



# Centre for Global Energy Studies

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**“Difficult Oil”**

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# Outline

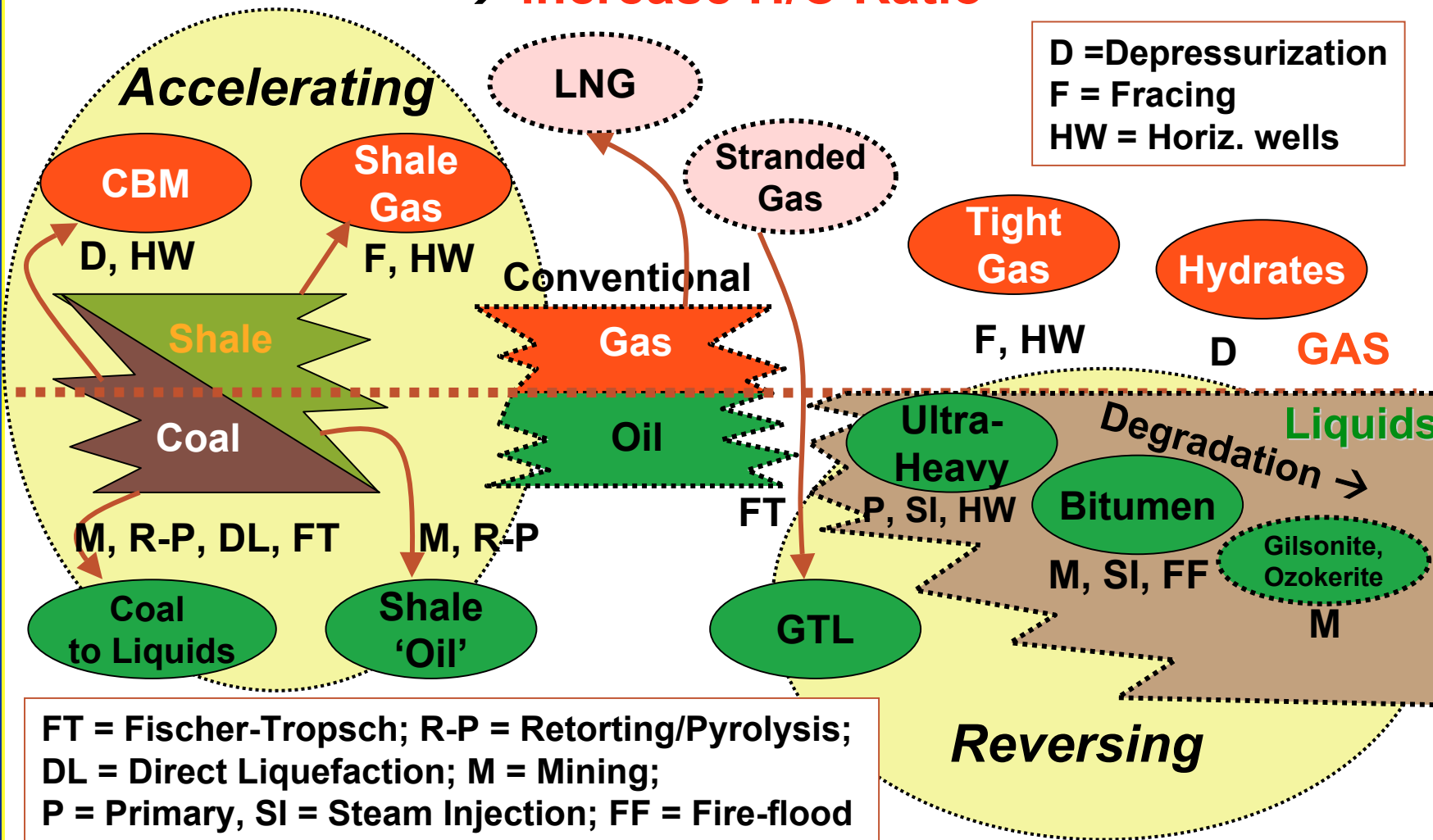
- **Introduction-definitions**
- **Resources**
- **Production**
- **Outlook**
- **Why/why not invest**
- **Market and other issues**
- **Summary / Propositions for discussion**



