

# Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology News

The French government has moved to develop gasohol leading to 75/25 or 50/50 mixtures of gasoline to ethanol. Approximately \$22 million is being allocated on R&D in 1981 to aid in achieving this goal by the second half of the decade.

*National Distillers* have committed \$100 million to the continuous production of ethanol. *National* further expects to use new engineered yeasts that are now under development at *Cetus Corp.* of which *National* owns approximately 15%.

*University of Pennsylvania* researchers have been successful in injecting in vitro genetic material from one source into mouse egg cells and demonstrated that the genetic material was incorporated into the mouse cell's DNA, and further found that the information has been transcribed into RNA.

*Battelle Memorial Institute* has announced a five-day conference that will explore in some detail genetic engineering technology and its implications for the commercial community. Battelle has indicated that proceedings may be purchased for \$350 by non-participants of the conference.

The Japanese government has allowed the use of tryptophan, an essential amino acid for animal growth, as a feed additive. The policy, in effect since November 1979, is attracting three biotechnology oriented firms: *Showa Denko K.K.*, *Ajinomoto Co.*, and *Kyoda Shiryō Co.*, and all are working to lower the cost of production. *Showa Kenko* is planning to use a combination of conventional fermentation and chemical synthesis, while *Ajinomoto* and *Kyoda Shiryō* are believed to be working as genetic engineering approaches.

*Gist-Brocades* has chosen to focus its efforts in biotechnology research in areas other than pharmaceuticals. Its research budget of \$25 million a year was judged to be too small to compete innovatively in the pharmaceutical field. Since the company signed a development agreement with *Shell Oil*, the enzyme division of *Gist-Brocades* is expected to be both a short- and long-term beneficiary of the new research policy.

## Market Studies

Date	Title	Company	Price
1980	Enzyme Market Through 1985	L. Hepner & Assoc., London, England	On request
1980	Japanese Biotechnology Industry	Fairfield Associates, Westport, CT	\$395

**John Winkler**  
**Robert Leach**  
Corning Glass Works