

Acknowledgment

It has always been my dream to get the "Oil Industry of the Future" a good perspective of my views of the future to come.

Having scouted through the oil and gas industry from 1972 to day, the developments in technology have been at the forefront of my activities. In many cases I had the unique opportunity to be participant in the total development chain, from inception of the idea, technology development to the final construction of a plant and the utilization of its products. I would like to thank the Shell Group of Companies for this experience. I have enjoyed this (and still do), working with so many prime technologists within Shell, Air Products and Chemicals Inc., Rentech, Blue Star, Antares, the Department of Energy and many other companies or Universities. To mind come familiar names as Prof Dr. Tiong Sie, Dr. M.M.G. Senden, Dr. J. Ansorge, Dr. M. van den Burgt, Ir. J. Eilers, Dr. A. Hoek, Kees Kluyskens, Fred Gimpel, (all Shell), Dr.E. Heydorn, Dr. B. Toseland and Dr. D. Brown (Air Products), D. Yacobson, Dr. Ch. Benham and Dr. M. Bohn (Rentech), Dr N. VanderBorgh (Blue Star), Dr. E. Gray, Dr. B. Gibbs and Dr. Chr. Lindsey (Antares), Dr. G. Steigel, Dr.Ramastavash(DOE), Prof. Dr. H van den Acker and Prof. Dr. J. Moulijn (Delft Technical University), Prof Dr.A. Boehman (PennState), Prof. Dr.B. Davis and Dr. A. Geertsema (CAER, Univ. of Kentucky) and many others. Another source of inspiration have been my industrial friends in Energy Frontiers International, under the enthusiastic leadership of its president Mike Koleda

The foregoing comes particularly to mind when I reflect about and compare my days in "operation" and "technology". I remember describing for friends once that: "In operations you run around all day, solve ongoing technical, but in many cases personnel related problems; when you look back at the end of the day: product tanks might have been filled, but nothing much has changed in physical appearance." "In technology you work just as hard, but at the end of a certain period, you look back and see that the skyline has changed: You visually notice your contribution to economy, environment, job creation, or call it progress!" My career with the aforementioned people has been mostly in "technology"; Together we have built, commissioned and operated various facilities ranging from pilot plants, gas-plants, LNG facilities, coal-gasifiers, product upgraders to GLT facilities, Together we have changed the sky-line of so many places in the world. I would also like to express my thanks to Lisa and Mark Kolb, Ali Parker and Marian Talbert of Acorn Internet Services. Without them this book would not have the shape it is in today. Thank you all.

A good part of this book was written in my beloved Nans-les-Pins, France., During this period I had the fortune of being able to follow the "Tour de France" and got fascinated by the tenacity of Lance Armstrong; my thanks to Lance for the inspiration he has given me.

Most of all, however, are my thanks for the accomplishment of this work attributed to my wife, Carol Peavey, for her patience, inspiration, support and encouragements. Without her this book would not have been written. Both of us have been in the oil and gas business for a many years, enjoy the friendship of many in the industry and are grateful to be able to look back (and forward) on exciting years of industry development, many still to come.

