

# Biofuels in the Transition of Maersk

*Can we use biomass and which biofuels should we produce?*

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TC Biomass, Denver, 19-21 April 2022





# In 2018, we committed to cutting CO<sub>2</sub> to net-zero

46%

reduction per  
container  
transported

**All** future Maersk-owned new-buildings will be prepared to sail on carbon neutral fuels

Net-  
ZERO  
CO<sub>2</sub>

2008

Today

2030

2040

2050





# The climate challenge in shipping is huge

- The maritime sector consumes **300 million tonnes of fuel oil per year**, and emits **3%** of global GHG emissions.
- Maersk's 700+ container ships consume **11 million tonnes of fuel oil per year** and emit **0.1%** of global GHG emissions
- But – the technologies and solutions are there, we just need to '**get going**'!



# Who can use the limited biomass???

From Biofuture campaign: 28-287 EJ

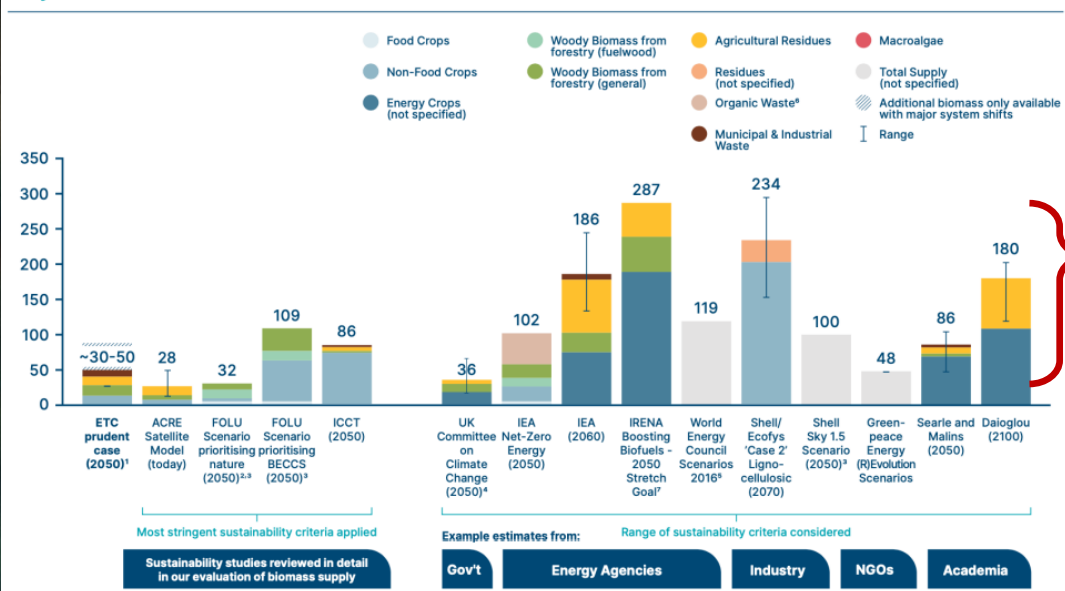
[Biofuture Platform All Member Group Web Meeting](#)  
([ieabioenergyconference2021.org](#))

