

**Idaho lab signs deal to research algae oil**

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BOISE, Idaho (AP) - Scientists at the Idaho National Laboratory are teaming up with a California company to research how best to produce biofuel from algae, that slimy, green aquatic weed.

Officials at INL recently signed an agreement with **OriginOil**, a Los Angeles-based company trying to extract lipids from algae to produce fuel to power airplanes and vehicles.

Vikram Pattarkine, the company's chief technology officer, says fuel produced from algae holds some advantages over other biofuels, especially its corn-based cousins like ethanol and biodiesel.

For example, he says the production of corn-based fuels requires more energy, while algae grows simply with light, nutrients and carbon dioxide.

One of the biggest hurdles, he says, is figuring out a way to mass produce algae oil.

Information from: Post Register, <http://www.postregister.com> [<http://www.postregister.com>]

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