# Unconventional Oil & Gas: A Conceptual Framework

Accelerating or Reversing geological processes

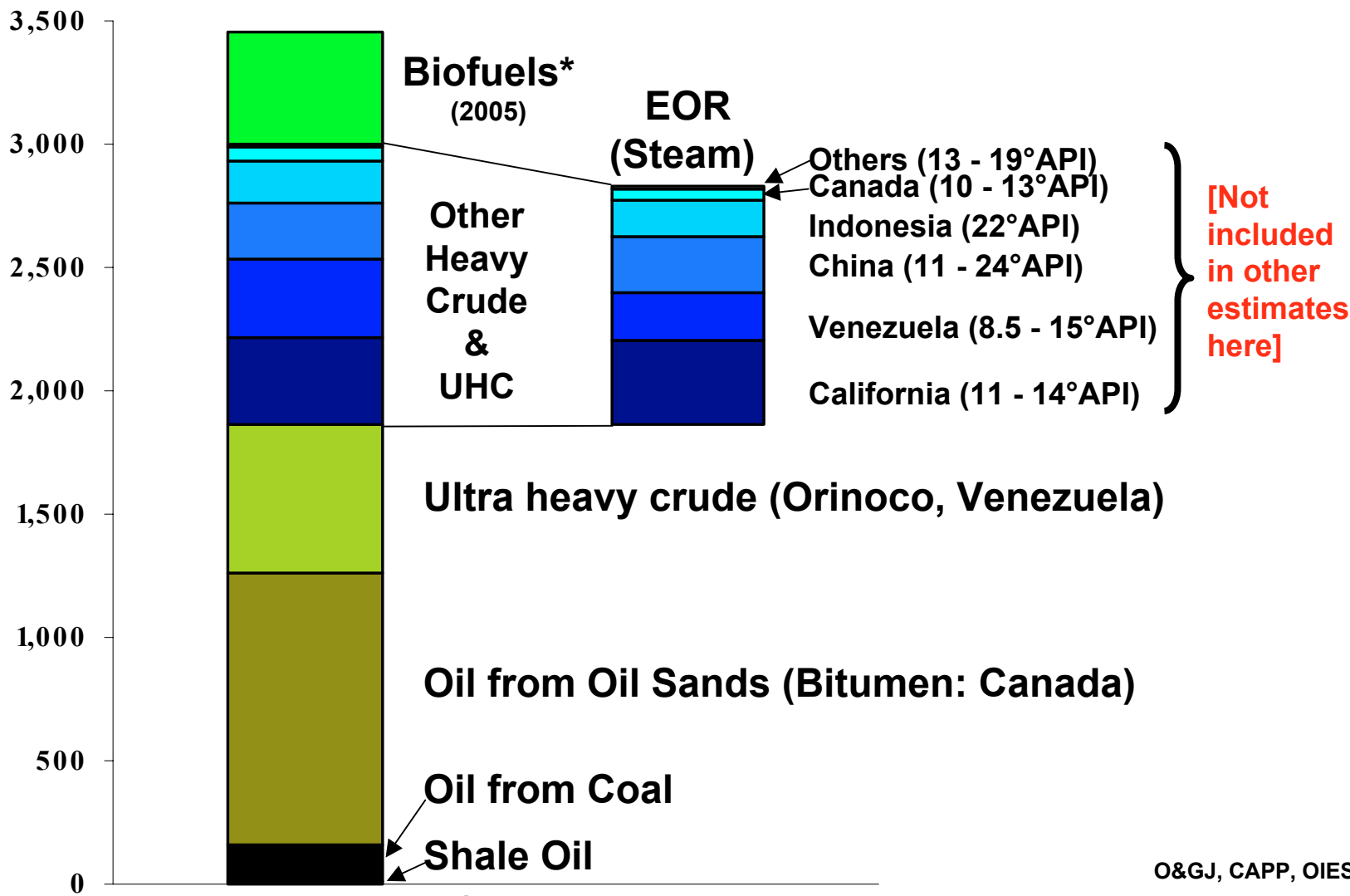
→ **increase H/C Ratio**



Bio-Ethanol ← Sugar cane, maize, wheat, sugar beet, cellulose...  
 Bio-diesel ← Vegetable oils, Jatropha bean, oil nuts...



# Estimated Production of Unconventional Liquids (04)



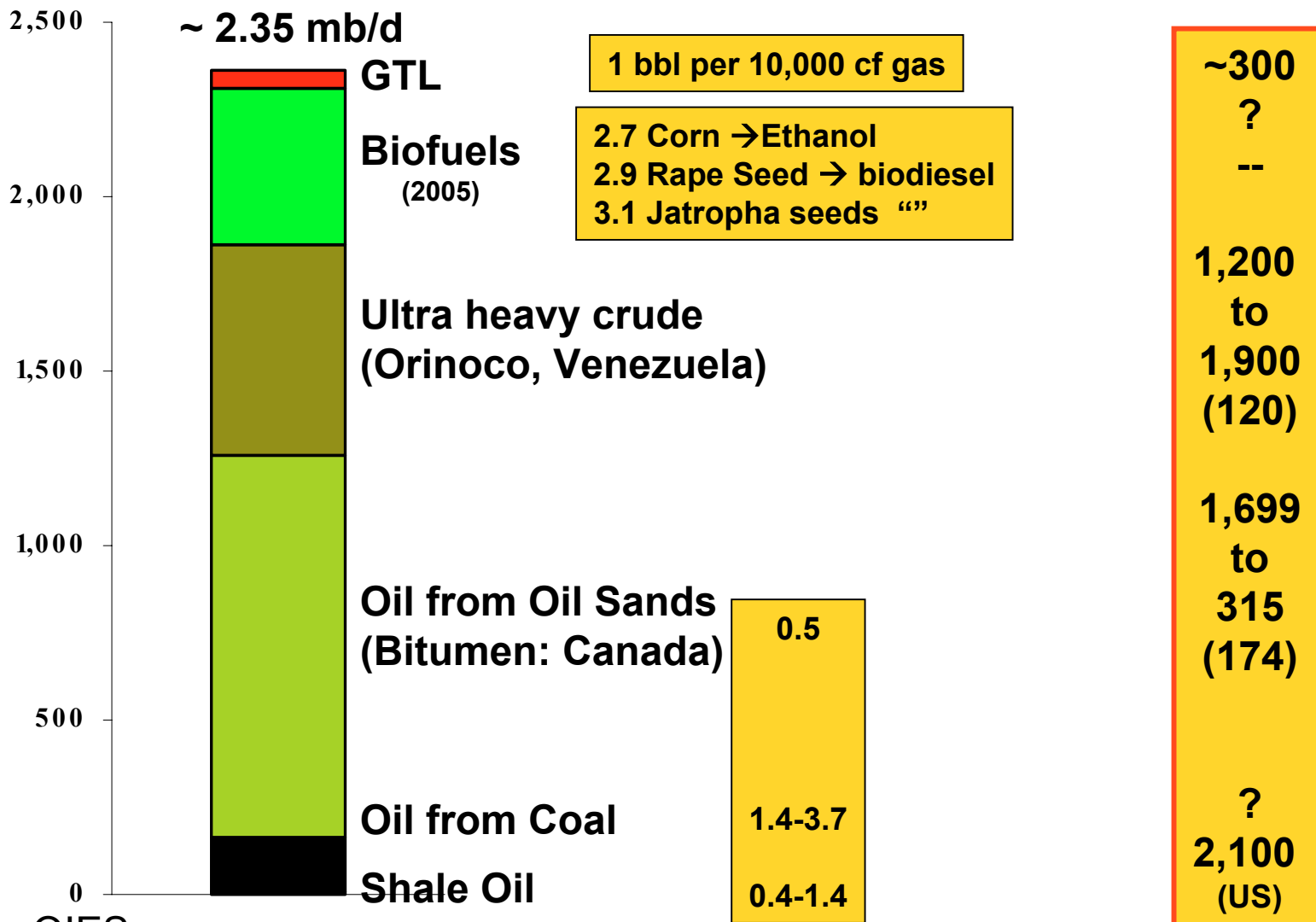


# Difficult Oil

Resource Gbbl (URR)

Production

Yield (bbl / t)



