OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

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Hybrid Thermochemical-bioelectrolytic Reforming of Biomass to Hydrogen

Disclosure Number

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Technology Summary

Hydrogen production from biomass via a pyrolysis-microbial electrolysis process is described. Conversion of the intermediate bio-oil derived from pyrolysis into hydrogen via microbial electrolysis process enables high conversion efficiency, yield and productivity of biohydrogen as well as relatively low greenhouse gas emissions. The microbial electrolysis step includes breakdown of the water-soluble bio-oil compounds by anode microorganisms enabling efficient production of hydrogen. The use of microorganisms reduces the cost of catalyst necessary to convert biomass intermediates into hydrogen.

Inventor

BOROLE, ABHIJEET P Biosciences Division

Licensing Contact

CALDWELL, JENNIFER T UT-Battelle, LLC Oak Ridge National Laboratory Rm 137, Bldg 4500N6196 1 Bethel Valley Road Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Office Phone: (865) 574-4180 E-Mail: <u>CALDWELLJT@ORNL.GOV</u>