

# Progress in the Commercialization of DME

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Chairman  
International DME Association  
IDA

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World GTL 6 Summit

London

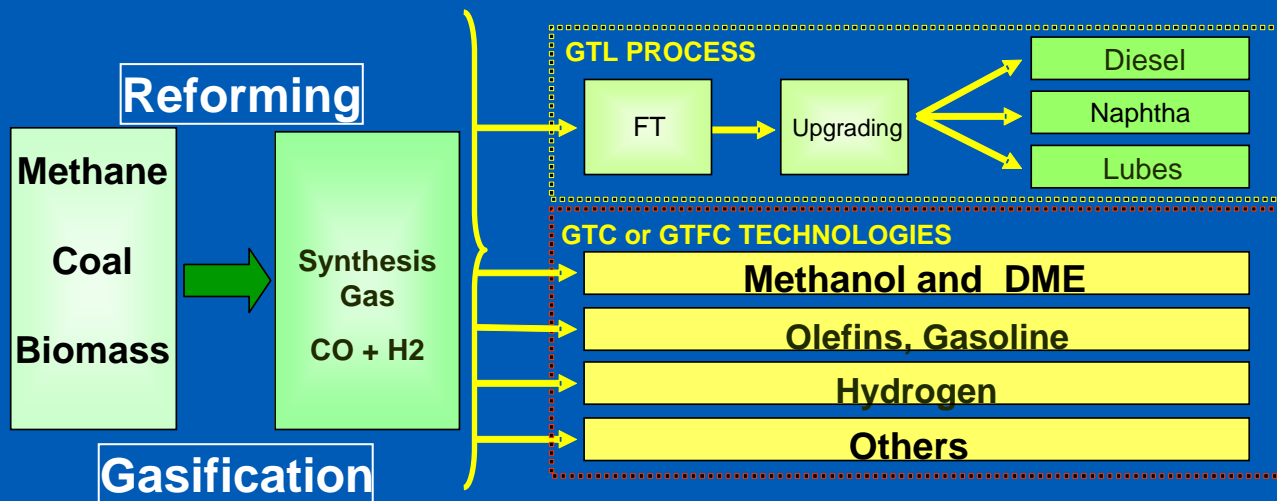
May 17 - 19, 2006

# Outline

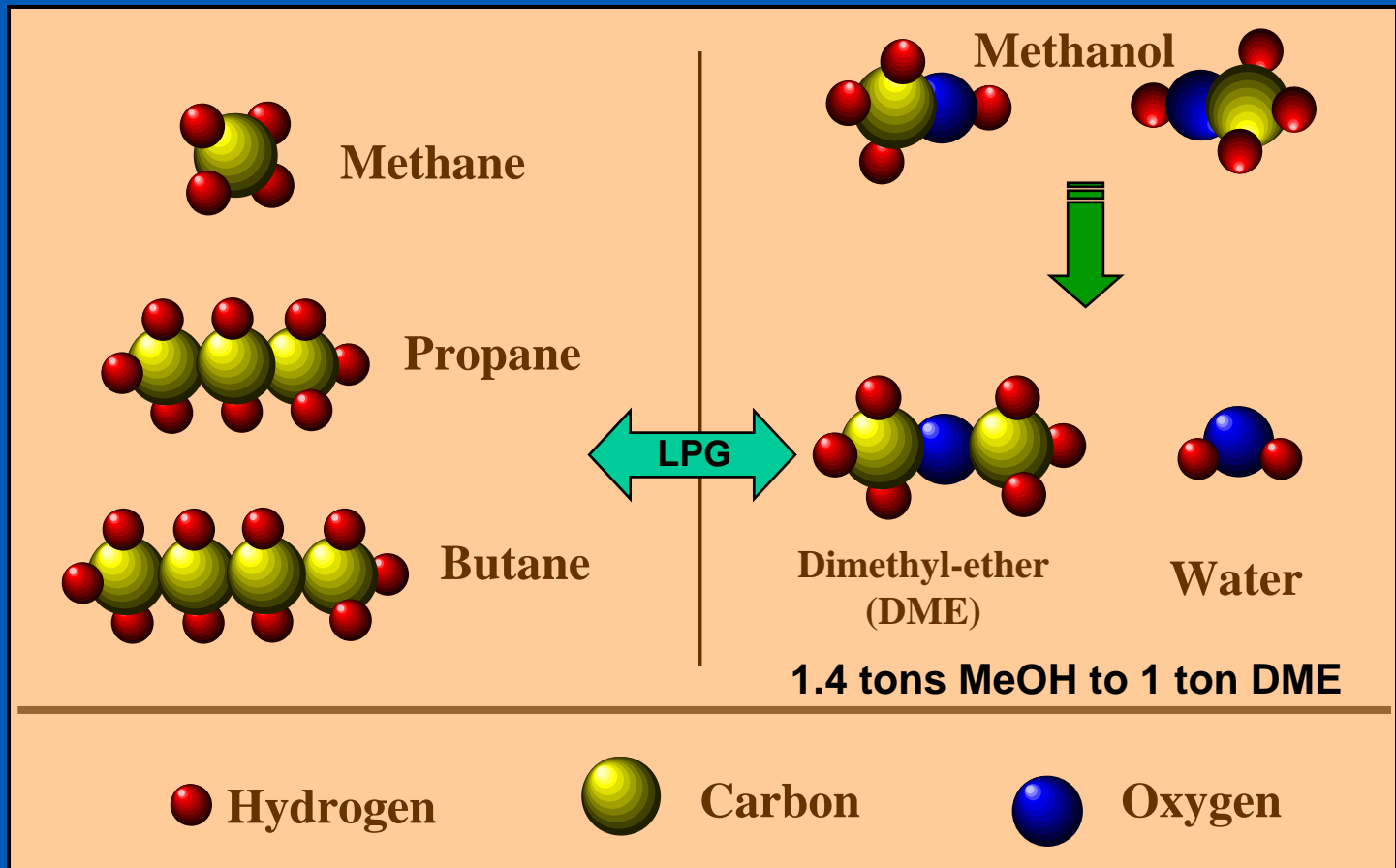
- Role of DME in GTP/XTP family
- Properties and markets
- Global developments
