

# EFFECTIVE VISCOSITY MANAGEMENT IN ASPHALT AND LUBRICATION OIL REFINERIES

DAN AIREY, JONATHAN COLE, LISA HOUSTON, JONATHAN LILLEY

### Introduction

There are more than 700 refineries worldwide with a capacity for 82 million barrels of oil per day. A barrel of crude yields gasoline, fuel oil, jet fuel, diesel, asphalt, lubrication oil and other refined products, but actual output varies dramatically by refinery. Demand for energy continues to rise along with pressures on producers to streamline and speed production, increase yield and operate more efficiently. Viscosity is one of the most critical measures of product quality for virtually every refinery product. New developments in viscosity measurement are enabling refineries significant improvements in production quality, cost and output.



### Common Process Viscosity Methods



### D445 METHOD - CAPILLARY TUBE

Primary test method

- Provides a snapshot into the process
- Key events can be missed

CAPILLARY

requires frequent and costly maintenance

Uses high-precision pumps for accuracy, but

Need a better measurement for process viscosity

# Oscillating Piston time versus viscosity Oscillating Piston time versus viscosity D7483 METHOD - C Oscillating Piston time versus viscosity Bigger- Gap Smallest - Gap Time (s)

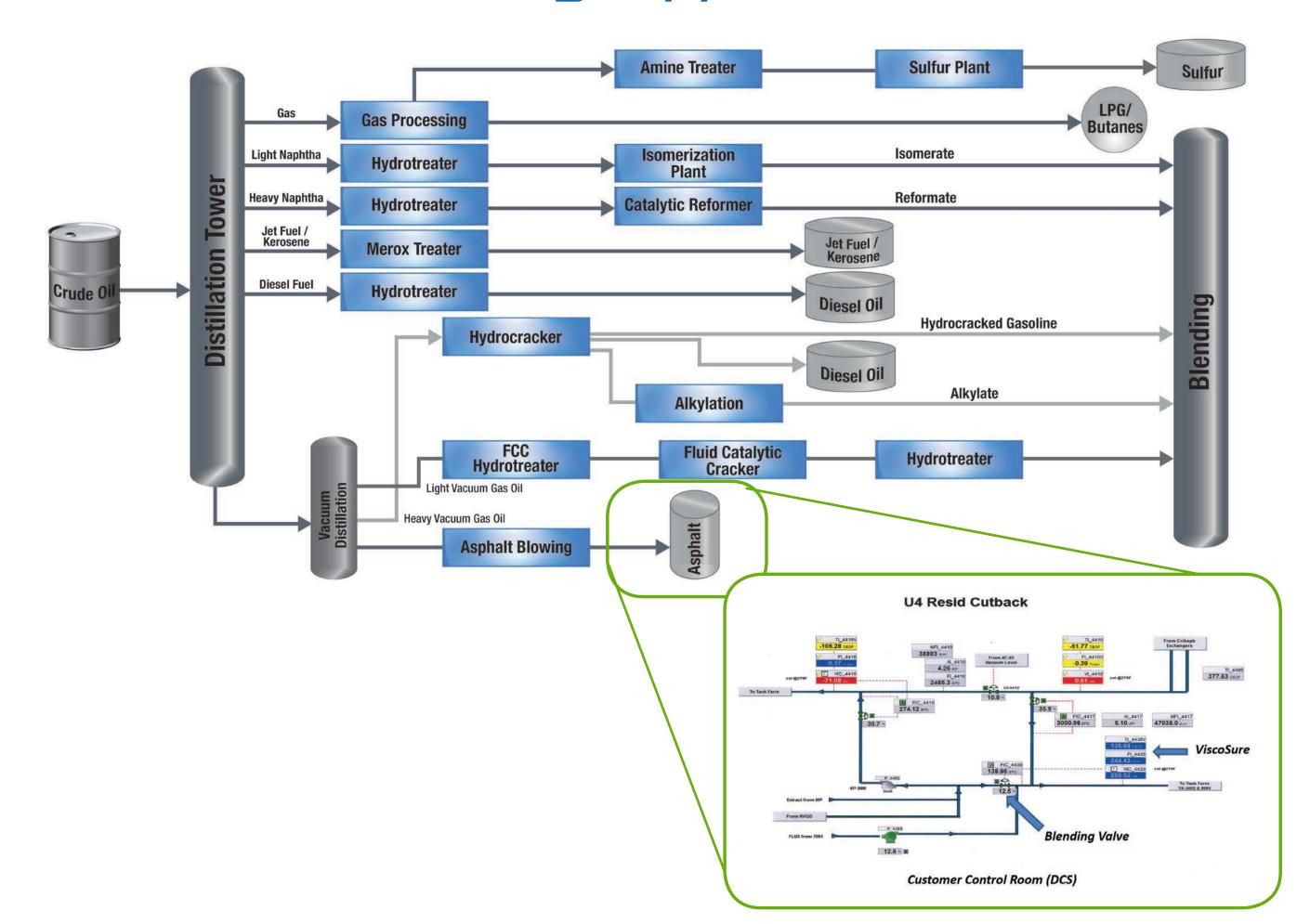
## D7483 METHOD - OSCILLATING PISTON

- Three Components of DragProfile Drag Stokes
- Surface Drag Newton
- Annular Flow Poiseuille
   Surface Drag dominates in the oscillating piston

