

# OriginOil™

**Algae Harvesting, Dewatering and Extraction**



**Worldbiofuels**  
**MARKETS**  
15-17 March 2010  
RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam

A BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM ALGAE INTO OIL

# Safe Harbor Statement



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# Recovering Oil: A Twofold Challenge

## § Algae Grow Suspended in Large Amounts of Water

- § Cells have similar specific gravity to water
- § Algae in suspension neither sink nor float
- § Wet biomass retains interstitial water, which acts as a lubricant
- § Harvesting oil requires solids separation
- § Dewatering is energy and capital intensive

## § Cell Walls are Difficult to “Crack”

- § Algae have a tough exterior to protect internal lipids
- § Cell wall has a high elasticity modulus
- § Cell rupture through mechanical friction and steam explosion requires dry biomass
- § Mechanical extraction is energy and capital intensive
- § Chemical extraction requires caustic solvents

## Conventional Approach

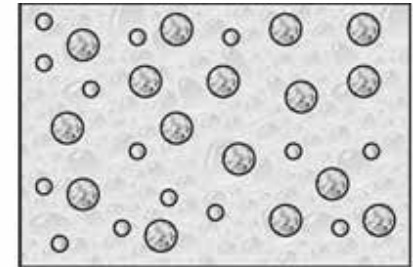
§ Current State of the Art is a 3-Stage Process:



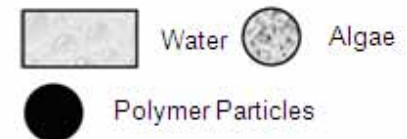
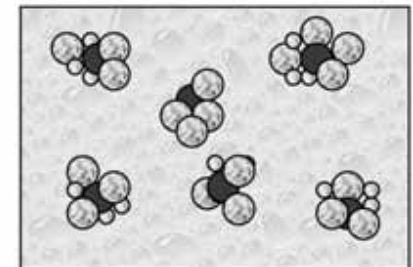
Conventional Systems Feature a Combination of Technologies

# Solids Separation: Polymer Flocculation

- § Solute particles form biomass aggregate called “floc”
- § Two main types of flocculants
  - § Inorganic Flocculants
  - § Organic Polymer/Polyelectrolyte Flocculants
- § Microalgae can form stable suspensions
- § Advantages:
  - § Capable of treating large quantities of culture
  - § Applicable to wide range of algae strains
  - § Less energy intensive than mechanical separation
- § Limitations:
  - § Flocculants can be expensive and caustic
  - § Flocculation alone is not sufficient
  - § Typically combined with other processes



Polymer  
Flocculation

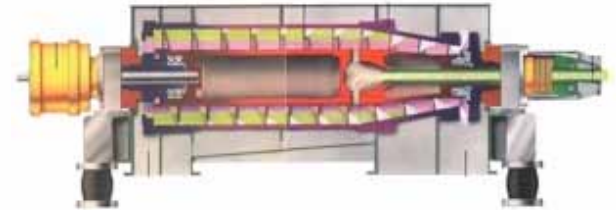


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# Solids Separation: Decanters/Centrifuges



- § Mechanical approach to solids separation
  - § Decanters are typically used in the ethanol industry
  - § Centrifuges are widely used in the algae industry
- § Operates using the sedimentation principle
- § Requires specific gravity differential
- § Advantages
  - § Seen as the most efficient recovery technique
  - § Capable of processing large algae cultures
  - § Appropriate for cultures that are more liquid and less solid
- § Limitations
  - § Capital and energy intensive
  - § Requires additional drying for mechanical and chemical extraction

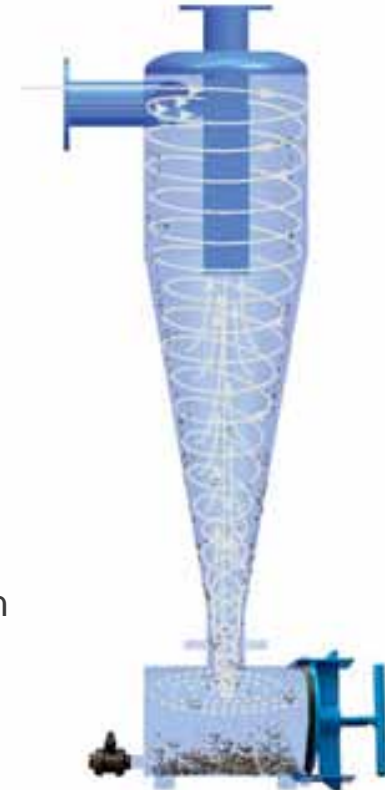


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# Solids Separation: Hydrocyclones



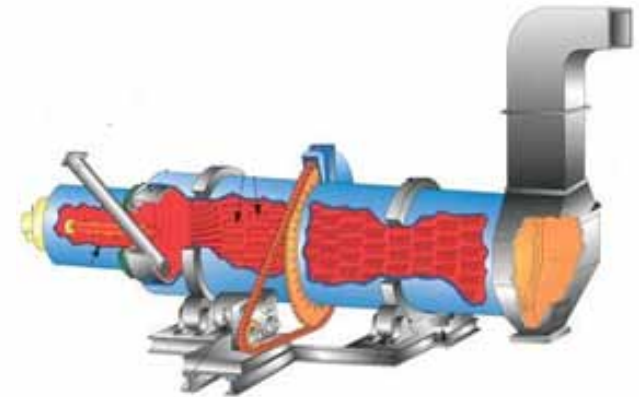
- § Uses gravity to separate solids from liquids
- § Requires specific gravity differential
- § Hydrocyclone dimensions must be precision engineered
- § Advantages
  - § Low capital costs
- § Limitations
  - § Only appropriate for select algae strains (e.g. Coelastrum)
  - § Efficiency is highly dependent on solids concentration
  - § Process is energy intensive
  - § Requires additional drying for mechanical and chemical extraction
  - § Reliability is questionable



