

# How to take an idea from a laboratory to market – Contract R&D organizations.

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# Western Canada



# GREEN FACTORIES

## Biorefineries or Phytochemical Industry

**Food & Animal Feed**

**Health Products**

**Construction Material**

**Biofuels  
& biolubricants**

**Cosmetics & Fine  
Chemicals**

**Renewable Energy  
(biomass → ethanol)**

**Needed:**    **Processing Facilities** Biorefineries

**Technologies:**    Extraction, Isolation, Separation,  
Industrial Enzymes, Bioprocessing, Biotransformation

**HQP:**    Education & Training

## BASIC RULES

*Until something gets manufactured,  
society cannot benefit*

*There is no wealth creation until  
something is sold*



# Steps in Tech Transfer

INVENTOR (S)

- Intellectual Property, Prove of Concept
- Provide the License
- Sooner or later, the business people need to take over. - *Understand that from the beginning.*

START-UP Co.

- Develop the manufacturing procedures
- Make sure they understand what their customers will do with the “products”
- Leverage private money with government and corporate development grants / contracts
- Use Contract R&D to develop the manufacturing procedures, QC and QA
- Prepare market testing production batches

PRODUCTION

- Transition from a “founder-led” start-up into dependable supplier of products to a defined set of customers

# SCIENTISTS

- Earn their reputation as individuals
- Getting recognized for giving away knowledge
- Tell people how to reproduce their work
- Customers don't matter
- Economic feasibility doesn't matter

# ENTREPRENEURS

- Know that teamwork provides leverage
- Protect knowledge to gain every advantage
- Fear other people reproducing their work
- Customers matter
- Economic feasibility is paramount

# SCIENTISTS

- Publications are their currency
- Succeed more by publishing than patenting
- Overvalue their contribution
- Think the technology is everything

# ENTREPRENEURS

- Profits are their currency
- Publishing has to be justified in strategic terms
- Let scientists think they are valuable
- Know that technology is just the “card in the game”

# Technology Transfer

- In most countries, academia has rights (and obligation) to patent results of Intellectual Property (IP) derived from taxpayers funded research
- Major universities have Tech Transfer Offices which manage the technology transfer to commercial partners
- Such a IP could be available to companies interested in its utilization



# LICENSE GOVERNANCE

Academia/Research Institutions may play different roles in technology transfer:

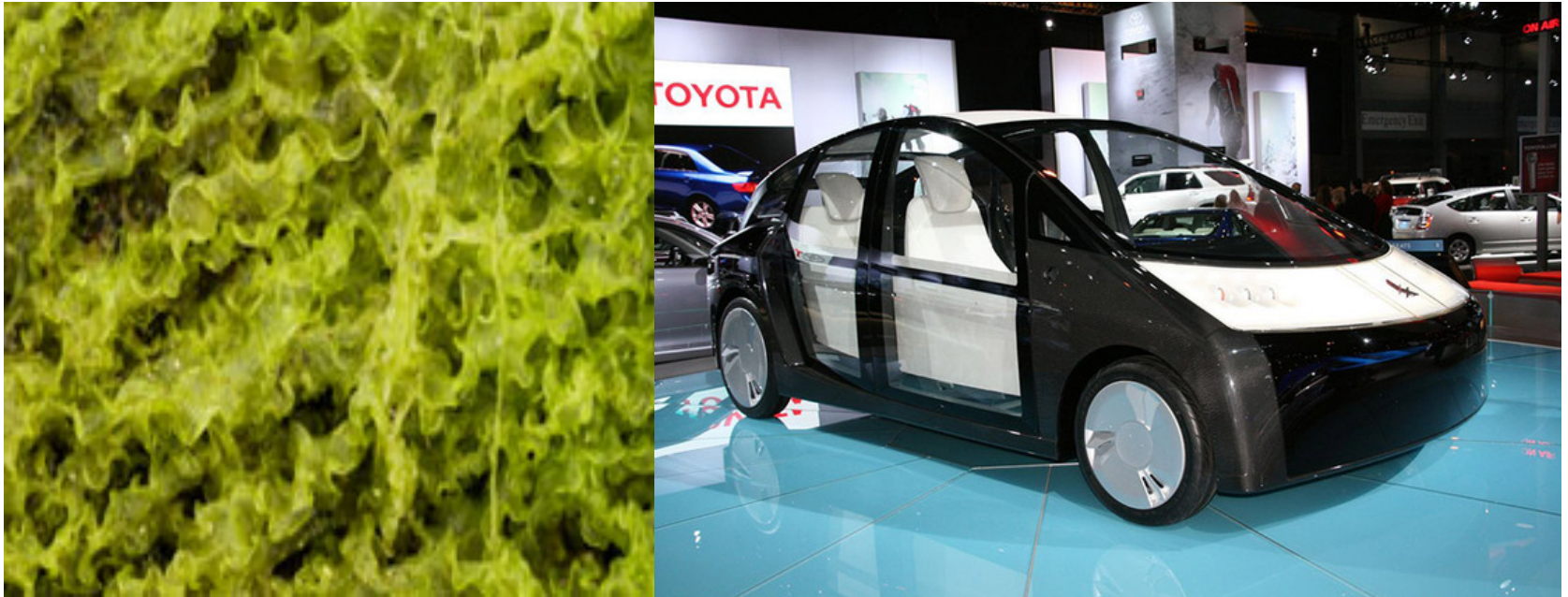
- Licensor
- Shareholder
- Partner

# LICENSE TERMS

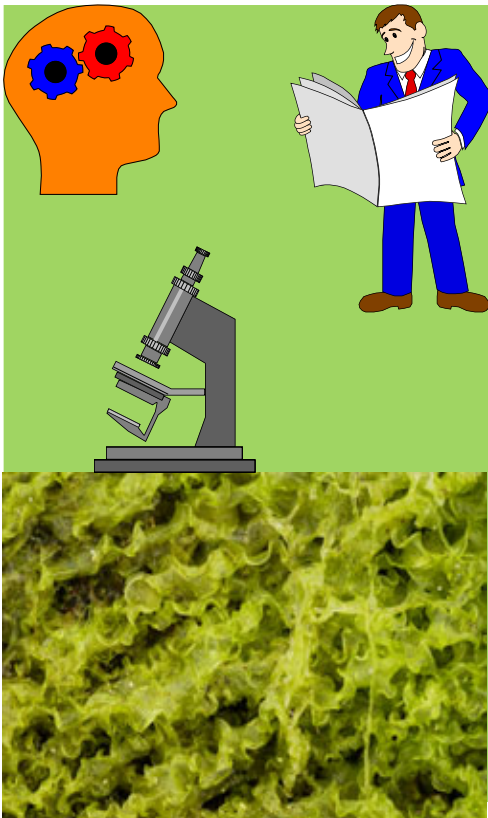
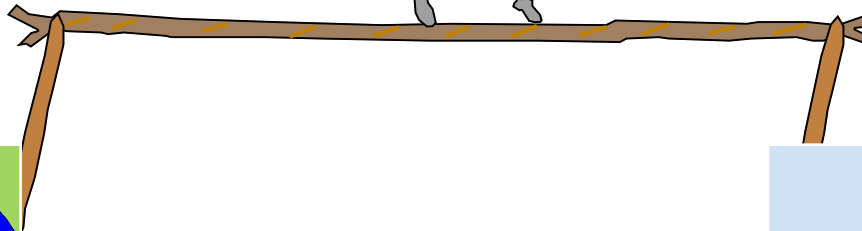
- Exclusive or not
- Upfront cash payment or equity
- Patent cost reimbursemen
- Ongoing royalties
- Diligence milestones
- Sponsored research

Toyota is looking to a greener future — literally — with dreams of an ultralight, superefficient plug-in hybrid with a bioplastic body made of seaweed that could be in showrooms soon

*Melbourne Herald Sun Feb 24*



# Caminando desde la IDEA a la GANANCIA



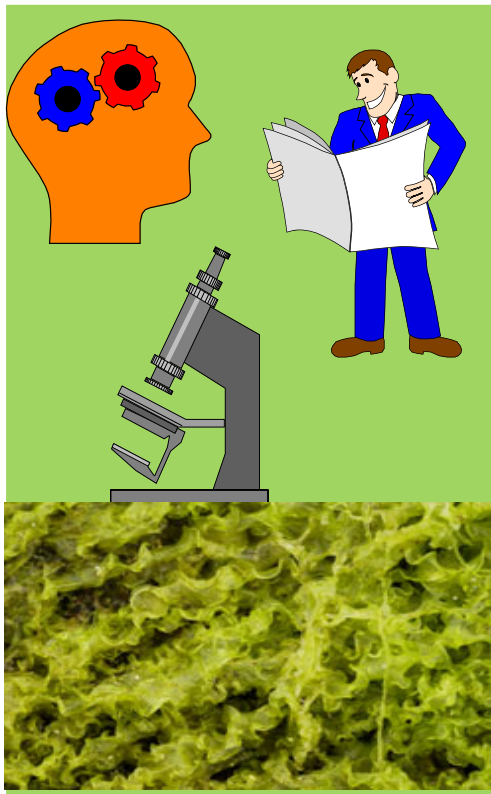
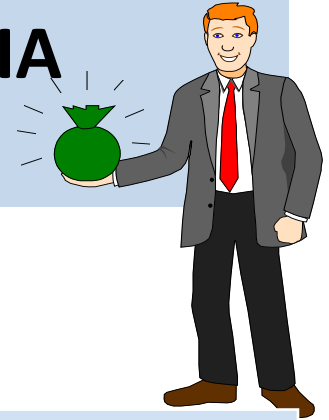
**PRECIPIO**  
(valle de la muerte)