- Conclusion

# DME: a member of the GTP or XTP family

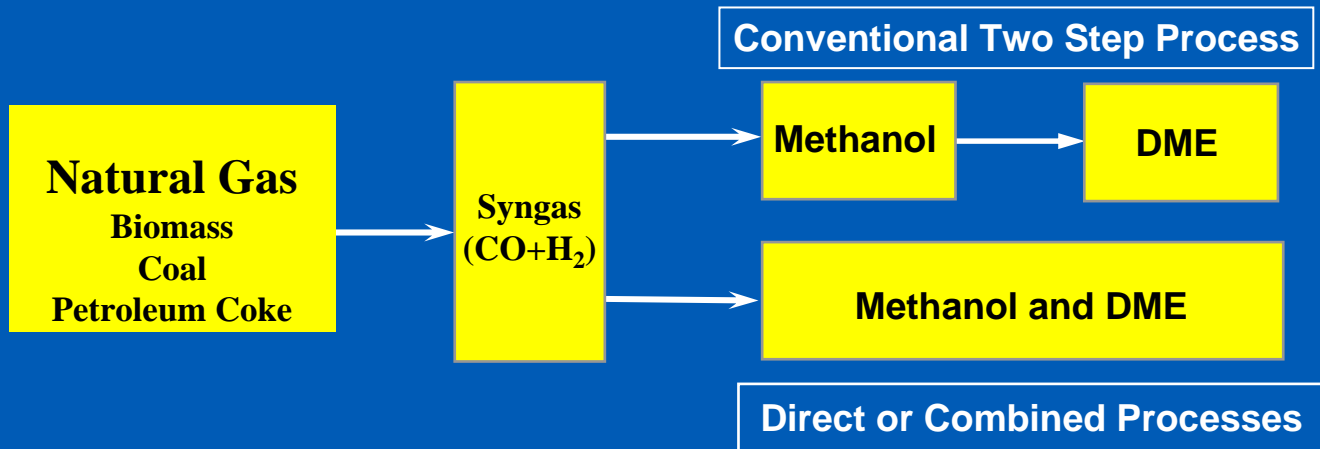
## Conversion Technologies



# What is DME? "Synthetic LPG"



# Methanol and DME production



- Same chemistry, different engineering
- Methanol to DME conversion is very simple and cheap
- Similar Capex and Opex (<10% delta; lower than GTL-FT!)
- Co-production feasible
- First plants: all 2 step technologies

