



Press Release

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Dr. Jay Kouba Joins Virent Energy System's Board of Directors

Seasoned Industry Leader Attracted by Virent's Renewable Technologies Which Uniquely Combine Patented Innovations with Proven Catalytic Processing Techniques

MADISON, Wis., June 26, 2007 – Virent Energy Systems, Inc., a developer of technologies that enable the renewable replacement of fossil fuels, announced today that Dr. Jay Kouba has joined its Board of Directors. Dr. Kouba has more than 25 years of chemical and petroleum processing industry experience having held top management positions at Innovene, Inc., BP Petrochemicals and Amoco Chemical Company. In May, he was named President and CEO of Metabolix, Inc., a Massachusetts bioscience company that completed its initial public offering in late 2006.

Dr. Kouba becomes a Virent director as the company moves to formalize a growing number of strategic industrial relationships aimed at realizing the full potential of Virent's patented BioForming™ platform technology for the production of biofuels and bioproducts. Dr. Kouba's strong combination of strategic leadership and significant technical expertise will be of considerable benefit to Virent as it executes its strategic partnership strategy.

"Jay Kouba brings an extensive background of creative, disciplined thinking and decision making to the planning and execution of strategic, marketing, and technical initiatives," said Virent CEO

Eric Apfelbach. “His demonstrated ability to develop and execute business strategies that maximize the value of the underlying science will be an invaluable asset as we commercialize Virent’s technology.”

Virent’s BioForming™ platform technology applies a unique blend of proven catalytic processing techniques and proprietary inventions to the conversion of biomass to energy. It produces renewable gasoline, diesel and jet fuel in addition to fuel gases and chemicals. This catalytic, low-temperature thermochemical process produces more net energy at a lower cost than traditional biofuel methods and will have greater success utilizing cellulosic feedstocks. Producing twice the net energy per acre of land makes more efficient use of agricultural resources without reducing available food supplies. As Virent has demonstrated the magnitude of its technical capabilities, its number of strategic industrial collaborations has continued to grow.

“Virent’s BioForming process is one of today’s most promising technologies for producing biofuels and bioproducts. Its differentiated use of catalysts brings Virent’s renewable technology completely in line with existing mainstream catalytic petroleum processing methods, proven over the last century to be the most robust and effective way to produce fuels and petrochemicals,” Dr. Kouba said. “With its ability to produce chemicals in addition to transportation and gaseous fuels, this technology has the potential to broadly impact the use of fossil hydrocarbons. I am excited to help shape the company’s strategy and make that potential a reality.”

From 2004 to 2005, Dr. Kouba was Senior Vice President, Strategy, Marketing and Technology at Innovene, Inc. At BP Petrochemicals from 1999 to 2004, Dr. Kouba was Vice President of Chemical Technology (1999-2003) and Vice President of Marketing, Sales and Logistics (2003-2004). Prior to his recent appointment as President and CEO, Dr. Kouba served on the Metabolix Board of Directors and was appointed Chairman of the Board in April 2007. Dr. Kouba holds a BS, Chemistry, from Stanford University and a MS and PhD, Chemistry, from Harvard University. He received his MBA from the University of Chicago and completed post-doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley.

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 transportation 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 49 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: www.virent.com.