

# Nicaragua 12 MW Biomass Power Plant with Dedicated Energy Crop Plantation



Clean Energy for a  
Cleaner Tomorrow



## Giant King Grass

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**International Biomass Conference  
Orlando Florida March 24-26 2014**

- VIASPACE is a publicly traded company on the US OTC Bulletin Board
  - VIASPACE stock symbol VSPC.OB

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# Dr. Carl Kukkonen

## CEO Biography



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**1998-PRESENT VIASPACE Inc. CEO—Originally products “VIA” the “SPACE” program**

**1984-1998 NASA/Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)**

**Director Center for Space  
Microelectronics Technology  
& Manager of Supercomputing**

- Led staff of 250 with \$70 million annual budget
- On review boards of 14 leading universities
- NASA Exceptional Achievement Award 1992
- Space Technology Hall of Fame 2001

**1977-1984 Ford Motor Company**

- Developed direct injection diesel engine
- Ford’s expert on hydrogen as an automotive fuel
- Research in Physics Department

**1975-1977 Purdue University postdoctoral fellow**

**1968-1975 Cornell University MS & PhD in theoretical physics**

**1966-1968 University of California Davis BS physics**





# Nicaragua



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- Largest country in Central America (in area)
- 5M people, 6M cows
- Safest country in region
  - Peaceful, civil war well in past
- Poor, but no misery
- Tropical climate
  - Rainy & dry seasons
- Bunker oil is base for electricity
  - Hydro for rainy season
  - Wind, but no solar



- Policy is green electricity with lower cost than oil
- But hydro is seasonal and wind intermittent
  - Grid cannot handle any more intermittent
- No incentives except 7 year tax break
- Nicaragua has low labor costs and industry wants to move there
  - But needs reliable electricity
- Can sell electricity to grid and private industry delivered by grid

# AGRICORP is Partner



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- Agro-industrial company in Nicaragua
- Mills, distributes and grows rice
- Has more than 50% of the rice market in Nicaragua
- Giant King Grass growing on AGRICORP plantation since 2012
- AGRICORP investors and VIASPACE have formed a special purpose company for the 12 MW power plant and Giant King Grass plantation
  - In development—not built
- “Energia Reino Verde”—Green Kingdom Energy

# Rice as Far as You Can See



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# Rice as Far as You Can See



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- First banker's question now is “show me your fuel supply agreement.”
  - We are “growing our own electricity”
- Power purchase agreement from a creditworthy counterparty
- Proven technology
- Qualified EPC contractor that will guarantee cost, schedule and performance
- Management/operations team

