Ag | Innovation Showcase

Breeding Scientific Innovations, Harvesting Global Commercial Breakthroughs
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center | St. Louis, MO | May 23 - 24, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keynote Speakers Highlight Global Leadership Role Of Third Annual Ag Innovation Showcase

Gregory Lucier, CEO of genomic innovator Life Technologies
Jason Pyle, CEO of algae-based fuel pioneer Sapphire Energy

St. Louis, MO, April 1, 2011 – The CEO of the global biotechnology company whose products will facilitate genomic innovations in agriculture and the CEO of one of the world's leading innovators in creating algae-based fuel will be keynote speakers at the third annual Ag Innovation Showcase, May 23-24, at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, the largest independent plant science research institute in the world.

Gregory T. Lucier, Chairman and CEO of Life Technologies Corp. and **Jason Pyle**, MD, PhD, and CEO of Sapphire Energy, Inc., will address the new challenges and key issues in the rapidly changing area of agriculture, ranging from biofuels to food production.

The Ag Innovation Showcase (www.agshowcase.com) has quickly become the leading global event for agriculture's industry leaders, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and investors. Held in St. Louis, the heartland of American agriculture, the two-day program has broad reach and offers participants a platform for dialogue, discussion and deal-making in the full range of agricultural sectors – ag-bio, food and nutrition, biofuels, sustainable materials and equipment, clean-tech, information technology and animal protein.

Keynote Speakers' Depth of Experience

As Chairman and CEO of Life Technologies Corp., Lucier heads a company whose 50,000 products enable scientific research throughout the world. As the leading provider of genetic analysis instruments, Life Technologies powers genomic research for better understanding of the genetics of plants and animals, and through synthetic biology, offers a vision for rational design of crops and plants to take agricultural engineering to bring crop yields and outputs to a whole new level. Life Technologies also demonstrates the global growth potential of science-based businesses, having grown dramatically since its beginnings just over 20 years ago and especially rapidly in the past decade. Lucier received his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and his B.S. in Engineering from Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Pyle has wide-ranging expertise in microbiology and bioengineering. As co-founder and CEO of Sapphire Energy, he is exploring scientific frontiers that could lead to significant advances in converting algae into biofuels to address global issues of energy independence and

climate change. Sapphire is known for its leading work in bio-energy by applying synthetic biology and agriculture to produce drop-in replacement fuels such as gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel from algae. Sapphire recently announced a multi-year collaboration with Monsanto that will leverage Sapphire's algae-based research expertise to discover genes that could be applied to agriculture, particularly in the field of yield and stress. Dr. Pyle holds numerous pending and issued patents in the engineering and biological sciences and has worked in diverse cross-discipline areas such as nanofabrication, optical engineering, and structural biology. He holds a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Physiology and an MD from Stanford University, as well as degrees in optical engineering and physics from the University of Arizona.

Third Annual Ag Showcase Overview

In addition to the keynote addresses, the Ag Innovation Showcase annually highlights presentations by up-and-coming entrepreneurial companies with solutions to the most pressing challenges facing agriculture. By connecting a prime network of entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and investors in the ag space, the Showcase offers outstanding opportunities for originating strategic deals, partnerships and collaborative business ventures between participants. Attendance last year at the second annual Showcase increased 28 percent more than the first hugely successful event, with attendees from India, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and across North America.

The 2011 Ag Innovation Showcase will also feature a number of panel presentations and discussions, including a Global Ag Economic Forum plenary session, featuring a panel of prominent international ag economists. In addition to innovative approaches to increasing investment in agricultural research, science and technology to deliver a more winning scenario that will benefit both the world's poor and the ag stakeholders, the discussion will focus on future developments in Brazil and China, which are beginning to play a large role in driving future agriculture trends.

About the Ag Innovation Showcase
Established in 2009, the Ag Innovation Showcase has quickly become the leading annual global event for agriculture's industry leaders, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and investors. It promotes emerging technologies in ag-bio, food and nutrition, biofuels, sustainable materials, clean-tech, information technology and animal health. Held at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, MO, the largest independent plant science research institute in the world, the Ag Innovation Showcase is a joint effort of BRDG ("bridge") Park at the Danforth Plant Science Center (a research campus for plant and life sciences enterprises) and the Larta Institute, as well as a number of sponsors. More information is available at www.agshowcase.com