# **ETHYLENE PRODUCERS’ TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: Thursday, Dec 10, 2015

Time: 4:30 to 5:30 PM CDT

**MOM Final**

Location: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Houston, TX

**Members:** Jack Buehler, Chell Chellappan, Alain Chepda, Greg Dunnells,

Thomas Emmert, Anthony Hakim , Sanjeev Kapur, Robert Krinock, Aivars Krumins, Ravi Lal, Darren Le Geyt, Krishna Merchant , Alberto Morales, Greg Yeo, Tim Zygula, Bala Devakottai,

**Present:** ….Jack Buehler, Chell Chellappan, Thomas Emmert, Anthony Hakim , Sanjeev Kapur, Robert Krinock, Aivars Krumins, Darren Le Geyt, Krishna Merchant , Greg Yeo, Tim Zygula, Bala Devakottai,

**Absent:** ….. Alain Chepda, Greg Dunnells, Ravi Lal, Alberto Morales, Mike Tallman,

Distr: Above + [ethyleneproducerscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ethyleneproducerscommittee@gmail.com)

***AGENDA***

1. Reading of the Anti-Trust Statement

No activity of the Committee shall involve the exchange, collection or dissemination among competitors of information, or be used for the purpose of bringing about or attempting to bring about any understanding or agreement, written or oral, formal or informal, express or implied, among competitors with regard to costs, prices or pricing methods, terms or conditions of sale, distribution, production quotas or other limitations, on either the timing, or volume of production, or sales, or allocation of territories or customers.

1. Five Minutes on Safety (5 mins)
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes –Oct29/Nov12, 2015.
3. Session Planning Status –

a. Feedback from Main EPC: (5 min)

b. Technology Fundamentals: Jack Buehler / Bob Krinock (10 min)

c. Feedstock Flexibility: Alain Chepda / Thomas Emmert (10 min)

d. Mega Projects: Sanjeev Kapur (5 min)

e. Subcommittee Member Attendance & New Members…(10 mins)

V. New business (5 min)

VI. Calendar for 2015 – 2016 - Upcoming Meeting Date Reminders:

\* 10 December

\* 4 February (if needed)

\* Call for papers closes 2 November (may be extended) and Sessions should be final early December.

\* 2016 AIChE Spring Meeting / EPC Conference dates are 10-14 April 2016. Hilton Americas & George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

VII. Review Action Item List

VIII. Adjourn

**Bios of perspective members**

**Bio of** **Vasant Bhirad:**

Vasant now has a work situation that would not allow him time to be a subcommittee member, and withdrew his name of consideration

***Bio of VK Arora :***

*" Interested in exploring the opportunity to contribute & participate in any of the EPC sub-committees. Perhaps technology sub-committee may be appropriate for my extensive background & experience in technologies of Steam crackers, PDH, Olefins derivatives (Acrylic Acid & Oxo-Alcohols) & Syngas derivatives- Ammonia, Methanol & GTL.*

*ChemE from IIT Delhi (1979) & PE (Texas) with over 35 years of diversified experience in Licensing/Technology, Improvements, Troubleshooting, Start up and Management of Petrochemicals, Refining & Syngas derivatives. Worked with major licensing and engineering companies including Lummus, KBR & KTI/Technip for over 20 years and five years with operating companies- including Ethylene plant of Shell and Methanol/Dehydo plants of SABIC. Presented & published over 15 technical papers with a chapter on Catofin PDH in McGraw-Hill Petrochem handbook (2004) & two patents (one for NOx reduction in Ethylene furnaces & other on Ammonia process improvements). Founded an independent consulting & engineering company (KPI) in 2005 with offices in Houston & Bahrain. Directed KPI in a variety of assignments including project feasibilities, technology evaluation, troubleshooting studies, process development, training in olefins and syngas derivatives complexes. Also led KPI team as "Owner's Engineers" in first of a kind Acrylic acid/Oxo-Alcohols project development for a Saudi location- including technology evaluation, License/BEP agreements & its execution up to FEED -which is currently up & running. "*

VK Arora, PE

Director- Process & Operations

KPI (Kinetics Process Improvements, Inc.)

