

SRU installs

2005

First SRU install

10,400+

Samples processed

4,600+

Installations

490+

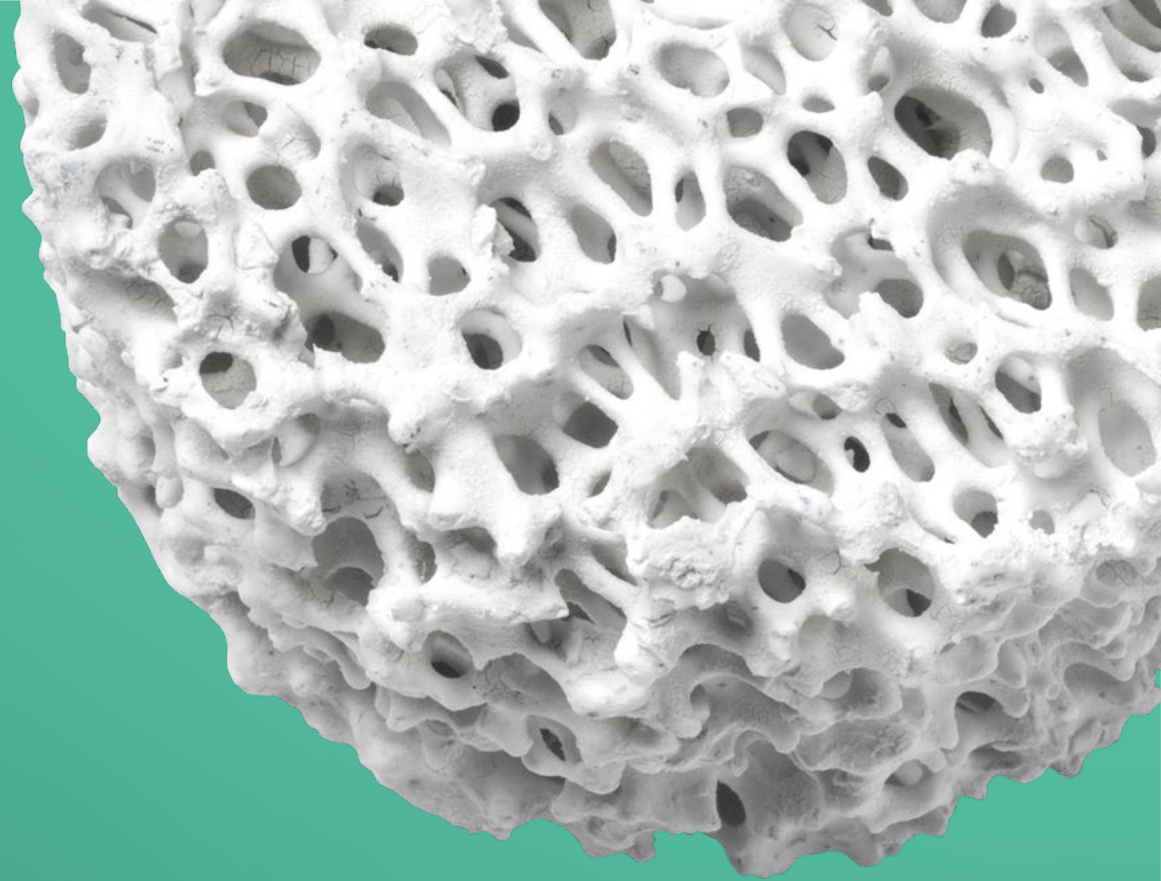
Locations

35+

Years in refining industry

Technology	# Installations
Naphtha Hydrotreater	1,324
Distillate	655
Gas Oils	620
Hydrocracker	605
Resid	233
Other	183
Lubes	177
Feed Filter/ Guard Vessel	151
Sulfur	142
Renewables	137
Reformer	103
Light Ends	98
Adsorbent Beds	83
Isomerization	49
Pygas	47

Managing the dP growth path in SRUs is critical.



SRUs are low-pressure systems. Even small increases in pressure drop due to fouling can restrict the throughput and cause premature shutdowns.



Oh soot!

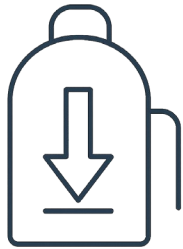
Incomplete Combustion

- Improper air to fuel ratio
- Variance in gas composition
- Burner issues
- Low temperature
- Insufficient mixing

