

**SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> Catalysts** and  
three-dimensional  
**Technical Services**  
ensures your sulfuric acid  
plant stay efficient



M. Shanmuga Sundaram  
BU-Catalysts/Syngas  
Oct 23, 2018

# Agenda

- Our company at a Glance
- SulfoMax Catalyst profile
- 3D Technical services
- Few Case studies

**SÜD-CHEMIE**  
CREATING PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY  
A Clariant group company



# Clariant at a glance

Public

Corporate Presentation  
14.02.2018

what is precious to you?

# Clariant at a glance

## A GLOBALLY LEADING COMPANY IN SPECIALTY CHEMICALS



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**6377**

Sales 2017 (CHF m)  
from continuing operations

**302**

Net result 2017 (CHF m)  
from continuing operations

**4**

Business Areas

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**974**

EBITDA 2017 (CHF m)  
before exceptionals

**15.3%**

EBITDA margin 2017  
before exceptionals

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**156** in **52**

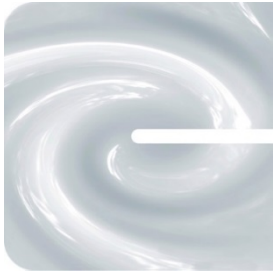
companies countries

**18135**

Employees 2017

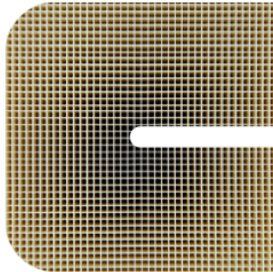


# Four Business Areas – the right portfolio for future growth



## Care Chemicals

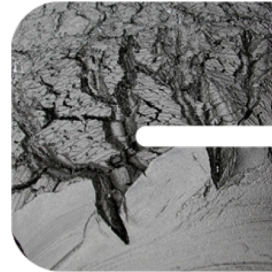
<b>SALES</b> (CHF m)	<b>1 575</b>
<b>EBITDA</b> (CHF m)	<b>290</b>
<b>EBITDA margin</b>	<b>18.4 %</b>



## Catalysis

<b>SALES</b> (CHF m)	<b>767</b>
<b>EBITDA</b> (CHF m)	<b>198</b>
<b>EBITDA margin</b>	<b>25.8 %</b>

Süd-Chemie India



## Natural Resources

<b>SALES</b> (CHF m)	<b>1 357</b>
<b>EBITDA</b> (CHF m)	<b>207</b>
<b>EBITDA margin</b>	<b>15.3 %</b>

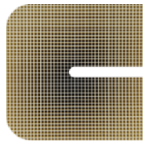


## Plastics & Coatings

<b>SALES</b> (CHF m)	<b>2 678</b>
<b>EBITDA</b> (CHF m)	<b>388</b>
<b>EBITDA margin</b>	<b>14.5 %</b>

# Business Area – Catalysis

## APPLICATIONS



### CATALYSTS

- Ammonia
- Sulfuric Acid
- Custom Catalysts
- Ethylene and derivatives
- Fischer-Tropsch
- Fuel cell
- Fuel upgrading
- Gasoline desulfurization
- Gas processing
- Hydrogenation
- Methanol
- Off-gas treatment for

- chemical plants and stationary engines
- On-purpose propylene
- Oxidation
- Polypropylene
- Refinery hydrogen
- Refinery stream purification
- Sour gas shift
- Steam cracker / Olefin purification
- Styrene and BTX, MTP
- Synthetic natural gas
- Zeolite powders

### BIOTECHNOLOGY

- Bioethanol and alternative fuels
- Bio-based specialties and enzymes

## KEY FINANCIAL FIGURES 2017

\* Over the cycle

**767**

Sales in million CHF

**25.8%**

EBITDA margin  
before exceptional items

**24 - 26%**

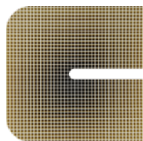
EBITDA margin potential\*  
before exceptional items

**6 - 7%**

Growth ambition per  
annum\*

# Business Area – Catalysis

## APPLICATIONS



### CATALYSTS

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- **Sulfuric Acid** ←
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# Süd-Chemie India – A Clariant group company

- » Established in 1969 in collaboration with SCI of USA. (CCIWA » UCIL » SCIL)
- » Market leaders in India for **Syngas** and **Sulfuric Acid** catalysts
- » Catalytic Converters for two, three, four wheelers as OEM suppliers
- » Recognized exporter of catalysts to USA, Uruguay, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, CIS Countries, South Korea
- » Manufacturing facilities in India at Kochi (Kerala) and Vadodara (Gujarat)
- » Well equipped ISO-9001 certified R&D units recognized by the DSIR, Govt. of India.
- » ISO-14001,9001:2000,OHSAS-18001 and TS-16949 accredited by BVQI
- » “Dream Company to work for” Award winner in manufacturing sector

# We are Catalyst people ...

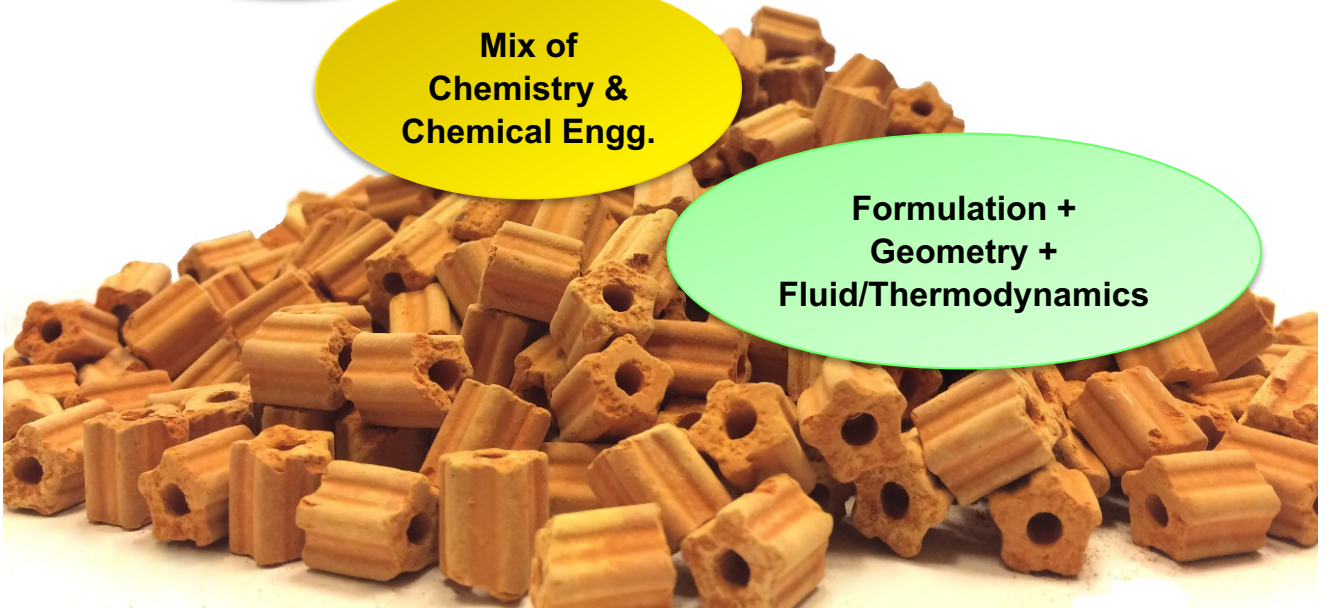
**SÜD-CHEMIE**  
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**150+ years of  
expertise in  
Catalysis**

**Mix of  
Chemistry &  
Chemical Engg.**

**Formulation +  
Geometry +  
Fluid/Thermodynamics**



# SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> Catalysts

**SÜD-CHEMIE**  
CREATING PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY  
A Clariant group company



Süd-Chemie first manufactured its Sulfuric Acid catalyst in **1964**

- » CCE, Belgium, a Süd-Chemie Group company manufactured and supplied SulfoMax catalysts from 1964 till early 90's.
- » As part of consolidation, CCE operations from Belgium had been moved to various locations.
- » SulfoMax technology was transferred to India and now being made in Cochin, India for global supply since last 15 years
- » SulfoMax has proven its performance in 130 sulfuric acid plants across the globe, ranging in capacity from 30 – 3500 MTPD
  - » **India**                               **60 plants**
  - » **Japan**                               **26 plants**
  - » **Rest of world**               **44 plants**
- » The customer profile includes Sulfur burning, metallurgical Off-gas, pyrite smelting and wet gas applications.

