



## Danish bio refinery receives EU funding

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Plans for constructing a large scale production facility for 2nd generation bioethanol in the western part of Denmark has made a huge step forward: The EU Commission has awarded €39 million in funding from the NER300 programme.

Maabjerg Energy Concept is a consortium of companies: Energy company DONG Energy, enzyme producer Novozymes and local utilities Vestforsyning, Struer Forsyning and waste management company Nomi.

Chairman of the board for the consortium, mr. Jørgen Udby is very happy about the EU's decision to award funding, but says he will wait a bit longer before uncorking the champagne bottle.

"The NER300 award decision is fantastic news and an important recognition of the project. It's a big pad on the shoulder for everybody who's been working hard to optimize technical and financial details since the project launch in August 2011. This will energize us and motivate us to cross the finish line," says Jørgen Udby.

"EU funding is a crucial step. But we also need to be sure we can sell the 80 million liters of 2nd generation bioethanol that we plan to make, before we give the go-ahead for construction of our bioethanol plant. To ensure that, we need a political and legal framework setting a minimum level of 2nd generation biofuel additives in gasoline," Jørgen Udby explains, adding that the EU's decision to set a minimum level of 0.5 percent 2G additives by 2020 is a good start - with possibilities for member states to raise the bar.

Today, most of the 1st generation bioethanol additives used in European gasoline is imported - often made by US corn or South American sugar canes.

"We have information that a number of EU member states are very close to decide higher national levels for 2nd generation biofuel additives," says Jørgen Udby.

The partners behind the Maabjerg Energy Concept consortium are currently working on the third and final version of the project business plan. Once again the finances have improved.

"It looks like we won't need further funding, apart from the NER300 award, so all we need now is for EU member states to set ambitious goals for 2nd generation biofuel additives and a Danish legal framework for large scale production of bioethanol," says Jørgen Udby.

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