# Nicaragua Renewable Biomass Energy Project Overview



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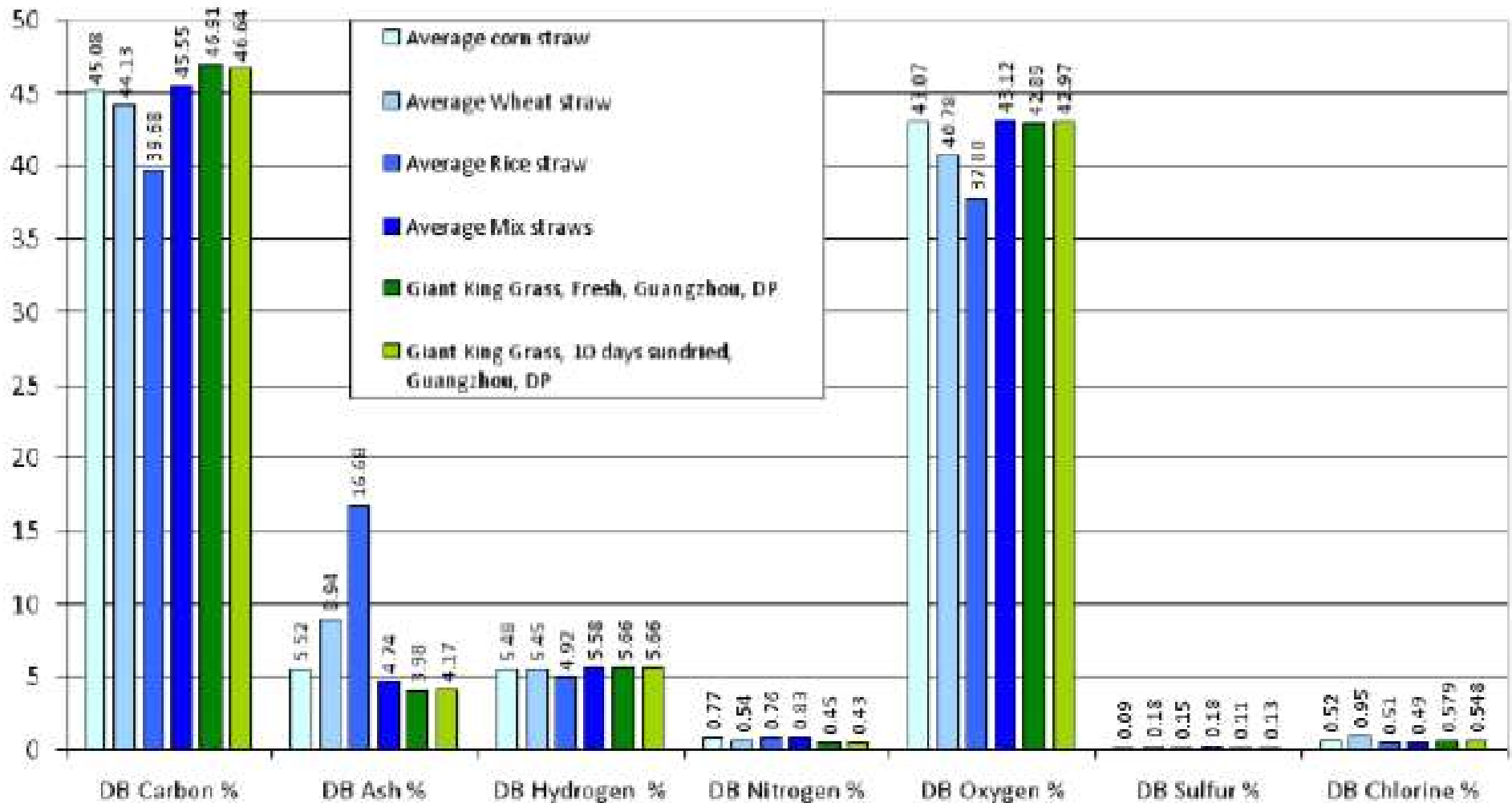
- 12 MW biomass power plant designed for grass, straw & rice husk as fuel
  - Proven technology
  - Provides clean, reliable 24/7 base electricity
    - Dispatchable power
- Fueled by Giant King Grass
  - Dedicated energy crop
  - Sustainably grown
  - Irrigation and rainfall
  - Rice straw & husk as additional fuel



# Ultimate Analysis-Comparison w/ Corn, Wheat and Rice Straws



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**Giant King Grass is very close to corn straw and wheat straw. Rice straw has higher ash. A boiler for corn straw can be used for Giant King Grass.<sup>11</sup>**



# Agricultural Fuels Can Cause Slagging & Corrosion



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- Low melting temp ash → causes slagging
- High chlorine corrosion ↘
- Must have proper boiler design



# 12 MW Power Plant Nicaragua



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- 12 MW gross
- Efficiency
  - 32% w/14% moisture fuel
  - 28.5% w/50% moisture
- 11% internal use
- 7884 hours/year
- 84 M kwh saleable electricity
- 9 dry equivalent metric tons/hour fuel use
- Lifetime 25 years
- Operating costs/kwh
  - Fuel \$0.038
  - Labor \$0.008
  - Other \$0.006
  - Total \$0.052
- Debt 70%
  - 8.5%, 12 years
- Equity 30%
- All-in capital ~\$3M/MW
  - EPC, civil works, grid connection, legal, plantation



# Giant King Grass Plantation at AGRICORP Rice Plantation



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- Located on 10,000 acre AGRICORP farm at Miramontes
  - 6000 acres planted in rice
  - 2100 acres of Giant King Grass to fuel initial 12 MW power plant
  - Giant King Grass already growing well there
- Irrigation from Lake Nicaragua in place
- Will leverage existing farm staff and infrastructure to lower costs
- Purchase special harvesting and transporting equipment for Giant King Grass
- Maximum distance to power plant is 5 km assuring simple logistics
- Reliable, low-cost, renewable fuel



