## Giant King Grass—Dedicated Crop for Bioenergy & Biofuels





Dr. Carl Kukkonen, CEO
VIASPACE Inc.
Irvine CA USA
kukkonen@viaspace.com
www.VIASPACE.com





- 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



1998-PRESENT VIASPACE Inc. CEO

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

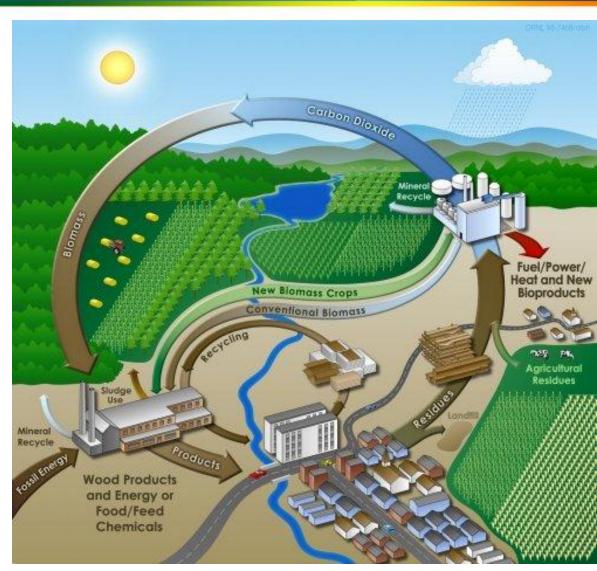
- Developed direct injection diesel engine
- Ford's expert on hydrogen as automotive fuel
- Research in Physics Department
- 1975-1977 Purdue University postdoctoral fellow
- 1968-1975 Cornell University MS & PhD in theoretical physics
- 1966-1968 University of California Davis BS physics



### Biomass is Low Carbon Fuel VIASPACE



- Biomass energy is solar energy & CO<sub>2</sub> captured in plants by photosynthesis
- Burning biomass or biofuels simply recycles the CO<sub>2</sub> stored in the plant
- Biomass is carbon neutral except
  - Fertilizer, harvesting,
     & delivery contribute
     some carbon dioxide



### Advantages of Biomass



- Renewable energy source that can be locally grown and provide jobs & energy security
  - Less expensive than imported oil or gas
- Can generate electricity 24 hours per day
  - Solar and wind are transient not base power
  - Less expensive than solar and wind
- Burning & regrowth is carbon neutral
- In the future, biomass can produce liquid biofuels, biochemicals and biomaterials
- Little market for biomass (except corn) now in US
- Focus on developing world

### Compare Biomass Costs to Fossil Fuel



Coal US price	27GJ /mt	\$60 /mt	\$2.22 /GJ
Coal	27GJ	\$100	\$3.70
Europe	/mt	/mt	/GJ
Oil	6.1GJ	\$90	\$14.45
	/barrel	/barrel	/GJ
Nat.		\$5.00	\$5.27
Gas		/Mbtu	/GJ
Bio-	18.4	\$42	\$2.28
mass	GJ/mt	/mt	/GJ

- Coal is cheapest fuel
  - Most electricity is from coal
  - But most carbon dioxide and other pollutants
- Biomass is next cheapest
  - With near zero net carbon dioxide emissions
  - Generate electricity and produce cellulosic biofuels
- Natural gas is next
  - Cleanest fossil fuel
- Oil is most expensive

Gigajoule=278 kilowatt-hr mt=metric ton=tonne=2204 lb Biomass is dry mt and HHV

## 100% Biomass Power Plants Hundreds in Use Today



- All use agricultural or forestry waste as fuel
  - Corn, wheat, rice straw, rice husk, bark, branches etc
  - Waste prices have risen dramatically
  - Agricultural waste has not been available with long term contracts—spot market only
  - Banks will not finance projects without long term fuel supply contract
- Dedicated energy crops can be grown as fuel
  - Perennial grasses, fast growing trees
  - Reliable, low cost, financeable fuel
  - However no power plants operating in the world

### Biomass Energy Issues



- Food versus fuel
  - Most countries have restricted or prohibited the use of food for fuel
    - Corn & palm oil are examples
  - Displacing food land will be restricted
- Is the enough land for biomass?
  - FAO (UN) reports that that "250-800 M ha of additional agricultural land could be brought into production without encroaching upon areas of high ecological or social value"
  - 80M ha of Giant King Grass with its high yield could replace all coal in the world—9% size of US

#### **Biomass Power Plant**



#### Size

- Coal/natural gas/nuclear~1000MW
- Large 100% biomass ~30MW
- Need 33 biomass power plants to replace 1000MW
- Biomass power plants—distributed generation

#### Environmental

- Biomass has much lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and lower
   NOX, SO<sub>2</sub>, HCL, Hg and As emissions than coal
- Sustainable growth will be required
  - Do not cut down the rainforest

Note: Most general observations apply to all perennial grasses such as switchgrass, Miscanthus and elephant grass. High yield and resulting low cost of Giant King Grass allows bioenergy projects with good financial returns.

