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Sapphire Energy adds C.J. Warner, oil industry veteran, as President
Former BP executive to advance commercialization of green crude

SAN DIEGO – With ‘green energy’ a priority topic in homes around the globe, and on President-elect Obama’s agenda, Sapphire Energy continues to grow its top-flight professional team with the appointment of Cynthia J (CJ) Warner, a top BP executive, and an expert in refining, transportation and operations, as President, starting February 1. Warner leaves her post as Group Vice President of Global Refining for BP, and will join an already impressive team of experts in transportation fuels, cell biology, plant genomics and algal production to create a commercial-scale crude oil operation using only sunlight, carbon dioxide and non-potable water.

Under Warner’s leadership, Sapphire will begin transitioning technology trials and research into the company’s actual production of the ‘green crude,’ – the environmental and economically wiser option for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

Sapphire Energy is an energy exploration and production company that uses a proprietary technology to create green crude, a renewable liquid fuel, similar to light sweet crude, which can be refined into carbon-neutral transportation fuels such as gasoline, jet fuel and diesel.

“Sapphire Energy’s development of a sustainable, carbon-neutral gasoline, diesel and jet fuel from algae is progressing and we now need a top energy industry executive with the expertise to bring new fuel products to market in this complex industry,” said Jason Pyle, Sapphire Energy CEO. “Warner will be a tremendous asset as we bring green crude to commercial scale in the next five years. We founded Sapphire to create the perfect fuel, knowing that we’d build a world-class team along the way. With C.J., we’ve found our next star.”

A chemical engineer by training, and one of the very few senior women in the oil and gas industry, Warner has spent 27 years as an oil industry executive beginning with UOP, and Amoco Oil Company which merged with BP in 1998. With BP, her leadership roles included oversight of operations in 5 continents.

“Joining Sapphire to help create a new and scaleable source of energy to fuel the world’s needs is the perfect challenge. Pioneering a new energy frontier for the next industrial era is the best way I can imagine to make a positive impact as a leader,” says Warner.

About Sapphire Energy

Sapphire Energy was founded to address the overwhelming inadequacies of current biofuel approaches. The company has built a revolutionary platform using sunlight, CO₂ and microorganisms such as algae to produce renewable fuel products – gasoline, jet fuel and diesel that meet ASTM standards. The final product is not ethanol or biodiesel. Sapphire is led by a team of entrepreneurs and experts in cell biology, plant genomics and algal production, as well as investors with long histories of taking innovative technology to market, including co-founder ARCH Venture Partners, along with the Wellcome Trust, Cascade Investment and Venrock. Sapphire’s scientific supporters include The Scripps Research Institute; University of California, San Diego; the University of Tulsa, and the Department of Energy’s Joint Genome Project. The company is located in San Diego. For more information, visit www.sapphireenergy.com and www.greencrudeproduction.com.

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