# ROMEO – Reactor Optimisation by Membrane Enhanced Operation

- Process Intensification SPIRE 05-2015
- Start/end date: 14 September 2015 13 September 2019







bioenergy2020+

EVONIK



CSIC



- EC funding: 6 Mio €
- Private investment: 25 €
- Leverage factor: 4 points



### Project Case Study

#### 1. The EU/ SPIRE needs

The ROMEO concept has the ability to reduce the total energy consumption of large industrial processes by up to 78%. At the same time emissions can be reduced by up to 90%.

#### 2. The Project Solution

Supported homogeneous catalysts maintain their catalytic abilities while the anchoring directly on or even in the membrane ensures a most efficient separation. Allowing to avoid energy consuming down stream processing.



REACTOR OPTIMISATION BY MEMBRANE ENHANCED OPERATION



#### 4. How will this happen?

The ROMEO team develops the general technology for two case studies, as well as a toolbox. In the end, chemical producers can license the technology and then build their own processes.

#### 3. Value to Customers

The ROMEO technology reduces energy consumption dramatically as well as reducing OPEX for the down stream process, thus, saving cost on both fix and variable costs.



#### What are the key expected sustainability impacts of ROMEO?



**Baseline:** Example: Hydroformylation: Annual production ca. 10,4 Mio t C4/C5 aldehydes. Desired is to produce the same chemical from the same feedstock, but in a much more efficient (down stream) process.

Indicator	Baseline	Expected Impact
Global Warming Potential (mainly CO2 emission reduction)*	Side product disposal via incinerator (3,4 Mio t CO2/a)	More efficient process reduces side product formation and thus CO2 by 90%
Fossil energy intensity*	6,65 GWh needed for purification (distillation) of product	Omitting distillation can lead to up to 5,3 GWh (78%) energy savings
Total material consumption*	More than 11,4 Mio t feed products are needed to produce 10,4 Mio t aldehydes	More efficient ROMEO process reduces required amount of feed by 0.9 Mio t (8%)
Economic added value e.g. Annual Operating Cost of [manufacturing plant]	Distillation column is required	Omitting distillation cuts OPEX substantially



\*Core SPIRE indicator

# What **outputs or learning** from Project ROMEO could have value for other SPIRE projects here?

- Same time catalytic synthesis and separation of desired product (e.g. Hydroformylation) can be done and results in substantial savings in resources and money.
- Chemical reactions at their equilibrium (e.g. Water-Gas-Shift reaction) can be driven to the desired product in an efficient way. Some (new) reactions might only be commercially feasible via this new way
- Modelling of membranes might help to transfer ROMEO results to other areas
- Supports and membranes can be tailored according to need, also for other reactions and process
- The ROMEO team is eager to learn about other possible applications!







Tear down the down stream!





And Europe's people will love you!



#### Become a successful ROMEO user!

PROJECT

REACTOR OPTIMISATION BY MEMBRANE ENHANCED OPERATION

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