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Benefuel offers new solid catalyst

India-based technology developer Benefuel Inc. announced in early January a solid-catalyst manufacturing agreement with joint venture company Sud-Chemie AG, one of the world's largest catalyst companies. Benefuel markets its acid-based solid catalysts that have the ability to convert low-grade feedstocks—even those consisting of 100 percent free fatty acids—to high-quality biodiesel with no need for water-washing or catalyst recovery. A glycerin byproduct stream exceeding 98 percent purity is also created. Benefuel has announced plans to build a biodiesel plant that would use its catalyst to produce the renewable fuel. The company aims to reduce the environmental and economical footprints of conventional biodiesel producers with skid-mounted “micro-refineries.”