



British biofuels firm signs Chinese production deals

By: STAFF WRITER

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Green Biologics (GBL), a British biotechnology company has made deals with two Chinese producers of biochemicals; Lianyungang Union of Chemicals and Guangxi Jinyuan Biochemical. The deals will be worth \$15 million over the coming five years and in the course of the agreement, GBL will provide its fermentation technology to production facilities at the two companies, enabling cheaper biobutanol production.

Biobutanol is a biological substitute for petroleum-based n-butanol, an important chemical used in the production of polymers and as a solvent in many paints.

China is the world's fastest growing market for n-butanol, an industry currently worth \$4 billion worldwide. n-Butanol is not the only product the partnership will aim to produce, however, and Sean Sutcliffe, GBL chief executive has his sights set on the biofuels market as well. "These companies can provide a platform for the introduction of the next generation of GBL technology, which will see the roll-out of biobutanol as a low cost advanced biofuel derived from sustainable feedstocks," he said.