250 × Maersk energy consumption

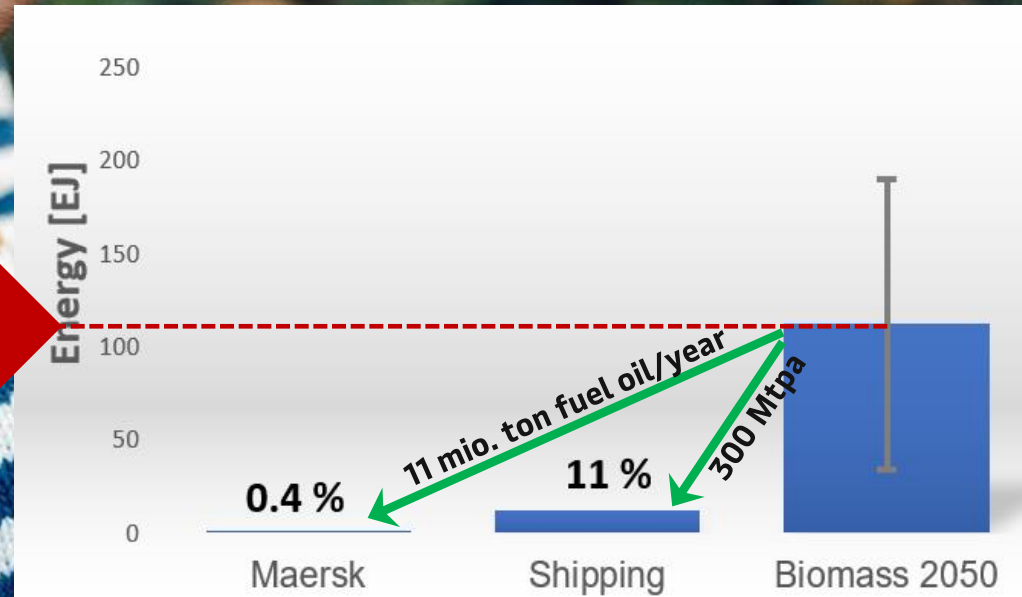
≈

Total global biomass supply in 2050!

Total global biomass supply (primary energy)  
EJ/year



Average:  
112 ±78 EJ

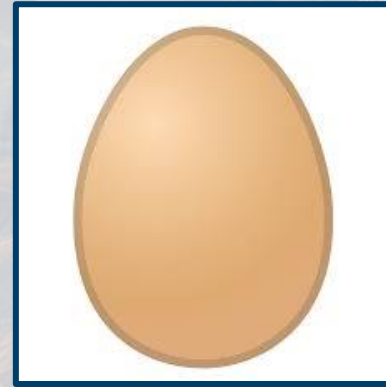
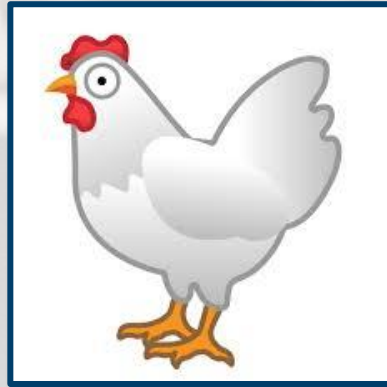




# Chicken and egg dilemma:

- How to start a green transition?

Who will build a ship for fuels that are not available?



Who wants to produce green fuels with no offtakers?

[Maersk Orders 12 Methanol-Powered Container Ships With Fuel-Saving Design](#)  
(needs 500,000 tpa methanol)



[Maersk secures green e-methanol for the world's first container vessel operating on carbon neutral fuel](#)



# Maersk engages in strategic partnerships to scale green methanol production by 2025

E-methanol

Bio-methanol

Strategic Partners	Type of fuel	Geography
CIMC ENRIC	bio-methanol	China
European Energy	e-methanol	North & South America
GTB	bio-methanol	China
Orsted	e-methanol	North America
Proman	bio & e-methanol	North America
WasteFuel	bio-methanol	South America

