

Press release

St-Beauzire and Saint Brandan (France), 02 March 2020.

METEX NØØVISTA and ALINOVA (an affiliate of the AXERREAL group) announce an agreement for the marketing in France of the first bio-based butyric acid for animal nutrition.

METEX NØØVISTA, the industrial subsidiary of METABOLIC EXPLORER, a cleantech biochemical company that develops and industrialises competitive and sustainable fermentation processes offering alternatives to petrochemistry for the production and marketing of functional ingredients, and ALINOVA (a Brittany-based joint-venture between AxiHolding and AXERREAL, which is a leading animal feed group and an expert in the formulation of functional ingredients of natural origin for animal nutrition), today announce an agreement for the marketing in France of the first 100% bio-based butyric acid for animal nutrition made in France.

This partnership will enable ALINOVA to grow its portfolio of technical, performance-enhancing products to meet its customers' needs for natural and sustainable ingredients. This agreement resulting from the two partners' combined efforts will allow METEX NØØVISTA to benefit from ALINOVA's outstanding network and services and thereby offer ingredients based on the first butyric acid of natural origin to French animal feed manufacturers.

With this exclusive agreement for the territory of France, ALINOVA's scientific expertise and network coverage will be combined with METEX's expertise in the production by fermentation of functional ingredients to deliver the first butyric acid of natural origin for animal nutrition made in France.

Butyric acid and its derivatives (sodium butyrate) are multifunctional ingredients with proven and recognised benefits for animal growth and health. They act on the intestinal functions of animals by improving nutrient absorption and strengthening the defenses of epithelial cells.

It will be produced at METEX NØØVISTA's Carling-Saint-Avoid site now under construction in Lorraine. This facility will have an initial production capacity of 1,000 tonnes of butyric acid to respond to the growing demand in the animal nutrition market. Production of this first European plant is scheduled to start at the end of 2020.

"We are delighted to announce our partnership with ALINOVA, an innovation- and sustainability-driven company that shares our vision of a competitive and responsible agro-industrial sector", says Antoine Darbois, CEO of METEX NØØVISTA. "It will contribute to the achievement of our objective of meeting new consumer expectations in terms of naturalness through the production of functional ingredients by fermentation. We believe this collaboration will allow us to start the commercial development of our butyric acid and will contribute to METEX NØØVISTA's success in its activities."

Jean-Marie Jolly, CEO of ALINOVA, says: "We are pleased to announce this partnership. It is a key step in the implementation of our long-term strategy for the development of nutritional and performance-enhancing ingredients, and it will enable us to expand our offer of products of natural origin. By combining ALINOVA's technical know-how and commercial network in the animal nutrition sector with METEX NØØVISTA's unique expertise in biotechnological development, we are strengthening our capacity to meet the growing demand for high-performance and sustainable products, thus contributing to the development of an innovative and responsible French livestock industry."



About METabolic EXplorer and METEX NØØVISTA

A pioneering industrial biochemistry company with 20 years of experience, METabolic Explorer (METEX) develops industrial alternatives to petrochemical processes for green and sustainable chemistry. Using renewable raw materials, its innovative and competitive industrial fermentation processes respond to new societal expectations among consumers and meet the objectives of energy transition. Its functional ingredients of natural origin are used in the formulation of cosmetics, animal nutrition-animal products, and as intermediates for the synthesis of biomaterials. The construction of its first production unit, through its subsidiary METEX NØØVISTA, co-owned by METabolic Explorer and Bpifrance, will enable it to market 1.3 propanediol (PDO) and butyric acid (BA).

Based at the Clermont Limagne technology park, near Clermont-Ferrand, METabolic Explorer is listed on Euronext in Paris (Compartment C, METEX) and is included in the CAC Small Index. More information can be found at www.metabolic-explorer.com

About ALINOVA

Alinova develops and markets nutritional supplements and additive premixes via its distribution network (feed manufacturers, integrators, groups, veterinary networks, etc.). Since its creation, Alinova has offered, along with other products, natural solutions to recurring problems in livestock production. To provide these solutions, Alinova develops fully certified and therefore transparent phytotherapeutic products as well as liquid vitamins without the use of chemical surfactants.

The company recently acquired a 3,600-m² production building. In the future, this facility will have a liquid and powder unit as well as a laboratory to carry out galenical testing. With this industrialisation phase, Alinova will gain more autonomy and the capacity to export its products.

Alinova SAS is based at Saint Brandan, near Saint Briec, in northwestern France.

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