

Biobased Products - Enhancing DOD's Mission; Protecting the Environment

12 and 13 September 2006

Pentagon Concourse

This week's biobased event was a huge success for the Department. It emphasized the Department's commitment to increase the use of biobased products. The speeches kicked off at 0930. Mr. Grone welcoming and thanking the speakers Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England, the Secretary of Agriculture the honorable Mike Johanns, the Senator from Iowa, Tom Harkin, the Senator from Indiana, Richard Lugar, a the Representative from the state of Ohio, Marcy Kaptur.

There were over 40 booth displays offering valuable insight into the biobased products that are on the market, DoD success stories, and other agencies and organizations commitments and support of the Department's Green and biobased purchasing goals and initiatives.

Each day industry and DoD came together for three 50-minute sessions to discuss challenges with DoD using biobased products and challenges Industry experience with marketing products to the Department. The discussions focused on three main categories (1) Fleet and Equipment Maintenance, (2) Building /Construction/Renovation, (3) Janitorial, Cafeteria, and other products. The main highlights were:

- Lack of knowledge by industry of using DOD EMALL (DLA) or GSA depending on the products, to market.
- Interest by industry on MILSPECs and guidelines for product uses
- DoD contracts requirements and cultural changes
- DoD's evaluation and demonstration that products will meet the mission needs (i.e., life cycle costs, uses, performance, reliability, etc.)
- Concerns with how the Department differentiates green and biobased, as well as biobased products vs. biocontent product
- Challenges with the slow process with USDA designating products and getting these products available in DOD EMALL for use
- DoD wants to have some priority items to begin focusing on
- DoD requests additional knowledge of product constituents/metrics which aren't provided by Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES) or MSDSs

On Tuesday afternoon, the Department came together to strategy what can be done to do more in the area of biobased. The theme of the session was how the Department can advance on and enhance existing strategies and policies and how to track future progress using metrics. There were four main points for discussion:

- **Incentivize biobased product procurement** through an OSD biobased awards program for successes, more award-fee contracts that emphasize green and biobased as part of the performance standards, prioritizing a few biobased items that the Department would like to achieve a high level of success with purchasing and implementing, increasing education and outreach efforts to installation and Component level personnel, training the users and purchases, seek biobased T&E and R&D opportunities.
- **Engage the acquisition community to facilitate the specification preparation/product performance evaluation** including incorporating biobased initiatives into the Defense Installations Strategic Plan (DISP), creating a checklist of biobased items, increasing the number of joint memos (environment and procurement offices), developing an approach to look at biomass conversion and biobased commodities

- **Practical parameters or limitations for biobased product use in DoD** include the Farm Bill is requirement but doesn't have the backing of a Law which Components noted weakness the DoD drivers, lengthy process for USDA item designations and product marketability lags behind, lacking demonstrations biobased products meeting DoD mission, not currently a final FAR or DFAR for biobased products.
- **Prioritized specific biobased product for DoD use** including R&D opportunities and lacks easeability to implement items throughout Components and installations, suggestions of developing a strawman for strategy enhancement, use Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to help drive and deliver biobased purchasing ideas as a requirement, showcase and teach installations about the biobased market, high point/low point.

News Clippings

Alliance for a Biobased Economy Commends Defense Department for Promoting Biobased Products: Financial News - Yahoo! Finance <http://biz.yahoo.com/pz/060912/105092.html>
DoD Biobased Showcase and Educational Event at the Pentagon
<http://www.defenselink.mil/Transcripts/Transcript.aspx?TranscriptID=3717>

Web casts of selected speeches and interviews from DOD's *Biobased Products - Enhancing DOD's Mission; Protecting the Environment*
<http://www.soybiobased.org/Pentagon2006Media/>

Pentagon Pushing 'Buy Biobased' Message To Reduce Dependency On Oil Inside The Pentagon September 14, 2006. Pg. 1.