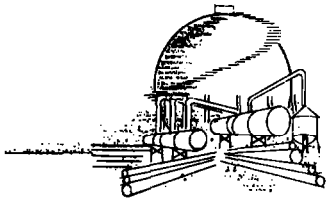

PROCESS ECONOMICS PROGRAM

SRI INTERNATIONAL
Menlo Park, California
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Abstract

Process Economics Program Report No. 182

AROMATIC PROCESSES

(June 1987)

This report addresses aromatics production from petroleum sources. Catalytic reformate and pyrolysis gasoline are thus the two main feedstocks. Our concern is the major aromatics--benzene, toluene, mixed xylenes, ortho-xylene and para-xylene.

Aromatics technology is relatively mature. Current and forseeable future overcapacity has discouraged innovation, and has also created a highly competitive market environment. At the same time the gasoline pool relies on aromatics as the main contributor to octane number—this situation being accentuated by the trend towards unleaded gasoline.

In view of the above we concentrate on existing technology and process economics for recovery of the major aromatics. As well as assessing individual process units, we also examine in some depth the economics of aromatics complexes, including the impact of the gasoline market on aromatics pricing.

SRI International

Report No. 182

AROMATICS PROCESSES

DONALD GREENAWAY

June 1987

A private report by the

PROCESS ECONOMICS PROGRAM

Menlo Park, California 94025

For detailed marketing data and information, the reader is referred to one of the SRI programs specializing in marketing research. The CHEMICAL ECONOMICS HANDBOOK Program covers most major chemicals and chemical products produced in the United States and the WORLD PETROCHEMICALS Program covers major hydrocarbons and their derivatives on a worldwide basis. In addition, the SRI DIRECTORY OF CHEMICAL PRODUCERS services provide detailed lists of chemical producers by company, product, and plant for the United States and Western Europe.

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