



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIRENT ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND FUTURE CEO

Experienced petroleum executive and future Virent CEO, Lee Edwards, joins Virent Board as Dr. Jay Kouba is appointed Chairman

Madison, Wis., November 13, 2008 - Virent Energy Systems, Inc. announced today that Lee Edwards has been appointed a non-executive member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Edwards will also become President and CEO of the company effective January 2, 2009. In a separate action, the Board appointed Dr. Jay Kouba its Chairman. Dr. Kouba is the CEO of Tetravitae Biosciences and the Chairman of Metabolix. He has served on the Virent Board since the spring of 2007.

Mr. Edwards joins Virent after a 25 year career at BP plc, most recently as President and CEO of BP Solar, a global solar technology provider with 2200 employees and \$1 billion in sales. Mr. Edwards held a range of executive positions including Chief Information Officer for BP's Downstream business, President for BP Pipelines North America, and Global Brand VP where he led the strategy, design, and launch of the current BP Helios brand, and Executive assistant for the CEO of BP plc.

"With his background in both the petroleum industry and renewable technologies, Lee Edwards is a tremendous addition to the Virent team," said Dr. Randy Cortright, Virent Founder and CTO. "Lee brings significant global energy leadership skills, which will serve Virent well as we bring our BioForming® technology to market."

"Virent represents a unique opportunity in the biofuels industry: a differentiated catalytic technology that offers feedstock flexibility, lifecycle efficiency, and fuel products identical to petroleum fuels. With strong IP assets, Virent has attracted global partnerships that are accelerating the technology's development to full-scale production," said Lee Edwards. "Virent's low-carbon, cost-competitive biofuels offer a new kind of solution to help deliver

energy security, reduced CO2 emissions, and the opportunity for job creation in meeting growing demands for renewable transportation fuels.”

Virent’s BioForming® technology converts plant sugars into a variety of hydrocarbon molecules identical in structure to the petroleum-based hydrocarbons used in today’s fuels. Hydrocarbons are ideal for transportation applications because they have high volumetric energy density and are easily transported and stored. A wide range of hydrocarbon molecules are typically refined from petroleum and blended together to make gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, and many chemicals. Virent’s biorefinery replicates this process by generating the same range of hydrocarbons for blending into fuels with the composition and properties appropriate for car, truck, train, or air transportation.

Mr. Edwards is a graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania where he earned a MBA in Finance. In addition, he holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Bucknell University and completed the Stanford Executive Program at Stanford University.

Notes to Editors:

An electronic press kit, including downloadable images, is available at:
<http://www.virent.com/News/mediakits.html>

Lee Edwards is available for media interviews upon request.

ABOUT VIRENT ENERGY SYSTEMS

Virent Energy Systems is commercializing an advanced biofuel technology to power today’s vehicles in place of fossil fuels. Virent’s patented BioForming® process delivers more net energy and offers a scalable, cost-competitive alternative to traditional biofuel production routes. Headquartered in Madison, WI, Virent has 75 employees in a state of the art catalytic biorefining development facility. Virent counts Cargill and Honda among its leading investors and collaborates with Royal Dutch Shell on the development of its biogasoline technology. The BioForming technology is based on the Aqueous Phase Reforming process. To learn more, visit: www.virent.com.

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