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SAPPHIRE ENERGY RECRUITS MORE TOP TALENT

Seasoned Oil Executive to Lead Company's Growing Operations

SAN DIEGO, Nov. 1, 2010 – [Sapphire Energy](http://www.sapphireenergy.com), one of the world's leading innovators in creating algae-based fuel from Green Crude, today welcomes Dean Venardos into the newly created role of Vice President, Operations, for the fast-growing company.

With more than 30 years in the oil industry, Venardos brings a wealth of experience in refinery operations and processes and will use his rich knowledge base to ensure Sapphire's facility operations are managed perfectly as the company continues on its growth trajectory.

"Dean's experience fills a critical role for Sapphire as we move into commercialization of our Green Crude production" says CJ Warner, president, Sapphire Energy. "He'll oversee operations for all of Sapphire Energy's facilities including the Integrated Algal BioRefinery (IABR) in Columbus, New Mexico and the Las Cruces, New Mexico research and development facility. We are thrilled to have Dean's leadership."

A respected industry executive, Venardos holds five processing patents and has published in numerous journals during his extensive career with Western Refining, BP, and Amoco Oil. He holds a master's degree in chemical engineering from University of Connecticut.

About Sapphire Energy:

San Diego-based Sapphire Energy is pioneering an entirely new industry – Green Crude Production – with the potential to profoundly change America's energy and petrochemical landscape for the better. Sapphire's products and processes in this category differ significantly from other forms of biofuel because they are made solely from photosynthetic microorganisms (algae), using sunlight and CO₂ as their feedstock; are not dependent on food crops or valuable farmland; do not use potable water; do not result in biodiesel or ethanol; enhance and replace petroleum-based products; and are low carbon, renewable and scalable. Green Crude can be refined into the three most important liquid fuels used by our society: gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. The fuels meet ASTM standards and are compatible with the existing petroleum infrastructure, from refinement through distribution and the retail supply chain. In December 2009, Sapphire was awarded nearly \$104.5 million as part of President Obama's American Recovery and Investment Act and the Biorefinery Assistance Program, authorized through the 2008 Farm Bill.

For more information, please visit www.sapphireenergy.com.