# Caminando desde la IDEA a la GANANCIA

*- cruzando el precipicio -*





# Scaling-up





# Role for Start-up Companies

- Depending on the license agreement the inventor/scientist might be (or not), member of the start-up company. The license is usually granted for fixed time.
- Company would find suitable partners (i.e. CR&D organization) and resources necessary to accomplish the scale-up, technology development, Q.C. and Q.A. procedures, along with market diligence.
- Non-disclosure agreements are obligatory for all partners.

# Project Example

- University – Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (*formerly* Alberta Research Council)
- Utilization of Jerusalem artichoke plant for:
  - Inulin (food, nutraceuticals)
  - Biomass for ethanol production
  - Lactic acid – polymers PLA
  - Biochar



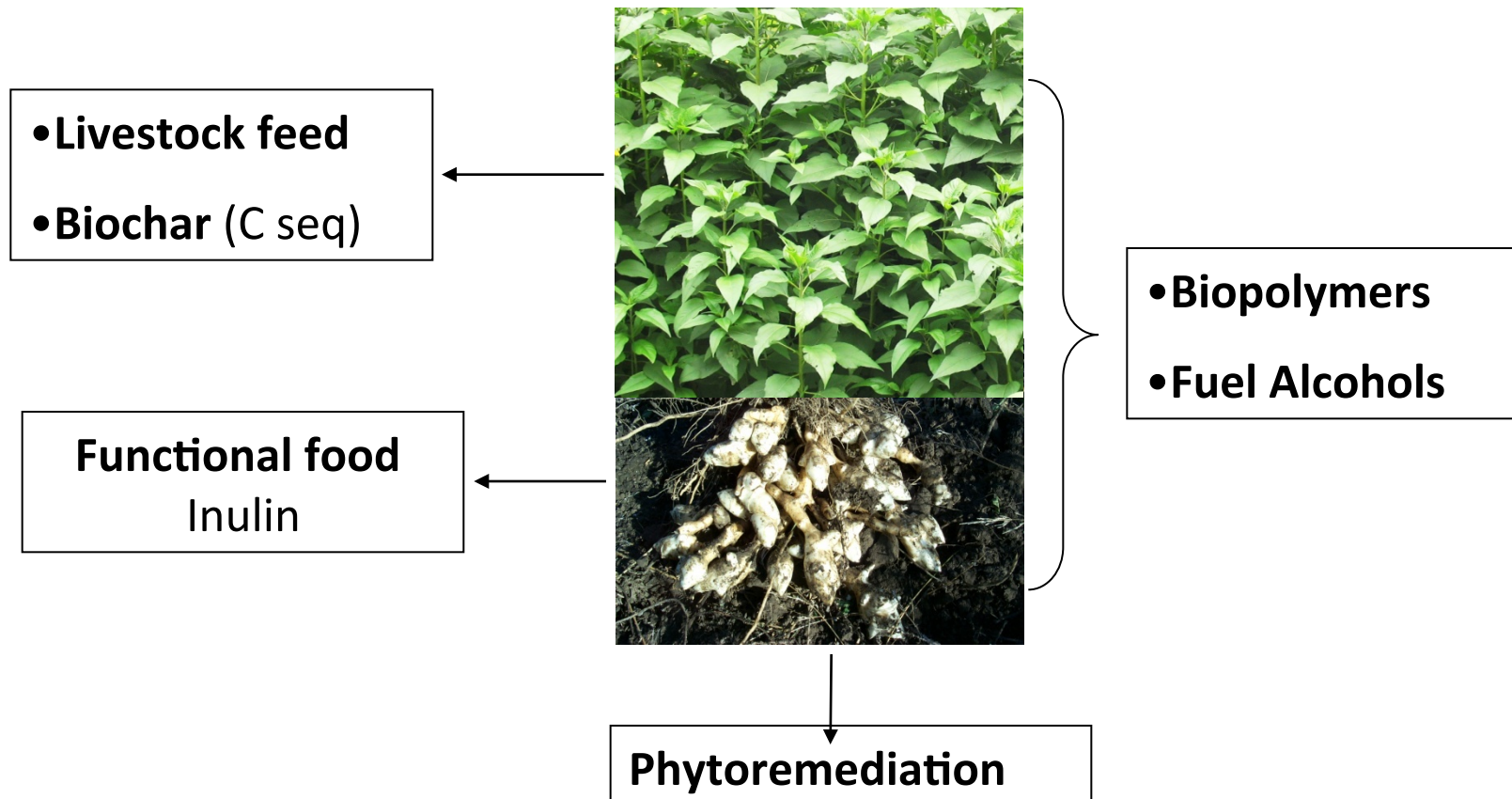


# Objective



To evaluate the agronomic performance of Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus* L.) as a novel carbohydrate platform crop suitable for a development of agricultural biorefinery in Alberta

