

# The Successful Evolution of CTX Technology in China

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[www.cornerstonemag.net](http://www.cornerstonemag.net)



# Overview

- Communicating Coal's Role
- China's Coal-Fueled Development
- The Evolution of CTX in China
  - Overview
  - ICTX
  - Case Study: Shenhua Group's DCTL project



# Communicating Coal's Role



- Launched in 2013 by the World Coal Association (worldcoal.org)
- Constructive forum
- Published quarterly
- 6000 English copies
- 4000 Mandarin copies
- Website: [cornerstonemag.net](http://cornerstonemag.net)
- Offered free of charge

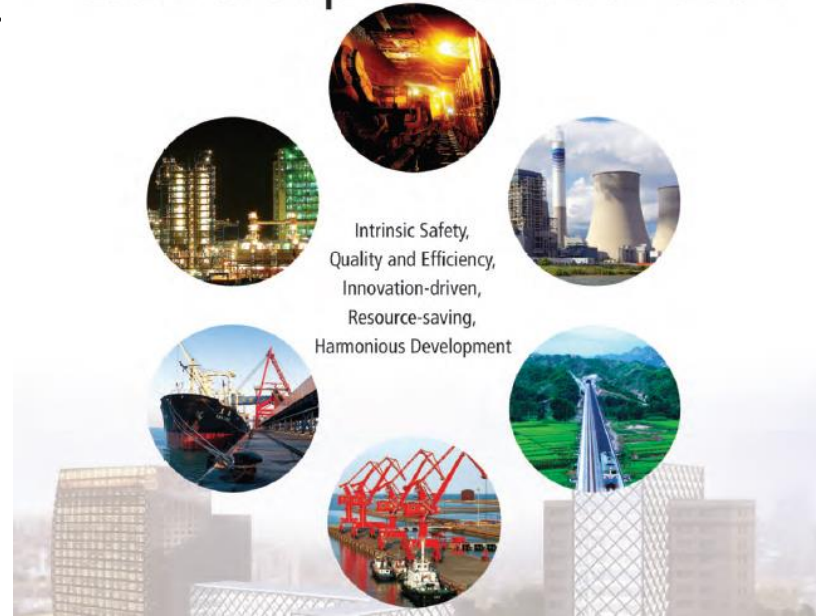


# Shenhua Group at a Glance



- Production
  - 2012 coal sales: 464.6 million t
- Transportation
  - Rail
  - Ports
- Conversion
  - Coal-to-liquids/chemicals
  - Electricity generation (207.9 billion kWh in 2012)

Global Leader in  
Coal Development and Utilization



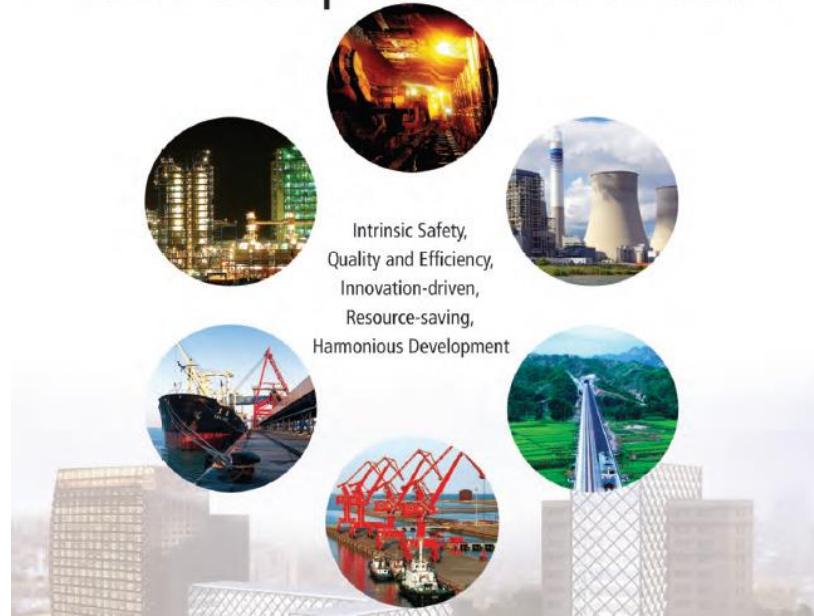
信心 战略 变革 责任

# Shenhua Group at a Glance



- 178 on 2013 Fortune Global 500 with operating revenue of \$54 billion
- 2013 winner World Coal Association Leadership on Mining Safety (fatality per million tonnes of coal half of U.S. average)

