FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2015

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NEW CONFERENCE WILL PROMOTE ENGINEERING AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Society for Biological Engineers' workshop explores commercial and technical aspects of industrial biotechnology, September 28–29, in San Diego

NEW YORK CITY-The Society for Biological Engineers (SBE), a subsidiary of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), is organizing a new workshop titled "Technology Challenges and Opportunities in Commercializing Industrial Biotechnology," where engineers, scientists, and other stakeholders in business and industry will discuss the latest wave of opportunities that have emerged from the biotechnology revolution.

The workshop will convene at the Bahia Hotel in San Diego, California, on Sept. 28–29 and will highlight commercial opportunities and technical challenges in the developing field of industrial biotechnology.

At the two-day event, technology experts and business leaders in the chemicals, biotechnology, and energy arenas will gather with researchers and representatives from government and investment companies to discuss the techniques, economics, engineering design, and international perspectives involved in industrial biotechnology. The event will integrate technical information with economic analyses, providing insight into industrial biotechnology as a means of manufacturing and effectively marketing fuels, chemicals, and a range of new products. Jeff Lievense, executive vice president for Process Technology at Genomatica, a San Diego-based biotech company, and Brian Davison, chief scientist for Systems Biology and Biotechnology at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, will co-chair the event.

"This workshop offers a deep dive into the science and engineering of commercializing industrial biotechnology," says workshop co-chair Lievense. "Attendees will learn about technology best practices, feedstock choices, and real economics, and hear first-hand case studies that show how bioprocesses work, predictably and at scale — all presented by people who have done the work successfully."

Setting the stage for the discussions to follow, the workshop's opening keynote speeches on Sept. 28 will be given by Doug Cameron, co-president and director of First Green Partners, a Minneapolis, Minnesota-based company that leverages advances in science and technology

applied to agriculture, and Geoff Duyk, partner and managing director of TPG Biotech, a developer of alternative and renewable technologies.

Industrial biotechnology involves working with living cells to optimize existing biochemical pathways that can be used to manufacture a variety of products, and is one of the most promising approaches to pollution prevention, resource conservation and energy production. The emergence of industrial biotechnology as a growth area stems from a series of related developments in cell-based biology, including genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics.

Developed to its full potential, industrial biotechnology and its products may have enormous impacts on world health and energy production, offering businesses ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs while protecting the environment. In addition, the new products generated by applications of biotechnology on the industrial scale may open doors to unprecedented commercial opportunities.

The launch of the Technology Challenges and Opportunities in Commercializing Industrial Biotechnology workshop is timely, Lievense notes, because the practice of industrial biotechnology is relatively new, and its benefits are still not yet fully understood by industry, policymakers, investors and consumers. The workshop will increase collaborations among those very thought-leaders and participants, including investors — which is a necessary step for the continued growth and success of industrial biotechnology.

Complete program and registration information is available at www.aiche.org/cib

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About SBE:
Established in 2004, the Society for Biological Engineering is a technological community for engineers and applied scientists integrating biology with engineering. Members of SBE come from a broad spectrum of industries and disciplines and share in SBE's mission of realizing the benefits of bioprocessing, biomedical and biomolecular applications. http://bio.aiche.org.

About AIChE:
AIChE is a professional society of more than 50,000 chemical engineers in 100 countries. Its members work in corporations, universities and government using their knowledge of chemical processes to develop safe and useful products for the benefit of society. Through its varied programs, AIChE continues to be a focal point for information exchange on the frontiers of chemical engineering research in such areas as energy, sustainability, biological and environmental engineering, nanotechnology and chemical plant safety and security. More information about AIChE is available at www.aiche.org.