# Feed stock and plant technologies

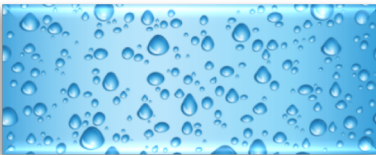
## Sulfuric acid production process



**Metallurgical off-gas**



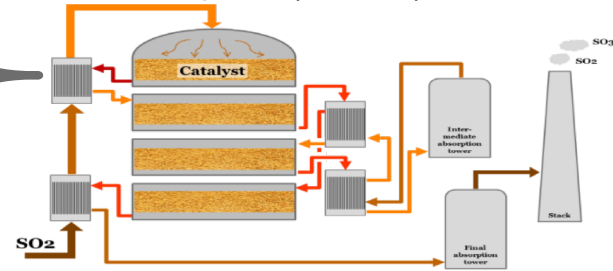
**Sulfur burning**



**Spent acid regeneration;  
Wet sulfuric acid process**  
(Humid gas applications)

### Contact process:

- Single absorption
- Double contact double absorption (DC/DA)

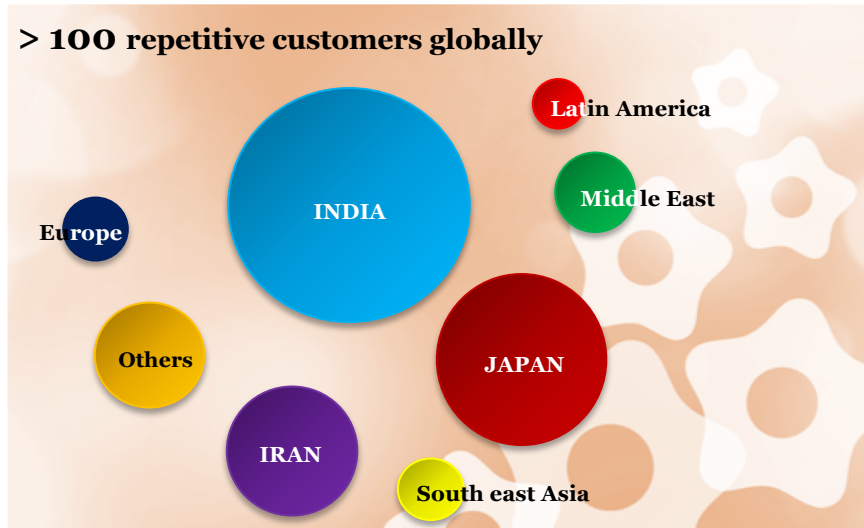


# SulfoMax Global presence

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> **100 repetitive customers globally**



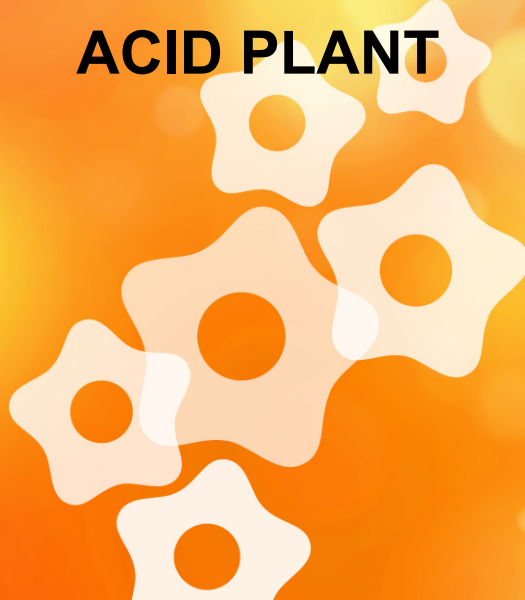
Includes:

- » Fertilizer plants / S burning
- » Metallurgical Off-gas plants
- » Spent Acid Regeneration plants
- » Wet sulfuric acid plants
- » Iron pyrite roasting plants



SulfoMax<sup>®</sup>

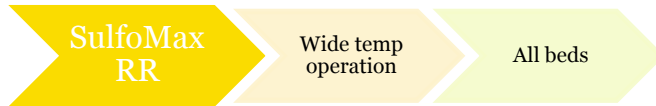
**VARIANTS – SOLUTION TO  
DIFFERENT NEEDS OF  
ACID PLANT**



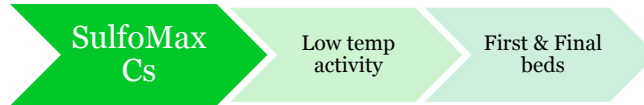


# Our Products – result of continuous research – to meet industry needs

Alkali promoted  
 $V_2O_5$  Catalysts



**Cesium** promoted  
 $V_2O_5$  Catalysts



**Next Generation Catalyst**

# Various Forms of SulfoMax®

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## Ribbed Rings



12x4, 9x3  
mm

25x7 mm



**Pellets**

6 mm



12x4

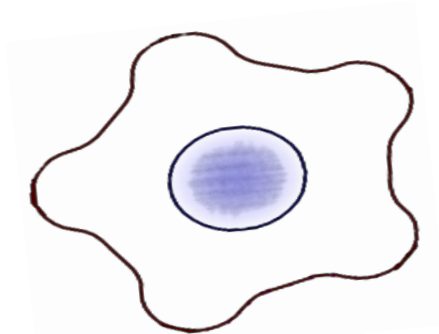
9x3



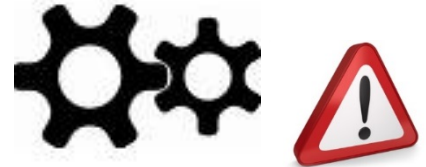
**Rings**

20x7, 12x4,  
9x3 mm

# Ribbed ring is Unique!



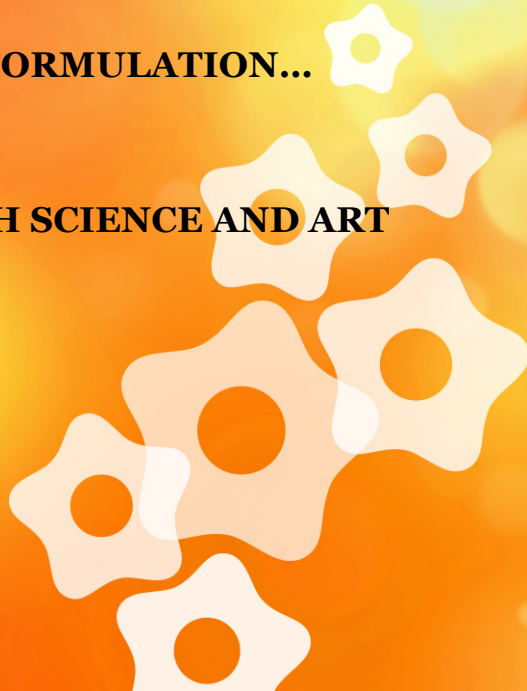
- » Interlocking of pellets is avoided unlike with 'gear' profiles
- » No interlocking → Unrestricted gas flow
- » Good gas flow → **less DP**



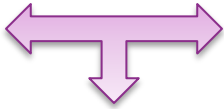

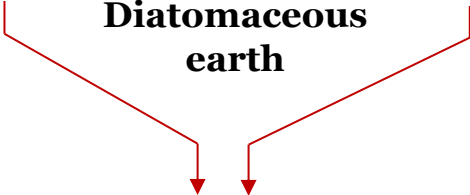
# Catalyst Chemistry

**A CENTURY OLD FORMULATION...**

**...MAKING IS BOTH SCIENCE AND ART**



# What builds up SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> Catalysts

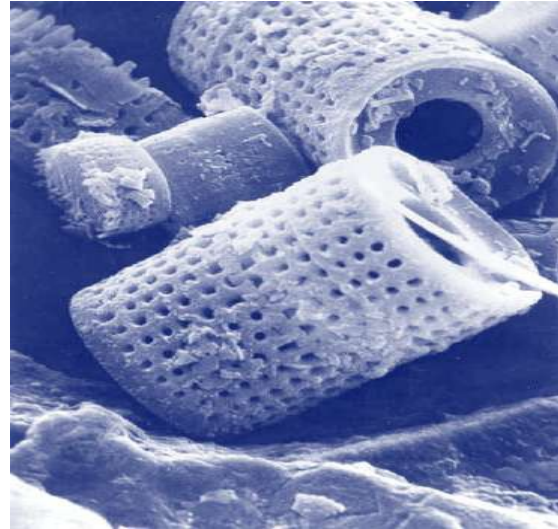
	<i>Ingredients</i>	<i>Function</i>
Promoters	<b>Potassium</b> <b>Sodium</b> 	To lower melting temp of active catalytic complex
Active ingredient	<b>Vanadium Salts</b> 	Catalytic activity
Carrier	<b>Diatomaceous earth</b> 	Porous support to house active melt





