



**Biomass 2010**

**Track 3-Hydrocarbon Fuels Near Term Opportunities**

## **The Thermochemical Biorefinery**

[www.tri-inc.net](http://www.tri-inc.net)

# Discussion Topics



- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Thermochemical Biorefinery Platform Overview
- ▶ Update on DOE assisted demonstration biorefineries
  - NewPage, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
  - Flambeau River Biofuels, Park Falls , WI
- ▶ TRI Process Demonstration Unit
  - Process overview
  - Results to date
  - Future plans

# Corporate Overview



TRI - Advanced technologies for the conversion of biomass to bio-fuels, bio-chemicals and renewable power

- ▶ Formed in 1996
- ▶ Proprietary steam reforming gasification system developed with over \$50 million of R&D investment from private investor, the U.S. Department of Energy, the California Energy Commission, and the pulp and paper industry
- ▶ Research facilities in Durham, NC and Utah
- ▶ Technology currently in commercial operation
- ▶ Commercializing the Integrated Biorefinery

# Thermochemical Platform Biorefinery



## The Optimal Thermochemical Biorefinery

- Processes a wide range of economical biomass feedstocks
- Integrated with host to maximize thermal efficiency and capitalize on installed infrastructure
- Produces some or all of its own power
- Economically scale-able



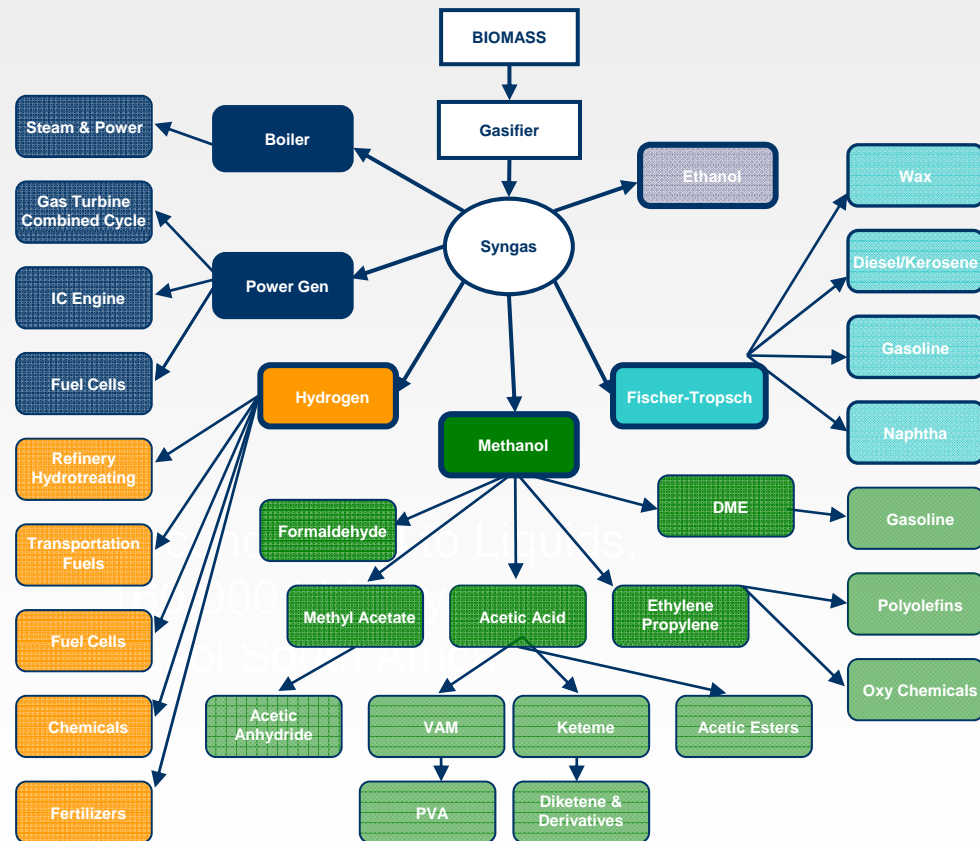
**Biomass gasification is the foundation of the platform**

