

# 2013 DOE Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) Project Peer Review

## Demonstration of Pyrolysis Biorefinery Concept for Biopower, Biomaterials and Biochar

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Bio-Oil Technology Area Review

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# Goals/Objective Statement

## Project Goals:

- Design, Build and Operate 2.5 ton/day Integrated Pilot Plant
  - Wood and corn stover feedstocks
  - Make Products and Collect Engineering Data
  - Demonstrate continuous operation
- Pre-Commercial Testing of Products
  - Asphalt, Chemical, Fuel Oil, Transportation Fuels and Biochar Applications

## Supports BETO Goals:

- Process integration and scale-up of novel Avello<sup>®</sup> FRAC fractionation technology, **(Tt-E, Tt-I, Tt-K)**
- Product demonstrations and R&D (including **Tt-G**)
  - Biofuel Oil<sup>™</sup> combustion for power
  - Bioasphalt<sup>®</sup> for non-energy applications (petroleum replacement)
  - Feedstocks for specialty chemicals and advanced biofuels

# Project Quad Chart Overview

## Timeline

- Project start date: TBD
- Project end date: 3 yrs. From start
- Percent complete: 0%

## Budget

**Total project funding: \$8,967,012**

- **DOE: \$2,500,000**
- **Cost share: \$6,467,012**

Funding received in FY 2011: \$0

Funding in FY 2012 (proposed)

- DOE: \$583k
- Cost share: \$113.6k

Funding for FY 2013 (proposed)

- DOE: \$1.917M
- Cost share: \$2.53M

ARRA Funding - NO

Years the project has been funded & average annual funding -None

## Barriers

- **Tt-E.** Liquefaction of Biomass and Bio-Oil Stability
- **Tt-K.** Bio-Oil Pathways Process Integration
- **Tt-I.** Sensors and Controls

## Partners & Roles

- Avello – Lead
- ConTech – EPC
- Emerson – Engineering support
- Borregaard – Product R&D
- Cargill – Biofuel Oil demo
- Leading roofing company – Bioasphalt R&D
- Virent – Biofuels R&D
- ISU – Biomass and product R&D
- APAI, Iowa DOT, USDA – Advisors

