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Morning Transportation

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FIRST IN MT : United Airlines will announce Wednesday that it's agreed to purchase at least 300 million gallons of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) over 20 years from Dimensional Energy, a company that leverages captured emissions that are converted into environmentally accepted fuel sources. The latest agreement for United Airlines Ventures, the airline's venture capital fund, marks its fourth SAF-related technology investment, but its first in a company that creates SAF synthetically without feedstock or other biofuel resources.

SAF on the mind: Like their transportation counterparts, U.S. airlines are chugging along in their attempt to transition to SAF and other decarbonizing measures to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. United is looking to diversify its portfolio without the use of traditional carbon offsets, and noted Dimensional's unique methods.

"We're not limited by land, because all of our inputs from our process can come from the air," Jason Salfi, co-founder and CEO of Dimensional Energy told POLITICO. "We can use CO2 and water and turn that into sustainable aviation fuel, and it's great to be working with someone like United that's committed to replacing fossil fuels with SAF instead of buying offsets to continue the status quo."

The past informs the present & future: Michael Leskinen, President of United Airlines Ventures, said that "decarbonizing air travel is going to require combining proven technologies, such as Fischer-Tropsch, with the latest advances in science and engineering." Leskinen referenced the chemical reaction process of converting gases into liquid fuels, which dates back to the 1920s.