



# Star-COLIBRI



## Strategic Targets for 2020 – Collaboration Initiative on Biorefineries

### Newsletter – Issue 1 – January 2010

Dear reader,

*It is our pleasure to send you our first Star-COLIBRI newsletter. This FP7 funded project was launched in November 2009 for a duration of 2 years. Our major challenges will be to help overcome research fragmentation in the field of biorefineries in Europe, facilitate information exchange and support breakthrough innovations, taking into account the whole biorefining value-chain. This first newsletter will address the opportunities this project offers and we are working hard to make this a success.*

*We wish you a successful New Year 2010!*

*The Star-COLIBRI team*



Star-COLIBRI team at the kick-off meeting in Stockholm, 10.11.09

#### Contact us

#### Who are we?

Forest-Based Sector  
Technology Platform



## The Star-COLIBRI project: opportunities and challenges

Around the globe, current economies are largely dependent on fossil fuels and particularly oil as it provides the basis of most of our energy and chemical feedstocks. However, crude oil reserves are finite and there is an ever-increasing recognition that anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the principal cause of global warming. The threats that climate change and a limited oil supply represent to our own and future generations therefore require immediate action.

At global level, the issue of climate change is primarily dealt through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; with the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol expiring in 2012. At the EU level the most important elements have been the adoption of the Climate and Energy Package by the European Council in April 2009, as well as the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) for 2020 .

Policy initiatives such as these unfailingly recognise that new generations of technologies have to be developed if we are to reduce the carbon footprint of our economies. The expectation is that advances in the field of biorefineries can be one part of the solution. European cooperation is needed to balance market demand and raw material supply, find new opportunities as well as create awareness for mutual interests. The use of key enabling technologies to maximise the utilisation of European biomass should be encouraged so as to minimise imported biomass.

One of the current challenges in Europe is that research in the biorefinery field is highly fragmented and duplication of efforts is rather common. **Therefore, the Star-COLIBRI project aims at clustering existing activities on biorefineries to implement synergies between research projects, avoid duplication and maximise results.** In practical terms, project partners are currently sampling lists of ongoing research projects throughout Europe, which will be analysed and the best will be chosen to form **StarClusters**, a transnational cooperation system between dynamic research projects which will combine projects' complementarities. An **online wiki-portal** will be created to provide information about these projects to the general public, and facilitate cooperation between research projects. On the longer term, the project will also contribute to shaping the **European Union's policies** in the field of biorefineries, through a **Research Roadmap 2020** and a **Vision Document 2030**, as well as through contributions to the **Lead Market Initiative on Biobased Products**.

## The Star-COLIBRI project: key notions

## Biorefinery events

**4-7 February 2010**  
**BioEnergy Expo**  
Verona, Italy

**10 March 2010**  
**European Fuels**  
**Conference - Alternative**  
**Fuels Symposium**  
Paris, France

**10-12 March 2010**  
**3rd Nordic Biogas**  
**Conference**  
Oslo Kongressenter, Oslo,  
Norway

**15-17 March 2010**  
**Worldbiofuels Markets**  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

**14 April 2010**  
**Third Stakeholder**  
**Plenary Meeting of the**  
**EBTP (SPM3)**  
Brussels, Belgium

**18-22 April 2010**  
**5th EPSO Conference**  
Muonio, Finland

**28-29 April 2010**  
**AEBIOM European**  
**Bioenergy Conference**  
Brussels, Belgium

**3-7 May 2010**  
**18th European Biomass**  
**Conference and**  
**Exhibition**  
Lyon, France

**25-27 May 2010**  
**World Bioenergy 2010**  
Jönköping, Sweden

## What are Star- and Comet Projects?

A **Star Project** shall be a large leading research project (often EU-funded) or a demonstration facility, which can be clustered with smaller **Comet Projects**, more specific projects of excellence on the national level, with a shorter lifetime and fewer resources.

## What are the benefits of a StarCluster?

Potential candidates to Star- and Comet projects will be identified and we will assess gaps, overlaps and complementarities, aiming at establishing close collaboration and information exchange, which shall result in mutual benefits. This strategy is called **StarClustering**.

The benefits for the participants of a StarCluster are numerous, ranging from improvements in the use of information between project stakeholders to a higher degree of visibility to society, industry and policymakers.

## The Star-COLIBRI project: how you can contribute

What can you do to help this project become a success story?

- You can provide us with information about ongoing biorefinery-related research projects in your country.
- You may know about some project managers who would be interested in making their project a Star Project. [Please let us know!](#)

## Biorefinery news

### [Peak oil: the summit that dominates the horizon](#)

Massive new oil finds off the southern states of America and Brazil plus exciting discoveries in currently non-producing countries such as Ghana and Uganda sit uneasily with claims the world is running out of crude.

### [Biorefineries get \\$564 funding in the US](#)

The US Department of Energy selected 19 biorefinery projects that will receive up to \$564m funding under the agency's Biorefinery Assistance Program, which promotes development of new and emerging technologies for advanced biofuels, biopower and bioproducts using biomass resources.

### [U.N. seen backing biofuels in carbon mechanism](#)

A United Nations panel has approved the inclusion of biofuels in a global scheme to reduce carbon emissions, a move that should boost investments in such projects, a Brazilian government official said on Friday.

## Research and innovation news

### [Experts join to urge radical change in EU R&D and innovation policy](#)

Five advisory panels have come together in a joint statement to urge the European Parliament and the newly named Commission to rethink the way the EU organizes its support and policies for research, development and innovation.

### [EU 2020: Why skills are key for Europe's future](#)

"As longevity and access to education improve around the globe, Europe can no longer count on a large lead in scientific know-how, education and innovation to give us an automatic edge on the rest of the world," writes Paul Hofheinz, president of the Lisbon Council, in a December paper.