

<p>Frances Schrotter Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer American National Standards Institute</p>	<p>ANSI-BSP Inaugural Meeting Arlington, Virginia Opening Remarks and Introduction of Chair – 9:30 a.m. May 9, 2007</p> <p><i>605 words – approximately 5 minutes</i></p>
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Good morning everyone. On behalf of the American National Standards Institute, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this inaugural meeting of the Biofuels Standards Panel. Thank you for joining us.

As you well know, alternative fuels have received increasing attention both at the national and global levels because of their potential to diversify energy supplies and to propel economic development.

Current estimates indicated that biofuels — if successfully capitalized as a commodity for trade — have the potential to contribute up to thirty percent of the world’s energy mix.

From field to end use, stakeholders from all sectors and countries have been talking about biofuels, and everyone is moving quickly to establish their roles within this ever-growing market.

In his 2006 State of the Union address, President Bush outlined the Advanced Energy Initiative to help reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. With a national goal of replacing more than 75% of our oil imports by 2025, the president’s mandate requires immediate action and collaboration.

As members of the standardization and conformity assessment community, our work is critical. The success of the Advanced Energy Initiative depends upon a reliable and broad set of standards and related compliance programs that begins on the world’s farms and ends in our machinery and vehicles.

As you know, ANSI serves as the umbrella organization for the U.S. standards and conformity assessment community. We offer an open and consensus-based forum in which all who are affected by an issue can come together to take action.

Our standards panels have a successful track record of addressing national and global priorities. We are pleased to add the Biofuels Standards Panel to a family that already includes coordination activities for Homeland Security, Nanotechnology, Healthcare Information Technology, and Identity Theft Protection. ANSI looks forward to working with each of you to achieve success in supporting the large-scale commoditization of biofuels.

From feedstock properties to performance specifications, the ANSI Biofuels Standards Panel will provide a neutral venue where stakeholders can collaborate to define needs, determine work plans, and establish priorities for biofuels standardization.

Together, we will evaluate the inventory of existing biofuels specifications to determine relevant standards and conformity assessment programs.

We will identify gaps where new or revised standards and compliance programs need to be developed, and work with the relevant organizations to coordinate, catalog, accelerate and promote the creation of these deliverables.

We will also identify the need for testing procedures, analytic methods, and reference materials, and work with the relevant organizations to satisfy these needs.

Above all, a strong partnership between the private and public sectors will be key to our success as we work with national, regional, and international bodies to achieve convergence and mitigate duplication or overlap.

To that end, this morning we will discuss recent events that have helped to propel biofuels-related issues to the top of domestic and international trade discussions. The U.S. government interface with bilateral and multilateral initiatives around the world will be of particular interest as we work together to determine this panel's next steps toward global convergence.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to work with all of you today, and encourage your active participation in our discussions.

I am also pleased to acknowledge Hratch Semerjian, chief scientist for National Institute of Standards and Technology, who will be chairing today's meeting.

Hratch joined NIST, then the National Bureau of Standards, in 1977, and served as director of the Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory (CSTL) from 1992 through 2003. In recent years, he has served as both acting NIST director and as NIST deputy director.

Please join me in welcoming Hratch Semerjian to the podium...