

Kevin Whitehead Solvent Deasphalting – Conversion Enabler

Honeywell UOP

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Solvent Deasphalting (SDA)



Agenda



Residue Streams are Challenging to Process

- Contaminant levels increase with boiling range in most crudes
- Residue streams typically contain high sulphur, nitrogen, Conradson carbon, organometals and asphaltenes

Stream	Atmospheric Residue	Vacuum Residue
Sulphur, ppm wt	2.3	3.0
Nitrogen, ppm wt	2600	4000
Conradson Carbon, %wt	8	16.3
Ni + V, ppm wt	83	164
Asphaltenes, %wt	1.5	3.1



Impact of Feed Contaminants on HC Unit Operation

- **1.** Sulphur: Converts to hydrogen sulphide over hydrotreating catalyst. Competes for active sites on hydrocracking catalyst, reducing activity
- 2. *Nitrogen:* Converts to ammonia over hydrotreating catalyst. Reduces activity of hydrocracking catalyst
- **3.** Conradson Carbon: Increases coke formation and shortens catalyst cycle
- 4. Metals Content: Vanadium and Nickel are catalyst poisons
- **5.** Asphaltenes: Indicative of heavy polynuclear aromatics (HPNA) precursors in the feed. Moderate levels cause rapid deactivation of catalyst and short cycle length.

SDA reduces contaminants to Hydrocracker

Solvent Deasphalting (SDA) Process

- Licensed technology for reduction of contaminants in feedstocks such as AR, VR by physical separation
- Reduces the contaminant (sulfur, nitrogen, Conradson carbon, asphaltene and Ni+V) contents of feedstocks to produce:
 - Deasphalted Oil (DAO) containing lower levels of contaminants
 - Pitch containing most of the feed contaminants
- Light liquid paraffins (typically C3 to C5 range) precipitate asphaltenes and resins from heavy oils
- Separation of DAO and solvent under either subcritical or supercritical conditions
- Combines commercially-proven process technology with proprietary extractor internals

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Selectivity in Solvent Deasphalting



SDA Process (Two-Product Configuration)



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SDA Process (Three-Product Configuration)



Uses for SDA Pitch

- Fuel for steam / power generation
- Fuel for cement manufacturing
- Bitumen manufacturing

SDA Commercial Experience

- Combination of UOP and Foster Wheeler technology
- First unit licensed in 1973
- >45 units licensed with a combined capacity of >650,000 BPSD
- Both 2 product and 3 product configurations in successful operation

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SDA Technology is Highly Cost Effective

- Low capital cost
 - Carbon steel equipment
 - Low pressure
 - No compressors
- Potential for very high local content
- Low solvent consumption and cost
 - Solvent typically C4s from refinery LPG system

Low Cost – High Effectiveness

Case Study: Upgrading by SDA - Hydrocracking

- Two stage hydrocracking unit licensed by a competitor
 - Feed 25% DAO, 75% heavy VGO
 - Full conversion
 - Maximum kerosene and diesel





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Initial Operating Cycles Highlighted Challenges with DAO Processing

Jnit Feed Rate (MT/day)



- HPNA = Heavy Poly Nuclear Aromatics
 - Compounds with 7+ aromatic rings, e.g. tribenzcoronene

- First 9 cycles used competitor catalyst
- Average cycle length ~12 months
- Severe fouling of heat exchangers led to heater limiting unit
- Fouling of second stage catalyst top bed caused high pressure drop
- Deactivation of cracking catalysts from HPNAs
- DAO contains high levels of HPNA pre-cursors



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Why are HPNAs Important?





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UOP Catalyst & HPNA Management Technology Installed

- UOP catalyst loaded in Cycle 10
 - Catalysts with proven track record in DAO service
 - Supported with pilot plant work
- UOP HPNA-RM[™] module installed on recycle to second stage during cycle 10
 - Carbon bed technology to absorb HPNA





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Step Change Improvement in Cycle Length



Improvement achieved by:

- Implementation of HPNA management technology
- Catalyst system improvements
- Continuous development of the unit by the refiner (e.g. filters, exchangers)

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Significant Improvement in Unit Performance

- Capacity increased by 42%
- Cycle length increased by >300% at higher feed capacity
- Refiner chose UOP catalysts for all following cycles
- Operation now limited by factors outside unit



UOP HPNA management is proven enabler for SDA-HC scheme

Summary - Benefits of adding SDA – HC Complex to an Existing Refinery

- Scenario:
 - 100,000 bpsd refinery with existing vacuum distillation and recycle hydrocracking unit
 - Add a new SDA unit
 - Revamp the hydrocracker full conversion at higher capacity
- Project provides significantly higher refinery profitability
 - 40% decrease in fuel oil
 - 12% increase in refinery Euro V diesel production
 - Increase value of refinery products by around 170 million \$/year
 - Payback on capital cost <4 years
- Optimisation of SDA HC complex requires specialist knowledge
 - Balance fuel oil upgrading with impact on hydrocracker
 - Ensure pitch properties meet requirements for proposed use
 - Managing HPNAs is critical to successful operation UOP has proprietary technology to achieve this

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