### **VIASPACE** Giant King Grass





### **Giant King Grass**



- Very high yield
  - 100 dry MT/ha/year (44 US t/acre)
- Sustainably grown, not a food crop, grows on marginal land
- Perennial grass, harvest 2-3 times per year
- Not genetically modified
- Not an invasive species
- Needs sunshine, warm weather
   & rain or irrigation-no freezing
- Fertilizer use is modest
- No pesticide



## Yield Comparison of Perennial Grasses



Perennial Grass (Genus-Species)	Dry Mass (US	Dry Mass (US ton/acre/year, mt/ha/yr))	
Phalaris Reed Canary Grass	2.0 – 3.6	4.5-8.1	
Panicum Switchgrass	5-9	11-20	
MiscanthusMiscanthus x Giganteus	13-21	29-47	
Pennisetum Pennisetum Purpureum	24-27	54-61	
Giant King Grass	44	100	

Notes: data taken from the literature. Sources are available upon request

- Reed Canary Grass data from US state of Michigan and Ontario Canada
- Switchgrass data from trials by the University of Illinois in the state of Illinois
- Miscanthus data from trials by the University of Illinois in the state of Illinois
- Pennisetum Purpureum data from trials at the University of Florida in the state of Florida

Important factors to consider in interpreting the data.

- Phalaris and Panicum are cold weather grasses that can tolerate a long freeze. The growing season is relatively short in the cold areas
- Miscanthus can tolerate moderate but not deep freezes. Cold weather induces senescence
- Pennisetum Purpureum and Giant King Grass are tropical and subtropical grasses. The do not survive a long freeze. The growing season can be 12 months and these crops can be harvested more than once a year

## Applications of Giant King Grass



- 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
- Pyrolysis to bio oil
- Catalytic coversion to bio diesel
- Biochemicals and bio plastics
- High-temperature gasification
- Torrefaction to bio coal
- Pulp for paper and textiles

Applications that are commercial today with other feedstock

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

### Giant King Grass to Produce Clean Electricity

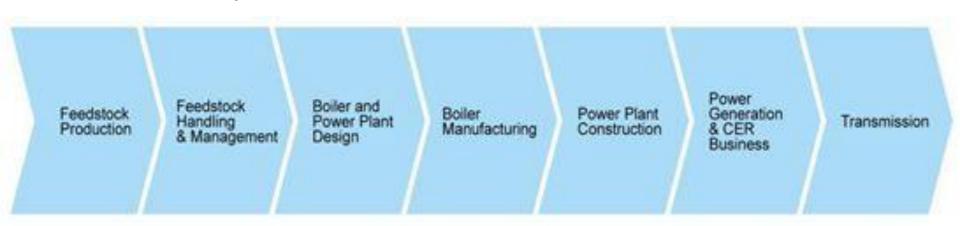


- Direct combustion--Burn Giant King Grass in a boiler to produce high pressure steam which turns a generator to make electricity
  - -100% biomass--sizes from 10-35 MW
  - Co-fire pellets with coal in existing power plant
- Anaerobic Bio digestion of Giant King Grass to produce biogas which is burned in an engine which turns a generator
  - Sizes from 0.5 3.0 MW
  - Thousands of bio digesters in Europe
- High-temp gasification & engine/generator