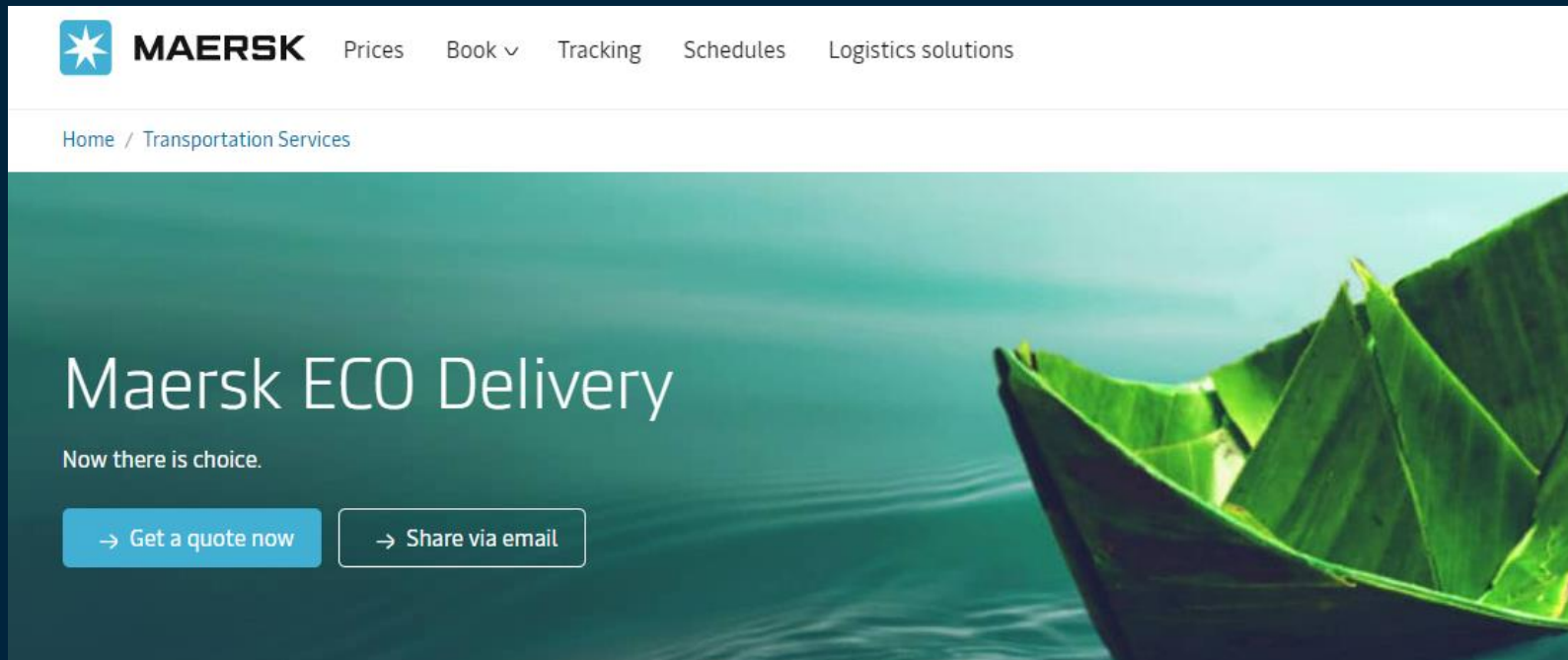
# Potential 1-molecule fuels

Technology/fuel	Learnings sofar...	Doable?
1. G ethanol	Food vs. Fuel issue.	No
2. G ethanol	Tech. has improved, but market price will remain high, depends of road-electr.	Perhaps
Higher alcohols	Potential solution from e-fuel-process by Prometheus Fuels	Perhaps
Bio-methanol	Relatively mature (biogas & gasification), best overall feasibility profile	Yes, med.-term
E-methanol	Depends on carbon capture (DAC, point-source) and renewable power	Yes, long-term
Bio-methane (gas)	Most likely not scalable, slip issues (production & use)	No
E-methane (gas)	Slip issues (use), high energy-loss in production vs. e-methanol	No
DME (gas)	Potential use as pilot-fuel for methanol or as single-fuel	Joker
Hydrogen (gas)	Potentially for short distance shipping	Joker
E-ammonia (gas)	Uncertainty on safety issues, cheapest e-fuel, regional regulatory differences	Perhaps

new fuel +  
new ship

# Potential drop-in bio-fuels

Fuel	Learnings sofar...	Doable?
Biodiesel (FAME)	Feedstock limitations, regulatory concerns	Short-term
Renewable diesel (HVO)	Feedstock limitations, regulatory concerns	Short-term

A screenshot of the Maersk website's 'ECO Delivery' banner. The banner features a background image of a green, leaf-like boat floating on water. The Maersk logo and navigation menu are at the top. The main text reads 'Maersk ECO Delivery' with the tagline 'Now there is choice.' and two buttons: 'Get a quote now' and 'Share via email'.

**MAERSK** Prices Book ▾ Tracking Schedules Logistics solutions

Home / Transportation Services

## Maersk ECO Delivery

Now there is choice.

