

Keynote Symposium

KS-01

Introduction to the DOE BioEnergy Science Center. RUSS MILLER. Manager of Technology Transfer and Partnerships, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, PO Box 2008 MS6196, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6196. Email: millerrr@ornl.gov

The U.S. Department of Energy's BioEnergy Science Center (BESC) is a nationally and internationally peer-reviewed center comprising leading scientific institutions and scientists is organized and in operation as a DOE Bioenergy Research Center. This Oak Ridge National Laboratory-led team consists of top-tier universities, leading national labs,

and private companies which are organized as a single, virtual project team, each member chosen for the significant contributions in the Center's research focus areas. The recalcitrance of cellulosic biomass—that is, the difficulty of converting biomass into sugars—is viewed as (1) the most significant obstacle by far to establishment of a cellulosic biofuels industry, (2) essential to producing cost-competitive fuels, and (3) generically enabling, since nearly all biofuels and biofeedstocks would benefit from such advances. The mission of BESC is to make revolutionary advances in understanding and overcoming the recalcitrance of biomass to conversion into sugars, making it feasible to displace imported petroleum with ethanol and other fuels.