



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virent Secures \$1.5 Million FAA Award To Advance Jet Fuel Certification

**Funding Supports Fit-for-Purpose and Fuel Characterization Testing
of Virent's 100% Renewable, Plant-Based Jet Fuel**

Madison, Wisconsin – December 2, 2011 – Virent announced it has received a \$1.5 million award from the Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation, through the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. The award is given to advance the readiness of Virent's drop-in jet fuel.

"The FAA award gets us one step closer to the commercialization of our jet fuel," said Virent Founder and CTO Randy Cortright. "The development and analysis accomplished under this award dovetails perfectly with our goals of meeting the jet fuel requirements as required by the American Society for Testing and Materials." Because the FAA award offers flexibility in terms of feedstock utilization, Virent intends to demonstrate its expertise in converting a wide variety of conventional sugars and lignocellulosic biomass to jet fuel under this program.

In addition to the FAA award, Virent has several other initiatives underway supporting catalytic conversion of plant sugars to jet fuel. In October the company released analytical results of its Air Force Research Laboratory jet fuel tests, indicating Virent's renewable, synthetic jet fuel could likely be used at any ratio, up to 100%. In September, Virent received its largest federal award to date, a \$13.4 Million U.S. Department of Energy Award to support conversion of corn stover to jet fuel.

About Virent, Inc.

Virent is replacing crude oil by creating the chemicals and fuels the world demands using a wide range of naturally-occurring, renewable resources. Its patented technology features catalytic chemistry to convert plant-based sugars into a full range of products identical to those made from petroleum, including gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, and chemicals for plastics and fibers. The

products are drop-in replacements that enable full utilization of existing logistics infrastructure without blending limitations. The development of Virent's BioForming® technology platform is supported through strategic investors, including Cargill, Shell and Honda, as well as 120 employees based in Madison, Wisconsin.

The company has received numerous grants from the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Energy and Agriculture and has been recognized with many honors, including the World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer award and the EPA's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. Please learn more at www.Virent.com.

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Contact

Kelly Morgan

Marketing Manager, Virent, Inc.

Kelly_morgan@virent.com

608-237-8603

3571 Anderson St.

Madison, WI 53704