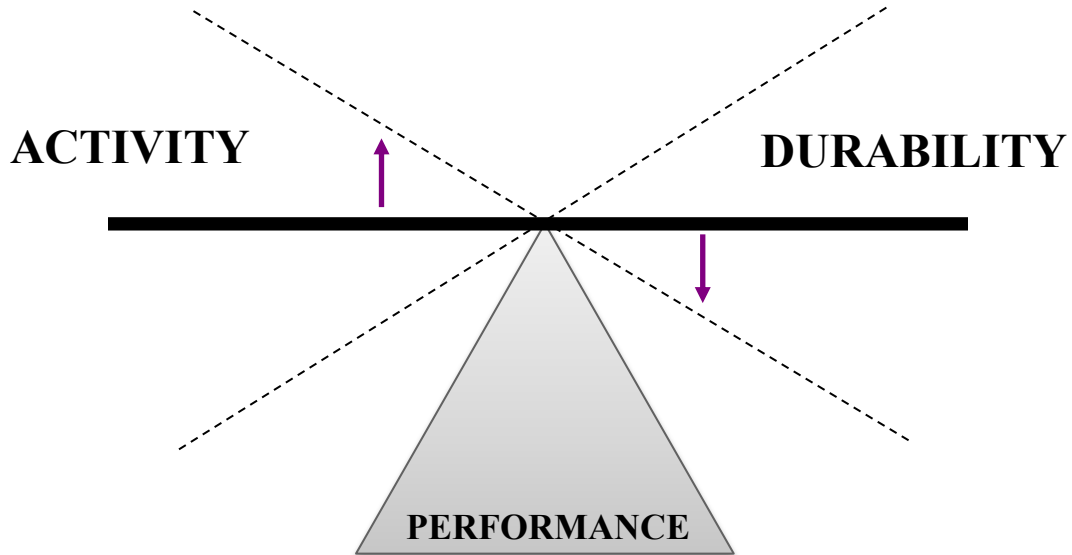
# Diatomaceous Earth – What and Why??

- » Also known as Diatomaceous Earth (DE) or Kieselguhr
- » Skeletons of plankton (diatoms) deposited on lake and ocean beds millions of years ago
- » Nearly pure silica – very much inert
- » Complex natural structures
- » Highly porous (85% air)
- » High surface area
- » Around 5 - 15 microns in size
- » Can be thermally fused into larger, more complex structures
- » An economical source of inert surface area and controlled porosity for a myriad of applications.



# Catalyst Performance

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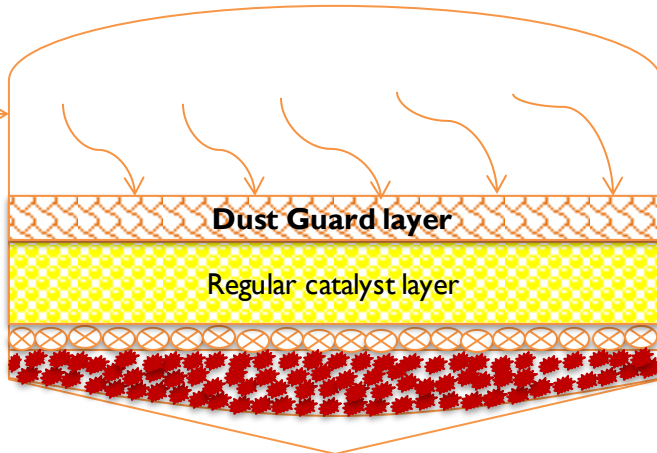


*It's a **Balancing** Act !!*



## SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> GRR Special Purpose Catalysts:

Dust Guard catalyst



**Fact:**

Catalyst, in general, adsorbs dust from the process gas stream

**Problem:**

Dust deposition blocks the gas path leading to higher pressure drop, deactivates catalyst

**Principle:**

Dust is to be adsorbed and gas path should not be restricted

**Solution:**

SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> GRR effectively adsorbs dust and yet maintaining proper gas flow distribution



# Real life Case Study – Dust Guard catalyst

## Plant information

Capacity: 3500 MTPD  
 Feed: Sulfur Burning  
 Type: 3x1 DCDA  
 Catalyst quantity in Bed I:  
 120 cu. m

### Concern:

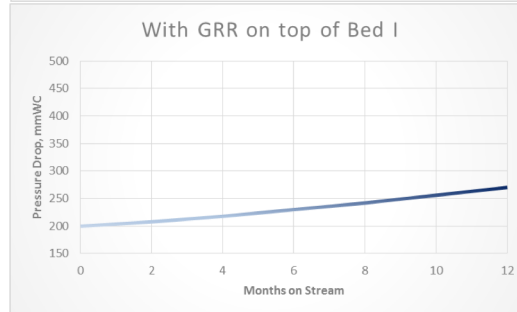
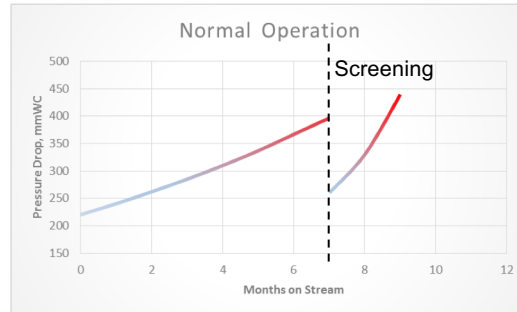
Historical issue of pressure drop rise in bed I

### Reason:

Dust carryover from filtration section

### Design Details:

Design Pressure drop:  
 190 mmWC  
 Shutdown taken at DP:  
 > 400 mmWC



## Study & Recommendation

### Normal Operation:

DP rise: 30 mmWC/month

After a screening,

DP rise: 90 mmWC/month

### Recommendation:

SulfoMax® GRR was installed on top of bed I  
 (to a depth of 10%)

### Results:

Run with no stoppage

DP rise: ~ 6 mmWC/month

## SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> Special Purpose Catalysts:

### SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> WRR – Humid gas application

In Plants other than sulfur burning ones, the gas stream is generally moisture-laden. Moisture is offensive to vanadium pentoxide catalysts.

SulfoMax WRR is developed and supplied globally for wet gas applications. This catalyst is available in all shapes. In specific cases, this catalyst is also promoted with Cesium for low temperature activity.



W series catalysts are available in

- » Cesium promoted forms
- » Ribbed/raschig rings
- » Big rings
- » Pellets/Ribbed extrusions

# Next Generation Catalyst

**SULFOMAX<sup>®</sup> EV** (PATENT PENDING)

*To handle Challenges of Future, Today !!*



# R&D leads to the evolution of a new catalyst

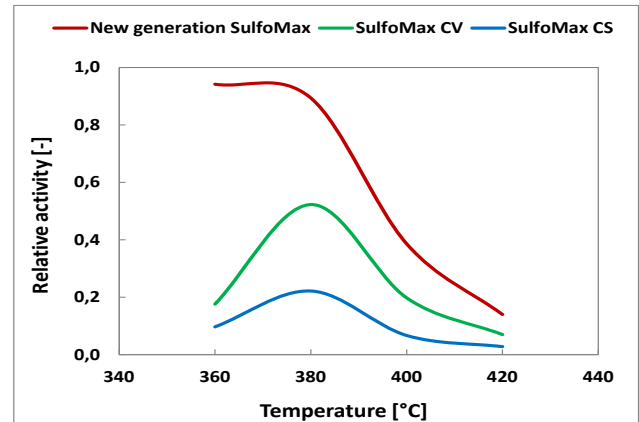
## “SulfoMax® EV” New generation SulfoMax® catalyst

SulfoMax EV, **A Unique** Catalyst that operates at much lower temperatures than current catalysts

