

#### Dedicated Energy Crops for Bioenergy Dr. Carl Kukkonen, CEO VIASPACE Kukkonen@VIASPACE.com

#### School of Environment and Energy, Shenzhen Graduate School, Peking University October 10, 2010



#### Why Biomass?



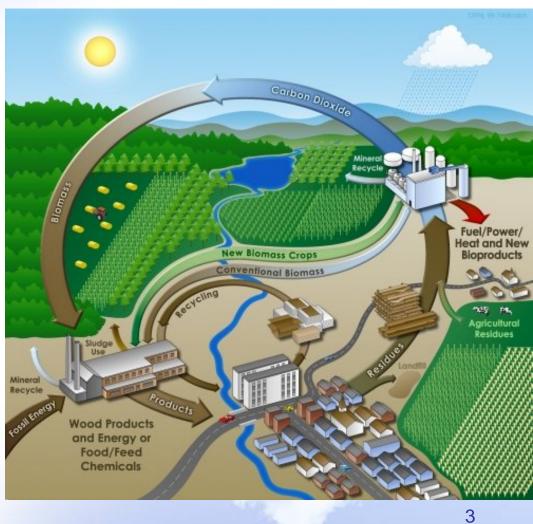
- Renewable energy source
- Can be locally grown and provide energy security—do not need to import fuel
- Low carbon- nearly carbon neutral
- Can generate electricity 24 hours per day

   Solar and wind cannot provide base power
- Can produce liquid biofuels, chemicals, biomaterials through fermentation or syngas
- Less expensive than solar and wind

#### Biomass is Renewable & Low Carbon Fuel



- Biomass energy is solar energy & CO2 captured in plants by photosynthesis
- Burning biomass or biofuels simply recycles the CO2 stored by the plant
- Carbon neutral except
  - Fertilizer, harvesting,
     & delivery contribute
     some carbon dioxide



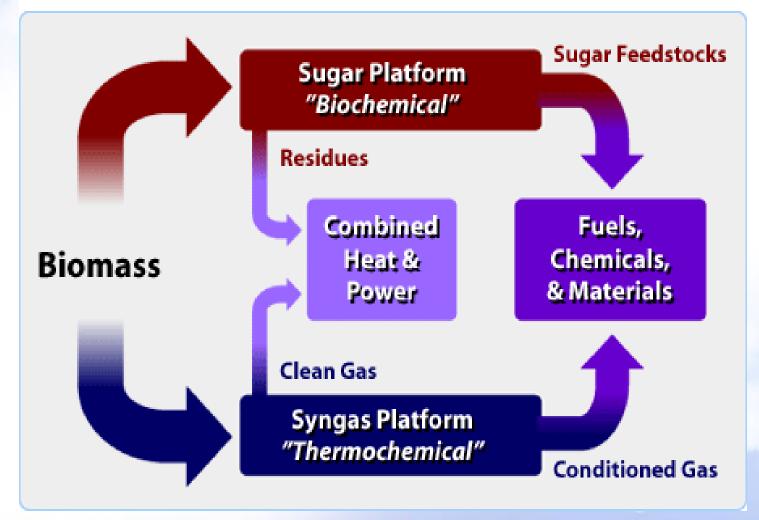
## **Bioenergy and Biomass Feedstock**



- Industry and universities are developing technologies for utilizing biomass for low carbon biofuels, electricity generation and to produce biochemicals and biomaterials
  - Most assume that the biomass will be readily available at reasonable price
  - Most plan to use agricultural and forestry waste
- Recent power plant experience shows that waste biomass has become expensive and scarce as demand has risen
- Dedicated non-food energy crops are needed

#### **Biorefinery-Biomass Conversion Example**

Biorefinery Concept



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# Today's Bioenergy VIASPACE

- Food crops such as corn, soy or sugarcane for ethanol
- Used cooking oils, poultry fat and beef tallow, soy and canola oil for bio diesel
- Agricultural waste including corn Stover, wheat straw, rice husks to be burned in power plants to generate electricity
- Forestry & wood waste such as bark and sawdust for pellets and power plants
- Municipal solid waste biomass

# Today's Bioenergy VIASPACE

- Use of food crops for fuel is being restricted or banned in most of the world
- Supply of waste oils is limited
- Agricultural waste has limitations
  - Seasonal & only available after the food is harvested
  - Collection radius is large which costs energy
  - Must be stored until the next harvest is available
  - No long-term pricing. It is a spot market only
  - Prices have risen dramatically with increased demand

