

BioMCN and Bio-Methanol

Who is BioMCN?

Headquartered in the Netherlands, BioMCN is the world's largest producer of second-generation biofuels with an annual production capacity of 250 million liters. BioMCN's innovative and patented process takes the crude glycerin left over from processing animal fat and vegetable oil and converts it into bio-methanol. An extremely versatile product, bio-methanol is already helping to achieve significant reductions in CO₂ emissions as a feedstock for bio-MTBE, biodiesel and bio-hydrogen, as well as methanol fuel for transportation.

How is Bio-Methanol produced?

Generally, methanol is produced from natural gas, a non-renewable source. However, BioMCN produces bio-methanol from crude glycerin, a renewable byproduct of biodiesel synthesis. From a feedstock mix of methanol and vegetable oils and fats, the compounds biodiesel and glycerin are produced. BioMCN takes that glycerin by-product and converts it into methanol. This glycerin recycling closes the production cycle, because the methanol produced from glycerin can then again be used in the production of biodiesel, substantially increasing its sustainability.

What are the advantages of Bio-Methanol?

Bio-methanol's biggest advantage is that as a fuel itself, it can be used in automotive engines very similar to those currently on the market, as well as being able to be stored and transported in much the same way that diesel and gasoline are today. In addition, bio-methanol production from crude glycerin dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions by reusing the byproduct of biodiesel production. Also, bio-methanol production increases the security of supply through a renewable feedstock, while avoiding negative socio-economic effects, especially those affecting food production and land uses that are associated with other alternative fuels. Bio-methanol can also be used as a chemical building block for a range of future-oriented products, including bio-MTBE, bio-DME, bio-hydrogen, and synthetic biofuels, showing its varied uses for alternative energy applications. Bio-methanol is good for the environment and helps limit global warming by dramatically reducing CO₂ emissions, a 70% reduction in comparison with conventional methanol production technologies.

The European Union's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) includes several fuels which can be made from bio-methanol, including bio-DME. Over the last few years several research projects have been performed to demonstrate the feasibility of DME as a transportation fuel, and both Volvo and Isuzu are demonstrating the use of DME in their trucks and buses.

For more information on BioMCN, visit their website at www.biomcn.eu.

The demand for biofuels is constantly increasing in the world. We considered it a great market opportunity to use an existing, idle methanol plant to produce an alternative green product.

Rob Voncken
BioMCN CEO