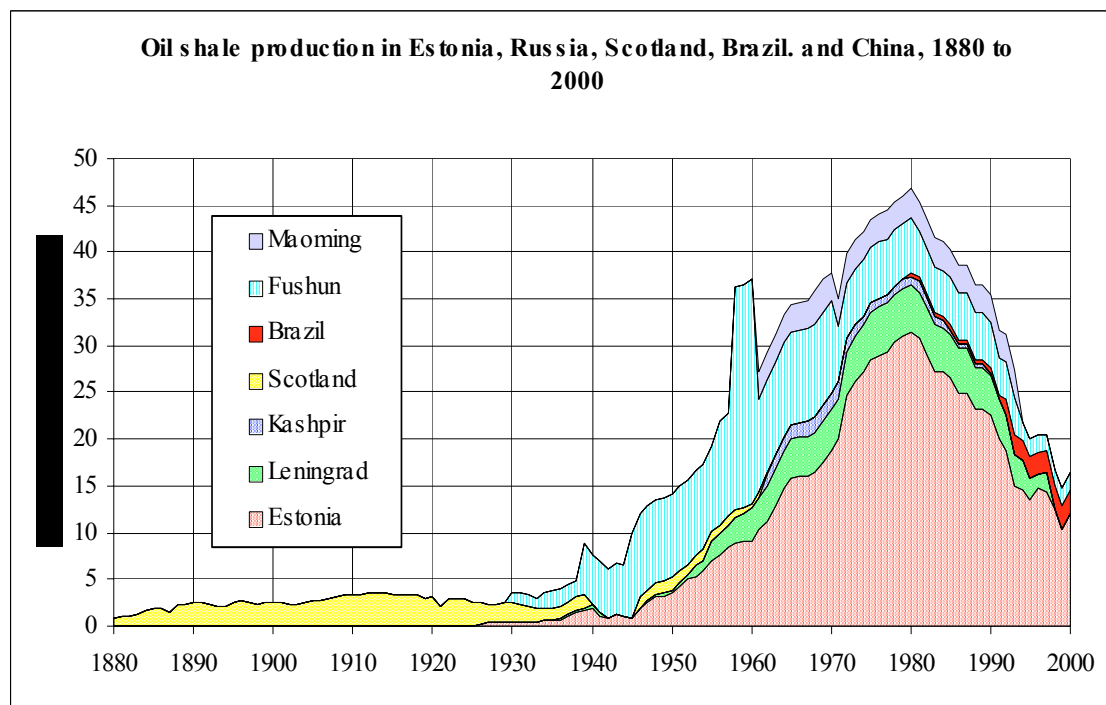


# Oil from Coal

- **Liquid by-product of coke production (1840's)**
- **Original feedstock (aromatics) for petrochemical industry**
- **UK and Germany (WWII), and Apartheid South Africa**
- **Direct and Indirect processes (> 30 schemes developed)**
- **China looking at large development (> 1 mb/d)**
- **Environmental penalties (7 – 10X CO<sub>2</sub> vs conv crude)**
- **Energy penalties (55% to 70% energy conversion)**
- **Potential long term bridge to Hydrogen future with sequestration of Carbon but significant replacement of conventional crude would require massive increase in coal production**

# Oil from Shale

- **Very long history**
- **Massive resource**
- **Requires a lot of energy and water**
- **Wastes / Tailings**
- **Brazil project**



- **Green River Shales;**  
Largest resource in the world in one of the driest parts of the US: Shell in situ electric heating pilot.
- **Has always been 'tomorrow's energy source'.**
- **New US Energy Policy Act (Sec 369) promotes 're-launch'**



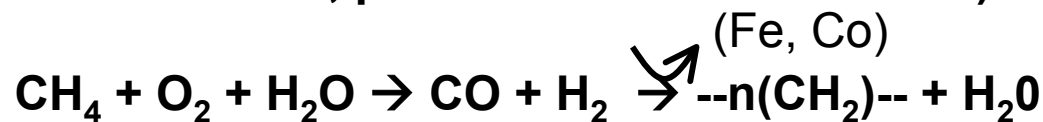
# Biofuels

- **Mostly Ethanol (Brazil, USA); EU favors Biodiesel**
- **> 30 countries have launched Biofuels programs.**
- **Mandates and targets in US and EU**
- **EU farmers oppose cellulose-based Biofuels**
- **US promoters oppose imported sugar-based ethanol**
  
- **Essentially an agro-business / rural subsidy business**
- **Great political appeal (jobs, 'self-supply', environment)**
- **Debate whether net environmental and energy benefits**
- **Market problems with blending**
- **Farmers' opportunity to integrate downstream**
- **But volumes & trade are growing very fast**



# GTL: What & Why?

-70-year old technology (Fischer-Tropsch), with new innovations in design and catalysts → very high quality suite of products (Diesel, Paraffinic Naphtha → Petrochemicals, plus Lubricants and Waxes)



- Monetize ‘stranded’ gas resources
- Diversification (for producer & consumer)
- Environmental (X flaring & product specs)
- Corporate
  - Monetize R&D and I.P. investments
  - Materiality & baseload production
  - Reserves booking of feedstock gas (boe) and Associated Liquids (C<sub>5+</sub>)
  - Product specs compliance
  - Market dominance in specialty products



# GTL Project List is long...

Project/Company/Country	Existing / Under construction (b/d)	Announced or Under Study (b/d) start year
Mossgas, PetroSA, South Africa	23,000	
Bintulu, Shell, Malaysia	14,700	
Pilots (9)	2,360	
ORYX, Sasol/QP, Qatar	34,000 (06)	65,000 (09)
Sasol/QP, Qatar		140,000* (2 X 70,000) (09, 11)
Shell/QP, Qatar 'Pearl'		130,000 (10+)
Chevron/Sasol/QP		150,000* (2 X 75,000) (11)
Exxon Mobil/QP, Qatar		160,000* (2 X 80,000)
Conoco/Phillips/QP, Qatar		120,000* (2X 60,000)
Marathon/QP, Qatar		
Shell/NPC, Iran	34,000 (06/07)	75,000
Statoil/NPC, Iran		20,000*
Sasol/NIOC, Iran		140,000 (2 X 70,000)
Shell, Pertamina, Indonesia		75,000
Sasol/Chevron/NNPC, Nigeria		
Sasol/Chevron, Australia		34,000 – 200,000
EGPC/Shell, Egypt		75,000
Rentech, Bolivia		10,000*
Brazil-Syntroleum/Petrobras,		?
Reema Int/Syntroleum, Trinidad		10,000
PDVSA/Sasol		34,000
Sasol/PetroTrin, Trinidad		30,000
Gazprom/Yukos/Syntroleum		120,000 (12 X 10,000)