## Dedicated Energy Crops are Needed



- High yield dedicated biomass crops needed as a fuel & feedstock (in addition to waste)
  - Provide large quantities of consistent quality
  - High yield means low cost & efficient use of land
    Must grow on non-food land
- With a dedicated energy crop, it will be possible to obtain a reliable long-term source of fuel or feedstock at a known price
  - A 20 year feedstock agreement may be needed to obtain financing for the power or biofuel plant

## **Dedicated Energy Crops--Examples**



- Jatropha, oil palm and other oily plants
  - Jatropha has not been successful so far
  - Palm oil has food uses
- Specialty trees similar to those used in the pulp and paper industry
- Algae—lots of R&D, but not near-term
- Perennial grasses
  - Switchgrass & miscanthus for temperate areas
  - Giant King Grass and others for tropical and subtropical regions

#### **Giant King Grass**



- Very high yield and therefore low-cost
  - 375 wet metric tons/hectare (167 t/acre) for biogas production (70% moisture when harvested)
  - Sun dry to 25% moisture to burn in a power plant reduces yield to is 125-180 mt/ha (56-80 t/acre)
  - 100-135 bone dry mt/ha (45-60 t/acre)
- Much higher yield than other crops
- Perennial in subtropical & tropical areas
  - Plant once, grows for many years
  - Annual crop in freezing areas



## Applications of Giant King Grass and Other Biomass

#### Direct Combustion in Biomass Power Plant

- Giant King Grass has excellent energy content of 18.4 MJ (megajoule) per dry kilogram equivalent to
  - 5.1 kilowatt hours thermal/kg
  - 7900 BTU/pound
  - 4400 kcal/kilogram
- Properties similar to corn straw (stover)
- 1 kWh electrical requires
   0.72 kg of Giant King Grass
   27% generation efficiency



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#### 30 MW Biomass Power Plant in China

- Corn straw and rice husks as fuel today
  - Large 50 km collection radius
  - 600+ metric tons fuel/day
  - 186,000 mt/year
  - Seasonal crops, must transport & store for months
- 1500 ha (3705 acre) if Giant King Grass
  - 2-3 km collection radius
  - Just in time harvesting simplifies logistics





Cut at 4m tall for burning<sup>13</sup>

#### Giant King Grass Pellets as Coal Replacement

- Giant King Grass pellets co-fired up to 20% w/ coal
  - Requires small modification to existing coal power plant
  - Dry & press into pellets
- Preserves existing power plant CAPEX & meets carbon reduction targets
- Large global demand

   Particularly in Europe
   Japan & Korea emerging
- Dedicated energy crops favored over waste





## **Biomass Briquettes**

 Replace oil, natural gas & coal in boilers to provide industrial heat and steam



 Cement, ceramics, brick, chemical, food processing, ethanol, textile, rubber, etc.

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# High Temperature VIASPACE

 Producer gas to replace oil, natural gas & coal in boilers and engines that cannot directly burn biomass for process heat & steam



 Syngas to produce chemicals such as ammonia & liquid biofuels incl. methanol and gasoline & diesel via the **Fisher Tropsch** process 16

#### Giant King Grass for Bio-Methane

- Giant King Grass has very high bio-methane yield
  - 91 liters methane/kg fresh grass
  - 0.36 m<sup>3</sup>/kg volatile solids
  - Compared to 0.22 for municipal solid waste, 0.21 for rice straw
  - Organic fertilizer is byproduct







Biogas plant generates 1 MW electricity and 1 MW heat for greenhouse using anaerobic digestion and corn as feedstock. Can use Giant King Grass

#### Emerging Markets for Giant King Grass

- Grassoline, cellulosic liquid biofuels
- Biomass derived chemicals and bio plastics
- Torrefaction, pyrolysis, other densification
- Bio anhydrous ammonia as fertilizer

#### **IASPACE** A Moon-Walking Scientist Tells How Race for New Antibiotic **Forensic Tools** Battle VORY AMERICA ACHERS GRASSOLINE Forget ethanol from corn New fuels made from weeds and waste could halve U.S. oil needs The Science of Economic **Bubbles and Busts Evolutionary Roots of** Your Right and Left Brain

#### Land-Use Efficiency Example

- Biomass with yields above 10 tonnes/hectare/year exceed the land efficiency of corn to produce ethanol
  - Cellulosic ethanol is not yet commercially viable
- Perennial crops such as grasses lead to less soil depletion and erosion
- High yield of Giant King Grass makes most efficient use of land

