

PRESS RELEASE

BRAIN expands its IP portfolio to include bioactive anti-skin aging cosmetics ingredient

Zwingenberg, December 05, 2012 – The biotechnology company BRAIN AG has today announced the expansion of its IP portfolio to include the MMP1 (matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor) peptide. Now owned by BRAIN, the recombinant human bioactive molecule will be manufactured by BRAIN as a proprietary bioactive compound going forward and exclusively used in cosmetics products made by its own group of affiliated companies.

Following the acquisition of the Ludwigstadt-based cosmetics manufacturer, LA Schmitt, and the strategic partnership with MONTEIL Cosmetics International GmbH, announced in early 2012, this expansion of BRAIN's IP portfolio now is proof of the company's consistent pursuance of its goal to broaden the value chain in the cosmetics market. Against this backdrop, bioactive compounds for high-tech products will remain a focus for BRAIN in future, as well.

Above and beyond the development and production of bioactive substances from BRAIN's own innovation pipeline, the company's stated objective is to also license additional high-quality bioactive substances from third parties and to integrate them in the BRAIN group of affiliated companies.

MMPI – a natural bioactive substance to combat skin aging

One common cosmetic problem is the so-called “photoaging” of the skin, which is caused by repeated sun exposure and results in the appearance of wrinkles even at low amounts of UV radiation. At the molecular level, the wrinkles are caused by an increased reduction of skin collagen. This, in turn, is mainly caused by the MMP-1 (matrix metalloproteinase 1) enzyme, which is released in the skin by sunlight and then proceeds to break down the skin’s collagen.

Scientific studies have shown that inhibition of the MMP-1 enzyme reduced the accelerated collagen breakdown in the skin. This is exactly where BRAIN’s MMPI compound comes in. Cosmetic products such as, e.g., sunscreens or day creams containing MMPI as an anti-aging mode of action are already exclusively and successfully sold by the BRAIN group of affiliated companies.

Complex production process

Only a few biotechnology companies have the expertise and infrastructural resources at their disposal to be able to handle such a complex manufacturing process. The biotechnological production process necessitates a large number of costly analytic techniques in fermentation and purification alike. For this reason, the bioactive MMPI is exclusively used in the premium price segment.

BRAIN’s IP platform expanded

“Going forward, the expansion of BRAIN’s active substance platform by the recombinant human cosmetic ingredient MMPI will put us in an even better position to optimize our high-tech cosmetics in an efficient manner,” states Dr Martin Langer, Head of Corporate Development at BRAIN AG. “BRAIN’s own development of ingredients from our ‘toolbox of nature’ will be increasingly complemented by selected product licensing in future.”

About BRAIN

BRAIN AG is an industrial “white” biotech company which discovers and develops novel bioactive natural compounds and proprietary enzymes for its partners and customers in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as the food and cosmetics industries. With its unique approach to the discovery and production of new biological compounds and biocatalysts, the company achieves creative solutions by harnessing nature’s untapped biodiversity. Its success is built on its proprietary BioArchive comprising millions of genes, proteins and metabolic pathways from microbial isolates and metagenome libraries. Since its foundation in 1993, BRAIN has entered into over 80 strategic collaborations with nearly all the relevant companies within the chemical industry as e.g. BASF, Ciba, Clariant, Evonik, DSM, Genencor, Henkel, Nutrinova, RWE, Sandoz, Schering, Südzucker and Symrise, to name but a few. Currently, BRAIN employs 102 highly skilled people.

For their groundbreaking industrial biotechnology activities for a sustainable „biologisation of the chemical industry“ using nature’s toolbox for industrial processes, BRAIN with its CEO Dr. Holger Zinke received the “Deutschen Umweltpreis 2008” of the “Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt”, DBU.

www.brain-biotech.de

Visual material



BRAIN AG: Sustainable biotechnological manufacture of bioactive product components at BRAIN's in-house fermentation facility.

© Kristian Barthen, BRAIN AG Archive – reproduction permitted with acknowledgement of source

Both the visual material and the text of this press release may be downloaded at www.brain-biotech.de in the “News” section.