

Celtic Renewables is the 'most innovative biotech'

✘ Edinburgh-based Celtic Renewables has been named Europe's most innovative biotech SME after producing the world's first advanced biofuel, capable of powering vehicles, from the residues of whisky production.

The company was presented with the award and a cheque for €10,000 at the European Parliament by Carlos Moedas, the EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation earlier today.

Earlier this year Celtic Renewables' founder and President Professor Martin Tangney and his colleagues made history when they unveiled the world's first ever samples of biobutanol derived from whisky production residues.

The annual Most Innovative European Biotech SME Awards, are organised by the European Association for Bioindustries (EuropaBio) to recognise the crucial role played by small and medium sized biotech firms in responding to some of society's greatest challenges.

Accepting the award Professor Tangney said: "This exceptional recognition by EuropaBio and the European Parliament is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved with Celtic Renewables and it highlights the importance of what we are trying to accomplish.

"There is a very real need to get biotechnologies such as ours to the market and we are fully committed to playing our small part in growing a bioeconomy in Europe."

Nathalie Moll, Secretary General of EuropaBio said: "The work and stories of this year's shortlisted SMEs provide an incredibly inspiring insight into the value, diversity and potential of European biotechnology for citizens.

"Having the awards presented by Commissioner Moedas during one of Europe's most important biotech events of the year will undoubtedly play a big part in helping to raise awareness about the dedication of European biotech SMEs to answering our society's most pressing needs, but we were delighted that Celtic Renewables were the outstanding winners in this award."

The awards were judged by a distinguished panel drawn from

members of the European Parliament, and other biotech experts.



The Jury shortlisted five companies from across Europe for the finals that took place during a Benefits of Biotechnology event in that included keynote addresses from Commissioner Moedas and Vytenis Andriukaitis, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.

The internationally acclaimed Celtic Renewables is widely regarded as one of the most innovative biotechnology companies in the UK, producing environmentally and commercially sustainable “drop-in” advanced biofuel (biobutanol) from the 2billion litres of liquid effluent and 750,000 tonnes of barley residue produced annually by the £4billion malt whisky industry.

It has developed partnerships with Tullibardine Distillery and Europe’s biotech flagship BioBase Europe Pilot Plant, where it has piloted its biofuel production process with a £1million grant from the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

The company – a spin-out from Edinburgh Napier University’s Biofuel Research Centre – is currently targeting a share of a £25million fund for advanced biofuel development from the Department for Transport (DfT) to build its first commercial scale demonstration facility at a site in Scotland.

Pictured (left to right) Professor Tangney, Nathalie Moll and Mark Simmers, Chief Executive of Celtic Renewables