**These projects =1,465 kb/d  
Others identify >1,900 kb/d**

\* Reported FEED



# GTL Slowing down?

- **Qatar announces slow-down in development: “reservoir”?, ‘overheat’? or opportunity cost versus LNG?**
- **Countries with large reserves re-assessing LNG prospects given natural gas supply squeeze in North America**
- **Countries with small ‘stranded’ gas reserves/small fields still candidates for GTL (Trinidad?); want industrial diversification built on other, existing gas infrastructure/industry**
- **EPC supply, skills; specialty steel ‘shortage’; large vessel suppliers very constrained**
- **COSTS are the key challenge for all GTL schemes. Not the time to assign these projects to the ‘D-Team’ → reputation risk;**
- **Banks prefer LNG: market expanding: no major potential surprises.**
- **GTL scale-up issues.**



# GTL products Market

- Existing infrastructure/vehicle stock
- Diesel: high quality (S, Cetane, PM, HCs, CO), anticipates new specs—marketing tool
- Naphtha → good ethylene feedstock
- Kerosene: better to reduce output
- Specialty lubes and waxes face potential ‘over-supply’. Operators must either discount, blend with conventional lube stocks or crack to shift output to lighter grades.
- ‘Degrading’ of ultra-high quality products
- Remember: it’s transport service (CNG?)



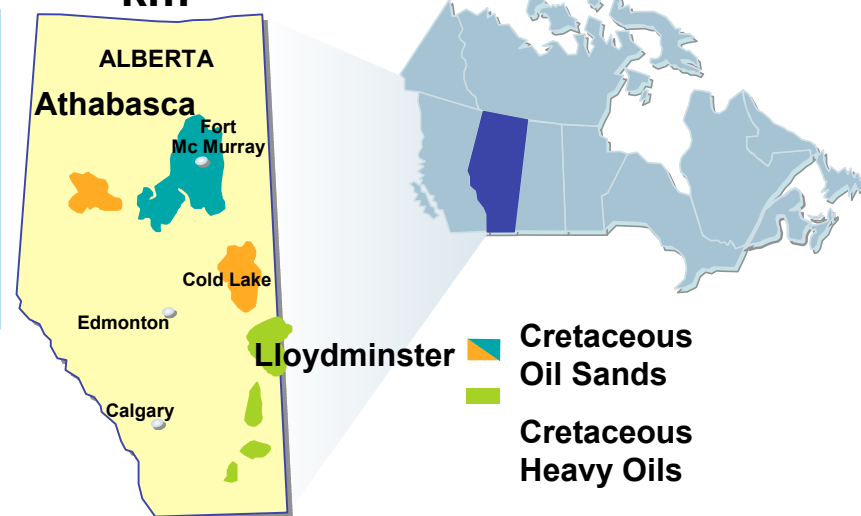
# Ultra-Heavy Crude (Orinoco) & Bitumen (Athabasca Oil Sands)

54,000 km<sup>2</sup>



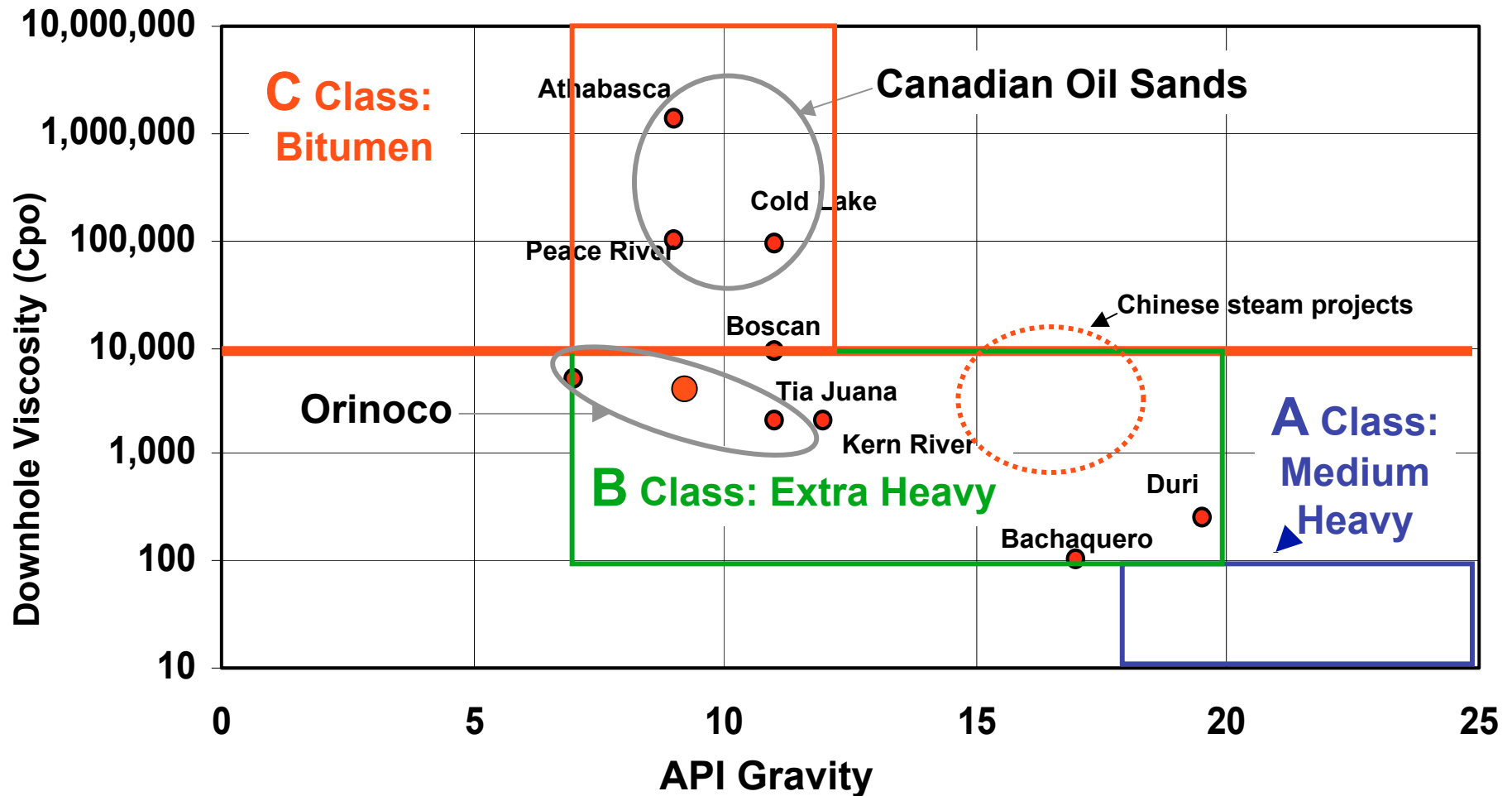
**Extra Heavy Oil in Place**  
**1,360 Gbbls**  
**Recoverable 120 Gbbls**  
**(PDVSA)**

