

# The benefits of inhibited transformer oils using gas to liquid based technology

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Joerg Friedel has a PhD degree in chemistry from the University of Halle in Germany. He joined Shell in 1995. His current role is a Global Product Application Specialist for Transformer and Hypercompressor Oils. He is responsible for technical contacts to global customers, ensuring that products meets market requirements and acceptance. He is a member of IEC and CIGRÉ.

He has a wide experience of lubricants applications, including base oils and their use in finish lubricants, and in chemical products.





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### THE BENEFITS OF INHIBITED TRANSFORMER OILS USING GAS-TO-LIQUID BASED TECHNOLOGY

Transformer Life Management Conference Dubai 22.-23. October 2013



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### AGENDA

- 1. Benefits of using inhibited versus uninhibited transformer oils
- 2. Base Oils for transformer oil production

3. Shell Diala S4 ZX-I – inhibited transformer oil using GtL base fluid

- Resistance to ageing & degradation in service
- Cooling thermal properties, fluidity
- Ease of use miscibility/compatibility with other oils
- 4. Conclusions benefits of GTL based inhibited transformer oils over conventional products

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## **RESISTANCE TO DEGRADATION - INHIBITED GTL VERSUS CONVENTIONAL UNINHIBITED OIL**

IEC 61125C = The induction period is reached when the volatile acidity significantly exceeds 0.1 mg KOH/g



Inhibited oils show predictable & best resistance to degradation
Monitoring antioxidant concentration gives indication of oil condition before significant quantities of acids are developed (and potentially attack the paper)

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### BASE OILS USED FOR MANUFACURING OF TRANSFORMER OILS

- 1. Naphthenic base oil degree of raffination depends on crude, and inhibition
- 2. Paraffinic base oil usually highly refined and inhibited

**3. GTL base oil**, primarily iso-paraffinic, no impurities, excellent antioxidant response, narrow molecular distribution



GtL base oil is produced in Qatar JV plant from Natural Gas using the Fischer-Tropsch Process

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### RESISTANCE TO DEGRADATION - INHIBITED GTL VERSUS CONVENTIONAL INHIBITED OIL

	Limits IEC 60296	IEC 60296 — sect 7.1 Higher oxid stab & low sulphur	Inhibited Shell Diala S3 ZX-I	Inhibited Shell Diala S4 ZX-I (GTL)
Oxidation Stability				
IEC 61125 C	164/500 hours	500 hours	500 hours	500 hours
Total acidity, mgKOH/g	max 1.2	max 0.3	0.02	0.02
Sludge, % weight	max 0.8	max 0.05	0.01	<0.01
Dielectric dissipation factor (DDF) at 90 °C	max 0.5	Max 0.05	0.009	0.001

• GTL inhibited oils - exceptional resistance to degradation.

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### POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS OVER CURRENTLY USED TRANSFORMER OILS

- Increased oxidation stability
- Improved cooling properties
- Oil should not promote corrosion sulphur content should be minimized
- High flash point

Easy changeover and continued practice from currently used transformer oils:

• Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) for monitoring the transformer condition can be used.

- Comparable compatibility with construction materials (sealings, varnish)
- Comparable interaction with paper insulation (e.g. water solubility)
- Miscibility with current used transformer oils

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### RESISTANCE TO DEGRADATION - INHIBITED GTL VERSUS CONVENTIONAL INHIBITED OIL

#### IEC 61125 C extended oxidation stability test

Test run for standard 500 hrs, when inhibitor content reduced to approx 50 % of initial value, antioxidant was topped up to initial level (refer to IEC 60422), later inhibitor topping up regularly. Test run for approx 2180 hrs (> 4X usual duration)



 Extended resistance to degradation in normal service & when reinhibited. (Deutschland) GmbH
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## RESISTANCE TO AGEING & DEGRADATION – CORROSIVE SULPHUR

Property	Units	Method	IEC 60296 Table 2 + section 7.1	Shell Diala S4 ZX-I	Shell Diala S3 ZX-I
Total Sulphur content	mg/kg	ASTM D 5185	Section 7.1 limit Max 500	<	<40
Corrosive Sulphur		DIN 51353	Not corrosive	Not corrosive	Not corrosive
Corrosive Sulphur		IEC 62535	Not corrosive	Not corrosive	Not corrosive
Corrosive Sulphur		ASTM D 1275 B	-	Not corrosive	Not corrosive

• Essentially zero sulphur minimises risk of oil based corrosive sulphur failures.

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### **COOLING PROPERTIES OF OIL IN TRANSFORMER**

Modeling of oil cooling in transformer can be undertaken from a knowledge of oil properties at different temperatures, such as:

- Viscosity
- Specific heat capacity
- Thermal conductivity
- Density
- Thermal coefficient of expansion

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### **COOLING - VISCOSITY (FLUIDITY)**

Shell Diala typical viscosity (cSt) versus temperature (°C)



 Good fluidity across broad temperature range, especially low temperatures down to -30 °C, facilitate a safe low temperature start.

Comparable viscosity to conventional oils at higher temperatures.

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### STRAY GASSING RESULTS WITH SHELL DIALA S4 ZX-I VS. SHELL DIALA S3

Stray Gassing Results ASTM D 7150 164 hrs at 120 °C , 30 min air stripped before test [ppm v/v]

	Diala S4 ZX-I	Diala S3 ZX-I
Hydrogen	40	54
Carbon Monoxide	249	229
Carbon Dioxide	304	176
Methane	5	2
Ethan	16	< 1
Ethylene	4	< 1
Acetylene	< 1	< 1

 DGA experience from currently used transformer oils might be transferred to Diala S4 ZX-I

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### WATER SATURATION VS. TEMPERATURE



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EASE OF USE - COMPATIBILITY WITH AGED OIL (SLUDGE FILTERED OUT; OIL DRAIN SCENARIO,



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### COMPATIBILITY WITH SEALING ELASTOMERS

	Туре	Hardness change Shore A	Weight change %	Volume change %
NBR	ANT 6800	-2 (68/66)	+ 0,33	+ 1,43
FPM	S 161/19-69	0 (76/76)	+ 0,2	+ 0,26
MFQ	A-SK 65-16	0 (62/62)	+ 0,23	+ 0,29

• No sealing compatibility issues, GtL fluids are compatible with typical sealants and components used in transformers.

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### CONCLUSIONS – BENEFITS OF INHIBITED TRANSFORMER OILS BASED ON GTL

•<u>Diala S4 ZX-I</u> meets & exceeds IEC 60296:Ed 4 2012 highest oxidation stability, low sulphur specification.

- •Exceptional resistance to ageing & degradation.
- •Modeling predicts good to superior cooling in service .
- •Essentially zero sulphur minimises risks due to corrosive sulphur.
- •Safety benefits due to higher flash point and lower volatility.
- •Easy to use with other oils, no miscibility/compatibility/solvency issues found.
- •Praxis experiences with conventional products can be used.
- Product being evaluated & approved by OEMs & utilities, a rising number have confirmed acceptance and approved, and the product is being successful used in transformers.

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