



Press Information, September 28, 2021

AAK partners with Progress Biotech on premium plant-based DHA for infant formula

AAK has announced a strategic partnership with Progress Biotech to supply the Dutch company's high-quality, algae-based DHA for infant formula.

DHA is an omega-3 fatty acid that is commonly derived from fish oils. It offers several clinically proven benefits and is mandatory in infant formula across the EU.

Progress Biotech secured Infant Novel Food approval in the EU for its algal DHA in May 2021. It represents the purest form of DHA oil, with proven high quality as well as neutral taste and color. It is also a vegan-friendly, sustainable alternative to fish-based DHA and is produced without the use of solvents.

The agreement sees AAK, a major supplier of oils and fats to the global infant formula industry, continue to add to its portfolio of active lipids.

Dr. Raimund C. Hoenes, AAK's Head of Global Special Nutrition, said: "This partnership means we can offer infant formula manufacturers a plant-based DHA oil that meets the highest demands on quality. Our algal DHA also has neutral taste and color, which is difficult to achieve with alternatives based on fish oil."

In addition to its technical expertise on DHA oils, Progress Biotech is a company with extensive experience in international trade and logistics.

Hoenes added: "Having evaluated the DHA oil market, we chose Progress Biotech as our strategic partner because it shares our values on quality, sustainable sourcing, and the importance of a flexible supply chain. By combining the strengths of our companies, we bring an exceptional offer to the market."

AAK's decision to add the plant-based DHA to its portfolio is supported by the product's sustainability credentials as it has a far lower environmental impact than DHA sourced from fish.

The microalgae used to produce Progress Biotech's DHA oil are sourced from the sea, but the production is carried out in a closed environment. This allows for optimal quality levels and purity, while it also means any environmental impact can be strictly controlled and minimized.

Mr. Jaap Peters, founder of Progress Biotech, said: "I am proud that AAK has chosen to partner with Progress Biotech to take our algal oil to the global infant formula market. We now look forward to working closely with AAK in growing the DHA algal oil business."

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For more information, please contact: special.nutrition@aak.com

About AAK

Everything AAK does is about **Making Better Happen™**. We specialize in plant-based oils that are the value-adding ingredients in many of the products people love to consume. We make these products better tasting, healthier, and more sustainable. At the heart of AAK's offer is Customer Co-Development, combining our desire to understand what better means for each customer, with the unique flexibility of our production assets, and a deep knowledge of many products and industries, including Chocolate & Confectionery, Bakery, Dairy, Plant-based Foods, Special Nutrition, Foodservice and Personal Care. Our 3,900 employees support our close collaboration with customers through 25 regional sales offices, 15 dedicated Customer Innovation Centers, and with the support of more than 20 production facilities. Listed on Nasdaq Stockholm and with our headquarters in Malmö, Sweden, AAK has been Making Better Happen™ for 150 years.

About Progress Biotech

Progress Biotech, established in 2011, is an innovative and quality focused company from The Netherlands, specialized in the development and sales of sustainable DHA products from Algae.

Progress Biotech secured approval from the EU for the use of their algal oil in Infant Formula as the 3rd company in the world.

For more information, visit www.progressbiotech.com.