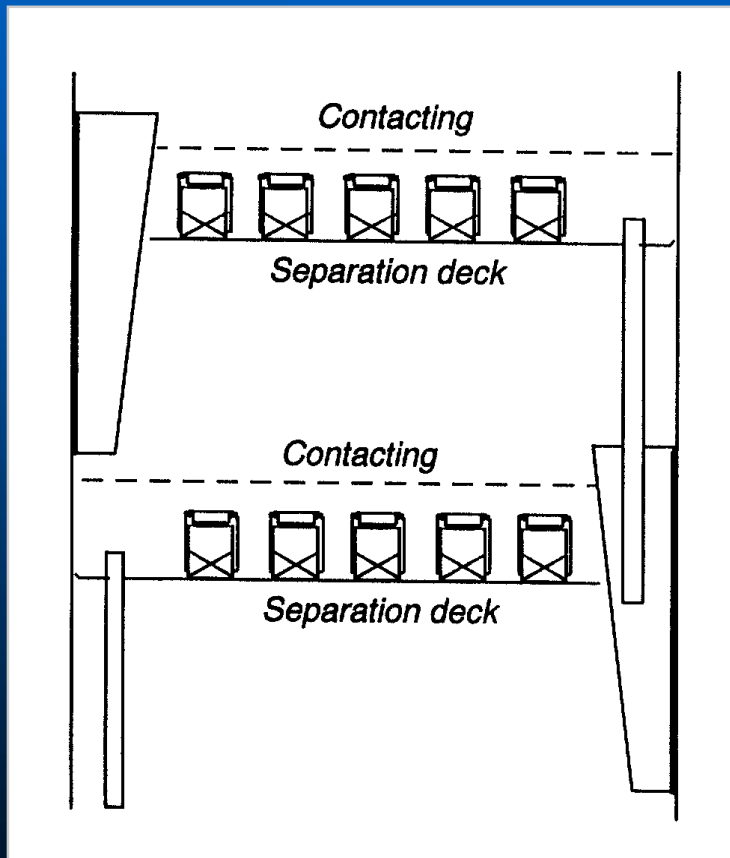


# Shell ConSep™ Tray Technology Provides Unparalleled Distillation Capacity

Christine Groenendaal, Karl Kusters and Jose Bravo  
Shell Global Solutions International BV  
Brigitte Trautrim Shell Köln-Godorf (presenter)

# Shell ConSep™ tray

## Principle & current applications



- Combines features of contacting tray and centrifugal separator
- Allows operation above floodpoint
- Tray efficiency and tray spacing comparable to conventional trays  
 $450 \text{ mm} < \text{TS} < 800 \text{ mm}$
- Inexpensive debottlenecking option for existing columns



