

Guided Tour: Implementing the Forest Biorefinery at a Pulp and Paper Mill

V. Chambost¹, J. McNutt² and P.R. Stuart¹

 1 -NSERC Environmental Design Engineering Chair in Process Integration, Department of Chemical Engineering, École Polytechnique (Montréal)
 2 -Center for Paper Business and Industry Studies (CPBIS), Institute of Paper Science and Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta)







Presentation Outline

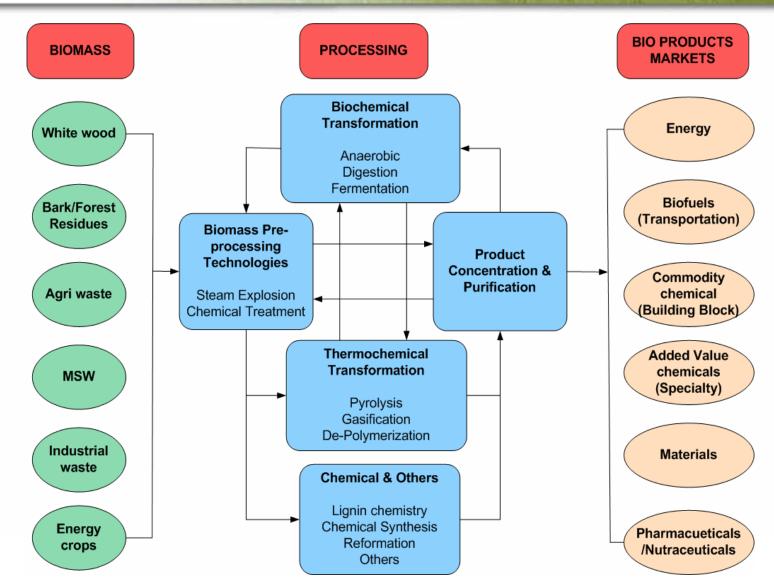
Types of Enterprise Transformation
 Biorefinery platform definition
 Product Portfolio and method for its determination

A Phased Approach for forest biorefinery implementation



Integration in the Pulp & Paper Industry

Identifying the Right Biorefinery Configuration is Complex...





Key Questions to be Addressed Related to Implementing the FBR

- What are the key factors regarding biorefinery product selection, that will provide a sustained return over the short and long terms?
 - What supply chain management changes are implicated for product delivery and the targeted new market(s)?
 - Who are the best partner(s) for a winning business strategy?
- What biochemical, thermochemical and chemical biorefinery processes enable product diversification, while providing the targeted return on investment?

How will the mill/company transformation to the forest biorefinery impact the day-to-day pulp and paper operations, at each step of implementation?



Enterprise Transformation: Definitions

4 2 transformation concepts:

Inside-out:

 Transform the enterprise by changing processes within the existing organization, including changes in manufactured products



Outside-in:



 Core vision, mission and strategies are changed to create a new focus to outside markets that is sustainable, using new and integrated delivery techniques and with vastly improved bottom-line results

Transformation to the forest biorefinery implies both types of transformation



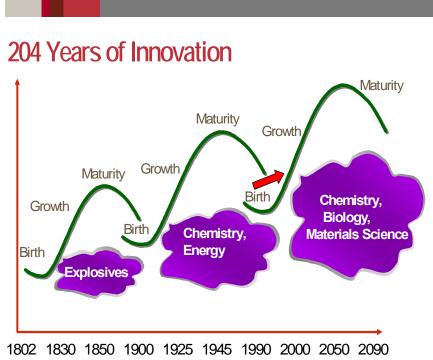
in the Pulp & Paper

Industry

Can Forestry Companies Adopt this Culture?

Core business transformation, by product portfolio adjustments related to market evolution.

Cyclical adaptation to reinvent the business and transform the enterprise, while avoiding declining revenues.



