

Building a dynamic capital project team: Biorefinery plant design considerations

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The building, expanding, and modernizing a biomass co-generation or pellet mill will require a diverse number of team members that offer a specialized set of skills. How those teams are sourced, secured, and work as one is often a challenge to coordinate. The goal of this presentation is to offer streamlined solutions to assemble the right team with all plant design aspects to consider from project sponsor to construction partner. Like drafting a playoff-capable team, timing and talent across the various project functions are foundational for success. Which play to execute, who to put in the game, and who's there for back-up: each decision is an important contribution to creating a winning team - which is why each project team must clearly understand its role and how it affects the overall project to meet the team objective. Completing the project on time and on a budget is the ultimate goal; but how is this achieved? Taking the complex and significant number of tasks necessary to a well-designed and managed game plan allows for risk minimization, the assurance to stakeholders and investors that the objectives will be met. Beginning with the end in mind; team alignment is critical. Each technology provider and team member must be heard; what is needed? How is it possible for the vast number of moving parts to work in concert? From raw material input to finished product out the door? From a safe working environment to adequate dust management? Adequate storage? Putting quality practices into the design considerations to maximize production capabilities and minimize downtime? What alternative technologies can be added as increased value projects in the initial design, or even bolt on? With an integrated design team in place, we will explore how to A) maintain a collaborative team environment, B) communicate consistently among individual teams as part of the overall objective of executing the project on time and on budget, and C) minimize risks such as managing budget, maintaining schedule, and navigating the permitting process.

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