



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rentech and ClearFuels Selected by U.S. Department of Energy for Integrated Bio-Refinery Grant

Grant to fund construction of biomass gasifier for production of renewable synthetic fuels at Rentech's demonstration plant in Colorado

LOS ANGELES (December 7, 2009) – Rentech, Inc. (NYSE AMEX: RTK) and ClearFuels Technology Inc. (ClearFuels) jointly announced today that they have been selected to receive up to \$23 million as a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") to construct a biomass gasifier at Rentech's Energy Technology Center ("RETC") in Denver. The gasifier will be integrated with Rentech's Product Demonstration Unit ("PDU") for the production of renewable synthetic fuels from biomass.

The grant, which is subject to final negotiation of documents with the DOE, will be used to manufacture and install at RETC a 20 ton-per-day ClearFuels biomass gasifier designed to produce synthesis gas ("syngas") from sugar cane bagasse, virgin wood waste and other cellulosic feedstocks. The gasifier will be integrated with Rentech's existing PDU at the site, which uses the Rentech Process and UOP's upgrading technologies to produce renewable drop-in synthetic jet and diesel fuels at demonstration scale of 10 barrels per day. This joint demonstration of an integrated bio-refinery will lead to the final design basis for commercial facilities that are expected to use the combined technologies.

Rentech has a 25% strategic ownership interest in ClearFuels, which has begun development of multiple commercial-scale biomass-to-energy projects in the southeastern United States, Hawaii and internationally. These projects are expected to use an integrated ClearFuels-Rentech design and be co-located at sugar mills, and at wood and other biomass processing facilities.

It is expected that the life-cycle carbon footprint of renewable fuels produced by ClearFuels-Rentech technologies can be near zero, depending on the feedstock. The renewable synthetic diesel and jet fuels will meet all applicable fuels standards, be compatible with existing engines and pipelines, and burn cleanly, with emissions of particulates and other regulated pollutants significantly lower than emissions of traditional fuels. Jet fuel produced from the Fischer-Tropsch process, on which Rentech's technology is based, is the only alternative fuel type currently certified for use by the U.S. Air Force and by the Federal Aviation Administration for use in commercial aircraft.

Commenting on the award, D. Hunt Ramsbottom, President and Chief Executive Officer of Rentech, said, "We are pleased that Rentech and our partner, ClearFuels, have been selected to receive a DOE grant for an integrated bio-refinery to produce renewable synthetic fuels. The ClearFuels gasification technology complements our Rentech-SilvaGas biomass gasification process, enabling plant configurations that can be optimized for various biomass feedstocks and markets." Mr. Ramsbottom continued, "The award will be an important step in furthering Rentech's leadership position in the bio-energy space and will create green jobs at our Colorado synthetic fuels facility. We'd like to thank the DOE for recognizing the potential importance of innovative biomass-to-fuels technologies, and the impacts they can have on domestic energy production, carbon reduction, and the economy. We also appreciate the support we have received from the state of Colorado in advancing our project."

Eric Darmstaedter, Chief Executive Officer of ClearFuels, commented, "We are pleased that our team has been selected for this DOE grant and appreciate all the interest and support we received from our

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partners and investors. The co-location and integration of the ClearFuels technology at Rentech's PDU provides us a lower-cost and lower-risk pathway to commercialization. Rentech's experience successfully operating the PDU since 2008 will help facilitate a rapid and successful commercial validation of our integrated technologies."

The ClearFuels-Rentech project is one of nineteen integrated bio-refinery projects selected to receive funds from the DOE under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to accelerate the construction and operation of pilot, demonstration, and commercial scale bio-refineries. The DOE indicated that these projects will validate refining technologies and help lay the foundation for full commercial-scale development of an advanced bio-fuels industry in the United States.

In a press release announcing the grants on December 4, 2009, DOE Secretary Steven Chu said, "Advanced biofuels are critical to building a cleaner, more sustainable transportation system in the U.S. These projects will help establish a domestic industry that will create jobs here at home and open new markets across rural America."

About Rentech, Inc.

Rentech, Inc. (www.rentechinc.com), incorporated in 1981, provides clean energy solutions. The Company's Rentech-SilvaGas biomass gasification process can convert multiple biomass feedstocks into synthesis gas (syngas) for production of renewable fuels and power. Combining the gasification process with Rentech's unique application of syngas conditioning and clean-up technology and the patented Rentech Process based on Fischer-Tropsch chemistry, Rentech offers an integrated solution for production of synthetic fuels from biomass. The Rentech Process can also convert syngas from fossil resources into ultra-clean synthetic jet and diesel fuels, specialty waxes and chemicals. Final product upgrading is provided under an alliance with UOP, a Honeywell company. Rentech develops projects and licenses these technologies for application in synthetic fuels and power facilities worldwide. Rentech Energy Midwest Corporation, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, manufactures and sells nitrogen fertilizer products including ammonia, urea ammonia nitrate, urea granule, and urea solution in the corn-belt region of the central United States.

About ClearFuels Technology Inc.

ClearFuels (www.clearfuels.com) and its partners are developing advanced sustainable biorefineries that convert multiple mixed cellulosic biomass feedstocks into sustainable, high-value energy products including renewable Fischer-Tropsch (FT) diesel and jet fuel, ethanol, hydrogen and power at industry-leading yields. The ClearFuels proprietary thermochemical conversion process is based on its advanced High Efficiency Hydrothermal Reformation (HEHTR) technology for biomass-to-syngas conversion (BTG). This modular flexible BTG technology platform, in combination with various synthetic gas-to-liquid (GTL) technologies and co-locating its biorefineries at sugar mills, and at wood processing and other biomass processing facilities, provides a reduced risk, lower overall cost commercial strategy in line with ClearFuels vision for production of clean clear biofuels.

Safe Harbor

This press release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 about matters such as the ClearFuels biomass gasification technology, the ability to integrate the gasification technology with Rentech technologies, the characteristics of the renewable fuels to be produced from the technologies, and ClearFuels' proposed development projects using integrated technologies. These statements are based on management's current expectations and actual results may differ materially as a result of various risks and uncertainties. Other factors that could cause actual results to differ from those reflected in the forward-looking statements include the ability of the parties to create and successfully market a combined technology offering, the financial means of Rentech and ClearFuels to build their proposed projects, fluctuations in commodities prices including the price of oil and the materials necessary to construct a project, the impact of changing government regulations on the project permitting process and the qualification of renewable fuels and factors set forth in the Company's press releases and periodic public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which are available via Rentech's web site at www.rentechinc.com. The forward-looking statements in this press release are made as of the date of this release, and Rentech does not

undertake to revise or update these forward-looking statements, except to the extent that it is required to do so under applicable law.

For More Information

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