

July 2, 2013



Pacific Ethanol, Inc. Joins Russell Microcap(R) Index

SACRAMENTO, Calif., July 2, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) --**Pacific Ethanol, Inc.** (Nasdaq:PEIX), the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States, announced it has joined the Russell Microcap® Index. Russell Investments reconstituted its comprehensive set of U.S. and global equity indexes on Friday, June 28, 2013, and the final listing was made public on Monday, July 1, 2013 on www.russell.com/indexes.

"We are pleased to be included in the Russell Microcap Index as it increases awareness of Pacific Ethanol among key institutional investors and reflects the progress we have made in improving our business," stated Neil Koehler, the company's president and CEO. "We believe we are well positioned to execute on the goals we have established for 2013: to improve operating efficiencies, diversify our revenues and feedstocks, increase product values through further lowering the carbon intensity of our ethanol, and to return the company to profitability."

Russell indexes are widely used by investment managers and institutional investors for index funds and as benchmarks for both passive and active investment strategies. Russell calculates more than 700,000 benchmarks daily covering approximately 98 percent of the investable market globally, 80 countries and more than 10,000 securities. Approximately \$4.1 trillion in assets currently are benchmarked to the indexes.

About Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (Nasdaq:PEIX) is the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States. Pacific Ethanol also sells co-products, including wet distillers grain ("WDG"), a nutritious animal feed. Serving integrated oil companies and gasoline marketers who blend ethanol into gasoline, Pacific Ethanol provides transportation, storage and delivery of ethanol through third-party service providers in the Western United States, primarily in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho and Washington. Pacific Ethanol has an 85% ownership interest in New PE Holdco LLC, the owner of four ethanol production facilities. Pacific Ethanol operates and manages the four ethanol production facilities, which have a combined annual production capacity of 200 million gallons. The facilities in operation are located in Boardman, Oregon, Burley, Idaho and Stockton, California, and one idled facility is located in Madera, California. The facilities are near their respective fuel and feed customers, offering significant timing, transportation cost and logistical advantages. Pacific Ethanol's subsidiary, Kinergy Marketing LLC, markets ethanol from Pacific Ethanol's managed plants and from other third-party production facilities, and another subsidiary, Pacific Ag. Products, LLC, markets WDG. For more information please visit www.pacificethanol.net.

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