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ChemPro Group to provide energy-saving modular purification and recovery system for new Clovis Biodiesel plant

Boonton, New Jersey—The ChemPro Group LLC recently signed a contract with Clovis Biodiesel LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of ARES Blue Sun Development, LLC, to design and build a modular purification/recovery system for the new biodiesel production plant being built in Clovis, New Mexico, according to ChemPro President Steve Lavorerio. ChemPro will provide an integrated modular system, including process optimization, detailed engineering design, and equipment and system fabrication. Delivery is anticipated for fourth quarter 2007.

The purification and recovery section, consisting of a wash section, feedstock and product flash evaporation units and vent system, is critical to the production of biodiesel. When asked to bid on the system, ChemPro Vice President of Engineering Charlie Bambara found multiple ways to dramatically reduce energy consumption by using the company's energy integration techniques to optimize the system design for heat transfer. "The baseline process design required extensive heating of feeds and cooling of products," said Bambara. "Once we integrated the energy demands of our process design with the overall plant configuration, we found multiple opportunities to use process streams to separately heat and cool process streams within the system." Overall energy savings from ChemPro's modular design are estimated to be in excess of 50%.

Upon completion the Clovis plant will be the first commercial scale biodiesel production facility in the state of New Mexico, with a design capacity of 15 million gallons of B100 biodiesel fuel annually. The \$16 million plant is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2007.

The ChemPro Group LLC is a full-service design-build company specializing in modular process solutions, prefabrication assemblies, and overall project management. Its core business is prefabricated modular process equipment and systems, including skid-mounted equipment, multiple-module standalone units, and multi-unit complete process plants. ChemPro's expertise integrates pre-project planning, process conceptualization and design, equipment engineering, detailed design, modular fabrication, and technical support. The company's specialty is state-of-the-art techniques and project controls to design and deliver complete modular process packages quickly and cost-effectively, with minimal effect on existing plant operations.

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