# Comparison GTL-FT, Methanol and DME

	<b>GTL-FT</b>	<b>Methanol</b>	<b>DME</b>
<b>Technology availability</b>	restricted	Global choice	Global choice
<b>Efficiency Thermal/carbon</b>	60/77	70/82	70/82
<b>Process steps</b>	3	2	3 or 2
<b>Project size</b>	>0.5 bcf/d	<0.5 bcf/d	<0.5 bcf/d
<b>Environmental benefits</b>	+ incremental	+ incremental	++ Step change
<b>Markets</b>	traditional	mostly new	new

# Outline

- Role of DME in GTP/XTP family
- **Properties and markets**
- Global developments
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# About DME

- Handles like LPG
- Manufactured from/with methanol
- Environmentally friendly
- Large market potential as synthetic LPG, diesel alternative and fuel for power generation
- Feedstock for hydrogen, olefins and gasoline
- The “ideal” diesel fuel





# Properties of methanol and DME

Property	DME	Propane	Methanol
Boiling Point (deg C)	-25	-42	65
Vapor Pressure @ 20 C (bar)	5.1	8.4	0.3
Liquid Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	670	500	790
Lower Heating Value (kcal/l)	5200	5900	3200
Auto Ignition Temp (deg C)	235-350	470	465
Explosion/Flammability Limit in air (vol %)	3.4-17	2.1- 9.4	7.3-36
Octane, (R+M)/2	low	104	100
Cetane	60+	5	5