# Jerusalem artichoke as a Carbohydrate Platform Crop



Selected agronomic varieties can produce over 100 tonnes of biomass per hectare per year, yielding around 30 tonnes of tubers and 70 tonnes in foliage and stalk



## Prerequisites for successful biorefining

- Feedstock cost – critical for economics of biorefinery
- Dedicated fast-growing biomass crops
- Low input crops (nutrient use efficient)
- Stress resistant (i.e. water use efficient)
- Grow well on marginal land – no competition with food crops
- Whole crop utilization – zero waste concept





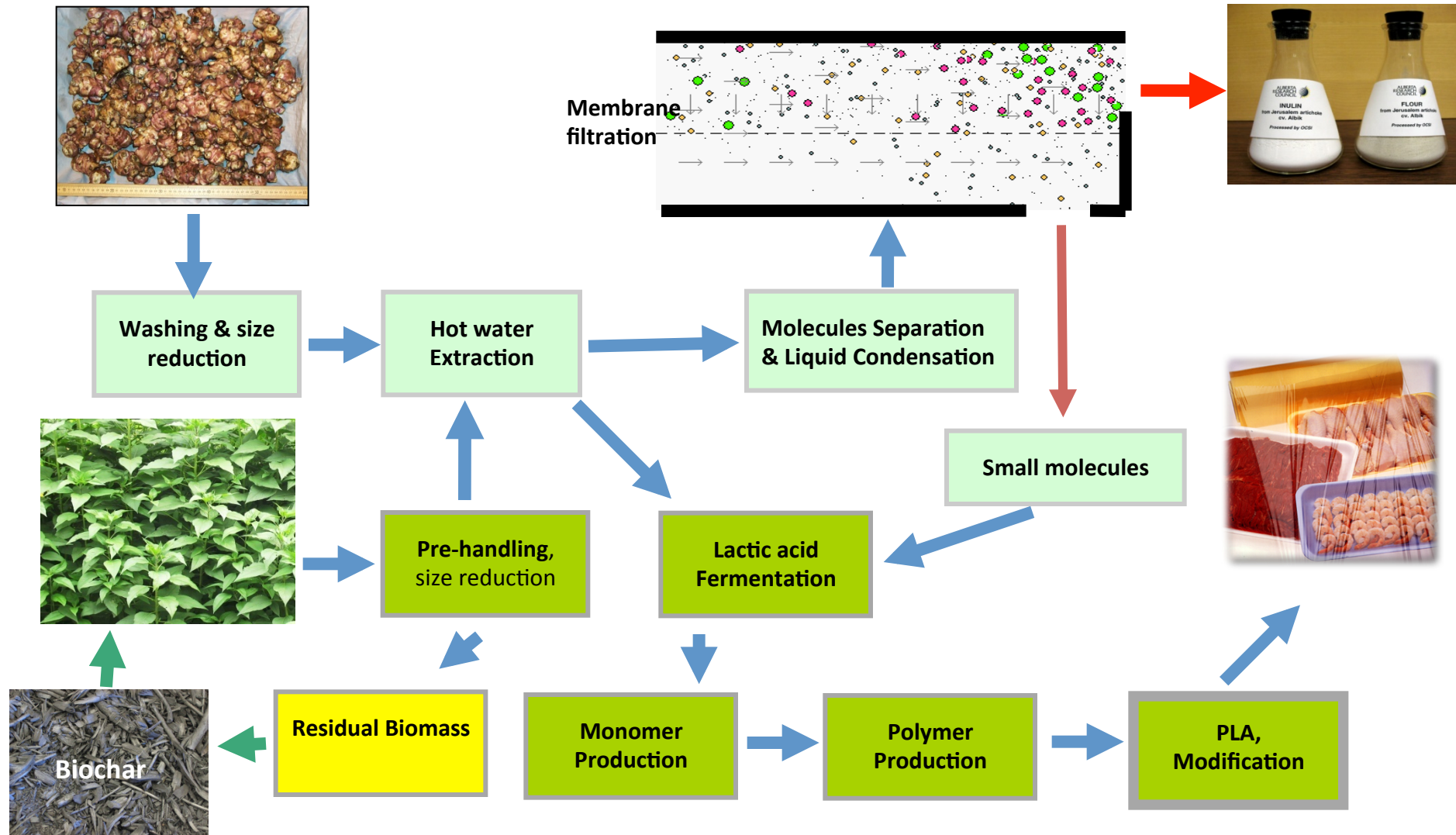
# Biology of Jerusalem artichoke

- Native to North America from the Composite family
- Forms tubers
- Deep root system
- Annual/Perennial