## Global Leader in Coal Development and Utilization



信心 战略 变革 责任

神华集团

# China's Coal-Fueled Development



# Dramatic Growth

- 650+ million people lifted out of poverty
- Responsible for nearly all recent poverty alleviation
- 99% electrification
- “Growth at all costs”





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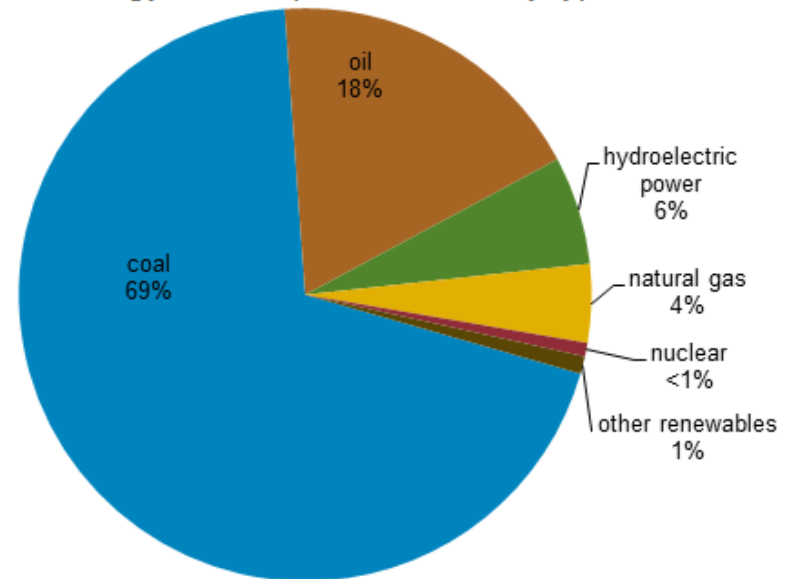
# China's energy situation


- Largest energy producer and consumer
- Net oil exporter until the 1990s
- China is expected to become the largest oil importer in 2014
- Increasing LNG imports
- Generally moving toward market-based energy prices

# China is largely fueled by coal

- 2011: 69% primary energy from coal
- EIA Estimates:
  - 2020: 65%
  - 2040: 55%
  - Even as percentage decreases, total consumption increases by 50%

