



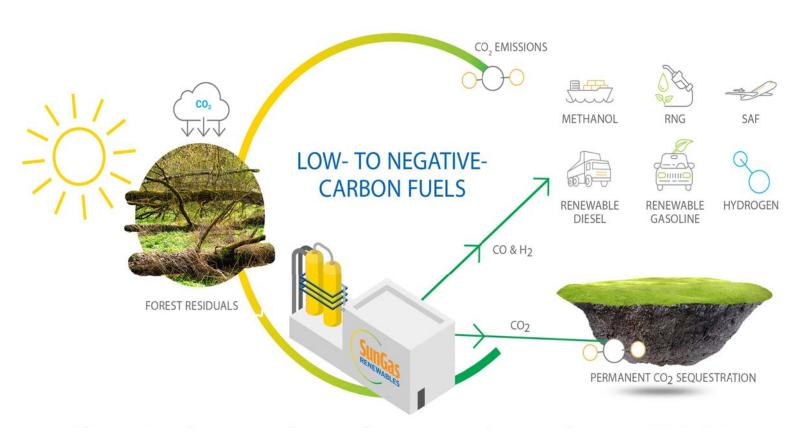
# Application of Data-Informed Simulation for Accelerating Biofuels and Alternative Feedstock Utilization

Bryan Tomsula, Peter Loezos – CPFD Software Inc.
Shrinivas Lokare, Andrew Kramer – SunGas Renewables Inc.

TC Biomass Conference, Chicago, IL

September 10-12, 2024

# **SunGas' Sustainability Pathway**



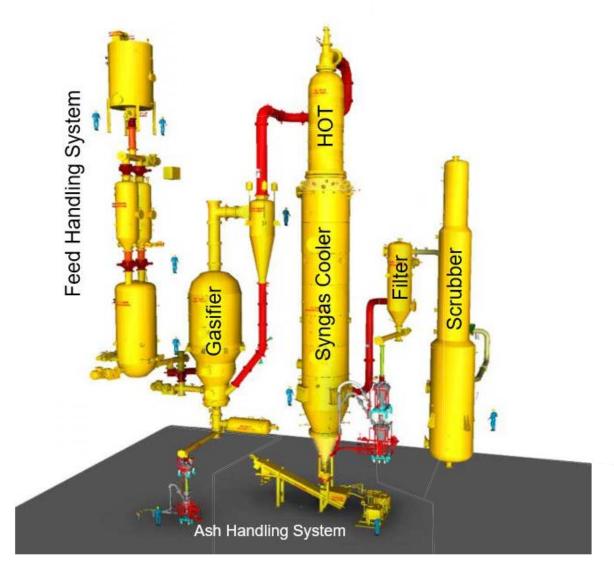
The natural air capture (NAC) approach to achieving carbon reduction TODAY

SunGas Proven Technology
Embodied in the System 1000™
Offering Enables –

- Renewable Energy Production in Multiple Energy Segments
- Production of Low and Negative
   Carbon-Intensity Energy Products
- Qualification for Renewable Energy
   Incentives and Credits
- Criteria Pollutants Reduction by 99%
   Compared to Biomass Power Plants



### The S-1000 Product



#### **Gasifier**

- Versatile feedstock capabilities
- Quick mixing of reactants and uniform temperature in bed

#### **Feed Handling System**

- Lock-hopper based design crossing pressure barrier
- Flexible feed options screw-feeding or pneumatic feeding

#### **Ash Handling System**

- Removes and cools bed and filter ash
- Conveys to silo storage pneumatically

#### **Tar Reformer**

- Complete conversion of all tars
- Immune to contaminants in feedstock

#### **Syngas Cooler**

- Capable of operating in slagging/non-slagging conditions
- Self-cleaning design of heat transfer components

#### **Syngas Filter**

- High efficiency (99.9%) of removing fines
- Surface modified sintered metal provides extended life

#### Syngas Scrubber

- Primary gas cooling and moisture removal
- Trace contaminate removal, HCl, NH3





#### **CPFD Introduction**

- Physics-based engineering software package
  - Virtual Reactor is the only commercial software package focused specifically on chemicallyreactive fluid-particle flow at large scale
- Software Licensing
  - Use Virtual Reactor in-house
  - Single site and global enterprise licensing available
  - On-premise and cloud-served licensing
- Services
  - Project-based or broader collaboration
- Training and Technology Transfer
  - New user training, custom/advanced training, QuickStart and general technology transfer
- Application Areas
  - FCCU / Refining, Petrochemicals, Gasification, Materials and Chemicals, Power Generation, Clean Technologies