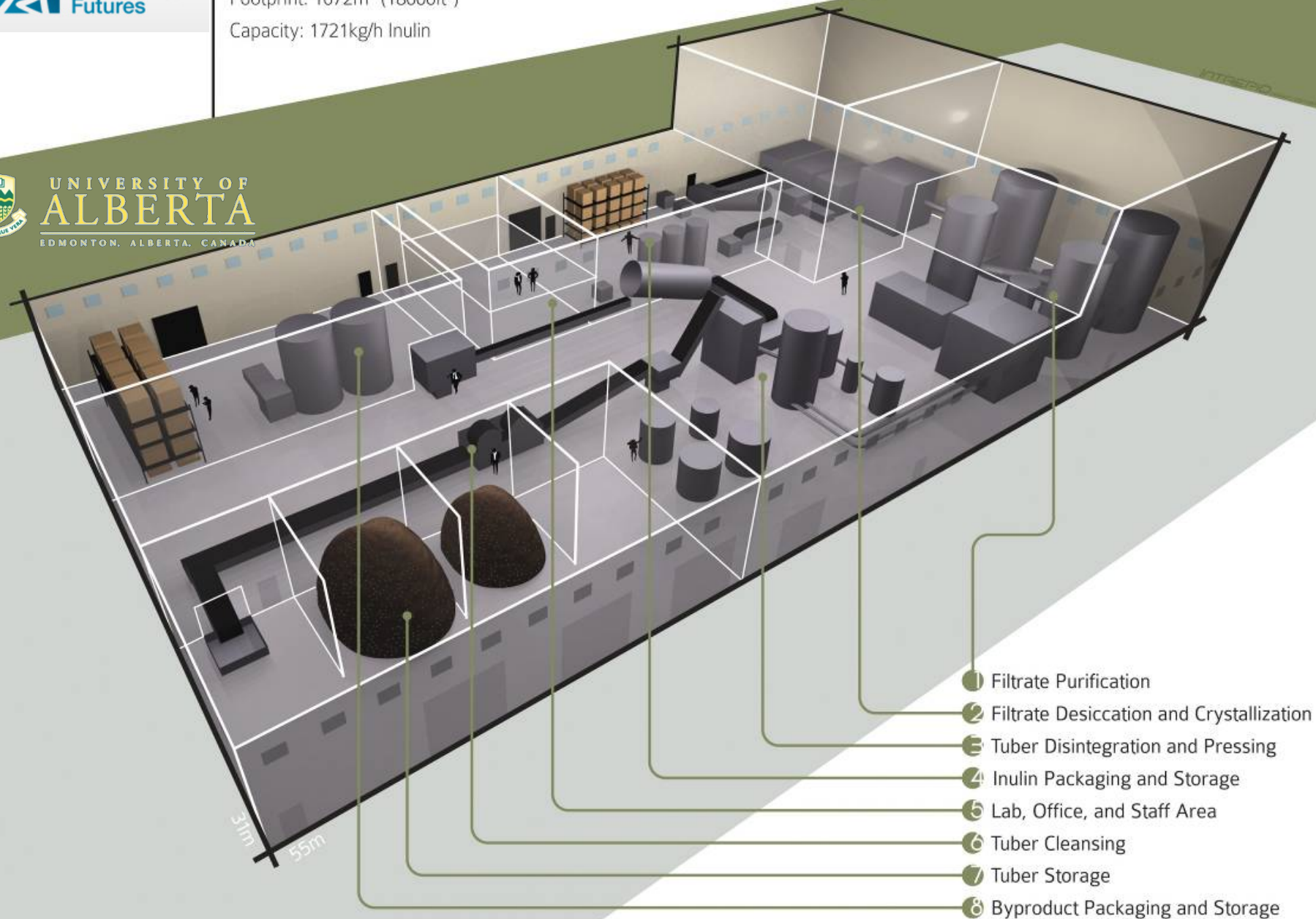
# Conclusions: Jart biorefinery model



## Layout Concept: Jerusalem Artichoke to Inulin Processing Facility

Footprint: 1672m<sup>2</sup> (18000ft<sup>2</sup>)

