

Rafael Nieves
Managing Partner
NEAtech, LLC
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Qualifications

Dr. Rafael Nieves has worked in the renewable energy sector for over 27 years. Dr. Nieves is experienced in management of national and international collaborations as well as project management and financial analysis of large technical projects. His formal technical training is in biotechnology with emphasis on the biofuels, biomass and bioindustry sector. He is an experienced energy market specialist and has served as a senior technical advisor. Successful client collaborations have been well-served by his R&D technical skills and business experience. Dr. Nieves has extensive experience nationally and internationally managing bioenergy projects in the U.S., Mexico, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Australia, Philippines, Ghana, Armenia, Indonesia and the Ukraine. Rafael's technical expertise is in the hydrolysis and fermentation sciences of biomass conversion.

Dr. Nieves was the recipient of a 2004 R&D 100 award for his work as the lead technical director for a \$35 million proteomics and genomics cellulase improvement program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Within the public and private sector, over the last 10 years he has developed, obtained and managed multi-million dollar contracts and has supervised national and international research and business teams in the renewable energy industry. He is an author and co-author on 3 enzyme patents and has published over 20 peer-reviewed technical articles. He possesses a Ph.D. from Colorado State University and a M.B.A. from the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver.

Experience

NEAtech, LLC, CEO and President, January 2009 - present

Dr. Nieves is currently the CEO and President of NEAtech LLC. Developing New Energy Alternatives is the focus and mission of NEAtech. NEAtech assists government and private sector clients worldwide in the evaluation and development of advanced biofuels technologies, biomass based alternative energy, wind and solar projects.

BBI International, Director - International Business Development, 2007 – 2009

Dr. Nieves was the Director of the international business development effort for BBI International's Engineering and Consulting Group. In 2008, Dr. Nieves was responsible for acquiring \$1.5 million in new contracts in national and international business for BBI International. He was technical advisor and energy specialist in bioenergy projects in the U.S., Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Australia, Philippines, Ghana, El Salvador and the Ukraine. His duties also included managing BBI business development representatives in Mexico, Argentina, El Salvador and Hungary.

BBI International, Project Manager/Business Development Manager, 2005 - 2007

Dr. Nieves was the lead for BBI's business development effort. He was responsible for the negotiation and development of business contacts as well as research for ethanol and biodiesel plant feasibility studies, providing client proposals, and developing project development and feasibility study business leads. Additionally, he was the Project Manager for a 100 million gallon per year ethanol facility in the panhandle of Texas.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Senior Project Leader, 1997 – 2005

As a Senior Project Leader at the NREL Dr. Nieves developed, led and managed government contracts including sole sourced contracts, competitive contracts, funds-in collaborations with industrial partners

and other institutes. He managed a yearly maximum operating budget of \$7 million to include a large number of

U.S. Department of Energy and NREL subcontracts. Contracts included Novozymes Biotech Inc., Abengoa Bioenergy, BC International (now Verenium), Arkenol (now BlueFire) and HFTA (now Cobalt Technologies). Dr. Nieves was responsible for representing NREL's Biotechnology Center at national and international professional conferences. He was the recipient of a 2004 R&D 100 award for his role as technical monitor of the \$60 million DOE-funded cellulase research efforts by Novozymes Biotech., Inc. and Genencor International.

NREL Enzyme Technology Team, Staff Scientist, Senior Scientist, 1991-1996

As part of the Enzyme Technology Team, Dr. Nieves performed purification and characterization of novel microbial enzymes. He performed fermentations, purification and characterization of proteins utilizing HEC, SEC, IEC, and isoelectric focusing from fermentation broths and MSW anaerobic digestion sludges. He developed ELISAs and utilized other immunological techniques for enzyme detection, quantification and characterization. He also utilized molecular biology techniques to express program-relevant heterologous proteins. During this time he was author and co-author on three enzyme patents.

Colorado State University, Medical Technologist, 1984-1990

At CSU Rafael performed analysis of medical specimens in the areas of hematology, blood chemistry, microbiology, serology, and urinalysis (during M.S. and Ph.D. studies).

Bayamon Regional Hospital, Medical Technologist, 1982-1984

At Bayamon Regional Hospital, Rafael performed analysis of medical specimens in the areas of hematology, blood chemistry, microbiology, serology, and urinalysis.

Education

Medical Technology Degree, Universidad InterAmericana (Puerto Rico)

M.S. and Ph.D. Microbiology, Biochemistry, Colorado State University

M.B.A., Daniels College of Business, University of Denver

Awards

- Recipient of 2004 R&D 100 award as lead technical director for a \$35 million enzyme genomics and proteomics R&D effort with Novozymes Biotech Inc. sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory Staff Award (2004)
- Puerto Rico Fomento Economico Student Scholarship Award (1984)
- Puerto Rico Fomento Economico Student Scholarship Award (1987)