QUPOND

Biorefinery opportunity for forestry industry



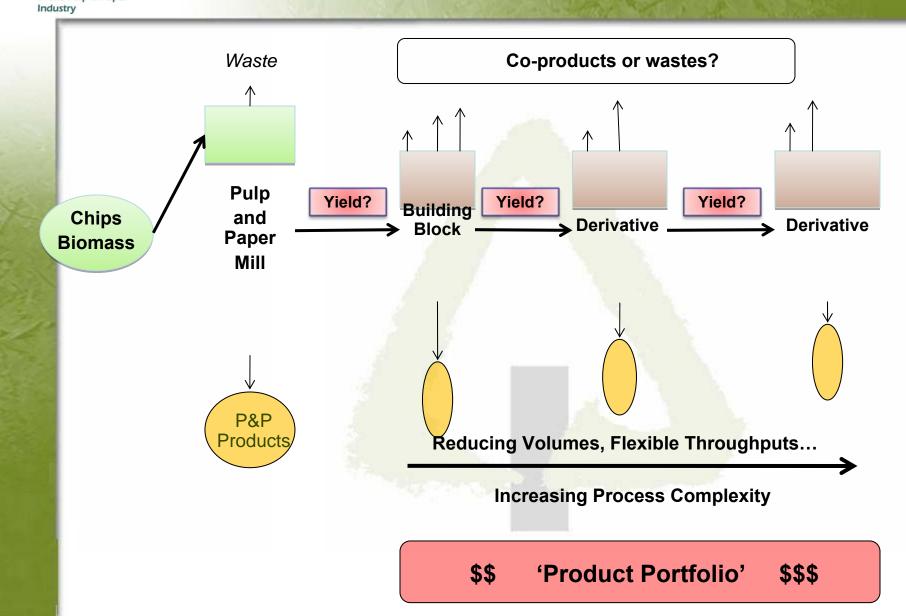
Integration in the Pulp & Paper Industry

Presentation Objectives

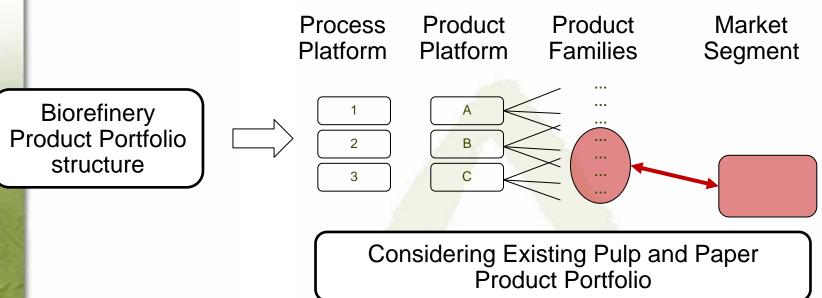
To demonstrate how forestry companies should consider a market-driven product selection while establishing their biorefinery strategies, and characterize the implied company transformation.



Biorefinery Platform Definitions





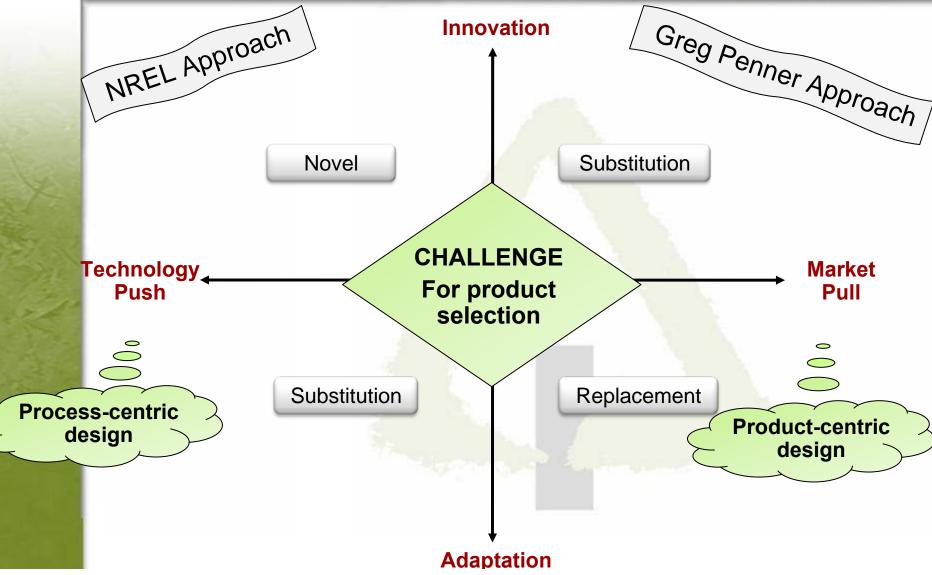


Value Chains need to consider long term biorefinery sustainability:

- Unique supply chain is key for competitive position over the longer term
- Production flexibility (supply/demand)
- Margins stability and risk mitigation challenges must be systematically addressed while diversifying the product portfolio incrementally



Product Portfolio for the Forest Biorefinery



Inspired by Ref: M. Muffatto & M. Roveda, Product architecture and platforms: a conceptual framework