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## Dewatering: Indirect/Direct Heat

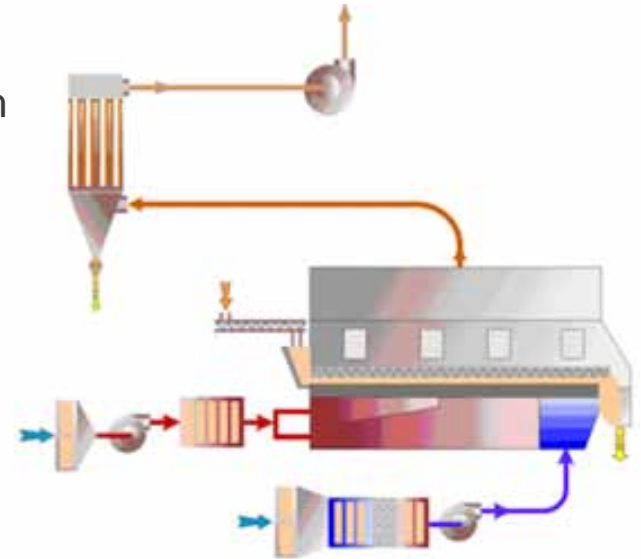
- § Heat is used to evaporate water
- § Indirect heating uses rotating disks to accelerate heat exchange
- § Direct heat uses open flame to create steam
- § Advantages
  - § Very effective as reducing moisture content
  - § Appropriate for applications with significant “waste heat”
- § Limitations
  - § Capital and energy intensive
  - § Direct heat has combustion risks
  - § Regular maintenance required





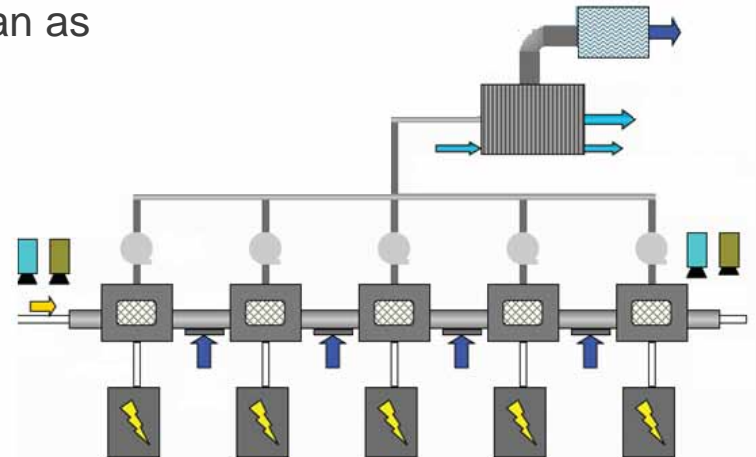
# Dewatering: Fluid Bed

- § Designed to dry biomass as it floats on a cushion of air
- § Uses rotating screen that allows air to percolate through wet biomass
- § Advantages
  - § Effective at reducing moisture content of biomass
  - § Does not require steam or heat
  - § Relatively low maintenance costs
- § Limitations
  - § Typically used when moisture content is relatively low
  - § Capital and energy intensive



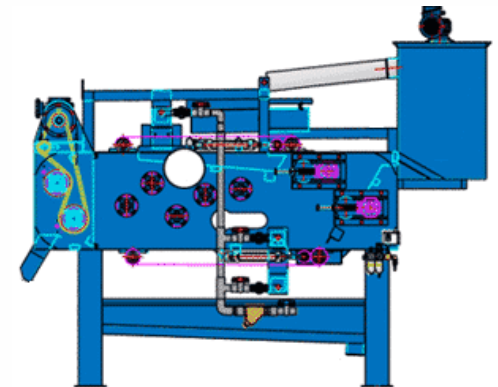
# Dewatering: Microwave

- § Process uses volumetric heating to achieve even distribution
- § Energy is delivered electromagnetically, rather than as heat
- § Advantages
  - § Drying time can be reduced significantly
  - § Reduced risk of combustion
  - § Lower energy cost compared to steam drying
  - § Low maintenance costs
- § Limitations
  - § Potential of uneven drying
  - § Capital and energy intensive



