



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **U.S. Air Force Research Lab Releases Analytic Test Results for Virent Jet Fuel**

Results Indicate a Standalone, 100% Renewable Solution

**Madison, Wisconsin – October 10, 2011** – The U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has released analytical test results of a plant derived jet fuel produced by Virent with technical collaborator Shell.

The AFRL tests corroborate the potential of Virent's jet fuel and confirm that it warrants further study as a 100% renewable fully synthetic standalone jet fuel or as a 50/50 blend with petroleum based jet fuel.

"Today's plant derived aviation fuels are blended with conventional petroleum-derived jet fuel," explains Aaron Imrie, commercial fuels manager at Virent. "These AFRL results are exciting because they demonstrate the potential of Virent's catalytic process to create renewable plant-based jet fuel that can meet or exceed petroleum based jet fuel specifications at 100% concentration. We expect a high level of interest in the aviation industry for a single, fully-renewable, plant-based jet fuel."

The fuel was tested according to the requirements of the *Alternative and Experimental Jet Fuel and Jet Fuel Blend Stock Evaluation* protocol of the Fuels & Energy Branch of the AFRL. Further non-specification evaluations were also undertaken including the determination of polar components, o-ring seal swell tests and the measurement of thermal stability. These evaluations confirm that the fuel is suitable for further study as a fully synthetic fuel.

As larger volumes of Virent jet fuel become available, the AFRL will conduct further analysis, focusing on fit-for-purpose testing as required by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Virent has several initiatives underway supporting the conversion of lignocellulosic-based sugars to jet fuel, the most recent being 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 115 employees based in Madison, Wisconsin.

The company has received several 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](http://www.Virent.com).

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