Total energy consumption in China by type, 2011

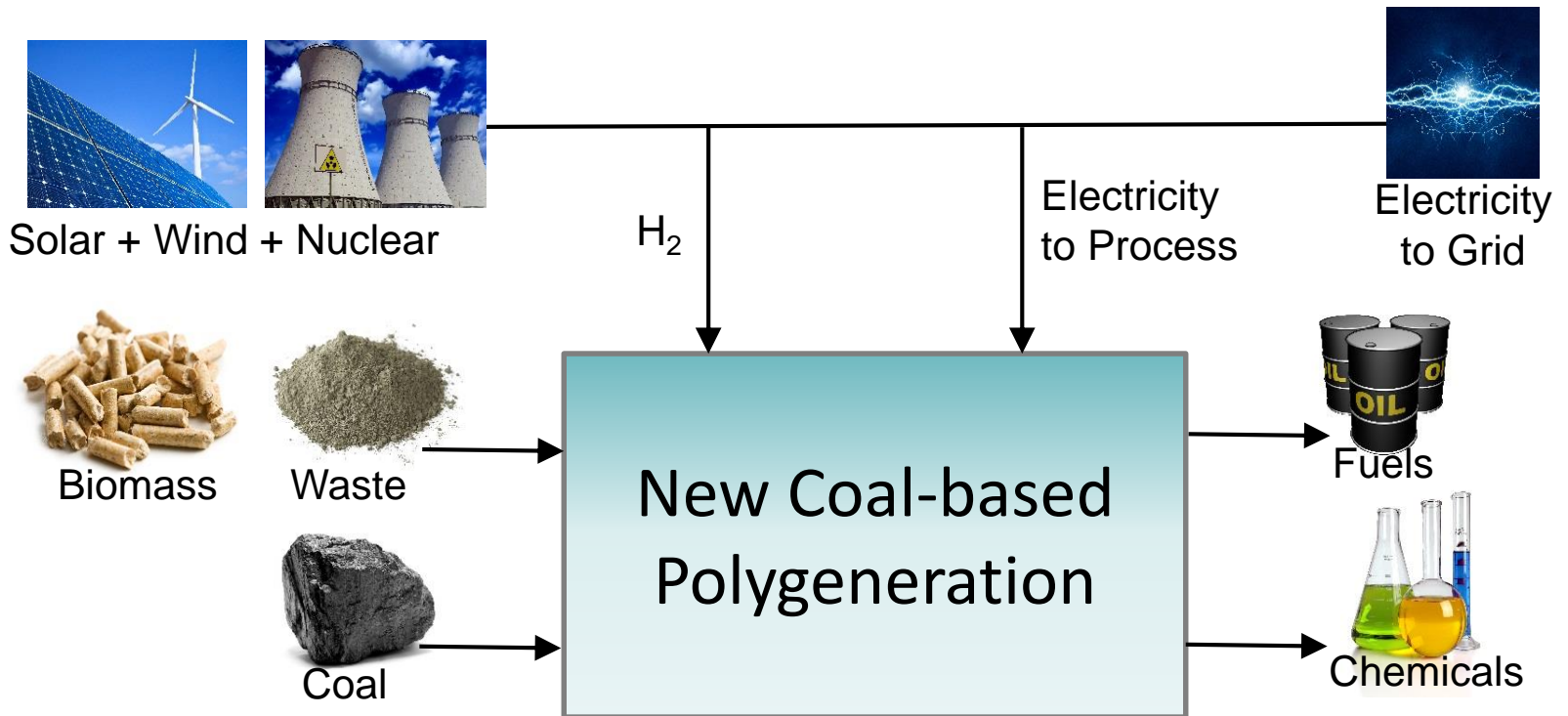


 Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration *International Energy Statistics*.

