



*New patent*

**Natraceutical Group and the Swiss company Bühler  
have united their technology and commercial capacity  
in a unique joint development in their sector**

The biotech multinational and the world-wide leader in technology for the food industry  
have jointly patented an exclusive integral service for the pet food market

**Valencia (Spain), 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008.** – Natraceutical Group, a biotech multinational leader in Europe in the research and development of functional ingredients, active principles and food supplements, and the Swiss company Bühler, world-wide leader in technology for the food industry, are combining their extensive knowledge of food ingredients and technological production processes to produce a new integral service. The joint development will enable them to offer the pet food market **a coca-derivative exclusive ingredient**, developed by Natraceutical Group's I+D team, with high content in polyphenols (antioxidants) and low contents in theobromine (an alkaloid with negative effects on the health of several pet races), **together with the industrial technology** from Bühler, which prevents the degradation of coca antioxidant properties. This unique service will guarantee a high concentration of healthy compounds in the final product where this ingredient is added.

This project is the result of Natraceutical and Bühler's common interest to go one step forward in the implementation of their technology, since the new service will provide their customers with solutions that guarantee the full conservation of nutrients in their final products. One of the main concerns in the food industry, as far as the processing of functional ingredients is concerned, is their possible degradation at high temperatures.

The project with Bühler has resulted in a joint patent that will protect the intellectual property and the innovative capacity of both companies. It will be targeted to the European premium dog food market, a sector of substantial growth, and in which Natraceutical has had very little penetration until now.

As an indication, the European food industry for dogs and cats reached a market value of 13 thousand million Euros in 2007, of which it is estimated that over 30% belongs to the "premium" food category, which is the target for this new patent.



Chocolate is highly desired by most animals. However, it contains a high level of theobromine, which is detrimental to the health of many pets, including dogs and cats. Although such compounds have beneficial effects on humans, these animals cannot metabolize them efficiently, leading to the development of health problems of both the cardiac and nervous systems.

With a track record of over 60 years in the field of research and development of functional ingredients, Natraceutical Group's R+D team has been developing a new line of activity over the past year. The company has signed collaboration contracts with leading food companies, with the aim to develop solutions for their specific needs, in the shape of exclusive ingredients for their foodstuff. This commercial trend enables Natraceutical to develop new highly-profitable functional ingredients, since they are developed upon the request of the final food producers.

With Buhler's extensive expertise in the development of unique application concepts in extrusion technology for the food and pet food industry, it is possible to develop specific recipes and to identify the ideal process parameters for the production of pet treats with high antioxidant activity. Buhler has access to a large customer base within the pet food industry.

For the commercialisation of this joint development, Natraceutical and Bühler will work together using their technological and nutritional know-how in combination with their board portfolio of customers. Natraceutical expects to achieve additional sales in its Ingredients Division of around 2 million euros in two years time.

### **Natraceutical Group**

The biotech multinational Natraceutical Group, with headquarters in Valencia and a world wide presence, leads the European market in research and development of functional food, active ingredients and food supplements of natural origin.

The continuous advances in its R&D department allowed the Group in 2006 to diversify its business. It expanded its activity from the production of functional ingredients and active principles for food, cosmetics and pharma, to the final consumer. This was accomplished through the acquisition of Laboratoires Forté Pharma, which specialises in food supplements for slimming, health and beauty, and a leader in the French market in the former.

The international growth plan for this business area considers the creation of a Pan-European umbrella brand in a two-years period, and the subsequent development of several projects very closely related to this division.

With production plants in Spain, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Brazil, and Australia, the Group's ingredients division has a portfolio of products with over 500 references and specialities in the food, cosmetics and pharma sectors. It operates a sales network spanning



over 65 countries, with commercial offices in Australia and Asia. The company is supplier to over 1,000 companies, among which, 8 of the top-ten food producers worldwide.

Natraceutical Group's 2007 figures were of 158.6 million euros in sales and 19.2 million euros in Ebitda.

Natraceutical is traded in the Spanish Stock Exchange under the ticker **NTC**.

Outstanding shares: 328,713,946

**[www.natraceuticalgroup.com](http://www.natraceuticalgroup.com)**

## **Bühler**

Bühler is a global leader and technology partner in the field of process engineering solutions, especially production technologies for the food industry and for the transformation of synthetic materials into high-grade functional products. Bühler's core technologies are in the field of mechanical and thermal process engineering such as grinding, blending and mixing, thermal treatment and shaping for processing cereal grains and foods, producing and upgrading engineering materials, and for die casting.

Currently, about 65% of global wheat production, 60% of global PET production, 65% of global chocolate production and 50% of global pasta production are processed on plants made by Bühler. Furthermore, roughly 20% of the world's die cast components are produced on Bühler die casting equipment. Bühler has manufacturing sites on four continents, in the USA, Brazil, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, South Africa, China and India.

Bühler collaborates closely with its customers throughout the life cycles of their production plants by generating new added value for their products in order to improve their performance in terms of productivity and competitiveness. Thanks to more than 1,400 staff members in the sales and service department, Bühler offers its customers comprehensive services and solutions worldwide. Bühler is active in over 140 countries and employs some 6,900 people. In fiscal 2007, the Group generated sales of CHF 1,773 million. The Bühler Group is based in Switzerland.

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