

Press Release
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Swedish Energy Agency accords application for continued development of biofuel technology

The Swedish Energy Agency is approving Taurus Energy's funding application for continued development of bioethanol based on the company's pentose technology. The project is carried out in cooperation with SEKAB and Lund University and will take current research from the laboratory to the industrial scale. The total cost is estimated at SEK 7 million, half to be funded by the Swedish Energy Agency and the remainder by Taurus Energy and SEKAB.

Taurus Energy and SEKAB, one of Europe's leading ethanol producers, will be co-operating in the project with Lund University. The project will make use of SEKAB's research and development plant in Örnsköldsvik, northern Sweden. The aim is to use Taurus's pentose technology to increase the yield of ethanol for some raw materials by up to 40% compared to the most common method at present, which is based on hexose sugars.



Lars Welin CEO
Taurus Energy

It's extremely pleasing to see the Swedish Energy Agency backing the development of our technology in this way. We are convinced it will be of great significance in producing an environmentally friendly fuel that can help reduce environmental impact," says Lars Welin, CEO of Taurus Energy.

In order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion, there is increasing demand for a liquid fuel from renewable sources. Ethanol is just such a fuel, and its production today is often based on sugar and starch. However, these raw materials are not expected to be able to meet future demand. This means that ethanol production will instead be based on lignocellulose materials such as straw from grain, maize stalks, bagasse from sugar cane, energy forest, sallow and forestry waste.

"Production of ethanol can be much more efficient using these kinds of raw materials, thereby making it far more commercially interesting to companies looking to establish large plants for producing ethanol", says Jan Lindstedt, CEO of SEKAB Industrial Development AB.

Alongside Lund University and researchers from South Africa, Germany and Switzerland, Taurus Energy has developed a technology based on pentose sugars. Yeast strains have been developed which ferment the sugars xylose and arabinose into ethanol. Ethanol yields can be increased by up to 40% compared to using hexose sugars alone. Furthermore, the fermenting technology and improved process technology is expected to reduce production costs by more than 20%. The aim of the current project is to take Taurus's fermenting technology onto an industrial scale. At its R&D plant, SEKAB will produce lignocellulose hydrolysate and verify the fermenting performance of the new pentose technology. The project is expected to run for two years and to be completed in 2009.

About Taurus Energy AB

Taurus Energy AB is a research and development company with the aim of commercialising far-reaching research and development into ethanol production. Since 2006 its mission has been to transfer the rights to use developed methods to energy producers on a global market via licensing agreements. Taurus has around a dozen world-leading patents, and 20 or so internationally recognised scientists work for the company. The company is based at Ideon Science Park in Lund, southern Sweden. Taurus is listed on AktieTorget – the Equities Market Place. For further information go to www.taurusenergy.eu

About SEKAB

SEKAB is a world leader in the development of cellulose-based ethanol and the leading ethanol producer in Europe, with the widest range of ethanol fuels and ethanol-based chemicals. The SEKAB Group has a turnover of approximately SEK 2 billion and employs 130 people. The Group comprises four subsidiaries: SEKAB E-Technology, SEKAB Industrial Development, SEKAB Biofuels & Chemicals and SEKAB International. For further information go to www.sekab.com

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