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Interviews & News!

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Rentech's Technology Is A Promising Solution To The World's Energy Needs



**Conglomerates
(RTK-AMEX)**

Rentech, Inc.

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**D. Hunt Ramsbottom
President, CEO and Exec. Director**

BIO:

D. Hunt Ramsbottom was appointed President and a director of Rentech on September 13, 2005, Chief Executive Officer on December 15, 2005, and President of Rentech Development Corporation on March 7, 2006. Mr. Ramsbottom's business and management experience spans over 25 years, including: Principal and Managing Director of Cir-

cle Funding Group LLC, 2004-2005; Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of M2 Automotive, Inc., 1997-2004; Chief Executive Officer of Thompson PBE (NASDAQ: THOM), 1989-1997; and President and Chief Executive Officer of Kellow Brown, 1986-1989. He is active in numerous community organizations, including over 20 years with the Young President's Organization where he was most recently Chairman of the Bel Air, CA Chapter (2005-2006). Mr. Ramsbottom holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Plymouth State College. He resides in the Los Angeles area with his wife, Linda, and two boys, Alex and Nicholas.

Company Profile:

Rentech, Inc. (www.rentechinc.com), incorporated in 1981, provides clean energy solutions. The Company has developed and patented the Rentech Process which transforms under-utilized domestic energy resources into valuable and clean alternative fuels and chemicals. These energy resources include coal, petroleum coke, biomass and municipal solid waste. Rentech trades on the AMEX under the symbol RTK.

**Interview conducted by:
Walter Banks, Publisher
CEOCFOinterviews.com**

CEOCFO: Mr. Ramsbottom, please tell us about your projects and developments with Rentech.

Mr. Ramsbottom: "There are three projects that we are currently working on. We are right now completing an end-to-end product development unit in Commerce City, Colorado. The company, over its 25-year history, has done a number of test pilot plants, but never a fully integrated end-to-end solution. Therefore, we are completing that project which will

provide product for end-user testing of our transportation fuels. Who would that be? The Air Force has approved synthetic fuels for military operations and the FAA is about to approve the fuels. The PDU is expected to be producing in the Spring of 2008. The other major project that we have underway today is the deployment of a commercial scale reactor that will produce 1,600 barrels/day of ultra-clean synthetic fuels at our Natchez, Mississippi site."

CEOCFO: Tell us about your strategic alliances and joint ventures.

Mr. Ramsbottom: "Right now we have partnered on a couple of facilities. We have partnered with Peabody Energy at our facility in East Dubuque, Illinois. We are also looking at two other sites with Peabody Energy; one in Kentucky and one in Montana through a Joint Development Agreement. We also have a Joint Development Agreement with the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority for a potential plant in West Virginia. On the biomass side, we have announced a potential plant in California, turning municipal waste to jet fuel with a company called the Solena Group, out of Washington D.C."

CEOCFO: Why is it necessary to joint venture right now?

Mr. Ramsbottom: "These are very expensive plants and we are a small company. We are a technology company and the basis of our business is the Rentech Process, which converts hydrocarbons into clean transportation fuels. Over time, the world is running short on crude so we need to deploy as much of our technology as we can, but it is expensive to do so. To achieve scale, you need partners."

CEOCFO: What is unique about the company?

Mr. Ramsbottom: "The number one thing that is unique about Rentech is the fact that it has been around working on its technology for 25 years before the alternative energy craze, which took hold in the last 2 or 3 years. It started out as a renewable energy technology company using biomass. Therefore, before the new management's time, the founders had been working on their technology, knowing that there would be a crossover point. Remember, this started back when there was an energy crisis in the 1980's, when Jimmy Carter formed Synthetic Fuels Corporation. That failed, but it spawned the whole industry back then and this company survived over 25 years. There was a book written about that era that said that if we didn't do something about it, oil would approach \$100.00 and people would panic again; well here we are. Therefore, Rentech has been working away, getting ready for this day and what we've added is what they didn't have before, which is a commercial team that knows how to deploy the technology throughout the United States and internationally, both through building plants and licensing the technology. Because of this, we have a real advantage."

CEOCFO: You mentioned the new management team; tell us about you board and management team.

Mr. Ramsbottom: "The board is comprised of different disciplines. We have one of our founders on the board, Dennis Yakobson, who is Chairman of the board, and has been with the company since its inception. We also have a gentleman who has been on for 20 years and then a number of new members on the board from different disciplines; from the oil and gas industry, EPC contracting; engineering; and renewable industry. We are continuing to build our board. Essentially, we are putting different disciplines from the energy sector on our board, which puts us in a great position, especially for me to draw on. Within our management team, we have some entrepreneurial skills and that is important because we are in what is called the entrepreneurial space now, where we have to very aggressive in building. We have executives who have

built out large refineries and businesses for fortune 100 energy companies around the world. Therefore, we've got a good broad base of view points from the management team."

