



## CAlytic membrane REactors

based on

## New mAterials for C1-C4 valorization

CARENA is a large-scale integrating project funded by the EC

### Interview with Thijs Peters— SINTEF, Norway.



*My name is Thijs Peters, working since 2005 as a senior research scientist at SINTEF Materials and Chemistry in Oslo, Norway. Within CARENA I contribute to WP2 with the verification of Pd-based membranes in propane dehydrogenation processes. I studied chemical engineering at the Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands, and later obtained my PhD degree at the same university. The PhD thesis encompassed the development of catalytic pervaporation membranes for close integration of reaction and separation, and involved both catalyst and membrane development.*

***What made you opt for a career as a researcher? How would you define your job?***

After I finished my PhD it was never a question if I would continue as researcher, or not. Being interested in finding solutions, or obtaining results out of experiments, it was quite clear to me that I would strive for a scientific career, preferably within the environment of a research institute. I was therefore as well very happy to get the possibility at SINTEF.

***We'd like to catch a glimpse of your daily activities. What is an average day (or week) for you?***

The contents of the work can be very diverse. On one day I can be struggling in the lab to get a certain experiment working, while the day after I can be in an important meeting with industrial partners, or presenting obtained results at a conference or project meeting. This makes the work as a researcher also very interesting. To be actively involved in planning and executing experimental activities gives hands-on experience that is very valuable in communication with industry and/or project partners.



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*The CARENA project has been designed with a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary approach. What progress can be expected if chemists work in closer relation with other disciplines?*

In getting breakthrough development, it is all about putting people with different backgrounds in contact with each other, and this is also why CARENA, with its strong emphasis on multidisciplinary, is a very interesting and awarding project to contribute to. It is not only the contribution of people with different background, as well the interaction of people employed at universities, research institutes and the industrial partners of CARENA that is very valuable.



### CARENA in brief

Starting date: 1st June 2011

Project duration: 2011 – 2015

Number of partners: 19

Coordinator: Arend de Groot, ECN, the Netherlands

Programme: FP7-NMP-2010-LARGE- 4

Project Reference: GA 263007

*You were a member of the organizing committee of the joint Reforcell, DEMCAMER, Comethy and CARENA workshop on Pd Membrane (20-21 November 2014, Petten, The Netherlands). Could you tell us your feeling, feedback... ?*

The workshop will take place in three weeks' time, and we are now working hard to finalize the program, arrange all practicalities around lunches and transport. The interactive discussion also needs to be set up. To my belief, we have managed to put together a very good scientific program with contributions from all over the world showing the large efforts and interest that currently is being laid in the Pd membrane technology. With the current status of registrations, around 70 participants from industry, research institutes and universities, I am sure of that the workshop is going to be large unique knowledge-sharing success.

*Thank you Thijs for answering my questions, and all the best for CARENA and the other projects you are involved in.*

*Interviewed by Laurence Bosch*