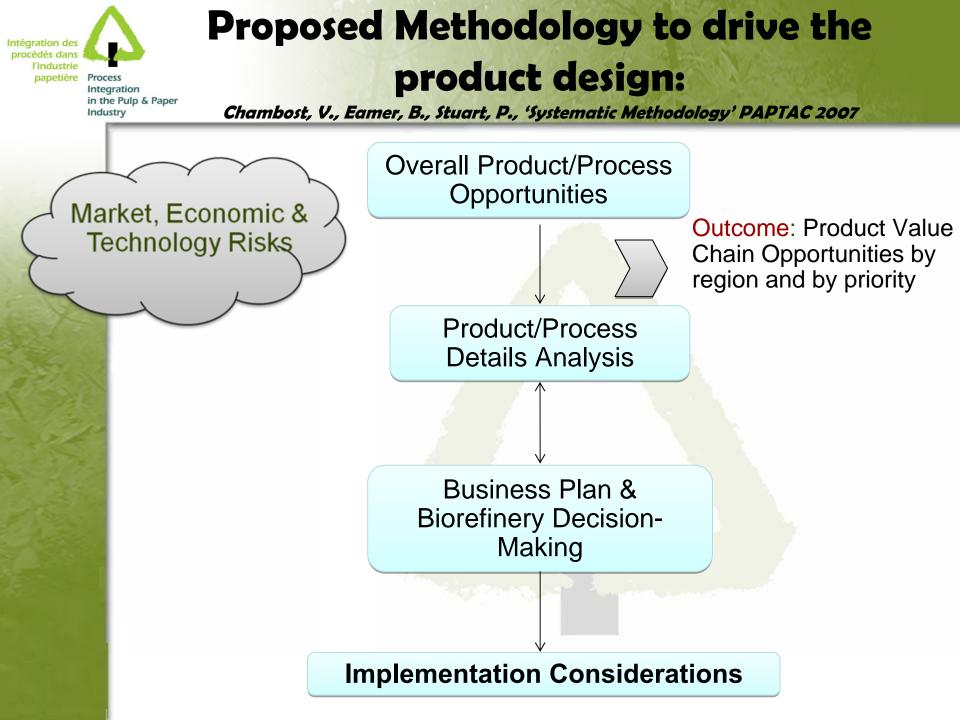
Process Integration in the Pulp & Paper Industry

Guided Tour: Implementing the Forest Biorefinery

Objectives:

- Presenting a Methodology for determining the mill-based product portfolio, including building block chemicals and derivatives, while considering product/process design
- Presenting a Phased Approach for incrementally implement biorefinery activities while setting a biorefinery strategy

Example based on Ethanol to Ethylene and Polyethylene value chain

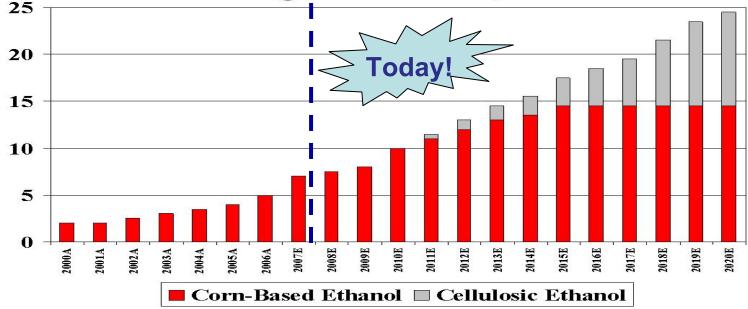




Selecting the Most Promising Building Block Chemical

Bank of America Ethanol Forecast

(gallons in billions)



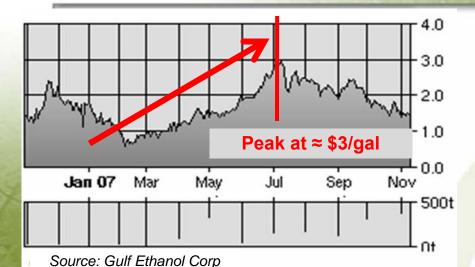
Alternative Energy report by Eric K. Brown Source: Renewable Fuels Association, National Biofuels Board, Banc of America Securities LLC estimates

Cellulosic ethanol as the most promising building block?

- Large market supply/demand structure
- Technology know-how is relatively well-developed
- Processing costs need to be lower compared to the conventional process
- Fierce volatility on the market...



