

Sensor for Determining Biofuel Concentration in Petroleum-derived Fuels

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Technology Summary

The invention disclosure relates to sensor systems and more specifically to a sensor for identifying the percent of biofuel in a petroleum fuel. Biofuels are more frequently being added to petroleum fuels to meet the country's energy needs. Biofuels exhibit different combustion properties of petrofuels and engines are calibrated to optimize engine operation as a function of biofuel content. Unfortunately, current measuring technologies are expensive and unreliable. The current states of technology for measuring biofuel concentration in a fuel blend are fuel composition sensors (which are also referred to as flex fuel sensors). These sensors require significant energy to operate and are highly sensitive to contaminants, especially water which is prevalent in many biofuels.

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