# Shell ConSep™ tray references

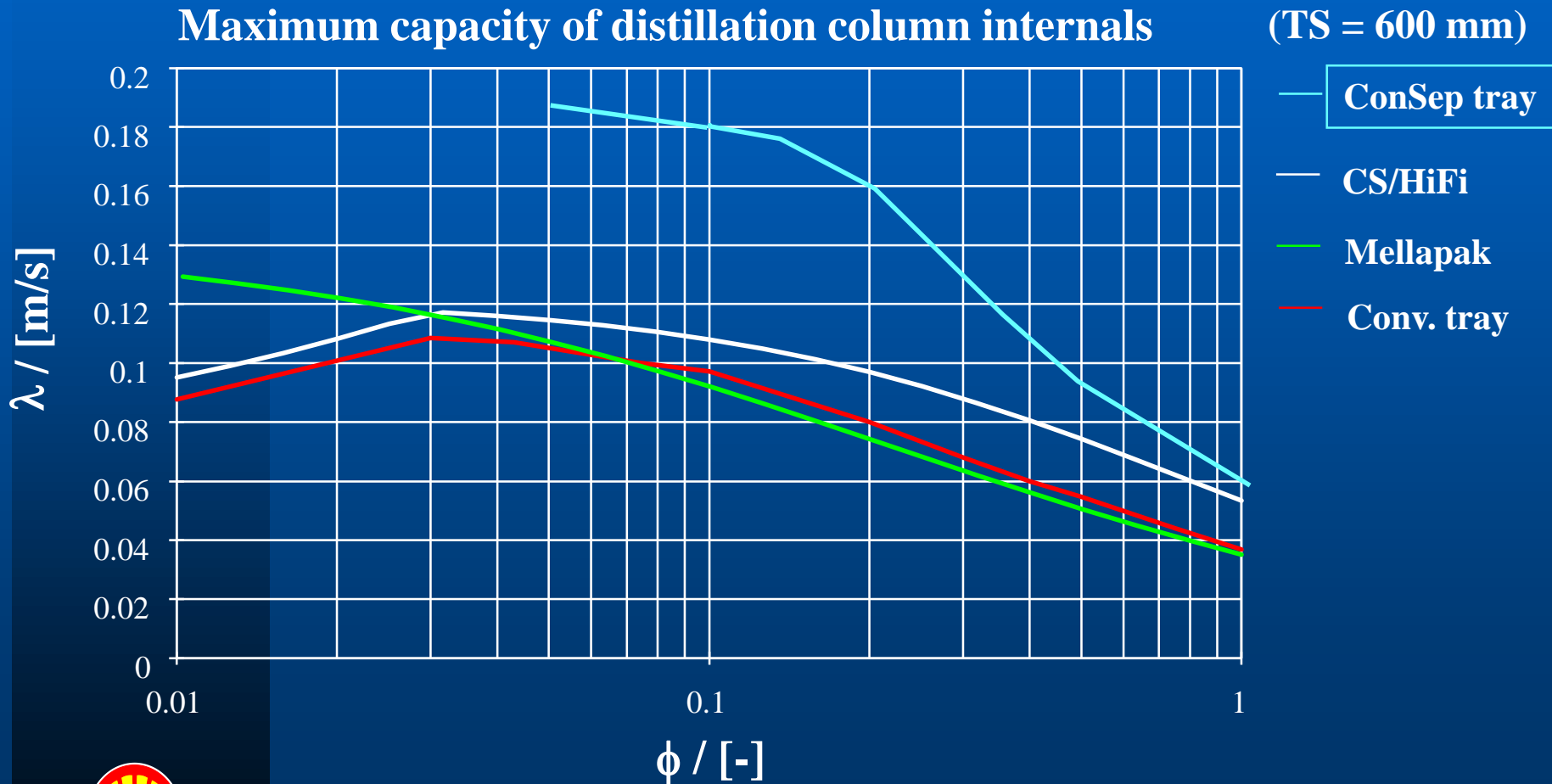
Country	Plant	Column diameter, m	Year	Max capacity increase achieved <sup>1</sup>
UK	NGL debutaniser	1.9	1995	23 % <sup>2</sup>
Australia	FCCU debutaniser	1.9	1996	30 % <sup>3</sup>
Germany	HCU main fractionator	2.2	1999	50 %
Australia	NGL debutaniser	1.7	1999	10 % <sup>3</sup>
Singapore	FCCU debutaniser	2.5	2000	- <sup>4</sup>

1. Post startup performance testrun - capacity achieved on top of the existing HiFi/CS trays.
2. Limited by reboiler duty.
3. Limited by other hardware constraints.
4. No test run data available.