# Giant King Grass Grown in Nicaragua for 16 months



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# Expanded Giant King Grass Plantation



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# Planting by Hand



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# Irrigate Right after Planting



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# Mature Giant King Grass



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- High yield, nonfood dedicated energy crop
- A natural proprietary hybrid, not genetically modified
- Sterile and noninvasive
- Propagated vegetatively like sugarcane
- Will grow on marginal land
- Tropical and subtropical grass
  - Will survive a frost, but not freezing weather
- Grows well in areas where sugarcane can be grown

- Perennial grass. Plant once and harvest for 7 to 10 years
- First harvest at 6 ½ months after planting when grass is 4 to 5 m tall and suitable for burning
- Subsequent harvests every 5-6 months
- For anaerobic digestion, Giant King Grass is harvested at 2m tall every 60 days
- In tropical area with good rainfall or irrigation, can harvest all year long when the fields are accessible
  - Continuous just-in-time harvesting simplifies logistics and storage and allows for a larger permanent workforce with few temporary workers

- C4 plant that thrives in hot weather
- Drought tolerant, but irrigation is highly recommended if there is an extended dry season in order to guarantee yields required for power plant
- High water use and fertilizer use efficiency
  - Efficiency= dry matter produced/water or fertilizer input
- No pesticide used in California

# Giant King Grass Approved by US Department of Agriculture



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- US Department of Agriculture has grown Giant King Grass and found it to be free of disease and pests
- Approved for distribution in US and for export
- USDA will inspect Giant King Grass and issue phytosanitary certificate for export

No phytosanitary certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 355)

DMIS NO. 0079-0052

<p>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE</p> <p><b>PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE</b></p>	<p>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</p>	
	<p>PLACE OF ISSUE San Diego, California</p>	
	<p>NO. <b>F-C-06073-03379890-7-N</b></p>	
<p>TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF Myanmar</p>	<p>DATE INSPECTED September 03, 2013</p>	<p><b>CERTIFICATION</b></p> <p>This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.</p>



# Giant King Grass



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- 15 + feet tall in 6 months
- Harvest 2 times a year
- Growing in
  - US-California, Texas, Arizona, Hawaii
  - St. Croix, US Virgin Islands
  - Nicaragua
  - Myanmar
  - South Africa
  - China



# Mechanical Planting of Giant King Grass in Arizona



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# Harvest with Machete



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# Manual Harvesting with Gas Powered Cutter



