

Cellulosic Sugars

Renmatix Unveils Its BioFlex Conversion Unit to Vilsack

Renmatix, a manufacturer of cellulosic sugars for biofuels and biochemicals, commissioned its multi-feedstock processing facility on Jan. 11 at the company's King of Prussia, PA headquarters with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack as a guest.

The commissioning of Renmatix's new BioFlex Conversion Unit (BCU) means the company will be able to test and convert a range of non-food plant materials through its water-based Plantrose™ process, including perennial grasses, agricultural residues, softwoods, and municipal solid waste streams.

Renmatix is producing sugars from hardwood biomass at its flagship facility in Kennesaw, GA (770-421-0128), which is currently capable of converting three dry tons of cellulosic biomass to Plantro™ sugar a day.

The BCU is a small pilot or testing unit, Fred Moesler, chief technology officer for Renmatix (484-751-4000), told *BioFuels Journal* after the commis-

sioning. Its capacity depends on the type of feedstock being tested. "We can feed the reactors in a range of hundreds of pounds per hour," he stated.

The Pennsylvania unit is smaller than Renmatix's woody biomass converter in Georgia. "In Georgia, the focus is on the commercial development of woody biomass," Moesler said. "The BCU in Pennsylvania is the next evolution in the process by expanding the types of feedstocks that can be processed, thereby demonstrating the flexibility of the process."

Moesler placed the cost of development of the BCU in the "single digit millions."

Downstream Support

The cellulosic sugars produced in Pennsylvania by the BCU will support Renmatix's downstream fuel and chemical strategic partners and data analysis at the company's technical center in Pennsylvania, which opened in September 2012.



USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack got a close look at the work being done at Renmatix's technical facility in King of Prussia, PA.

"The key is the feedstock flexibility focus," Moesler said. "We want to demonstrate that we can unlock the economics of sugar sources other than corn and sugar cane."

Jerry Perkins, editor

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