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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$232.5 Million USDA Award to Westar Client ZeaChem

Westar Trade Resources is proud to congratulate ZeaChem on their recent award for a \$232.5 Million USDA Loan Guarantee to support construction of ZeaChem's first commercial-scale cellulosic biorefinery.

Dallas, TX - January 26, 2012 - Cindy Thyfault, Founder and CEO of Westar Trade Resources, congratulates their client, ZeaChem Inc., a developer of biorefineries for the conversion of renewable biomass into sustainable fuels and chemicals, on their announcement of being selected for a \$232.5 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 9003 Biorefinery Assistance Program. The conditional commitment enables the financing and construction of ZeaChem's first commercial-scale cellulosic biorefinery, a state-of-the-art plant that will produce bio-based fuels and chemicals from woody biomass and agricultural residues with the highest yield, lowest capital cost, and lowest carbon footprint in the industry.

"Commercialization of the ZeaChem technology represents a giant step towards energy independence for our country, sustainable profitability for agricultural producers and employees in Oregon, and continues the development of an exciting array of renewable fuels and bioproducts that can increase profitability throughout the US and the world," Thyfault explained. "We are proud to be a part of this exciting development and the advancement of the advanced biofuels industry worldwide." Westar assisted ZeaChem with the preparation of the USDA loan guarantee application package, including a third party independent feasibility study.

Development of the first commercial biorefinery is already underway. The facility is expected to have capacity of 25 million or more gallons-per-year (GPY). It will be located at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, Ore., adjacent to ZeaChem's 250,000 GPY integrated demonstration biorefinery. ZeaChem has agreements for 100 percent of the facility's woody biomass feedstock from the nearby GreenWood Tree Farm Fund (GTFF), managed by GreenWood Resources (GWR), as well as from local agricultural residue processors.

ZeaChem's first commercial facility will create 188 direct construction jobs and 65 full-time operations jobs, plus an additional 242 indirect jobs for construction and full-time operations.

"The USDA loan guarantee is a significant validation for ZeaChem's highly efficient, economical and flexible biorefinery technology," said Jim Imbler, president and chief executive officer of ZeaChem. "This commitment allows us to move forward with securing financing, beginning construction, creating jobs in the community, and producing economical and sustainable products for the fuel and chemical industries."



ZeaChem Biorefinery in Boardman, Ore.

"Advanced biofuels are critical to securing America's energy future," said U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This project, and others like it will help establish a domestic advanced biofuel industry that will create jobs here at home and open new markets in the Pacific Northwest and across America."

ZeaChem has begun core facility operations at its 250,000 GPY integrated demonstration biorefinery in Boardman, Ore. The "bookends" project enabling the production of cellulosic ethanol will be complete in 2012. The company is now actively developing commercial-scale biorefineries for the production of advanced biofuels and bio-based chemicals.

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To discuss funding solutions for your project, contact Cindy Thyfault, Founder and CEO, at 214-320-0900 or cindy@westartrade.com to schedule a free, no-obligation consultation. Please visit <http://www.westartrade.com> for more information.