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# Cellulosic Biofuel Technology

## Liquid Phase Catalytic (LPC):

- ❖ Low volumes with liquid phase
- ❖ Fast reactions and low residence times (hours)
- ❖ *Low temperature / pressure*
- ❖ *Converts raw biomass*
  - *Larger particle size*
  - *High moisture*

REACH

## Other Types

### Thermochemical Conversion:

- Vapor phase process
- Gasification and pyrolysis
- Large equipment needed to handle vapor volumes

### Biochemical Conversion:

- Fermentation to alcohols
- Requires sugars as feedstock
- Very long residence time (days)

Liquid phase:  
smaller equipment

+

Catalytic:  
faster process,  
smaller equipment

=

**Lower Capital Costs**





# REACH Technology

RE

Renewable

*Low-temperature  
Low-pressure  
Enzyme-free*

A

Acid-hydrolysis

Biomass



Non-sugar  
intermediates

CMF



other  
bio-products

C

Condensation

*Molecule formation:  
Can customize  
carbon chain length  
for desired product*



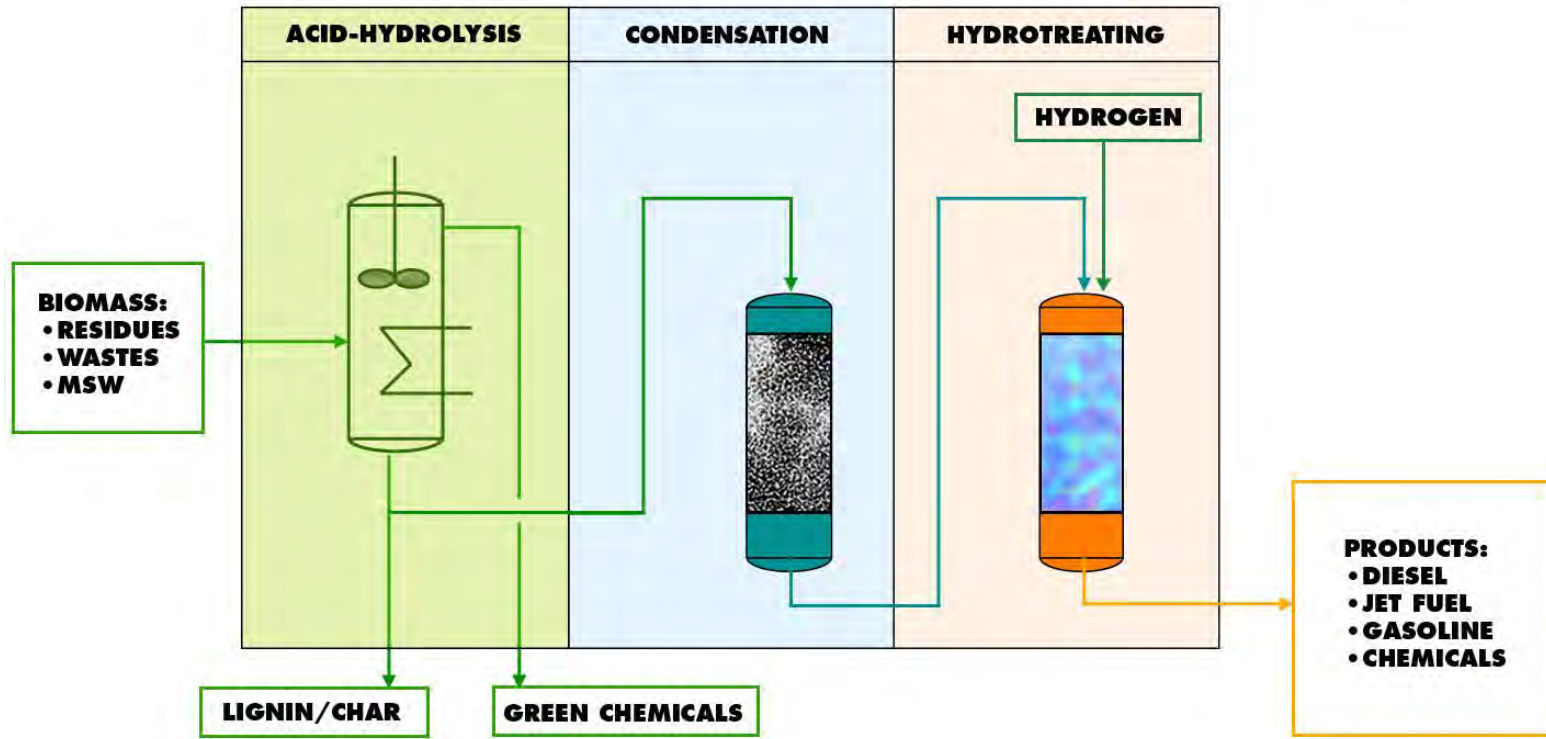
H

Hydrotreating

*Deoxygenation:  
Final drop-in  
hydrocarbon fuel*