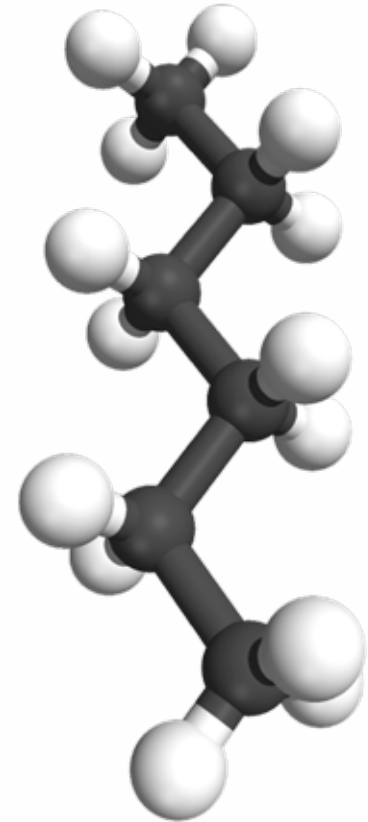
## Extraction: Expellers/Presses

- § Uses mechanical force to rupture algae cells
- § Widely used in oil extraction from various feedstock
- § Design must be tailored to algae strain
- § Advantages
  - § No chemical input required
  - § Appropriate for high oil content algae
  - § Capable of extracting up to 80% oil
- § Limitations
  - § Residual biomass remains with pressed oil
  - § Typically requires additional solvent extraction
  - § Capital and energy intensive
  - § High maintenance costs



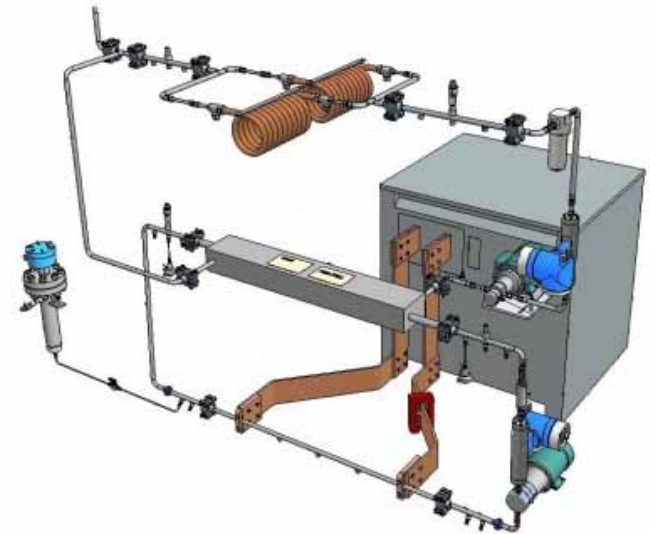
## Extraction: Solvents

- § Chemicals including benzene, ether and hexane are used to degrade cell walls
- § Oil dissolves into solvent and is recovered through distillation
- § Can be used in conjunction with mechanical extraction
- § Advantages
  - § Relatively inexpensive
  - § Effective at releasing up to 95% oil
- § Limitations
  - § Requires the use of caustic chemicals
  - § Hexane requires two year permitting process (U.S.)



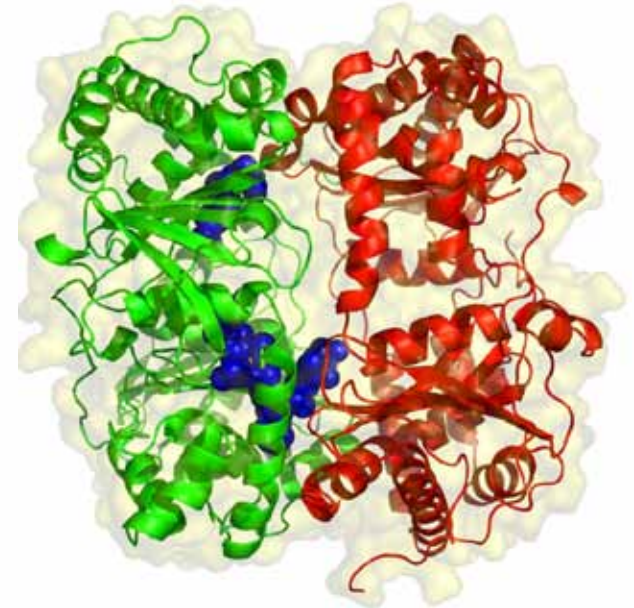
## Extraction: Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>

- § Process uses liquid CO<sub>2</sub> at high temperature and high pressure to extract algae oil
- § CO<sub>2</sub> penetrates algae cells and causes them to rupture
- § Widely used in various industries, including coffee
- § Advantages
  - § Low environmental impact
  - § High quality oil and biomass product
- § Limitations
  - § Works best when algae cells are partially ruptured
  - § Process is highly tuned and sensitive
  - § High pressure systems involve risk
  - § Capital and energy intensive



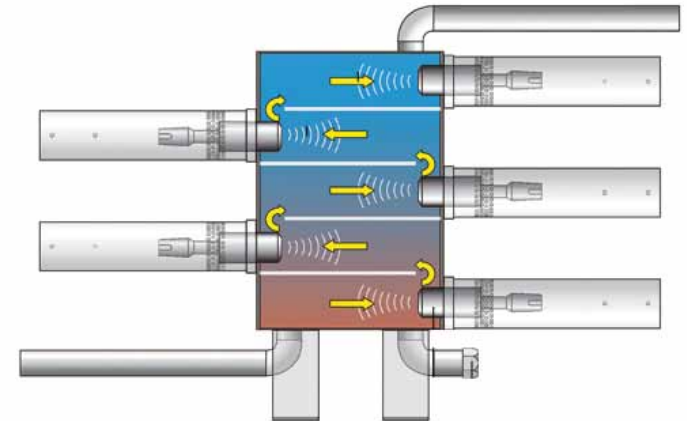
## Other Approaches: Enzyme Extraction

- § Uses enzymes to degrade cell walls
- § Water acts as the solvent material
- § Process makes fractionation of oil much easier
- § Advantages
  - § Does not require dry cake for oil extraction
  - § Low environmental impact
  - § No caustic chemicals
- § Limitations
  - § Costs are much higher than hexane extraction



