



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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BC Technology Gives A Sweet Outlook for Alberta Beet Producers

(NORTH VANCOUVER, BC) Alberta sugar beet producers are hoping a research study will open the doors to a new market that could see beets replacing petroleum products in the manufacture of plastic bottles, polyester, and antifreeze. The Alberta Sugar Beet Growers (ASBG) has contracted S2G BioChemicals Inc. (S2G BioChem), a Vancouver-based clean technology firm, to validate the use of energy beets as feedstock for the production of bio-glycol.

“We are thrilled to have identified a technology that has the potential to create such high value from our crops as we strive to expand into sustainable markets for our membership,” said Rob Boras, president of ASBG, a marketing board representing over 260 beet farmers in southern Alberta. S2G BioChem has a proprietary sugar-to-glycol technology and was recently profiled by The Globe and Mail as one of Canada’s most promising clean-tech companies,

The S2G BioChem study is intended to prove that Alberta-grown energy beets are a suitable feedstock for producing bio-glycol. The benefits could be substantial for the Prairie economy. “Moving to commercial production of bio-glycols in Alberta would demonstrate the province’s willingness to invest in green technologies, as well as create jobs to construct and run a production facility costing upwards of \$40 million,” explained Mark Kirby, S2G BioChem’s president. “We are delighted to be working with such a forward-thinking organization.” “With projected potential sales of over \$100 million in the first five years, Alberta beet growers could be a part of a growing industry that is “green”

in more ways than one,” added Boras. “We expect to start seeking investment for the project in early-2014.”

Member of Parliament LaVar Payne (Medicine Hat, Alberta), on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, announced the news of close to \$600,000 in federal funding to support this project at ASBG’s AGM held February 13, 2013 in Lethbridge, Alberta. This funding comes from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). “The federal government’s support tells us that we are on the right track with this value-added initiative,” claimed Boras, adding, “CAAP is known for supporting new ideas that benefit entire market sectors.”

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BACKGROUND

What are “energy” beets?

The term “energy beets” refers to a newly developed strain of non-edible, hybrid beets developed for their total energy content, not for their taste. Energy beets can produce almost twice as much ethanol, a biofuel, as corn per acre.

What are glycols and bio-glycols?

A glycol is an organic chemical compound belonging to the alcohol family. The term “glycol” is often used to refer to “ethylene glycol,” the simplest form of alcohol familiar to most of us as antifreeze. Ethylene glycol, also used in brake fluids and man-made fibres, is toxic. Propylene glycol is a non-toxic form of this compound that is often found in food, cosmetics, and personal hygiene products.

Glycols are typically made from petroleum products, a source now associated with escalating and volatile pricing, supply and security concerns, and greenhouse

gas emissions. Bio-glycols are sustainable compounds made from renewable sources, such as natural sugars found in plants.

What are glycols used for?

Glycols are used to make common household and industrial goods, including:

- Polyester fibres
- Liquid detergents
- Antifreeze
- PET bottles (e.g., plastic pop and water bottles)
- Personal care products (e.g., moisturizers, sun screens, hair sprays)

What about the “food to fuel” argument?

Sugar beets are used to produce the bags of sugar you find on grocery store shelves. However, as people move to healthier diets lower in calories and carbohydrates, demand for these products is declining. By using non-food energy beets, grown in rotation with other crops, for the production of bio-glycols, we not only help create higher and more diverse demand for beet producers, but we also move from using a depleting, non-renewable resource (petroleum) to a sustainable and renewable resource (beets) to produce many commonly used goods.

Alberta Sugar Beet Growers (ASBG)

Alberta Sugar Beet Growers is a farmer organization striving to create an Alberta sugar beet industry that is vibrant, expanding, profitable and producer-driven.

www.asbg.ca

S2G BioChemicals Inc. (S2G BioChem)

S2G BioChem is a cleantech company focused on the commercialization of bio-glycol production based on its proprietary Sugar-to-Glycol (S2G) technology and was on British Columbia’s 2011 “Ready to Rocket” list of technology companies with the greatest potential for growth.

www.s2gbiochem.com

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