Ethanol Price Volatility



by more than 50% Price is not the challenge, price volatility and competition are

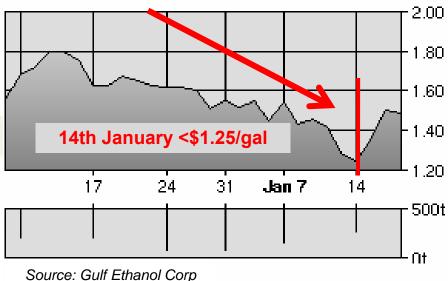
In 6 months: ethanol prices dropped

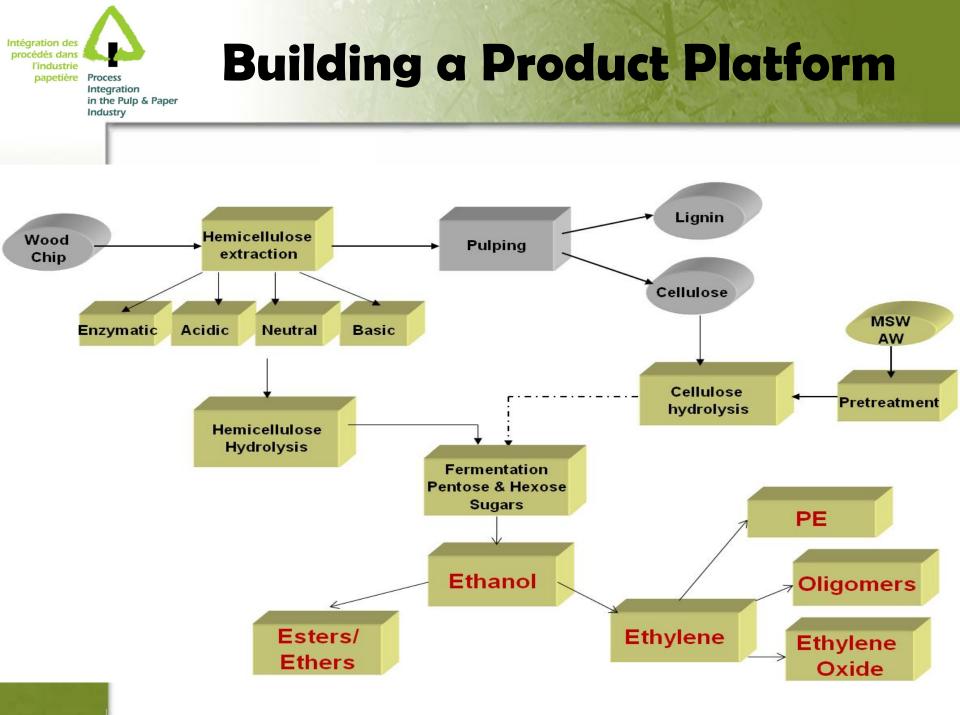
How can we stabilize operating margins in a context of volatility and market uncertainty?



Benefit from increasing ethanol market - there will always be a demand –

Reduce the impact of volatility on biorefinery activities by diversifying the ethanol product family

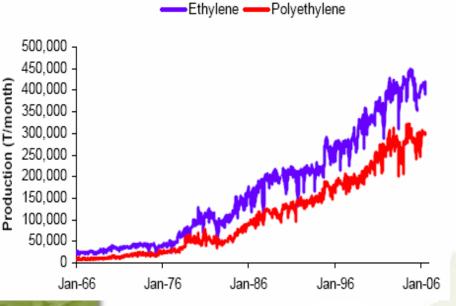






Market Considerations

Greg Penner, market opportunity for biobased chemicals, 2007



Opportunities

- Maintain the existing value chain:
 - Develop biomass-based green ethylene at lower cost basis than petroleum-based
- Benefit from the existing value chain:
 - Enter a well-established market
 - Existing Infrastructure e.g. Nova invested in Flexi-Cracker technology

- Ethylene to polyethylene value chain in Canada:
 - The largest petrochemical value chain in Canada (LLDPE – LDPE – HDPE)
 - Sufficient ethylene availability for the polyethylene value chain on a national basis

Future challenges:

- Securing the feedstock costs: 'a salient economic driver'
 - 85% of the PE production cost is driven by ethylene cost (driven by natural gas and crude oil price)
- Regional imbalances to be secured:
 - Quebec and Ontario facing
 negative trade balance for LDPE



