

Novel Yeast

Mascoma, Lallemand Jointly Marketing the New Product

Mascoma Corp. and Lallemand Ethanol Technology are marketing a new bio-engineered stabilized cream yeast to cornbased ethanol plants.

The companies announced June 5 at the International Fuel Ethanol Workshop (FEW) in Minneapolis, MN that the product is being marketed under the brand name of TransFerm™, although they began selling the product at the end of the first quarter 2012.

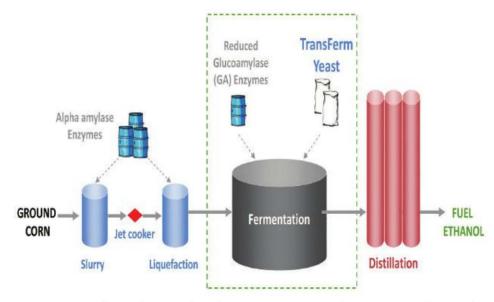
TransFerm is an advanced strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* that expresses a glucoamylase (GA) enzyme, according to David Arkowitz, chief financial officer of Mascoma, which has corporate offices in Waltham, MA, and a research and development facility in Lebanon, NH (603-676-3320).

According to Arkowitz, TransFerm significantly reduces the need for separately purchased GA in the fermentation process. Arkowitz estimated that ethanol plants that are using TransFerm experience gross savings of 1-2 cents a gallon in production costs because they have had to purchase less glucoamylase.

As of early August, Arkowitz said, there have been more than 1,000 fer-

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TransFerm is an advanced strain of Saccharomyces cerevisiae that expresses a glucoamylase (GA) enzyme and is said to reduce the need for separately purchased GA.

mentations conducted using TransFerm and more than 90 million gallons ethanol have been produced with the product at 15 ethanol plants. That includes six customers using TransFerm commercially and those plants that are conducting trials of TransFerm, he said.

Kevin Wenger, vice president of technology development at Mascoma, said June 5 at FEW that the bioengineered yeast was developed through Mascoma's Consolidated Bioprocessing (CBP) technology.

TransFerm is a joint trademark of Mascoma and Lallemand Ethanol Technology (LET), Milwaukee, WI (414-393-0410), and is being manufactured and distributed by LET. The product is being jointly marketed and sold by Mascoma and Lallemand.

ICM, Inc., Colwich, KS, is a technology development partner for scale up and industry expertise, Arkowitz said.

New Version

A new version of the bioengineered yeast, called MGT 1.1, has been developed using Mascoma's CBP technology and has been submitted for scientific review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Arkowitz said.

"Mascoma is focused on the continuous improvement of TransFerm," he said. "We're always looking to improve what's on the market."

The newer version of the bioengineered yeast expresses the GA enzymes, he said, and is also designed to generate improved yield for ethanol producers. "It's going to be a significant improvement, but we haven't said what that yield improvement will be," Arkowitz stated.

The new product will be launched shortly after it achieves a favorable review from the FDA, he said.

Jerry Perkins, editor