

## FACT SHEET

### Milestone Achieved in Advancing Global Use of Biofuels

#### U.S., Brazil, and the European Union Release Report on Biofuels Standards

- Technical experts from standards developing organizations (SDOs) of the United States, Brazil and the European Union (EU) have met regularly over the past six months to review standards for ethanol and biodiesel, two renewable fuels that can offer an alternative for fossil fuels in the transportation sector.
- The review included thousands of pages of technical documents produced by ASTM International, Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas (ABNT), and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).
- The jointly-authored report identifies 16 specifications for ethanol and 24 for biodiesel that fall into three categories:
  - Specifications that are similar among all three regions and can be considered compatible
  - Specifications with differences that could be aligned in the short term (<12 months)
  - Specifications for which fundamental differences exist and are deemed irreconcilable
- The U.S., Brazilian and EU experts formed the core of the Codes and Standards Working Group of the International Biofuels Forum. Members include Brazil, the United States and the EU as well as China, India and South Africa.

#### Report Finds Much Common Ground and Few Impediments to Biofuels Trade

- Ethanol: Nine of the 16 ethanol specifications are considered ‘in alignment.’ All but one of the remaining specifications could be aligned in the short term. Despite modest differences, the report concludes that existing specifications present no impediment to global trade in ethanol.
- Biodiesel: Six of the 24 biodiesel specifications are considered ‘in alignment.’ The report suggests that many differences can be dealt with by blending various types of biodiesel to create an end product that meets regional specifications for fuel quality and emissions.

#### “Taking Stock” Work Complete; Efforts to Improve Compatibility to Follow

- The U.S. and Brazilian governments and the European Commission on behalf of the EU applaud the efforts of the technical experts and encourage the SDOs to consider the results of those efforts based on World Trade Organization principles.
- The standards developing organizations will further engage their counterparts in China, India and South Africa, all members of the International Biofuels Forum.
- The metrology institutes of the United States, Brazil and the EC will complement efforts by the SDOs.
- The institutes will work together to develop joint measurement standards – certified materials that can be used to support testing and development of biofuels.
- A roadmap laying out work to be completed by the end of 2008 is under development.