

HOUSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 15, 2002--*Researched by Industrialinfo.com (Industrial Information Resources, Incorporated; Houston, Texas).*

Renewable Fuels of The Future

Today, synthetic fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel are emerging as the renewable fuels of the future.

New requirements for reformulated gasoline, particularly in California, mean that the gasoline additive MTBE no longer meets requirements and that its usage may be environmentally hazardous. In California, the state air quality board is requiring the removal of MTBE from gasoline by December 31, 2002, making ethanol a likely substitute. Thirteen other states are investigating similar requirements. The controversy surrounding MTBE presents new opportunities for the ethanol industry for the future.

The renewed interest in ethanol has prompted Industrial Information Resources (IIR) to develop an exclusive Ethanol Production Package (<http://www.industrialinfo.com/esemdethanolpp.htm>) to track the new developments occurring in the industry, along with current and future plant production capacities, contact information, and capital spending data. IIR is tracking over \$4 billion in capital spending expected to take place over the next three to five years. This will more than double the current capacity of today's ethanol production capabilities. In the year 2001, some 1.8 billion gallons were produced in the U.S. The market for ethanol is forecasted to grow to more than 3.9 billion gallons per year by 2005.

Biodiesel, also known as methyl esters, is another renewable fuel derived from new and used vegetable oils. Recent interests in biodiesel have come about after discovering that when a mixture of 20% biodiesel is blended with standard petroleum diesel fuel, sulfur content will be reduced down to acceptable levels. In its pure form, biodiesel can be used as a fuel source in most combustion engines that accept diesel fuels. Further interest could push this product to the commercial market in the future. Today, biodiesel fuel production is at 61 million gallons per year. As demand grows, production is projected to reach 100 million gallons or more annually within the next few years.

A Bioenergy stimulus package currently before Congress is intended to reduce the U.S. dependence on foreign oil by 0.5%, while increasing the use of synthetic fuels by 0.5%. Synthetic fuel producers are anticipating a greater role for ethanol and biodiesel through 2005 and beyond. It is forecasted that renewable fuels could boost the U.S. economy by \$300 billion and create as many as 300,000 new jobs in the synthetic fuel sectors of the economy by 2016.

Industrialinfo.com provides daily news related to the industrial market place including alerts on industry and business trends and project activity. The Ethanol Production Package provides a comprehensive outline of all current development activities in the emerging ethanol market place. This database covers 60 ethanol plants currently in operation and 62 plants under development. For more information on upcoming construction activities in the Synthetic Fuels industry as well as other industrial sectors send inquiries to synfuelsgroup@industrialinfo.com or visit us at www.industrialinfo.com or www.iirenergy.com.