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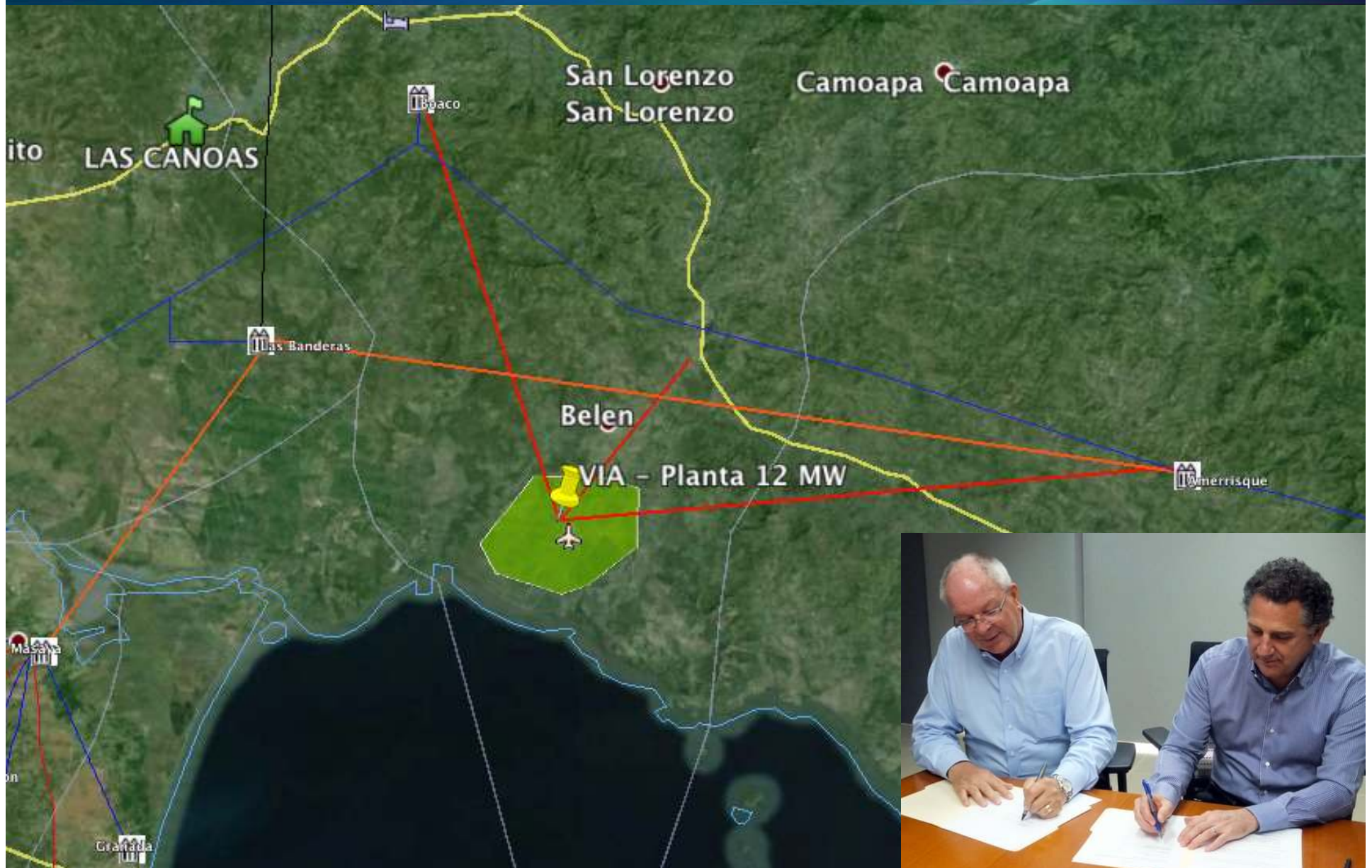
**Mechanical harvesting**



# Plantation on Lake Nicaragua



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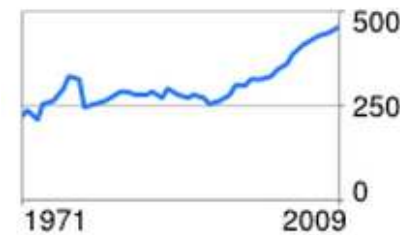
# 12 MW Giant King Grass Power Plant in Nicaragua



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- Provides clean renewable base electricity
- Reliable 24 hours/day
- Not intermittent like wind and solar . Complements hydro
- Lower cost than oil and solar
- Plantation and power plant provide jobs
- Electricity infrastructure for people and industry
- Utilizes the natural resources of Nicaragua– sunshine, warm weather and water
- Sustainable agriculture
- Money stays in Nicaragua rather than spending money for oil overseas

## Electricity consumption per capita, Nicaragua



[www.google.com/publicdata](http://www.google.com/publicdata)

**460 kWh** per capita - 2009

Source: World Bank

[Disclaimer](#)

## Electricity consumption per capita, Mexico



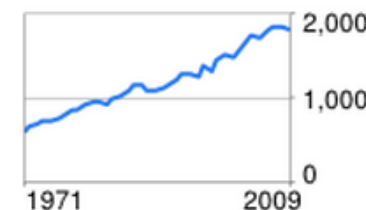
[www.google.com/publicdata](http://www.google.com/publicdata)

**1,943 kWh** per capita - 2009

Source: World Bank

[Disclaimer](#)

## Electricity consumption per capita, Costa Rica



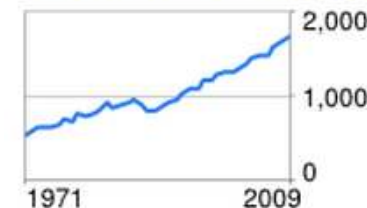
[www.google.com/publicdata](http://www.google.com/publicdata)

**1,813 kWh** per capita - 2009

Source: World Bank

[Disclaimer](#)

## Electricity consumption per capita, Panama



[www.google.com/publicdata](http://www.google.com/publicdata)

**1,735 kWh** per capita - 2009

Source: World Bank

[Disclaimer](#)

- ✓ Pre-feasibility study
- ✓ SPV company established
- ✓ Presentation to investors (debt and equity)
  - Feasibility study in progress
  - Provisional generation license and other contracting tasks in progress
  - Financial closure

# **Giant King Grass Growth Cycle in California**

**Perennial Crop, Plant Once Harvest Many Times**





**Giant King Grass growing in California**



# Giant King™ Grass

March 17, 2013– Just Harvested



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Surface or subsurface drip tape irrigation, row & furrow or flood irrigation can be used.

