

BIOMASS GASIFICATION TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION



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Torftech

- C The Torftech Group is an IP, technology and engineering business.
- C The Group owns rights to and continues to develop the TORBED^{®*} family of industrial process technology which was originally invented by Chris Dodson, the Group's chairman.
- Invented in 1981 and first commercialized in 1985, the TORBED processors have a broad range of applications in contexts which require gas-to-solid contacting. They offer high precision processing within a compact footprint.
- C The processors are marketed and sold by the Torftech companies under the TORBED brand name.
- C They are supported by a rolling programme of patents and a strong IP culture.
- Multiple applications and markets.
- Strong operational track record.
- History of innovation and problem solving.



^{*} TORBED is a registered trade mark of Mortimer Technology Holdings Limited

Torftech Group

INTRODUCTION





TORBED Processors

- C TORBED processors contain a toroidal fluidised bed that is created by introducing and then sustaining a steady feed of material into a specially-directed, fast-moving gas stream.
- C The process gas stream lifts the material into a shallow compact bed imparting horizontal motion and subjecting the base layer of the bed to high impact gas velocities and thus higher heat and mass transfer rates.
- Material in the bed is vigorously mixed, ensuring consistent processing.
- C The patented geometry and flow patterns of TORBED processors allow higher gas velocities without particle entrainment in the exhaust gas stream.
- This gives high slip velocities and thereby a high rate of reaction. This high reaction rate allows a low bed mass, giving excellent, realtime process control and accuracy.



A TORBED Compact Bed Reactor ("CBR")



Key Features and Advantages





Processes Using Our Equipment





Section II

Biomass Power Generation





BIOMASS POWER GENERATION





BIOMASS POWER GENERATION



TORBED Processor Applications



FUEL IMPROVEMENT

Drying



Schematic of a TORBED drying plant

- First large-scale TORBED dryer system was installed in 2004 and has run successfully ever since.
- O Drying is typically a low temperature process.
- It can be a first stage in preparing biomass for transportation or for further processing.
- Potentially a highly efficient way of utilizing waste heat from another process.
- TORBED dryers have a much smaller footprint than conventional belt-based or rotary drum dryers.
- They also have the ability to **process fine particles** that can create dust control problems with other technologies.
- The plant shown opposite is used to dry waste paper sludge, which is then sold for use as animal bedding. A three stage TORBED dryer is in the foreground: the belt dryer it replaced remains in situ.
- The belt dryer, now decommissioned, used more energy, had higher operational costs and produced less output. The TORBED can be run remotely whilst the belt dryer required a team 24/7.

Comparative footprints of a TORBED dryer and a set of belt dryers both designed to dry 14 tonnes of biomass per hour

36m



A TORBED-based drying plant in Holland



FUEL IMPROVEMENT





- It was decommissioned as the result of fuel subsidy policy changes which rendered it uneconomic to run
- The process combines TORBED reactors in a number of different roles: low temperature drying, heat generation, high temperature drying, torrefaction and potentially cooling. The product is embrittled and suitable to replace coal in conventional power plants

Product Cooler

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POWER GENERATION

Gasification

- First TORBED gasifier was installed in 2005/6 in the Netherlands; it ran successfully for a number of years on miscellaneous general biomass.
- In a TORBEDgasifier, gasification is a high temperature, low oxygen process with multi-fuel capability and high operational flexibility.
- It involves conversion of solid fuel into a syngas which can be used as fuel for heat or electricity generation.
- Syngas has power house flexibility: it can be used to generate heat and electricity through either: gas engines; or a boiler and a steam turbine; or an ORC.
- The TORBED processors' ability to allow close temperature control facilitates management of ash fusion problems that are otherwise typical with biomass and waste combustion or gasification processes and avoids the need for regular shutdowns for ash removal.
- The process produces a carbon-containing char as a by-product, which, for example, can be used as a soil conditioner.

Feed Material Feed Delivery Feed D

A gas engine being delivered to a TORBED gasification plant



Schematic of a TORBED gasification system

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POWER GENERATION

Combustion

- The first TORBED combustor was installed in 1989 and has run successfully since that date.
- In a combustion process, close to all carbon in the feedstock is consumed. (Carbon contents in final ash is typically <5% mass).
- Combustion is not suitable for all biomass-based fuels, as high temperatures may lead to ash slagging.
- It is particularly effective with low alkali metal ash biomass such as most woods or rice husk.
- It is also effective for applications where maximum carbon burnout is desirable, such as:
 - Production of rice husk ash for onward processing; and
 - Burnout of carbon from sewage sludge digestate to meet disposal regulations.
- TORBED combustors have been used to combust wood, rice husk, sewage sludge and paper sludge and to remove residual carbon or hydrocarbons from other materials.