Hydrocarbon Carryover

- BTX
- Light hydrocarbons & paraffins
- Lube oils from compressors

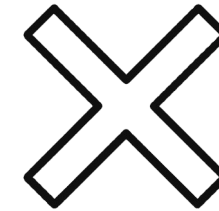
The Stakes



**Lower
Throughput**



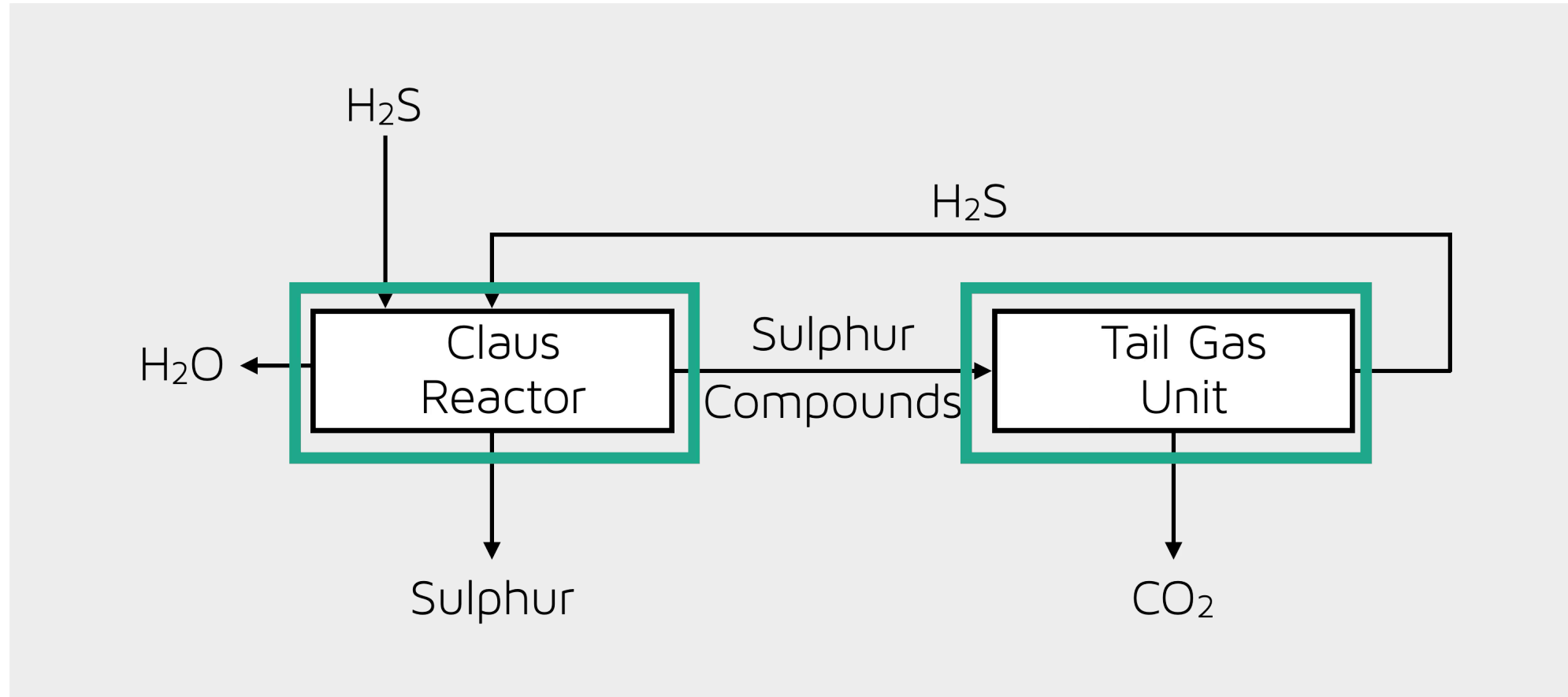
**More
Shutdowns**



**High Opportunity
Cost**

SRU Unit

Where is Crystaphase utilized?



Claus Configuration

Where is Crystaphase utilized?

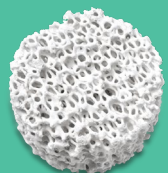


Mostly Bed 1. Sometimes subsequent beds when gas fired reheater.