**New formulation** takes conversion efficiency to much higher levels and has potential to reduce emissions greatly

**Suitable** for passes after intermediate absorption, due to peak performance at low SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations

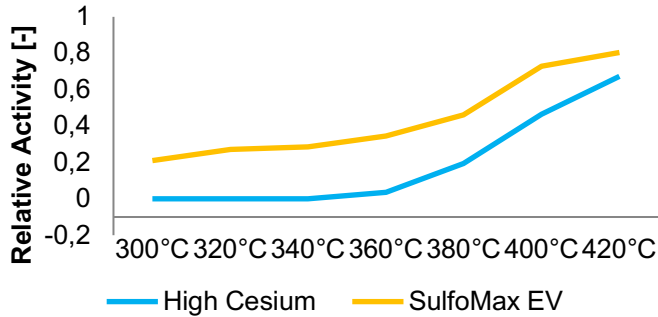
## Relative activity of SulfoMax EV in comparison with existing SulfoMax catalysts



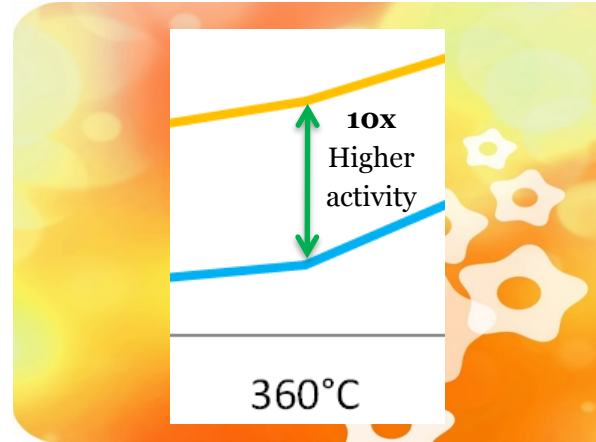
Laboratory results confirm superior activity at significantly lower temperature

# Comparison - SulfoMax<sup>®</sup>EV vs. Cesium catalysts

## EV vs High Cs

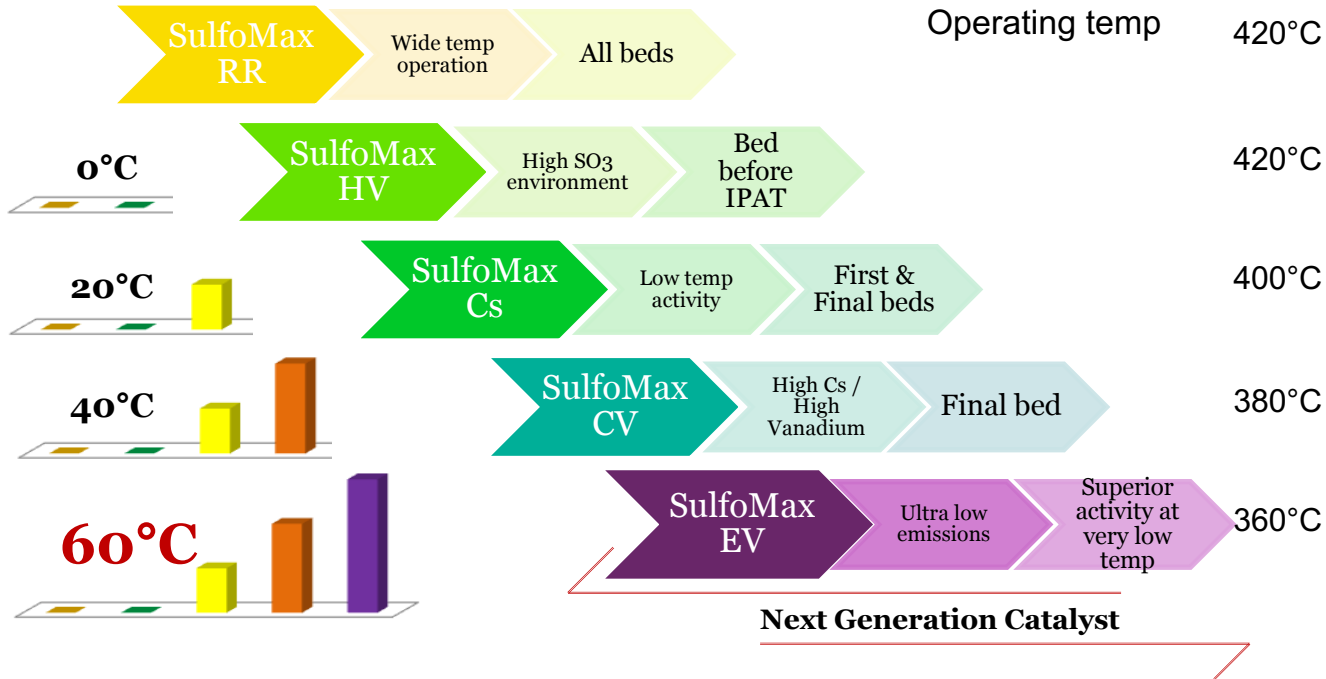


Relative activity of EV over existing high cesium catalysts at 1% SO<sub>2</sub> (v/v), enriched with SO<sub>3</sub>





# Energy recovery Benefits Over Conventional catalysts



# Benefits and opportunities SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> EV

## Value creation through innovation



### **LOWER SO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS**

Higher catalyst activity, especially at low SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, allows higher conversion rates and thus reduced SO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

- **SulfoMax EV** helps you meet stringent environmental norms



### **IMPROVED ENERGY RECOVERY**

Higher catalyst activity allows reduction of inlet temperatures to the final pass after intermediate absorption and thus reduces the energy requirement for heating.

- **SulfoMax EV** helps increase energy efficiency in sulfuric acid plants
- Lower operating temperatures can help influence new plant designs



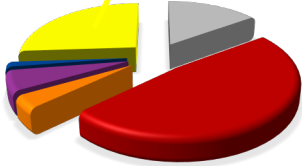
# SulfoMax<sup>®</sup> Market Position

**MARKET LEADERS IN INDIA  
AND JAPAN**

# SulfoMax in Indian Market

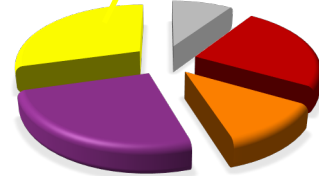
2013

26



2014

29



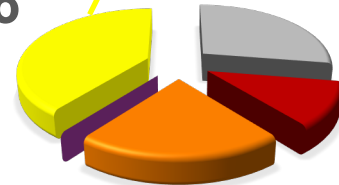
2015

38



2016

40



2017

42

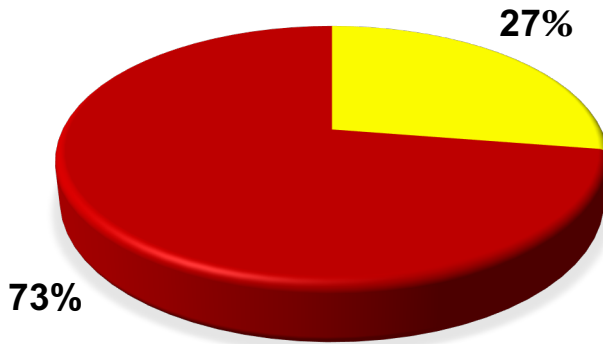
Share of SulfoMax

# SulfoMax in Japanese Market

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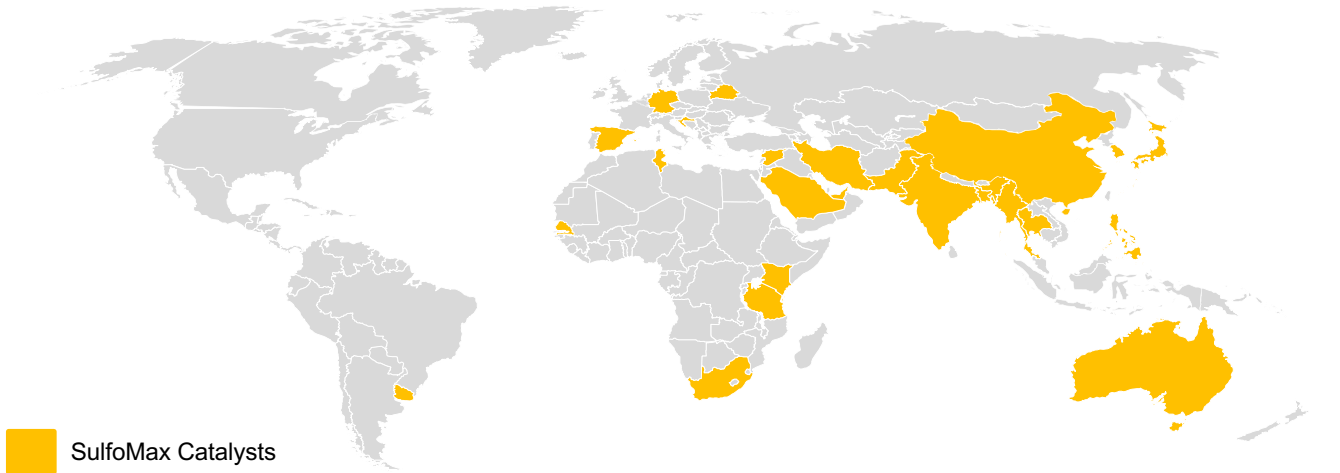
## INSTALLED VOLUME, M3