Capacity: 1721kg/h Inulin



# Contract R&D

## POS BioSciences

- Processing of biological material
- Specializing in processing of oils, protein and starches
- Providing confidential research services.
- Total operating area: 5 400 sq. m.
- Staff: 85 includes scientists, engineers, plant operators, laboratory technicians, marketing experts.
- In operation: 35 years
- Located in Innovation Place, on University of Saskatchewan campus, Saskatoon, Canada

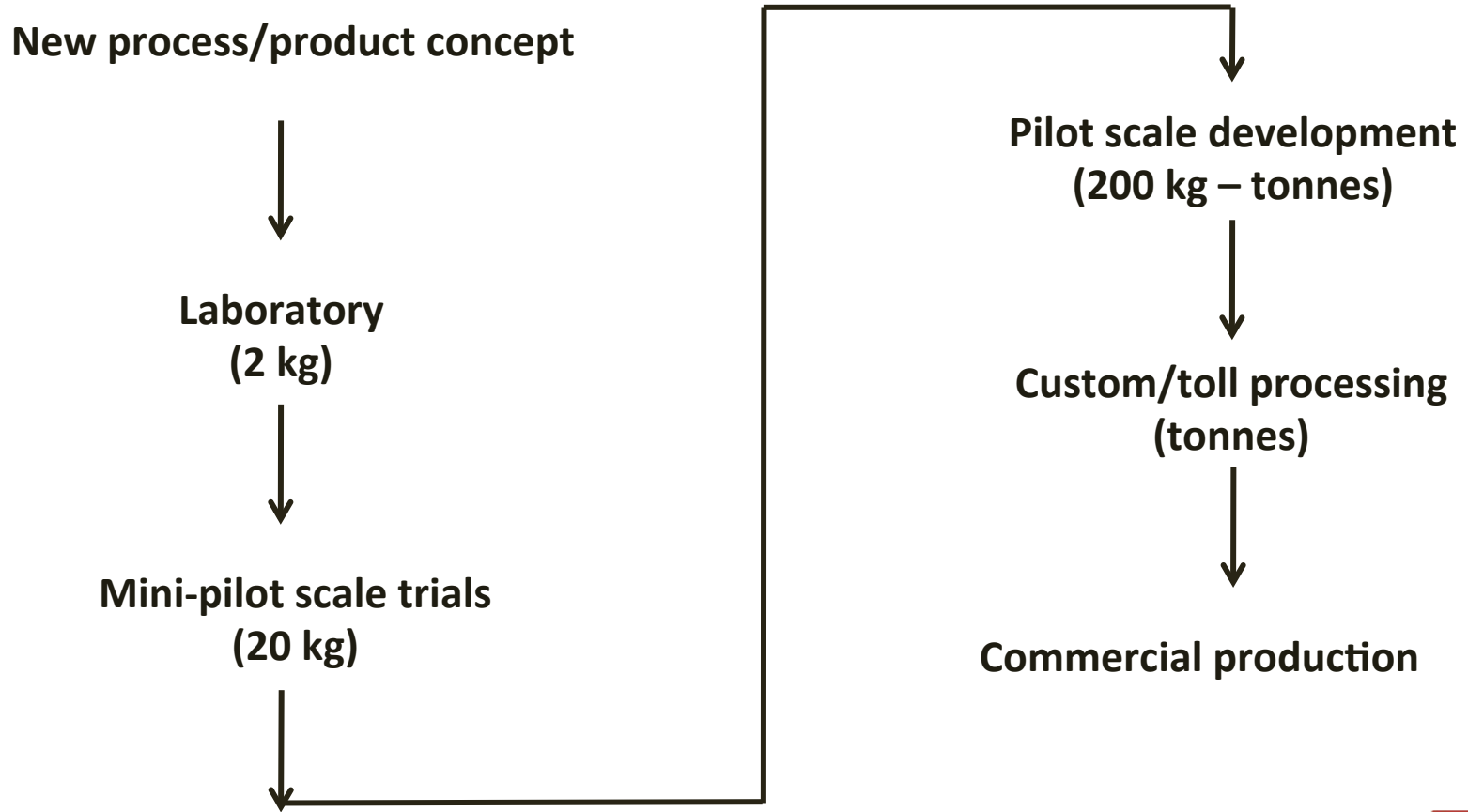


# POS Bio-Sciences, Saskatoon, Canada



1: POS Bio-Sciences 2: Innovation Place 3: University of Saskatchewan  
4: City of Saskatoon 5: Canadian Light Source (Synchrotron)

