



**IEA Bioenergy**  
Technology Collaboration Programme



## USA Country Update

IEA - Task 33 Meeting

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**Technology Collaboration Programme**

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# Updates on Commercialization Activities

- Fulcrum Sierra Biofuels
- Red Rock Bio - cancelled (assets acquired by Next Renewable Fuels)
- Other commercialization activities: two new projects announced
- Comments on the political environment

# Fulcrum Bioenergy/Sierra Biofuels



Fulcrum Bioenergy/Sierra Biofuels, Reno NV: (11M GPY nameplate)

- 1) MRF operational since 2016; at landfill 10 miles from biorefinery
  - a) 350,000 tons per year raw MSW => 175,000 tons per year prepared MSW
  - b) 120 TPH throughput
- 2) Gasification/FT
  - a) MSW feedstock/TRI indirectly heated fluid bed steam reforming gasifier
  - b) Johnson Matthey DAVY™/BP fixed-bed FT (CANS reactor)
- 3) Phase I is for Fischer-Tropsch wax
  - a) Wax to be refined by Marathon
  - b) Other offtakers include United and Cathay Pacific, BP Air, World Fuels
  - c) FT jet fuel capability to be added in Phase II
- 4) Plant is 'full scale'; scale up (3X) planned with parallel trains
  - a) 12 new projects currently planned/underway
- 5) Status: First gallon of product in December, 2022; **status unclear**

# Fulcrum BioEnergy/Sierra Biofuels

Plant Construction Activities: May, 2022



# New Commercialization Activities

## New: SunGas Renewables

- July 26, 2023 – announced the formation of Beaver Lake Renewable Energy, LLC
- New green methanol production facility in Central Louisiana (Pineville LA)
- 400,000 MTA carbon-negative methanol for marine fuel from woody biomass
  - With 1 MTA CCS
- Offtaker: Maersk



## New: Aemetis

- Currently producing bio-gas & 1-G ethanol
- September 13, 2023 - received a Use Permit from the City of Riverbank to build a 90 million gallon per year sustainable aviation fuel and renewable diesel plant (from FOGs) in Riverbank, California
  - Will incorporate 'cellulosic hydrogen' from woody biomass
  - Extensive use of CCS
- Details of technology providers not clear at this time

# Other Commercialization Activities

## DG Fuels

- 12,000 BPD renewable fuels (primarily SAF) project announced
- Gasification/FT – few details provided
- Low CI products with extensive renewable hydrogen (and oxygen) utilization and CO2 abatement (CCS)
- First project announced in Louisiana; application with DOE LPO moving forward



## San Joaquin Renewables; San Joaquin, CA

- Gasifier: Frontline BioEnergy RNG
  - Pressurized fluid bed (10 Bar)
  - Air or oxygen with steam (TarFreeGas<sup>®</sup>; PMFreeGas<sup>®</sup>)
- Feedstock: Ag wastes
- Product: RNG (15 million gallon-equivalents)
- Status: engineering in progress; approvals for injection in existing pipelines received



# Other Commercialization Activities

## Mote

- Gasifier: SunGas Renewables
  - Pressurized fluid bed (10 Bar) with CCS
- Feedstock: Ag residues
- Product: low-carbon Hydrogen
- Status: initial stages of project planning



## Arbor Renewable Gas, Beaumont TX

- Gasifier: SunGas Renewables
  - MTG: Haldor Topsøe
- Feedstock: woody biomass
- Product: 1,000 BPD renewable gasoline (MTG)
- Status: Commercial production in 2024



**TOPSOE**

## Madera Gas, Houston TX

- Gasifier: SunGas Renewables (with CCS)
- Feedstock: woody biomass, 100,000 TPY each train
- Product: RNG; 5 production trains => 5B SCFY RNG
- Status: construction on first train in 2023; operational in 2024



# Other Commercialization Activities

## Velocys, Natchez MS and Immingham UK

- Velocys microchannel FT reactor
- Feedstock: woody biomass (Natchez); MSW (Immingham)
- Product: 35M GPY sustainable aviation fuel (Natchez); 20M GPY (Altalto - Immingham)
- Status
  - Immingham: update by Paula – start-up in 2027; BA fuel offtaker
  - Natchez Bayou Fuels: engineering underway – start-up in 2027; SouthWest Airlines fuel offtaker



