

R024-B: Catalytic Alcohol Condensation to Higher Alcohols

Submitted by EERC

Principal Investigator: Bruce Folkedahl

Request for \$250,000; Total Project Costs \$500,000

Technical Advisor Comments

- Two reviewers recommended fund, one recommended funding may be considered.
- The 50% cash match comes from industry (\$120,000 – National Corn Growers, \$130,000 – Hankinson Renewable Energy).
- One reviewer had concerns that the project could not be completed in the proposed timeline.
- The reviewers would have liked more information about the project team members and their expertise, as well as the percentage of the budget that would go to each team member.
- One reviewer would have liked proof-of-concept data, preliminary economic assessment, or other documentation that supports the performance of the catalytic technology for converting ethanol.
- All three reviewers felt the methodology was appropriate and that the EERC has the resources required to complete the proposed project.
- All three reviewers would have liked more information about the current research activity occurring.
- One reviewer would have liked more information about the current status of their catalyst work and what needs to be completed.

Technical Advisor Recommendations

Fund. There is significant industry investment in the proposal, with 26% of the total project cost coming from a ND ethanol plant. This indicates both a need for the project and willingness to keep the project moving forward to commercialization. The project is further strengthened by utilizing an excellent ND research facility. Pursuing technological advancements such as this helps preserve the ethanol plants in ND along with their contributions to rural economies.

Suggested Contingencies If Funded

- Due to changes in personnel at the National Corn Growers, the applicant was unable to obtain a letter of commitment. Funding should be contingent upon commitment of 50% match by industry partners.