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Carolina-Pacific LLC Awarded Grant Funding to Research Biomass Exports

CHARLESTON, S.C.-- Carolina-Pacific LLC was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the S.C. Department of Agriculture as part of the state's 2007 Renewable Energy Loans and Grants Program as announced by the South Carolina Energy Office on December 21.

The grant is based on a law passed by the South Carolina legislature in June to promote research into alternative energy sources within the state. Carolina-Pacific will use the funds to study products and markets, and acquire equipment and supplies in support of its research efforts to optimize its energy efficient ROCette™ briquettes made of South Carolina wood products to sell to European utilities. Europe's adoption of the Kyoto Protocol requires utilities to burn renewable fuel as a supplement to the coal burned in power plants ultimately helping to lower harmful emissions into the atmosphere. The United States rejected the Kyoto Protocol and outside of the California market, has no such requirement on its power producers.

“With the support of Clemson University, state economic development agencies and private industry this grant represents widespread support for this exciting and profitable export opportunity,” says John B. Kern, chairman of Carolina-Pacific. “With the help of the State of South Carolina we are now enabled to move forward on meeting the needs of these emerging European markets.”

Carolina-Pacific aims to be a leader in supplying U.S. renewable fuels to European utilities for co-generation and electricity. It is estimated that Europe's demand for these wood-based fuels will double from 28 to 56 million metric tons by 2010.

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Research team members include: Clemson University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resource (Dr. Andy Lee) and Pee Dee Research and Education Center, the S.C. Department of Commerce (European Office), S.C. State Ports Authority, S.C. Forestry Commission and the Georgetown County Economic Development Authority. Private industry team members include Weima America, Inc. of Fort Mill and a major forest products company from the midlands, Grant Forest Products, Inc.

Carolina-Pacific is a privately held energy production and trading company based in Charleston, South Carolina with representatives throughout Europe. Organized in early 2007, the firm is dedicated to establishing a dominant market presence in emerging renewable energy markets, with economic solutions for rural South Carolina and beyond. For more information go to www.Carolina-Pacific.com.

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