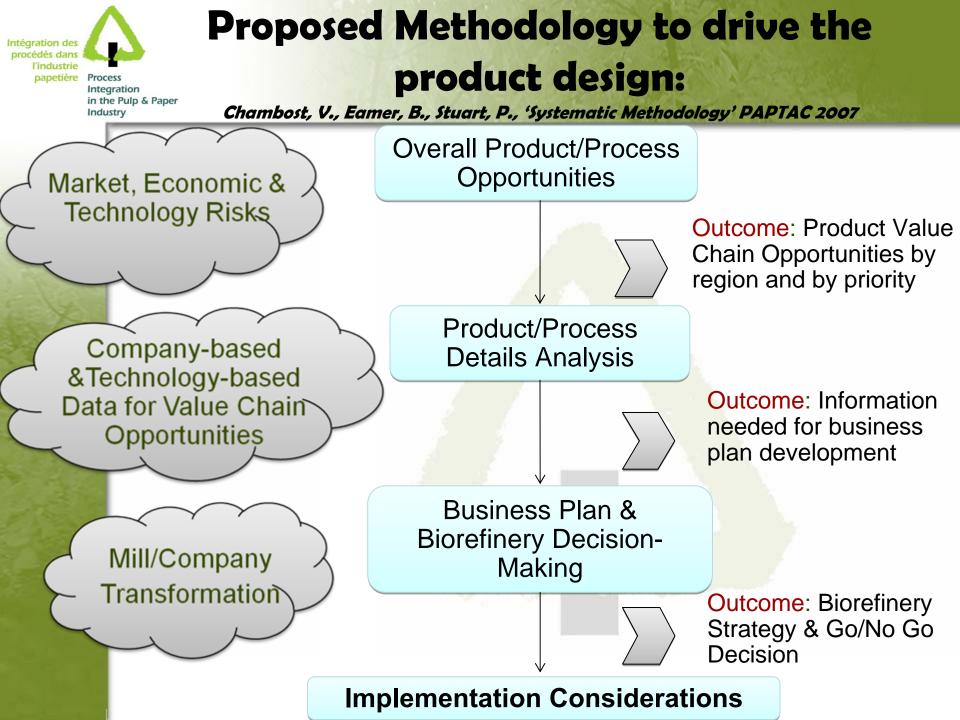
Technology Considerations

Technical Potential:

- Conversion of lignocellulosic biomass to ethanol:
 - No commercial scale operation yet
 - Demonstration plants in place will lower technical risks
 - First plants evaluated for scale-up, goal to reduce capital and operating costs of subsequent plants
- Sugarcane ethanol based polyethylene production in Brazil:
 - JV Dow Crystalsev: 350 000T/y of LLDPE Dowlex by 2011
 - Braskem activities: 120 to 200 000t/y of HDPE by 2009

Economic potential:

- Ethanol production cost will be a driver
- First-to-market will be critical to secure the green market segment for polyethylene





Main challenges

Integration in the Pulp & Paper Industry

Phased Approach for Implementing the Biorefinery

Implementation: compete with all capital spending

Phase I

Lower

Operating Costs:

- Replace fossil fuels at mill (natural gas, Bunker C), and/or
- Produce "building block" chemical
- Minimum risk technologies

Compete internally for capital

Phase II

Increase Revenues:

- Exportable green energy, and/or
- Manufacture of derivatives
- Market development for new products
- **Higher process** complexity and technology risk
- Partners essential

Select the most sustainable product platform and partner(s)

Phase III **Improve Margins:**

- Knowledge-based manufacturing and production flexibility
- Business flow transformation
- Product development culture
- Off-shoring, Outsourcing, etc...

Core business transformation SCM key to

SUCCESS

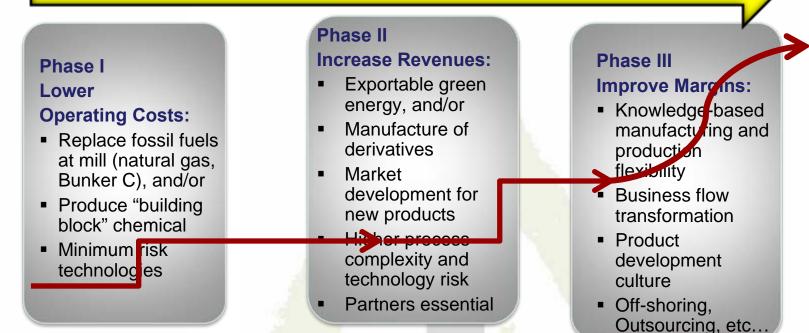
Strategic Vision: Phase II must determine Phase I & III



Process Integration in the Pulp & Paper Industry

Phased Approach for Implementing the Biorefinery

Implementation: compete with all capital spending



Margins improve with Enterprise Transformation

Strategic Vision: Phase II must determine Phase I & III



Take-Away Messages

- A Both inside-out and outside-in transformations are implied by the biorefinery product portfolio
- The definition of a biorefinery product portfolio is critical, and needs to consider both market and technical perspectives
- These product-centric analyses are followed by process design, partner identification, and other key considerations concerning supply chain changes
- With the overall strategy defined, transformation to the forest biorefinery is best achieved using a phased implementation



Process Integration in the Pulp & Paper Industry

Guided Tour: Implementing the Forest Biorefinery at a Pulp and Paper Mill

Thank you!



