**VI. Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description**

**Professor Vinod Srinivasan** (Mechanical Engineering, University of Minnesota) is the Project Manager and he will work closely with Professor Alison Hoxie (Mechanical Engineering, University of Minnesota-Duluth) and researchers at the Natural Resources Research Institute (Dr. Eric Singsaas, Dr. Donald Fosnacht) to direct all aspects of the project. The qualifications of the personnel involved are below.

**Dr. Vinod Srinivasan** is the Richard and Barbara Nelson Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Univesity of Minnesota. He received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota in 2007. He worked as a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the University of California-Berkeey for 4 years before joining General Electric Global Research as a Heat Transfer Engineer. Before joining the University of Minnesota as faculty, he was Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. His research interests are in in the areas of fluid dynamics and heat transfer, as applied to energy efficiency and renewable energy systems. He has over 1000 citations, including many related to the topic of this proposal.

**Dr. Alison Hoxie** is Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. She received her PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 2007. Before joining UMN as faculty, she worked at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. Dr. Hoxie has extensive experience with biofuel combustion, atomization, and the complex laser diagnistics required for understanding combustion. Her current research focuses on cost effective methods for efficient utilization of biomass-derived oils in combustion applications. In addition to lab-scale research she focuses on renewable energy technologies, resiliency and energy efficiency at the community level. She led the effort to install small wind at UMD, developed student project teams to evaluate renewable energy and efficiency measures for local Duluth businesses and is currently working on energy storage demonstration projects in collaboration with UMN Morris and the Energy Transition Lab at UMTC.

**Dr. Eric Singsaas** is the Strategic Initiative Director of the Wood Products and Bioeconomy group at the Natural Resources Research Institute. Singsaas has a PhD in Botany from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he also served as Research Director for the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology. His research focuses on wood use and bio-product extraction while developing capabilities in biomass processing to support Minnesota’s emerging renewable energy economy.

**Matt Aro** is an engineer at NRRI responsible for product, process, and business concept research and development services to organizations and agencies associated with the wood products industry. Matt has a Masters degrees in Management of Technology, and Natural Resource Science and Management from the University of Minnesota. He identifies market opportunities and forecasts market impact for a wide range of wood products. Activities including identifying funding sources, writing proposals, developing applied research project work plans and budgets, performing research tasks, producing technical reports, and conducting life-cycle assessments (LCA) of natural resource-based products and technologies.

**Timothy Hagen** is a Research Specialist at NRRI. He has significant experience in developing novel solutions for transforming woody biomass , lignite, recycled plastics, tear-off shingles and cotton linters into useful agglomerated, green-based products for re-use. Previously, he has successfully developed and defined a variety of torrefaction and hydrothermal techniques in which the combustion, handling, grinding and stowage properties of wood and ag-based biofuels are effectively prepared for briquetting and agglomeration. He has pioneered an agglomeration process in which delicate corn stover fibers are converted into highly absorptive, free flowing, granules uniquely capable of displacing inefficient clay type absorbents in the market place. He has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of North Dakota.