# Renewable Acid-hydrolysis Condensation Hydrotreating (REACH) Technology



# Technology Development Advantages



Hydrolysis  
similar to pulp &  
paper  
technologies



Condensation  
Hydrotreating  
similar to petroleum  
refining



Scalable,  
proven  
methodologies



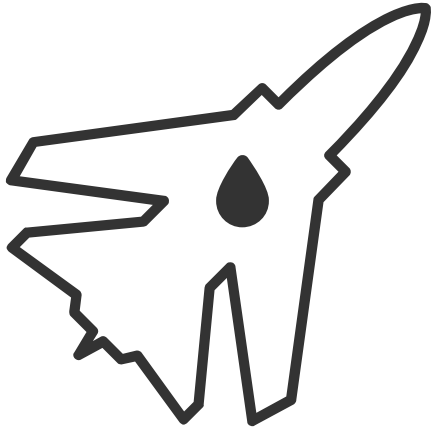
Quicker  
ramp-up to  
full capacity



Independent of  
genetic  
research

# Primary Fuel Products

**Drop-in  
Hydrocarbon  
Jet Fuel**



**Drop-in  
Hydrocarbon  
Diesel Fuel**



# Valuable Chemicals & By-products

## Levulinic Acid (LA)

- Plasticizers
- Solvents
- Polymers

## Formic Acid

- Food safe fumigant/ animal feed supplement
- Environmentally friendly de-icer
- Fuel cell feed

## Furfural

- Solvent for extraction processes
- Resin manufacturing

## Lignin

- Solid Fuel
- Fertilizer / Soil Enhancer
- Hydrogen Production
- High Value Products

## FDCA

- Monomer for PEF



# Cost Structure (Corn Stover)

## CapEx:

\$ **3–5**

/annual gal  
capacity

For example, a 15 mil  
gal plant at \$4/annual  
gal capacity would  
cost \$60 million

