

Thailand increases biodiesel target

Thailand plans to increase its biodiesel production target to 7.3M litres/day by 2021, compared with its earlier target of 5.9M litres/day, under its Alternative Energy Development Plan (2012-2021), a source at the Energy Policy and Planning Office told *Platts*. Thailand's current biodiesel production is about 2.8M litres/day.

The increase was announced shortly after the Thai government revealed plans to roll out a B7 mandate in January next year.

The raised mandate also comes after the government said in July that it would reduce its production

target for advanced biofuels to three million litres/day by 2021, from an earlier target of 25M litres/day. The 25M litres/day of advanced biofuels was to come from jatropha, seaweed, wood, biomass and biohydrofined diesel.

Thailand has 13 biodiesel refineries with a combined production capacity of 5.4M litres, but these have been operating at around 50% capacity in recent years, due to farming inefficiencies, government and industry sources told *Platts*.

"This will change as the country gears up for the higher biofuel mandate," one of the sources said.