## USA Bioenergy – Texas Renewable Fuels

- Gasification + Fischer-Tropsch
- Feedstock: woody biomass
- Product: SAF, renewable diesel, naphtha
- Status: Planning underway for first biorefinery in Bon Wier, Texas





# The Political Climate

- DOE has issued a roadmap to stand up 4-5 operating biofuels demonstration plants (each at ~1M GPY) by 2030
  - SAF Grand Challenge: 3B GPY SAF is target by 2030; 35B GPY by 2050
  - Gasification + FT is included as a key technology pathway
- BiPartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) both have large investments in biofuels (H2 and SAF)
  - ~ \$450B combined; switching from mandates (RFS) to incentives - significant producer tax credits for SAF
  - Hydrogen hubs (4 x \$2B each) announced; DAC hubs next
  - Deployment, not R&D
  - Nothing specific called out for biomass but low carbon hydrogen emphasized
- New Funding Agency => Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations
  - DOE/OCED; funding on the order of \$3B/yr
  - Mission => steel in the ground

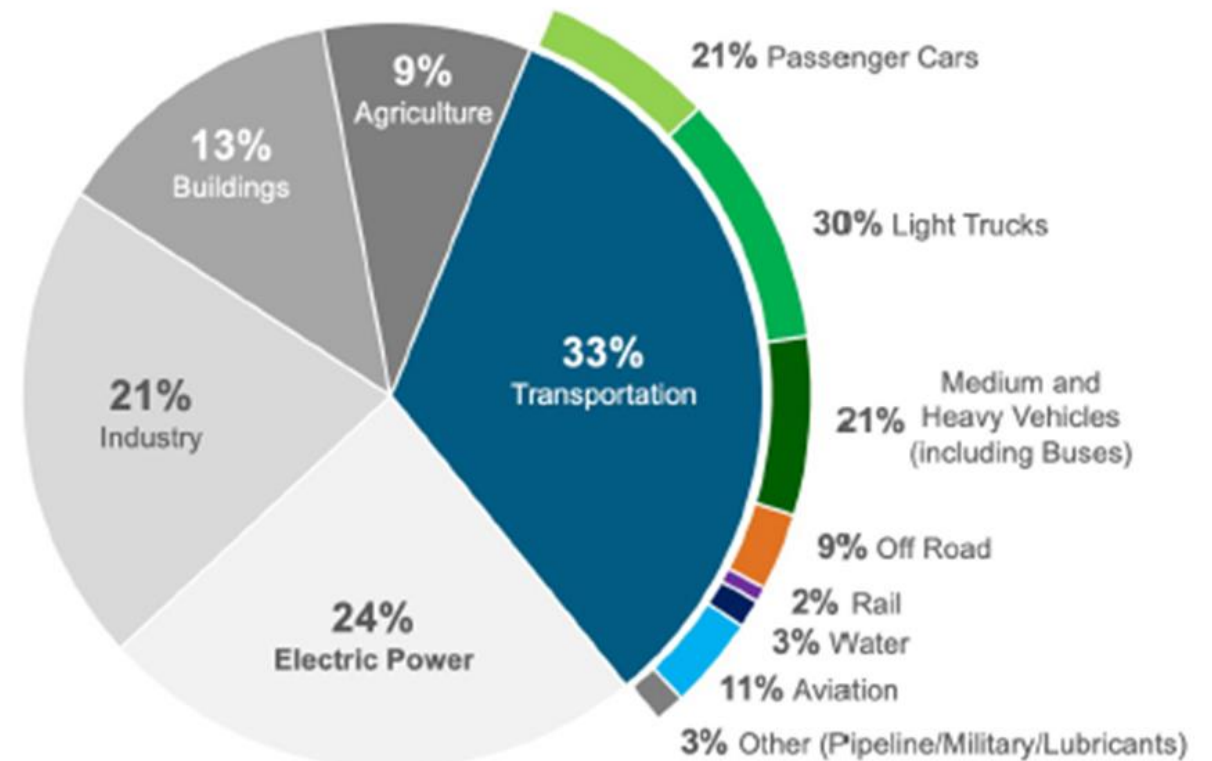
# Bioenergy in the USA

## Biomass for Bioenergy Consumption, 2022

- 4.8 quadrillion Btu and equal to about 5% of total U.S. primary energy consumption.
  - 2,316 TBtu were from biofuels (mainly 1-G ethanol & biodiesel)