## Closed Loop Biomass Power Plant



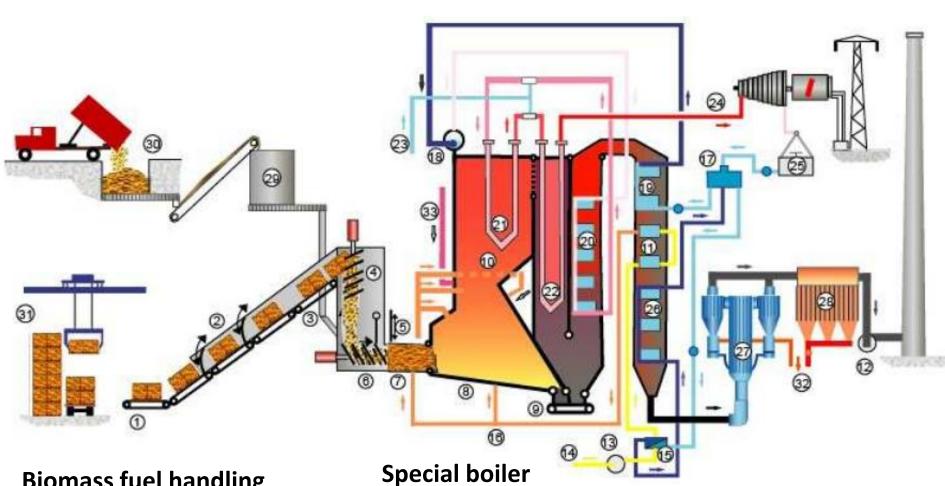
- Power plant integrated with Giant King Grass plantation
- Water and sunshine in—clean, low carbon electricity out



VIASPACE ← Power Plant Partner — Customer

### **Direct Combustion Biomass Power Plant**





Biomass fuel handling

burns biomass to create steam

High pressure steam turbine turns generator to make electricity

## Giant King Grass & Biomass Power / Steam Plant



- Giant King Grass has excellent energy content of 18.4 MJ (megajoule) per dry kilogram HHV equivalent to 4400 kcal/kg, 7900 btu/lb
- Burn in a power plant instead of coal or oil
- Giant King Grass properties similar to corn & wheat straw
- 30 MW power plant requires
   1600 ha of Giant King Grass



### Giant King Grass Energy Analysis VIASPACE Clean Energy for a Clean Energy for a Clean Energy for a Clean Energy for a

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

## Biomass Power Plant Uses Agricultural Waste Today











### **Biomass Power Plant**









## Giant King Grass Pellets as Coal Replacement



- 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

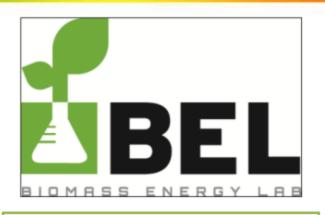


## Giant King Grass Pellets-- Tested by Many Independent Laboratories



#### Compositional Analysis: Proximate/Ultimate Analysis

Parameter	As-Received	Oven Dry
Total Moisture (%)	7.62	
Ash (%)	2.42	2.61
Volatiles (%)	72.60	78.59
Fixed Carbon (%)	17.28	18.71
Gross Calorific Value (GJ/Tonne)	18.38	19.90
Net Calorific Value (cV)(GJ/Tonne)	17.20	18.81
Net Calorific Value (cP)(GJ/Tonne)	17.13	18.74
Carbon	44.63	48.31
Hydrogen	4.88	5.28
Nitrogen	0.69	0.75
Sulfur	0.09	0.09
Oxygen	39.69	42.96
Chlorine	1140	1234



Biomass Energy Lab, a JV of Timber Products Inspection & Control Union is only US lab accredited for European biomass fuel quality testing



### Test Data on Giant King Grass



Com	position	Determination	
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Nett Calorific Value (cP)

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	4 /
	15,667	
	6735 7	







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

15,592

## Giant King Grass and Factory



110 ha (270 acre) test site provides

-seedlings for large energy projects

-demonstration of production

-sample quantities for customers



Note CEO standing at lower right . Giant King Grass is 4 m tall

### Giant King Grass After Harvest





Field dried grass and regrowth 10 days after harvest

### Field Dried Grass & Regrowth





## Field Dried Grass Transported to Nearby Factory





Co-location of plantation and factory means grass does not need to be baled

## Chipper, Rotary Dryer and Hammer Mill





### Biogas Electricity



- Biogas (methane and carbon dioxide) is produced through anaerobic digestion (bio digestion) of Giant King Grass
  - with organic fertilizer as valuable byproduct
- The biogas is burned in an engine generator set to generate clean electricity
  - With heat as valuable byproduct
- Biogas electricity is widely used in Europe
  - 4000 biogas power plants in Germany alone

## Biogas from Giant King Grass





Biogas plant generating 1 MW of electricity and 1 MW of heat plus organic fertilizer