### OSCILLATING PISTON

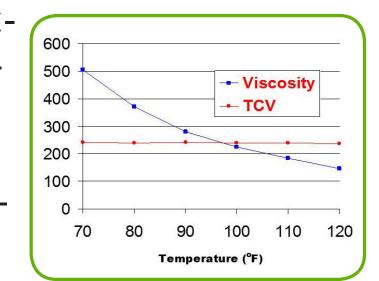
Uses a magnetically influenced piston. Preferred for its robustness and reliability. Limited dynamic range.

### Viscosity Applications

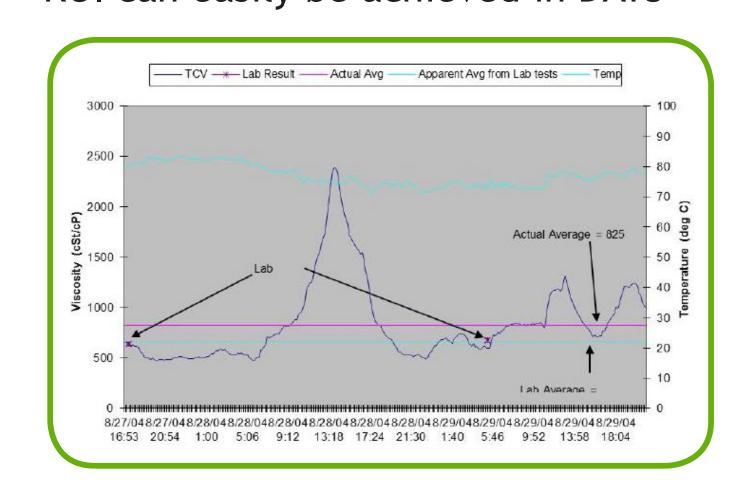


# Process Monitoring & Control

Minimize the production of off-specification material during "product run down"
Minimize use of dilu-

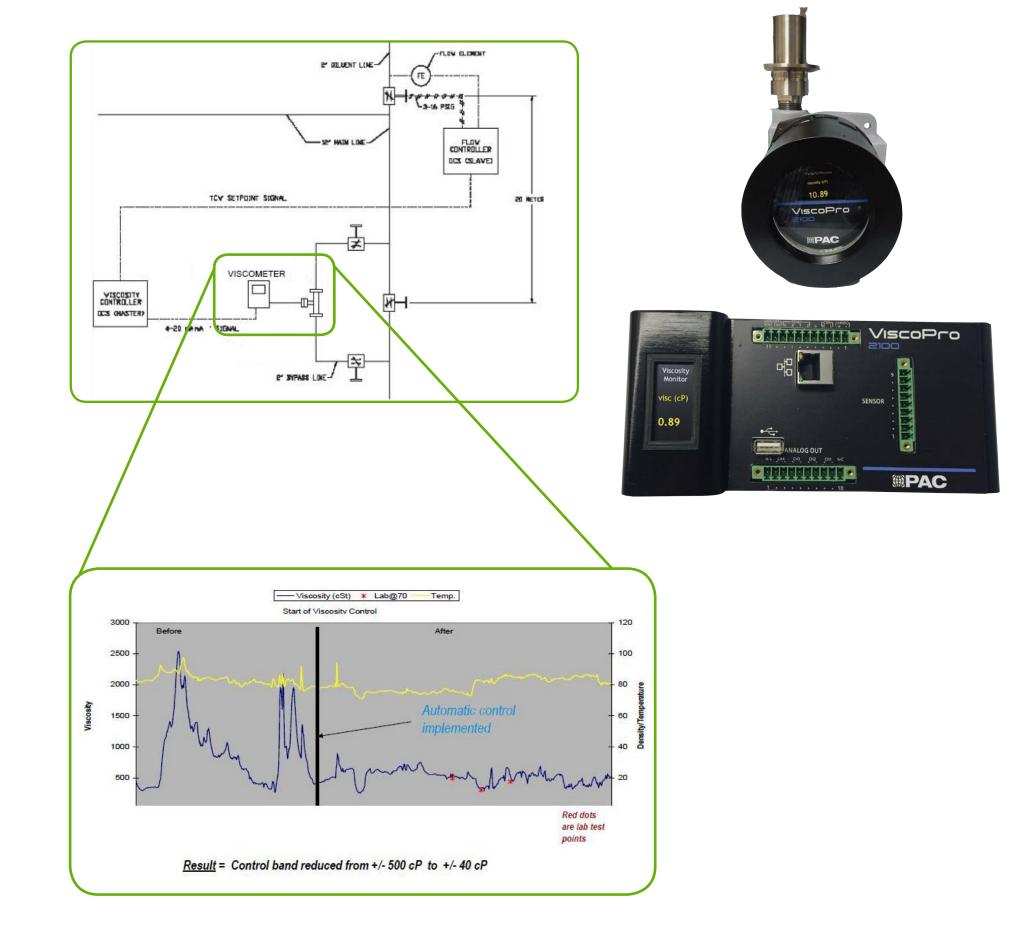


- ents in blending
   Avoid off specification events with information between
- laboratory testsROI can easily be achieved in DAYS



