



Press Release

For Immediate Release
Liz Hammond 866-270-4833

FDC Enterprises, Inc. BALES Team Demonstrates Biomass Harvesting Equipment and Technology

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On October 29th 2014, FDC Enterprises and other partners of the Biomass Alliance for Logistics Efficiency and Specifications (BALES) project demonstrated equipment and technology advancements to US Department of Energy (DOE) staff, advancements made possible through funding provided by DOE. The demonstration focused on a 3-year development project that began September 2013. FDC Enterprises and other BALES team members showcased new and improved harvest and quality control measuring technologies that will reduce biomass supply chain costs while meeting quality specifications of biomass end users.

One focus of the demonstration was on different types and manufacturers of balers. Bale performance of three Vermeer round balers and five Challenger square balers was analyzed and shared with participants. Baseline data such as average fuel consumption per hour, average bales produced per hour for each type of baler, bone dry tons harvested per hour, was shared as well as labor costs and supply costs per bone dry ton.

Demonstration of the prototype Analytical Spectral Device (ASDI), developed by Idaho National Labs, B Hames Consulting, and other BALES team members, was also showcased. This portable NIR bale probe was designed for in-field, real-time analysis of feedstock quality in bioenergy feedstocks. This prototype has been developed for the measurement of moisture, ash and glucan in corn stover. Moisture determinations are an important metric for storage stability while ash determination is an important metric for feedstock quality. Glucan measurements are a metric for carbohydrate content. All factors play a major role in the feedstock supply chain logistics and ultimately the processing of the material into ethanol. Field validation tests began in October 2014 in Emmetsburg, IA and will continue for the remaining two years of the BALES project.



For more information on FDC Enterprises please contact Tom Schwartz at (217) 725-7550 or e-mail tom@fdcenterprises.com. For more information on the BALES project, please contact Antares Senior Project Manager Kevin Comer at (540) 227-8866.

For more information about FDC Enterprise visit www.fdcenterprises.com