# Project Overview

Biomass  
Prep and  
Handling

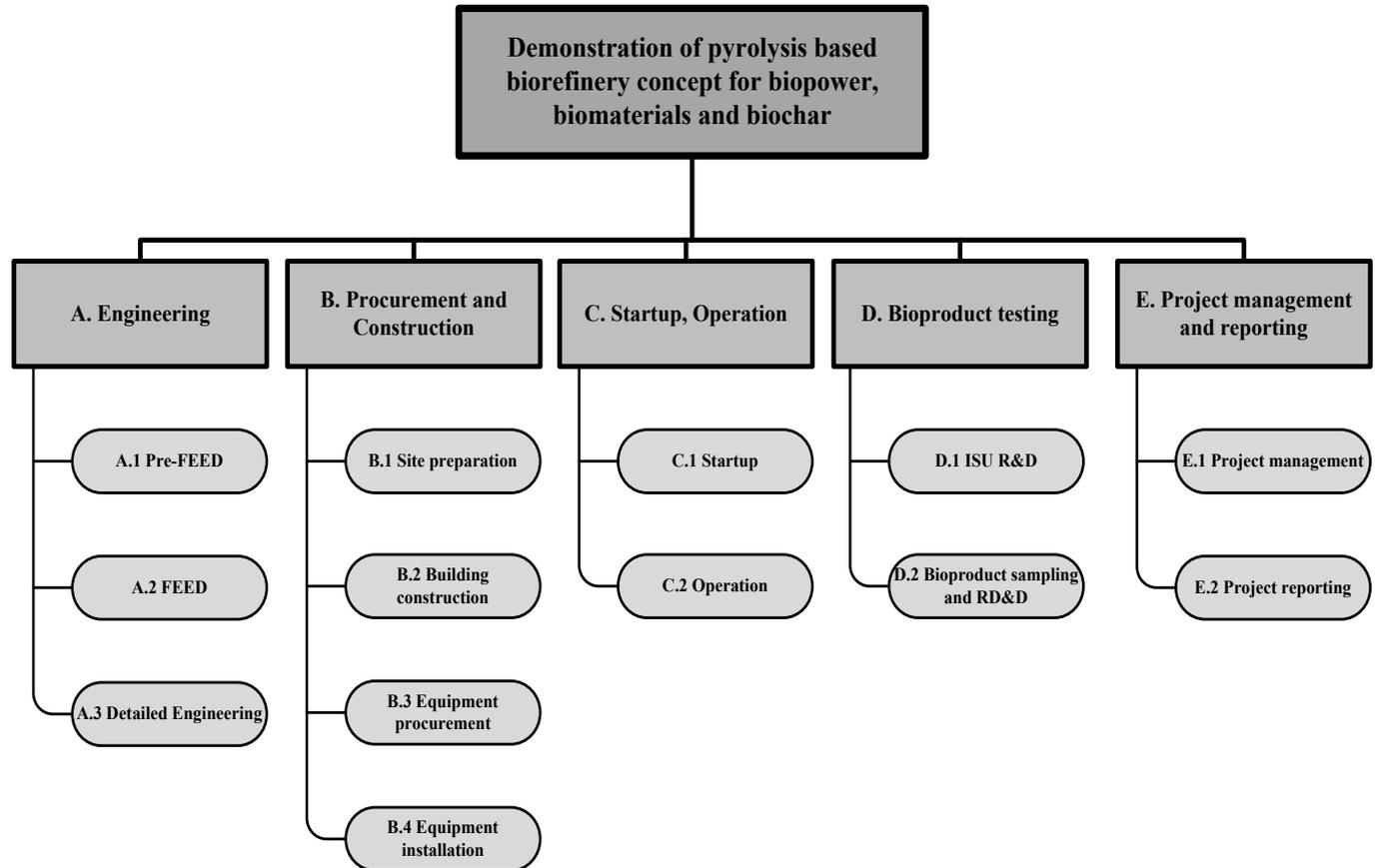
Pyrolysis and  
Fractionation

Bioproduct  
upgrading and  
testing

- Process integration of the entire process train including
  - Biomass pre-processing
  - Pyrolysis conversion and fractionation of Bio-oil
  - Bio-oil fraction use and upgrading as petroleum replacement products
  - Front-end and back-end storage/logistics
  - Bioasphalt production (not shown above)
- Main technical barriers
  - Tt-E. Liquefaction of Biomass and Bio-Oil Stability
  - Tt-K. Bio-Oil Pathways Process Integration

