



**MISSISSIPPI BIOMASS COUNCIL
BIO BRIEF**

SIXTH ANNUAL SOUTHERN BIOPRODUCTS CONFERENCE: SUCCESS STORIES IN AN EMERGING INDUSTRY



The Mississippi Biomass Council presents the Sixth Annual Southern Bioproducts Conference, April 16-18, 2007, at the Golden Moon Hotel and Casino in Choctaw, Mississippi.

The biomass climate is one of growing importance, both internationally and at home. Here in Mississippi, we have the natural resources, research capability, and community support to capitalize on the growing demand for alternative and renewable energy and fuels, and environmentally-friendly prod-

ucts. This year's conference will highlight past successes in the biomass arena. Topics of discussion will include industry & commercialization, business & financing, policy & legislation and research & development.

The conference agenda will feature several relevant speakers from industry and academia, at the national, state, and local levels, including a luncheon with a keynote speaker. There will also be numerous opportunities for networking, including a reception on the evening of April 16, 2007. The agenda also includes student research poster com-

petition with cash prizes. Additionally, the Mississippi Biomass Council will award the Second Undergraduate Biomass Studies Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 towards a student's tuition.

(See MBC to Again Offer \$1,000 Scholarship article on page 5)

Be sure to watch the Mississippi Biomass Council's website for the updated conference information! <http://ms-biomass.org>

For more information contact:

*Lauren Michaud
Business Analyst
Mississippi Technology Alliance
lmichaud@technologyalliance.ms*

601-960-3655

Inside this issue:

NISSAN ANNOUNCES NEW FLEXIBLE FUEL VEHICLE AT ITS CANTON MISSISSIPPI PLANT	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
MBC COMPANY SPOLIGHT	4
GOVERNOR BARBOUR APPOINTS MTA'S SUMESH ARORA TO GOVERNOR'S ETHANOL COALITION	5
MBC TO AGAIN OFFER \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP	5
UPCOMING EVENTS	6

NISSAN ANNOUNCES NEW FLEXIBLE FUEL VEHICLE AT ITS CANTON MISSISSIPPI PLANT



Jefferson City , MO – During the just concluded Summer Meeting of the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC), Harland Reid, Senior Director of Government Affairs of Nissan North America, Inc., announced that the Nissan Armada will be produced as an E85 compatible vehicle in 2007. The vehicle will be manufactured at Nissan's Canton, Mississippi plant. "Yes, the Armada will be the newest of Nissan's E85 compatible line for 2007," stated Reid.

Nissan began offering the 5.6 liter Titan truck as a flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) in 2005. The company plans on producing approximately 55,000 flexible fuel Titans this year and plans to produce about 20,000 FFV Armadas in model year 2007.

The 2007 E85 full-size SUV Armada will have a 5.6 liter V8 engine, offer three-row, eight-passenger seating and up to 9,100-pound maximum towing capacity. Both the Titan and Armada will be available in North Central, South Central, South East, and Mid-Atlantic regions where there are the highest concentrations of E85 stations.

Nissan is also the newest automaker to join the NEVC and Reid was named as a member of the NEVC's Board of Directors at the recent meeting. General Motors, Ford Motor Company, and DaimlerChrysler are also members of the NEVC and serve on its Board of Directors. "We are excited to see Nissan add the Armada to the growing list of automobiles and light trucks that are being manufactured to operate on 85 percent ethanol," stated Phil Lampert, Executive Director of the NEVC.



Armada

"The NEVC has been the nation's leading advocate of the production of FFVs and development of E85 fueling infrastructure and we believe that the market incentives provided to automakers to produce such vehicles are working.

The recent announcement by GM, Ford, and DaimlerChrysler committing to double production of FFVs clearly demonstrates the commitment and investments that automakers have made in regard to production of E85 capable vehicles. We applaud Nissan for this announcement and look forward to working with their management and

staff to promote this exceptional vehicle." Reid also praised U.S. Senator Thad Cochran for his leadership as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in the Senate's approval of \$213 million in new federal funding for research and development of renewable fuels. "Nissan shares Senator Cochran's commitment to achieving the tremendous environmental and energy security benefits that result from increased use of renewable fuel in flexible fuel vehicles," Reid added.