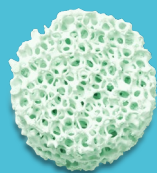
The Tools

Addressing constraints

Pressure Drop Mitigation



**CatTrap®
Technology**

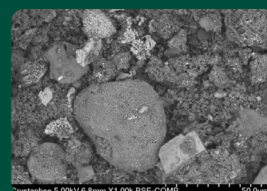


**ActiPhase®
SRU
Technology**

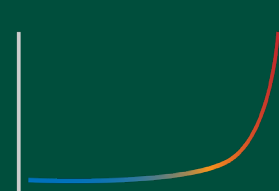


**HeavyTrap®
Technology**

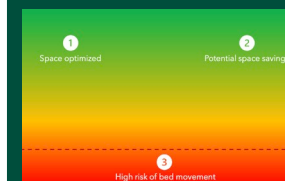
Space Optimization



**Sample
Analysis**

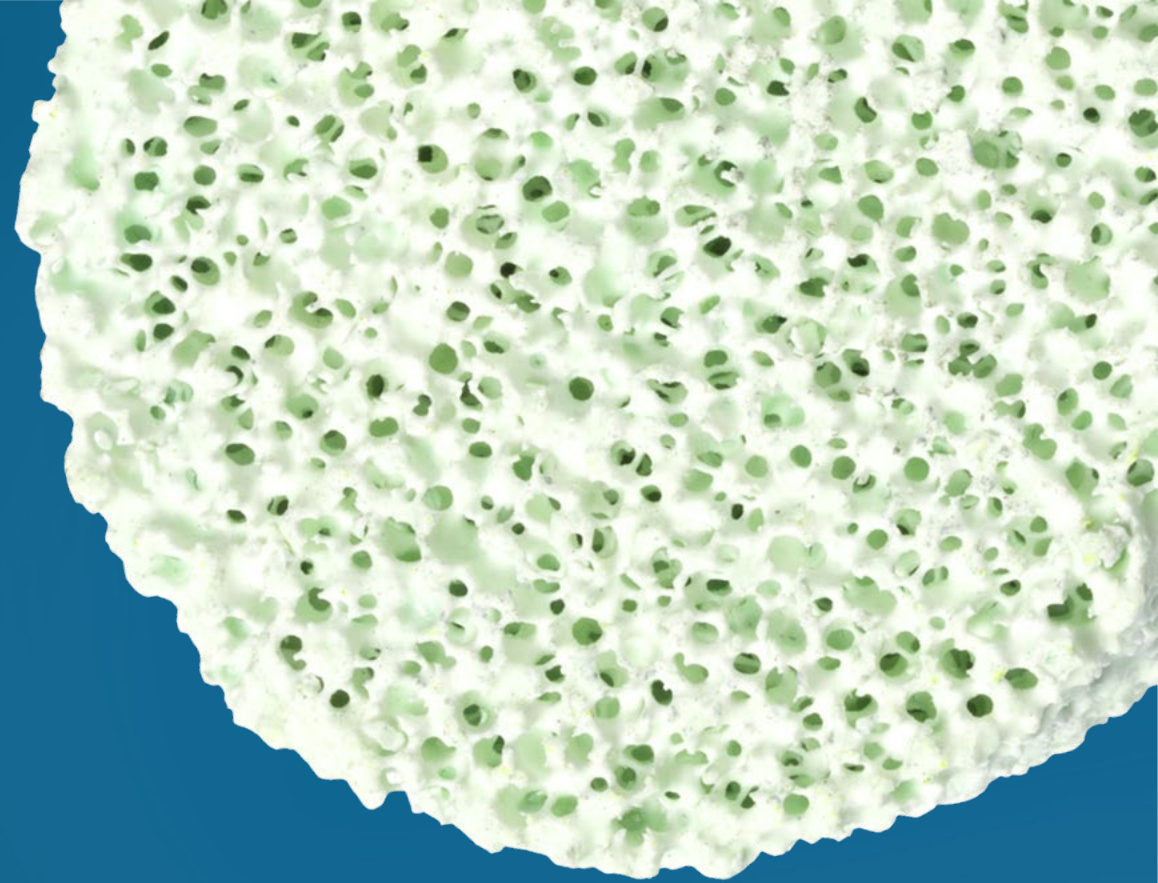


**Fouling
Models**



**The
Hold-Down
Model**

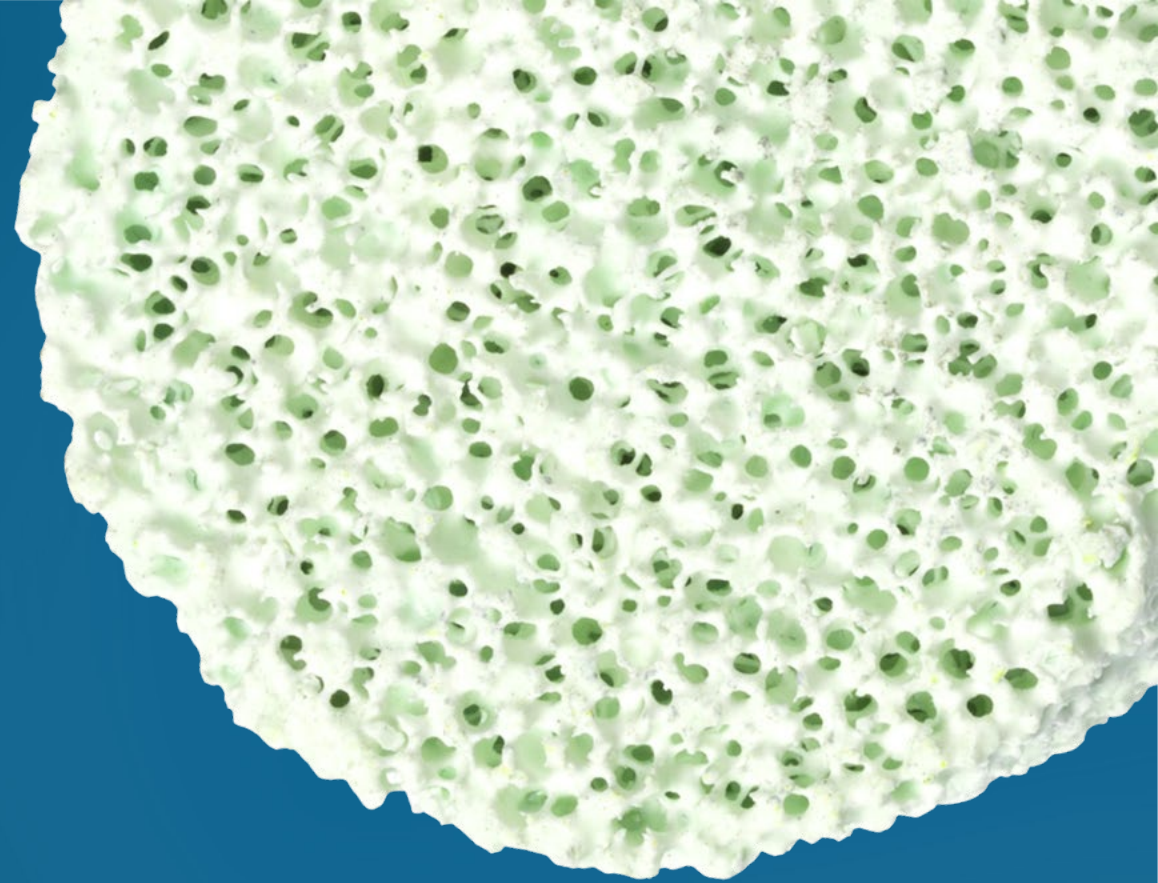
Minimizing pressure drop



Capturing soot with reticulated
ceramic technologies



Minimizing pressure drop



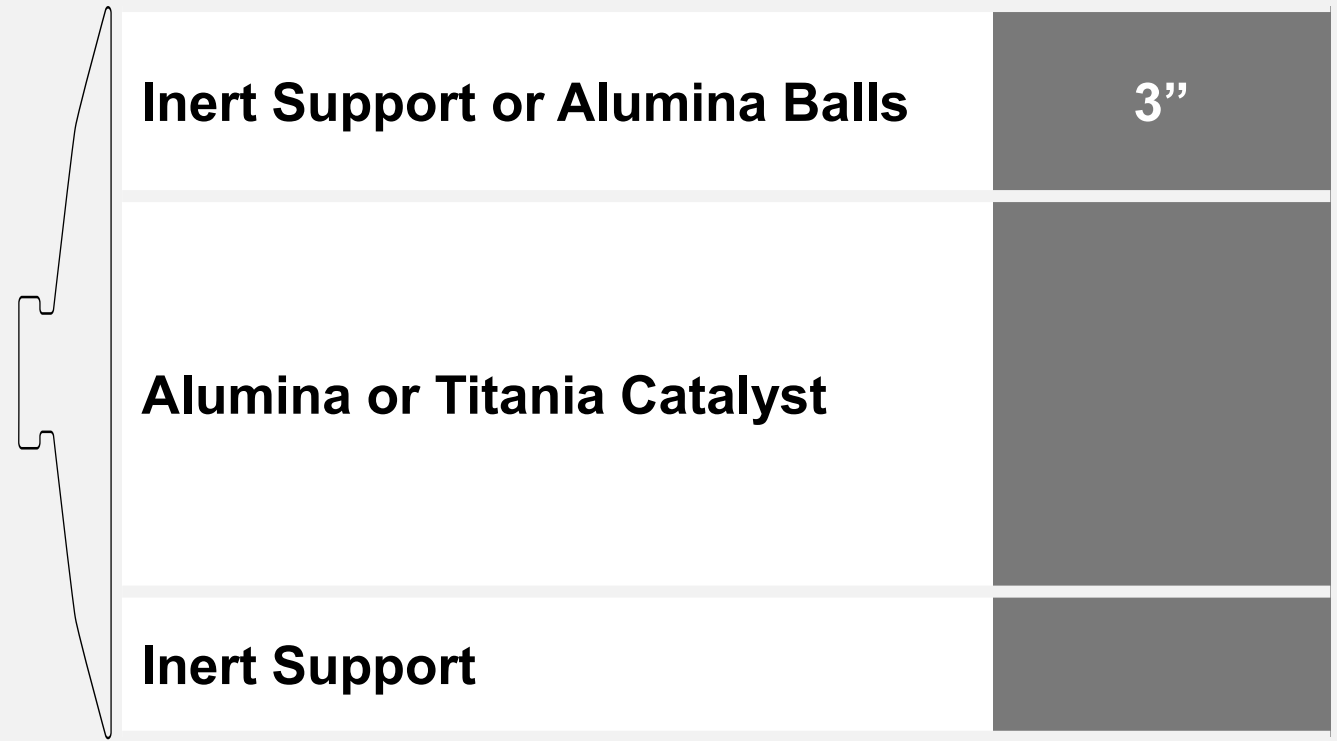
Capturing soot with reticulated ceramic technologies:

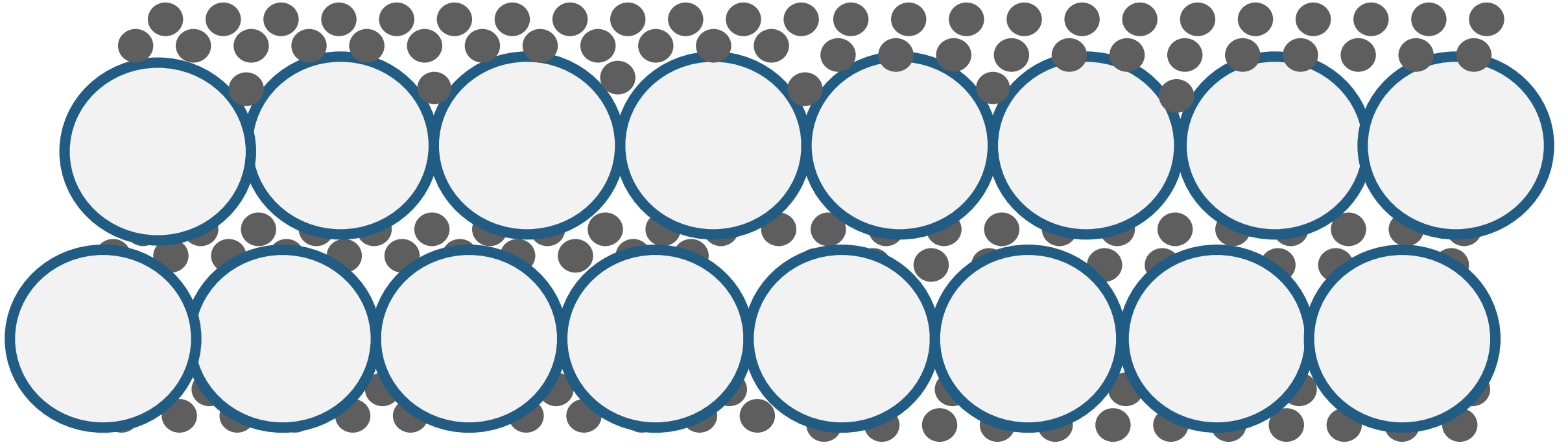
- CatTrap Technology
- ActiPhase SRU Technology
- HeavyTrap Technology