# Giant King™ Grass

## March 27– Regrowth in 10 days



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Giant King Grass in the left rear is 18 feet tall



# Giant King<sup>TM</sup> Grass

April 18, 2013– One Month Old



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# Giant King™ Grass

May 13, 2013– Two Months Old



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Ready for harvest for animal feed (14.9% crude protein) or anaerobic digestion  
For reference VIASPACE CEO Dr. Carl Kukkonen is 6'1" (185 cm) tall



# Giant King<sup>TM</sup> Grass

May 30, 2013– 2 ½ Months Old



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# Giant King<sup>TM</sup> Grass

## July 2, 2013– 3 ½ Months Old



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# Giant King™ Grass

## July 31, 2013– 4 ½ Months Old



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# Giant King™ Grass

August 28, 2013– 5 ½ Months Old



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Ready for propagation or harvest



# Giant King™ Grass

September 29, 2013– 6 ½ Months Old

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Strong growth– ready for harvest or propagation  
For reference VIASPACE CEO is 6'1" (185 cm) tall



# Full Production Scale Grinding Test 2/18/14



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# Giant King Grass Has Been Extensively Tested With Consistent Results



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Proximate Analysis	Unit	Sun Dried As Received	Giant King Grass Bone Dry
<b>Total Moisture</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Volatile Matter</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>65.68</b>	<b>76.37</b>
<b>Ash</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>4.17</b>
<b>Fixed Carbon</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>16.74</b>	<b>19.46</b>
<b>Total Sulfur</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.13</b>
<b>HHV</b>	<b>MJ/Kg</b>	<b>15.85</b>	<b>18.43</b>
<b>LHV</b>	<b>MJ/Kg</b>	<b>14.52</b>	<b>-</b>

# Giant King Grass Pellets as Coal Replacement



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- Giant King Grass pellets can replace up to 20% of coal in an existing coal-fired power plant
  - Burning coal and biomass together is called cofiring
  - Requires small modification
- Preserves large capital investment in existing power plant with 30 year additional life
- Meets carbon reduction targets
- 16M tons of pellets used globally today
  - 46M tons by 2020
- Grass is grown, dried and pressed into pellets and shipped in bulk like shipping grain
- Large global demand
  - Particularly in Europe
  - Korea, China, Japan emerging



# Test Data on Giant King Grass Shows Consistency of Product



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## Composition Determination

Parameter	Amount (a.r.)	Amount (o.d.)
Total Moisture	8,81	
Moisture Airdry		
Ash	4,66	5,11
Volatile matter incl. moisture.		
Volatile matter	70,34	77,14
Fixed Carbon	16,18	17,75
Gross Calorific Value	4055,2	4446,9
	16,978	18,618
Nett Calorific Value (cV)	3742,1	
	15,667	
	6735,7	
Nett Calorific Value (cP)	15,592	



国家煤炭质量监督检验中心  
China National Coal Quality Supervision  
and Testing Center





# Biogas Power Plant is Option Thousands Operating in Europe

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Completely stirred anaerobic digester



engine generator  
set

1 MW engine  
generator set in  
container

Waste engine heat  
used to heat  
greenhouses





# When Cut at 5-7 Feet Tall Giant King Grass Is Excellent Animal Feed

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# Feeding Cattle



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## FORAGE TESTING LABORATORY

DAIRY ONE, INC.

