

# Business & People

## Ethanol Industry Briefs

### Business

#### BBI launches subsidiary, partners with Fagen

BBI International Inc. announced the formation of a wholly owned subsidiary BBI BioVentures LLC in April. The new company will develop and operate multiple cellulosic ethanol plants in the United States. Fagen Inc. will be BBI BioVentures' preferred engineering, procurement and construction contractor. "Fagen's ethanol plants operate flawlessly, and its experience is crucial to the success of BBI BioVentures," said Mark Yancey, vice president of project development for BBI International. Construction of the new company's first plant is scheduled to begin later this year with start-up to follow in the second half of 2009. Its capacity will likely be 4 MMgy to 5MMgy, but future plants could be as large as 20 MMgy. **EP**



#### Provista to help build ethanol terminal

Provista Renewable Fuels Marketing, a limited liability company under CHS Inc., has signed a lease for a 100,000-sq-ft ethanol terminal and operating facility in Alabama.

Once the terminal is complete, Provista will be responsible for the engineering, procurement and construction of the terminal. The terminal will allow the company to handle up to 7 million gallons of ethanol per month and 7



California-based ethanol producer AltraBiofuels Inc. has created a research

## Amazing Energy receives upgrade

Amazing Energy LLC has installed an automatic self-cleaning slurry strainer/mixer from Erie, Pa.-based Fluid Engineering to improve the fermentation process at its 55 MMgy ethanol plant in Denison, Iowa. The strainer/mixer turns the plant's slurry into a homogeneous mixture, reducing the amount of enzymes used by approximately 10 percent to 30 percent. Amazing Energy had been using Fluid Engineering's Model 107, which is now used as a backup to the new Model 763 when it's shut down for maintenance. The new model was originally designed as a labor-saving device, and there is now a large market for it worldwide, Fluid Engineering said. Its equipment could also be used in cellulosic ethanol production **EP**

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#### Novozymes expands

Novozymes, one of the world's leading biotechnology companies, has expanded its customer service branch to the heart of biofuels production in the United States. A grand opening was held in April for the company's new customer solution office at the Iowa State University Research Park in Ames, Iowa. The facility employs a handful of scientists who are available to help customers with troubleshooting. "We continue to see strong growth in the fuel ethanol industry in the Midwest and are excited to officially open our doors," said Andy Fordyce, vice president of sales and customer solutions for Novozymes. **EP**



### Business

#### Central Illinois Energy sold

The sale of Central Illinois Energy Corp Inc., an ethanol plant under construction in Canton, Ill., was completed when the plant was bought out of bankruptcy by some of its original creditors, including Credit Suisse. The bank was one of the original lenders of the \$90 million loan for the plant's construction. The plant's name has been changed to Riverland Biofuels LLC, and hiring has begun to finish the project in late 2008 or early 2009. The plant filed for bankruptcy in December 2007 after contractors began leaving the job site and construction costs skyrocketed to \$130 million. **EP**

#### Southridge closes finance deal

Dallas-based ethanol plant developer Southridge Enterprises Inc. secured a \$6.6 million finance deal with private investment firm Nexus Loss Capital Corp in April. According to Southridge, the funding will be "used for the construction of the company's previously announced sugarcane-based ethanol plant in El Salvador and a land purchase in Texas." Southridge intends to build a 15 MMgy ethanol dehydration plant in El Salvador, where it plans to export hydrous ethanol from Brazil, dehydrate it and then export it to the United States. In a second phase of construction, the company will build a 5 MMgy sugarcane-based ethanol production facility collocated with the dehydration plant. Southridge will also use some of the funds to build a 50 MMgy natural gas fired, dry-grind ethanol plant near Dallas. **EP**



#### Monsanto, Mendel partner

Monsanto Co. and Mendel Biotechnology Inc. have partnered to develop crops for cellulosic ethanol. They will apply Monsanto's crop testing, breeding and seed production expertise to perennial grass seed varieties. The companies are also developing for applications, according to Mendel spokeswoman Sara McCann. Since its formation in 1997, Mendel has had an ongoing business relationship with Monsanto. The companies have previously worked together on the development of biotechnology traits of corn, soy, cotton and canola. In October, Monsanto announced its increased investment in Mendel, in part to support the growth of Mendel's new BioEnergy Seeds & Feedstocks business. **EP**

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#### VeraSun receives rail safety honor

VeraSun Energy Corp., one of the nation's largest ethanol producers, has received safety awards from both BNSF Railway Co. and Union Pacific Railroad for safe product handling during 2007: the BNSF Product Stewardship Award and the Union Pacific Chemical Transportation Safety Pinnacle Award. To be eligible for the BNSF award, companies must ship a minimum of 500 loaded tank cars with no accidental releases. VeraSun shipped more than 2,300 tank cars from its ethanol production facility in Aurora, SD, during 2007. The Pinnacle Award is based on safe loading techniques, secured shipments and no accidental releases. It is open to all chemical shippers. **EP**

#### Praj inaugurates R&D center

Praj Industries Ltd. dedicated its new integrated biotech research and development center April 21 near the company's headquarters in Pune, India. Covering five acres, the center includes 12 laboratories, seven clean-room facilities, a biodiesel pilot plant and a cellulose-to-ethanol plant. Praj Chairman Pramod Chaudhari said bench-scale experiments have been completed on a cellulosic ethanol process involving novel pretreatment followed by fermentation with a specific microorganism. "Commercialization of the process is on the drawing boards," he said. **EP**