PROPYLENE is a petrochemical ingredient used to make PLASTIC, packaging and textiles.

Until about 2010, propylene was an abundantly produced byproduct of conventional refining processes. These processes no longer supply enough propylene to meet global demand.

Why the shift?

The U.S. shale gas boom introduced more natural gas liquids (NGLs) into the market, and ethane quickly became the feedstock of choice for certain refining processes. This reduced the amount of propylene byproduct produced.

Population growth, especially in developing regions, meant higher demand for plastics and fibers, which are made from propylene. Propylene demand outpaced supply, creating the propylene gap. This excess demand must be filled by other sources or “on-purpose” propylene technology.

Most of the world’s on-purpose propylene is produced or planned near China, the source of greatest demand.

UOP Oleflex™ technology is increasing the propylene supply in China

UOP has licensed MORE THAN A DOZEN Oleflex units for propylene production since 2011.

Oleflex technology is the proven technology of choice for producing on-purpose propylene from propane.

Oleflex technology offers a lower cost of production: capital costs up to 20% lower*

Oleflex offers a higher return on investment*

Oleflex technology offers a smaller environmental footprint: consumes up to 50% LESS net energy*