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BoroCat<sup>™</sup> – An Innovative Solution from Boron-Based Technology Platform for FCC Unit Performance Improvement

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## **Trends in Global Resid Operations**

- Ecat nickel and vanadium decreased in the US
- Ecat nickel increased significantly in the rest of the world by 37% since 2006
- The nickel challenge:
  - Dehydrogenation reactions lead to increased hydrogen and delta coke

#### Units with >2000 ppm Ni+V in US



\* From BASF benchmarking database. Represents 54% of all FCC units (ex. China)

#### Improving Dry Gas and Coke Selectivity is a Key Objective for Resid Cracking Operations

# Improve Nickel Passivation for Resid Operations



Create a new resid catalyst to minimize impact of contaminant Ni

- Improve conventional Ni passivation technologies
  - Specialty alumina incorporated into the catalyst
    - Immobility
  - Antimony Feed Injection
    - Environmental and safe handling concerns



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#### Typical metal-containing feed porphyrin



Elemental map of Ni on Ecat

## A Novel Solution for FCC Refiners



#### Boron, Mobile under FCC Conditions, Migrates to Ni on the Catalyst



## Introducing Boron-Based Technology (BBT)



BBT utilizes a novel chemistry for improved Ni passivation versus traditional technologies

Boron migrates within the catalyst by solid state diffusion to passivate Ni

Passivation of Ni confirmed by multiple spectroscopy studies

**Performance Benefits** 

Reduction in H<sub>2</sub> and delta coke

## Nickel Passivation with BBT Confirmed in Multiple Lab Studies



BBT versus Base Resid Cataly	st: Relative Yield Shift Percentage			
@ 75% Conversion				

			CPS (3000 ppm Ni; 3000 ppm V)	CMDU (3000 ppm Ni; 3000 ppm V)	Conventional Steam Deactivation (3000 ppm Ni)
H <sub>2</sub>	%		-27	-27	-25
Gasol	ine + LCO	%	+0.8	+2.0	+4.0
Coke	%		-22	-13	-35%

## BBT Passivates Nickel without Increasing NOx



Antimony use is not always possible in locations under strict NOx regulations.

Unlike antimony, BBT achieves Ni passivation without any increase in NOx

#### **Third Party Lab Testing Results**



# BoroCat<sup>™</sup> – First FCC Catalyst based on BBT Platform for Resid FCC

- Pore architecture that minimizes diffusional limitations of heavy feed molecules
- Reduced H<sub>2</sub> and delta coke
- Improved yield selectivity
- Provided operational flexibility

#### List of BoroCat Users with Average Feed API and Ecat Ni/V

<b>Refinery</b>	<b>Location</b>	Feed API	Ecat Ni	Ecat V
А	N America	23	2000	4000
В	N America	25	1100	2900
С	N America	31	2700	1100
D	Europe	19	3500	3200
F	Europe	23	3500	2500
F	Europe	19	2300	3500
G	Europe	21	5600	6100
<u> </u>	Europe	26	2800	1600
H	Europe	26	2800	1600

#### **Successful Commercialization**

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## **BoroCat Commercial FCC Trial #1**

- Resid unit in Europe
  - API gravity: 24 27
  - Ecat Ni: 2700 3300 ppm
  - Ecat V: 1500 2000 ppm
- Switched to BoroCat for max gasoline yield

#### **Result: Improved yield selectivity with lower H<sub>2</sub> and delta coke**

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### Ecat Hydrogen Reduction with BoroCat

Ecat H<sub>2</sub> decreased at constant equivalent Ni level with BoroCat

Mobility of boron resulted in more effective Ni passivation



## Ecat Delta Coke Reduction with BoroCat

Ecat coke factor indicates coke generating tendency of Ecat

 Coke factor decreased with BoroCat at constant equivalent Ni

#### Ecat Coke Factor\* vs. Eq. Ni



\*ACE coke yield normalized by catalyst activity, a measure of coke selectivity

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### Improvement of Ecat Gasoline Selectivity with BoroCat