Senator Cochran was pleased to learn of Nissan's plans to produce the E85 capable Armada at its Canton, Mississippi plant. "We have been working hard in the Senate to provide funding and incentives for clean, renewable transportation fuels that lessen our dependence on foreign oil. I appreciate Nissan's decision to expand its production of flexible fuel vehicles in Canton, Mississippi through the introduction of the FFV Armada," said Cochran. The E85 capable Nissan Titan is also produced at the Canton plant.

A complete listing of all E85 compatible vehicles and E85 fueling stations can be found at www.E85Fuel.com.

NISSAN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It just seems like yesterday that we were hustling to get everything in place for the Fifth Annual Southern BioProducts Conference, yet here we are again planning next year's conference. The Sixth Annual show will be held once again at the Golden Moon Casino at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi.

Based on the excellent feedback we obtained from this year's attendees we have decided to restructure the sessions to appeal to a broader cross-section of individuals. With so much going on the world of biomass, we want to focus on some recent success stories, both on the commercial side and within academia, as well as highlight what is to come down the pipeline. We hope that it will be a showcase where research meets commercialization.

With increased activity in the biomass and biofuels world, the number of conferences has also jumped up tremendously and we have to compete on much broader scale to attract attendees. My firm belief is that the Southern BioProducts Conference is on par with several other meetings I have attended across the country and certainly a unique networking opportunity in our "neck of the woods." On the heels of the successful conference,

the Mississippi Biomass Council is also attracting new members. We still have a long way to go to reach out to additional individuals and entities that deal with biomass. This covers the spectrum of plant and animal agriculture and forestry, which are among the strongest industries in the state as well as the South Eastern region.

The energy generators and distributors, both electricity and fuels, are also stakeholders in the emerging biomass industry. Even though the spotlight is on energy issues right now, for the Mississippi Biomass Council, biomass means much more than looking at ethanol or biodiesel.

It covers the companies that are involved in making products that increase the yields of crops, or equipment that can improve the collection of waste biomass that can be used for beneficial purposes. It also means wood and plastic composite products that are now on the market or are being developed, and means basic wood products including furniture.

The Mississippi Biomass Council has also become more proactive in partnering with other institutions in the state. MBC is co-sponsoring the upcoming MSU Biodiesel Workshop and helping to promote the Cooling-Heating-Power and Biofuels Workshop. These events are scheduled for August 23-24, 2006 on the campus of Mississippi

State University. Please see additional information on these events in this newsletter. We have also started a new section in our newsletter to highlight the services that our member companies provide and hope that it will help to connect the service or equipment providers with new customers, and also give the members an opportunity to share their experiences with using biomass.

I am looking forward to the exciting events that the MBC is working on this year and urge all those who receive this newsletter to support the MBC by becoming members. Please contact me at sarora@technologyalliance.ms or 601-960-3659 if you have questions, comments, or suggestions on how we can better serve the biomass community in the region.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarora".



MBC COMPANY SPOTLIGHT



Argus Analytical, Inc. is an independent analytical laboratory offering a wide range of analytical sampling and testing capabilities primarily related to environmental, industrial hygiene and food testing.

Argus serves a diverse range of clients throughout Mississippi and adjoining states. Our clients include engineering firms, industrial facilities, farming and livestock operations, government organizations, municipalities, military establishments and private individuals.

Areas of expertise include ground water, drinking water, waste water, solid waste, soil, air and other matrices typically associated with environmental testing or sampling. Food testing includes swabs, as well as fish and chicken tissue.

Argus's primary certifications are with NELAP and the Mississippi Department of Health. Also, numerous local and national environmental engineering firms, manufacturing operations, municipalities, and water disposal facilities have successfully audited Argus.