CEOCFO: Do you have to sell people on renewable energy, or do the energy worries of today benefit your company?

Mr. Ramsbottom: "No, we don't have to sell people on renewable energy. What is happening is that you have to sell people on the fact that you can't replace the amount of crude in the world today with biofuels and biomass alone. Coal and some natural gas still have to be part of the equation. I just came back from a conference where there is a segment out there that doesn't believe that you can actually have renewable fuels from those sources. Therefore, the selling point is that people are fooling themselves saying

"The long term vision is to build a company that is delivering clean energy solutions for our country and the world. I firmly believe that our technology should be utilized for all feedstocks. The company is working very hard to utilize the domestic resources that we have to make the U.S. energy secure and to also deploy our technology throughout the world. We want our technology to be the Intel chip of the energy world."

- D. Hunt Ramsbottom

that we can replace 120 million barrels a day, or whatever the number is going to be in 15 to 20 years, with biodiesel and some of the other biofuels. My view is that we need it all and we need to do it cleanly, but you can't jump over an important reserve base of coal. That is the selling point - we can take any one of those reserves, whether it is coal, natural gas, pet coke or biomass and make the same fuels, which are biodegradable and reduce regulated emissions up to 50%. The key is working with those feedstocks in a clean way, which can be done."

CEOCFO: Is this more about the environment or more about the energy?

Mr. Ramsbottom: "One year ago, it was more about energy. Fast forward a year later and it is more about the environment. My view is that we have to get back to some neutral ground, because we cannot get there the way that we are going

today. I absolutely believe that we have to protect the environment, but the issue that we are facing today is that environment has surpassed the issue of energy independence. We may never be energy independent, but America can become energy secure in an environmentally sound manner."

CEOCFO: You talked about joint ventures and partners to help with some of the costs; what is the financial picture for Rentech?

Mr. Ramsbottom: "What we released publicly is that during our fourth quarter of fiscal 2007, we had approximately \$56 million of cash on hand and our ammonia fertilizer plant in East Dubuque generated approximately \$20 million of cash flow in fiscal year 2007. Therefore, the existing plant in Illinois provides cash flows to support our business plan."

CEOCFO: Will you have to go to the street to raise funds?

Mr. Ramsbottom: "We do periodically."

CEOCFO: What are some of the milestones over the next 12 to 18 months that investors should watch for?

Mr. Ramsbottom: "Investors should watch for us to continue working on the plans that we laid out. Investors should expect

production at our Product Demonstration Unit to begin in the spring 2008. Investors should also look for progress on the projects we have announced such as on our proposed commercial scale facility in Natchez, Mississippi. We expect to see developments from Washington such as the extension of the tax credit for our fuels next year. We also hope for long-term DoD contracting authority so that they can give purchase orders for people like ourselves to go and build multiple facilities. The Air Force alone utilizes about 350,000 barrels a day between jet and diesel, so there is movement in Congress to get these fuels approved. Therefore, we have incentive to build these plants quickly."

CEOCFO: Are the current engine technologies suitable for the newer types of fuels?

Mr. Ramsbottom: “Our fuels run in today’s engines, using today’s infrastructure. Our fuels have been approved for the B52s, they are being approved for the C17 and a couple of other military planes. What is relevant about the C17 is that is same infrastructure as the 757 and the 767, so the FAA is working in parallel for the approval of synthetic fuels.”

CEO CFO: Is it cleaner than the biomass fuels that are out there?

Mr. Ramsbottom: “Yes.”

CEO CFO: Do they burn faster or slower?

Mr. Ramsbottom: “Our synthetic fuels have a higher octane level. You get almost twice the punch with our fuels.”

CEO CFO: What is the long-term vision for Rentech?

Mr. Ramsbottom: “The long term vision is to build a company that is delivering clean energy solutions for our country and the world. I firmly believe that our technology should be utilized for all feedstocks. The company is working very hard to utilize the domestic resources that we have to make the U.S. energy secure and to also deploy our technology throughout the world. We want our tech-

nology to be the Intel chip of the energy world.”

CEO CFO: Finally, there are concerns about feedstock today and the use of it to produce energy because of its affect on the cost of certain foods; what do you use to produce your fuels?

Mr. Ramsbottom: “Our plants will use a blend of non-food biomass and either coal or petroleum coke in addition to carbon capture and sequestration. By doing so, the greenhouse gas footprint of our fuels will be significantly below that of petroleum-derived fuels.”



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