## OpEx:

\$ **1.06**

/gal **excluding**  
capital charges

\$ **1.62**

/gal **including**  
capital charges



# Cost Breakdown

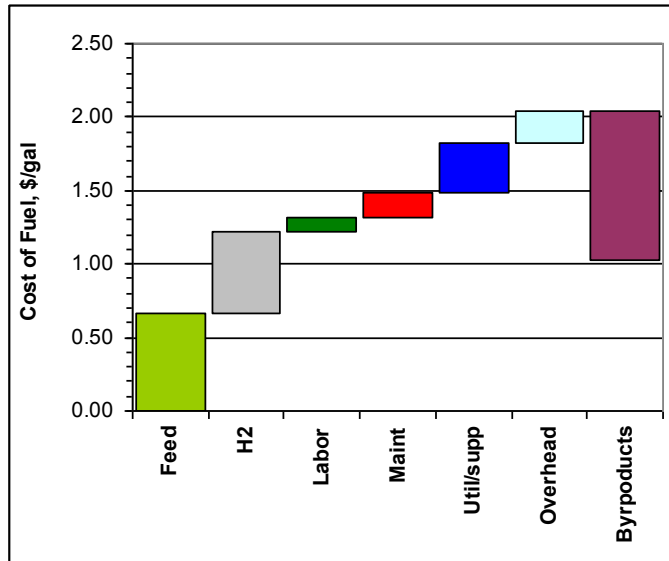
## Base Case

\$ **50**

/dry ton feed

**1.06**

\$/gal



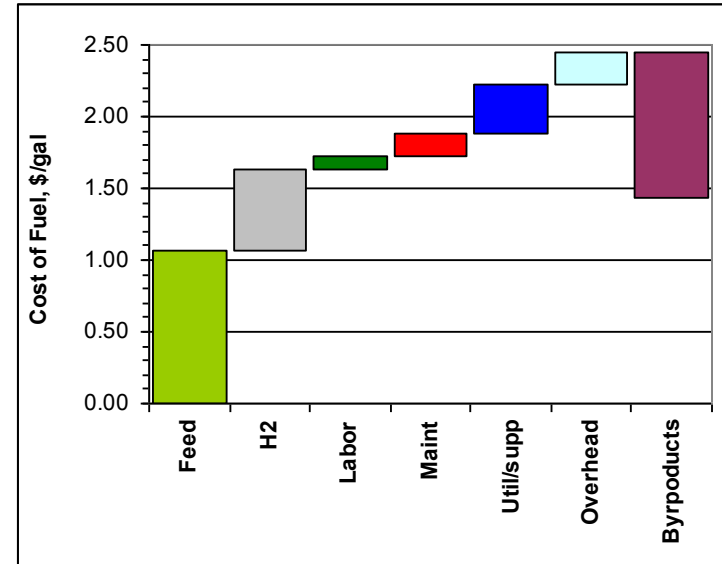
## Sensitivity

\$ **80**

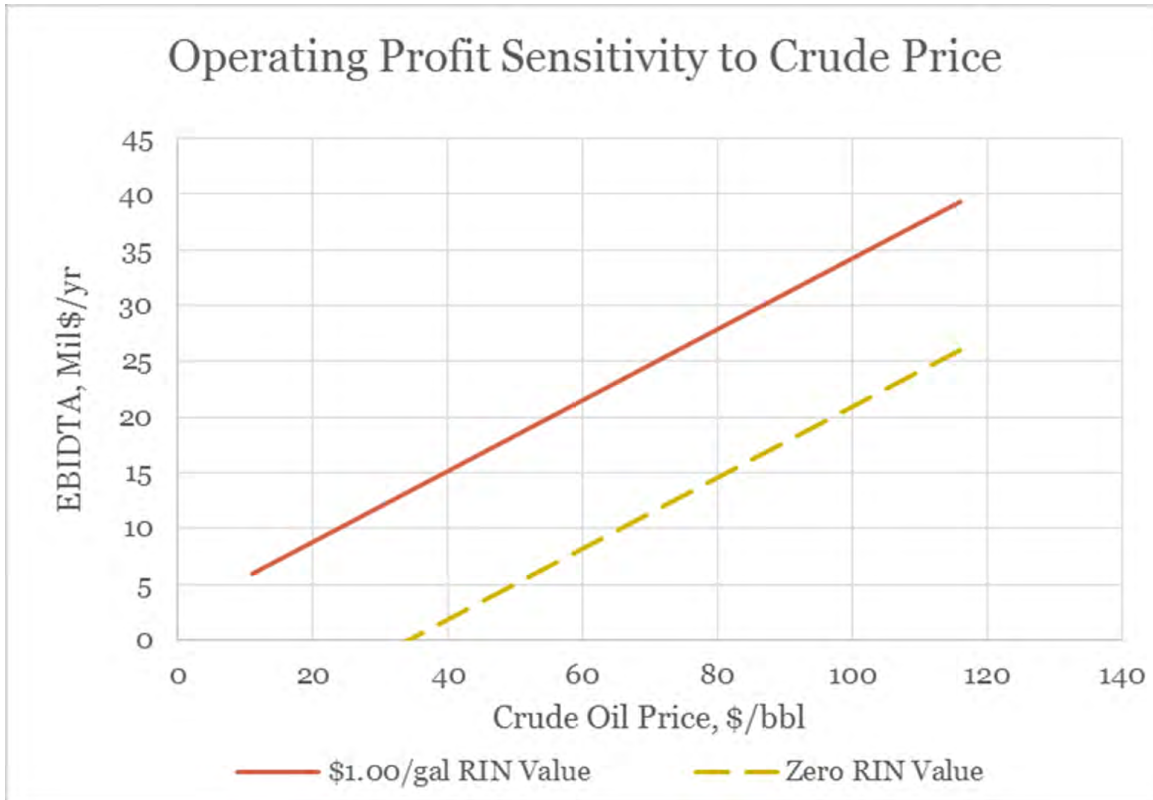
/dry ton feed

**1.46**

\$/gal



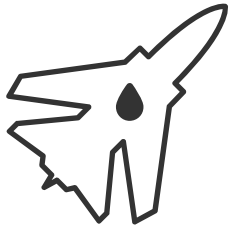
# Economics Good at Lower Crude Prices



# Market

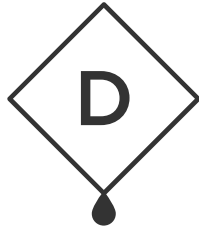
U.S. liquid fuels sales  
in 2011 was estimated  
at

**200+ Billion  
gallons**



**>22B**

Jet Fuel



**>45B**

Diesel Fuel

*Source: US Energy  
Information Association*

RFS2 mandates  
advanced biofuels  
ramp up to a minimum  
of

**21 Billion gallons  
annually by 2022**

or

**\$84 Billion  
market for 2<sup>nd</sup>  
generation  
biofuels  
assuming \$4/gal**

A

**2%**

**Market Share**



nearly

**\$2Billion**

for Mercurius



# Customers

The US Navy  
**is committed to supply 50%**  
**of its fuel** needs with  
non-petroleum fuels by 2020

**Many airlines**, including  
Alaska, Delta, and United have  
committed to **using increasing**  
**amounts of biofuels**

Diesel vehicle fleets  
are potential **high**  
**volume customers**

Customers for optional  
chemicals and by-products  
include **agricultural and**  
**specialty chemical**  
**companies**



# Pilot Project

- ✧ Awarded \$4.6 grant from the Dept. of Energy in 2013
  - 50% matching
  - Focused on military fuels
- ✧ Current project partners:
  - Purdue University
  - University of Maine