- » Preferred product in Japanese market
- » More than **25** customer references in Japan
- » Replaced competition: HTAS/BASF

# SulfoMax Global presence

**SÜD-CHEMIE**  
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A Clariant group company



 SulfoMax Catalysts

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More than **130**  
references globally

Production and  
R&D in INDIA

Produced and  
supplied Globally



# New Greenfield Projects with SulfoMax

Customers	Location	Capacity	Stack SO <sub>2</sub>	Year
<b>Delivered</b>				
Wata Chemicals	Bangladesh	44 kTPA	0.59 kg SO <sub>2</sub> /MT acid	2016
Sebasic	Oman	33 kTPA	0.52 kg SO <sub>2</sub> /MT acid	2017
WgSA	China	55 kTPA	Wet gas Sulfuric Acid	2017
Panoli Intermediates	India	220 kTPA	0.52 kg SO <sub>2</sub> /MT acid	2017
Kutch Chemicals	India	110 kTPA	0.52 kg SO <sub>2</sub> /MT acid	2018
Kisan Phosphates	India	37 kTPA	0.98 kg SO <sub>2</sub> /MT acid	2018
WgSA	China	180 kTPA	Wet gas Sulfuric Acid	2018
<b>Projects in pipeline</b>				
Several projects totaling to ~440 kTPA in pipeline				2018 - 22

# Partial list of S Burning references – SulfoMax

- » IFFCO Paradip, India - **3500** MTPD x 2 trains
- » ICS, Senegal – **3000** MTPD
- » FACT, India – **2000** MTPD
- » Paradeep Phosphates, India – **1200** MTPD
- » GSFC, India – **1750** MTPD
- » Philphos, Philippines – **1000** MTPD
- » Nippon, Japan – **1000** MTPD
- » GFC, Syria – **850** MTPD
- » GCT, Tunisia – **750** MTPD
- » Tata Chemicals, India – **750** MTPD
- » ISUSA, Uruguay – **500** MTPD
- » Mangalore Chemicals, India – **400** MTPD
- » Rama Group, India – **450** MTPD



# Partial List of Smelter references for SulfurMax

- » Incitec Pivot (Australia),
- » Pan Pacific Copper (Japan),
- » Birla Copper (India),
- » Sterlite Copper (India)
- » Hindustan Copper (India)
- » Akita (Japan),
- » Hachinohe smelting (Japan),
- » Hindustan Zinc (India)
- » PASAR (Philippines),
- » Hibi Kyodo (Japan)
- » Toho Zinc (Japan)
- » Kamioka smelting (Japan)



# Technical Services

**YOUR FRIEND TO RELY ON...**





# 3D - Technical Services

## Computer Simulation

- Thermodynamic equilibrium study
- Bed-wise conversion analysis
- Process optimisation
- Troubleshooting
- Designing of new plants



## Spent Catalyst

- Activity Evaluation
- Physical strength
- Chemical composition
- Life projection
- Catalyst top-up planning

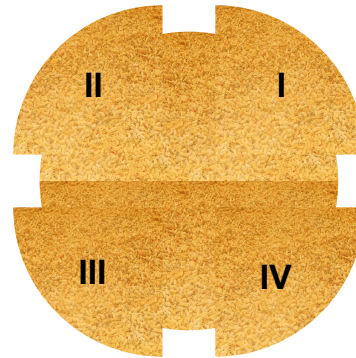
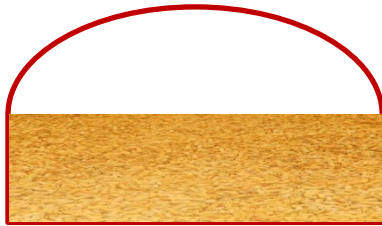


## Inter-bed gas analysis

- Catalyst performance assessment
- Bed-wise conversion analysis
- Heat Exchanger healthiness
- Stack emission reassurance
- Catalyst turnaround planning

... To monitor the pulse of the plant

# Effective Catalyst sampling



Representative  
sample

# 3D - Technical Services – Simulation studies



## Spent Catalyst

- Activity Evaluation
- Physical strength
- Chemical composition
- Life projection
- Catalyst top-up planning

## Computer Simulation

- Thermodynamic equilibrium study
- Bed-wise conversion analysis
- Process optimisation
- Troubleshooting
- Designing of new plants

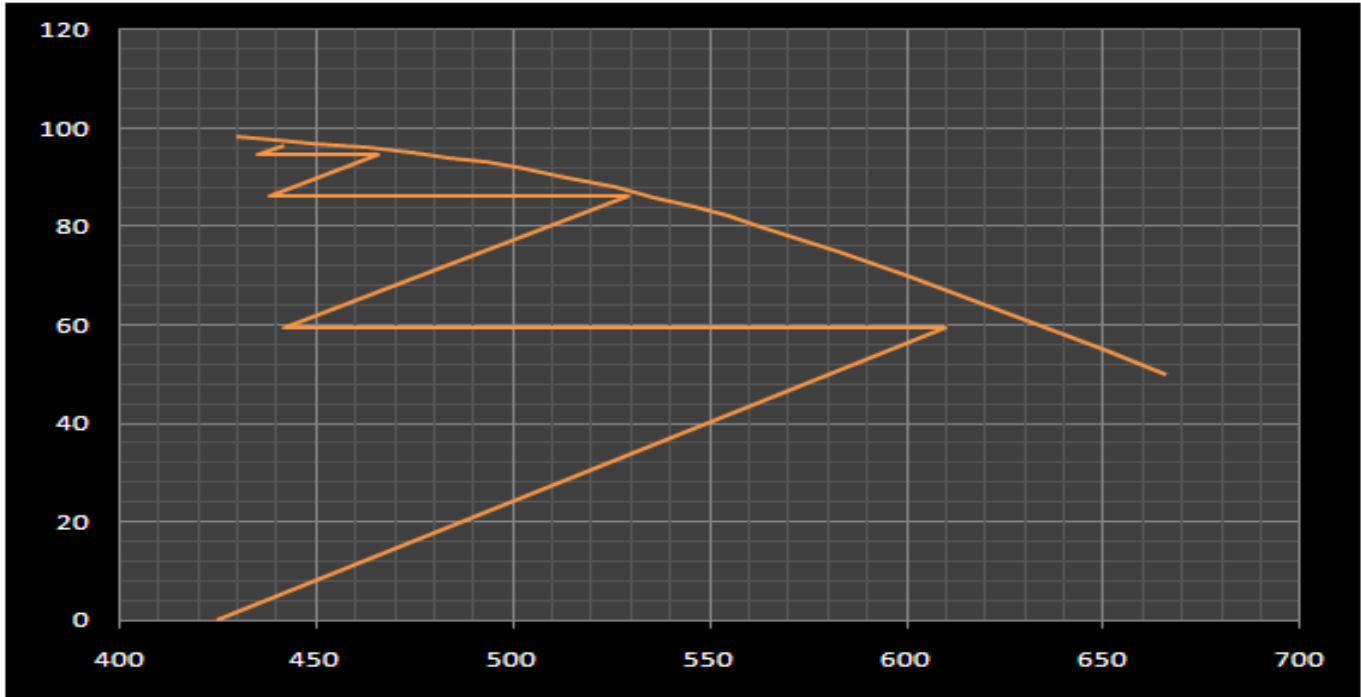
## Inter-bed gas analysis

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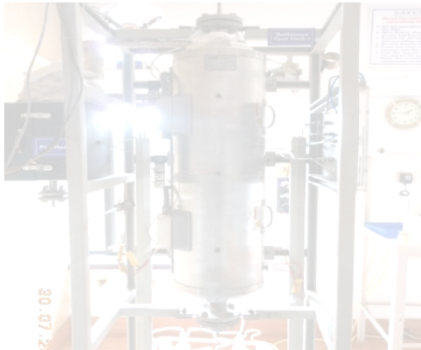