Typical Claus Reactor Design

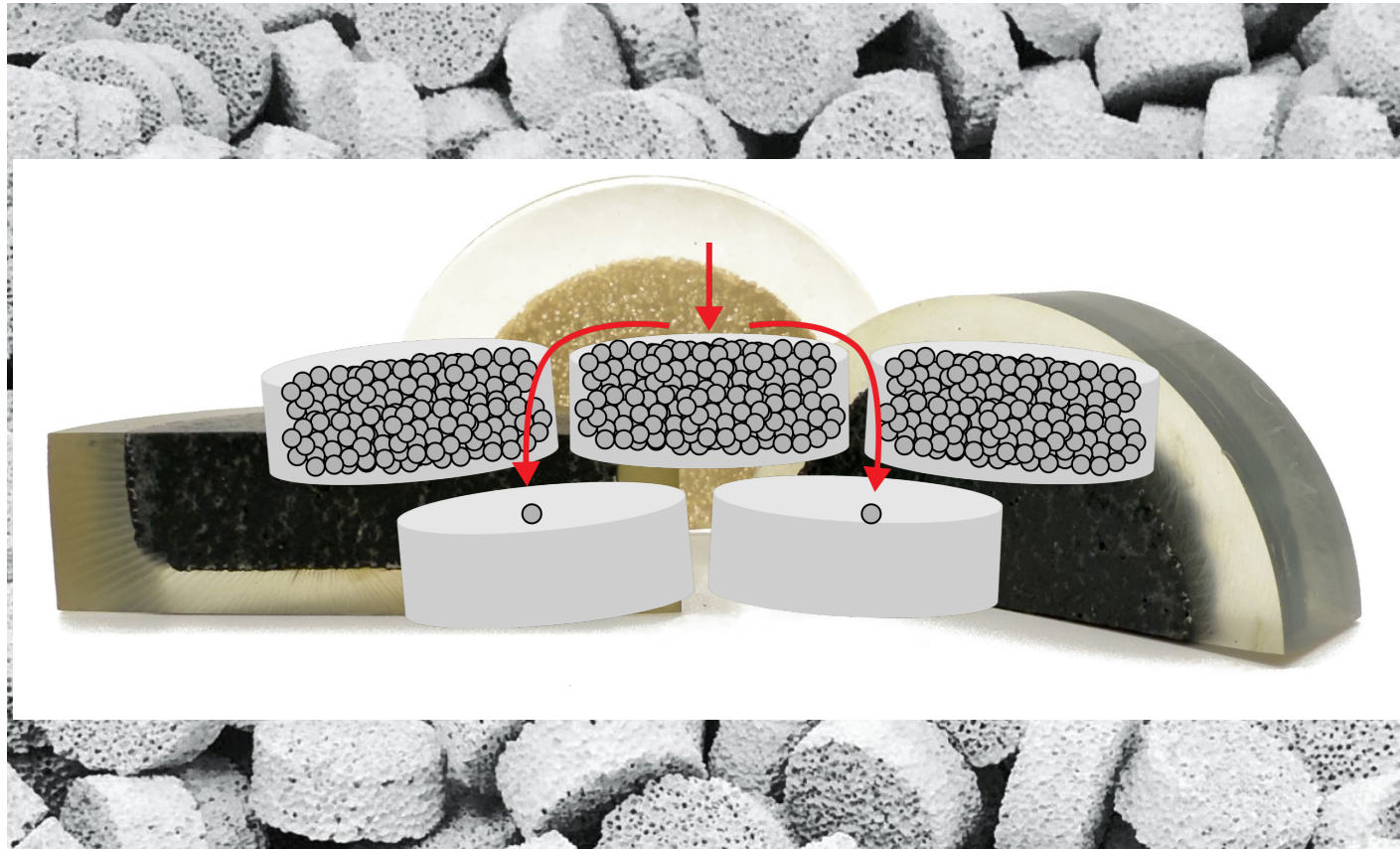
Pressure drop control and activity





Spheres and catalyst

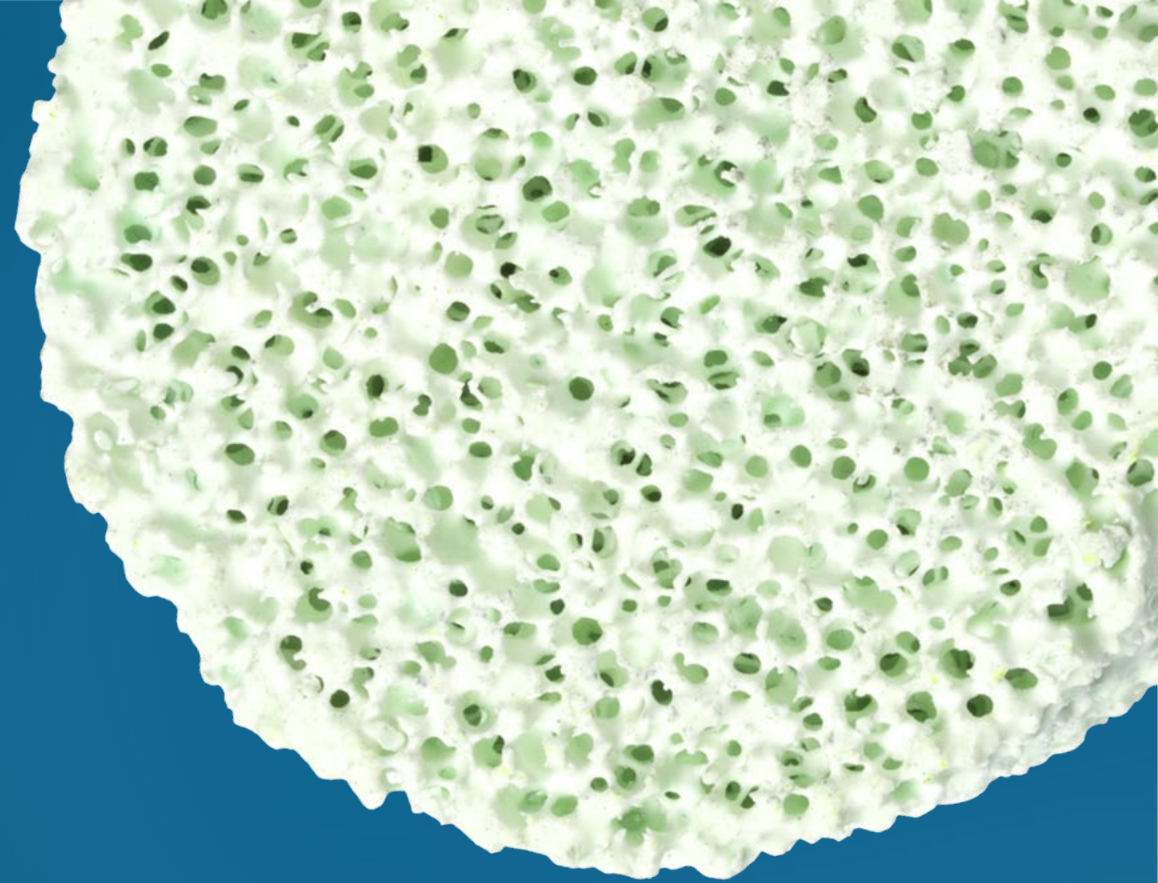
External filtration: crust layer formation leads to ΔP growth



Reticulated ceramics

Internal filtration: external bypass mitigates ΔP growth

Optimizing space

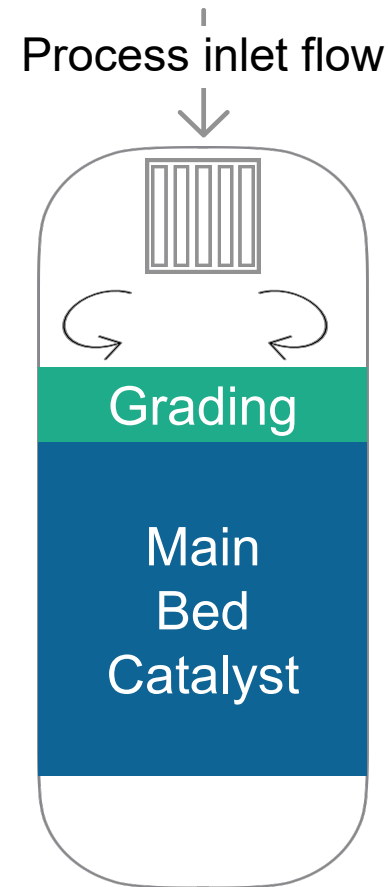


Evaluating feasibility of reducing
head space using advanced model.



The Crystaphase Hold-Down Model

Assessing risk. Preventing movement.



