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Press Release



## **Taurus Energy Joins Major EU Project**

**Taurus Energy AB, listed on Aktietorget, (the Swedish Equities Market Place), has joined the EU-project, *Biolyfe*, ([www.biolyfe.eu](http://www.biolyfe.eu)) to verify industrial ethanol production from alternative raw materials. The project, which is co-ordinated by the Italian company, Chemtex Italia, will run for four years. Other partners in the project include Lund University and the Danish company, Novozymes. The goal is to build a large demonstration installation for the production of second-generation bioethanol from lignocellulose i.e. ethanol production that is not based on either starch or sugar. In this respect Taurus' yeast strain will be tested. The installation will have an annual capacity of 40,000 tons of ethanol. The project will also evaluate and test suitable raw materials for ethanol production where environmental sustainability is as important as the fact that its production will not compete with food production.**

Recently, at least in Sweden, ethanol has been seen as an environmental villain and is particularly subject to the criticism that as ethanol is produced from grain, it consequently competes with food production. However ethanol will become an increasingly important way to reduce dependence on oil in large parts of the world and with new methods, which Swedish and other international researchers are developing together, ethanol production does not need to compete at all with the production of food.

“With Taurus’ technology all possible types of waste products from agriculture and forestry can be exploited and used for ethanol production. When it comes to raw materials such as wheat, for example, with Taurus’ method it is only the bran that is used to product ethanol while the rest of the wheat can be used for bread and other foodstuffs,” says Lars Welin, managing director for Taurus Energy.

The importance of Taurus’s method of ethanol production is that it uses a patented process with yeast that can ferment pentose, which is a lower type of sugar than hexose (with six carbon atoms) that is found in normal sugars such as those traditionally extracted from corn, sugar beet, wheat and other crops. By-products such as leaves, branches, straw and other types of vegetation, for example can only be broken down into pentose and this is a type of sugar that cannot be fermented with conventional yeasts. For the first time it has become possible to extract ethanol from these raw materials with the help of a pentose yeasts, while conventional sugars have been possible to convert to ethanol for more than two thousand years.

“New thinking at many levels is needed to reduce the dependence on oil and coal. In the foreseeable future, at least the larger motor vehicles will be powered by different types of fuel of which ethanol is one alternative. Electricity is realistic for smaller cars, but hardly so for trucks,” says Lars Welin.

Taurus’ method for ethanol production has come from researchers at Lund University and Chalmers Technical University in Gothenburg in collaboration with researchers from eight different countries. Sweden is well advanced in the research and development for the ethanol sector and last year Taurus Energy was ranked as number 30 out of 500 named leading biotechnology companies by the magazine, Biofuel Digest.

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