Gasoline yield increased at constant Ecat activity with **BoroCat** 



Ecat Gasoline vs. Activity

### Operating Hydrogen Reduction with BoroCat

Operating H<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> decreased with BoroCat at constant equivalent Ni



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## Operating Gasoline Selectivity Improvement with BoroCat



Increase in operating gasoline yield with BoroCat at constant conversion

#### **Operating Gasoline vs. Conversion**





## **BoroCat Commercial FCC Trial #2**

- Moderate resid unit in North America
  - API gravity: 20 22
  - CCR: 1 2%
  - Ecat Ni: 1900 2100 ppm
  - Ecat V: 3200 4000 ppm
- User of BASF Flex-Tec resid technology with antimony addition for max conversion

#### **Result: Improved conversion with lower H<sub>2</sub> and delta coke**



### BoroCat Reduced Ecat Hydrogen

Ecat H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> ratio was lower at constant equivalent Ni

Reduction in H<sub>2</sub> selectivity as expected with BBT





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### **BoroCat Improved Coke Selectivity**

Ecat coke factor decreased at constant equivalent Ni with BoroCat

Improvement in coke selectivity as expected with BBT

#### 1.8 1.5 **Coke Factor** 1.2 ● Flex-Tec BoroCat 0.9 2200 2400 2600 2800 3000 Ni + V/4 - 4/3Sb (ppm)

Ecat Coke Factor vs. Eq. Ni

## BoroCat Reduced Operating Hydrogen by ~ 25%

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~25% reduction in unit H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> ratio at constant equivalent Ni was in line with Ecat H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> reduction Operating  $H_2/C_1$  vs. Eq. Ni



# Commercial Yield Improvements with BoroCat



## Profitability Improvement of \$0.32-0.38/bbl

- Higher conversion, LPG and gasoline
- Lower H<sub>2</sub> and bottoms
- Profitability improvement in-line with refinery's internal evaluation
- Gain in operational flexibility provides opportunities to further increase profitability

#### **At Constant Operating Conditions**

	Flex-Tec	BoroCat	Delta
Conversion, vol.%	84.9	86.0	+1.1
H <sub>2</sub> , SCF/BBL	87.1	53.4	-33.7
LPG, vol.%	27.8	28.7	+0.9
Gasoline, vol.%	52.5	53.0	+0.5
LCO, vol.%	12.1	12.0	-0.1
Bottoms, vol.%	7.7	7.4	-0.3



## **BoroCat Commercial FCC Trial #3**

- Mild resid unit in North America
  - API gravity: 23 27
  - CCR: 0.4 1.5
  - Ecat Ni: 300 1400 ppm
  - Ecat V: 1300 3000 ppm
- User of BASF Fortress resid technology with antimony addition for Max Conversion

#### **Result: Improved Bottoms Upgrading with No Additional NOx Emissions**

## BoroCat Improved Ecat and Operating Bottoms Upgrading

Higher LCO/Bottoms in Ecat data

\$0.19/bbl improvement in unit profitability



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# No Change in Unit NOx Emissions with BoroCat



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No increase in NOx emission at constant excess oxygen



# No Change in Unit NOx Emissions with BoroCat



23

No increase in NOx emission at constant excess oxygen



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## **BoroCat Trial #4 Tamoil Collombey**

- R2R Design
- 100% Atmospheric Resid
- 21 API gravity
- 4-6 wt% Conradson
- Ni + V ranges 5,000-10,000ppm
- Uses Sb and ZSM-5



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## **Conclusions and Path Forward**

BoroCat is the latest innovation based on BBT platform designed to further enhance the passivation of contaminant Ni

BoroCat has been successfully proven in multiple refineries:

- Improved metals passivation and lowered hydrogen and delta coke
- Improved yield selectivity
- Increased FCC unit profitability
- No increase in unit NOx emission

BoroCat unloads common unit constraints, giving flexibility to optimize unit operations.



# Thank you **D** BASF We create chemistry