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Masada Resource Group Donates TVA Biomass Pilot Plant Facilities and Equipment to Auburn University

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 13 /PRNewswire/ -- Masada Resource Group, LLC, a Birmingham, Alabama firm specializing in municipal solid waste-to-ethanol technology, announced today that it has donated biomass pilot plant facilities and equipment the company recently purchased from the Tennessee Valley Authority to Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Last March, Masada was chosen as the successful bidder to purchase TVA's biomass plant facilities and equipment in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Masada submitted its bid to TVA as the leader of a collaborative effort by Auburn University and PureVision Technology, Inc. of Ft. Lupton, Colorado.

Donald V. Watkins, CEO of Masada, expressed his thanks to the TVA and the U.S. Department of Energy for their cooperation with Masada in acquiring the TVA biomass facilities and equipment. "Much of Masada's pioneering success in waste-to-ethanol technology has been due to the collaborative efforts of Masada, TVA and the DOE in exploring cellulosic ethanol and finding new ways of converting wastes into fuels. The research Auburn and PureVision are doing will allow us to continue the cutting edge research of TVA and the DOE in developing alternative fuels, and will eventually help us reduce America's dependence on foreign oil."

The TVA biomass facilities and equipment were used by Masada to conduct tests on the company's proprietary waste-to-ethanol process systems, and key vendor equipment the company is using in the Orange Recycling and Ethanol Production Facility Masada is preparing to build in Middletown, New York.

Auburn University is the exclusive research and development partner of Masada. Working with the Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering and the Department of Chemical Engineering, Masada continues to refine its patented CES OxyNol process and explore the next generation of transportation fuels. "Our collaboration with Masada has given us many exciting new avenues of research on biofuels. The work we are doing with PureVision and Masada is bringing us closer to the day when biofuels are the dominant transportation fuels of the future." said Harry Cullinan, Ph.D., the director of the Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering.

Ed Lehrburger, President and CEO of PureVision, said his company's process to convert cellulose into sugars fits nicely into the collaborative efforts of Auburn and Masada. "TVA, with their talented staff, made a huge commitment to advance the production of biofuels during the 1990s. I am happy that PureVision was instrumental in assisting Masada in securing the TVA assets. They will now be put to beneficial use at the Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering. This is truly a win-win situation for all parties."

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