→ Get a quote now    → Share via email



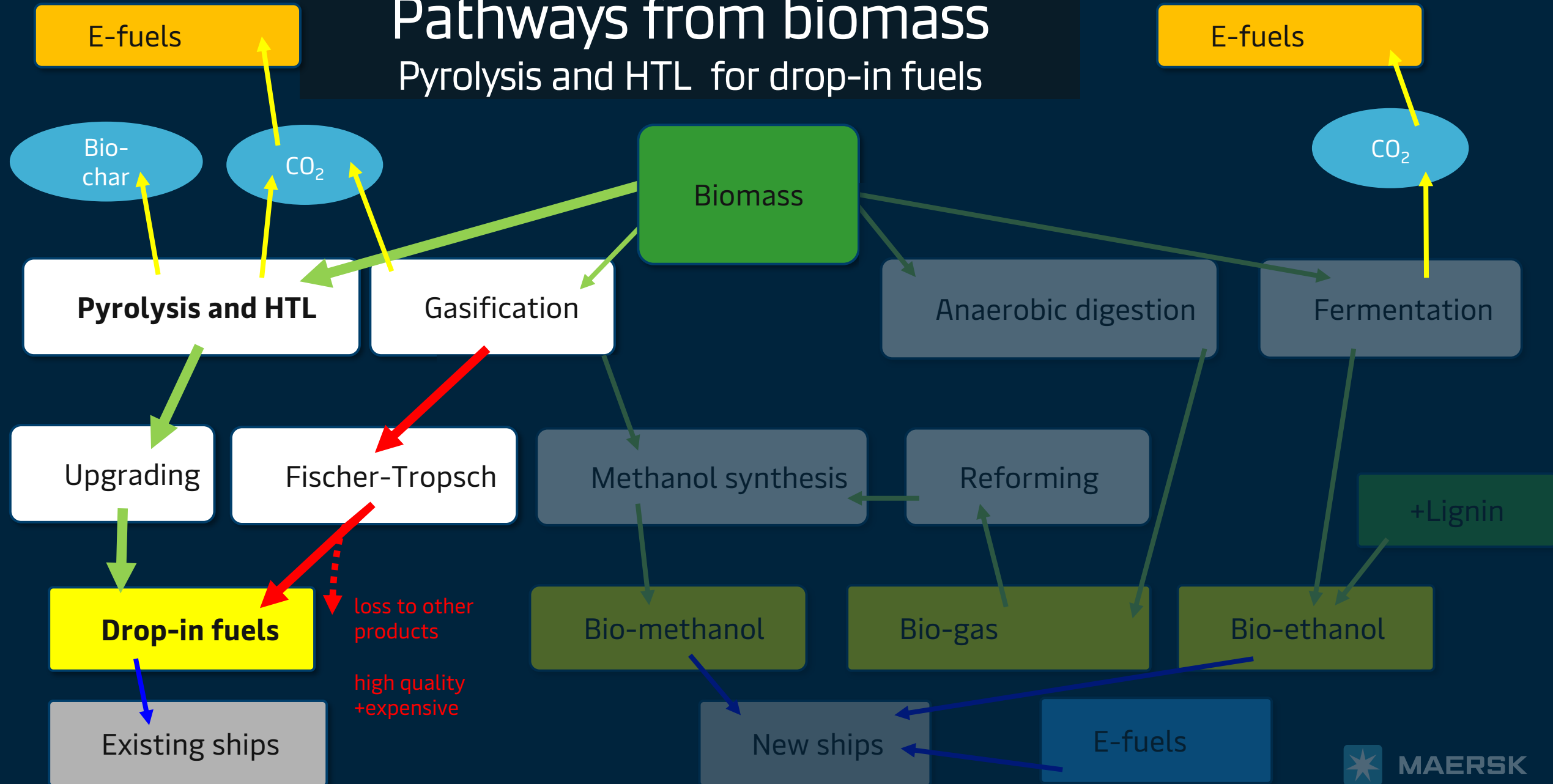
# Potential drop-in bio-fuels

Fuel	Learnings sofar...	Doable?
Biodiesel (FAME)	Feedstock limitations, regulatory concerns	Short-term
Renewable diesel (HVO)	Feedstock limitations, regulatory concerns	Short-term
Pyrolysis/HTL fuels	Promising: Cheap, 2. G feedstock, drop-in fuel but need for upgrading	Med.-term
Jet-bottoms	Promising: 'Leftover' from SAF, high quality, price uncertain	Med.-term
Fischer-Tropsch	Heavy end of Fischer-Tropsch might be blend-in quality	Perhaps
Alcohols-to-heavy oil	Promising drop-in fuel if efficient conversion is developed ('alcohols-to-jet')	Perhaps
Lignin-alcohols	Promising if lignin value remains low: cheap, drop-in for MeOH in ICE	Joker