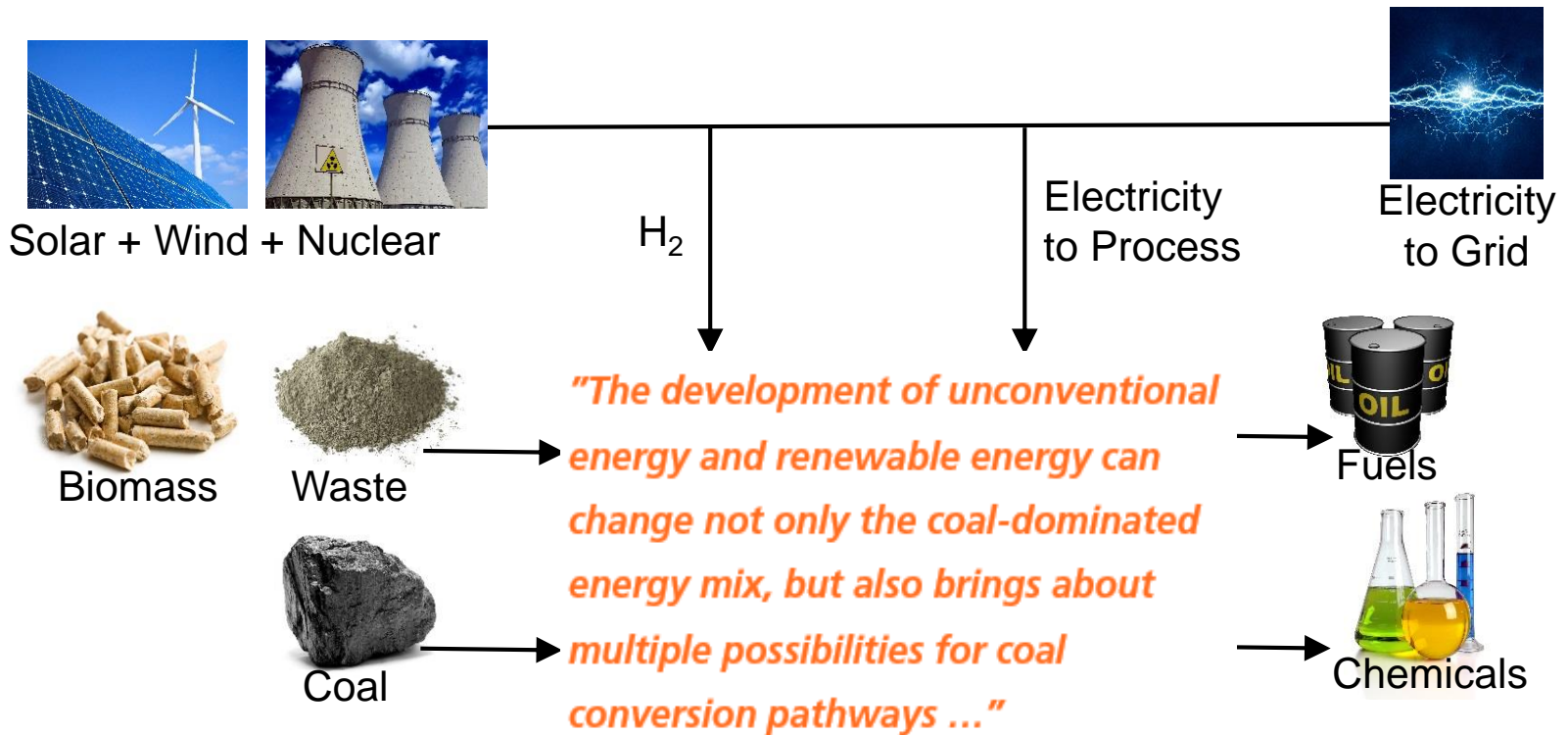
# China's CTX Industry



# Coal is a raw material



# Coal is a raw material



# CTX in China: Three Stages

- Prior to 1980
  - Technology pioneered in South Africa by Sasol
  - China did not become involved in early ICTX development

# CTX in China: Three Stages

- 1980-2000
  - Rapid ramping up of CTX R&D
  - Playing catch-up
  - Most world focused on Cobalt F-T catalysts, China focused on Iron F-T catalysts
  - Shanxi Institute of Coal Chemistry developed a two stage process with two configurations & tested at pilot scale
    - Two fixed beds in series to improve efficiency
    - Modified F-T slurry reactor and fixed bed in series



# CTX in China: Three Stages

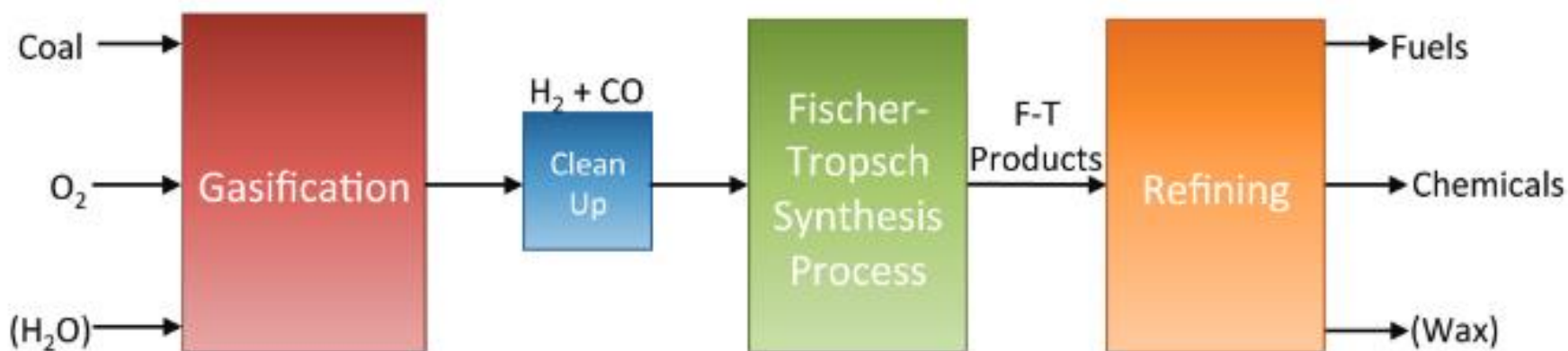
- Post-2000
  - China takes the place as the world leader of CTX development and deployment
  - Shenhua Group DCTX
  - ICTX
    - Shenhua Group
    - Yankuang Group
    - SXICC – Mass production of catalyst
    - SXICC, Yitai Group/Synfuels China
    - Sinopec GTL

