

## **Work Starts on Evaluation of Energy-Saving Forest Bio-Refinery Technology for Major Paper Companies in Wisconsin**

MADISON, Wis. (June 28, 2005) – The Center for Technology Transfer Inc. (“CTT”) announced that projects financed by CTT have begun at two major Wisconsin paper companies to evaluate a new technology, called “Black Liquor Gasification (BLG).” BLG would save an average-sized plant on the order of 200 million kWh per annum (more than \$11 mm of electricity at current prices), reduce environmental emissions by up to 90%, and significantly accelerate the paper industry’s push into biorefining. BLG has been developed by ThermoChem Recovery International (TRI). Major funding of CTT is provided by Wisconsin's Focus on Energy Program.

Wisconsin is the number one paper producing state in the Nation so any technologies which help Wisconsin papermakers have many positive affects on the state. CTT became TRI’s partner in Wisconsin for the commercialization of this new technology. While the initial focus is on black-liquor gasification, TRI’s core technology is a key ingredient in efforts to derive additional chemicals and fuels from the by-products created when wood is converted to pulp in preparation for papermaking. As such it represents an important component of CTT’s extensive efforts in forest bio-refining. These efforts include the formation of a National Forest Products Bio-Refining Consortium, preparation of a \$3 million grant application to the US Department of Energy bio-refinery initiative and briefing both Republican and Democratic elected officials on the considerable energy, environmental, and business impacts of bio-refining technologies,

### **Description of Black Liquor Gassification**

Black liquor is a bi- product of the chemical pulping process and a source of energy for the paper making industry. This chemical by-product is currently burned in recovery boilers to generate about 40 percent of the energy required for paper making and recover chemicals needed for pulping. The new black liquor steam reforming technology recovers more of the energy contained in black liquor via the gasification process. It will eliminate the potential for hazardous smelt-water explosions and the inefficient loss of heat from molten smelt. It also reduces environmental emissions dramatically (Additional information on BLG can be found at <http://www.tri-inc.net/tritech.htm>)

### **Center for Technology Transfer**

CTT is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that commercializes new technologies and improves the competitiveness of Wisconsin’s key industry clusters. Its mission is to accelerate the development and industry adoption of process improvements and



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innovations that are energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. By improving energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption, these new technologies will reduce operating costs for Wisconsin businesses making them more competitive and allowing them to retain and create jobs. It also will keep more money in Wisconsin by reducing the amount of energy purchased from other states and nations. Major funding of CTT is provided by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Focus on Energy Program. (Additional information on CTT can be found at <http://www.cttinc.org>)

### **ThermoChem Recovery International**

ThermoChem Recovery International is headquartered in Baltimore MD and was founded in 1996. TRI's mission is to lead the pulp and paper industry into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by providing gasification technologies for the processing of spent liquors, and other biomasses, integrated with processes to generate process steam, electricity, or biofuels and biochemicals. Additional information on TRI can be found at <http://www.tri-inc.net>.

### **For more information about:**

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TRI: call Eric Connor (410) 525-2400 or visit <http://www.tri-inc.net>

Focus on Energy: call (800)762-7077 or visit <http://www.focusonenergy.com>