V_h

Horizontal velocity being produced in the vessel

$V_{h,max}$

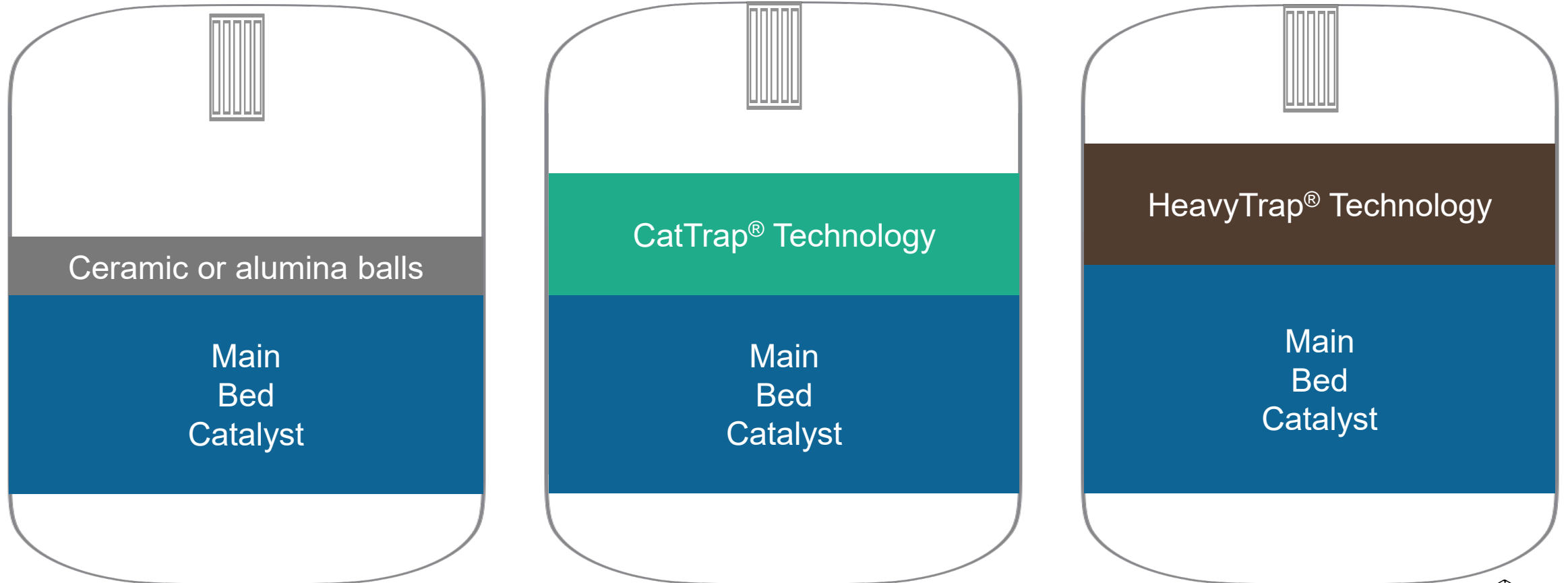
Horizontal velocity at which a given material moves

FoS

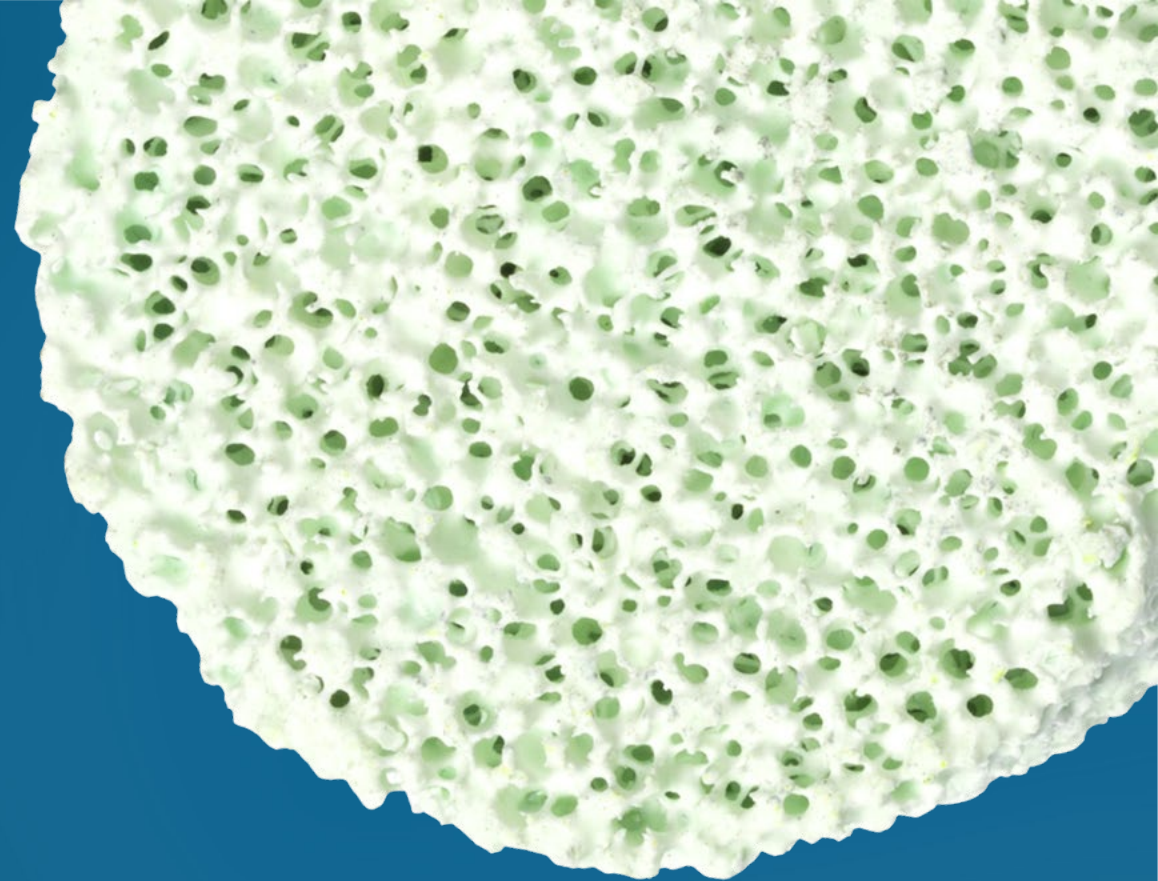
Factor of Safety: function of $V_{h,max}$ and V_h