## GHG Emissions by Sector

- One-third from transportation
  - Half from light duty vehicles
  - 11% from aviation



Thanks for your attention!

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# Selected R&D Project

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# R&D Highlight - NREL

## Syngas Upgrading to SAF

NREL developed the centerpiece technology for the conversion of renewable C1 intermediates to produce a suite of fuels with improved carbon efficiency, reduced capital expense, and control of the product distribution to SAF.

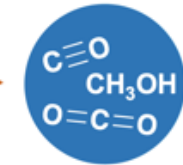
**Market-responsive biorefinery concept through C1 Intermediates**



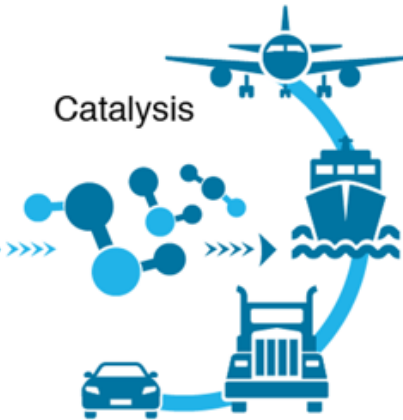
Renewable Feedstock



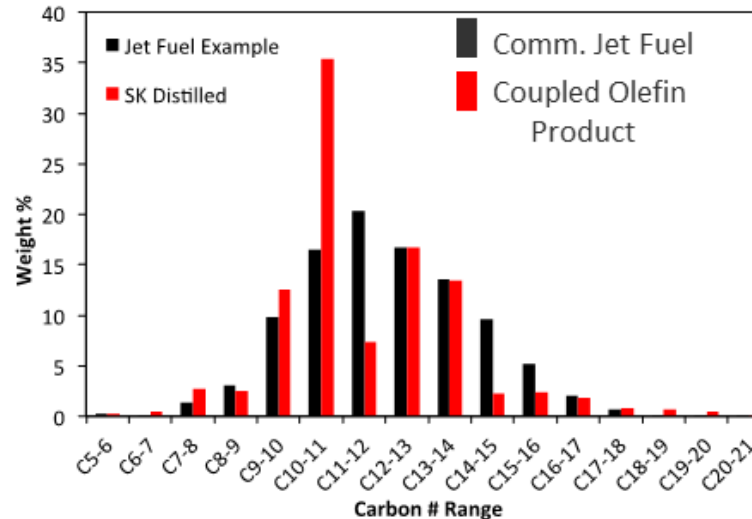
Gasification



C1 Building Blocks



Developed a mild-condition route for coupling syngas-derived olefins to jet-range hydrocarbons



**Product meets 5 key ASTM International jet fuel property specifications**

- ✓ Density
- ✓ Freeze Point
- ✓ Viscosity
- ✓ Heating Value
- ✓ Boiling Curve

# Other Commercialization Activities

## Lanzatech

- Gasifier: Sekisui (Japan), Ankur (India)
- Feedstock: biomass, MSW
- Product: bio-ethanol and other oxygenates
- Status: developmental work in progress



## Aries Clean Energy

- Gasifier: Fluid bed and downdraft gasifiers for syngas production
- Feedstocks: ag waste and bio-solids
- Products: biochar and power
- Status: 3 projects operational (NJ, CA, TN)



## Sierra Energy; Ft. Hunter Liggett, CA

- Gasifier: FastOx technology; blast furnace design (~2,200 °C)
- Feedstock: 20 MTD military waste + woody biomass
- Product: 500 KWhe electricity + 1 BBL/D FT diesel fuel
- Status: operational

