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Innovative technology solutions for **sustainability**

Abengoa receives USDA backing to produce bioethanol from biomass at its Hugoton factory

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved four new programs for the production of biofuels from biomass (Biomass Crop Assistance Program, BCAP), in the states of California, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington.
- The Kansas program shall be carried out in the Abengoa biomass factory with the capacity to produce up to 100 ML of cellulosic ethanol.

Seville, 29th July 2011.- Abengoa, an international company that applies innovative technology solutions for the development of sustainability in the energy and environmental sectors, has been offered the support of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to open and operate a plant that produces bioethanol from biomass (a mixture of agricultural waste and cultivated energy products).

The United States Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, recently announced the approval of four programs of support for producing bioethanol from biomass (Biomass Crop Assistance Program, BCAP), with the aim of increasing the availability of non-foodstuff crops to produce biofuels. The plants are located in California, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington, areas that produce the raw material for the production of biofuels.

One of the four programs will be executed in the state of Kansas, close to the Abengoa biomass plant, which will have a production capacity of 100 ML of cellulosic ethanol and 20 MW of renewable energy. The plant will create about 100 permanent jobs and it is expected to start operations towards the end of 2013.

Cultivated energy products are fast growing plantations seeking to produce energy in any of its types: thermal, electric or by transforming it into biofuels. BCAP, which is included in the 2008 Law on Agriculture, Nutrition and Bioenergy known as the "Farm Bill", was developed to help farmers and land owners cultivate energy products.

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These four new programs will altogether generate more than 3,400 jobs in the rural areas, a goal also shared by Abengoa who searches for possibilities in all its projects to create new sustainable rural development opportunities, encouraging the cultivation of energy products and the creation of agribusinesses, and thus contributing to maintain the income and work levels in the rural environment.

The USDA support joins the recent approval granted by the European Commission to the Sustainability Certification Standard RED Bioenergy Sustainability Assurance (RBSA), willingly developed by Abengoa. This institutional consensus guarantees the Abengoa commitment to develop biofuels which generate new opportunities of economic development in the local communities and create agribusinesses to contribute to the rising levels of jobs and income in the rural areas, without neglecting the company's commitment to the research and development of more sustainable technology solutions in the production processes of the transport industry and, in so doing, greatly cutting down on CO₂ emissions.

About Abengoa

Abengoa (MCE: ABG) is an international company that applies innovative technology solutions for sustainable development in the energy and environment sectors, generating electricity from the sun, producing biofuels, desalinating sea water and recycling industrial waste. (www.abengoa.com).

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