# Other Approaches: Ultrasonication

- § Uses ultrasonic waves to create cavitation bubbles in a solvent material
- § Bubbles collapse, resulting in shock waves that break down cell walls
- § Can be used in conjunction with enzymatic extraction
- § Advantages
  - § Does not require dry cake for oil extraction
  - § Low environmental impact
  - § No caustic chemicals
- § Limitations
  - § Energy intensive
  - § Technology unproven at industrial scale



# The OriginOil Difference

## Conventional Approach



## OriginOil Approach

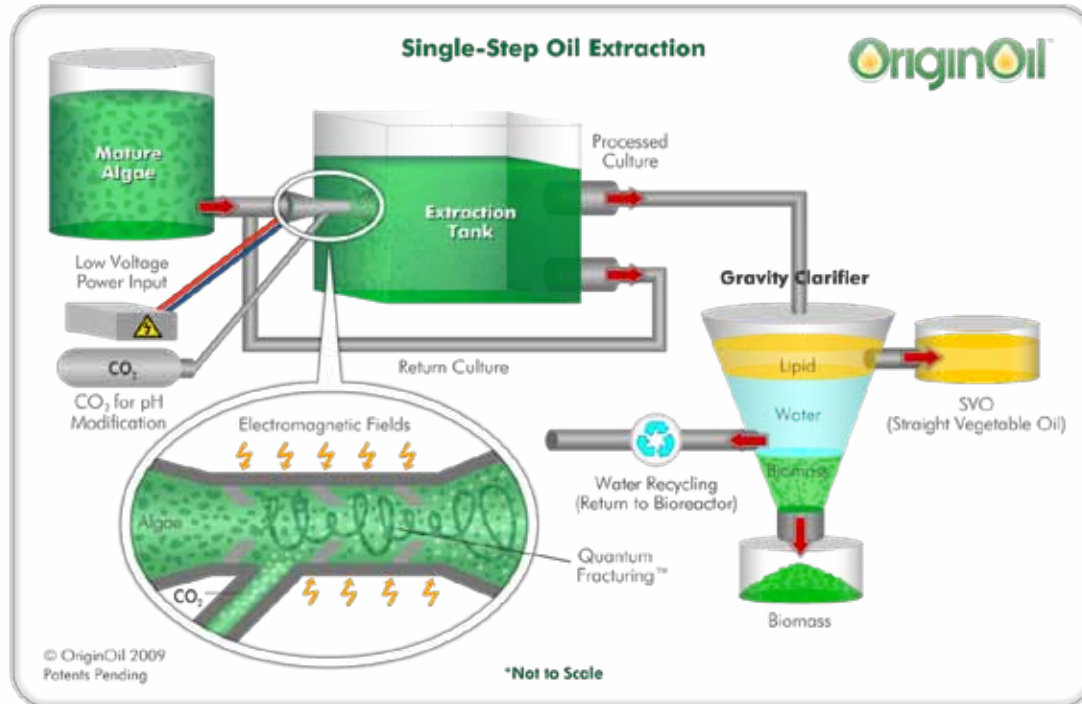


Radical Shift vs. Incremental Gains

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# OriginOil Single-Step Extraction™



- § In one step, Quantum Fracturing™ combines with electromagnetism and pH modification to break down cell walls.
- § Algae oil rises to the top for skimming and refining, while the remaining biomass settles to the bottom for further processing as fuel and other valuable products.

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# Single-Step Extraction Process Details

## § CO<sub>2</sub> Injection

- § Lowers pH to optimize electromagnetic delivery
- § Chemically assists in cell degradation

## § Quantum Fracturing

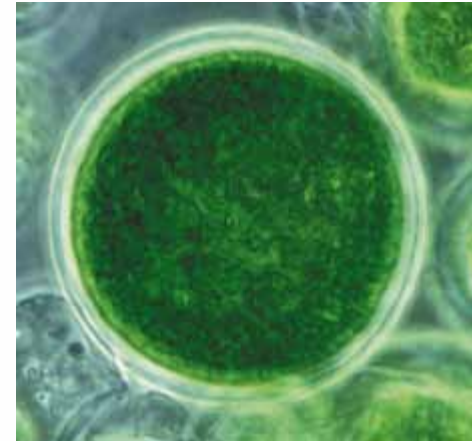
- § Creates fluid fracturing effect
- § Mechanically distresses algae cells

## § Electromagnetic Field

- § Highly tuned EMP ruptures algae cells
- § Causes cells to release internal lipids

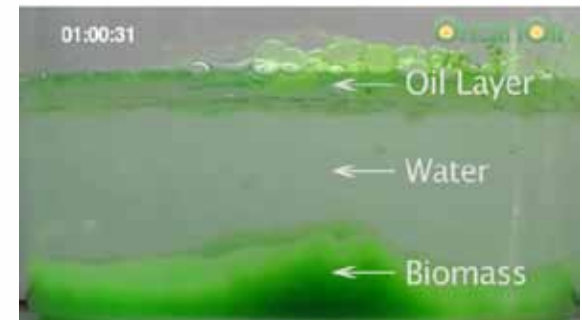
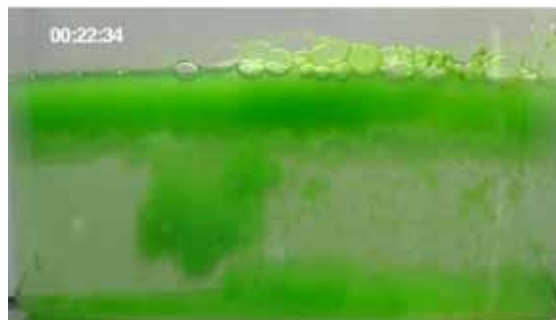
## § Additional Key Process Innovations

