

FPL NEWS

Recent developments from the Forest Products Laboratory



\$36 Million Research Facility Coming Soon to FPL

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday, August 15th, at the Forest Products Laboratory for a new 90,000 square foot Multi-Use Laboratory (MUL). The \$36 million facility will house state of the art equipment and laboratories for four major areas of research: wood preservation, durability, engineering mechanics, and composite sciences. The MUL was designed to address critical safety needs, update outdated and insufficient facilities, and greatly improve scientific capabilities. The facility will feature one-of-a-kind equipment, including a custom-made stainless steel weathering chamber that mimics actual weather conditions including temperature, humidity, sunlight, wind and rain.

Visit http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/notices/events/multi_use_lab_brochure.pdf to see a brochure about the new facility.

Biomass Research Funded by DOE Grants

Scientists at the Forest Products Laboratory received \$738,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in support of biofuels production research. Two separate grants were awarded and each project will be funded over a period of three years. This work will aid in the development of new biomass processing strategies and improve biomass conversion to alternative fuels, such as ethanol, that could reduce our reliance on imported petroleum products.

Visit <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/pressroom/newsreleases/nr-2007Jul26-doe-grants.html> for more information.

Collaboration with Los Alamos National Laboratory Funded

Dr. Kenneth Hammel has secured \$300,000 over three years through a cooperative effort with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The proposal, titled "One-Step Biomass Conversion: Looking to Nature for Solutions to Energy Security", succeeded in an internal LANL competition for funds, and is expected to be funded at a total of nearly \$1.2 million.

Patent Issued to FPL Researcher

Dr. Thomas W. Jeffries, research microbiologist at FPL, was recently awarded a patent titled "Xylose-Fermenting Recombinant Yeast Strains." The patent disclosed the xylose-fermenting yeast strains as well as methods of fermenting xylose to obtain ethanol using the strains. Dr. Yong-Su Jin, post-doctorial associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is named along with Dr. Jeffries as an inventor.

FPL Scientist Named Professor Emeritus

Dr. Roger M. Rowell, pioneering scientist at the Forest Products Laboratory, has achieved Emeritus Status at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in recognition of his accomplishments in research and teaching. The Executive Committee of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering and Dean Molly Jahn recommended Dr. Rowell for this recognition and it was approved by the Chancellor and University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents.



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