

New Evonik polymers improve the performance of nutritional supplements

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Evonik has developed a line of functional polymers especially for use in nutritional supplements.

Scarlett Shi

Communications

Tel +86 21 6119-1200

Fax +86 21 6119-1116

scarlett.shi@evonik.com

By introducing its new Eudraguard® product family, Evonik's Health Care Business Line is moving beyond pharmaceuticals to offer its products and services to the nutraceutical industry.

"People around the world are becoming more health conscious and are increasingly inclined to supplement their diet with nutraceuticals or dietary supplements sold as tablets, capsules, softgels, gelcaps or powders", says Dr. Jean-Luc Herbeaux, the head of the Health Care Business Line. "To be effective, some of these products require sophisticated formulation and delivery technologies such as customized coatings with proven functionality."

Formulation greatly contributes to the effectiveness and commercial success of individual nutraceutical products. Color, consistency, odor, and flavor all have to be pleasant. And products should not cause side-effects such as eructation. Drawing upon its 60 years of experience with EUDRAGIT® polymers for oral drug products, Evonik has developed functional coatings that are innovative, easy-to-use, and reliable for use in nutritional supplements.

Eudraguard® protect primarily serves to mask flavors and odors in products such as garlic extract or fish oil. The polymer also protects sensitive ingredients from moisture, light, and oxygen. Thanks to its superior performance, the Evonik polymer makes nutritional supplements significantly more attractive to consumers.

Eudraguard® control prevents ingredients from becoming less effective upon contact with stomach acid, allowing for delayed,

Evonik Industries AG

Rellinghauser Strasse 1-11
45128 Essen

Germany

Phone +49 201 177-01

Fax +49 201 177-3475

www.evonik.com

Supervisory Board

Dr. Werner Müller, Chairman

Executive Board

Dr. Klaus Engel, Chairman

Christian Kullmann

Thomas Wessel

Patrik Wohlhauser

Ute Wolf

Registered Office Essen

Register Court: Essen Local Court

Commercial Registry B 19474

VAT ID no. DE 811160003

controlled release of the active agent in the digestive tract at the right moment. The polymer allows manufacturers to create reliable and reproducible release profiles.

"We have successfully obtained approval in Europe and the United States for our Eudraguard® products, and the launch of this new product series is now underway," says Dr. Thomas Hermann, Head of the Pharma & Food Ingredients Product Line. Evonik's goal is to be as attractive a partner to the nutritional supplements industry as it is to the pharmaceutical industry. The Eudraguard® portfolio will be expanded in the months to come.

In addition to Eudraguard®, the company is also currently working on a product line based on the anthocyanins found in berries, which have been scientifically shown to offer health benefits. The basis for this product is an extract of Scandinavian blueberries and black currants, which Evonik has recently begun marketing as Healthberry™ 865 in many countries throughout the world.

Company information

Evonik, the creative industrial group from Germany, is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. Profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company form the heart of Evonik's corporate strategy. Its activities focus on the key megatrends health, nutrition, resource efficiency and globalization. Evonik benefits specifically from its innovative prowess and integrated technology platforms. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world. In fiscal 2014 more than 33,000 employees generated sales of around €12.9 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €1.9 billion.

Evonik Industries has been producing specialty chemical products in the Greater China region (Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan) since the late 1970's; with wide-ranging trading relations already in place prior to this in the region. Evonik regards Greater China as one of the driving forces of the global economy and we consequently endeavour to grow our business in the region. The company now has around 3,000 employees in the Greater China region, the regional sales reached over €1.1 billion in 2014.

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