



NEWS RELEASE

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VIRENT EARNS PRESIDENTIAL GREEN CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE AWARD

EPA's highest environmental award honors renewable BioForming® process for production of low carbon green gasoline and other hydrocarbon fuels and chemicals

Madison, Wis., June 22, 2009 – Virent Energy Systems, Inc. has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. Virent, with its game-changing BioForming process that economically transforms plant sugars into green gasoline, is the first company to be honored in the award's 14-year history for the clean manufacturing of liquid transportation fuels from biomass.

The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards, selected by an independent panel of technical experts convened by the American Chemical Society, provide national recognition for outstanding chemical technologies that incorporate the principles of green chemistry across the product life cycle, including the design, manufacture, and use of chemical products. Each winner demonstrates a commitment to designing, developing, and implementing a green chemical technology that is scientifically innovative, economically feasible, and less hazardous to human health and the environment.

Virent's winning BioForming technology converts abundant plant sugars from non-food and home grown sources into gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel hydrocarbon molecules previously refined only from petroleum. Virent's fuels have the same molecular composition and performance as petroleum fuels and face no hurdles to full market penetration. They can be replacements for, or used at high blends with, petroleum fuels in today's petroleum infrastructure.

"Virent is honored to be recognized by the EPA for its transformative technology that is both renewable and cost effective," said Lee Edwards, CEO of Virent Energy Systems, Inc. "We believe Virent's technology platform offers a material opportunity to shift away from reliance on fossil fuel to renewable biomass. Our patented process makes gasoline, diesel,

jet fuel and chemicals with low carbon intensity from a variety of feedstocks with substantial fossil fuel replacement potential.”

Virent’s energy efficient, exothermic process is carbon neutral, water positive, and has low life cycle emissions. It runs under moderate conditions and requires no external energy inputs. It yields 30 percent more net energy than corn ethanol processes due to the natural separation of gasoline from water.

“With low carbon emissions, a wide range of premium hydrocarbon products, and feedstock flexibility, the BioForming process offers a new biorefinery solution,” said Randy Cortright, Virent Founder and Chief Technical Officer. “We are deeply honored to receive this award for a technology that can help address the pressing environmental and energy security concerns of our nation while providing farmers who grow a broad variety of crops more value per acre of land.”

ABOUT VIRENT ENERGY SYSTEMS

Virent’s BioForming process is a leading technology for the production of fungible advanced biofuels, including green gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel. The process has won numerous technology and innovation awards including the World Economic Forum’s Technology Pioneer, ICIS Innovation, and Red Herring 100 North America awards. Headquartered in Madison, WI, Virent has 80 employees in a state of the art catalytic biorefining development facility. Virent counts Cargill and Honda among its leading investors and has a collaboration with Royal Dutch Shell to commercialize the production of green gasoline. The BioForming technology is based on the Aqueous Phase Reforming process. To learn more, visit: www.virent.com.

For further information, contact:

Mary Willoughby Blanchard,
Director, Marketing +1 608 237 8615

VIRENT ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

3571 Anderson St.

Madison, WI 53704

Phone: +1 608 663 0228

Fax: +1 608 663 1630

Internet: www.virent.com