

## FS Bioenergia Breaks Ground for New Corn Ethanol Plant

***Landmark \$115 million facility will take advantage of the expected imbalance between ethanol supply and demand and introduce valuable feedstocks to Brazil's livestock industry***

*Lucas do Rio Verde, Mato Grosso, Brazil – March 29, 2016* – FS Bioenergia (“FSB”) broke ground today on the first large-scale corn ethanol production facility in Brazil. The \$115 million plant is an international collaboration between Iowa-based Summit Agricultural Group (“Summit”) and the Brazilian agribusiness, Fiagril. Tiger Infrastructure Partners and Laverack Capital Partners, two US-based institutional investors, have partnered with Summit to finance and grow the FSB platform. Additionally, the project has secured \$50



million of debt to finance the plant and a working capital facility. The production facility is being built in Lucas do Rio Verde in Mato Grosso, a preeminent agricultural state in west central Brazil and the country’s largest producer of corn and soybeans.

Summit CEO Bruce Rastetter expects the plant – the only dedicated corn ethanol plant in Brazil to date – to be completed in mid-2017. The facility is anticipated to be the most modern and efficient ethanol plant in the world, and when fully operational it will employ over 100 people and produce 60 million gallons of ethanol annually for domestic markets.

Mr. Rastetter said the landmark project will bring immediate value to Brazil. First, the plant will help satisfy the increasing demand in Brazil for domestic ethanol which cannot be met by the existing sugarcane ethanol production. Second, the new facility will introduce high-fiber and high-protein co-products as valuable animal feed to the Brazilian livestock industry in the region.

“This is a significant day for renewable fuels, Brazil and Summit Agricultural Group,” Rastetter said. “Through Summit’s expertise in sustainable agriculture, investment and renewable energy, we will help realize the enormous corn-growing potential of a region that is poised to become a global leader in corn ethanol production.”

FSB’s Brazilian partner in the corn ethanol project is Fiagril – a diversified company whose operations throughout Mato Grosso and adjoining Brazilian states include biodiesel production, grain trading, crop production inputs and infrastructure development. Fiagril’s



commitment to sustainable agricultural development in Mato Grosso has served as a model for other regions of Brazil for more than 25 years.

“We are extremely proud of our international collaboration with Summit Agricultural Group on this historic corn ethanol production facility,” said Marino Franz, founder of Fiagril. “Mato Grosso has set the standards for Brazilian agriculture and business development for years and thanks to this effort, the region will grow to new heights in the area of renewable fuels.”

FSB’s production facility will utilize process technologies from Kansas-based ICM, Inc. Since 1995, ICM has provided engineering, construction and operational services for more than 100 ethanol plants in North America.

### ***Growing Demand for Ethanol***

Brazil began sugar cane ethanol production in the mid-1970s and today produces 25 percent of the world’s ethanol. Bank of America has estimated that annual ethanol sales in Brazil could reach 13.5 billion U.S. gallons in 2022, two-thirds greater than the 8.1 billion gallons estimated in sugar cane ethanol production in 2016. The Mato Grosso region’s substantial corn production – both proven and potential – make corn-derived ethanol the most viable option to complement existing sugar cane ethanol production and fulfill an annual multi-billion gallon shortfall.

Additionally, the introduction of corn ethanol production to Brazil will generate dividends beyond the fuel pump and highway, according to Justin Kirchhoff, investment development manager for Summit.

“Mato Grosso will also benefit from corn ethanol co-products such as high fiber and high protein feedstocks for the region’s growing beef, pork and poultry industries,” Kirchhoff said. “That’s why today’s ground breaking at this facility is so important – it will open many new doors for the future of agriculture in Mato Grosso and throughout Brazil.”

### ***Strategic Investors and Advisors***

Summit’s U.S. investment partners include Tiger Infrastructure Partners, a private equity firm focused on growing infrastructure platforms and Laverack Capital Partners, a private investment firm. These firms have partnered with Summit and bring significant experience and expertise related to developing successful growth platforms across a wide range of industries.



***About Summit Agricultural Group***

Founded in 1990 by entrepreneur and agribusiness pioneer Bruce Rastetter, Summit Agricultural Group is a diverse farming, agricultural investment and farm management company headquartered in Alden, Iowa. Summit's diverse operations include successful row crop, beef cattle and pork farms in the U.S. and a growing presence in the South American biofuels market. For additional information, go to [www.SummitAg.com](http://www.SummitAg.com).

***About Tiger Infrastructure Partners***

Tiger Infrastructure is an independent middle-market private equity firm that invests in growing infrastructure platforms. Tiger Infrastructure targets investments in the communications, energy, transportation, and related sectors in North America and Europe.