# 1 - Approach

## Work Breakdown Structure (from PMP)

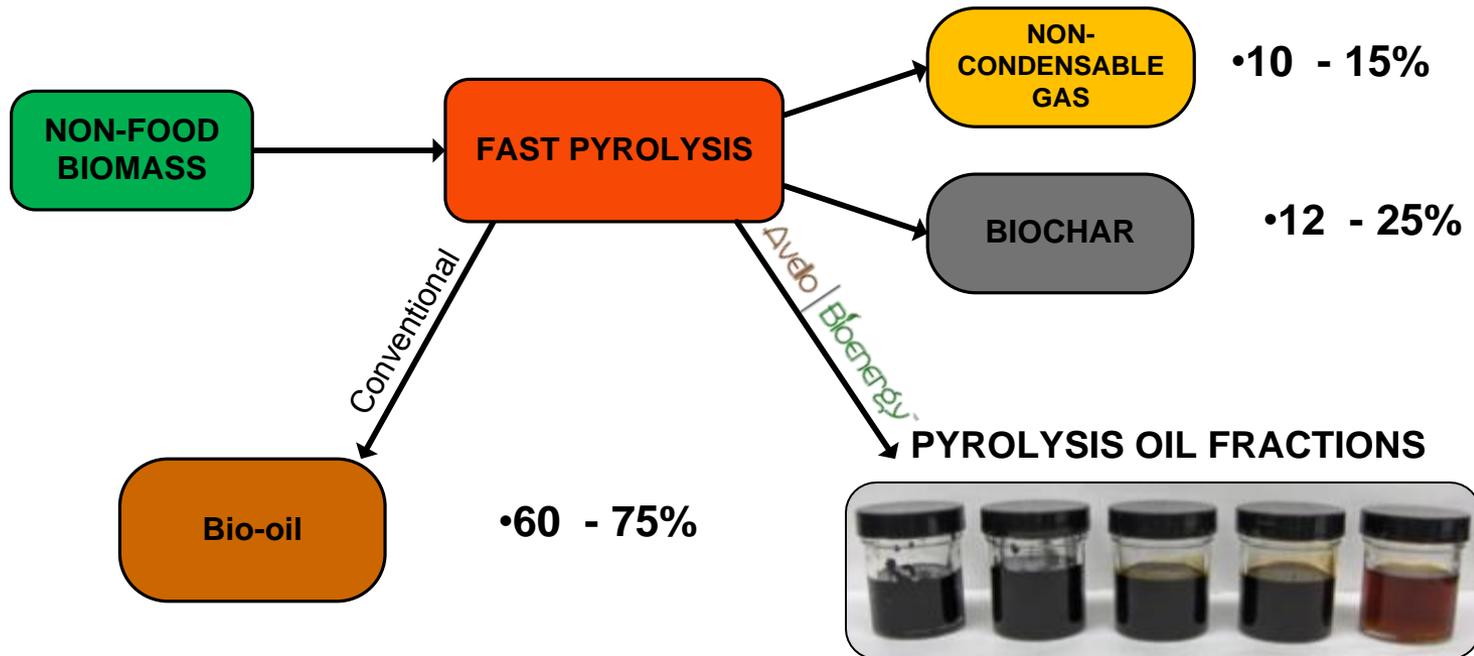


- Leverage PDU data and experience for scale-up
- Leverage market leader expertise in product evaluation and development
- Project milestones, schedule, and risk mitigation via PMP
- 5 project tasks
- Phase reviews after subtasks
- Go/No-Go decision point after detailed engineering → Budget Period 2
-

## 2 - Technical Background and Planned Activities

- Current status of technology
- Project Overview
- Project Site
- Project Workflow
- Project RD&D

# Avello™ FRAC Technology Differentiation



## Single Fraction

- Corrosive, poor properties
- Complex chemical mixture

## Multiple Fractions

- Separate acids and water
- Higher energy, less corrosive, more stable

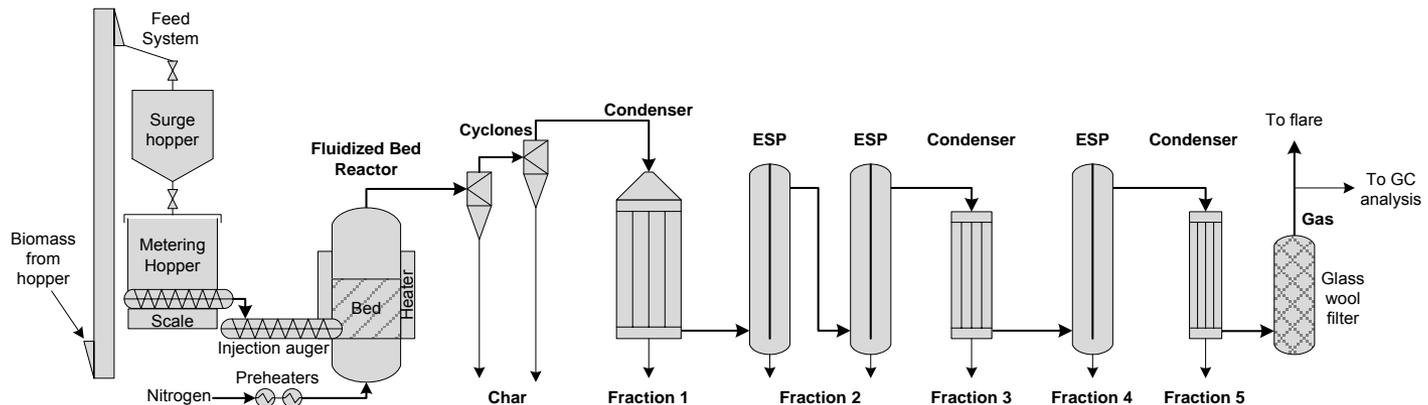
# Avello<sup>®</sup> FRAC Pilot Plant



•Liquid Product Recovery

•Feed System

•Reactor and Cyclones



# Status of Technologies



## Fractionation Technology

- ¼ ton/day pilot plant
- > 525 hours operation
- Multiple feedstocks
  - Cornstover, Pine, Oak, Switchgrass
- Multiple 24hr/day continuous campaigns
- Strategic Partner sample evaluation