Schematic of a TORBED combustor/boiler system



A TORBED combustor-based power plant in Cambodia







Section III

Biochar Production using the TORBED Gasification Process







Key Competitive Advantage of the TORBED Gasifiers









Poster Biochars for the Adsorption of Environmental Pollutants EPSRC published Pioneering research Christopher Holt, Samantha Sime, Aidan Westwood, Antonio Salituro, Rob Blissett. and skills by Methods Introduction University [3] Chars ✓ 'Biochars': High carbon product Gasification: Straw (690 °C, Poland), Wood (750 °C, of Leeds in Wales). Fast pyrolysis: Lignite chars(750 °C, 830 °C produced from thermal and 950 °C). June 2017 decomposition of biomass with limited O₂^[1] providing ✓ Has applications many including: Additive to soil validation adsorption of CO₂ and water Surface oxygen functional Surface area and porosity: groups: Thermal Analyser. of the treatment [2] Measuring weight gain to Nitrogen desorption/adsorption Mass Spectrometer and a ✓ Torftech TORBED reactors assess CO₂ adsorption. isotherms. Fourier Transformed Infra-Red TORBED thought to produce highly porous (STA-MS-FTIR). biochars. They provided us with processor's two biomass chars and three Figure 1: TORBED reacto lignite chars to test [3]. The char which demonstrated the highest surface area was then activated by chemical activation (KOH, 650 °C, 1 hour 2:1 ability to ratio) and physical activation (CO₂, 30 mins, 800 °C), and the same analysis methods repeated produce Results high ✓KOH activated char Sample Surface Area Micropore ample Surface Micropore Volume contained a higher number of (m²/a Area (m²/g) Volume ✓ Wood quality has the (cc/g) ultra-micropores (<7 Å). (cc/g) lowest surface area 463.43 1.84E-1 Straw Char char from ✓ STA-MS-FTIR suggested the Straw char 463.43 1.84E-1 and micropore 86.51 3.65E-2 Wood Char CO₂ act. 820.11 3.19E-1 same functional groups as volume. The straw 489.97 1.92E-1 Lignite Char 750 °C both unactivated chars. char char has a much 1.85E-1 484.97 Lignite Char 830 °C KOH act. 1177.04 4.56E-1 higher surface area of ✓ CO₂ activation increased biomass 2.57E-1 665.20 Lignite Char 950 °C char 463.43 m²/g. the uptake marginally. and lignite. ✓ From the STA-MS-√КОН activation FTIR, suggestions can significantly increased 3 ase in weight (%) be made as to the uptake. functional groups ✓ Straw char adsorbed the most CO₂. ✓Both CO₂ and KOH present on the surface ✓ Lignite chars absorbed more the higher the production activation increased uptake of the char, depending temperature. the above commercial on the temperature of ✓ Straw show marginally less adsorption than the activated carbon. CO and CO₂ evolution. commercial carbon. ✓ Straw and wood Conclusion chars evolved CO at Yield (%) ✓ Straw char demonstrated the highest surface area and CO Possible CO, Possible 54.56 temperatures CO, Yields from both activation micropore volume. activation Peak Functional characteristic Pea Functional of methods KOH 71.34 ✓ Chemically activated straw char had significantly improved lactone groups, and k(K) Group (K) Group activation surface area and CO₂ uptake. CO₂ at temperatures 1160 Quinone/ 879 Lactone ✓ Physical activation did not significantly improve the CO₂ uptake characteristic of Semiquinone 1109 Uncertain of the char. quinone/semiquinone 0 groups. References
[1] Gaunt, J.L. and Lehmann, J. Energy balance and emissions associated with biochar sequestration and pyrolysis bioenergy production. Environmenta Science & Technology, 2008, 42(11), pp.4152-4158. (2) Lehmann, J. et al. Bio-charse sequestration in trenstrial ecosystems–a review. Mitigation and adaptation strategies for global change. 2006, 11(2), pp.395-419.
(3) R. Blissett, 'Upgrading low rank coal for metallurgical pulverised coal injection applications', 2015 International Conference on Coal Science & Technology. UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

From biomass to activated carbon

Comparison of raw biochar CO₂ adsorption capabilities

Commercial Carbon Straw Biochar 0 2 5 1 3 6 Increase in weight (%) Commercial Carbon **KOH** Activated Straw Biochar CO₂ Activated Straw Biochar 2 3 6 7 8 5 9 Δ Extracts of Poster published by University of Leeds in Increase in weight (%) June 2017 providing validation of the TORBED processor's ability to produce high quality char from both Comparison of activated char CO₂ adsorption capabilities biomass and lignite.

Activation of straw char increases surface area and adsorption performance to over and above commercial activated carbons.





