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Title: Process safety: a never-ending endeavour to securing people, energy and welfare

Abstract: In this presentation, an historic overview will be elaborated and used to dive into the DNA of safety science. Process safety, as one of the domains of safety science, will be presented as an innovation-driven and creative field of science that has led to many safety-related breakthroughs. Models, metaphors, technologies, theories, techniques and tools, management approaches and what have you, have been developed by process safety scientists that are now used throughout all industries to keep things safe. Over the past seven decades, process safety gradually evolved from understanding phenomena towards anticipation, prevention and resilience of large-scale clusters. The benefits that process safety has brought in terms of people, energy infrastructure and -use and welfare, cannot be underestimated. The ongoing energy transition undeniably has a strong influence on process safety research, thus far that a transition of such research in terms of scope, inter-disciplinarity and complexity, is to be expected.

Bio-sketch: Genserik Reniers is a full professor at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. He is head of the section Safety and Security Science within the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management. He has (co-)authored 300+ academic papers and 30+ academic books. He teaches in Engineering Risk Management and is also a guest professor at the KULeuven and at the University of Antwerp, both situated in Belgium. He has carried out or be part of numerous research projects and is a much-asked speaker on both industrial and academic events.