- § Subject to imminent patent filings



# Gravity Settling

- § Single Step Extraction separates oil from biomass
- § Processed culture is transferred to a gravity clarifier
  - § Oil rises to the top
  - § Biomass sinks to the bottom
- § Oil is skimmed for downstream polishing
- § Biomass is drained for further drying (if necessary)
- § Water is recycled to the bioreactor or pond

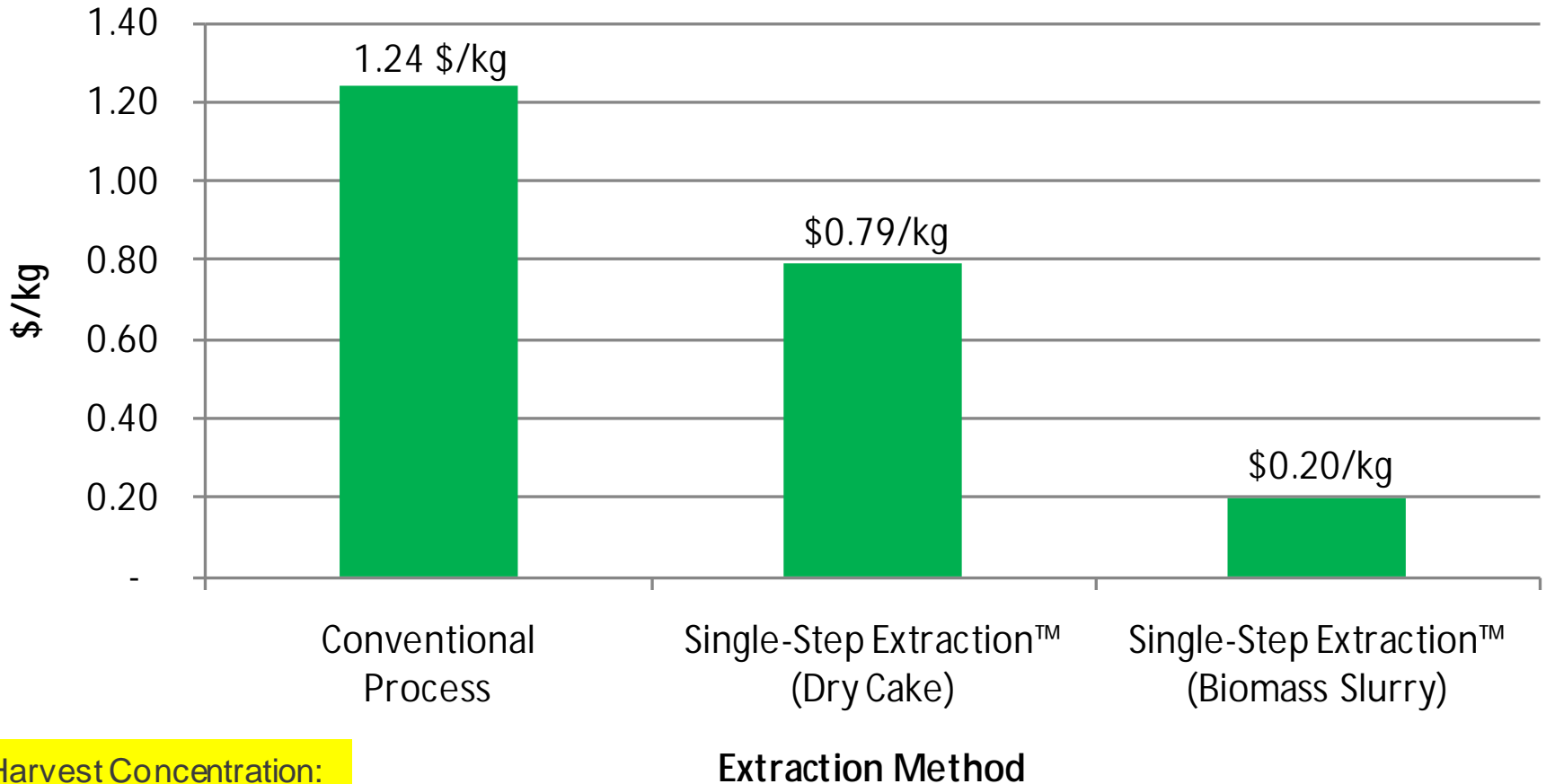


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## Single Step Extraction Benefits

- § No initial dewatering required
- § Significant energy savings
- § No caustic chemicals
- § Tunable to a wide range of feedstock
- § Small footprint
- § Easy installation
- § Applicable to all growth platforms
- § Fast throughput – highly scalable
- § Greatly-reduced Capital Expenditure