Giant King Grass is cut every 30-45 days at 3-5 feet tall for biogas

- Biogas is produced when Giant King Grass decomposes without oxygen (anaerobic digestion)
- Biogas is composed of methane (55%) and carbon dioxide and used to generate electricity and heat
  - Organic fertilizer is the byproduct
  - Can be put back on grass fields
  - Biogas is the greenest option
- Bio-methane is the "green" energy equivalent of methane, the principal component of natural gas
- Biogas can also be upgraded to pure methane and inserted into the existing natural gas pipelines
- Giant King Grass has been independently tested for biogas yield and the results are excellent

### **Biogas to Electricity**



- Sizes of Biogas power plants are 0.5 to 3 MW
- 70 hectare Giant King
   Grass per 1 MW power
- Provides 24/7 electricity for remote area, factory or to the grid
- Biogas power plant and plantation should be colocated to minimize fuel transportation costs
- Waste heat and organic fertilizer have value

Giant King Grass has both higher biogas yield per kilogram and higher kilogram yield per hectare than competing biomass

 Lower cost feedstock and electricity & higher profit



1.5 MW biogas engine generator  $set_{\!\scriptscriptstyle 11}$ 

### Bio-Methane Yield/ Hectare of Land



- Biogas production uses fresh Giant King Grass with yield of 375 mt/ha
- Measured biogas yields are 160-190 cubic meters of biogas/tonne of fresh grass
  - Methane content is 57% of biogas
- Bio-methane yield is 94 -111 m3/ha/day
- Giant King Grass bio-methane yield is 3.4 4.0 million BTU per hectare per day
- 1 MW of electricity requires 70 ha



# Cellulosic Biofuels, Biochemicals and Bioplastics Applications of Giant King Grass



## Cellulosic Biofuels, Biochemicals & Bio Plastics



- 1<sup>st</sup> generation bio ethanol is made from sugar cane, corn or recently cassava
  - Making fuel from food is being restricted or prohibited
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation is cellulosic ethanol made from
  - corn straw
     not the corn grain
  - Sugar cane bagasse—after the sugar is removed
  - Dedicated energy crops such as Giant King Grass
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation processes utilize the polymeric sugars trapped in the stalks and leaves
  - Requires pretreatment and enzymatic hydrolysis
  - Currently more expensive and not yet commercial

## Giant King Grass for Fermentation-Based Biorefinery



Composition Dry Weight %	Giant King Grass	Corn Stover	Miscanthus
Glucan	43.0	37.4	44
Xylan	22.3	21.1	22
Arabinan	2.9	2.9	2
Lignin	17.4	18.0	17
Ash	4.5	5.2	2.5-4

Notes and references:

Giant King Grass: average of samples cut at 4 m tall Corn Stover: Aden et al. NREL/TP-510-32438, 2002

Miscanthus: Murnen et al. Biotechnology Progress 23, 4, 846-850, 2007 and other sources

Giant King Grass tests by 3 independent companies.

Giant King Grass has essentially the same composition as corn Stover and miscanthus per dry ton

### Compare Giant King Grass Yield to Corn & Miscanthus



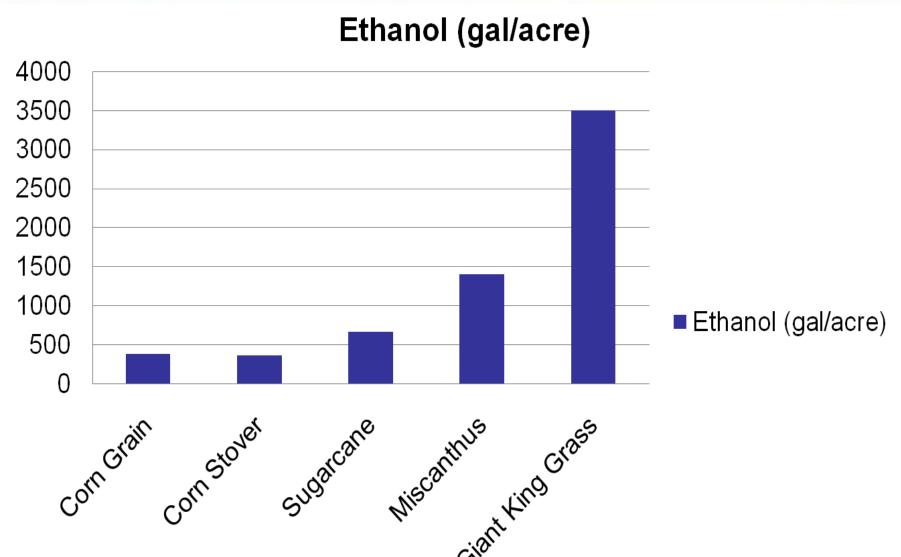
Yield	<b>Giant King</b>	Corn	Miscanthus
Dry Matter	Grass	Stover	
US ton/acre	44	3.5-4.7	14-18
Metric ton/ha	100	8.6-11.6	30-40

**Yield**: The yield comparison amongst Giant King Grass, corn Stover and Miscanthus is not an exact apples-to-apples comparison.