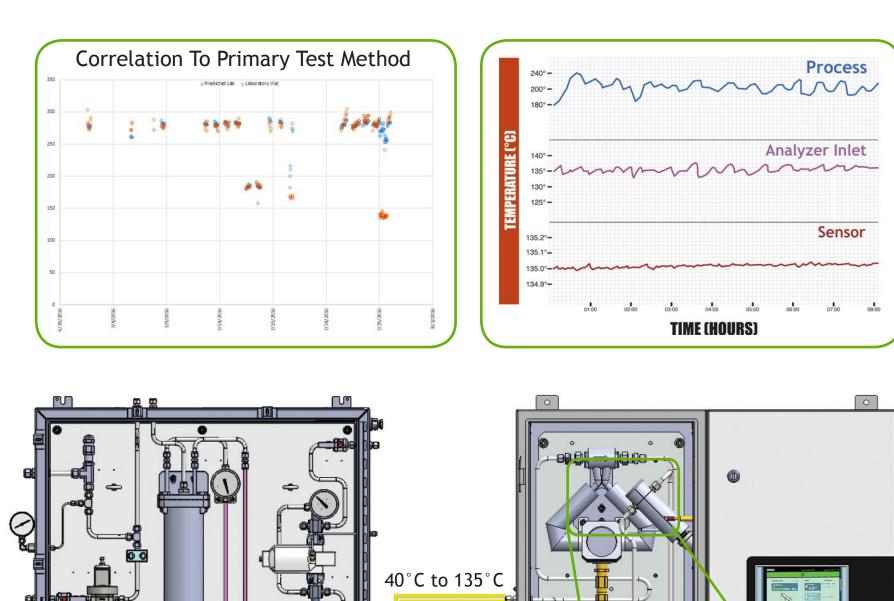
### Process Viscosity Monitoring

- Ideal for process control
- Measures viscosity at process temperature

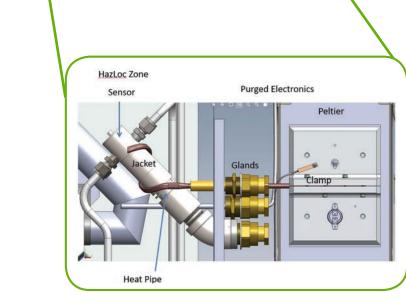


### Product Quality Measurement

- Inline viscosity measurement at the product specification temperature
- Tight temperature control without oil bath







# Increased productivity allows you to achieve ROI within two months

### CHALLENGE

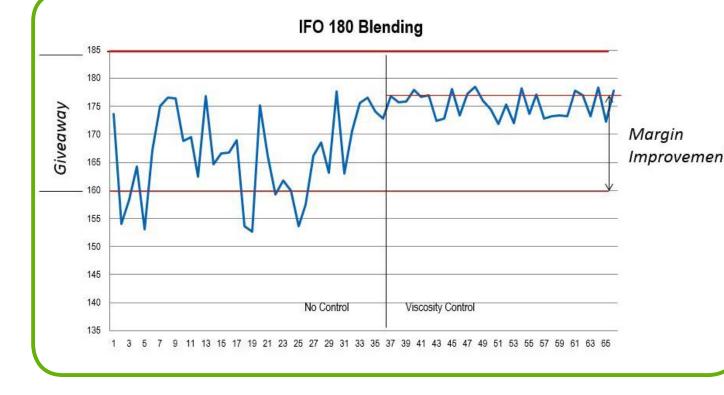
- Periodic lab sampling methods can miss changes in the process
  Can lead to off-spec production
- 12 hours or more can be added to the processing time to return to on-spec production
- \$150K to \$500K per occurrence

### SOLUTION

- ViscoSure or ViscoPro can provide readings every five minutes, instead of an 8- to 12-hour lab sampling method
- Resulting in quick, informed decision making with real-time data and increased product

and increased productivity and profitability

 Tighter control on viscosity can result in a 0.5% production improvement, or \$50,000 in profit per line each month



### Conclusions

ViscoPro 2100 for process monitoring

- Viscosity at process temperature
- Accurate real-time data
- Easy to install and use
- Low maintenance/low cost of operation

### ViscoSure for product quality

- Viscosity at reference temperature
- Easy to use
- Superior temperature control
- Wide range of applications
- Lubricants
- Heavy fuel oil
- Asphalt, vacuum residuals
- Low maintenance designed-out high maintenance items