Argus retains NELAP Accreditation, with Louisiana as the Primary Accreditation Authority for the fields of testing for which Argus is certified. Argus is certified in drinking water by the State of Mississippi for the total coliform, metal and organics.

Argus Analytical supports the Mississippi Biomass Council because they promote the education, research and sharing of information for the purpose of encouraging biomass economic development.



GOVERNOR BARBOUR APPOINTS MTA'S SUMESH ARORA TO GOVERNOR'S ETHANOL COALITION



Governor Haley Barbour has designated Sumesh Arora, with the Mississippi Technology Alliance, to be Mississippi's representative to the Governors' Ethanol Coalition.

"Sumesh Arora is highly competent in the field of alternative energy research and development and will represent the State of Mississippi well as our designee to the Governors' Ethanol Coalition," Governor Barbour said. "I look

forward to working more closely with the coalition to unfold the possibilities of ethanol as a more prominent energy source for our country."

The purpose of the Governors' Ethanol Coalition is to promote and increase the use of ethanol as a fossil fuel alternative. The coalition includes governors from 32 states and representatives from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Sweden and Thailand.

Arora is currently the director of the Strategic Biomass Initiative for the

Mississippi Technology Alliance. The Strategic Biomass Initiative is devoted to strengthening targeted biomass research and development among Mississippi universities and the private sector to break down the hurdles to commercializing renewable energy resources.

More information on the Strategic Biomass Initiative is available at the following address:

www.technologyalliance.ms.

MBC TO AGAIN OFFER \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP

The Mississippi Biomass Council is searching for student applicants pursuing undergraduate studies in the areas of biomass science, technology, economics, or policy issues. One deserving applicant will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the 2007 Southern BioProducts Conference to be held next April in Choctaw, Mississippi.

This will be the second scholarship to be offered by the Council in association with the Mississippi Technology Alliance. The scholarship applicant must be a Mississippi resident and attending any in-state university or community college. More information regarding

eligibility and the application process can be found on the Council website at www.ms-biomass.org.

Ms. Shelby Glover, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi, is the 2006 scholarship recipient. She is pursuing a career in biomass technology and is now conducting research involving the attempt to synthesize bio-based monomers which could be used in architectural coatings. The Council is proud to provide financial support as she continues her education and bio-based research.

The Mississippi Biomass Council

wishes to expand the interest and understanding of biomass-related opportunities among the students of Mississippi colleges and universities. Council members are proud to sponsor this scholarship and hope to spur new and continued interest in biomass utilization and technologies in Mississippi.

We appreciate any assistance in promoting this scholarship opportunity.

*Written by:
Brent Bailey
MBC Vice President
bbailey@msfb.com
601-977-4248*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register NOW!

Special Student Rates!

MSU Biodiesel Workshops

Discussion Topics:

- oil refining technologies
- biodiesel quality
- glycerine handling
- biodiesel plant design

**Bost Conference Center
Extension Drive
Mississippi State University**

AUGUST 23-24, 2006

➤ Contact Stuart Dean @
662-325-0513

Register On-line at <http://ms-biomass.org>

Mississippi Biomass Council

Box 9642

Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

Phone: 662-325-0513

Board of Directors

Brent Bailey, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

Jim Evans, University of Southern Mississippi

Liam Leightley, Mississippi State University

Monte Reeves, A-1 Pallet Company, Inc.

Walter Ward, Community Recycling

Byron Wilson, Chair, Chico Creek Farms

Officers:

Sumesh Arora, President

Brent Bailey, Vice President

Stuart Dean, Treasurer

Elizabeth Myles, Secretary

This newsletter is published by the Mississippi Biomass Council. Compiled and Edited by Elizabeth Myles. Individuals who wish to submit articles, opinions, commentaries, etc. please send to emyles40@hotmail.com

"Partial funding for compilation of this newsletter has been provided by the United States of Department of Energy Grant # DE-FG36-05G085002."

No part of this newsletter should be copied or reproduced without the written consent of the Mississippi Biomass Council.