45,000 km<sup>2</sup>



**Initial Bitumen in Place**  
**1,699 Gbbls**  
**Remaining Established 174 Gbbls**  
**Ultimate Potential Recoverable**  
**315 Gbbls**  
**(AEUB, 2005)**

# Heavy Oil Categories



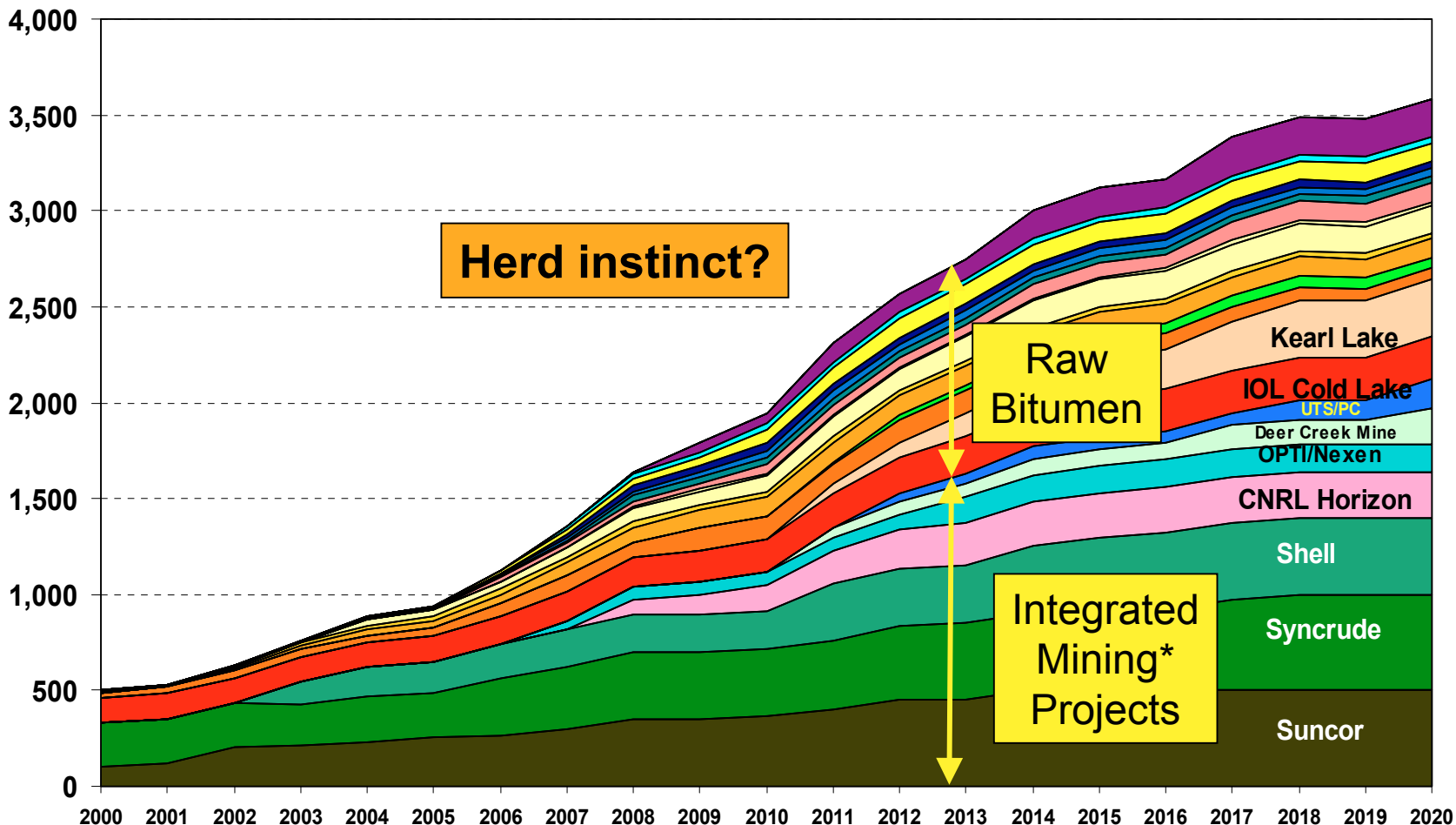
After Kupcic, 2003



# Alberta Oil Sands Projected Supply

1000 b/d

Estimated (risked) output adjusted from announced schedules



\* Except OPTI/Nexen, which uses SAGD integrated with upgrader

# Reasons firms give for investing in Oil Sands

- **No or little geologic risk; materiality**
- **Long term predictable growth versus conventional decline**
- **Technology up-side:**
  - **Can unlock value through technology-driven cost reductions and increased reserves.**
- **With high % WI: can control pace.**
- **Practice makes perfect— once in it, keep doing it, but do it better.**
- **Lower risk profile, good for valuations**
  - **Manufacturing or ‘annuity’ profile (repeatable)**
  - **Balances conventional E&P profile**
  - **Balances offshore/foreign, riskier ventures**
  - **Less single event risk**
  - **Less cash flow volatility**
  - **Financial & equity markets like it**
- **Economics are robust:**
  - **Netbacks high; low F&D, long RLI**
  - **Amortize costs over large reserves**
  - **Minimal sustaining capital**
  - **Attractive fiscal regime, promotes expansion**
  - **IRR > industry WACC @ 9%**



# But not all 'rosy' picture

- **Project execution**: large-scale, simultaneous projects in an northern environment (logistics, materials, equipment and skilled manpower) → major cost overruns
- High CAPEX projects limit scope for investments elsewhere
- Operational Risks: asset reliability in northern environment
- **Natural gas supply** (steam, power & hydrogen) unsustainable
- **Markets**: market saturation (need coking for Heavy Sour & cracking capacity for SCO); supply upsets, new market access
- **Environmental issues** and performance (CO<sub>2</sub> vs Recovery)
- 'Rent debate' starting (again)
- **Financing**: Business cycle; interest and exchange rates; SEC

