DEVELOPMENT OF CARBON MOLECULAR SIEVE MEMBRANES FOR THE USE OF RENEWABLE GASES, BIOMETHANE AND HYDROGEN IN NATURAL GAS NETWORKS

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Introduction

The European Union is fostering cleaner energy to make the EU a global leader in renewable energy and ensure that the target of at least 27% of renewables in the final energy consumption in the EU by 2030 is met. In this sense, the renewable gases such as biogas and hydrogen can play an important role to make the natural gas networks greener. In this sense Naturgas Energia has been collaborating with Tecnalia on the development of membranes that can surpass the current limitations today present, more precisely, the application of CMSM in the projects BioHysis (Hybrid and flexible system for biogas upgrading for injection in natural gas grid) and HyGrid (Flexible hybrid separation system for H2 recovery from natural gas grid).

The BioHysis project for biogas upgrading

The BioHysis project proposes an integral solution for developing of an advanced high performance, cost effective separation technology biogas upgrading for its later injection in the natural gas network. For this purpose, novel CMSM membranes based on commercial polymers where developed showing better performance than state of the art membranes.

![CMSM preparation procedure.](image1)

PERMEATION TEST OF CMSM

Hydrogen and nitrogen permeation using single gas at various temperatures were carried out in the equipment reported before [3].

![Gas flux of CO2, CH4 and N2 at 35 and 100°C at various pressures.](image2)

![Robeson upper bond plot for CO2/CH4 of the c-CMSM at 35 and 100°C Containing 4% PEI carbonized at 550°C.](image3)

The HyGrid project. Flexible hybrid Separation System for H2 Recovery from Natural Gas Grids

The HyGrid project proposes an integral solution for developing of an advanced high performance, cost effective separation technology for direct separation of hydrogen from natural gas networks. The HyGrid consortium consists of 7 European organizations from 4 countries (Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Switzerland).

![The HyGrid concept.](image4)

Conclusions

- CMSM are versatile membranes that have higher permeation properties than polymeric membranes and are able to surpass the Robeson plot limits.
- In the BioHysis project, CMSM prepared from PEI show high permeation and selectivity towards CO2 than methane and can be used for biogas upgrading. The permeation in CMSM increases with temperature.
- In the HyGrid project, Al-CMSM and Pd/Ag silver membranes will be developed for H2 recovery from natural gas grids, promising results are being obtained.

References


Acknowledgements

- The HyGrid project has received funding from the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No 700355. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme and Hydrogen Europe and N. ERGHY.
- The BioHysis project has received funding from the Government of the Basque Country and from FEDER through the GAITEK Programme under grant number IG-2014-00075 and IG-2015-0000175.
- M. Llosa is grateful for the Torres Quevedo Programme PTQ-13-06153 and for the European Commission through the project TIFER (PEOPLE–2010–COFUND), grant No. 267200.

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