Assumes 85 gallons ethanol per dry ton (353 l/mt) for cellulosic ethanol

Feed- stock	Yield Mt/ha	Ethanol Liter/ha	Ethanol Gallon
			/acre
Corn US	9.4	3500	375
Corn- straw	9.4	3320	355
Switch- grass	25	8835	945
Giant King Grass	100	35340	<b>3785</b> 19

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## Compare Energy Crops



ENERGY CROP	YIELD	ENERGY	PRICE	ENERGY YIELD	CASH YIELD
	(mt/ha)	(MJ/kg)	(\$US/mt)	(GJ/ha)	(\$US/ha)
Switchgrass	25	17.9	50	448	1250
Miscanthus	39	17.9	50	698	1950
Jatropha	1.6-2.0	42	700	67-84	1120-1400
Palm Oil	3.5-5.0	42	700	147-210	2450-3500
Giant King Grass	100-135	18.4	50	1840-2484	5000-6750

#### Giant King Grass has highest mass, energy & financial yields

Grass yields are dry metric tons per hectare. Switchgrass and Miscanthus are grown in temperate regions. Giant King Grass is grown in tropical and subtropical regions with two or more harvests per year. Jatropha and Palm Oil are grown in tropical and subtropical regions. The grasses are suitable for direct combustion, bio-methane production and cellulosic biofuels such as ethanol. Jatropha and Palm Oil are used for bio-diesel. Comparison is illustrative only. All of these biomass 20 crops are needed. **1 hectare=2.47 acres; 1 mt/ha=0.445 ton/acre** 

#### Planting in Southern China







**Giant King Grass planted late April 2009** 

Giant King Grass in early August 2009



10 days after planting



#### First Year Harvest November 10, 2009



### Giant King Grass Year 2





## **Giant King Grass**

- Natural hybrid of two grasses
  - Not genetically modified
  - Not an invasive species
- Productive in first year
- Needs >100 days sunshine and >800mm rain or irrigation
   – Does better with more of both
- Can be grown in acidic or mildly saline soil
- No pesticide required



#### New Planting September 28, 2009



## Giant King Grass & VIASPACE / Factory July 2010



Note CEO standing at lower right of picture. Giant King Grass is 4 m tall







## Grass Fire Log





#### Single 5-Pound (2.27 kg) Logs

Carton of Six 5-pound (2.27 kg) Logs

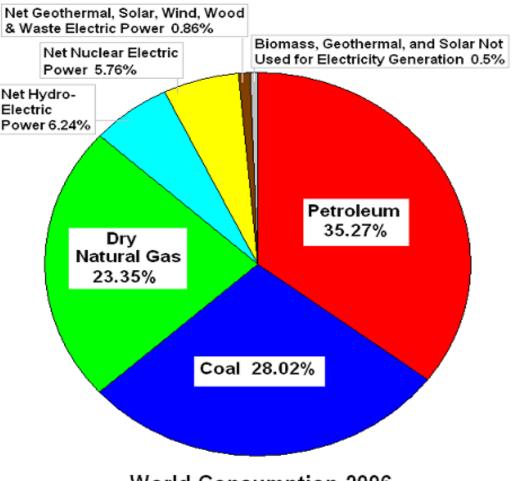
## Advantages of Giant King Grass



- Low cost because of extremely high yield
  - Can meet the cost targets for all energy and biofuels applications
- Perennial crop, simple to grow
   Do not have to plant every year, just harvest
- Is harvested in the first year
  - Other crops can take 2-4 years
- Provides reliable, consistent quality feedstock
   Assured supply required for project financing

#### Is There Enough Land to Grow Biomass?

- World Wildlife Foundation estimates that "250-800 M Ha of additional agricultural land could be brought into production without encroaching upon areas of high ecological or social value"
- 80 M Ha of Giant King Grass could replace all world coal
- 250 M Ha replaces all oil
- HIGH YIELD IS THE KEY



#### World Consumption 2006

2007 world consumption 495 Quad 31 Oil replaced by cellulosic ethanol 353l/mt





#### **ADDITIONAL SLIDES**

## Dr. Carl Kukkonen CEO Biography

#### 1998-2005 VIASPACE Inc. CEO

1984-1998 NASA/Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Director Center for Space Microelectronics Technology Manager of Supercomputing

- Led staff of 250 with \$70 million annual budget
- On review boards of 14 leading universities