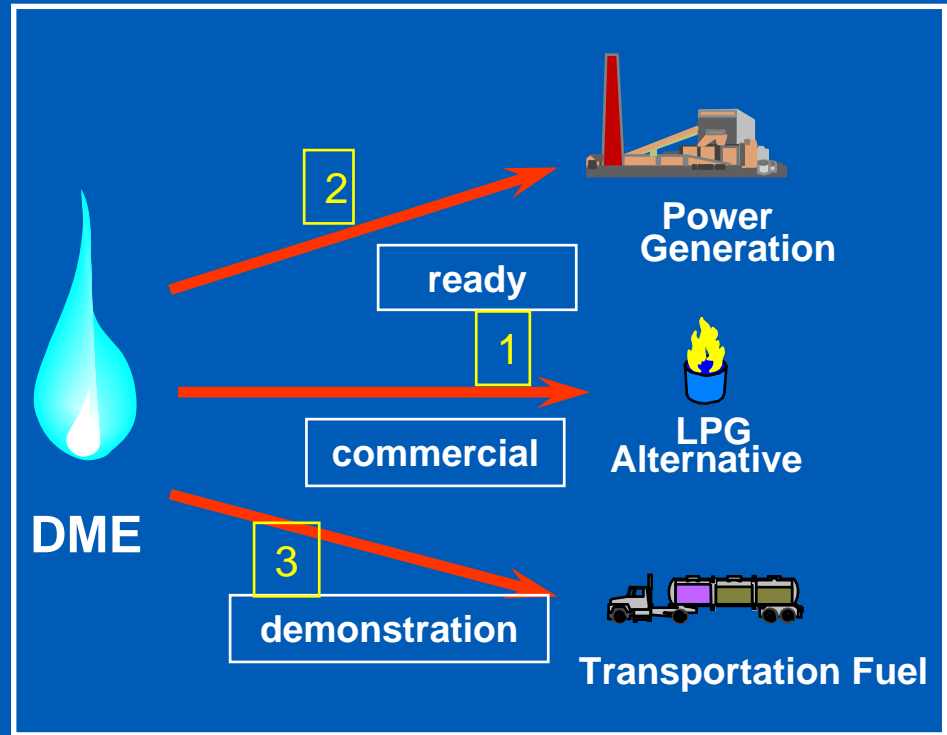
# DME Markets

CFC  
Replacement



Today

*Three Primary Applications...*



Future

# DME offers material markets

Target Products	Potential market size MMTPA
<i>Benchmark: LNG</i>	<i>140 (actual)</i>
GTL-FT: Diesel	1100
GTL-FT: Crude Oil	3800
Ammonia	130
Methanol, chemical	34
Methanol/DME to Olefins	140
Methanol/DME to Gasoline	900
Methanol to DME (syn-LPG)	215
2020 Asia DME demand	200

# Outline

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# Recent key developments

- Commercial plants in China with domestic fuel customers
- World production tripled in 3 years (150ktpa to 450tpa)
- Mega-methanol projects proven (Atlas with BP, Methanex, Lurgi)
- Successful completion of Volvo Afforhd diesel project; numerous other fleet testing

# DME - Global Activities



**Korea DME Forum**

**China DME Association**

## Membership – 2006

### Patron

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- AB Volvo
- BP America Inc.
- Lurgi

### Regular

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- Air Liquide
- Air Products & Chemicals
- Akzo Nobel
- Astaka Dodol, PT
- AVL List GmbH
- Aygaz A. S.
- Central Motor Wheel Ltd.
- Chemrec
- Elgas Limited
- Eni S.p.A.
- Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH

### Honorary

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- James McCandless, USA
- Yotaro Ohno, Japan
- Spencer Sorenson, Denmark
- Ni Weidou, China
- Haldor Tøpsoe A/S
- Korea Gas Corporation
- Marathon Oil Company
- Methanex Corporation
- Mitsui & Co. Ltd.
- Oil Search Ltd.
- Origin Energy Ltd.
- Shandong Juitai Chemical Industry Technology, Ltd
- Shell Global Solutions B.V.
- The Catalyst Group TGC/TCGR
- Union Chemical Laboratories, ITRI
- Wesfarmers Kleenheat Gas P/L

### Individual

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- Alan Richards, USA
- André Boehman, USA
- D. Cipolat, South Africa
- Ingemar Denbratt, Sweden
- Suichi Kajitani, Japan
- Colin Glasenberg, USA
- Martii Larmi, Finland
- David Mody, Canada
- Lars Pettersson, Sweden
- Pieter D. van Wijk, USA