Section IV

Biomass Gasification Case Studies





T1000 STRAW GASIFIER



Poland: MZEC Świdnica Biomass Heating Plant

- Modernisation of a coal-fired district heating station with a biomass gasifier and afterburner supplying heat from biomass.
- This combination of EBR and afterburner provides the foundation of the gasifier circuit for projects of this nature.
- Fuel
 - Straw
 - O Wood
- O 5MW_{th} output
- Delivered/installed in 2013 and operating successfully.
- Producing char (pictured opposite) that is being sold commercially for soil and ground improvement applications.







Poland: MZEC Świdnica Biomass Heating Plant Mass & Energy Balance





Fuel, syngas and char analysis (2013)

Straw Analysis		Value
Moisture	%	14.7
Ash	%	6.3
NCV	kJ/kg	14237
Carbon	%	39.3
Hydrogen	%	4.95
Nitrogen	%	0.83
Sulphur	%	0.27

Gas Analysis	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
CO (%mol)	16.47	20.06	19.61
CO2 (%mol)	13.18	11.48	11.39
CH4 (%mol)	4.41	4.77	4.62
H2 (%mol)	6.65	5.65	5.09
C2H4 (%mol)	1.15	1.24	1.2
N2 (%mol)	58.14	56.73	58
Gas CV			
kJ/Nm3	5058	5590	5396

Straw Char Analysis		Value
Moisture	%	-
Ash	%	33.4
NCV	kJ/kg	21335
Carbon	%	59.2
Hydrogen	%	1.19
Nitrogen	%	1.05
Sulphur	%	0.17

T2000 WOOD CHIP GASIFIER



UK Biomass Gasification CHP Plant

- C Located at Usk in South Wales.
- The Project consists of a 6.3MW wood-fired biomass power plant, based around a TORBED EBR gasifier and with power generated by a group of gas engines.
- Wood successfully gasified in April 2014 and power first generated in July 2014.
- Plant currently not operational owing to gas clean-up system (required for engines but not for steam turbines) by-product challenges unrelated to the TORBED gasifier. The plant is in the process of being redesigned, refinanced and recommissioned.
- 35% gross electrical energy from chemical energy. 25% overall plant gross efficiency.
- No stack: an important factor in planning deliberations.
- At full capacity, the plant would use approximately 45,000 tonnes of waste wood and waste wood fines per annum.

* Clean wood, relatively homogeneous (hard/soft wood), very few contaminants

Usk Project and Processor





UK: Usk Biomass Gasifier CHP Mass & Energy Balance





Fuel, syngas and char analysis (2015)

Wood Chip Analysis**		Value
Moisture	%	12.7
Ash	%	0.6
NCV	kJ/kg	NA
Carbon	%	43.7
Hydrogen	%	5.3
Nitrogen	%	0.25
Sulphur	%	0.03

Gas Analysis	Values
CO (%mol)	19.8
CO2 (%mol)	15.2
CH4 (%mol)	5.4
H2 (%mol)	9.7
C2H4 (%mol)	NA
N2 (%mol)	49.1
Gas CV	
kJ/Nm3	6400

Wood Char Analysis		Value
Moisture	%	-
Ash	%	6.3
NCV	kJ/kg	NA
Carbon	%	88.5
Hydrogen	%	1.2
Nitrogen	%	0.5
Sulphur	%	0.1

- * Due to limitations on the downstream process, the Usk gasifier was never run at full load. Analyses were obtained from 1/3 load operation. Carbon conversion in char is expected to improve at full load.
- ** This is an analysis of clean wood chip that was used during the commissioning period.

SECTION V

TEAM







Name **Biography** Function Chris is a mechanical engineer with many years of industrial experience. He worked for multinationals before establishing the Group some 30 years ago. He was the original inventor of the TORBED Reactor concepts and has continued to generate strong IP platforms to underpin the businesses. Chris has Chris Dodson worked in Europe, North America, India and Australasia. His expertise is in R&D in the process industries providing practical solutions to process problems using gas/solid contacting. His revolutionary TORBED Reactor technologies Inventor and have served the food, chemical, mineral, metallurgical, petroleum, power and environmental industries. **Group Chairman** He is an experienced Director, having held Board positions in a range of companies and is: a Fellow of the Institute of Directors ("IoD") and a past member of its governing body; an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers and a member of Catalyst^{uk}, a global network of business leaders who champion the UK as the world's best international business partner. Martin has extensive international experience working in capital goods, production, contract engineering and R&D environments for both corporates and SMEs. Martin Groszek After being awarded a BSc in Metallurgy, Martin travelled to South Africa where he took up a position with Anglo American and DeBeers. After five years of working in various coal, gold and diamond mines, where he was **MD** Torftech accountable for a major plant operation, Martin returned to the UK to take up a scholarship at Imperial College and obtained his MSc. He subsequently joined Davy McKee in a senior process engineering capacity before being asked Group to lead Davy's TORBED technology commercialisation team. In 1991 he joined Comalco (now RTZ) and moved to Melbourne Australia to take up a role commercialising new technology for Comalco's R&D division. Chief Technology Officer Returning to the UK in 1994, Martin joined Torftech as Operations Director, re-acquainting himself with the TORBED technology, and in 1997 was appointed Managing Director of Torftech Ltd. Martin is currently the Managing Director of the Torftech Group.

