# CelluForce™

Presentation by Jean Moreau, President & CEO Driving Innovation to Market Cellulose Nanomaterials – A Path to Commercialization Washington, D.C May 20-21

# THE CELLUFORCE JOURNEY



# **Build It and They Will Come**





#### **World's Largest CNC Demonstration Plant**



#### Build it and they will come



#### **CelluForce - The Team**



### **CelluForce NCC™Process**





# **Demonstration Plant Inputs and Outputs**

**Process Inputs:** 

- Bleached kraft pulp
- Mill services:
  - Process Water
  - Acid (93% H2SO4)
  - Caustic
  - Steam
  - Electricity, air

Process outputs:

- Process effluent to mill treatment system
- Finished product 200/500 kg bags



#### **Virtual Plant Visit**













#### Who are we Joint Venture – Incorporated July 2010

Initial investment \$43M (including \$33M of Gov't support)











#### Cellulose Nanocrystals (CNC) Our Vision





We harness the power of nature's basic elements to transform your product performance



# **Our Product**



TEM image of cotton nanocrystals



### **Our Product**



**Pure Cellulose nanocrystal CNC** 

#### Dimensions: 100 nm long, 5 nm width





# **General Applications**





- Cosmetics
- Paints and coatings
- Construction materials
- Detergents
- Oilfield fluids
- Polymers
- Paper chemicals
- Textiles
- Foodstuffs



### Market Opportunities on immediate applications

Paints and Coatings

Oil and gas fluid

Cement









### Market Opportunities on immediate applications

- Water Treatment
- Adhesives
- **Food**









### **Goals and Accomplishments**

#### **INITIAL GOALS** (initial investment \$43M)

- □ Introduce nanocrystalline cellulose to the commercial world CNC
- □ Master the manufacturing process
- Develop the business in a wide range of market sectors
- Prove the market potential
- Build commercial plants

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- □ The largest NCC<sup>™</sup> demonstration manufacturing facility in the world
- □ Continuous high quality product processing capability
- □ Collaboration with over 30 companies, through signed agreements, to develop NCC<sup>™</sup> applications
- Portfolio of manufacturing and applications intellectual property
- World recognized CelluForce Trade Mark



#### **Financial Needs**

#### TO COME - WINDOW OF 5-6 YEARS - FINANCIAL NEEDS

- Second round of financing, now to finance next 2 years (2014-15) with the following objectives:
  - Deliver a series of commercial applications with significant potential revenues
  - To further develop potential technical applications
  - To continue improving manufacturing processes
  - Complete engineering estimate to build future commercial plants
- Third round to come in 2016-2017 to bridge end of demonstration phase to commercial phase (2016 to 2019)
- Fourth round to finance commercial plant \$ TBD, will be equivalent of a chemical plant



# THE FINDINGS

- ✓ There is an exciting future for this new biomaterial
- ✓ There is a market demand for NCC in various sectors
- ✓ We have a continuous manufacturing process that can work :
  - 24 hours a day,
  - 7 days a week,
  - ✤365 days a year
- ✓ Commercial scale up is possible; non-scalable units and alternative technologies have been identified



# THE FINDINGS

- ✓ Commercial applications are imminent
- ✓ Current collaborations include:
  - Large volume applications
  - Speciality niche applications
  - From cosmetics to oil and gas to specialty chemicals
- ✓ Small dosages allow the price point to be maintained in commodity and semi commodity sectors
- ✓ Technology development is essential
- ✓ Collaboration is key, patience is required
- ✓ IP creation is important



# **Converting the findings into Action**

- ✓ Clear work plan for commercial plant scale up
- Demonstration knowledge allows flexible manufacturing plants

✓ Focus on :

- Tier 1 collaborations
- ✤V NCC focus

Short term applications

✓ Foster the technology development expert network developed in the last 3 years



# Summary

- Outstanding accomplishments to date
- Still 3-4 years before commercial phase
- Build commercial plants
- License technology
- At the edge to create a significant new bio material market > \$1B
- Launching phase from 2005 to 2020, 15 years will cost over \$100 M before building commercial plant





# **THANK YOU**



### **DRIVING INNOVATION (Forbes interview Feb 2014)**

- Determination, resilience, perseverance, patience
- Innovation = turning creativity into output
  - Be a captain and a pirate
  - Let them play, create the environment
  - Listening is understated, you can learn to listen
- De-risk your idea
  - Divide your ideas into small projects and shorter milestones
  - How far get we get by Friday!
  - Huddling with a small group



### **DRIVING INNOVATION (Forbes interview Feb 2014)**

- Collaboration is key and is not the same as team work
  - Your boss needs to believe you are going to market
  - PPT will not convey excitement alone, you need to show off
  - Collaborations is more robust and frightening, no rules to the game, no authority above, bring the right expertise into the collaboration
- Get in the field
  - Feel it, touch it
  - Report is not a feel
- Don't expect everyone to say yes
  - Get attention,
  - Avoid ignorance
  - Piss off is good, you are disturbing, this is INNOVATION
  - Get over it, Innovation is tough



### What I Expected

- > The reality of a start up
- > There would be surprises
- Pressure for results
- Challenges finding the right market
- > Achieving enough success to scale to a commercial sized plant



# What I Expected Less

- The length of time for the technical demonstration cycle, it is a proof of concept not a sales
- Launching a material as an additive compare to other autonomous innovation
- > Murphy's law applies and Murphy was an optimist
- Manufacturing challenges for such a new high-tech material, it is a world first
- Providing responsive technical support in the field, collaboration is a must



### What I Know Now

- Infinite perseverance, patience and resilience
- > Being selective in pre-filtering clients
- Getting traction quicker with simplified solution environments
- Being realistic about time and cost estimates
- Setting expectations for our owners
- > Facing the brutal facts, blow it if need be!