fuel  
blending  
+ existing  
ships

# Pathways from biomass

## Pyrolysis and HTL for drop-in fuels





# New drop-in fuel production

## Pyrolysis is simple – but also very complex

### pyrolysis

[pɪˈrɒlɪsɪs] 🔊

NOUN *chemistry*

decomposition brought about by high temperatures.

"steam pyrolysis of hydrocarbons" · [\[more\]](#)

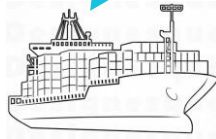
See more definition

Already  
being done



Use for  
heating oil

We believe  
this is possible



Use for  
marine fuels?

We believe  
this is difficult



Use for  
aviation fuels?

# Anything that burns...

- Possible to handle most fuels on a ship



HFO [wikipedia](#)

We are used to utilize poor quality oil!

➤ HFO: High viscosity, impurities, aromatics, acidity, ...

Few hard requirements for new drop-in fuels:

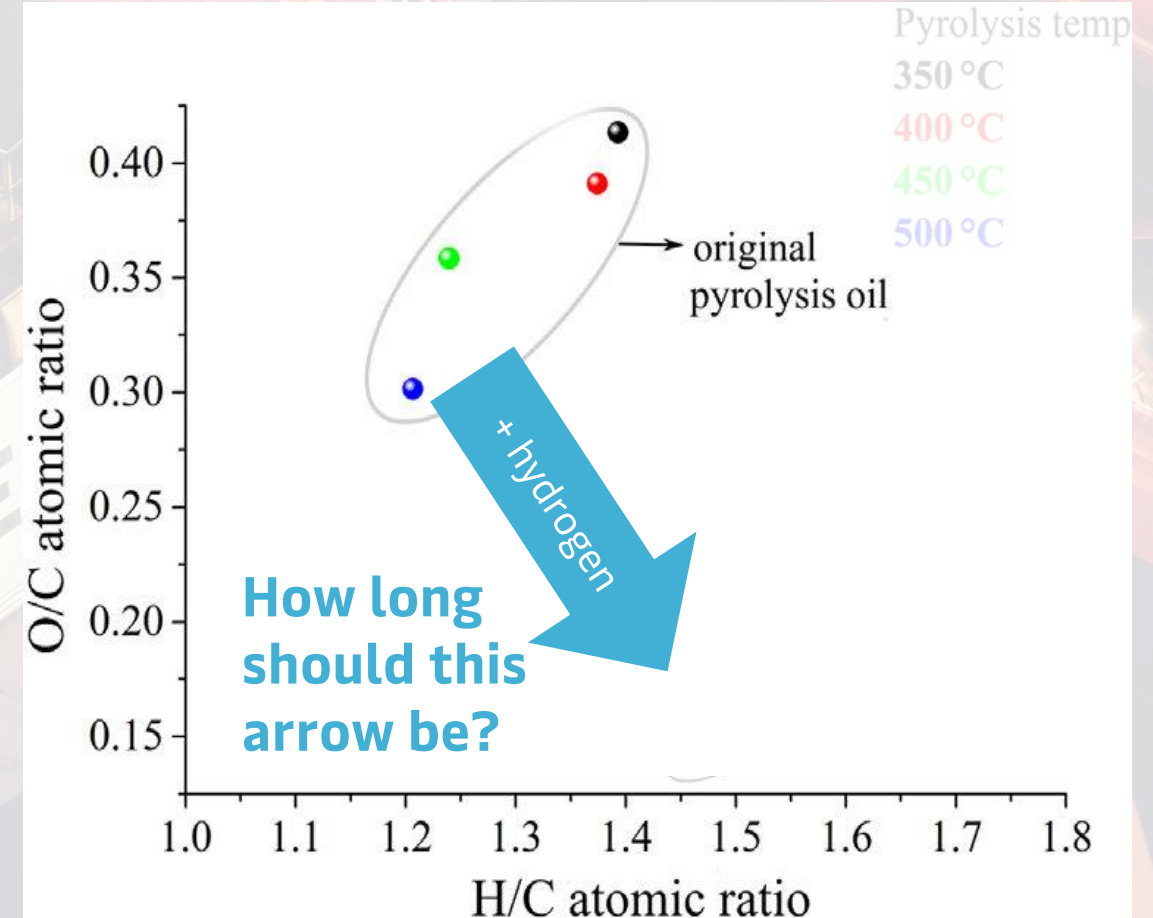
- Flash point: Above 60°C
- Stability: At least 9 months storage
- Miscibility: Preferred fully miscible (or well-defined limitation).
- Pour point: Below 30°C



