A special pilot plant unit is used for the evaluation of the various hydrotreating catalysts. The unit can operate in a wide range of operating conditions and for all petroleum fractions.

- *Pilot plant unit for hydrotreating petroleum fractions (HDS)* (click <u>here</u> for more details on this item)

The HDS unit consists of two reactors connected in series and contains three independent feed modules (H2, H2/H2S, N2). The unit is fully automated and can operate up to a maximum temperature of 550 °C and up to a maximum pressure of 200 bar.

- Methodology for HDS catalysts evaluation

A standard protocol is applied which depends on the type of catalyst, the type of feedstock and the targets of the hydrotreating process. The catalysts comparison is performed under constant operating conditions according to the degree of hydrogenation achieved by each catalyst.