

Continuous flow chemistry is not a dream but just a tool in the fine chemistry industrial toolbox.

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Abstract :

Collaboration between engineers and chemists has allowed advanced equipment for various stages of continuous processes to be developed. For example recent research using phase separation or venting in continuous mode enabled a complete new process to be continuous. Additionally, dedicated continuous flow workshops keeps improving systems to enable short path distillation equipment for continuous use.

New custom synthesis projects and some well known classical batch processes are natural candidates for continuous flow production with a drive for huge improvements in productivity and product quality and reduction in waste generated. In addition, using our equipment we can handle some reactions impossible to control in batch processes. A secondary driver is also to ensure processes are always cleaner, safer and use more sustainable chemistry.

Nowadays, 20% of the LM TO was made by products using at least, one step in continuous. It is a huge increase compared to 2000 but the results have to be carefully analysed as all the projects were not successful. The main mistake to make would be to consider continuous flow production as a goal more than as a tool. Examples will be given to demonstrate our results and highlight successful use of continuous flow systems.

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