# Why upgrading with hydrogen?

## Pros and cons

- ÷ More hydrogen → more cost
- ÷ Hydrotreating of these oils is technically difficult!
- ÷ Low catalyst lifetime (?)
- ✓ More hydrogen → higher quality (or at all useable)
- ✓ More hydrogen → more energy per CO<sub>2</sub> emitted



[Boscagli et al, 2019: 'Influence of feedstock, catalyst, pyrolysis and hydrotreatment temperature on the composition of upgraded oils from intermediate pyrolysis'](#)

# E-fuels or bio-fuels ?

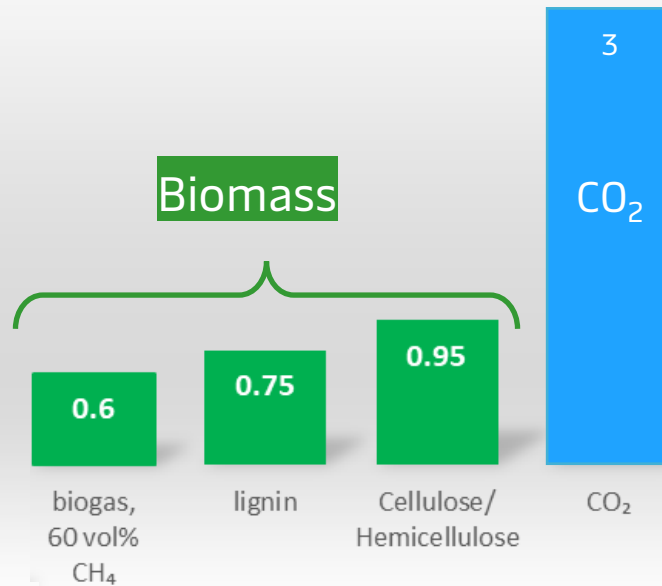
Biomass

Hydrogen  
(/power)

Non-  
fossil CO<sub>2</sub>

Hydrogen needed to produce  
methanol from  $C_xH_yO_z$

Minimum hydrogen needed  
[moles H<sub>2</sub> / moles C in feed]



Green  
methanol

## Bio-fuels

Pro : cheaper, low power consumption for hydrogen (> 4 times lower)

Con: needs biomass (!) + transporting this

## Ammonia /hydrogen

Pro: no carbon in, no carbon out!

Con: Power consumption + safety + regulation + no solution ready (yet)

## E-fuels

Pro: no biomass, can be simple process

Con: Biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> + power consumption



# Summary

## - What are we looking for?

### Maersk will need large amounts of green fuels

- If biomass is available and can be used – this is our preferred feedstock
- If this is not the case: e-fuels will be the long-term solution

### We can use a number of biofuels

- For our new ships we can use methanol, ethanol, ligning/alcohols
- For the new ships we need green pilot fuels (~5 vol% of consumption)
- Fuels for blending into HFO are needed and might be produced from pyrolysis or hydrothermal liquifaction – most likely with an upgrade by mild hydrotreatment
- We are open to new possibilities



Thank you!

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