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Ignition and combustion characteristics of biomass derived fast pyrolysis bio-oil in a combustion research unit

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SmartCHP: aim and impact

- The EU research project SmartCHP will develop a novel, flexible small scale **cogeneration unit** to produce heat and electricity from **sustainable biomass**.
- The main technical novelty is the use of **fast pyrolysis bio-oil** (FPBO) from lignocellulosic biomass in a **converted diesel engine**.
- This will help boost the use of renewables in the electricity and heating & cooling sectors, contributing to the 2030 climate and energy targets.

With a market potential of €4 billion, and an estimated 85 to 95% reduction in GHG emissions compared to fossil fuels, the installation of the SmartCHP technology in Europe can help mitigate climate change by introducing more renewables while bringing new jobs.

SmartCHP process



Diesel vs FPBO



Property	Diesel	FPBO [*]
LHV (mJ/kg)	42.6	16.4
Density (kg/L)	0.82	1.17
C (wt%)	85.0	42.8
H (wt%)	12.6	7.8
O (wt%)	-	49.2
Water (wt%)	-	24.1
Solid (wt%)	-	0.04
Viscosity (cSt at 40 °C)	2.7	21.0
Cetane number	54.8	-

* Data from wood-based FPBO [3].

Experimental method

Data process & indicator definition

Combustion research unit (CRU)









Indicator	Definition	
Ignition delay, ID [ms]	5% MFB	
Combustion phasing, CP [ms]	Maximum HRR	
End of combustion, EC [ms]	80%MFB	
Combustion acceleration period [ms]	Between ID and CP (CP-ID)	
Combustion duration period [ms]	Between ID and EC (EC-ID)	



Results and conclusions



Effects of alcohol addition T=590 °C, P_{init}=50 bar, P_{ini}=1000 bar





Effects of P_{init}

T=590 °C, P_{inj}=1000 bar





Effects of Beraid addition T=590 °C, P_{ini}=1000 bar







FPBO ignitability: between ethanol (CN ~7) and n-butanol (CN 17)

• Compared with ethanol, adding 30% n-butanol could significantly improve the ignition and combustion processes of FPBO.

Chamber pressure & injection pressure

- For 70%FPBO+30%Butanol, higher chamber pressure boosts ignition and combustion processes.
- Once the autoignition succeeds, the intense combustion (maximum HRR) arrivals within around 1 ms.
- Burn duration decreases with higher chamber pressure, while increases with higher injection pressure.

Ignition improver: Beraid is unqualified for FPBO

• When adding 12% Beraid to FPBO, the improvement in ignition behavior is very limited.

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www.smartchp.eu



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