

BESTF3 Final Forum: Large-scale investment in close-to-market implementation of bioenergy

The BESTF3 FINAL FORUM organised by the German Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) was the final conference of this ERA-NET Cofund. It was held on 21st November 2019 at the International Auditorium, Brussels, during the 9th Stakeholder Plenary Meeting (SPM9) of the European Technology and Innovation Platform Bioenergy (ETIP Bioenergy) and in parallel with the H2020 ADVANCEFUEL project workshop.

The ERA-NET Cofund Bioenergy Sustaining the Future 3 (BESTF3) is an initiative funded by Horizon 2020. It is the final BioEnergy Cofund, building on two previous BESTF programmes, the first of which started in 2013. The three BESTF programmes have funded nine demonstration projects with total project costs of approximately €28 million. The Cofunds were supported jointly by Member States and the European Commission, in order to demonstrate, de-risk and scale up bioenergy technologies, to help innovation become commercial reality.

During the event, moderated by Chris Young (BESTF Secretariat), five projects funded under BESTF2 and BESTF3 were presented. First, the coordinators of projects Waste2Bio and MSWBH presented their achievements developing technologies and pathways for the utilization of organic fraction of municipal solid wastes for production of bioethanol, butanol and hydrogen. Subsequent project presentations focused on the development of cost effective yeast fermentation pathways for commercial production of cellulosic ethanol (CoRyFee) and the development of a direct port injection gas engine that uses compressed syngas supplied via gasification of biomass and wastes (Phoenix Power).

The coordinator of the BESTF3 project SegraBio, Thomas Koch (TK Energy, Denmark) highlighted a number of issues experienced by prototype/demonstration transnational bioenergy projects, some of which lead to the early closure of project SegraBio. In general, the highly complex nature of the technologies under development, the high cost of demonstration, the fluctuating price of energy carriers and the changing market and legal conditions combine to produce a high-risk profile for these kind of projects. Peter Metcalf (Wilson Bio-Chemical Limited, UK) and Steve Butler (Sol Environment, UK), coordinators of MSWBH and Phoenix Power respectively, confirmed the difficulties of achieving follow-on funding. Both consortia, having achieved promising results and successfully reaching their project goals, are struggling to secure investment to bring their technologies to market. Although challenging, follow on funding can be achieved as illustrated by the Danish-Swedish consortium of project CoRyFee. They have recently been awarded funding via the Commission's EIC "Fast Track to Innovation" programme which will enable further rapid development of the technology towards commercialisation.

Following the project presentations a panel discussion was held which included representatives from the European Commission – Dr. Maria Georgiadou (DG Research), the BESTF funders - Birger Kerckow (FNR, DE), – BESTF evaluators - Lars Waldheim (Waldheim Consulting, SE, ETIP Bioenergy) and the funded projects – Caterina Coll Lozano (Imecal, SP) and Thomas Koch (TK Energy, DK). Topics discussed by the panellists included the future role of Bioenergy in achieving European climate goals, the experiences gained and lessons learned by the BESTF projects, international collaboration and the impact of funding, and future bioenergy funding and the legacy of BESTF.

All presentations held during the event can be found under the following link:

http://download.fnr-server.de/download.php?file=609BESTF3_Final_Forum.Presentations.21.11.2019.zip

For more information, please contact [Boris Vashev](#) at the FNR.



Steve Butler (Sol Environment, UK) presenting the BESTF3 project Phoenix Power
Source: Vashev, FNR



Exciting panel discussion including the current situation and future prospects for bioenergy research funding
Source: Vashev, FNR