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**Bio of Matt Pretz:**

*Matt Pretz is Sr. Research Scientist and is currently leading the process and equipment design for Dow Catalytic Dehydrogenation Technology for PDH applications.  His expertise is in process development, operations, pilot plant design, full-scale plant design, catalytic dehydrogenation, and scale-up of circulating fluid bed systems.  He has authored more than 20 patent applications which are currently in prosecution.*

*Matt started with the company in 1997 as a production engineer at Dow’s largest styrene manufacturing plant in Freeport, TX.    In 2000, Matt transferred to Hydrocarbons Research and Development in which he worked on the development of a new technology to produce styrene monomer.    Matt’s contributions involved designing the pilot plant and leading the operation.  In addition to pilot plant activities, Matt was named the R&D Project Leader for Commercial Implementation in 2004 in which he coordinated the scale-up and risk mitigation strategies for the technology.*

*In 2006, Matt returned to Dow Manufacturing when he served as the Operations Leader for the Incineration Assets within Environmental Operations at the Freeport, Texas site.  After driving improvements in asset reliability and management systems, he transferred to Epoxy 2 in 2009 as the Operations Leader for Dow’s Largest Bisphenol and Liquid Epoxy Resin Asset.  In 2010, Matt transferred to Springhouse, Pennsylvania and served as Global Improvement Leader of Process Development for the Dow Coatings Business.*

I would like to be a member of the committee to both learn and contribute.  In terms of learning, I would like to learn more about what other companies are doing in terms of technology improvements.  In addition, I would like to contribute the R&D perspective in order to further advance process development and innovation within the Hydrocarbons Technology area.

**Bio of** **Humera Rafique:**



***Actual Dec10 Mtg.***

**I. Reading of the Anti-Trust Statement**

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**II. Five Minutes on Safety:**

Aivars discussed the morning & evening fog & patches of fog, that we are now experiencing along the Gulf Coast. We now have alternating warm & cold fronts that easily produce sudden dense fog. The Nov/Dec period always seems to have increased local drivers on the road. Many are pre-occupied with Christmas shopping & Holiday activities. Traffic is especially heavy around any of the larger shopping malls in the area. Be on the aware of many pre-occupied drivers when out on the roads.

**III. Approval of Previous Mtg Minutes**

The Oct29/Nov12, 2015 meeting minutes were accepted & approved. Darren noted corrections to attendance and title, which are now included.

**IV. 2016 EPC Conference Planning**

**a. Feedback from Main EPC**: The main EPC is planning to have the Feb 4th mtg to discuss conference loose ends. The paper abstracts that are in the Confex planning tool on Jan 10, are the papers that will be published in the AIChE “paper” program book. The on-line session tool will always have the latest papers, if there are any late changes. Greg Yeo said to encourage speakers to give permission to have the session recorded. These sessions are planned to be placed into the AIChE Academy & they can then be later reviewed, by using the yearly credits that come with membership. It was asked if speakers could be given copies of their recorded sessions.

**b. Technology Fundamentals**: Jack Buehler / Bob Krinock

The presentation line-up for the main Technology session is as follows, below. All authors have agreed to be present. Jack needed to arrange to get a letter of invitation from AIChE for Professor Zhongmin Liu to allow him to get his visa for US entry. The invitation letter was sent from AIChE.

The “Technip Dual Cell” Paper will be moved to next year’s paper abstract list.



**c. Feedstock Flexibility Session:** Alain Chepda / Thomas Emmert. Thomas said they are planning to go with the IHS paper, instead of the Soloman paper

Session line-up is as follows…



**d. Mega Projects**: Sanjeev Kapur

Ron Conn from CP Chem, is the planned on main speaker. There will also be a backup in case Ron is unavailable. Panelists would be Sr Management from KBR, Linde, Fluor, CB&I & Technip – these are still being finalized.

**e. Subcommittee Member Attendance & New Members**…

Discussed possible new members from interest poll at the 2015 AIChE EPC meeting (i.e. VK Arora, Humera Rafique, Matt Pretz, & Vasant Bhirad). Vasant subsequently withdrew, due to changes in work situation. Discussed on-going attendance related issues, and needing to attend in person to be an effective committee member. Agreed to maintain the target 50/50 mix of C2H4 Producer / (Tech/EPC/Other) members. We used a speaker connection for the cell-phone “call-in” line this time, this improved the sound for callers, but the large room makes for inherent noise problems due to people coming & going as well as the set-up that is also occurring for the main EPC committee mtg. No-one wanted to add specific attendance requirements for the subcommittee members, due to work related travel schedules that are out of individual member’s control.

We also agreed that Greg Dunnells should be moved to inactive status, due to his long term assignment in Saudi Arabia. A majority of the members present voted that Humera Rafique, and VK Arora would be accepted as new members. New members will be encouraged to attend in person, we would like to see at least 50% in-person attendance. New members will be invited beginning with the 1st mtg for the 2016-2017 EPC planning cycle.

**V. Calendar for 2015 – 2016 - Upcoming Meeting Date Reminders:**

Planned future mtg dates are as follows:

\* 4 February

\* 2016 AIChE Spring Meeting / EPC Conference dates are 10-14 April 2016. Hilton Americas & George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

**VI. Review Action Item List**

1 Notify new members & Greg Dunnells of sub-committee decisions – RJK - Done

2. Verify invites are sent for Feb 4th mtg - RJK

**Dec 10 Adjourn**

Minutes prepared by RJ Krinock (Technology Subcommittee Chair) – Jan4, 2016