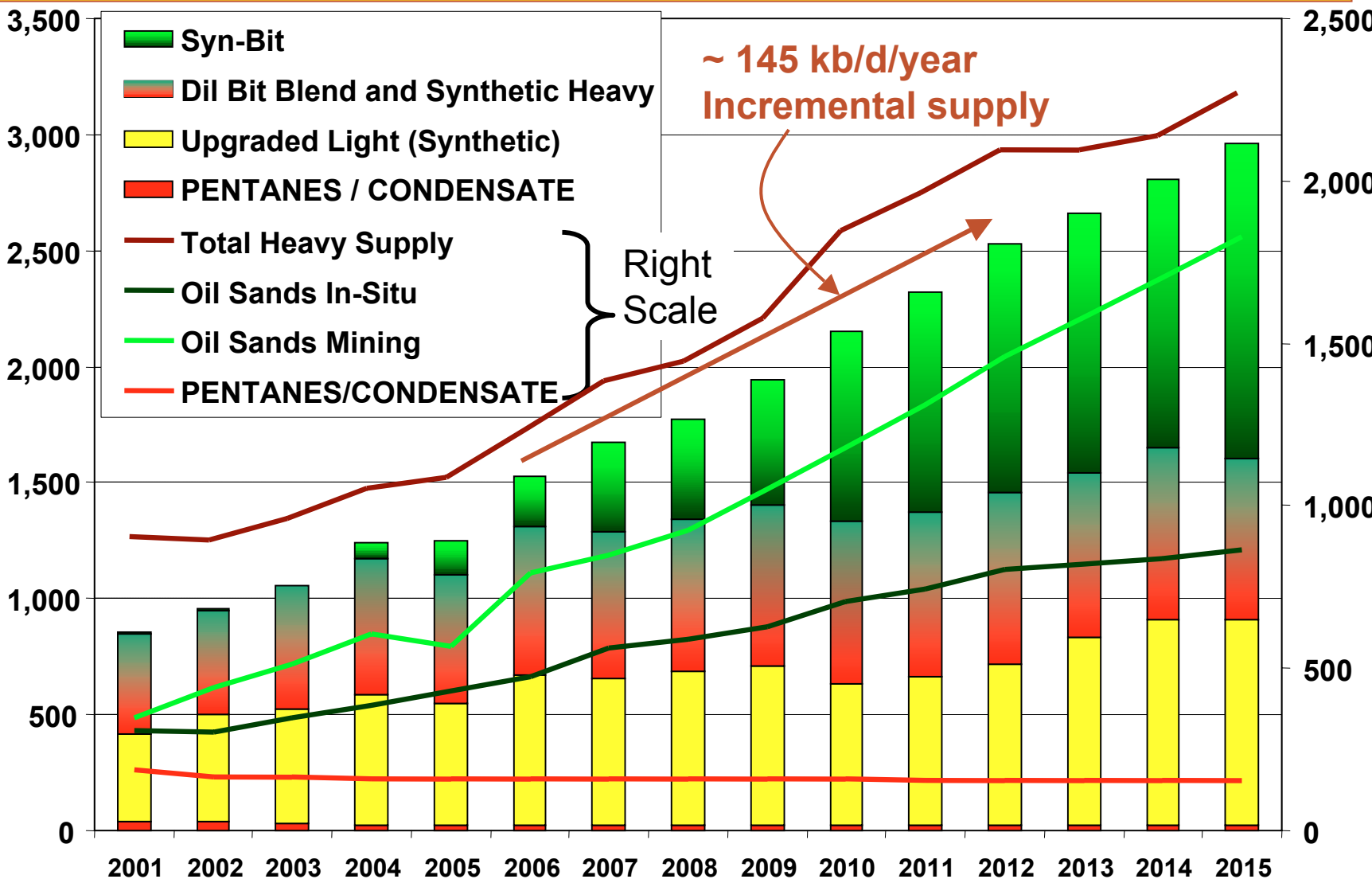


# Oil Sands Production & Supply

2.5 mb/d

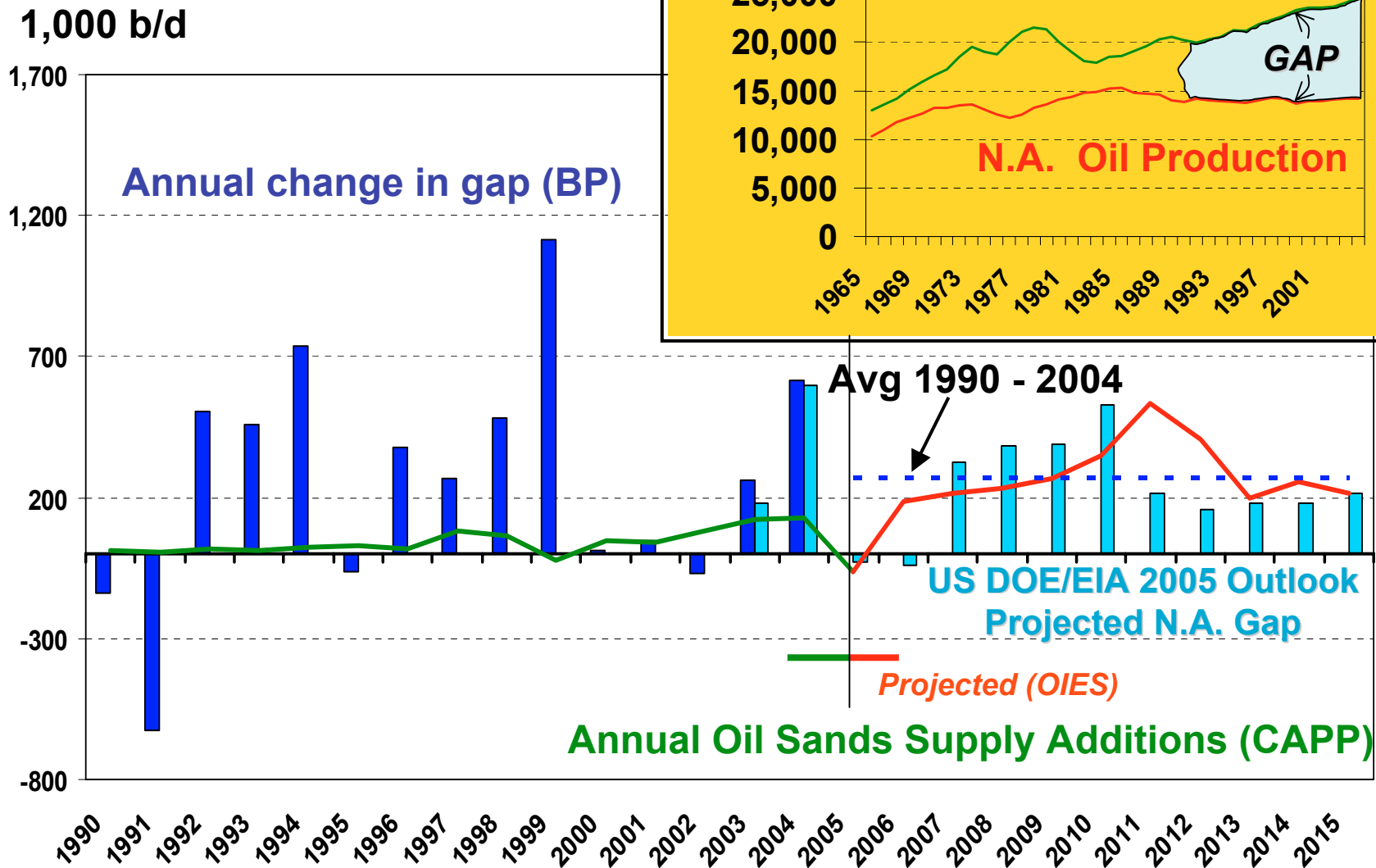
Total Canadian Production (ex NGLs)