# Computer simulation & Optimization studies



Better the Equilibrium approach, higher is the conversion efficiency

# 3D - Technical Services – Gas Analysis



## Spent Catalyst

- Activity Evaluation
- Physical strength
- Chemical composition
- Life projection
- Catalyst top-up planning

## Computer Simulation

- Thermodynamic equilibrium study
- Bed-wise conversion analysis
- Process optimisation
- Troubleshooting
- Designing of new plants

## Inter-bed gas analysis

- Catalyst performance assessment
- Bed-wise conversion analysis
- Heat Exchanger healthiness
- Stack emission reassurance
- Catalyst turnaround planning

... To monitor the pulse of the plant

# 3D - Technical Services – iGAS®

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## PORTABLE ANALYSER



SO<sub>3</sub> interference free

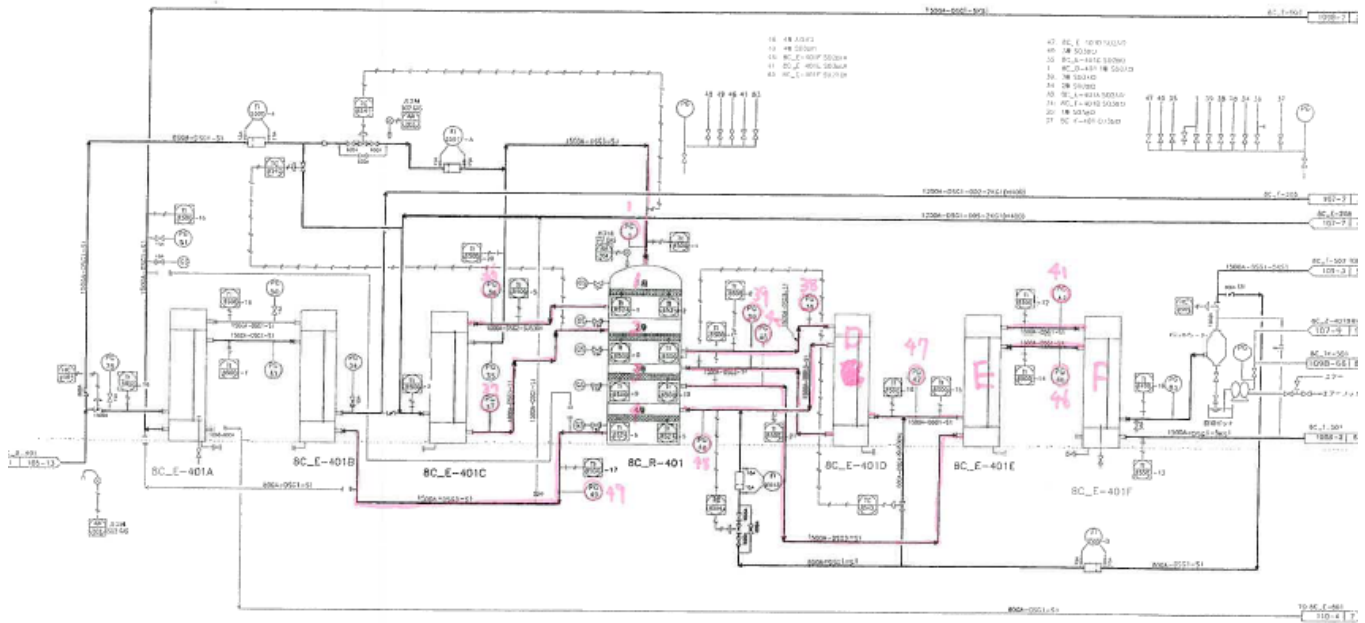
Inter-bed Gas Analysis  
Bed-wise performance  
assessment

# Case Studies

- **TROUBLESHOOTING**
  - **CONVERSION IMPROVEMENT**
  - **LONGER CAMPAIGNS**
  - **PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT**
- 



# Case Study – I







# Case Study – I

Customer in Japan	
Plant Capacity	620 MTPD
Feed type	Sulfur burning
Config	3 x 1 DCDA
Catalyst type	Non-Cesium
Catalyst loading	< 170 lit/MTPD
SO2 load	10.5 – 11%v/v

### Recommendations

- Bed I – Partial replacement
- Bed II & III – screening and top up
- Beds IV - Partial replacement

### Results

- Overall conversion efficiency – **99.82%**
- Bed I ATE improved as below
- Pressure drop reduced to 60 mmWC – **lower than the design**

**Jul 2013**

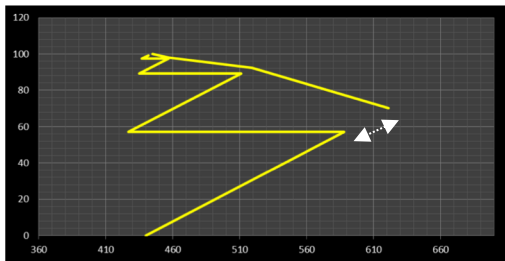
*Study & Recommendation*

*Implementation & Results*

**Nov 2013**

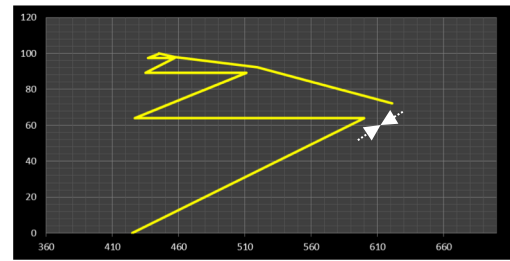
### Simulation results

- Overall conversion efficiency - **99.26%**
- Bed I was operating quite far from equilibrium (**> 2x**, x is desired)
- Pressure drop across bed I **> 2x**
- Plant **throughput reduced** due to higher pressure drop across bed I



### Targets from Customer

- Overall conversion above 99.8%
- Higher throughput with DP reduction



Equilibrium performance after implementation of recommendations



# Case Study – I (Continued)

## Situation during Jul 2016

Catalyst service life (as of Jul 2016):

Beds	Catalyst installed	Service life in years
I	SulfoMax RR 9x3	3
II	SulfoMax RR 9x3	3
III	SulfoMax HV 9x3	> 7
IV	SulfoMax RR 9x3	> 7