730 WARREN ROAD

ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850

607-257-1272 (fax 607-257-1350)

Sample Description	Farm	Code	Sample
FR GRASS FORAGE		203	19216470

## Analysis Results

Sampled	Recvd	Printed	ST	CO
	05/15/13	05/16/13		

Components	As Fed	DM
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B3  
CARL KUKHONEN  
33841 MERCATOR ISLE  
DANA POINT, CA 52629

% Moisture	85.0	
% Dry Matter	15.0	
% Crude Protein	2.2	14.9
% Available Protein	2.2	14.5
% ADICP	.1	.4
% Adjusted Crude Protein	2.2	14.9
Soluble Protein % CP		43
Degradable Protein % CP		70
% NDICP	.5	3.5
% Acid Detergent Fiber	5.5	36.7
% Neutral Detergent Fiber	10.0	66.6
% Lignin	.6	3.8
% NFC	1.2	7.8
% Starch	<0.1	.2
% WSC (Water Sol. Carbs.)	1.1	7.4
% ESC (Simple Sugars)	.9	6.3
% Crude Fat	.3	2.3
% Ash	1.79	11.92
% TDN	9	60

## ENERGY TABLE - NRC 2001

	Mcal/Lb	Mcal/Kg
DE, 1X	1.14	2.52
ME, 1X	0.95	2.10
NEL, 3X	0.53	1.17
NEM, 3X	0.55	1.22
NEG, 3X	0.30	0.65
TDN1X, %	55	



# **Giant King Grass Can Be Used As Feedstock for Biofuels, Biochemicals and Biomaterials**

# Giant King Grass is the Same as Corn Stover w/ Much Higher Yield



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<i>Composition Dry Weight %</i>	Giant King Grass	Corn Stover
<i>Glucan</i>	43.0	37.4
<i>Xylan</i>	22.3	21.1
<i>Arabinan</i>	2.9	2.9
<i>Lignin</i>	17.4	18.0
<i>Ash</i>	4.5	5.2

Composition- Glucan  
Xylan & Arabinan  
are sugars for  
cellulosic ethanol.  
Lignin & ash are  
byproducts

Notes and references:

Giant King Grass: average of samples cut at 4 m tall

Corn Stover: Aden et al. NREL/TP-510-32438, 2002

**One dry ton of Giant King Grass is slightly better than corn Stover for cellulosic ethanol**

<i>Yield Dry Matter</i>	Giant King Grass	Corn Stover
US ton/acre	44	3.5-4.7
Metric ton/ha	100	8.6-11.6

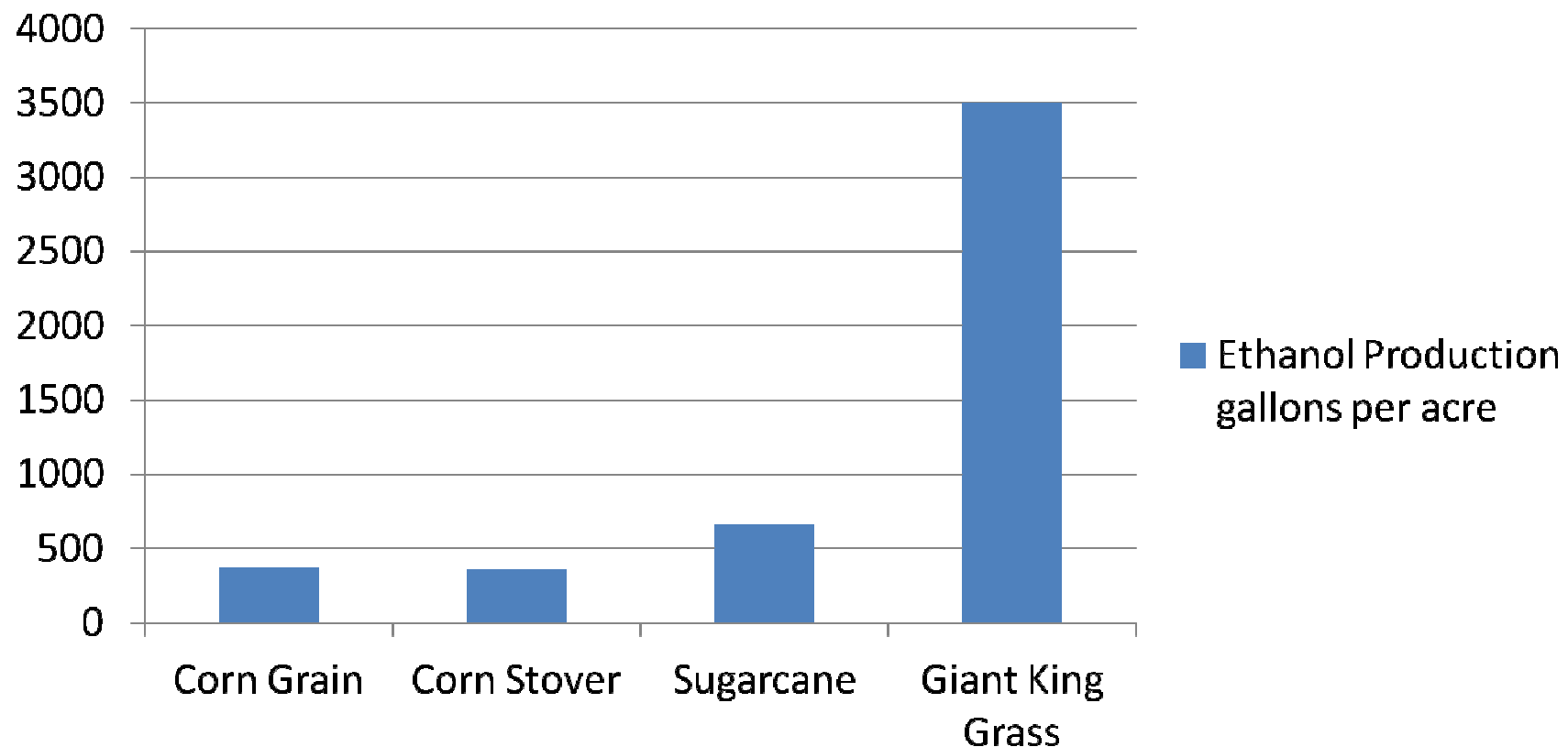
**Giant King Grass has much higher yield per acre than corn**