# Shell ConSep™ tray

## Capacity gain



# Definitions

Column load factor

$$\lambda = \frac{V}{\rho_g A_c} \sqrt{\frac{\rho_g}{\rho_l - \rho_g}} \quad (\text{m/s})$$

Flow parameter

$$\phi = \frac{L}{V} \sqrt{\frac{\rho_g}{\rho_l}} \quad (-)$$

Where

$A_c$  = column cross section (m<sup>2</sup>)

$L, V$  = liquid, vapour flow rate (kg/s)

$\rho_g, \rho_l$  = vapour, liquid density (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)



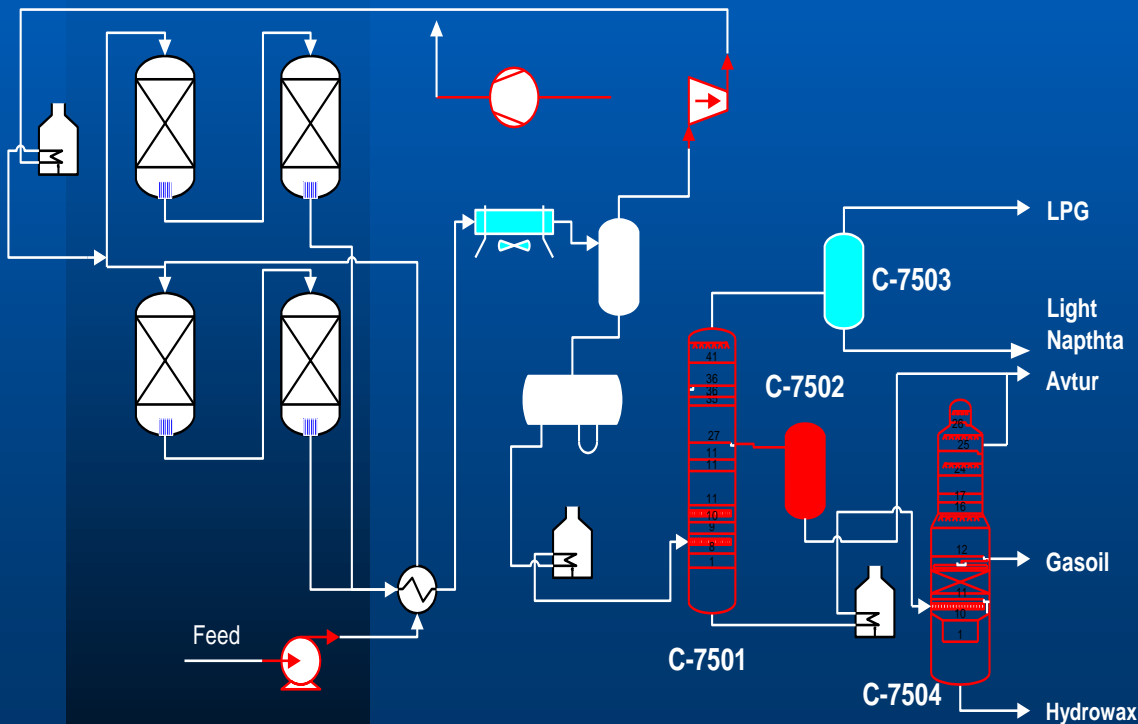
# Background of Godorf Hydrocracker

- **HCU originally designed / started up in 1983, feedrate 3000 t/d**
- **Revamped in 1989 to a capacity of 4500 t/d**
- **Throughput was further increased to 5700 t/d without any hardware changes**
- **Main bottleneck in the fractionation section**



