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Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Bioenergy Technologies Office



Monthly News Blast

September 2014

Energy Department Joins Navy and Agriculture Departments to Invest in Drop-in Biofuel for Military



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy

Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman joined Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Secretary of Navy

Ray Mabus on September 19, 2014, to announce awards for three commercial-scale biorefinery projects that will help meet the transportation needs of the U.S. military and private sector.

These three biorefinery projects—Emerald Biofuels on the Gulf Coast, Fulcrum BioEnergy in Nevada, and Red Rock Biofuels in Oregon—will produce more than 100 million gallons of military-grade biofuel annually beginning in 2016 and 2017 at a price that is competitive with their petroleum counterparts. This fuel can be blended up to 50% with traditional fuels and emits less than half the life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions than their petroleum counterparts. Read more on the [Bioenergy Technologies Office \(BETO\) website](#).

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Abengoa Biorefinery Gets Ready for October Grand Opening

[Abengoa Biorefinery](#) in Hugoton, Kansas, will celebrate its grand opening on October 17, 2014, to become the third cellulosic ethanol biorefinery to come on line since July 2013. The plant will have the capacity to produce 25 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol annually using agricultural waste.

In July 2013, [INEOS Bio's Indian River BioEnergy Center](#) in Vero Beach, Florida, became the nation's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol biorefinery, and POET-DSM's [Project LIBERTY](#) in Emmetsburg, Iowa, opened its doors this month, becoming the nation's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol biorefinery to use corn waste as feedstock. Together, these three facilities will have a combined production capacity of more than 50 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol per year. The Energy Department provided cost-shared funding for industry partners to design, build, operate, and validate these integrated biorefineries, helping to make biofuels available and affordable. Read more about BETO's integrated biorefinery efforts on the [BETO website](#).

BETO Announces Upcoming Workshop: Waste-to-Energy Roadmapping



The apple cores and watermelon rinds you throw out today could be converted into biofuel tomorrow. How? That process is what BETO, national laboratories, and industry are working to develop. Some companies are already using waste-to-energy technologies to make biofuels, but there are challenges to making it work on a large scale.

BETO is hosting the Waste-to-Energy Roadmapping Workshop on November 5, 2014, in Arlington, Virginia, to address these challenges. The workshop will gather experts in the field to identify technical barriers to the commercial development of liquid transportation fuels from waste feedstocks, which will ultimately help develop a roadmap that highlights the key pathways and metrics to reaching commercialization. Registration is free, but space is limited, so be sure to secure your spot today. Visit the [Waste-to-Energy Roadmapping Workshop Web page](#) for registration and event details.

Let Your Fingers Do the Walking with the BETO Publications Library

Want to learn more about BETO and the work we do to support the bioeconomy? Let your fingers do the walking, and head on over to the [BETO Publications Library](#), an online searchable database of BETO publications. You can peruse all of the publications or search

by keyword and topic to quickly find related products. See what's trending in the "Most Popular" section, or check out the most recent publications under "Latest Additions." From workshop summary reports, to BETO's Multi-Year Program Plan, you can find a plethora of interesting and informative BETO-related publications in this library.

BETO Blog: How the Energy Department Helped Make Project LIBERTY Possible

POET-DSM made news this month when it opened its Project LIBERTY biorefinery—the first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant to use corn waste as a feedstock—in Emmetsburg, Iowa. The project is having an impact on the U.S. economy and workforce, creating 56 permanent jobs, with 65 additional indirect jobs created throughout the supply chain. Learn more on the [BETO Blog](#) about how the Energy Department helped make this project possible. And, Project Liberty is just one of many breakthroughs in the development of cellulosic ethanol as a fuel source. Read about the Energy Department's role in four of these recent milestones on the [EERE Blog](#).

Past Events with Bioenergy Office Representation

TCS 2014: Symposium on Thermal and Catalytic Sciences for Biofuels and Biobased Products

From September 2–5, 2014, more than 200 attendees representing universities, industry, and the national laboratories participated in the [2014 Symposium on Thermal and Catalytic Sciences for Biofuels and Biobased Products](#) in Denver, Colorado. BETO Director Jonathan Male delivered the opening keynote, asking participants to assist BETO by taking an active role in communicating the latest breakthroughs in bioenergy research. The program also included presentations on BETO-funded thermochemical conversion research at the national laboratories and independent research organizations; student poster presentations on the latest research in pyrolysis and gasification; and updates from industry partners on successful steps toward commercial-scale deployment of biofuels.

Project LIBERTY Grand Opening

Approximately 3,000 people attended the POET-DSM Project LIBERTY grand opening, which included an opening concert, ribbon cutting, public tours of the facility, and distinguished guest speakers such as His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, DOE Deputy Under Secretary for Science and Energy Dr. Michael Knotek, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, and Iowa Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds. BETO Director Johnathan Male and two BETO staff members,

Bryna Berendzen and Leslie Ovard, attended the event to help celebrate this success. Watch the [Grand Opening Live Stream Replay](#) to relive all of the excitement.

Upcoming Events with Bioenergy Office Representation

- [Algae Biomass Summit](#); September 29, 2014–October 2, 2014; Daniel Fishman, Christy Sterner, Roxanne Dempsey, Neil Rossmeissl, Jonathan Male; San Diego, California
- [Abengoa Grand Opening](#); October 17, 2014; Jonathan Male, Jim Spaeth; Hugoton, Kansas
- [Bioenergy Deployment Consortium](#); October 21–22, 2014; Neil Rossmeissl; Fort Myers, Florida
- [Waste-To-Energy Roadmapping Workshop](#); November 5, 2014; Arlington, Virginia
- [BIO Pacific Rim Summit on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy](#); December 17–19, 2014; Glenn Doyle; San Diego, California

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