

NEWS

From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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TECH GETS MAJOR GRANT

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FOR WOOD ENERGY CONVERSION

For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA....In another decade, many American industries may get their fuel from renewable resources rather than oil wells. But before this day can come, researchers must find more effective ways to liberate energy from wood and other biomass materials.

One important step in reaching this goal could be a \$1.5 million research program at Georgia Tech to test an innovative method of producing fuels from wood.

The Department of Energy is sponsoring a three year effort at Tech's Engineering Experiment Station to build and design an "entrained" system of pyrolysis/gasification to make a gaseous fuel.

The entrained system works differently from conventional systems; the material is converted into combustible gaseous fuel as it is blown through the furnace.

Project director Dr. James A. Knight of Tech's Energy and Materials Sciences Laboratory believes the entrained method has special promise for production of synthetic fuel on a large industrial scale.

The Tech prototype unit will make syngas, a gaseous mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen useful in many manufacturing applications.

Syngas can be used directly as fuel for industrial or commercial heating. Manufacturers also may convert it into synthetic gasoline, methyl alcohol or natural gas. Methyl alcohol may be mixed with gasoline to make methyl gasohol.

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In addition, syngas contains hydrogen which can be converted to ammonia for use in making fertilizers.

"Our project is the only entrained biomass conversion system DOE is sponsoring," says Knight, who is collaborating closely in the program with Dr. Charles W. Gorton of Tech's School of Chemical Engineering.

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