# Energy Cost of Oil Extraction



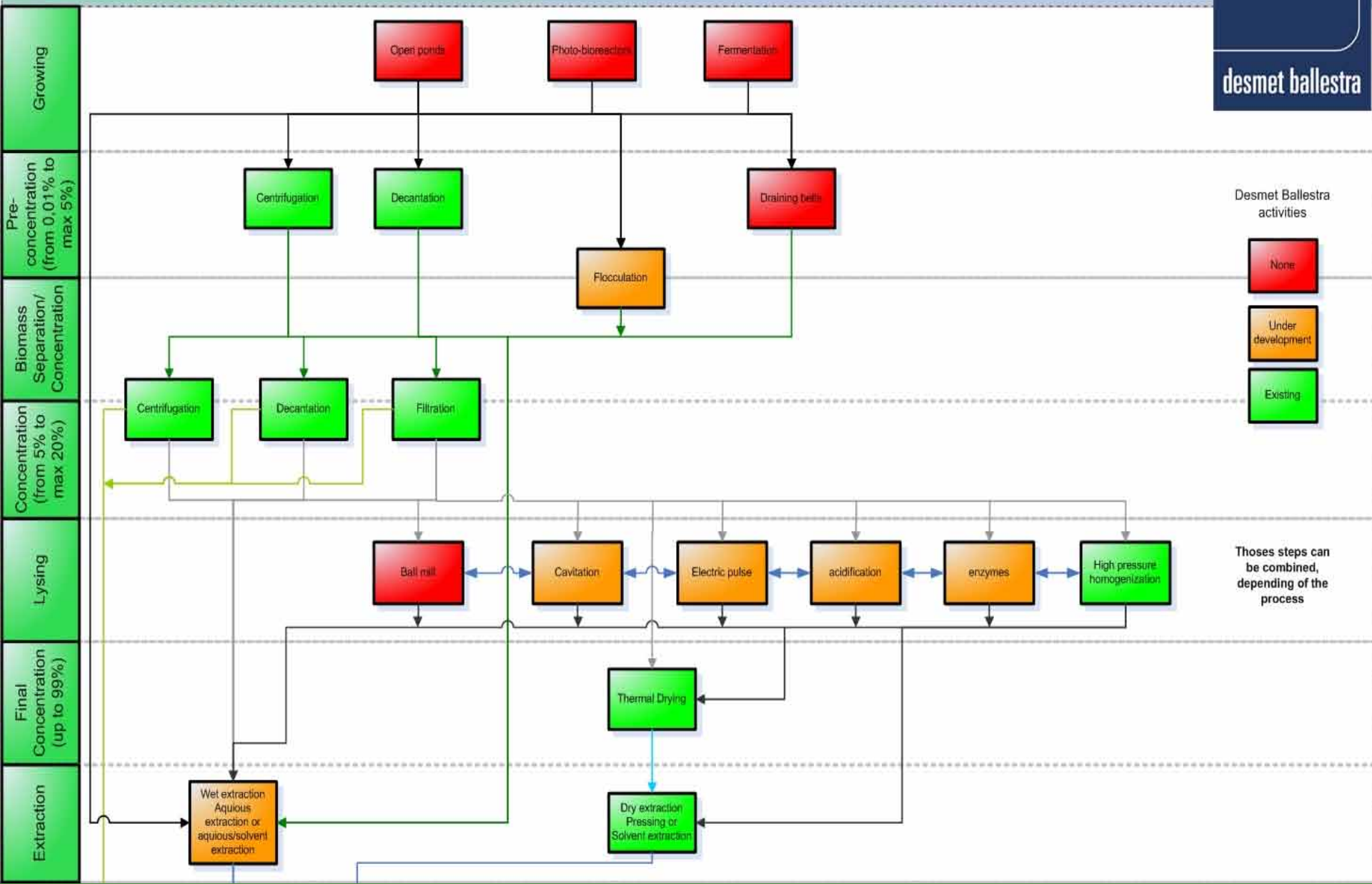
Harvest Concentration:  
1 gram/L dry weight

Extraction Method

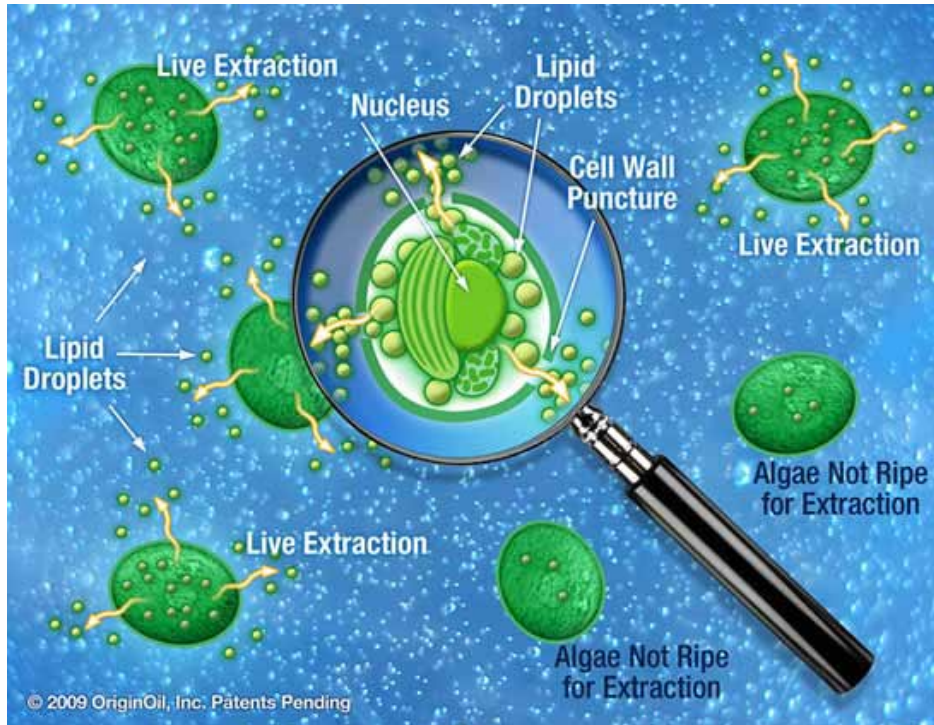
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Desmet Ballestra Algae diagram (by VVN)



