

BIOTECH Mascoma names Brady new CEO

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LEBANON -- Mascoma Corp., a developer of cellulosic ethanol as an alternative fuel, announced it has tapped chemical industry veteran William Brady to be its next chief executive officer.

Brady previously served as executive vice president and general manager of [Cabot Corp.](#) a Boston-based chemical company, where he spent 23 years, and led business units into commercialization.

Brady takes the helm at Mascoma as it plans to move from the development and prototyping stage into full-scale commercial operation.

"Bill has extensive experience running large commercial divisions for a major chemical company, which is exactly the skill set we need as Mascoma transitions into a commercial enterprise," said Bruce Jamerson, who stepped down from the CEO position in August but remains chairman of Mascoma.

Dartmouth College engineers Lee Lynd and Charles Wyman founded Mascoma Corp. in 2005 to create a cheaper ethanol, practical for large-scale production. The company has its headquarters and R&D facilities in Lebanon, and is building a demonstration plant in Rome, N.Y., capable of manufacturing 500,000 gallons of ethanol per year.

With nearly \$100 million in venture financing, Mascoma now has 100 employees and is operating at a pilot scale. As yet, it has no paying customers.

A research team from Dartmouth College and Mascoma last year announced it had genetically engineered a thermophilic bacterium able to thrive at high temperatures. The company says the microorganism can replace enzymes used in fermentation and enable furnaces to remain at a more consistent high temperature through the ethanol-making process, reducing energy used to periodically increase and decrease the temperature in the process, and thus, lower the cost of ethanol.

Mascoma Corp. senior researcher Kevin Wenger said at the time the finding was significant and can reduce the production cost of a gallon of cellulosic ethanol by 25 percent, possibly below \$2 a gallon.

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