

PRESS RELEASE

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**BIOSQUARE 2008: Biorefineries, “How biotechnology can help breaking ground in the use of biofuels and bio-based materials”**



Basel, 13 March— Today three major companies of the fuel industry--DSM, Nedalco and Verenium--got together to discuss the opportunity that Biotech represents to the production of fuel. “At a certain point we thought that we needed to move to fuel production if we wanted to grow up as a company... so we invested in R & D to ensure competitive advantage”, said Christian Koolloos, Operational Manager of Royal Nedalco (photo).

New research has shown that cereals and sugars have the same properties. With the development of biotechnology in enzyme creations, cereal can be transformed into sugar, which can be used for producing ethanol. This substance will replace fossil fuel products and oil to create an ecological way to move. This type of product, the biofuel, will help fuel engines. Besides, all the industries working in this field are sure to have their own biofuel product ready by 2010.

“Cheap sugars will lead to cheap ethanol”, says William Baum, Executive Vice President of Business Development and General Manager of the Specialty Enzymes Business Unit, Verenium Corporation. The aim is to start the price of biofuel at 2 dollars per gallon, to allow competition with traditional fuel and with other biofuel companies. The Market is searching for new solutions for the fuel industries and they agree to the necessity of partnerships to achieve the goal in just a few years. Investment is needed, yes, but also alliances with governments, local producers and private enterprises.

Research is compulsory at this stage, and partnership is an important element as well, but above all there is a call for expanding the branch of products that can use this technology--for instance medicine, nutrition, pharmacies, agriculture and performance materials. “This is not that easy at all and requires innovation and sustainable development”, concluded Wim de Laet, Principal Scientist Bioprocessing of DSM-Gist.

Editor’s note: For more information on this topic, see the 2006 US Department of Energy Report entitled “Biofuels Joint Roadmap”, which states, “Biofuels, especially corn-derived and cellulosic ethanol, constitute the only renewable liquid transportation fuel option that can be readily integrated with petroleum-based fuels, fleets, and infrastructure.”

Additional information on the subject can be found at: <http://www.verenium.com/index.html>;  
[http://www.dsm.com/en\\_US/html/home/dsm\\_home.cgi](http://www.dsm.com/en_US/html/home/dsm_home.cgi)

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