

OPX ahead of schedule on bioacrylic

BOULDER - OPX Biotechnologies Inc. in Boulder, a renewable biochemical and biofuel company, is progressing faster than planned in developing a commercial process for producing bioacrylic, a substitute for petroleum-based acrylic.

Petroleum-based acrylic is an \$8 billion global market. It is used in a range of industrial and consumer products, including paints, adhesives, diapers and detergents.

In April 2009 OPX landed \$17.5 million in venture capital to push toward commercialization of two specific chemicals - bioacrylic and biodiesel - from two specific feedstocks, sugar and syngas.

Since beginning pilot-scale development six months ago, the OPX team has reduced bioacrylic production cost by 85 percent toward the commercial target of 50 cents per pound.

The company used its genome engineering technology to develop a microbe and bioprocess that hopefully will produce bioacrylic at the rate, concentration and yield needed for full commercialization.