# ICTX in China

- Fuels
  - Lower sulfur
  - Fewer aromatic hydrocarbons
  - Higher cetane number
  - High quality fuel produced
  - Used for blending
- Products
  - Wax, oil, etc.
  - Major R&D area



# F-T is key to ICTX



Volume 1, Issue 3 of  
Cornerstone includes a  
detailed technical discussion  
of ICTX

# China's Experience in ICTX

- Due to rapid growth, most operators have experience at several scales of development
- 2004: Pilot
  - Yanhuang 10-ktpa
- 2006-2009: Demonstrations
  - Shenhua, Yitai, Lu'an 160-180 ktpa demo Synfuels China ICTX Technology



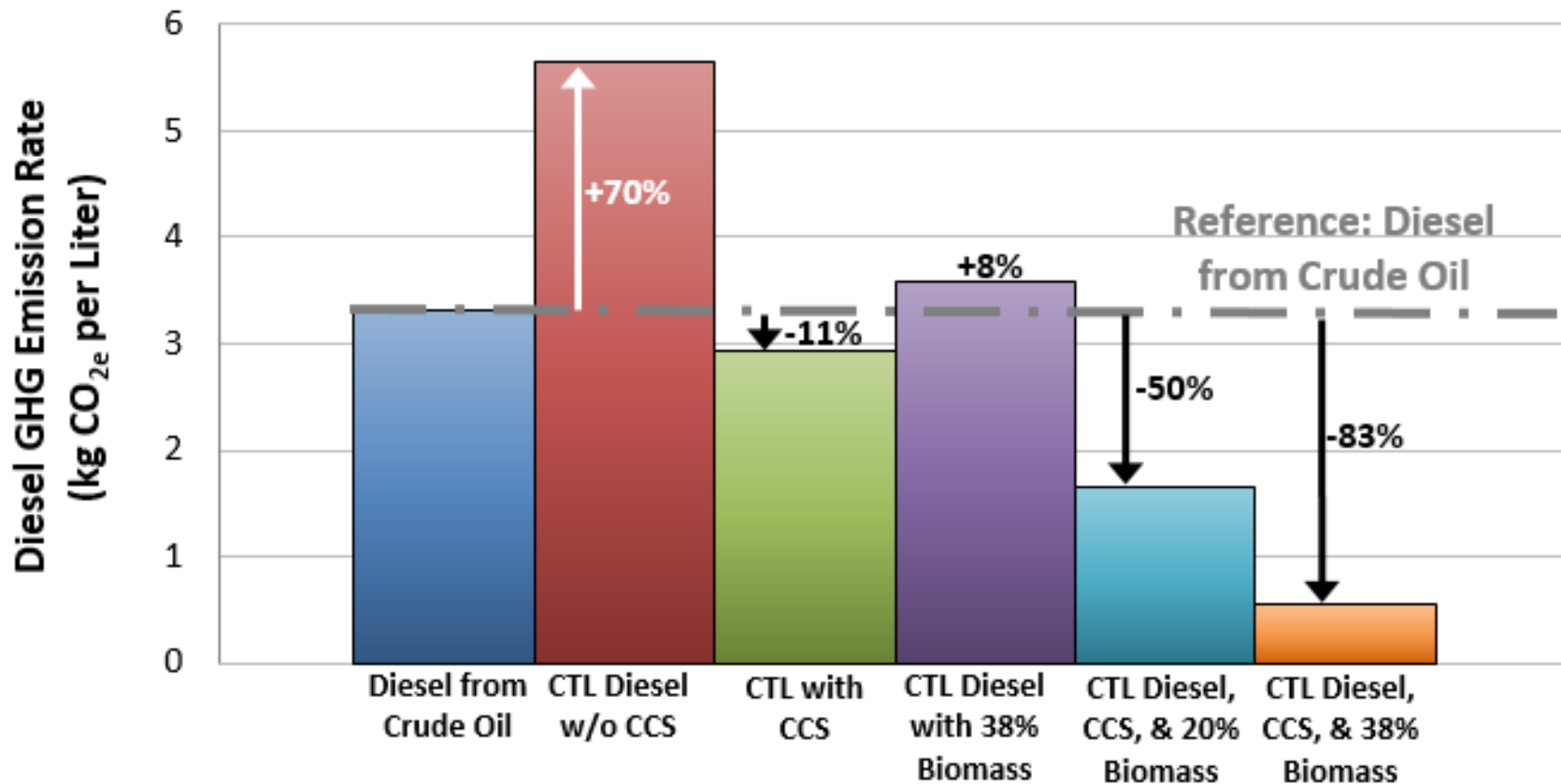
# Planned ICTX Plants

| Company                                   | Location                               | Scale<br>(10 ktpa)     | Estimated<br>Completion<br>Date | Selected<br>Technology  |
|---|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Shenhua<br>Ningxia Coal<br>Industry Group | Ningxia<br>Province                    | 400                    | 2016                            | Iron-based<br>catalyst, low-<br>temperature<br>Fischer-Tropsch<br>(LTFT), slurry<br>bubble column<br>reactor (SBCR) |
| Shenhua Group                             | Inner Mongolia<br>Xinjiang<br>Province | 100                    | Uncertain                       |   |
| Yankkuana<br>Group                        | Yulin Shaanxi<br>Province              | 100                    | 2015                            |   |
