ROMEO
REACTOR OPTIMISATION BY MEMBRANE ENHANCED OPERATION

European Research & Innovation Project
Reactor Optimisation by Membrane Enhanced Operation

Interview with Haris Kadrispahic

Head of projects - LiqTech International, Denmark

"The ROMEO concept will reduce significantly energy intensity while also reducing the downstream processing steps.

This has never been done before."

Hi Haris. Can you please tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am Danish with Bosnian origin. I have a commercial background and not as many of my colleagues a technological background. I have an MSc degree from Copenhagen Business School, Management of Innovation and Business Development. I am head of the project department. Within the R&D department, my job is solely focused on the projects that are externally financed.

My previous employments include national funding agency, where I basically worked as a contact person for the companies which were granted project funding.

What does your daily job look like?

I mostly work on the alignment of the company's overall strategy with the development strategy. My job is therefore to work with the relevant partners in trying to develop products / processes which are of commercial relevance to LiqTech International.

I am mostly doing coordination work. LiqTech International is currently involved in several funded projects and I am the central person when it comes to dividing work between the LiqTech groups located in Denmark and in the US. The daily work also includes reporting, financial aspects of projects, business cases etc. I am also heavily involved in dissemination of our project results and I very often spend time at conferences.

What excites you in ROMEO?

This is a new area for LiqTech. We have a vast experience when it comes to water purification systems and water business in general. We expect that our product (SiC membranes) can be used in other business areas, such as catalytical processes.

From your perspective, what is innovative with ROMEO?

ROMEO integrates technologies of carbon nanotube based micro-tubular reactors, novel monolithic supports as new innovative support structures and

advanced ionic liquid film technology, while the applied homogeneous catalysts and separation coatings will be based on well-established techniques.

This concept will reduce significantly energy intensity while also reducing the downstream processing steps. This has never been done before.

What are, according to you, the major challenges to be overcome in ROMEO?

There are several potential issues. We are looking at the development 5 to 10 years down the line, which means that a lot can change of course. How will the legislation develop, when it comes to usage of carbon nanotubes? Will the ROMEO business case be relevant if the prices for the conventional fuel continue to be at the low levels we see today? Then of course, there are always development issues: are we going to be able to make significant reductions in energy and CO2 emissions for ROMEO to be a success?

Could you give us a concrete example of a benefit that could be expected from ROMEO?

Chemical industries can expect drastic reductions of CO2 emissions and energy consumption for high volume dehydrogenation processes (up to 50% reduction for both parameters).The general public will of course benefit from that too.

Europe will need to find alternative sources as a result of oil and liquid gas production expected to decrease by 60% by the year 2050.

Why do our stakeholders care? There could be a need for our products in the scale not seen by the company yet. For years we have been trying to promote SiC and here we would finally succeed.

You attended the kick-off meeting in December 2015. What will you remember most?

Most likely the dinner. We made food ourselves and I was very surprised on how well it worked. Evonik succeeded in one of the most significant things within the project group: making everyone feel as a part of something bigger.

Thanks for answering my questions Haris and I'm looking forward to the next developments!

ROMEO in brief

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