# Concept to Commercialization



# ***Bead Milling – Extraction of Algal Biomass***



Bead Mill (POS)

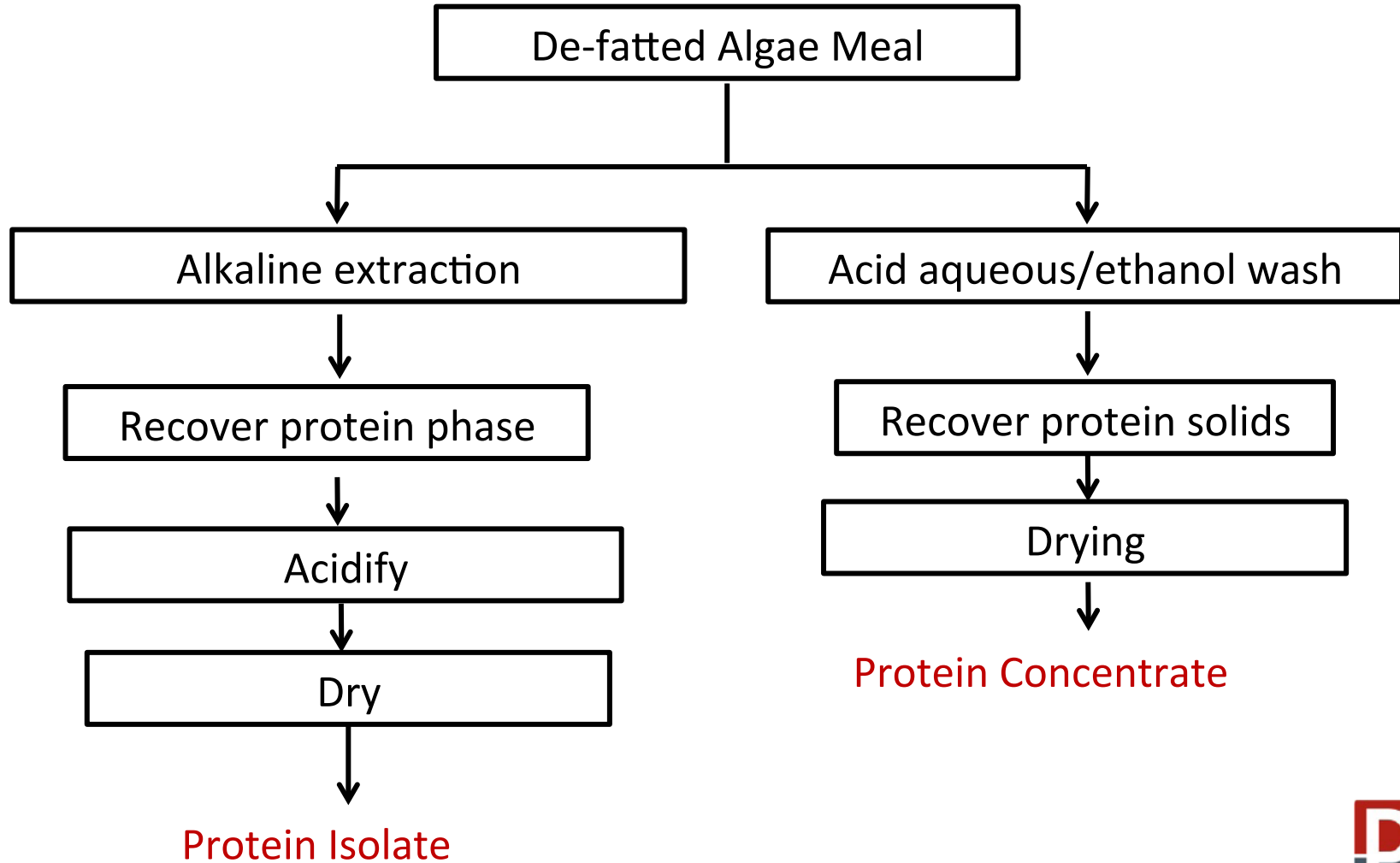


Ceramic Beads (1.25-2.5 mm)

- A large number of minute glass or ceramic beads are vigorously agitated by shaking or stirring
- Disruption occurs by the crushing action of the glass beads as they collide with the cells in solvent

