



International DME Association

2009 World Methanol Conference

For Immediate Release

**International DME Association Launches North American Affairs Group,
Chemrec's LeBlanc Named as Director to Lead Growth of DME**

MIAMI, FLA, December 8, 2009 – To actively promote the awareness and use of dimethyl ether (DME) as an ultra-clean, renewable, low-carbon diesel substitute throughout North America, the International DME Association (IDA) today announced the formation of its North American Affairs Committee (NAAC).

Named as director of the NAAC is Richard J. LeBlanc, CEO, Chemrec AB, developer of pulp mill-integrated biorefineries that convert mill waste into BioDME.

IDA Chairman Jean-Alain Taupy of Total said that, "We have seen significant growth in DME's use as a clean fuel in Asia over the past few years, and with major changes now being proposed to legislation and regulations in North America regarding transportation fuels and environmental issues, the International DME Association has formed a committee to facilitate the inclusion of DME in relevant legislation, projects, and programs now underway or proposed."

Some of the most common uses for DME -- a clean, colorless gas -- are as a transportation fuel (DME can be used as fuel in diesel engines, gasoline engines, and gas turbines), as a substitute for LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) for home heating and cooking applications, as well as its most common use today as an aerosol propellant. DME can be produced from a variety of abundant sources, including natural gas, coal, waste from pulp and paper mills, forest products, agricultural by-products, municipal waste and dedicated fuel crops such as switchgrass.

"The environmental benefits of DME are recognized around the world and we are pleased to be part of a trade organization that will help to build awareness and acceptance of DME in North America," LeBlanc said. "Many research universities and government laboratories already have confirmed the merits of DME, and now we hope to promote increased production, distribution and use of DME in North America as is happening in Asia."

Members of the IDA's NAAC include companies leading DME's development worldwide: energy and fuel producers Total and Methanex; engine technology companies Caterpillar, Volvo/Mack,

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and Alternative Fuel Technology; process suppliers Chemrec, Lurgi and Haldor Topsoe; and renewable and biofuel producers Genifuel, LCE BioEnergy, Blue Fuel Energy and Range Fuels; along with policy experts The Methanol Institute, and academics from Penn State University and the University of Utah.

The International DME Association unites those companies most active in the development of DME worldwide. Its members include more than 50 global companies, institutions and individuals from Asia, Africa, the Americas, Australia, Europe and the Middle East, involved in the production, distribution and use of DME, and in the research and development of technologies related to its use.

For more information on joining the IDA's NAAC, contact Richard J. LeBlanc at rick.leblanc@chemrec.se. Visit the IDA at www.aboutdme.org.

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