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BIOFORMING
news



VIRENT IS REPLACING CRUDE OIL, CREATING FUELS AND CHEMICALS FROM NATURALLY OCCURRING, 100% RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

Virent Announces Delivery of Jet Fuel for Testing

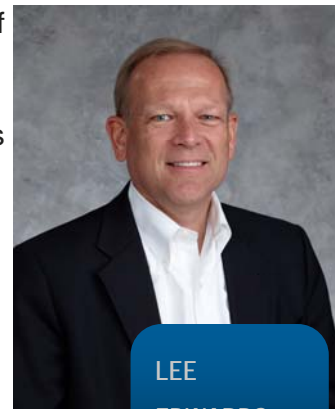
On May 1st, Virent announced the delivery of 100 gallons of our bio-based jet fuel to the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) for testing purposes. Product testing of our jet fuel began at Wright Patterson Air Force Base to validate Virent's product against the standards required for qualification and approval of new aviation turbine fuels established by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The validation plan includes fit-for-purpose, fuel system and combustor rig testing.



Josh Webb, Process Development Engineer, monitors plant

The Virent jet fuel was produced at our brand new demonstration plant, built to produce drop-in jet and diesel fuels from 100% renewable plant sugars. The plant was constructed at our facility under a \$1.5 Million award received in 2011 from the Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation, through the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. It has the capacity to

produce up to 5,000 total gallons of fuel per year. Design, engineering and construction were performed in-house by Virent employees. This is Virent's second operating demonstration plant. Our first demonstration plant produces up to 10,000 gallon per year, optimized for gasoline and aromatic chemicals.



LEE EDWARDS, CEO

Lourdes Maurice, Executive Director of the FAA's Office of Environment and Energy said, "We are excited that Virent is able to effectively utilize FAA funding to deliver these gallons for testing. The fuel will be used with our partners in the industry and government to progress testing of novel alternative jet fuels that can help meet FAA's environment and energy goals under the Next Generation Air Transportation System."

To read the full press release, [click here](#).

A few weeks ago Virent had the pleasure of hosting a visit from Congressman Mark Pocan. During his visit, he took a tour of the Virent facility and was given a presentation to learn out more about what we do. Prior to his election to Congress in November 2012, Congressman Pocan represented Virent's district in the Assembly of the Wisconsin State Legislature.



MEET EMPLOYEE LIZ WOODS

Virent's fifth longest tenured active employee, Liz has been with the company since 2004. When asked what keeps her here, she replied "Virent offers unique opportunity to constantly be challenged by different problems and projects. I tend to get bored easily and the constant change and new problems to address keeps me motivated and engaged in work. I also really enjoy working with the people here. The culture is great."



Liz, Manager of R&D Fundamentals, is responsible for DOE government projects which focus on the integration of the BioForming® process with various biomass deconstruction technologies including development of Virent's internal deconstruction process. Additionally, she works on the development of new catalysts with Brian Blank, Virent's Group Leader of Catalytic Materials.

During her nine years here, the project that Liz enjoyed the most was working on the development and implementation of the GEM (Green Energy Machine) – Virent's first scale up of the hydrogen project. "It was a very creative process involving reactor development activities, process development, on the fly trouble shooting, and during that project I was able to learn a number of new skills including electrical wiring and control programming," said Liz. During her free time, Liz enjoys snow and water skiing and spending time on her boat. She received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

VIRENT REINFORCES A CULTURE OF SAFETY

The goal of "Providing a Safe, Healthy and Environmentally Sound Workplace" is not only our first corporate objective each year; it is every employee's first personal objective in formulating annual goals. While Virent has a full-time EH&S department, the company believes that safety is not the responsibility of just one person; it is *everyone's* responsibility.

Now that we are full swing into 2013, Virent's EH&S department has kicked off a few new and unique initiatives for the year. One is to further strengthen our culture of safety. Although Virent has a proven safe track record, enhancements can always be made. To reinforce a culture of safety, Virent's Lead EH&S Specialist Don Primmer has created monthly EH&S newsletters covering various safety topics related to Virent such as the Plan, Do, Check, Act program as well as other safety topics in the news.

Additionally, EH&S is researching and investigating methods to measure predictive indicators for incidents. We currently use the Near Miss Incident system, however this system is more reactive, and we are striving to be more proactive in reducing incidents. To read more about our exceptional safety program, [click here](#).

Fun Fact: It has been 1876 days since Virent's last lost time incident!



DAVID HITCHCOCK SPEAKS AT ADVANCED BIOFUELS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In April, David Hitchcock, Virent's VP of Government Affairs, spoke at the Advanced Biofuels Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Hosted by Jim Lane, author of Biofuels Digest, the annual event is a forum for biofuel industry experts and leaders to meet, network, and assess where the industry is, what progress has been made since last year, and what still needs to be done individually and collectively to move the industry forward.

Among others in attendance were two cabinet secretaries, three members of Congress, multiple federal agencies and one of Virent's partners, Shell. David's fifteen minute speech covered an introduction to Virent, and a summary of our recent jet fuel and paraxylene accomplishments, as well as an overview of Virent's perspective on Federal government policy issues.

VIRENT ON THE ROAD

June 11, 2013	Biopolymers Symposium	Chicago, IL
September 16-17, 2013	GTC's 4th Biobased Chemicals: Commercializing and Partnering Conference	San Francisco, CA
September 18-20, 2013	2013 International Bioenergy and Bioproducts Conference	Green Bay, WI

Virent presents around the world at a wide variety of events, and our annual calendar is kept up-to-date on the [events area of our website](#).