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## Indonesia conducts first flight test with palm oil

**Indonesia successfully tested an aviation fuel blend containing palm oil, raising hopes of wider use in global aviation.**

According to a Jakarta Post report of Sept 12, a consortium of Indonesian companies, regulators and one university has begun a series of tests on an aviation fuel containing about 2.5% biofuel derived from palm oil.

The consortium started nine days of flight tests on September 9 for an aviation turbine fuel dubbed Bioavtur J2.4.

The first test was conducted using a CN 235-220 plane that flew 10,000 feet above West Java.

Further test will be conducted on Sept 15 when a flight to Soekarno

Hatta International Airport is being planned.

The consortium had earlier completed a ground test with an aircraft at Husein Sastranegara Airport in Bandung, West Java. Where the pilot (Capt. Adi Budi Atmoko) said he found that the engine's response was normal, with no discernable difference to regular jet fuel.

Bioavtur J2.4 was produced by state-owned petroleum company, Pertamina. Also involved in the project are Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), state-owned aircraft manufacturer PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) and the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, which supervised the test.

In response to calls for cutting carbon emission in the aviation industry, there has been pursuits for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in the last few decades.

Indonesia and Malaysia, the two biggest palm oil producers in the world, have in various stages of implementation a biodiesel mandate. Fossil diesel, blended with up to 30% palm-based biofuel, are widely used.

Indonesia had wanted to meant to start using avtur containing 2 percent biofuel in 2016 and 3 percent last year but was pushed back by economic and technical reasons.