

Subcommittee Report Outs

Biomass Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

March 1-2, 2012

Feedstock Subcommittee:

Information Requests and Recommendations 2012:

Funding

- Report of funds going back to FY2009, with a breakout of dollars authorized for BRDI, dollars appropriated and dollars committed to solicitations.
- Chart and report past years' awards since 2009: Dollar amount, PI, feedstock types, geography, and activity.
- What does the 'funnel' look like from the solicitation being released to the panel review to the award? Is there a joint award pot or separate amounts and awardees for DOE and USDA?
- Crosswalk the awards with the BRDI categories and TAC recommendations.

Process

- Access to solicitations, and timelines. Total number of pre-proposals by year, full proposals by year invited to submit, awards and dollar amount.
- Proposal evaluation criteria is needed from the solicitation, highlighting previous years' changes.
- Step by step for the process, and snapshots of the makeup of proposal reviewers. What were the demographics (e.g. geography, education levels) of the panelists and site visit groups? Categories should include University, State, Commodity, Federal, Industry, Non-Profit?

Big Picture

- Who sets award size, how is the decision arrived at? Who writes the solicitation, where does the direction come from for the solicitation?
- What information is needed besides 9008 to make recommendations?
- Report on FY2011 solicitation/awardees from Carmela at Q2. How can the TAC provide inputs before annual solicitation is released?

Conversion Subcommittee:

Process Discussion

1. Bring in an analyst to discuss R&D money spent across all the agencies since inconsistencies in design case studies and economic projections prove that more information is needed and a clear understanding of the needed solutions can lead to better discussions on process gaps
 - a. For all agencies involved in biomass funding DOD, DOE, USDA, NSF...

- i. Which feedstocks and products?
- ii. What technology stage and what scale?
- iii. Which types of processes (i.e. biochemical, biological, thermochemical, other)

Solicitation process

- a. TAC would like see full solicitations - out as a public comment (or as an RFI)
- b. Solicitations should be open, fair and non-prescriptive and should enable:
 - i. Individual components within overall integrated process system
 - ii. Engineering interfaces
 - iii. Systems approach
- c. Application process for final grant should have more technical substance, less emphasis on format
 - i. Save paperwork associated with the award, yet not needed for assessing merit, for only those proposals selected for funding.
- d. Review process
 - i. Review panel improvements
 1. More background information – have them read solicitation
 2. Diversity of reviewers, qualification of reviewers
 - ii. Continual reviewing of projects (DOE and ARPA-E examples)
 1. Accomplishments versus strategic objectives of the solicitation

Infrastructure Subcommittee:

Initial Recommendation for the Committee

- Infrastructure Subcommittee should be authorized to provide recommendations on feedstock logistics.
- Infrastructure Subcommittee will continue to focus efforts on down-stream infrastructure activities.

Major Challenges and R&D Potential Impacts

- **Downstream infrastructure Challenge:** Ethanol market beyond E10 is needed for continued investments in cellulosic ethanol.
- **Downstream Infrastructure R&D:** Limited meaningful R&D potential impacts.

- **Feedstock Logistics Challenge:** Under what conditions, could cellulosic feedstocks be delivered to a biorefinery at an economic cost, including potential for distributed processing in depots to densify and add value to biomass.
- **Feedstock Logistics R&D:** More rigorous analysis of key cost factors, including market costs, land rents, agricultural inputs, and other factors, would help better understand cost of biomass delivered to biorefinery with and without distributed processing in depot. How could depots help catalyze formation of biomass supply chains, including multiple products from depots with

established markets (eg, torrefied pellets, animal feeds)? Potential of depots to increase rural wealth and economic development.

Information Needed for Future Recommendations

Information from BRDI

- More information from BRDI on details about what specific criteria, and data requirements, are used to evaluate the BRDI solicitations.
- More information from BRDI about how decisions made about funding allocation to each of the topic areas, beyond the 15% requirement.
- Portion of the BRDI funding that supports feedstock logistics activities, and more information about BRDI's view on the relative importance of feedstock logistics.

Outside experts and material

- Feedstock Logistics experts from AGCO
- Idaho National Lab speakers

Initial Recommendations

- Fund more analysis projects on understanding and reducing feedstock logistics costs.
- For future solicitations, more extensive data should be required, feedstock costs...