## Bioasphalt® binder

- Developed by Dr. Chris Williams (ISU)
- Meets AASHTO specs
- October 2010, IDOT Demo in Polk County
  - 10' x 1 mile trail
  - 3% additive to petroleum asphalt binder
  - Standard blending and paving equipment

# Biofuel Oil™ Combustion



~1 gal/hr EZ-1 residential burner with Econox inline nozzle heater from Carlin Combustion Technologies

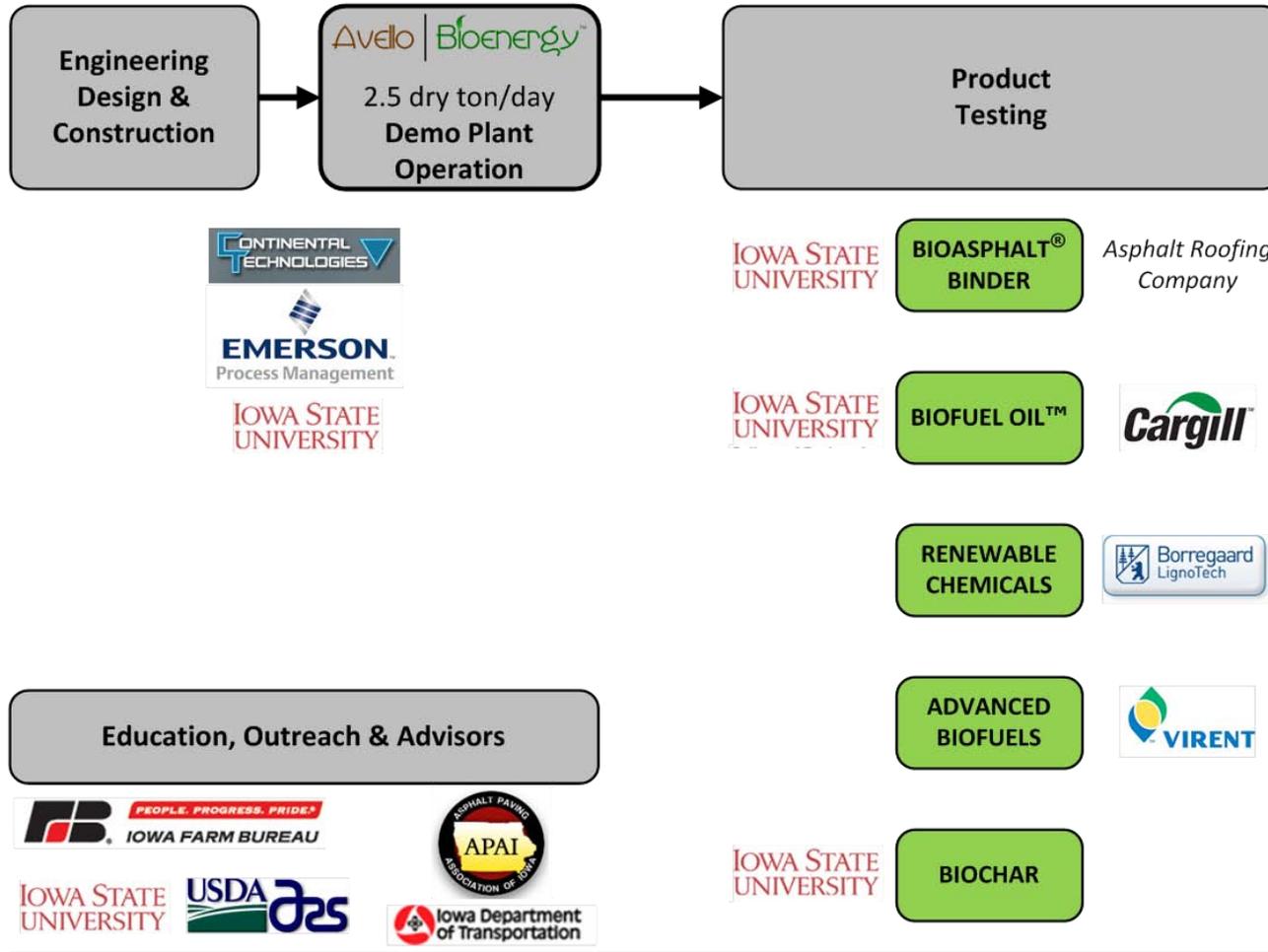
- Fraction 3 tested as-is in conventional home heating burner by Brookhaven National Laboratory
- Acceptable performance and reduced emissions compared to ULSD

