

Natraceutical Group registers the patent for a new naturally-sourced bioactive compound featuring antihypertensive and anti-degenerative properties

Valencia, 10 September 2008. Natraceutical Group, the leading biotechnology corporation in the field of research & development of functional ingredients, active principles and nutritional supplements, has submitted the patent application for a new functional ingredient extracted from vegetable raw material. This product is a cocoa-sourced bioactive peptide that features antihypertensive and anti-degenerative properties, based on evidence provided by Natraceutical Group's R&D department.

Peptides are short-chain proteins that are rapidly absorbed by the human body. There is extensive evidence of the fact that certain bioactive peptides sourced from proteins can have beneficial effects on health —specifically when it comes to their effect on an enzyme found in the human body that is key for controlling blood pressure. An additional property that has been identified is their ability to inhibit an enzyme that has a role in memory loss, decreased learning ability and Alzheimer's.

Besides proteins, cocoa's healthy compounds include fibres and polyphenols (antioxidants), and thus, with this new patent, Natraceutical Group has completed their range of functional ingredients sourced from said product, as the company already owns several patents featuring cocoa-sourced antioxidants and fibres.

Thanks to the development of this innovative ingredient, ideal for application by the food industry in nutritional products for adults, Natraceutical remains at the forefront of the sector of cocoa-sourced functional ingredients.

Natraceutical will include this new ingredient in their product portfolio to cater to the leading international food corporations. The product will be sold through their own commercial branches in Europe, the US and the Asia-Pacific, which the company's active presence in over 60 countries worldwide.

Natraceutical Group

Spanish multinational corporation Natraceutical Group is at the forefront of biotechnology applied to nutrition, a leading reference in Europe in the sector of research and development of naturally-sourced functional / active ingredients and nutritional complements for the foodstuffs, pharmaceutical and cosmetics sectors.



The company streamlines its industrial activity through two divisions (Ingredients and Nutritional Complements) with the purpose of contributing to the prevention of diseases and improving quality of life through nutrition.

The Ingredients division has today own production facilities in Spain, UK, Switzerland, Australia, Canada and Brazil; and is operating actively in over 60 countries, running branches in Europe, US and the Asia Pacific region, plus several sales networks worldwide. Natraceutical provides products and services to over 1,000 companies worldwide, including eight of the world's ten leading food corporations.

Later, in October 2006, Natraceutical expanded its sphere of activity by penetrating the nutritional complement sector following the acquisition of Monaco-based company Laboratoires Forté Pharma, thanks to which the company can now supply products directly to end consumers.

Natraceutical Group closed the financial year 2007 with earnings of € 158.6 million, and EBITDA of € 19.2 million, representing an organic growth of 16% in turnover and 40% in EBITDA as compared with the previous year.

Natraceutical quotes in the Spanish stock exchange under the *ticker* **NTC**. Total outstanding shares: **328,713,946**.

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