#### 1977-1984 Ford Motor Company

- Developed direct injection diesel engine
- Ford's expert on hydrogen as an automotive fuel
- Research in Physics Department
- **1975-1977 Purdue University postdoctoral fellow**
- **1968-1975 Cornell University MS & PhD in theoretical physics**
- **1966-1968 University of California Davis BS physics**



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## Solar, Wind, Biomass & Coal



	Capital Cost (\$M/MW)	Utilization (% )	Fuel Cost (\$/kwhe)	Electricity Price \$/kwhe	Comment
Solar Photovoltaic	3-5	22	0	0.3040	Day only Needs grid
Thermal	3-4	31	0	0.2026	back-up
Wind	1.5	34	0	0.1015	Windy only Needs grid back-up
Biomass	1.4	83	0.025	0.09	24 hr/day
Coal	1.2	85	0.024	0.08	24 hr.day

Low carbon biomass electricity is only slightly more expensive than coal. Biomass can be used as base power. Solar and wind are more expensive and only provide transient power. Battery storage will dramatically increase the cost of solar and wind.

#### Compare Biomass Costs to Fossil Fuel

Coal	27GJ	\$50	\$1.85
US	/mt	/mt	/GJ
Coal	27GJ	\$100	\$3.70
Max.	/mt	/mt	/GJ
Oil	6.1GJ	\$70	\$11.48
	/barrel	/barrel	/GJ
Nat.		\$5.00	\$5.27
Gas		/Mbtu	/GJ
Bio-	18.4	\$42	\$2.31
mass	GJ/mt	/mt China	/GJ



		Coal is cheapest fuel
		<ul> <li>Most electricity is from coal</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>But most carbon dioxide and other pollutants</li> </ul>
	•	Biomass is next cheapest
8		<ul> <li>With near zero net carbon dioxide emissions</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Generate electricity and produce cellulosic biofuels</li> </ul>
	•	Natural gas is next
		<ul> <li>Cleanest fossil fuel</li> </ul>
	•	Oil is most expensive
		Gigajoule=278 kilowatt-hr mt=metric ton=tonne=2204 lb
		05

# Biomass Feedstock VIASPACE

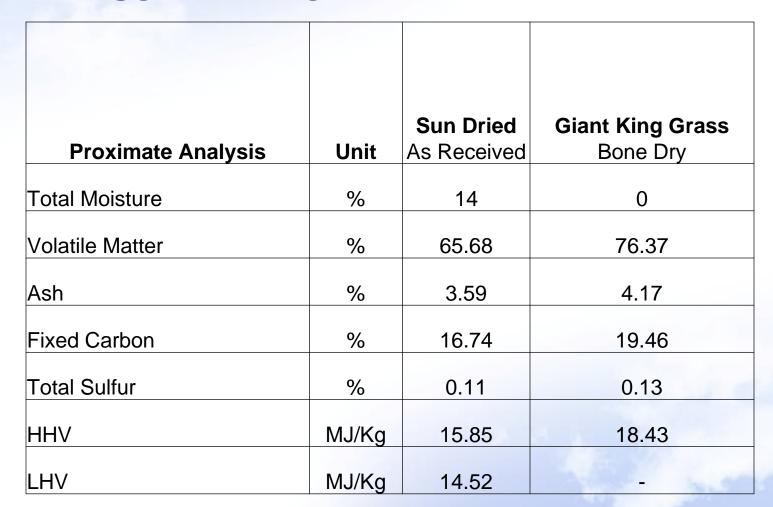
Application	Current prices	Price per gigajoule (\$/GJ)
Biogas production	\$10-13/mt (75% moisture)	\$2.17-\$2.83
Direct combustion power plant	\$30-40/mt (25% moisture)	\$2.17-\$2.90
Pellet/briquette production	\$30-50/mt (20% moisture)	\$2.04-\$3.40
Biofuels feedstock	\$50-55/mt (20% moisture)	\$3.40-\$3.74

Prices being paid today for agricultural waste in China, Thailand and India

Giant King Grass can meet or beat current feedstock prices

Plus provide a reliable, consistent source of supply for the lifetime of the project