  - Michigan State University Bioeconomy Institute (MSUBI)



# Looking Ahead > >

## Fatty Acids

- Nutraceuticals
- Specialty chemicals

## Cyclic Ethers

- High cetane diesel additive
- Specialty chemicals

## Lignin Products

- Unique-properties based products
- Jet fuel and diesel

## Polymers

- 2,5-Furandicarboxylic acid (FDCA) for PEF
- Succinic acid (SA) for BDO to PBT and PBS
- From biomass not sugar



# FDCA for PEF

## PEF Advantages over PET = Better Beer Bottle!

- Superior Barrier Performance
  - ✓ O<sub>2</sub> 10x better
  - ✓ H<sub>2</sub>O 2x better
  - ✓ CO<sub>2</sub> 4x better
- Thermal Stability
  - ✓ 12C higher than PET
- Mechanical Properties
  - ✓ 1.6x better (tensile modulus)
- Renewable
- Reduced product degradation
- Lighter for lower transport costs



# Key Partners in REACH Development

**CSIRO (Australia)**  
process optimization research

**Purdue University**  
scientific/engineering/aviation  
expertise

**UMaine**  
continuous flow optimization,  
engineering

**MSUBI**  
pilot plant operations



**UC Davis**  
Hydrolysis technology & IP

**Pacific Northwest  
National Laboratory**  
past hydrotreating &  
catalyst development

**Haldor Topsoe**  
catalyst / hydrotreating  
technology





# Value Proposition



Low cost –  
Capex and  
Opex



Feedstock flexibility:  
- Larger-sized, high-  
moisture feedstock ok  
- No inhibitor issues



Distributed  
model-  
capable



Fuel products  
with increasing  
demand



~90% reduction  
in GHG



High value  
co-products



Co-processing  
options



Patented  
process





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