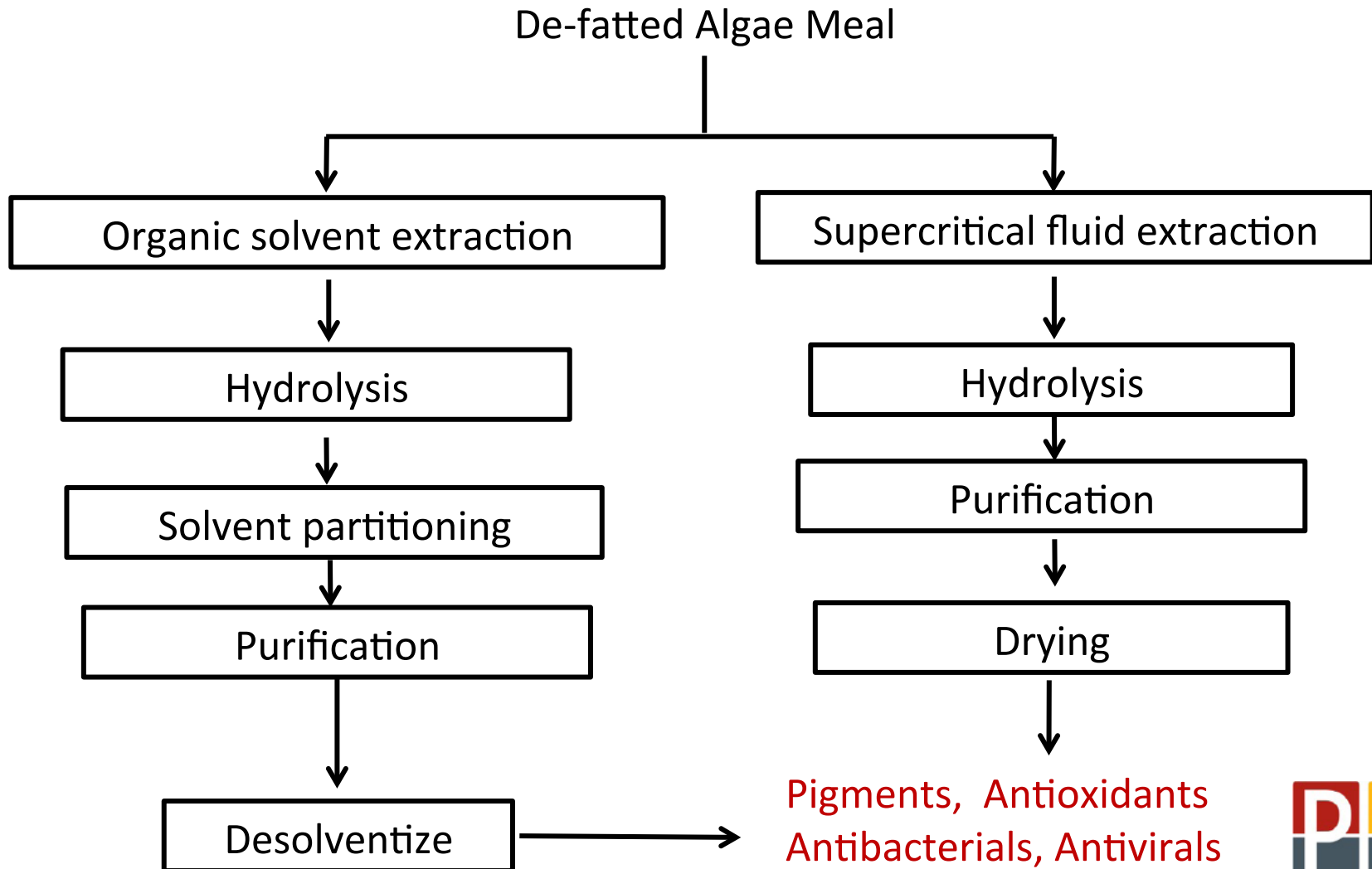


# Protein Concentrates & Isolates





# Bioactives & Pigments from Microalgae



# POS BioSciences Pilot Plant Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada



# Processing Equipment in Pilot Plant





# Microalgae Oil Processing in Pilot Plant



# Conclusions

- Technology transfer and development based on the inventions originated in academia or research institutions are most efficiently carried out by start-up companies
- There are different models for the operation of start-ups and they are determined by the licence agreement
- CR&D organizations provides multifaceted expertise, industrial size processing equipment combined with laboratories for Q.C. components and managerial system securing Q.A. scheme
- Scaling-up usually requires type of technology and/or processing equipment which is different from one used in the laboratory
- CR&D often act as toll processor providing sufficient amount of new product for market evaluation study
- CR&D are able to deliver “the total package” i.e.: new product-technology-managerial system-marketing-personnel training
- Confidentiality, staff expertise, multifunctional facilities, and track record for delivery of quality services are factors to consider when selecting the CR&D for your project.

# Muchas Gracias por su atención

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# QUOTES

- “When the technology leaves the lab, you’re 5% of the way done”
- “No matter how great you think your technology is, you’re much further away from success than you think”.



