Abstract

Process Economics Program Report 182B

AROMATIC PROCESSES

(December 2008)

This report reviews the status of the BTX industry and related production and recovery technologies as of mid year 2008. It is the latest in a series of earlier PEP reports covering various aspects of the industry two of which were issued year end 2006. The current report incorporates and updates information from the earlier reports.

In today’s aromatics complex extractive distillation appears to be the preferred method for recovering benzene or benzene/toluene from mixed C6/C7 aromatic/paraffin mixtures. The GTC Technology GT-BTX™ extractive distillation process was evaluated in one of the earlier reports. The current report includes evaluations of Uhde’s Morphpylene™ and Single Column Morphpylene™ extractive distillation processes.

Another technology focus of this report is BTX recovery from pyrolysis gasoline. Included is an evaluation of SK Corporation’s pyrolysis gasoline upgrading process. Two versions of the process are patented: one uses a C6+ pygas feed (full range) and the other a C7+ pygas feed (debenzenized). The latter is the subject of the evaluation.
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