



February 10, 2011

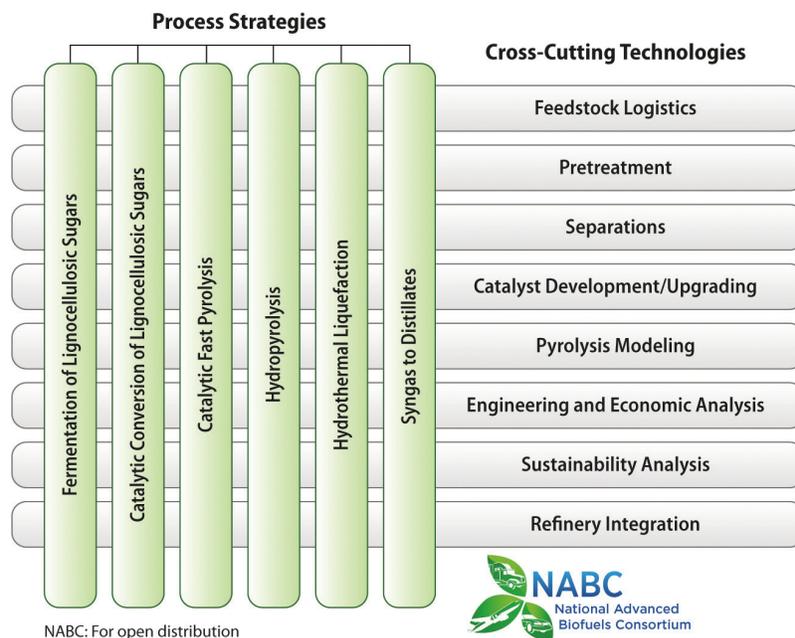
The NABC Holds Its Second Consortium-Wide Meeting

The members of the National Advanced Biofuels Consortium met in Mesa, Arizona, on January 26 and 27 to discuss key early results of the three-year project to develop technology to produce renewable drop-in transportation fuels. The group is almost halfway through Stage I of the two-stage project, which focuses on proof-of-concept R&D on six different process strategies to produce advanced biofuels, including fermentation, chemical catalysis, pyrolysis, and syngas conversion. This meeting was the second consortium-wide event; the first, a pre-award organizational meeting, was held in early 2010.

A total of 60 participants attended, including staff from all 16 partners and from DOE.

On the first day, the Stage I process strategy teams and some of the cross-cutting technology teams held in-depth technical discussions and shared data and results. These face-to-face meetings built on the regular monthly Web and teleconference call each team holds in addition to sub-team calls for specific topics such as catalyst testing and development.

A dinner reception the first evening, hosted by PNNL, provided an excellent opportunity for networking and continuing discussions.



Matrix of NABC process strategy and cross-cutting technology teams

On the second day, the full consortium meeting led off with morning updates by the leadership team and the six process strategy team leads to provide information on Stage I plans, R&D status, and highlights.

Presented results included:

- Results from pretreatment of woody material performed at NREL and WSU
- Initial hydrolysate test results from the fermentation of lignocellulosic sugars (FLS) team
- Hydrolysate component profile results from the catalysis of lignocellulosic sugars (CLS) team
- Catalyst test results from the catalytic fast pyrolysis, hydroxyrolysis, and syngas to distillates teams
- Testing of high solids slurries by the hydrothermal liquefaction team.

The engineering and economic analysis team and the sustainability analysis team presented economic and life cycle analysis results of a “test case process” to give consortium members an idea of the type of information that these teams will develop for the processes under development.

Guest speaker Jim Rekoske (VP and General Manager, Renewable Energy and Chemicals at UOP, LLC) delivered a thought-provoking talk entitled “Energy Outlook: Likely Changes in Transportation Fuel Supply, Demand, and Technology.”

The afternoon session included talks from several of the cross-cutting technology teams and addressed specific challenges in refining biomass to hydrocarbon-like fuels. Paul Spindler of Catchlight Energy LLC addressed supplying feedstocks for biofuels. The refinery partners (John Shabaker, BP Products NA, and Rick Weyen, Tesoro Companies Inc.) spoke about refinery integration and Leen Gerritsen of Albemarle Corporation addressed how to apply refinery catalyst expertise to biomass processes. Pall Corporation (John Brantley and Tore Lindstrom) discussed specific separations challenges encountered in biomass-to-fuels processing. The day finished with a talk by Robert Baldwin of NREL detailing the fundamental work being performed by the pyrolysis modeling team in support of the pyrolysis process strategies. Overall, the meeting provided an opportunity for the consortium members to further build relationships, present and discuss results, address key issues, and share their expertise with their teams and the consortium as a whole.

About the NABC

The National Advanced Biofuels Consortium (NABC) is a collaboration among U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories, universities, and private industry that is developing technologies to produce infrastructure-compatible, biomass-based hydrocarbon fuels.

The consortium, led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and by NABC partners.