~ 4 mb/d





# Oil Sands will be hard-pressed to fill Growing North American Supply – Demand Gap





# Technology Challenges & Options

## Natural Gas, Water Use, Emissions & Diluent

### Mining (90% recovery already)

- At-face mobile, continuous mining & extraction
- Improve energy efficiency in water separation
- Tailings, water use, land recovery, resource conservation

### Upgrading

- Better quality SCO
- Field upgrading to improve bitumen quality
- Reduce upstream CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (15 to 30% of Life Cycle Emissions)

### In Situ (40 – 70% recovery)

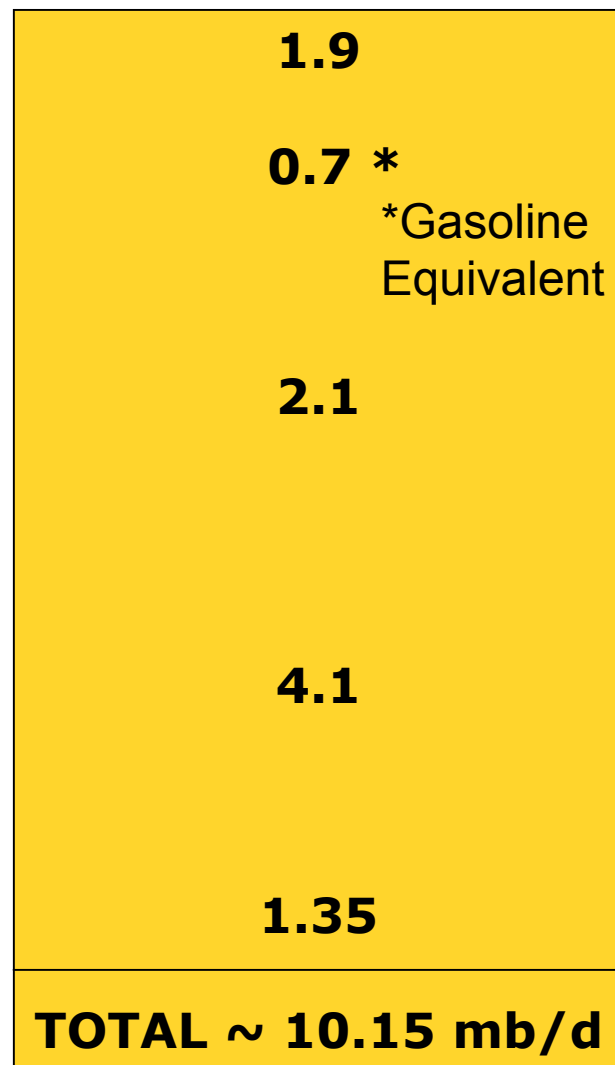
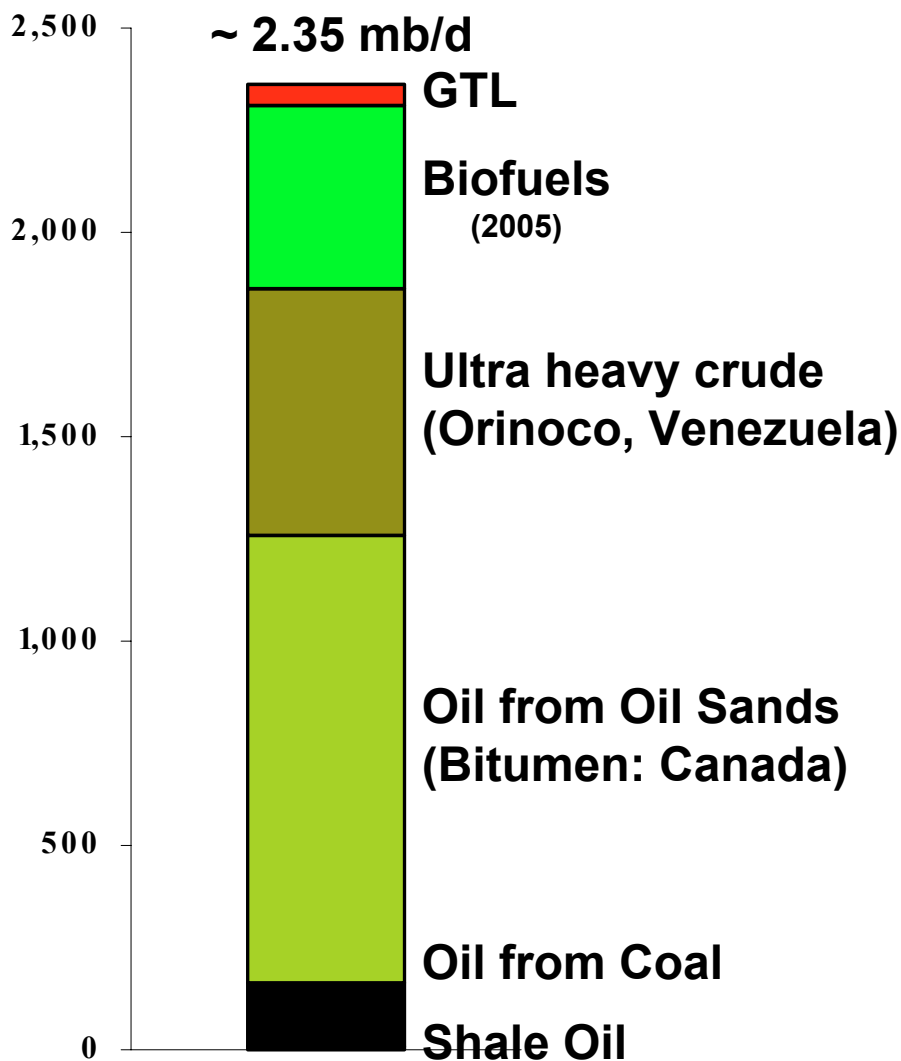
- Steam fuel (bitumen, asphaltenes, coal, POX ...nuclear?)
- Reduce Steam Oil Ratio; improve water re-cycle, reduce use.
- Better down hole pumps
- Thief Zones; reservoir modelling and monitoring
- In situ partial upgrading (THAI™, VAPEX, catalysts, ...microbes?)



