



## **The Focus-Abengoa Foundation and F.O. Licht open the 11th edition of the World Biofuels 2012 conference in Seville**

Seville, 9 May 2012. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation and F.O. Licht today opened the 11th edition of the World Biofuels 2012 conference, at the Foundation's headquarters in the Hospital de los Venerables, Seville. The ceremony was attended by José B. Terceiro, President of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and Vice-chairman of Abengoa; Christoph Berg, Executive Manager of F.O. Licht; Antonio Vallespir de Gregorio, Executive Vice-chairman of Abengoa Bioenergy, and Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.

This conference, which forms part of the *Focus-Abengoa Forum on Energy and Climate Change*, has become a leading forum for experts in the biofuels and biodiesel sector from the principal markets around the world. Over the course of two days, participants will examine the main changes and developments that have taken place in the sector over the last year, highlighting the major advances that have occurred in this field mainly in the USA and Europe; they will study possible modifications to the legal framework required by existing markets; and they will discuss the challenges and milestones for the coming years, especially through bio-products.

During the presentation of the 11th edition of the conference, José B. Terceiro said, "For the first time in the last ten years, bioethanol production has decreased compared to 2010, as a result of low production in Brazil, while biodiesel production has increased. The USA continues to be the leading exporter of bioethanol, while Argentina is the leader in the biodiesel market. The European Union was the principal destination for exports from both markets, which once again highlights the urgent need to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels – and the European Commission's obligation to implement strict customs controls on these exports to prevent dumping in the European market, as we have seen in the past".

José B. Terceiro reminded those present of the importance that commercial second generation bioethanol production plants will soon have – in less than one year – which despite the complex economic environment, "means we can talk about advanced bioethanol today as an existing rather than a future option". That is why the latest opportunities that the sector is analysing for the future will be the production of bio-plastics and bio-chemicals using technologies in which Abengoa has extensive experience, such as fermentation, and the application of new technologies aimed at the creation of bio-products.

"The ultimate objective is to create new products that in the coming years must substitute a large part of our existing oil-based products, in a sustainable and competitive way", added Abengoa's Vice-chairman.



The initiatives that Abengoa is developing in its biofuels production processes in the field of sustainability and environmental care are ongoing, although it is also worth mentioning the RED Bioenergy Sustainability Assurance Standard (RBSA) developed by Abengoa and approved by the European Commission in July 2011.

Developed within the framework of the Renewable Energy Directive, the RBSA Standard enables the marketing and sale of biofuels that have been certified as “sustainable” in every EU member state and demonstrates the compliance of any raw material or production process with the requirements of the Directive, from agricultural production through to the sale of the biofuels, including industrial transformation processes.

Furthermore, this system incorporates innovative technology developed by Abengoa, principally for calculating greenhouse gas emissions and developing sustainability maps in order to facilitate an effective and thorough implementation of these new sustainability requirements in its supply chains.

The 11th World Biofuels conference forms part of the activities of the *Focus-Abengoa Forum on Energy and Climate Change*, which promotes initiatives in the field of energy research and the analysis of topics and issues related to renewable energy and business activities. The purpose of the forum is to contribute to the debate on the change of the energy model, from a multidisciplinary perspective.

World Biofuels 2012 aims to promote, through public discussions, a genuine open platform for the research, presentation and debate of ideas and results through those actions that are deemed to be appropriate at any given time based on the characteristics of the issues to be analysed.

### **Focus-Abengoa Foundation**

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm's core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, following the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007.



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