

## Analyzing the Bankability of Emerging Bioenergy Technologies

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> Pacific Rim Bio Summit October 10, 2012

### **About Lux Research**

- Helps clients find new business opportunities from emerging technologies in physical and life sciences
- Offers ongoing technology and market intelligence, as well as market data and consulting services
- Over 250 clients on six continents multinational corporations, investors, governments, and SMEs
- Global reach, with over 80 employees in Boston, New York, San Francisco, Amsterdam, Singapore, Shanghai, Seoul, and Tokyo
- Combines deep technical expertise with business analysis to support strategic decisions







> Past to present: the financing chasm and how we got here

> Looking forward: core attributes of the bankable bioenergy project



# There is a giant chasm of financing between early stage venture, and commercial project finance



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### How did we get here?

### Claims of biofuels makers seemed so good...in 2008



#### Total alternative fuel investments: 2004 - 2010





Source: Lux Research

## Claims of biofuels makers don't look so good anymore, as technology risk trumped hype

- Project costs to be significantly lower than both the enzy and the current corn ethanol production costs that are ne Range Fuels gallon."
- \* "Cellulosic ethanol without the need for enzymes"
- \*\$1.75 per gallon gasoline from waste"
- "We can get to \$1 per gallon cellulosic ethanol"
- > "We will be producing ethanol from waste commerci
- "We can produce \$50/barrel oil from CO2"





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# Four key factors improve the bankability of new bioenergy projects

- Feedstock security
- Product flexibility
- Strategic partners
- Capital efficiency



# To secure feedstock, you most have a flexible process, and feedstock that is reliable and cheap

- For U.S. corn ethanol, feedstock price constitutes roughly 80% of operating cost
- For cellulosic fuels, feedstock costs make up about **45%** of operating cost
- Because of this, feedstock "security" is king

**Flexible** 

<u>Accessible</u>









Cheap

LanzaTech

## **Downstream conversions unlock massive markets** for succinic acid



## Downstream conversions unlock massive markets for succinic acid



## Gevo's downstream partners create products in a range of fuels and chemicals applications



## Institutional investment dried up, and corporate activity carried the torch



## To lower capital costs, companies are leveraging existing infrastructure

#### Elevance to convert idle biodiesel plant

By Erin Voegele | June 10, 2011

Bolingbrook, Ill-based Elevance Renewable Sciences Inc. has announced the acquisition of an idle biodiesel plant in Natchez, Miss. The former Delta Biofuels facility, which featured an 80 MMgy production capacity. will be converted and

#### Gevo Announces First Retrofit of Ethanol Demonstration Plant to Biobutanol for the Oil and Chemical Industries

ENGLEWOOD, Colo., Sept. 30 --- Gevo, Inc. today announced the start up of the first biobutanol demonstration plant in the world designed from retrofitting an existing demonstration scale ethanol plant to produce biobutanol. In successfully producing biobutanol at the one million gallon per year pilot plant in St. Joseph, Missouri. Gevo is demonstrating the viability of its technology for retrofitting existing

Butamax<sup>™</sup> and Fagen Announce Collaboration to Retrofit Ethanol Plants for Biobutanol Production

iel. Biobutanol can be blended hydrocarbons ("green and biobased plastics. The

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WILMINGTON, Del., April 19, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Butamax<sup>™</sup> Advanced Biofuels, LLC, a joint venture between BP and DuPo announced today that it has entered into collaboration with Fag Inc. for the introduction of commercial biobutanol production us Butamax<sup>™</sup> technology. Fagen is the world's most experienced biofuels engineering, procurement and construction contractor having built more ethanol capacity than any other company. Th are the largest, most respected green energy design builder in approximately 6 billion gallons of annual production. Fagen's e Butamax's pioneering biobutanol technology provides strong s



#### Eni's Venice refinery to be 'biorefinery'



HOUSTON, Sept. 24 09/24/2012 By OGJ editors

Italy's Eni SPA will turn its 80,000-b/d Venice refinery at Porto Marghera, Italy, into a "biorefinery" based on proprietary technology for the production of biodiesel.

The company will begin the conversion in the second quarter of 2013 and start biofuel production at the beginning of 2014. It estimates the investment at €100 million.

Activities at what Eni calls the Green Refinery will be associated with construction of a logistics center.



- Though hype still plagues the industry, the best companies focus on core attributes of:
  - Feedstock security
  - Product flexibility
  - Strategic partners
  - Capital efficiency
- There will be more failures, as technology risks remain, though investors can protect themselves by focusing on the above, among other key attributes





#### Thank you

#### Andrew Soare

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