# Thermochemical Platform Biorefinery Advantages



## The Thermochemical Biorefinery Provides

- Product Optionality to maximize regional economic performance
- Flexibility to respond to market changes by changing the products produced while maintaining the front end (the majority of the asset base)



# Flambeau River Biofuels Project Park Falls, Wisconsin



- ▶ Over 100 year old paper mill
- ▶ Primary employer in the region
- ▶ Entrepreneurial leader with bold vision
- ▶ Awarded \$30 million DOE financial assistance for demonstration biorefinery
- ▶ Capacity;
  - ▶ 1000 dtpd forest waste biomass
  - ▶ 9.5 million gallons per year diesel fuel
  - ▶ 7.6 million gallons per year paraffin
  - ▶ 5.3 MW green electricity
  - ▶ 160,000 pph steam to paper mill
- ▶ Thermochemical biorefinery platform; gasification to FT liquids
  - ▶ TRI biomass gasification system
  - ▶ TRI syngas clean-up system
  - ▶ EFT gas to FT Liquids system
- ▶ Status- FEL 3 scope and estimate and pilot plant testing underway



# NewPage Corporation: Project Independence Wisconsin Rapids, WI



- ▶ Large, integrated pulp and paper mill
- ▶ Primary employer in the region
- ▶ Awarded \$30 million DOE financial assistance for demonstration biorefinery
- ▶ Capacity
  - ▶ 500 dry tons per day waste wood biomass
  - ▶ 5.5-8.5 million gallons per year FT liquids
  - ▶ Up to 92 MMBTU/HR tail gas to lime kiln
  - ▶ Steam and hot water to paper mill
- ▶ Thermochemical biorefinery platform; gasification to FT liquids
  - ▶ TRI biomass gasification system
  - ▶ TRI syngas clean-up system
  - ▶ EFT gas to FT liquids system
- ▶ Status - appropriation grade scope and estimate completed, pilot plant testing underway



# Process Demonstration Unit (PDU)



Biomass Feed System

Steam Reformer

Carbon Trim Cell

Gas Clean Up System

FT GTL



# Biomass Feed System



## Designed to handle wide range of Biomass

- ▶ 230 cuft day bin with live bottom
- ▶ Weigh Screw feed to 1st stage piston
- ▶ 3-stage hydraulic piston system to feed biomass while preventing back flow of gasifier gases
- ▶ High speed biomass injection auger



# Steam Reformer and CTC



**Proprietary two stage gasifier system capable of 4 tons per day (dry basis) biomass**

- ▶ Reformer
  - Indirectly heated steam reformer
  - Superheated steam fluidizing media
  
- ▶ Carbon Trim Cell
  - Fine tune H<sub>2</sub>:CO ratio



# Gas Clean Up



**GCU sized for 10% slipstream and includes the following:**

▶ **Primary Gas Clean Up**

- HRSG to cool syngas
- Venturi scrubber for removal of particulate
- Gas Cooler for condensation of residual steam
- Extraction of tars
- Scrubber for removal of any trace H<sub>2</sub>S

▶ **Secondary Gas Clean Up**

- Compressor
- Scrubbers to remove trace contaminants
- Packed guard beds to eliminate sulfur species
- Particulate filters

# Fischer Tropsch Reactor



## Fixed Bed FT Technology with Proprietary Emerging Fuels Technology (EFT) Cobalt Catalyst

- ▶ Three tubes – commercial scale diameter
- ▶ Commercial scale tube length to facilitate scale-up
- ▶ Exothermic heat removed via steam generated in reactor cooling jacket
- ▶ Forms heavy fraction (HFTL), medium fraction (MFTL) and light fraction (LFTL)



# PDU Test Status



- ▶ Over 4100 hours combined gasifier and biomass feed systems
- ▶ Over 1000 hours secondary gas clean-up and FT
- ▶ Achieving H<sub>2</sub>:CO ratios of 2:1 on a sustained basis
- ▶ Producing high quality FT liquids



# Questions?

