Cool Planet Announces Key Executives to Lead Construction of First Commercial Plant in U.S.

Company awards contract to begin site preparation for construction

July 30, 2014 08:05 AM Eastern Daylight Time

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, Colo. — Cool Planet Energy Systems today announced the team that will lead construction and operations of its first plant in the U.S. The company announced that Randy Tucker will serve as Vice President, Construction; Capsula Pizzuti, with overall responsibility for directing the project; Robert Djelveh will serve as Vice President, Supply Chain; and Rex Downen will serve as Construction Manager on-site at the facility in Alexandria, Louisiana. Tim Palculict will serve as Plant Manager, with responsibility for plant operability, bringing the plant online and leading the plant's operations.

“Following our successful round of financing, we are getting momentum toward commercialization as we focus on the construction of our first U.S.-based plant,” said Cool Planet CEO Howard Janzen. “We have built a project management team with a wealth of experience to drive the construction and engineering of our plant in Louisiana. We held an groundbreaking ceremony last week, and we have just issued the site prep contract and awarded the construction contract, and we’re finalizing the front-end engineering design for the plant. At the same time, we are exploring parallel opportunities to deploy our technology in Asia and other international markets. This is an important time for our company.”

Cool Planet’s first plant will be located at the Port of Alexandria, on the Red River Waterway in central Louisiana. The site was chosen because of the availability of wood biomass, intermodal and rail access, and direct access to more than 10 refineries. The company will convert wood biomass into green fuels that are chemically identical to fossil fuels. The process also produces CoolTerra™, the company’s biochar-based product that increases crop productivity and promotes more robust plant health, while reducing fertilizer and water requirements.

Randy Tucker to lead project management team

Randy Tucker joined the company after more than 25 years in project management and technical leadership roles. Before joining Cool Planet, he served as Vice President, IT Services, for Peabody Energy (NYSE:BTU). He was Vice President, Supply Chain, at Peabody from 2009 to 2011. Before Peabody, he was Senior Vice President at Williams Energy Company and Williams Communications Group, where he led a number of leadership positions in operations and engineering. He has international experience with British Telecom, and he served as Chief Information Officer for the University of Missouri–Rolla, one of the nation’s leading technical and research universities. He has experience leading projects, installing complex systems and building project management organizations.

“I have worked with Randy for 25 years, and he is an exceptional leader and project manager,” said Janzen. “He will be responsible for planning and execution of construction and delivery of our first plant in the U.S., and I know he will deliver what we need. He is a dynamic, take-charge project manager, with a long track record of delivering results, on schedule and on budget for a range of large-scale projects. He is a structured, disciplined project focused to project costs, schedule and safety.”

Robert Djelveh to lead supply chain management and procurement

Robert Djelveh comes to the company as an internationally recognized leader in supply chain management and procurement, having worked for a number of companies in Europe, North America and Asia. Most recently, he led Petrochemicals & Refining at Chevron, and he held a number of leadership positions in supply chain, procurement and strategic sourcing at ConocoPhillips, NRG Energy, the Constellation division of Exelon, and leading venture capital investors, including North Bridge Venture Partners.

“Rex and Tim will form a strong team for us on the ground in Louisiana at the project site,” said Janzen. “Rex has built wood plants and run major projects for large oil companies. He is a former marine who knows how to get things done and done right. Tim is from Louisiana and knows how to start up and operate plants in the Gulf region. He brings an enthusiastic leadership style and will be a great ambassador for Cool Planet in Alexandria. As a team, they will bring to bear the site, managing the project through construction and ensuring a smooth transition as we bring the plant online.”

The company’s technology enables it to build a small, efficient, lower cost facility close to the sources of biomass feedstock. This minimizes transportation costs and the risks associated with investments in large, centralized plants. The company can expand rapidly, achieve lower scale-up risk and continuously innovate and improve with each distributed facility. The company’s objective is to harness its unique technology and business model to achieve category-defining economics.

About Cool Planet

Cool Planet is commercializing a technology to create green fuels and bichar in ways that can change the world for the better. The company’s first generation of technology is designed to identify key fuels, and its CoolTerra™ biochar-based product increases crop productivity and promotes more robust plant health while reducing fertilizer and water requirements. The process is capable of being carbon-negative, reversing the consequences of CO2 build-up from fossil fuels. Cool Planet’s technology has a broad portfolio of pending and granted patents. Strategic investors include BP, Google Ventures, GE, ConocoPhillips, NRG Energy, the Constellation division of Exelon, and leading venture capital investors, including North Bridge Venture Partners.

Cool Planet submitted a letter of intent on July 18, 2014, to the Port of Alexandria, Louisiana. The company will celebrate a groundbreaking ceremony on July 29, coinciding with Peabody Energy’s 16th Annual Peabody Day. Peabody Energy is a FORTUNE Global 500 company and one of the world’s largest publicly traded coal producers, with operations in four countries and 13 domestic coal mining districts. The Port of Alexandria has access to barges, rail and high-speed access to the region’s interstate highway system. Alexandria is the state capital of Louisiana and home to Louisiana State University. The Port of Alexandria is connected to regions across the country through the nation’s most extensive rail network, and the Port of Alexandria is a member of the Port Network of the United States.

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Company Information

COOL PLANET ENERGY SYSTEMS

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