## Turnaround during Dec 2017

- Screening & top up of screening losses

*Run*  
*Continued*

**Jul 2016**

*Run*  
*Continued*

**Dec 2017**

*... 2020*

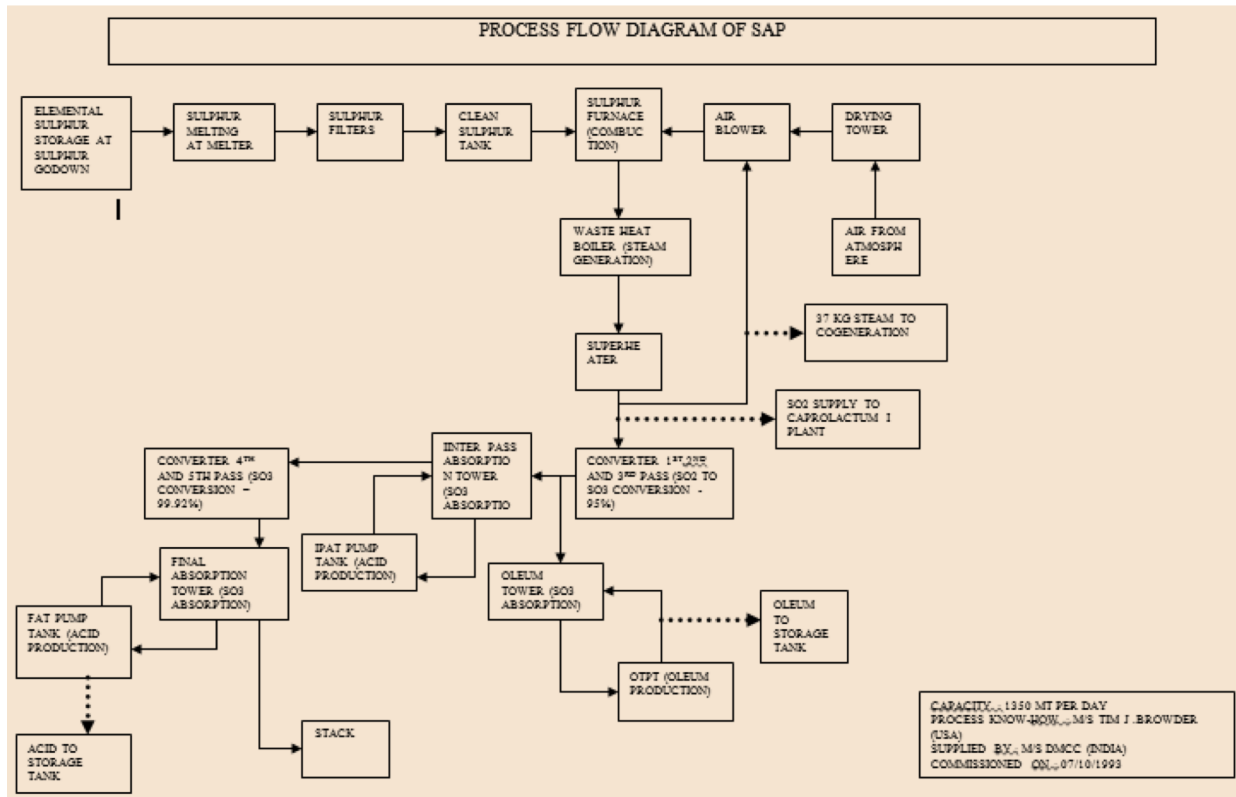
## Simulation results

- Overall conversion efficiency – **99.8%**
- NO screening in 3 years
- NO top-up in 3 years
- NO pressure drop issue
- NO catalyst turnaround in 3 yrs

## Conclusion

- One of the **LONGEST CAMPAIGN** using SulfoMax® catalysts – **4.5 yrs**
- Next catalyst screening planned during 2020

# Case Study – II

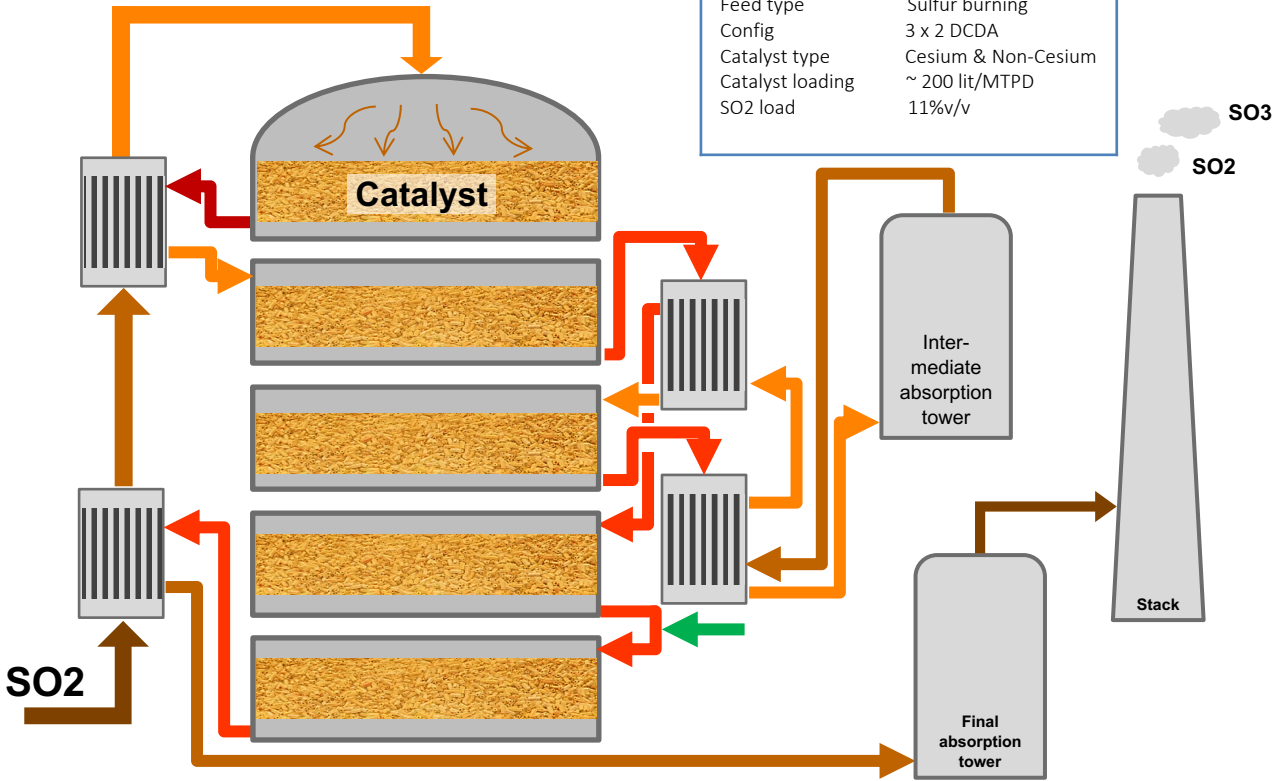




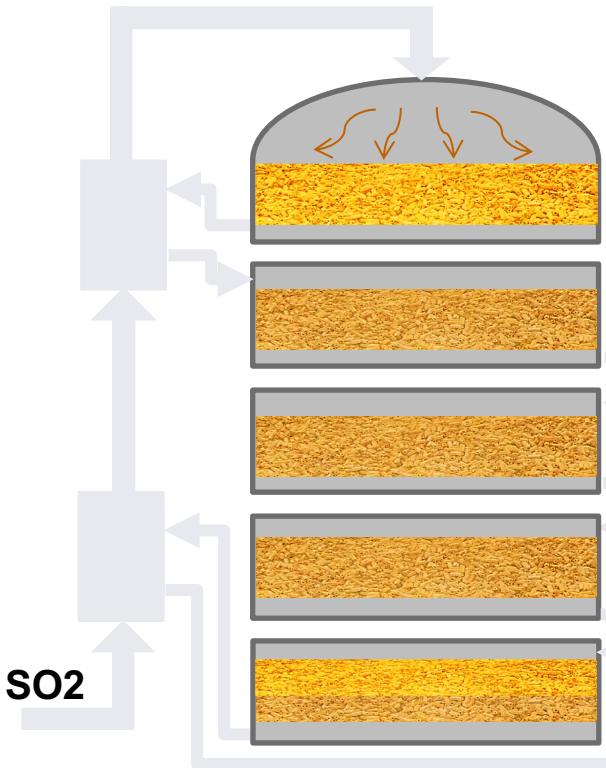
# Case Study – II *Continued*

## Customer in India

Plant Capacity	1350 MTPD
Feed type	Sulfur burning
Config	3 x 2 DCDA
Catalyst type	Cesium & Non-Cesium
Catalyst loading	~ 200 lit/MTPD
SO <sub>2</sub> load	11%/v