- Corn will grow in cold areas, whereas Giant King Grass cannot tolerate freezing temperatures
- Corn is an annual crop and must be planted every year which causes additional expense. The annual
  planting also has issues for soil erosion, soil organic matter and some of the corn and wheat must be left
  on the field for nutrient recycling and to mitigate soil erosion, etc.
- Giant King Grass and Miscanthus are both perennial grasses. Giant King Grass requires tropical and subtropical regions and can be harvested several times a year for many years. Miscanthus will grow in cold areas.

### Land-Use Efficiency Ethanol per Acre

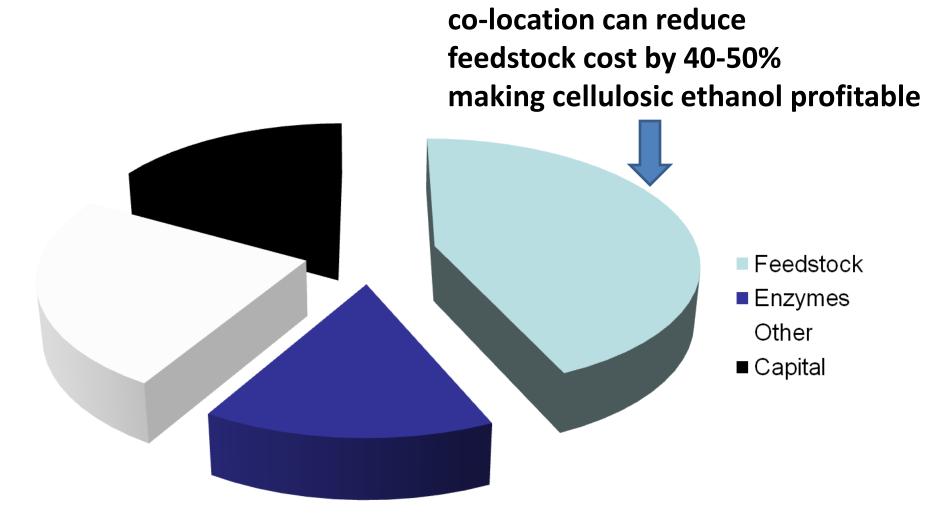




## Feedstock is the Largest Cost of Cellulosic Ethanol



**Giant King Grass and** 



## Giant King Grass & Biorefinery



- Potential products from cellulose
  - Ethanol, butanol
  - Lactic acid > polylactic acid > bioplastics
  - Pulp> Paper, viscose textile fibers
- Potential products from hemicellulose
  - Ethanol, butanol
  - chemicals such as furfural and acetic acid
- Lignin for combustion, fiber strengthener for structural plastics, adhesives and epoxy resins
- Wastewater for biogas and organic fertilizer

## Giant King Grass--Scalable & Sustainable Development



- Giant King Grass plantation co-located with a power plant, pellet mill, bio-methane facility or biorefinery
  - Scalable, integrated, clean energy module that can be replicated throughout the world
- Provides local employment for farmers and power or processing plant operators
- Provides clean electricity
- Provides energy security & independence
- Money stays in country rather than sent overseas to purchase fuel

## Advantages of Giant King Grass



- "Platform" energy crop for many bioenergy applications
  - Electricity generation. biofuels, biochemicals & bio plastics
- Low cost--Can meet cost targets for energy & biofuels applications because of high yield
  - Less expensive than agricultural waste
  - Can be used in combination w/ 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
  - Fuel supply reliability required for project financing

### **VIASPACE Business**



- VIASPACE works on integrated plantation and bioenergy or biorefinery projects
  - 90 MW biomass power plant in Thailand
  - Plantation & pellet mill in Dominican Republic
- VIASPACE is seeking quality project opportunities
- VIASPACE will work with project developer or act as project developer
- Potential R&D collaborations
- Giant King Grass samples available

### Thank You



