ExxonMobil, REG partner with Clariant to boost cellulosic biofuel research

Partnership to expand on joint ExxonMobil and REG research into cellulosic biodiesel.

ExxonMobil and Renewable Energy Group (REG) said they have signed a joint research agreement with Clariant to evaluate the potential use of cellulosic sugars from sources such as agricultural waste and residues to produce biofuel.

Before partnering with Clariant, the two companies had already studied the ability of REG Life Sciences bio-conversion technology to convert sugars from cellulosic biomass into biodiesel through a single-step process. The companies' ultimate objective is to combine Clariant's and REG's processes into a seamless cellulosic biomass-to-biodiesel technology.

"Over the past three years, our work with REG has led to important advances in genetically improving REG's proprietary microbes for a beneficial use in facilitating the conversion of cellulosic sugars into biodiesel," said Vijay Swarup, vice president of research and development at ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company.

Clariant will conduct trials at its pre-commercial plant in Straubing, Germany using different types of cellulosic feedstock that will be converted into sugars for conversion by REG and ExxonMobil into high-quality, low-carbon biodiesel.

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