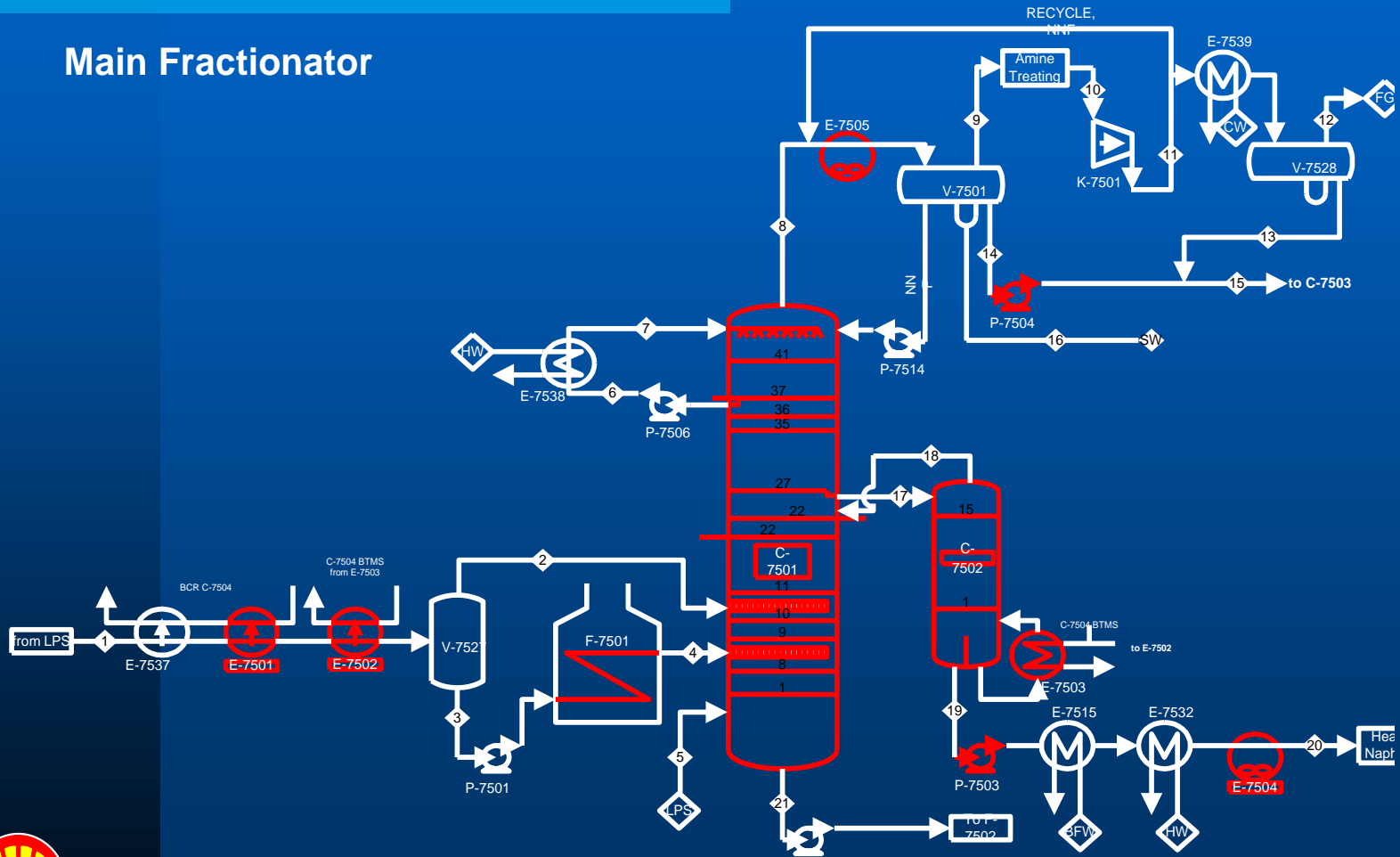
# Hydrocracker Revamp May 1999

Increase throughput from 5700 t/d to 6400 t/d



# HCU Main Fractionator

## Main Fractionator





# HCU Main Fractionator

- **Pre -revamp**

- Column was equipped with 41 CS / HiFi trays
- Capacity was limited by flooding
- max Light naphtha production was 900 t/d