### Community Institution

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- Municipality of Växjö

*Red color indicates a new member  
(joined since DME 1)*

**IDA**

# **International DME Association**

Dimethylether: A Fuel for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



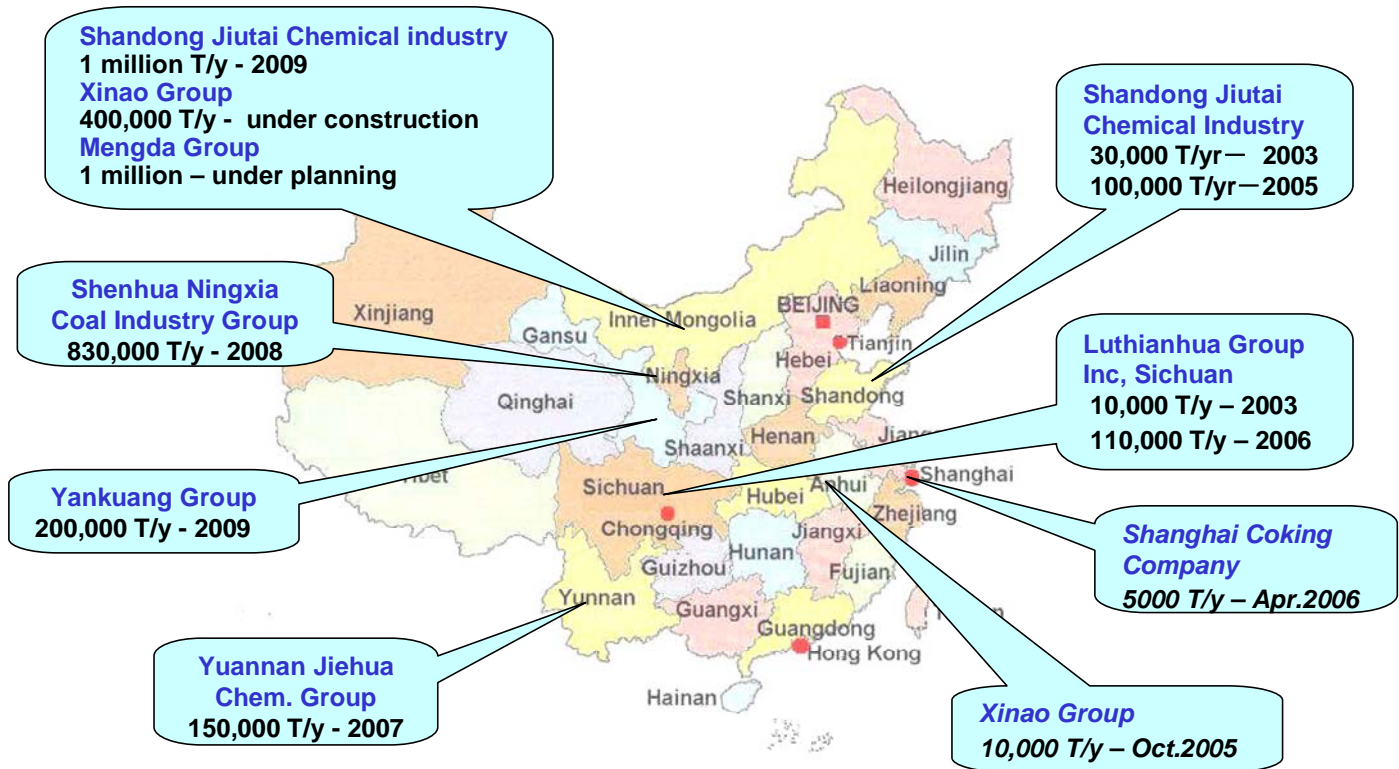
**DME 2: May 15 -17, 2006**



# Key messages from DME 2 conference

- DME is commercial reality (~450ktpa)
- China is major producer and consumer
- Market order: LPG – diesel – power
- Robust economics: ~\$4-6/MMBTU delivered
- Production from coal, gas and biomass
- Easy production from methanol
- Emerging DME to olefins business
- Numerous diesel fleet testing: 2010 commercial

# Domestic DME Production



## Quantities Involved – Production

	2004	2010	2020
LP Gas	212MT	250MT	340MT
DME	150KT	<10MT	<70MT



# Conclusion

- LP Gas is a popular and growing fuel in the world
- The WLPGA exists to promote its use and facilitate market development
- DME and LP Gas have very similar handling conditions and physicochemical properties
- As mixtures or separately, DME and LP Gas can often be used as SUBSTITUTES.
- The LP Gas industry is ready to welcome DME, the other liquid gas and to market it.



# Conclusions

*Dramatic progress has been made in the first 10 years in understanding and advancing the DME business*

- DME has become a COMMERCIAL REALITY
- First manufacturers: methanol producers
- Global DME effort is led by Asia because of need for LPG and clean transportation fuel
- DME
  - Proven manufacturing technologies
  - Low cost XTP option
  - Large, high value fuel markets
  - Robust economics

# Take aways

1. “DME is synthetic LPG” (with a twist)
2. “DME is easy” (manufacture, distribute, market)

# Back-up

# DME plants

<b>China 1</b> (Lutianhua, Toyo, gas)	<b>10 ktpa</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>China 2</b> (Shangdong, coal)	<b>100 ktpa</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>China 3</b> (Lutianhua, Toyo, gas)	<b>110 ktpa</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Iran 1</b> (Zagros, HTAS, gas)	<b>800 ktpa</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Japan 1, 2, 3</b> (3 consortia)	<b>~2,000 ktpa</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>China 4</b> (Shangdong, coal)	<b>1,000 ktpa</b>	<b>2010</b>