Property	Biofuel Oil <sup>1</sup>	Conventional Pyrolysis Oil <sup>2</sup>	No. 2 Fuel Oil <sup>2</sup>
Moisture content (wt%)	7	20 - 25	< 1.0
HHV (BTU/gal)	96,000	72,000 – 80,000	138,500

1. From Red Oak feedstock. Properties shown for specific sample tested by Brookhaven National Laboratory in combustion application (May 2012).  
 2. Easterly, James L. "Assessment of Bio-Oil as a Replacement for Heating Oil." 1 Nov. 2002. Web: <<http://www.nrbp.org/pdfs/pub34.pdf>>.

# Project Overview/Partners

## Avello Bioenergy Demonstration Plant Project Partners

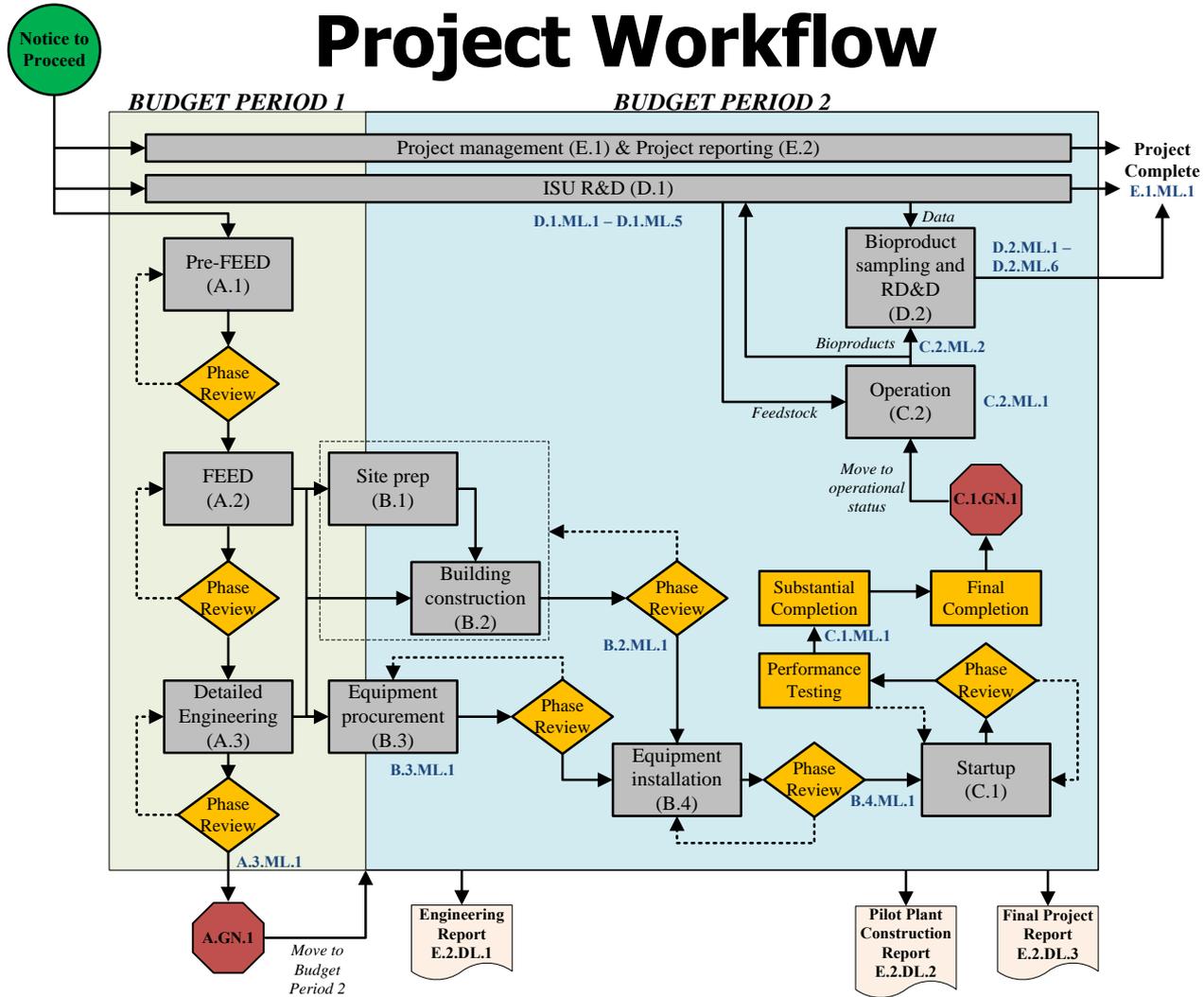


# BCRF Site

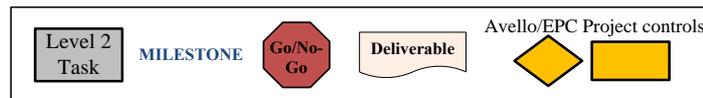


\* Approximate size and location shown for lease area

# Project Workflow



## KEY



# Project RD&D

## Feedstocks

- ISU ABE Dept., **Matt Darr**
- **AGCO**
- Single pass stover baling
- Switchgrass likely
- Harvest, Storage, Transport (HST)
- Pre-treatment
- Torrefaction?

## Bioasphalt® binder

- ISU CCEE Dept., **Chris Williams**
- Performance testing & verifications
- Coordinate up to 4 demo paving projects with **IA DOT** and **APAI**
- **Roofing Company**
- Roofing asphalt formulations
- Analysis, blending, modifying, performance testing

## Biofuel Oil™

- ISU ME Dept., **Terry Meyer & Song-C. Kong**
- **Goodrich Engine Components**
- **John Deere Power Systems**
- Non-transport biofuel blends
- Combustion testing: furnace (heat) and stationary engine (power)
- Emissions analysis
- **Cargill**
- Co-fire test burn
- Renewable power & reduced CO<sub>2</sub> profile for biofuels

## Chemicals

- **Borregaard LignoTech**
- Analysis, characterization, screening, modifying
- Specialty, high-value chemical applications

## Biofuels

- **Virent**
- Feasibility study
- Bench and pilot scale testing
- Utilize BioForming to convert Biooil fractions to drop in fuels.
- Proof-of-concept completed

## Biochar

- ISU ABE Dept., **Matt Darr**