## Giant King Grass Energy Analysis



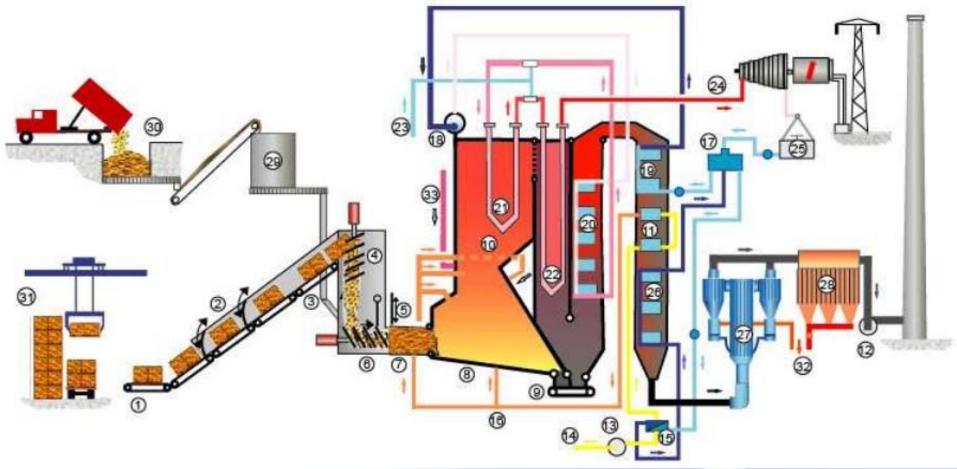
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## Giant King Grass Energy Analysis



Ultimate Analysis	Unit	Bone Dry
Carbon	%	46.64
Hydrogen	%	5.66
Nitrogen	%	0.43
Chlorine	%	0.548
Total Sulfur	%	0.13
		and the second
Oxygen	%	42.97

#### DP Cleantech has 19 Biomass Power Plants Operating in China Power Plant Optimized for Agricultural Waste/Corn Straw



**Giant King Grass Has Properties Almost Identical to Corn Straw** 

#### **Giant King Grass Bio-Methane Yield Anaerobic Fermentation Test**

Method : In accordance with DIN EN ISO 11 734 / VDI RL 4630.

Substrate:	Type/Origin:	King gra
	Amount:	7,01
	Dry Matter (DM):	27,4
	Volatile Solid (VS):	93,4
Inoculums:	Origin:	ATRES
	Temperature:	38
	pH value:	7,8



.5 MW	' biogas	engine/	generator
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Nr.	Parameters	Unit	Results
1	Duration of the experiment	d	27
2	Methane content	%	57
3	Biogas production of the substrate (fresh substrate)	l <sub>N</sub> /kg	160
4	Methane production of the substrate (fresh substrate)	l <sub>N</sub> /kg	91
5	Specific biogas production (based on volatile solid of the substrate)	l <sub>N</sub> /kg-VS	626
6	Specific methane production (based on volatile solid of the substrate)	I <sub>N-CH4</sub> /kg-VS	357

g %

°C

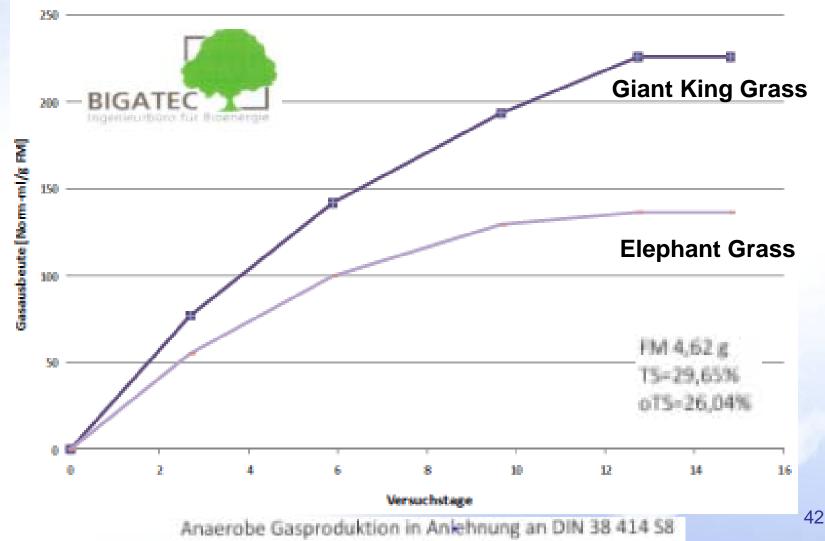
#### Cut at 1m Tall Every 25-30 Days for Biogas



1 MW biogas plant requires 70 ha of Giant King Grass

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#### Biogas Yield per Gram of Fresh Grass



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- Headquarters in Irvine, California USA
- A public company listed on the US OTC Bulletin Board with stock symbol VSPC

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