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Automation University

Biofuels Automation Hosts Maintenance Courses

There is now a place for ethanol plant maintenance workers to learn practical, hands-on techniques for increased productivity.

BioFuels Automation has launched the BioFuels Automation University Performance Plus Ethanol Maintenance Training course to provide maintenance workers in the ethanol industry. The two-day courses are offered



Biofuels Automation University provides hands-on training for ethanol plant maintenance staff.

at the company's headquarters in Plymouth, MN.

The quarterly courses, limited to 20 students, began in June, 2007. The first six courses were sold out.

The next classes will be Sept. 11-12; Dec. 4-5, and March 12-13, 2009.

As the ethanol industry has grown in the past few years, training began to be a major issue for plants scrambling for qualified maintenance staff.

"There were so many dry-grind ethanol plants coming on-line at such a fast pace, it was a real challenge for the plants to attract and train qualified technicians, and to hold onto them," said Hans Alwin, BioFuels Automation director of marketing and business development.

"The general knowledge base in the maintenance department has become a critical issue in maintaining a profit," Alwin added.

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Course Content

According to BioFuels Automation General Manager Sid Sondag, the course teaches maintenance staff how to diagnose a problem, and gives practical, hands-on experience in fixing it and preventing future problems.

The first day focuses on instrumentation (flow, temperature, pressure, level, and electrochemical measurement), and the second day on valves (automated on-off, valve monitors, control valves, positioners, communication protocols, shop tools).

The course costs \$1,000 which includes food and lodging.

To sign up, call 888-870-FUEL (3835) or go on-line to www.BioFuelsAutomation.com/training.

Myke Feinman, editor

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Response No. 751

Biodiesel from Cooking Oil

California Joint Venture Will Recycle Used Oil

Tellurian Biodiesel Inc., Los Angeles, CA, a distributor and marketer of biodiesel, announced early in April that it had entered into a joint venture with Golden State Foods (GSF), Irvine, CA, one of the largest distributors of food products and services to the quick-service restaurant industry.

The venture will recycle used cooking oil into biodiesel that exceeds industry specifications.



The new venture, called Encore BioRenewables, plans to launch its first biodiesel production facility in southern California early in 2009.

According to Joe Gershen, Encore BioRenewables president and Tellurian vice president of sales and marketing, the new company plans to open additional processing plants throughout the United States, as the market develops for its product. "These plants will be sited near locations that aggregate used cooking oil from restaurants," he said.

The high-quality biodiesel produced by this closed-loop solution, said Gershen, will be sold to trucking companies, municipal fleets, and to GSF to fuel its distribution fleet, which serves its customers in the quick-service restaurant industry.

Proprietary Process

Encore BioRenewable's first plant will begin biodiesel production at a rate of 5 million gallons per year (MMGY). According to Gershen, the plant's output will expand as U.S. demand for biodiesel continues to increase.

Tellurian's recently announced acquisition of Superior Process Technologies, Minneapolis, MN, which was expected to close by mid-June, Gershen added, will provide Encore BioRenewables with a proprietary process to turn low-grade raw materials into high-quality biodiesel that exceeds both ASTM and EN quality specifications at prices competitive with petroleum diesel.

In addition to used cooking oil, Encore BioRenewables will convert other recyclable domestic fats and oils into high-quality biodiesel. "We project production of at least 100 MMGY once its national network is fully operational," said Gershen.

"With this progressive venture, GSF is taking a leadership role in the widespread adoption of sustainable biodiesel, a cleaner, domestic, renewable fuel ready to help keep America's trucking industry rolling," he said.

Ed Zdrojewski, contributing editor

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