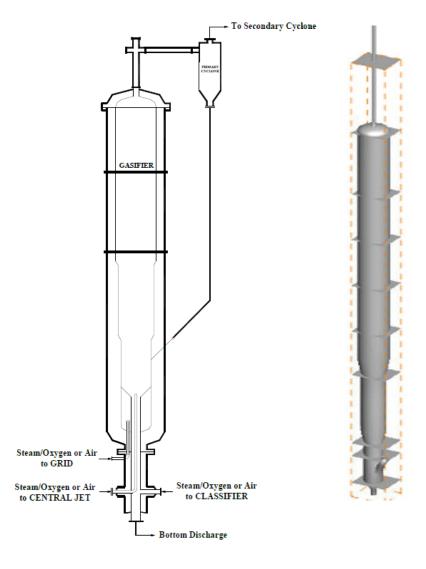






# **Project Overview**

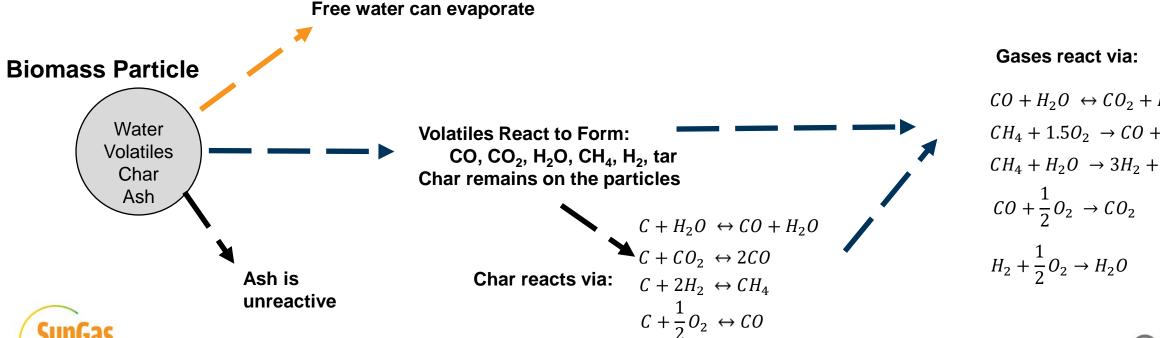
- Staged approach to develop a commercial scale model of the SunGas gasifier
- Initial model developed based on U-Gas pilot plant data
  - Provides proof of concept for model development
  - Test cases based on various pilot plant operating conditions
  - A building block for commercial scale model
- Subsequent models to be developed focusing on modifications to the reaction / kinetic pathways
  - Feedstock dependent devolatilization
  - Tar reforming
  - Kinetic dependence on bed material composition





# **Model Setup**

- Extents of model are focused on the gasifier vessel
- Kinetic network implemented based on experimental data coupled with literature gasification kinetics
- Plug flow model was developed to allow for regression of kinetic expressions across the pilot plant operating conditions



$$CO + H_2O \leftrightarrow CO_2 + H_2$$

$$CH_4 + 1.5O_2 \rightarrow CO + 2H_2O$$

$$CH_4 + H_2O \rightarrow 3H_2 + CO$$

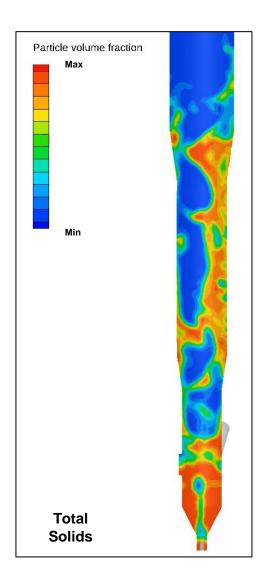
$$CO + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$$

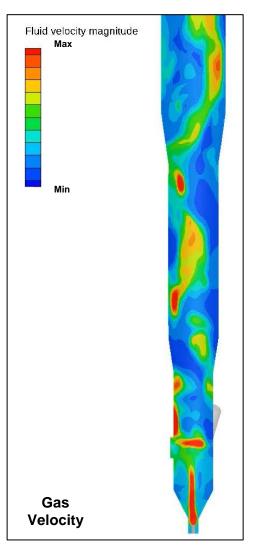
$$H_2 + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow H_2O$$

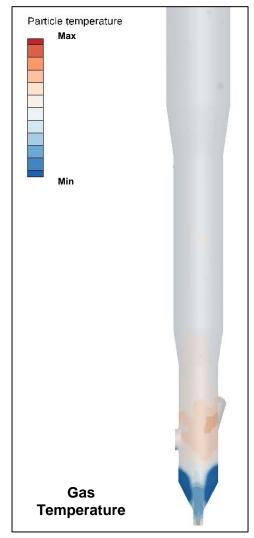


#### Results

- Base case model was developed utilizing U-Gas pilot plant gasifier data
- Hydrodynamics and temperature profile validated against experimental data sets
- Results provide valuable insight into the impact of hydrodynamics and mixing behavior