- **Revamp**

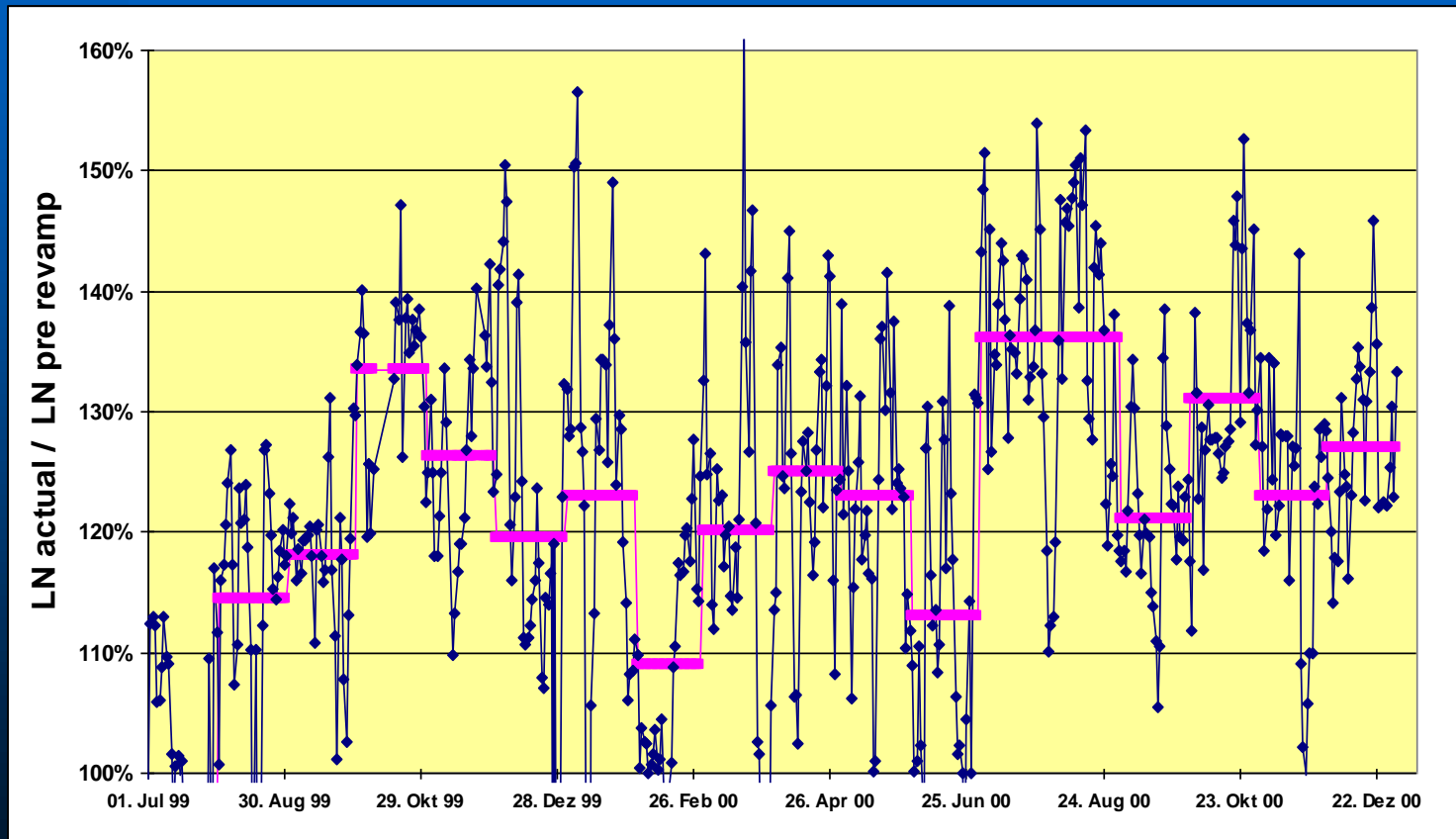
- all trays above feed replaced by ConSep trays
- Installation of ConSep trays progressed without any major problems

- **Post- revamp**

- Start-up went smooth, no difference in operating behaviour



# Increase in Light naphtha make in comparison prior revamp



# Conclusions

- **ConSep trays breakthrough in distillation tray technology**
- **HCU main frac third commercial application**
- **Tray capacity increase up to 50 % over previous CS trays has been proven with similar separation sharpness**