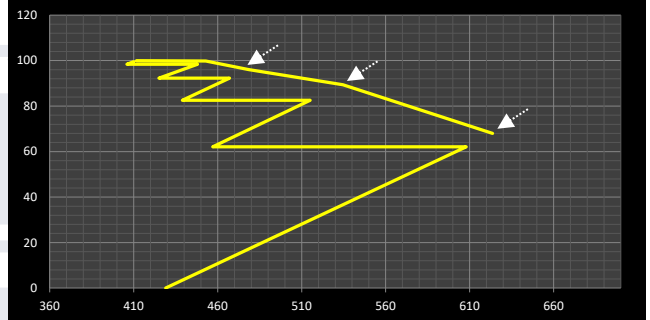


# Case Study – II *Continued*



## Simulation study revealed

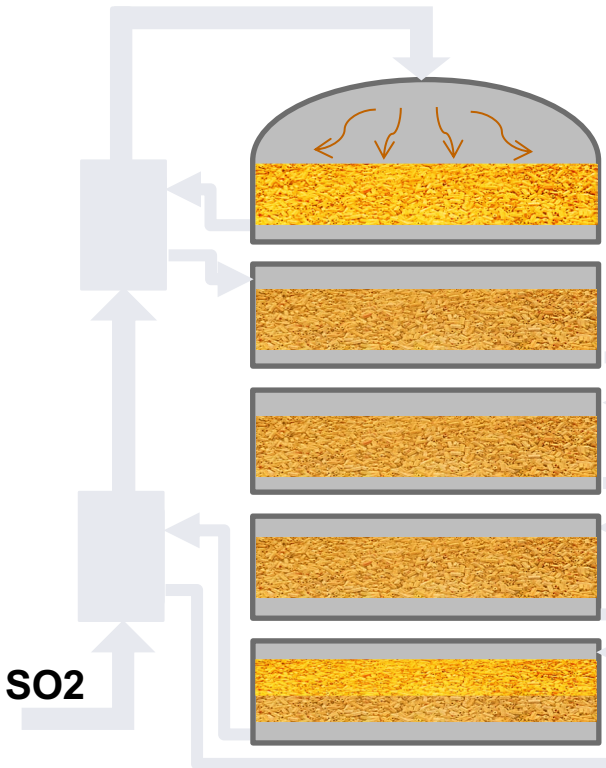
- Beds I, II, III operating far from equilibrium
- Exit emission - **3.0 kg SO<sub>2</sub>/MT** (470 ppm)
- Overall conversion – **99.55%**
- SO<sub>2</sub> at converter inlet was 10% (Design – **10.5%**)



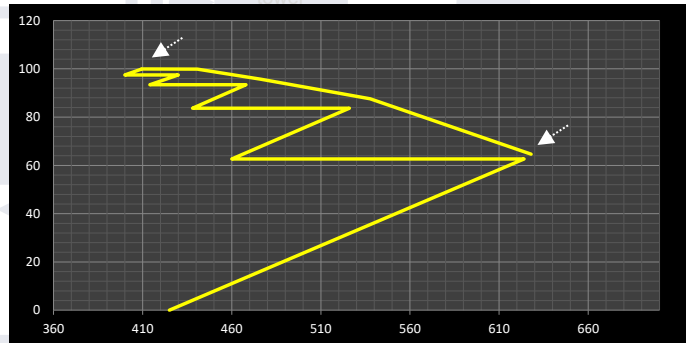
## Recommendations

- Bed I replacement with SulfoMax RR
- Half of bed V with SulfoMax Cs
- Reduce inlet temperature to beds I & V

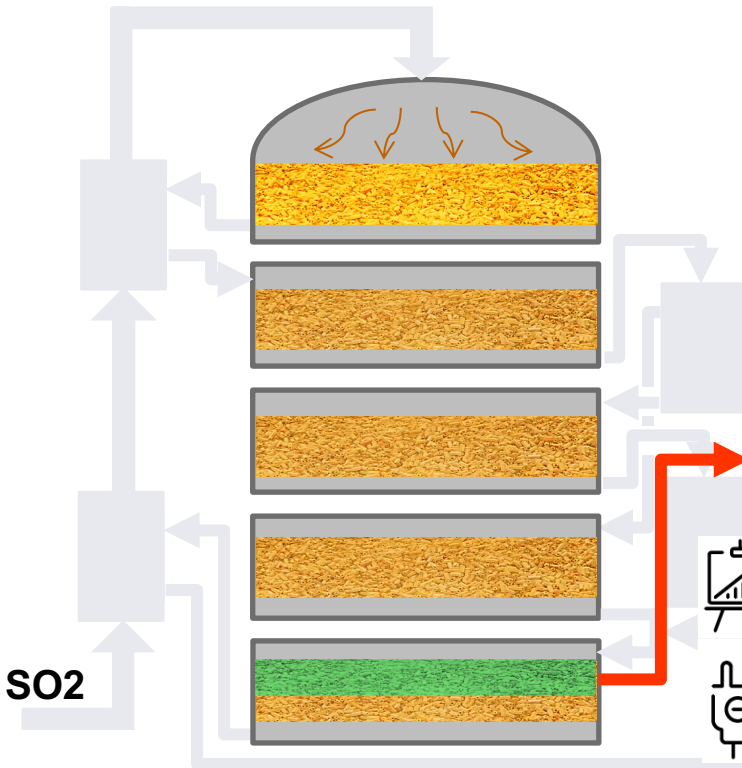
# Case Study – II *Continued*



Post implementation Results		
Parameters	Before	After
Temperature diff in bed I	175 – 180 °C	199 – 200 °C
SO2 load	10.3%	11.05%
DP across bed I	200 mmWC	50 mmWC
Overall Conversion	99.55%	99.8%
Stack Emission	3.0 kg SO2/MT 470 ppm	1.4 kg SO2/MT 258 ppm



# Case Study – II *Continued*



## Bonus Benefits

The Customer realized following benefits using Cesium promoted Catalysts in bed V

On an average, **80 mins** saving during every plant start up (which otherwise is spent on ramp up to full load)

When savings only during scheduled stoppages are accounted,

- **900 MT** of additional acid produced p.a.
- **~ 1050 MT** of additional steam production

Besides,

- **No deviation of emission norms** during start up
- **Longer catalyst lifetime** in final bed (low temperature operation)
- **Sustained lower emission**



HIGHER EQUILIBRIUM YIELDS



REDUCED EMISSIONS



MAXIMUM ENERGY RECOVERY



EXTENDED CATALYST LIFETIME

# Case Study – III

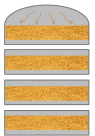
## Problem definition

In a 400 MTPD S burning sulfuric acid plant in India with 3 x 1 DCDA configuration,

- Higher emission despite satisfactory converter temperature/performance

## Troubleshooting

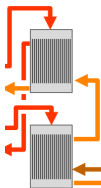
### Converter



Simulation – satisfactory conversion until B IV

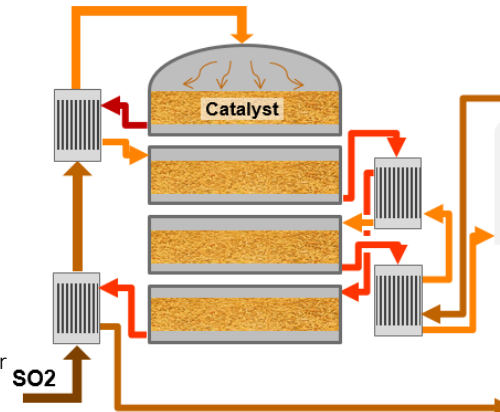
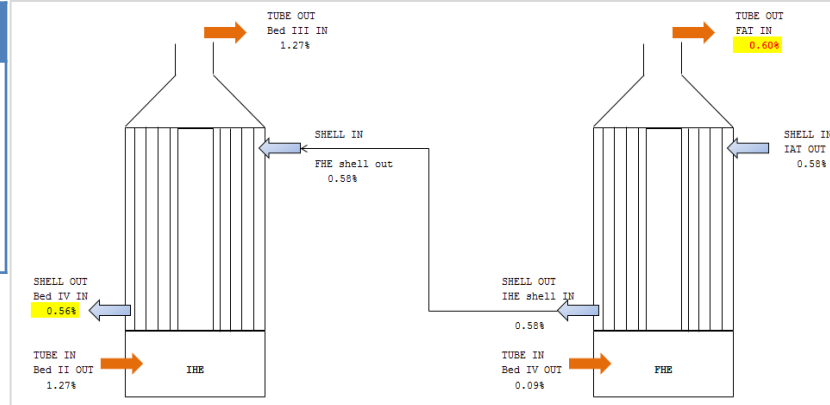
iGAS® - conforming Simulation study

### Heat Exchanger System



Visual checks – no visible / identifiable leaks

iGAS® - identified significant leak of SO<sub>2</sub> into FAT, leading to higher stack emission



### iGAS® technique:

- Catalyst performance assessment
- Stack emission reassurance
- Heat Exchanger system Healthiness



# Conclusion

**SÜD-CHEMIE**  
CREATING PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY  
A Clariant group company



- » SulfoMax Catalysts – Technical proven and is in use in 130 SA plants satisfactorily
- » Three-dimensional Technical services help customer
  - » Optimize the operation
  - » Achieve higher efficiency
  - » Improve energy recovery
  - » Lower Stack emissions
- » Partner with us !!

**SÜD-CHEMIE**

CREATING PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY

A Clariant group company



# Regional support with global experts giving timely and accurate support

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*Thank  
you*