| Yitai Group                               | Inner Mongolia<br>Xin                  | 180 (first<br>project) | Uncertain                       |   |
| Lu'an Group                               | Changzhi Shanxi<br>Province            | 3 × 50                 | 2015                            |   |

# Potential Improvements

- As CTX is scaled-up up there will be engineering problems – look to Sasol’s model for problem solving
  - Iron versus Cobalt catalysts
  - Reduce water usage
  - Water waste is at least 5% organics
  - Increase scale and reduce costs for water treatment
- Iron catalysts less expensive initially
  - More sulfur tolerant
  - Longer preparation cycle
  - Consume more water
  - Shorter overall active life
  - R&D on Cobalt catalysts is ramping up

# What about the carbon footprint?



# CTX in China Today

- China's government is fast-tracking CTX plant permits and assisting with securing of capital
- In the last two years about 20 CTX plants have been built
- Increased CTX capacity by 45 million m<sup>3</sup>/day
- Many of these are international collaborative ventures: Dow Chemical + Shenhua Group

Increasing energy diversity includes finding other non-petroleum sources of fuels and chemicals.



# Why China is fast-tracking CTX

- Reserves and infrastructure favor coal
- Energy security
- Coal producers are also coal-users
- Tremendous RD&D resources in the coal community
- Need low-sulfur transportation fuels

