(II) of (I), oxygen or oxygen-contg. gas, and opt. steam to a catalytic partial oxidation zone, and partially oxidising (I) to produce a gas mixt. consisting essentially of methane, carbon oxides, hydrogen and steam. The process is characterised by a steam: carbon mole ratio in (II) of 0:1 to 3.0:0.1, and an oxygen/carbon mole ratio 0.3:1 to 0.8:1; (II) is introduced to the said zone at a temp. not lower than 93°C. below its autoignition temp.; the catalyst has a ratio

Natural gas is mixed with steam in a steam: carbon mole

© 1989

heated to 65-650°C.. The resultant mixt. is introduced to a catalytic partial oxidation zone before autoignition time delay elapses, and passed through the catalyst bed with space velocity 20,000-500,000 hr-1; partial oxidation takes place at 760-1099°C..(16pp1644CGDwgNo0/10). (E) ISR: No Search Report.

EP-303438-A

of geometric surface area to volume at least 5 cm2/cm3. ADVANTAGES (I) is converted to synthesis gas efficiently at relatively high space velocity, so that reactor size can be kept to a

minimum and cost thus reduced; a relatively inexpensive

catalyst may be used. There is a relatively low oxygen