Reducing the head space

Optimizing for dP control & activity

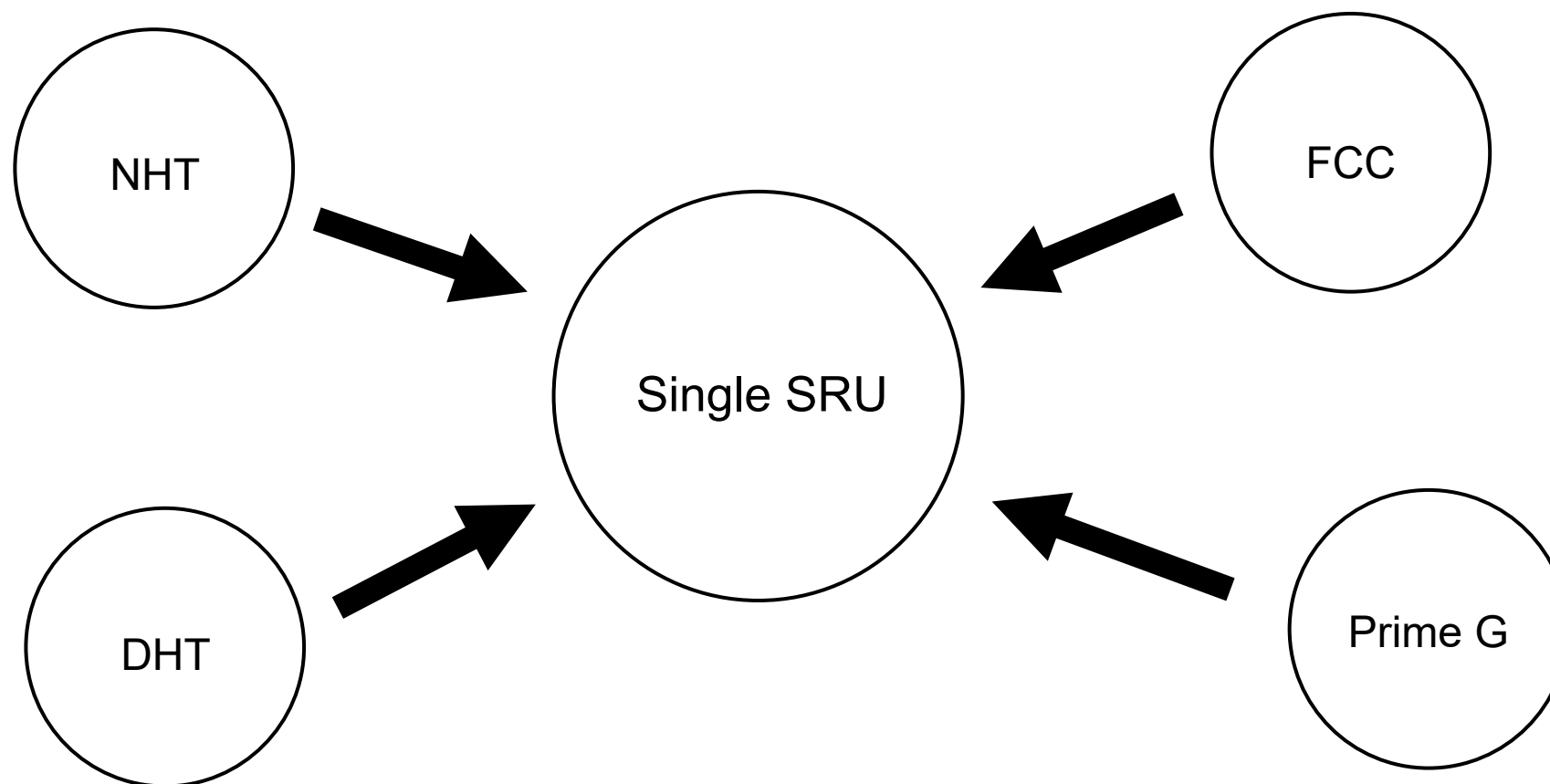


Using the tools



Reducing the head space

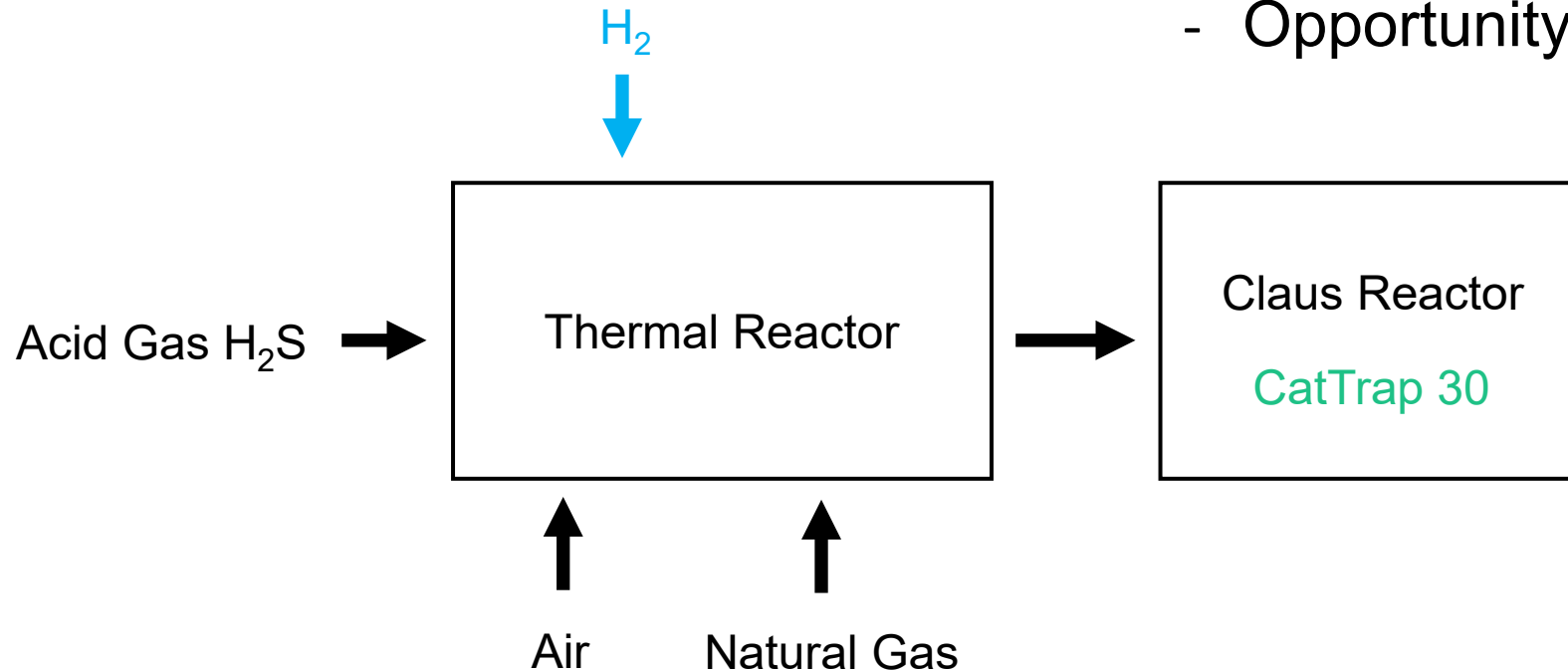
Optimizing for dP control & activity



Small US refinery

Using tools to address dP problem

- 3 years into the cycle, refinery-wide upset. Lost hydrogen
- Co-firing with natural gas for two weeks
- dP remained stable
- Opportunity shutdown one year later



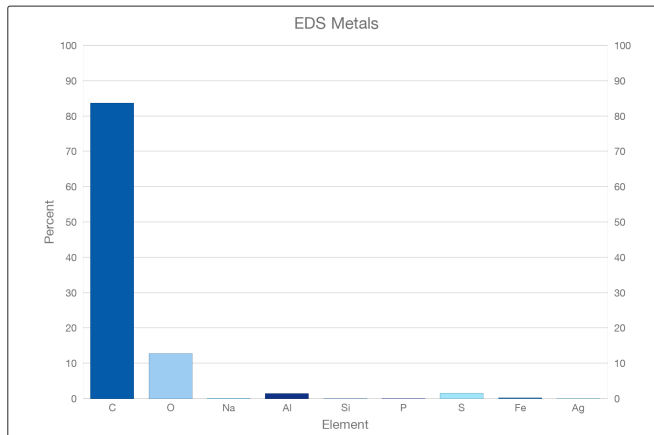
Learning through sample analysis of SRUs

More tools in the toolbox

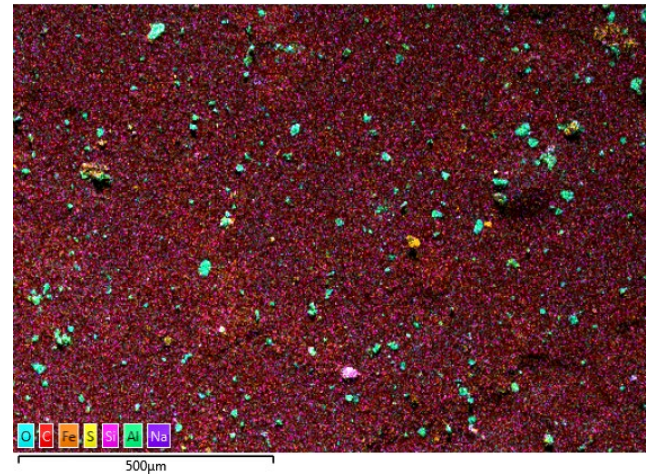
Volume Utilization

35%

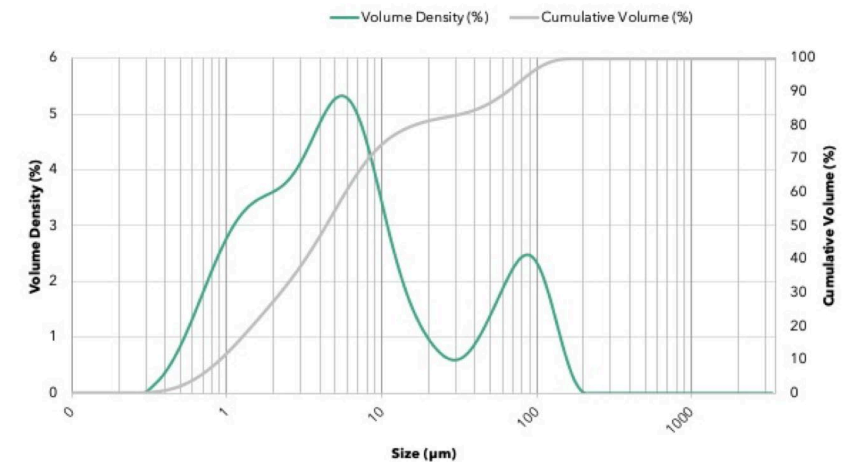
EDS Analysis



SEM Imaging



Particle Size Distribution



CatTrap held foulant equivalent to a