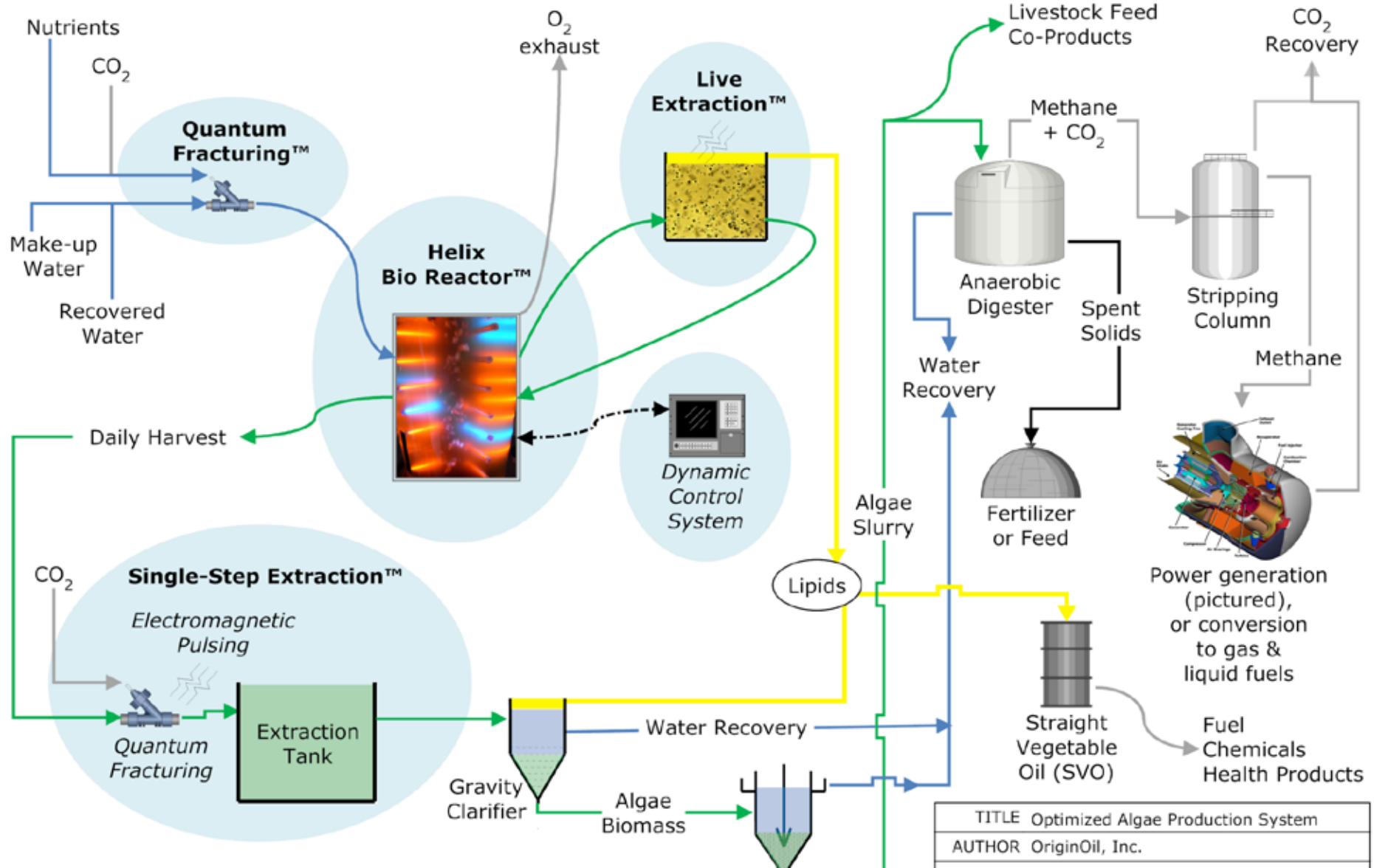
# Live Extraction™



- § Continuous 'milking' process works by stimulating the algae cells electrically.
- § Algae oil is extracted continuously, algae remains alive.
- § Combines with daily harvest for improved productivity, refreshed cell cultures.
- § Does not use expensive consumables, not limited to one strain.
- § Now being scaled up to OriginOil's intermediate 200-gallon tank size.

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# OPTIMIZED ALGAE PRODUCTION SYSTEM



TITLE	Optimized Algae Production System
AUTHOR	OriginOil, Inc.



