



DONALD DANFORTH  
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER



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## DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER AND GEOSYNFUELS, LLC FORM JOINT VENTURE

**ST. LOUIS, MO, June 12, 2009** – The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and GeoSynFuels, LLC (GSF) today announced the formation of a joint venture to produce low cost proteins such as enzymes, pharmaceuticals, and components for animal feeds. The joint venture, Agrius BioForms LLC (ABF), plans to commercialize a proprietary protein production system developed by Danforth Center and U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists, Drs. Eliot Herman and Monica Schmidt. Initial activities will focus on the production of enzymes for GSF's cellulosic biofuels process, with further uses for the technology targeted in the future.

“The partnership between the Danforth Center, the USDA and GeoSynFuels to commercialize scientific discovery is an important next step in the process of sharing the benefits of scientific discovery in a way that will have wide public benefits,” said Dr. Roger Beachy, President of the Danforth Plant Science Center.

The management of ABF brings together a breadth of knowledge tailored to the development and commercialization of technologies, with extensive experience in product development, intellectual property management, and entrepreneurial business administration. The new venture will be led by Dr. J. Todd Harvey, CEO of GeoSynFuels, who will serve as the CEO of Agrius BioForms, and governed, by a Board of Directors with representatives from GSF and the Danforth Center. Dr. Harvey announced: “We look forward to working with the world class Danforth Center organization and creating a new paradigm between plant science and biofuels.”

The advantage of ABF's technology resides in using the soybean seed and other high-protein-content seeds as protein production platforms. Soybean seeds can produce and store proteins at high levels, and Drs. Herman and Schmidt have developed a method to produce novel proteins in large amounts within the seeds. ABF's technology will use the seed as a protein “biofactory” and is expected to reduce the complexity and cost of industrial protein production significantly.

The development of ABF's technology is projected to reduce further the low cost of GSF's cellulosic biofuels process and improve GSF's ability to compete in the \$1.5 trillion global transportation fuel market. At present, the high cost of enzymes to convert biomass to biofuels is a major barrier to expansion of the industry. ABF's technology has the potential to produce low-cost, high-efficacy biofuel enzymes and assist cellulosic biofuels in improving US energy security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions while creating tens of thousands of new “green collar” jobs.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond played a significant role in the process. It was under his leadership in 2002 that the Missouri delegation worked for passage of legislation to obtain funds to locate the USDA lab and Dr. Herman at the Danforth Center. With this move, the USDA recognized the value of a creating a partnership with a new cutting edge research institute.

In addition, the underlying technology of the joint venture was refined during a two year period using funds included in the 2006 agriculture appropriations bill championed by the Senator. These funds supported one of the co-inventors, Dr. Monica Schmidt, as an Assistant Research Member in the laboratory of Dr. Eliot Herman. Dr. Herman has since joined the Danforth Center as a Member and Principal Investigator.

“The technology created by this innovative partnership has the potential to provide us with clean and sustainable energy supplies,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “It is critical that we continue to invest in life sciences research, an industry that holds amazing promise for uncovering new homegrown energy solutions, improving human health, and enhancing agriculture production and nutrition around the world.”

“Kit Bond has been a great champion for plant and agricultural science. He saw the promise and the commercial potential way ahead of most others. We have much to thank him for,” said Dr. William H. Danforth, chairman of the Donald Danforth plant Science Center.

**About GeoSynFuels, LLC**

*GeoSynFuels, LLC, based in Golden, Colorado, is focused on the development of proprietary low cost processes for the production of advanced biofuels using renewable feedstocks.*

***About The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center***

*Founded in 1998, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center is a not-for-profit research institute with a mission to improve the human condition through plant science. Research at the Danforth Center will feed the hungry and improve human health, preserve and renew the environment, and enhance the St. Louis region and Missouri as a world center for plant science. Please visit [www.danforthcenter.org](http://www.danforthcenter.org) for additional information.*

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