



News Release

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Iowa Corn Opportunities invest in microwave technology *Innovative process means big energy savings for ethanol producers*

AMES, Iowa – June 23, 2008 – Iowa Corn Opportunities, LLC (ICO) the business development arm of the Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA), has made an investment to further the development and promotion of a new microwave technology for drying distiller's grains at ethanol facilities.

The technology was presented to ICO by Cellencor Corporation, and their utility marketing partner Alliant Energy, during a field trial at Heron Lake Bio-Energy in Minnesota on May 7, 2008. Microwave drying could save ethanol producers 20 percent or more in operating costs.

Microwaves use less energy to dry ethanol byproducts than natural gas systems because they work from the inside of the product out, as opposed to the outside of the product in. "We're confident microwaves will significantly reduce the dollars per ton required to dry corn compared to traditional natural gas drying methods," said Dr. J. Bruce Wicking, president of Cellencor.

According to ICO's chief operating officer, Brian Jones, he and other ICG representatives identified many benefits to the technology and really see it as a win-win situation for the agricultural community and ethanol industry. "Microwave drying will provide energy cost savings to ethanol plants as well as an opportunity to help the environment and improve the value of ethanol coproducts," he said. "We're proud to support this kind of innovation."

Microwave dryers can be installed in new ethanol facilities and be retrofitted for use in existing plants. "They're a great benefit for any company wanting to save on energy costs," said David Wentzel, Strategic Account Manager for Alliant Energy. "This technology could eventually help ethanol plants become more energy efficient and maybe one day totally energy independent."

For more information about microwave drying, visit www.alliantenergy.com/microwave.

Iowa Corn Opportunities, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ICGA, organized to implement ICGA strategies in the area of new business development, visit www.iowacornopportunities.com

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