# Difficult Oil: Projects

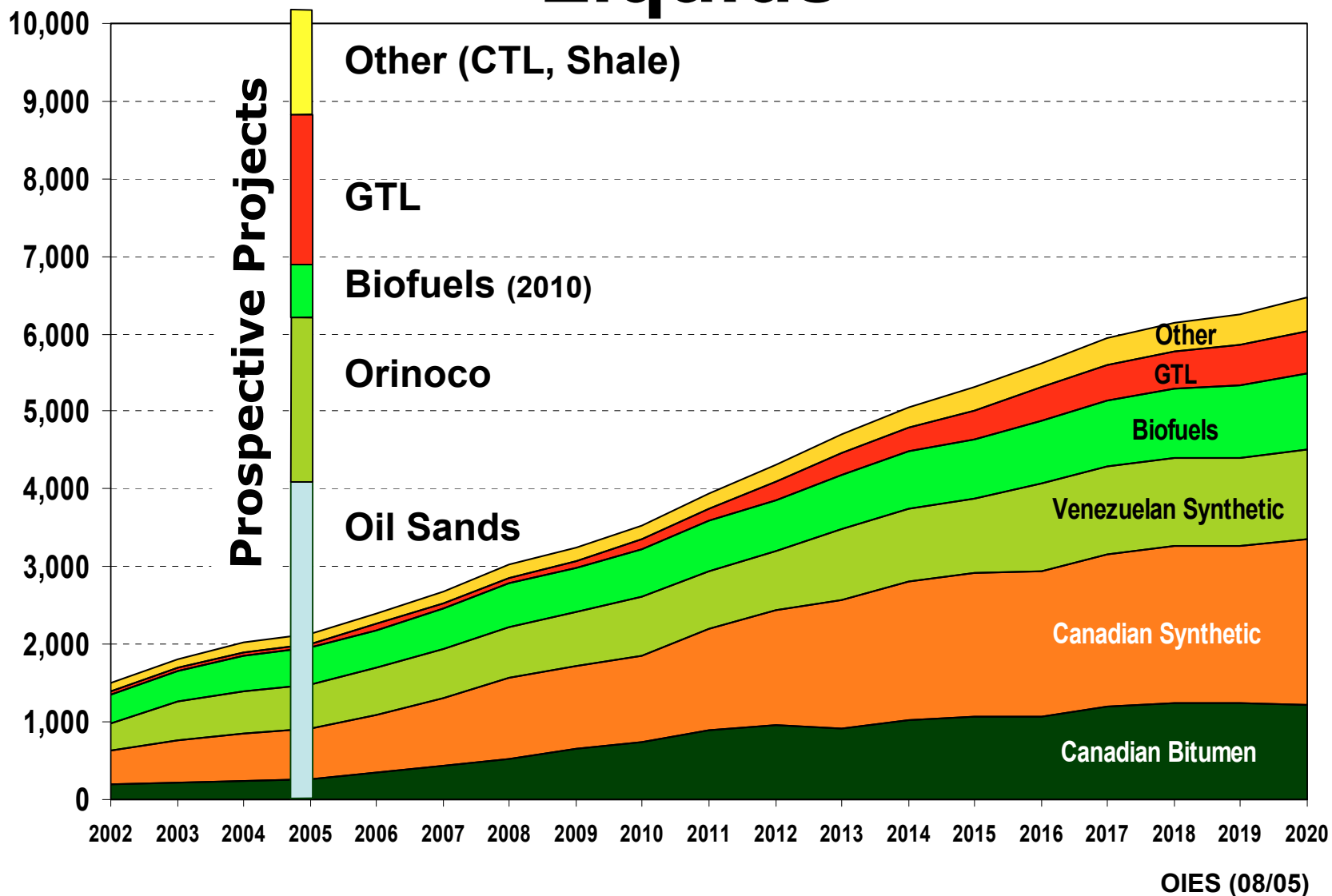
## Current & Proposed Projects

### Production





# Outlook for Unconventional Liquids





# Estimated CAPEX (\$000/b/d)

- **Ethanol:** 35 – 56\*
- **Biodiesel:** 13 – 15\*
- **GTL** 25+ (target 20)
- **Ultra heavy crude\*\*** 27 – 30
- **Oil Sands\*\*** 30 – 40
- **Coal to Liquids** 40+?
- **Oil from shale** ?

\* Plant only, gasoline equivalent (from recently announced plants Australia, EU, USA)

\*\* For integrated project yielding fully upgraded synthetic crude



# Unconventional Oil: Some Propositions

- Supply will grow—especially from oil sands and Biofuels; GTL will slow; USA political push for shale & coal, but...?
- Orinoco: most economic, least discussed, likely to slow down until perceived political risk reduced
- Upgrading of heavy crudes and bitumen will increase at source to capture value (Alberta, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela).
- Costs increasing but most except shale and coal will continue @ >\$30/bbl.
- Unlikely to exceed 10% of world supply before 2020.
- Market problems for specialty streams: degrade or dilute high value products with very high energy input
- North Field gas → *steam in Athabasca and corn ethanol in South Dakota?*  
“It’s a funny old world.” Margaret Thatcher, 1990
- Could a ‘Type SCO’ one day emerge as a reference crude?