### DISTRIBUTED PRODUCTION OF METHANOL

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# DISTRIBUTED PRODUCTION OF FUELS MAKES SENSE IF

- Raw material is highly distributed
   OR
- Fuel use points are highly distributed

### DISTRIBUTED RAW MATERIAL

- Shale gas: highly distributed
  - 50 100 times smaller than conventional
- Gas associated with shale oil
  - Median < 50,000 scfd in Bakken</li>
- Biogas from waste water treatment
  - 50-100 thousand scfd
  - Uses methanol for denitrification: closed loop
- Biogas from animal waste impoundments
  - 100,000 to 1 MM scfd

### **DISTRIBUTED FUEL USAGE**

Methanol for blending with gasoline

Methanol for boats

DME for trucks, trains and LPG blending

Hydrogen for automobiles

#### **NEED SMALL SCALE GAS TO FUELS**

- Liquids transportable even in small volumes
- Challenges the orthodoxy in chem. engineering
- Replacing economies of scale with economies of mass production and better catalysts
- Jobs distributed, not concentrated at ports
- Reduces pipeline infrastructure

### "Just-in-Place" Manufacturing

## Mass Manufacture and Scaling by Numbers

- Cost reduction from producing large numbers
- Units could be short lived

#### **Small Unit Size**

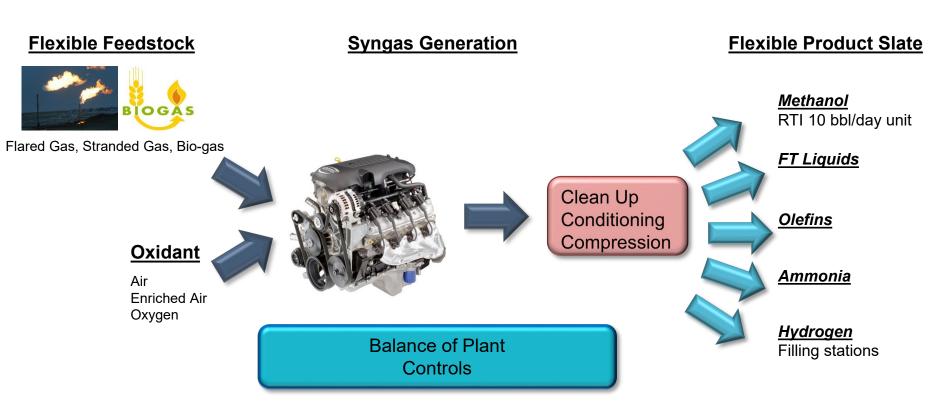
- Centralized (clustered) or distributed deployment
- Locate close to raw material or market demand (DME for trucks)

# Fast Deployment and Replacement

Reduce business risk, and risk of obsolescence

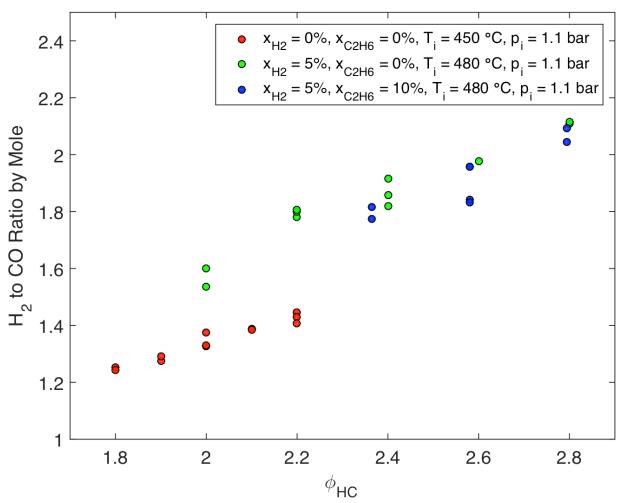


## **Engine-based Reformer**



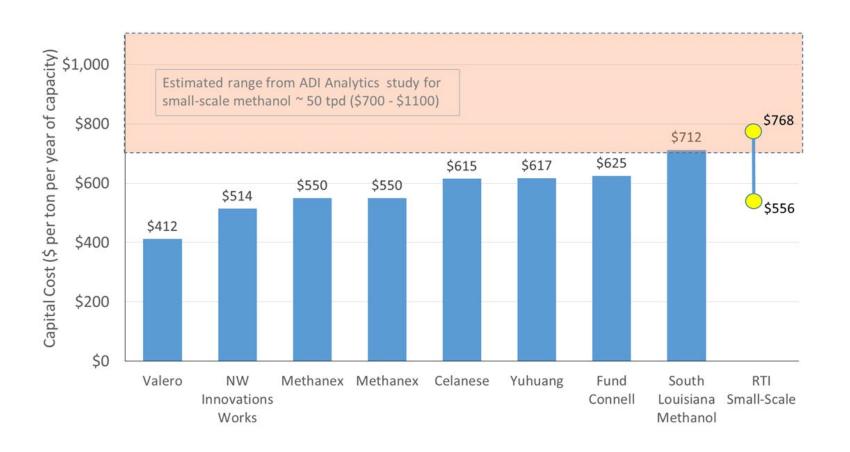
The engine is the key enabler for these technologies Methanol is the simplest molecule to produce

# Syngas composition as function of equivalence ratio



Lim, E MS Thesis in Mechanical Engineering, MIT

### Can Small-Scale Systems be Competitive?



# Horses for Courses One size does not fit all