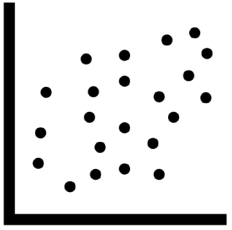
1/2-inch crust layer

with no noticeable rise in pressure drop.

**“There is great satisfaction
in building tools for other
people to use.”**

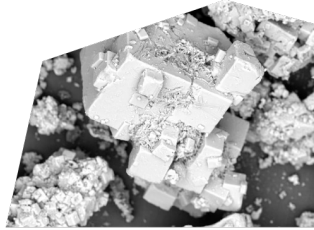
-Freeman Dyson

How Crystaphase supports refiners



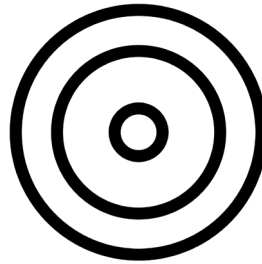
Learn

Understanding past performance / experience and obtain samples



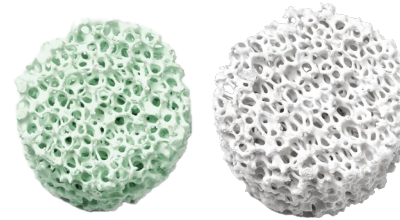
Analyze

In-depth foulant analysis, distribution analysis, and timely reporting



Goal Set

Target setting for run-length, feed types, and foulant load



Design

Quantitative design of Crystaphase systems to meet cycle goals



Monitor

Track unit performance, evaluate trends, and predict constraints