

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **STERN BROTHERS & CO. LEADS PROJECT FINANCING FOR FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND BIO-CHEMICAL PLANT**

(St. Louis, Mo.) –Dateline— Stern Brothers & Co. recently closed a financing for Myriant Corporation’s Lake Providence, Louisiana commercial bio-succinic acid plant. This first of its kind transaction included taxable bonds partially backed by the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) through its Business & Industry (“B&I”) loan guaranty program, a grant from the United States Department of Energy (“DOE”) and an equity investment by Myriant Corporation.

Continuing its sector leadership in the alternative energy and chemicals space, Stern Brothers used a USDA B & I loan guaranty to credit enhance the project finance bonds, a first-time application of a B & I guaranty to bonds, and privately placed Myriant’s bonds with institutional investors. “Structuring the transaction to maximize the value of the USDA guarantee using bonds expanded the pool of potential investors and significantly lowered the cost of capital for the project.” said John May, Managing Director for Stern Brothers.

Stern Brothers & Co., a national investment bank headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, was the placement agent for Myriant Corporation. Heartland Bank, an Arkansas state banking corporation, is the Lender of Record and Servicing Agent for the USDA and. Bank of Texas is the trustee.

Krieg DeVault LLP acted as transaction and placement agent counsel. John Kirkwood, a partner with Krieg DeVault, led the legal team and called the financing, “an historic step” for the USDA and the biochemicals industry.

Stephen Gatto, CEO of Myriant Corporation, stated, “We applaud the collective efforts of our deal team, Stern Brothers, Krieg DeVault and Heartland Bank, without which this deal would not be possible. Most importantly, we commend the vision at USDA for collaborating on a unique offering that advances Myriant’s project while simultaneously propelling the bio-based chemicals industry in the United States. Myriant’s first-of-its-kind commercial bio-succinic acid plant achieves the objectives outlined by the USDA B&I program, notably creating good paying jobs and contributing to economic development in rural areas of America. We look forward to the commercial start-up of the plant in the first quarter of 2013 and to being one of the first renewable companies contributing to America’s manufacturing renaissance.”

Located in the town of Lake Providence, Louisiana, this will be Myriant’s first commercial scale biosuccinic acid production facility, capable of producing 30 million pounds per year. Myriant’s cost-advantaged bio-succinic acid will be a “drop-in” replacement for petroleum-derived succinic acid and other chemical intermediates. For more information about Myriant or its commercial plant, please visit [www.myriant.com](http://www.myriant.com)

**About Stern Brothers & Co.**

Since 1917, Stern Brothers & Co., an independent investment bank, has worked with borrowers to finance their vision. Stern Brothers' team of committed, experienced bankers, structure innovative financings to meet clients' unique needs. A certified Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), Stern Brothers & Co. has offices in St. Louis, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Reno, Seattle, San Francisco and Tampa.

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