Catalyst performance is paramount in producing high-value lubricants. Refiners trust catalysts from Criterion Catalysts & Technologies (Criterion) to deliver high yields of top-quality base oils. Consequently, our products are to be found in lubricant plants across the world.

Lubricant base oils are manufactured from vacuum gas oils and high-quality deasphalted oils. These feedstocks are improved through several processing steps, including “lube hydrocracking” dewaxing/isomerisation, hydrofinishing and hydrotreating. Criterion has a proven record of delivering high yields and enhanced quality lubricant base oils through its range of high-performance catalysts for use in these key processes.

**Lube Hydrocracking**

Lube hydrocracking improves the yield and quality of lubricating oils by increasing their viscosity index, reducing their aromatic content and removing sulphur and nitrogen. Different combinations of our LH catalysts, which are based on CENTINEL, CENTINEL Gold and CENTERA technologies, are used to meet the needs of our lube hydrocracking customers. Refiners are increasingly following this processing step before further enhancement in catalytic dewaxing/isomerisation and high-severity saturation units.

**Catalytic Dewaxing/Isomerisation and Saturation**

Catalytic dewaxing/isomerisation produces high yields of superior-quality base oils. Gas to liquids (GTL) processes create very pure unbranched hydrocarbon chains with virtually no aromatic content or unwanted heteroatoms. These waxes require isomerisation for conversion into lubricant base oils. Catalytic dewaxing using commercial Criterion catalysts is our most recent technology application and lies at the heart of lubricants production in the world’s largest GTL plant – the Shell Pearl GTL facility in Ras Laffan, Qatar.

Saturation catalysts give catalytically dewaxed/isomerised products excellent final properties. Noble metal catalyst C-654 has been used for over a decade to produce highly saturated lubricants, including the final production step for medicinal white oils. C-684, our latest noble metal saturation catalyst, offers additional activity and stability in the presence of increased levels of sulphur and hydrogen sulphide.

**Lubricants from Dual-Purpose Hydrocrackers**

Operators of fuel-focused hydrocrackers use Shell/Zeolyst International’s versatile hydrocracking technology to optimise the yields and properties of the unconverted oil. This stream can then be sent for dewaxing and finishing using Criterion catalysts to produce high-quality lubricants.

Criterion Catalysts lie at the heart of lubricants production in the world’s largest GTL plant.
Criterion Catalysts & Technologies LP is a wholly owned affiliate of CRI/Criterion Inc. It supplies total packages of catalysts, services and solutions for refineries and is a leading provider of hydroprocessing, reforming, and specialty catalysts.

For more information about how we can help you to enhance operational performance, meet increasingly stringent environmental regulations and increase revenues, visit us at www.criterioncatalysts.com.