



## Press Release

For Immediate Release: June 4, 2007

### **Virent Energy Systems, Inc.**

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## Virent Names David Kettner Chief Intellectual Property Counsel

*Company Is Accelerating Intellectual Property Generation and Strategic Industry Partnerships*

**MADISON, WI**, June 4, 2007—Virent Energy Systems, Inc., a developer of technologies that enable the renewable replacement of fossil fuels, today announced the appointment of David M. Kettner as Chief Intellectual Property (IP) Counsel, a new position at the growing company.

The company's platform technology--*the BioForming™ process*—will fundamentally change how biofuels and bioproducts are produced and distributed. The BioForming process is superior to fermentation or high-temperature thermochemical production routes by offering a scalable, cost-effective alternative that delivers more net energy than traditional technologies. Since Virent began a pilot project last year, industrial interest has been mounting steadily.

Virent CEO Eric Apfelbach said the Chief IP Counsel position has been created because the company has and will continue to generate substantial amounts of intellectual property as it broadens the capabilities of the BioForming process to include biogasoline, sugar-based biodiesel and jet fuel from its original hydrogen production focus.

“Our IP is the core of our company and how we create value. Strategically procuring and protecting our patents is essential to Virent's future,” Apfelbach said. “David's science and legal

background is a perfect match for this key position as we evolve from a research and development focus to full-scale commercialization of our technology.”

“Virent offers me a ground floor opportunity to work with a proprietary technology that has the potential to transform the alternative energy sector. I’m excited to apply the knowledge I have gained from my prior experiences to an in-depth focus on this technology area, and I look forward to contributing to Virent’s long-term success,” said Kettner. “My job is to ensure that Virent maximizes the value of its discoveries and inventions with comprehensive legal protection and to oversee IP-related negotiations and strategic licensing activities involving Virent’s research, academic and industrial partners.”

Kettner brings to Virent nearly a decade of experience in all aspects of IP portfolio management, including patent, licensing, trademark, litigation management and strategic alliances. Most recently, he was In-House Counsel for the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), responsible for all legal affairs of WARF and its subsidiaries. From 1998-2003, Kettner was an associate at the Madison firm, Quarles & Brady, where he focused on patent protection, IP licensing and related matters for a broad range of clients.

Kettner holds a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School and a B.S. in Genetics and Cellular Biology from the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences.

### ***About Virent Energy Systems***

Virent is an energy technology company that enables the renewable replacement of fossil fuels. Virent’s patented BioForming™ platform technology renewably produces liquid fuels, fuel gases, and many chemicals, all products most commonly made from fossil fuels. Based on the innovative Aqueous Phase Reforming (APR) pathway to biofuels and bioproducts, the BioForming process delivers more net energy and offers a scalable, cost-effective alternative to traditional biofuel production routes. The company’s current research initiatives center on developing production capabilities for biogasoline, sugar-based biodiesel, hydrogen, and propylene glycol. Headquartered in Madison, WI, Virent has 46 employees and is expanding to occupy 23,000 square feet of lab, production and office space. Virent has an exclusive license to the APR process from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. To learn more, visit: <http://www.virent.com>.