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# CDI on the lookout for investors to commercialise new biofuel, Traw

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**CHE** Dzayauddin Ishak Sdn Bhd (CDI) is on the lookout for investors to commercialise Torrefied Acacia Wood Pellets (Traw), a highly efficient biofuel.

"CDI is the promoting board for Traw now and we are seeking investors," said its chairman, Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawan Teh.

The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) yesterday signed a technology licensing agreement with CDI, which accords exclusive rights to the company to commercialise its Traw. CDI is an engineering and contracting company that provides comprehensive solutions on renewable energy. FRIM sold the rights to CDI under a ten year licensing agree-

ment for RM2.5 million.

Abdul Hamid said the company is currently in talks with a few potential investors to bring the new green fuel product into the market.

He however, declined to disclose the investors. Traw is the result of FRIM's research and development efforts to look for more value-added uses for the fast growing Acacias, currently utilised for making woodchips only.

"Once investors are identified for the required capital, to start the project, CDI will build a large-scale manufacturing plant which will take a year to complete.

"We have not determined how many plants will be built or identified the location yet," he said after the signing ceremony.

CDI has estimated about RM10 million per plant and it is expected to produce about 100,000 tonnes of Traw annually.

Speaking on the target markets for the new biofuel, Abdul Hamid said the demand is

mostly overseas at present. "As such, we plan to penetrate the European market first," he added. He also said CDI will be promoting and commercialising Traw using a high technology system called, Airless Technology, from the UK to produce it more efficiently.

The Traw is expected to be in the market in two years, Abdul Hamid explained.

Meanwhile, Frim's director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod said the basic idea behind this venture, is to take advantage of the naturally occurring fuel as an energy source.

"This is being done in a way that is environmentally sound and cost effective, while contributing to the protection of the environment," he added.

He also said that Traw is a good substitute for charcoal and wood pellets and this expansion of renewable technologies would diversify the nation's energy supply. — *Bernama*