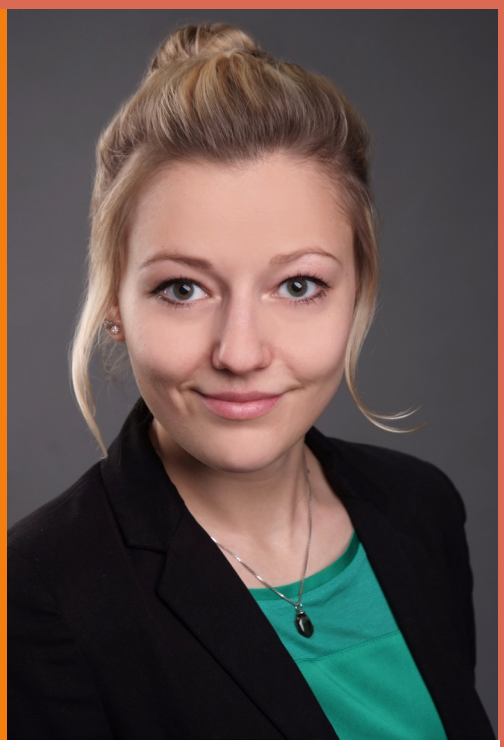
ROMEO
REACTOR OPTIMISATION BY MEMBRANE ENHANCED OPERATION

European Research & Innovation Project
Reactor Optimisation by Membrane Enhanced Operation

Interview with Jennifer Haßelberg

Process Engineer at EVONIK,
Technology & Infrastructure GmbH, Germany



Hi, Jennifer ! Can you please tell us a little bit about yourself ?

In school I always loved science and art, but becoming a professional artist has never been an option because that should remain my private hobby.

So there was math and chemistry and that perfectly fitted to become a chemical engineer. I still love the mindset that we do our work for a specific reason and goal – to make things easier, cheaper, sustainable… Also technology is developing so fast that there is always more and more to learn.

What is your favorite work subject ?

Process intensification by Membrane reactors, of course! In addition I really like to work with the operators and production engineers in our plants. Those are the guys with the most interesting stories and experiences.

> **“ I really like to work with the operators and production engineers in our plants. Those are the guys with the most interesting stories and experiences.”**

What does your daily job look like?

I do meet a lot of different people and that is what makes it super interesting.

We have many of telcos with project partners around the word and video conferences with colleagues from Evonik which tell about their projects and innovative ideas. We solve problems together so everybody can profit from another’s experience.

What excites you in ROMEO?

ROMEOs concept is totally new. Nobody has ever done what we are developing right now. As well the international project team fits very well, we work together very closely - industry and academia hand in hand.

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What are you expecting from the project? Could you give us a concrete example of a benefit that could be expected from ROMEO?

If we succeed we have a totally new concept of membrane reactors. This concept is supposed to save a huge amount of energy and to reduce emissions.

If ROMEO is economically efficient at the end, we would be happy to inaugurate the first industrial application for a membrane reactor.

> **“ ROMEOs concept is totally new. Nobody has ever done what we are developing right now. ”**

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

The major problem will be to have a perfectly operating membrane, there are not only mechanical issues when it comes to operating membrane reactor, but in order to meet our economic goals the membrane has to function very specifically for our case study.

Thanks for your time, Jennifer !

Evonik coordinates the ROMEO project and participates with two of its' companies: Evonik Performance Materials GmbH and Evonik Technology & Infrastructure GmbH.

Evonik also brings to the project its expertise in hydroformylation catalysis, process intensification, industrial process technology, reactor design and modular plant design. Evonik will be in charge of the demo case for hydroformylation in a near industrial environment.

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ROMEO in brief

Funded by European Commission (Horizon 2020)

Start date:
14 September 2015

End date:
13 September 2019

Budget:
6 Million €

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