



Press release

Lund, Sweden, Jan 12, 2012

The Swedish DOE gives financial support to Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg and Lund University in a research project together with Taurus Energy for the development of the future ethanol production

Corrected version: changed title and line three deleted

The Swedish DOE (Energimyndigheten) has awarded SEK 8.4 million (\$1.2million) in support of a shared 2nd generation ethanol research project to Lund University and Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. The purpose of the project is to together with Taurus Energy further develop the process technology for large scale and economically viable 2nd generation ethanol production.

With cellulosic ethanol nearing full commercialization, Taurus Energy finds itself well positioned to be part of the mix. From its beginning in 2006 a team of 20 researchers from 10 countries has contributed to the development of Taurus impressive and award winning portfolio of high performance pentose yeast strains. Their successful research efforts have not gone unnoticed. Today several major international ethanol producers in Europe and the US are engaged in or lined up for testing with Taurus technology. Taurus has also received inquiries from other parts of the world, including Africa and China.

"We already have substantial experience in pentose fermentation technology. This new project will help us staying ahead of the game and continue being one of the best available resources in our field, says Lars Welin, CEO at the Ideon Science Park based Taurus Energy AB, Lund, Sweden. "From the very beginning we have had a global perspective on how to utilize non-food agricultural and forest based waste products as feedstock for the next generation biofuel. We are now getting ready to license our technology to the rest of the world."

Great strides have been made during recent years but some challenges still remain to achieve an economically competitive industrial production model for 2nd generation ethanol. One such challenge is to be able to ferment all sugars in the lignocellulose with a high conversion rate and productivity and to reach a high ethanol concentration.

In this project Xylose fermentation will be improved through a blend of metabolic engineering and randomized techniques, while acetic acid tolerance will be increased with the combination of two entirely novel strategies involving cell membrane modification and direct conversion of acetic acid to added value products. Finally, efficient xylose fermenting and acid-tolerant yeast strains will be developed by combining the results in an industrial strain background.

Project leader is Lisbeth Olsson, Professor of Industrial Biotechnology at Chalmers and Research Director for Taurus Energy.

“The strength of this project is a unique combination of state-of-the-art facilities, competences and experience in the field from all the participants which is necessary for us to develop strains directly applicable to commercial scale cellulose based biofuel production”, says Lisbeth.

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About Taurus Energy AB

Taurus Energy AB is a research and development company which aims to commercialize its extensive research and development program in the field of ethanol production. Since 2006, the company's mission has been to license energy producers to use the methods developed by the company on a global market. Taurus holds over 10 world-leading patents which have been developed with the help of around 20 internationally-recognised scientists. The company is based in the Ideon Science Park in Lund, Sweden. Taurus is listed on the Aktietorget equities market. For more information, please visit www.taurusenergy.eu