PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Renewable methanol as a key molecule for CCU fuels

E.W.J. Dekker, the Methanol Institute

Methanol (CH_3OH) is the simplest of alcohols, rich in hydrogen with only a single carbon bond. Methanol is a large chemical commodity, and is used to produce a wide range of chemicals. In recent years, the use of methanol as a crude oil substitute and as a clean alternative fuel is one of the main drivers for the strong demand growth.

Today, most methanol is made from natural gas, but there is a growing number of projects developing renewable methanol pathways from a range of feedstocks ranging from wood residues and municipal solid waste to CO_2 and renewable electricity.

The presentation will highlight several examples where carbon capture and utilization (CCU) is already applied to produce methanol.
Besides conversion processes, feedstock availability and market opportunities in the fuels and chemicals market are also addressed.

Many of these developments are impacted by various policy directives, which – despite their common objectives – are not always consistent and do not yet fully align.

Last, but not least the presentation addresses the crucial question regarding the business case when producing methanol from CO_2.