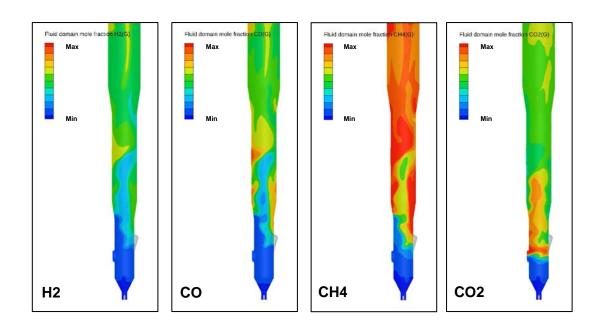


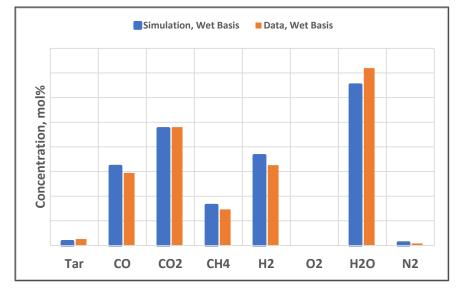


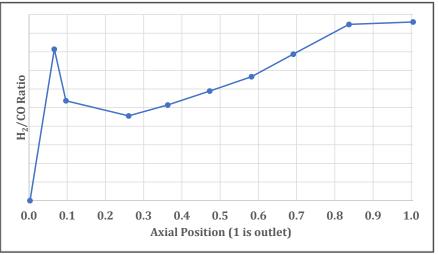


## **Results**

- Model results correlate well with experimental data
- Axial gas compositions are able to be monitored and reported
- Allows for optimization of reactor operating conditions and valuable insight into gasifier performance.



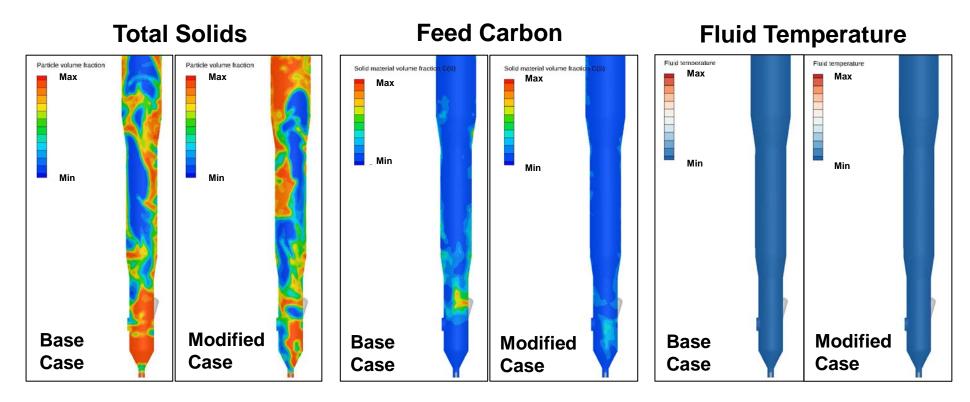








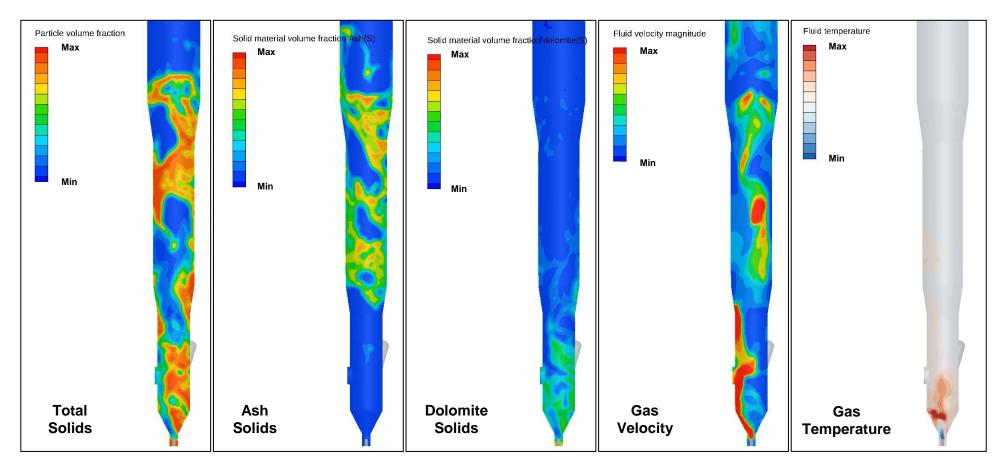
# **Model Insights**



- Impact of bed material size distribution was studied
- Hydrodynamic behavior from transition to Geldart Group B from Group D is captured in the model



# **Model Insights**



• Enhanced mixing is observed in the modified gas with bed material consisting of Group B type solids



#### **Conclusion**

- A CPFD model was developed for the U-Gas pilot plant gasifier
- Data-based modeling approach was utilized for implementing reaction kinetics and hydrodynamic models
- Modeling based approach coupled with sound engineering practices aid in assessing impact of variations in key operating parameters, such as pressure, throughput, feed type, etc.





# Thank You



