### Herzliya Conference 2010

**Breaking the Global Oil Addiction:** 

#### Role of the Israeli Research Universities and Centers

## Alternative liquid fuels and other means for reducing oil consumption

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Remedies to oil addiction are diverse and require short- to long-term RD&D

- Biomass is a potential sustainable source while coal and natural gas are abundant in short term
  - Biomass to fuels should be examined based on availability, life cycle analysis, food vs. energy crops, transportation
  - **Technologies based on coal and natural gas can be deployed**
- CO<sub>2</sub> and water are the ultimate feedstock for fuels
  - Carbon dioxide capture and decomposition to carbon monoxide
  - Photo-catalytic water splitting to hydrogen
  - Artificial photosynthesis
- Electric, hybrid and fuel cell cars, light materials, public transportation

## Biomass will replace oil as the feedstock for the future refinery



#### Biomass is a renewable source for alternative fuels



## Application of biomass as feedstock requires careful consideration of all factors



# Only three processes based on specific feedstock have been implemented

Technologies	Laboratory	Pilot Plant	Demonstration Plant	Market
Sugar/Starch ethanol				
Lignocellulosic ethanol				
P-Series				
Biodiesel & HDRD				
Syn. bio FT diesel				
Methanol				
DME				
Biomethane				
Bio-SNG				
Green pyrolysis diesel				

## Israel has a proven record in advanced agricultural research

#### Production of biomass (TAU, HU, BGU, VC, WI, BIU, IDC, T)

- Desert plants for biofuel production
- Genetic engineering to change the plant composition
- Algae biotechnology for the production of liquid fuels

#### Conversion of biomass to fuels (BGU, WI, HU, IDC)

- Hydro-conversion of oils to high-performance diesel
- Gasification of biomass
- Conversion of syngas to fuels
- Catalytic gasification of biomass in supercritical water
- Cellulosomes as platform for processing biomass-to-biofuels
- Long chain alcohols from algae

#### Research on conversion of carbon dioxide and water to fuels is being conducted

- **Carbon dioxide is a viable feedstock (TAU, BGU, BIU, T)** 
  - Capture of carbon dioxide
  - Electrochemical generation of CO intermediate from CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Photoelectrochemical conversion of carbon dioxide
- Water splitting to hydrogen (HU, WI, T, BGU)
  - The SnO<sub>2</sub>/Sn thermochemical cycle for water splitting with aid of solar energy
  - Photoelectrochemical cells (PECs) split water into H<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>
  - Novel photo-catalyst are developed for water splitting

Other means for reducing oil consumption are being pursued

Electric and fuel cell cars (BGU, TAU, T, BIU)

- On-board generation of hydrogen
- Advanced, high performance anode and cathode materials for lithium ion batteries
- Direct methanol fuel cell (DMFC)

- Non-carbon fuels (WI, T)
  - Alternative ammonia sources

Mission-oriented programs for development of oil alternatives are needed

- Short- and long range programs should be considered
  - Short-term programs could be tailored like the MAGNET or FP7 programs with significant involvement of industry and significant funding commitment for at least four years
  - The short-term programs should be defined based on critical analyses of the current research infrastructure and proposals
  - Long-term programs could be initiated by supplement-funding of ISF specifically designed for this purpose