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BC Bioenergy Network Conference brings together government, industry and research leaders to discuss future of bioenergy in British Columbia

VANCOUVER, BC – May 15, 2009 – The BC Bioenergy Network (“BCBN”), a provincially-funded industry-led leader supporting the growing bioenergy sector in British Columbia brought together leading bioenergy experts and stakeholders to discuss the future of the bioenergy industry in British Columbia. The conference focused on three main themes:

- Key developments and trends in bioenergy
- Successful Canadian, US, and European collaborations and models of engagement with industry, research, and government
- The opportunities, challenges, and requirements to build a world class bioenergy industry in BC

“This conference was timely given the need to re-energize the forest sector in BC, the debate on effective clean energy policy in BC, and the global growth in bioenergy technologies and products.” stated John Allan, CEO of the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) and Chair of the BC Bioenergy Network. “We are pleased to have brought together bioenergy leaders from BC, the US, and Europe. One thing is very clear – there is excitement about the opportunities for our forest and technology companies and the contribution that bioenergy can make to greenhouse gas reduction.”

Since its creation in April 2008 the BC Bioenergy Network has embarked on an ambitious plan to make BC the leader in bioenergy innovation in North America. “I am pleased that during the last 6 months the BC Bioenergy network has been able to help bring together key industry, research and government stakeholders to create a very positive business environment for the bioenergy industry in BC” stated Michael Weedon, Executive Director of the BC Bioenergy Network. “Our focus going forward will be to support further pilot to full scale technology development, demonstration, and product commercialization, in particular those which are willing to share their economic and environmental benefits.”

In the past 6 months the BC Bioenergy network has supplied over \$5.41 million dollars in funding that leveraged over \$65.5 million of investment in the bioenergy industry in BC.

About the BC Bioenergy Network

Established in April 2008 with a \$25 million grant from the BC government, the BC Bioenergy Network is an industry-led association that acts as a catalyst for deploying near-term bioenergy technologies and organizing mission-driven research for the development and demonstration of new bioenergy technologies that are environmentally appropriate for the province of BC. Based on a recently-held focus group, BCBN identified the following technology areas requiring funding support: solid wood residues, pulp and paper residues, harvesting and pelleting, agriculture residues, municipal wastewater, municipal landfill waste, municipal solid waste, and community heating-electricity greenhouse systems. BC is well positioned to become a major player in the global bioenergy sector. The province is steward to one of the largest forested areas

in the world, and a leader in biomass to value-added wood products. The BC Bioenergy Network will provide the leadership to make BC a world leader in developing and marketing wood-to-bioenergy and other bioenergy technologies. For more information about the BCBN, visit www.bcbioenergy.ca.

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