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SAPPHIRE ENERGY EXPANDS EXECUTIVE TEAM AS IT TARGETS COMMERCIALIZATION

Biotech Leader Dr. Xun Wang Joins as Vice President of Research and Development

SAN DIEGO, January 12, 2011 – As one of the world’s leading innovators in the algal fuel industry, [Sapphire Energy](#) today announced it has expanded its executive roster with the addition of Dr. Xun Wang. In the newly created position of Vice President of Research and Development, Dr. Wang will be responsible for all research and development activities and personnel at Sapphire. He will focus on the lab-to-commercial mechanics and lead Sapphire’s technology development through the next stage of commercialization.

“Sapphire Energy is on a fast growth trajectory, moving from start-up to leading green energy producer,” says Jason Pyle, CEO, Sapphire Energy. “In Dr. Xun Wang, we’ve added world class biotech talent to our already exceptional team -- a critical step to ensure we successfully take our algae-based Green Crude from innovation to commercialization.”

Dr. Wang has had a distinguished career in agricultural biotechnology. He led the first plant genomic project, and managed a number of Research & Development functions in Syngenta where a few innovations were developed and brought to market. For the last 13 years he has been with Syngenta in various managerial positions. Most recently, he served as President of Syngenta Biotechnology (China) Co. Ltd. (SBC), the first foreign-owned agriculture biotechnology R&D center in China. He also served as the Asia Pacific Regional Head of Biotech Research & Development, as a member of the Syngenta Research & Development Leadership Council, and on the Syngenta Biotechnology Leadership Team. Other positions included Head of Research & Development for Syngenta China, Section Head of Trait Research and Technologies for Syngenta Biotechnology Inc. in North Carolina, and Director at Torrey Mesa Research Institute. Prior to Syngenta he served as Research Manager for Iowa-based Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

Dr. Wang is author or co-author of more than 50 patents. In 2009, he was named as one of the “10 Outstanding Entrepreneurs in Chinese Agriculture” by the China Rural Economy Press. Dr. Wang received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Iowa State University and a B.S. in Biochemistry from Jilin University, China.

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 USDA's Biorefinery Assistance Program 9003 authorized through the 2008 Farm Bill.

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

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