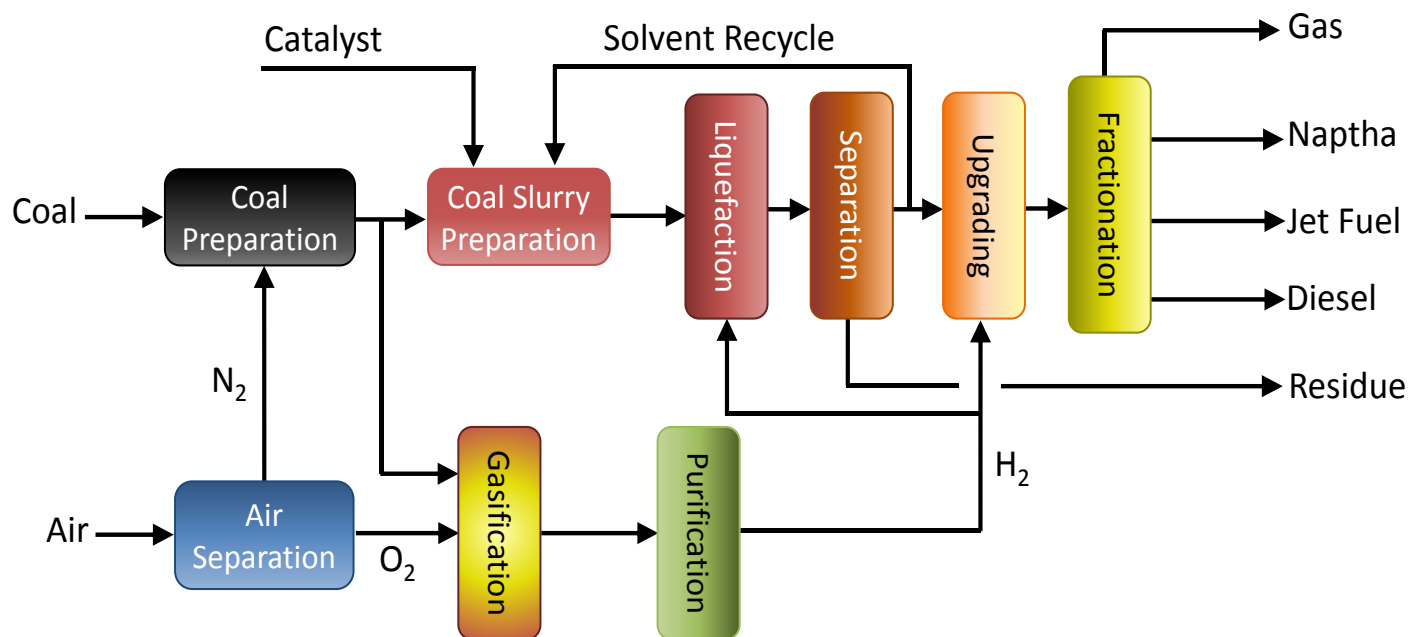


# Shenhua Group's Direct Coal-to-Liquids



# DCTX Process

- Coal dissolved in solvent at elevated temperature and pressure
- Combined with  $H_2$  and a catalyst



# Direct CTX

- Industrial scale production first realized by Germany in WWII
- Wartime development
  - Cost not optimized
  - Long term development not considered
- Some R&D
- Questionable equipment life and operation reliability (including solid/liquid separation) with slurries at high temperature and pressure
- Generally left behind in favor of ICTX

# Technical hurdles to overcome

- Mineral accumulation in reactor
- High-Temperature, High-Differential Pressure Relief Valves
- Coking
- Increasing equipment capacity
- Wastewater



# Shenhua's DCTX Project

- 2011: Shenhua constructs 1080 ktpa – more than a five fold increase in size
- 2013: More than two million tonnes of synfuels
- 30 times larger than any other DCTX projects



# Shenhua DCTX main features

- Largest capacity of any single production line
- Superior syngas yield
- Improved stability
- Process proven at bench, pilot, and demo-scale
- Major aspects of technology
  - High performance catalyst
  - Syngas processing



# Water

- Wastewater is high concentration
- Technology-specific treatment process
- RMB 890 million invested to date
- End goal is zero liquid discharge






# Carbon capture

- 100,000 tpa CCS
- Storage in saline aquifer
- Multi-stage monitoring
- Truck delivery of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Cost at this scale is ~\$44/tonne CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Capital: \$14
  - O&M: \$30



# Successful evolution of CTX

Nation's 1<sup>st</sup> pilot  Customer's gas tanks  
in under a decade



Thank you for your attention.

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