KEY TEAM MEMBERS





KEY TEAM MEMBERS





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Appendix I

References







Past Performance

From





- First commercial sale in 1985.
- O More than 180 units sold, of which key concentrations have been:
 - 46 for biomass/waste processing,
 - 81 to the food processing industry, and
 - 22 for vermiculite manufacture and processing

with the balance being used in highlycustomized, one-off applications or for research.

- Ranging in size from 50mm to 6m.
- TORBED processors have a design life in excess of 25 years.
 - The oldest currently operational TORBED reactor was installed in 1989 and has been in continuous operation, subject to routine maintenance, since that time.
- In excess of 5,000,000 fleet operating hours
- Correctly operated and maintained, based on the data available to Torftech, they have historically attained availability figures of 90-95% depending on the application and the detailed design of the individual TORBED processor.



Proven Technology with Multiple Applications and Global Clients





Sales by Sector and Geography





Cumulative Sales by Sector





Age of Operational Fleet





Sales by Size of Processor





Appendix II

The Technology and Why it Works





Two Generic TORBED Reactor Types

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Compact Bed Reactor ("CBR")

At its heart, the technology is based on suspension of solids in a fastmoving gas stream. The gas stream, which is directed at



an angle, lifts the solids into a shallow compact fluidized bed imparting horizontal motion and subjecting the base layer of the bed to high impact gas velocities and thus high heat and mass transfer rates.

Expanded Bed Reactor ("EBR")

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The EBR expands the bed from the CBR into the reactor chamber (as shown in the picture to the left), which increases the force with which gas and particles are mixed. This creates a faster rate of reaction and thereby allows

faster processing in a comparatively restricted space.



The key to understanding what the TORBED processors have to offer over and against other technologies is that they deliver very thorough processing of a steady stream of material in a very fast moving gas stream. This allows for:

- extremely close real time process control, more so than with competing technologies as there are no large masses of partially processed material;
- ability to process very fine materials;

low system pressure drop;

- there is no grate or bed on which ash can slag;
- thorough processing and thereby high efficiency; and
- a comparatively small physical footprint and thereby lower capital costs.

In addition, a TORBED has no moving parts, which results in good availability and reduced maintenance costs.



Key Features



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The Impact of High Gas Velocities

All particles of matter attract a boundary layer of air, which must be penetrated for a reaction to take place. The thicker the boundary layer, the more reaction is inhibited.

The high gas velocities in a TORBED processor strip away the boundary layer, facilitating rapid processing.





Slip Velocity





Appendix III

Technology Comparisons





TECHNOLOGY COMPARISONS

Gasification



Aspect	TORBED EBR	Circulating Fluid Bed (CFB)	Bubbling Fluid Bed	Down & Up Draft Systems
Feed Particle Size	Can accept wide range of particle sizes with many different shape factors, including fines	Can only accept narrowly sized particles with not much variability in shape factors	Can only accept very narrowly sized particles with very little variability in shape factors	Can handle large particles >10mm
Solids Recirculation	Solids are separated by centrifugal force directly within the processor and re-circulated internally with no requirement for a cyclone	Normally external to the reactor by cyclone with solids returned to the base of bed for recirculation	Not Done	Not Done
Gas Recycling	Cost effectively done due to low $\Delta \mathbf{P}$	Difficult due to high ΔP	Difficult due to high ΔP	Possible
Pressure drop (∆P)	Low (as low as 4" water gauge = 1 kPa).	High (up to 10kPa)	Medium	Low
Gasification Efficiencies	High (Improved with hot recycle gas and hot air used)	High	Reasonable	Reasonable
Temperature Control Response	Real-time / Excellent	5 - 60 seconds	1 – 2 minutes (Danger of hot-spots)	5-10 minutes (Danger of hot-spots)
Plant Foot Print	Smallest	Small, but tall	Large	Large

TECHNOLOGY COMPARISONS



Higher Slip Velocity

Blue lines indicate conventional technology with particle entrainment at lower speeds. Orange lines indicate TORBED technology, where very high slip velocity is achieved.



Particle dispersion (Further right is a more diffuse particle bed)

TECHNOLOGY COMPARISONS



Processor Slip Velocity Comparisons



TORBED Processor's Advantages

In the context of local generation of electricity or heat from biomass or waste, either through gasification or combustion, the TORBED Processors have significant advantages over traditional grates and boilers