# High Yield of Giant King Grass Means High Ethanol Production



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**Ethanol Production gallons per acre**





# Bioenergy Applications of Giant King Grass



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- **Direct combustion in electric power/heat/steam plant**
- **Pellets for co-firing with coal**
- **Briquettes for boilers**
- **Biogas /anerobic digestion**
- *Cellulosic liquid biofuels-- ethanol/butanol*
- *Biochemicals and bio plastics*
- *Pyrolysis to bio oil*
- *Catalytic conversion to bio diesel*
- *High-temperature gasification*
- *Torrefaction to bio coal*
- *Pulp for paper and textiles*

**Applications that are commercial today with agricultural & forestry waste that can use Giant King Grass instead**

***Low cost of Giant King Grass will allow commercial applications in future***

# Imperial County California Mesquite Lake Water and Power



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- Partner owns closed 16 MW biomass power plant in Imperial California
  - Plans to reopen with portion of fuel from Giant King Grass, majority from wood waste
- Has option on adjacent closed 16 MW manure gasifier power plant.
  - Plans to convert to biofuels plant with GKG feedstock



# Tibbar Energy St. Croix, Virgin Islands



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- Planned 7 MW biogas power plant
- Giant King Grass growing well
- Tibbar awarded power purchase agreement
- All permits in place





# Benefits of Giant King Grass



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- Renewable, low carbon energy source that can be locally grown and provide jobs & energy security
  - Less expensive than oil or liquefied natural gas
- Can generate electricity 24 hours per day
  - Solar and wind are intermittent not base power
  - Less expensive than solar, no backup needed
- Carbon neutral electricity production and growth
- Uses modern sustainable agriculture practices
- Can also feed cattle, dairy cows, pigs and other animals or make pellets for export
- In the future, Giant King Grass feedstock can produce liquid biofuels, biochemicals and

# Advantages of Giant King Grass



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- “Platform” energy crop for many bioenergy applications
  - Electricity, pellets, biofuels, biochemicals & bio plastics
- Excellent animal feed with high protein
- Lowest cost--Can meet cost targets for energy & biofuels applications because of high yield of Giant King Grass
  - Less expensive than agricultural waste
- Perennial crop
  - Do not have to plant every year, just harvest
  - Short rotation—first harvested in 6.5 months
- Provides reliable, well documented, consistent quality fuel or feedstock with predictable, affordable price

# Thank You



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