## Next Steps

### § Single-Step Extraction:

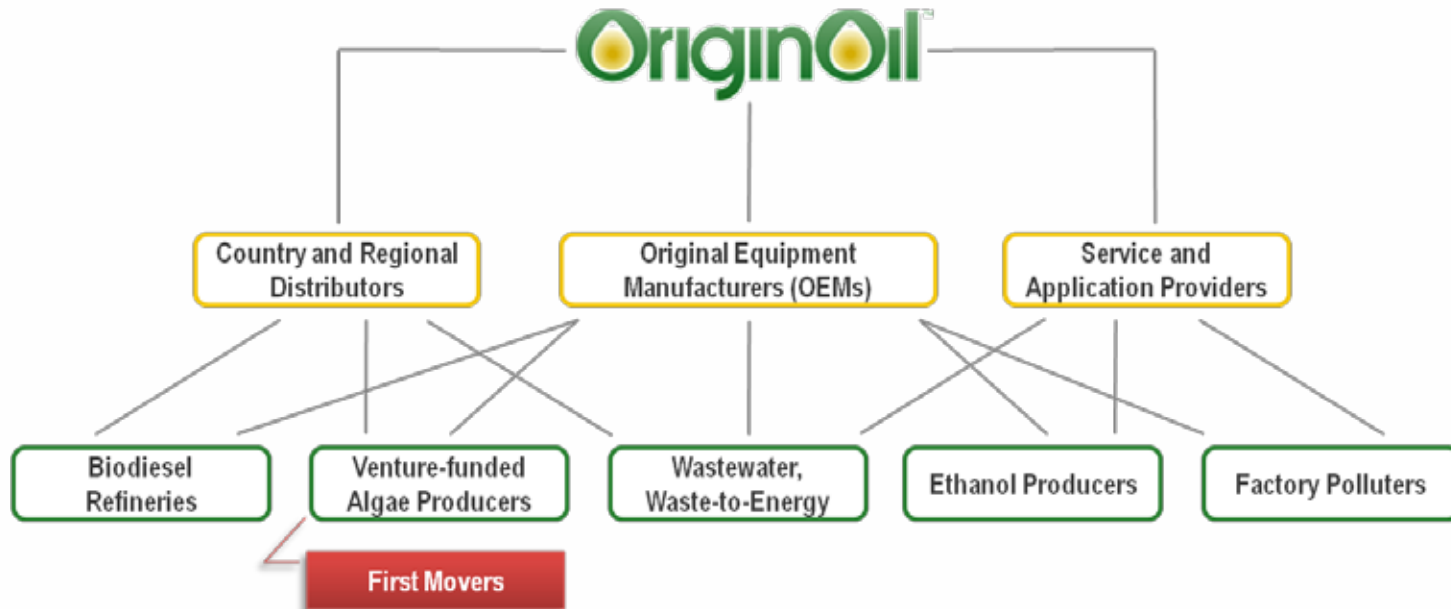
- § 28 January 2010, launched pilot scale lab system (3-5gpm)
- § By mid-2010, will launch mobile algae extraction system (ALGAEMAX) – on-site demos to interested algae companies.
- § Pursuing commercial pilot projects in 2H2010.
- § Ongoing discussions with OEMs.

### § Live Extraction:

- § Displayed bench scale system at 28 January event.
- § Currently scaling up to 200-gallon tank system.
- § Testing productivity singly and in tandem with daily harvest and Single-Step Extraction.

# Path to an Algae Market

- § Development of an integrated network of global partners, including:
  - § Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)
  - § Country and Regional Partners
  - § Device and Component Manufacturers
  - § Service and Maintenance Providers
  - § Customized Application Developers



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# THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

[partners@originoil.com](mailto:partners@originoil.com)

**(SEE FOLLOWING SLIDES  
FOR PROCESS COMPARISON DETAILS )**



Harvest Concentration:  
1 gram/L dry weight

# Conventional Energy Requirements

Centrifuge for 1 MGD sludge processing	1,059	kWh
Centrifuge for processing 10,000,000 L (2.64 MG)	2,798	kWh
Sludge solid content	27	%
Sludge moisture content	73	%
Total biomass in 10,000,000 L	10,000	kg
Total moisture (water) content	27,037	kg
Energy requirement for water evaporation	16,770	kWh
Total energy requirement for dewatering	19,568	kWh
Cost for dewatering 10,000,000 L of algae culture	1,370	\$
Energy cost for oil extraction	1,113	\$
Total energy cost of crude oil	2,483	\$
Energy cost per kg of crude oil	1.24	\$/kg

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Harvest Concentration:  
1 gram/L dry weight

# OriginOil Energy Requirements (Sludge)

*Case A - biomass product is bio-digestible sludge*

Extraction energy for 10,000,000 L	5,625	kWh
Post-extraction dewatering of 10,000,000 L	179	kWh
Unit power cost	0.07	\$/kWh
<b>Cost for processing 10,000,000 L</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>\$</b>
Total oil content (assuming 20% yield)	2,000	kg
Energy cost per kg of crude oil	0.20	\$/kg
	<b>16.4</b>	<b>percent of conventional process energy cost</b>

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# Single-Step Extraction™(Cake)



Harvest Concentration:  
1 gram/L dry weight

*Case B - biomass product is dry (10%)*

Extraction energy for 10,000,000 L	5,625	kWh
Post-extraction dewatering of 10,000,000 L	179	kWh
Energy requirement for water evaporation	16,770	kWh
Unit power cost	0.07	\$/kWh
<b>Cost for processing 10,000,000 L</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>\$</b>
Total oil content (assuming 20% yield)	2,000	kg
Energy cost per kg of crude oil	0.79	\$/kg
	<b>63.6</b>	<b>percent of conventional process energy cost</b>

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