

R004-E  
“Mobile Biodiesel Production Facility”  
Submitted by the Energy & Environmental Research Center  
Principal Investigator: David Dunham  
Request for \$75,000; Total Project Costs \$150,000

Commerce Advisor Comments

- One reviewer recommended funding, one recommended funding may be considered, and one recommended do not fund.
- The reviewer that did recommend funding felt that several questions should be mandatory for funding.
- While all reviewers indicate the project objectives are achievable, two reviewers felt there were issues with the proposed methodology.
- One reviewer raised valid concerns regarding the safety of small scale production as well as fuel quality.
- The PI provided clarification; however we would like to caution the Council that the clarification has not been evaluated by the technical reviewers.
- Matching funds are not secured. If successful, matching funds will not be awarded until Fall 2009.

Commerce Advisor Recommendations

Funding may be considered. It is important to note that this application is *only proposing the first stage of research*. Its focus will be proving the effectiveness of ultrasonic catalysis mixing, a technology that could dramatically decrease the time required to make biodiesel and allow biodiesel to be produced in continuous inline processing systems. Therefore, the end product will not be a mobile biodiesel production facility. The applicant states that funding for future research stages will be sought from other industry sources. However, there are no letters of support from industry. The project would be enhanced if there were demonstrated industry interest.

If the award is granted, Commerce advises the following contingencies:

- Documentation confirming the availability of the matching funds from the DOE Center for Biomass Utilization Grant.
- Industrial Commission and the Renewable Energy Program will receive recognition in all literature, and other project related public relation efforts with the following reference: Funded in part by the North Dakota Industrial Commission Renewable Energy Program.
- The project data and reports shall be provided to the Department of Commerce & Renewable Energy Council in both electronic and hard-copy formats with permission for unrestricted distribution. The electronic versions shall be in a suitable format for hosting on the Department of Commerce and Renewable Energy Council web sites.