- Post-production handling and processing
- Investigate densification methods

# 3 - Relevance

- Project focuses on petroleum replacement products (fuels, materials, chemicals) that reduce dependence on foreign oil
  - Seek to prove commercial feasibility (economic and technical) of products
  - Seek to demonstrate compatibility within existing infrastructure (fuel, transportation, chemical)
  - Remove water and acid from bio-oil for new downstream processing schemes
- Joint development with public and private partnerships to leverage expertise, cut cost
- Evaluate various biomass feedstocks to quantify risk (feedstock supply critical risk)
- Test high performance separation technology (conversion critical risk)
- Test biopower demonstration and deployment (demonstration and deployment risk)

# 4 - Critical Success Factors

- Critical success factors (managed using PMP):
  - Process Scale-up, product performance and compatibility with existing infrastructure (technical)
  - Market acceptance, product cost (market)
  - Project Management
- Top Challenges:
  - Process scale-up: uniting solid feedstock processing with liquid processing; using commercial equipment for bio-oil applications
  - Product/Markets: demonstration petroleum product replacement viability
- Successfully advancing technology:
  - Prove process scalability
  - Prove commercial end-use applications, market acceptance, compatibility



# Summary

- Large integrated pilot scale plant and commercial product testing will build upon previous developmental scale work, refine economics and prepare for commercial scale up
- Public and private partnerships to leverage expertise, cut costs, increase probability of successful project
- Management team, advisors, and partnerships to manage critical success factors and solve/minimize challenges

# Additional Slides

# Avello Bioenergy Fast Pyrolysis Technology Platform

