

Qantas flying on algae possibility

When you consider the aviation industry contributes two percent of global carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂), flying on algae-based sustainable aviation fuel can't be a bad idea. Enter Qantas with an announcement it will collaborate with US-based renewable energy company Solazyme to investigate opportunities for algae-based sustainable aviation fuel.

Qantas chief executive, Alan Joyce, describes the partnership as a step forward as part of the airline's environmental strategy.

"The costs and environmental impacts associated with traditional jet fuel mean it is imperative that we push hard now for the commercialisation of alternative fuel sources."

He says the fuel technologies will be assed against "stringent commercial and sustainability criteria".

The two companies will spend the next 12 months working closely together to develop a business case for the introduction of Solazyme's algal-derived sustainable fuel technology in Australia.

Alongside a similar arrangement with the Solena Group for waste-based sustainable fuel, the feasibility study will form part of the Qantas Group's long-term strategy to help accelerate the commercialisation of 'drop-in' alternative jet fuels as a means of significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Qantas Group is carrying out a detailed global review of clean technology fuel companies to establish the most promising partnership opportunities. Solazyme and Solena are among the most respected organisations in the sector, with strong credentials in developing clean energy strategies for major businesses.

As well as contributing to two percent statistic, according to the International Air Transport Association, the aviation industry also contributes to three percent of the total man-made contribution to climate change and 12 percent of CO₂ emissions from all transport sources—compared to 74 percent from road transport.

Source: Celsias