

PRESS RELEASE

BRAIN and WeissBioTech join forces

**Strategic investment of BRAIN in enzyme production,
distribution and marketing**

Zwingenberg and Ascheberg, Germany, November 27, 2014 – Biotechnology company BRAIN and enzyme specialist WeissBioTech GmbH have formed a strategic partnership in the rapidly growing industrial enzyme sector. Through this strategic move BRAIN has obtained direct access to the lucrative industrial enzyme market. Together with its partner WeissBioTech, BRAIN now established a growing international company network with worldwide access to an extensive range of enzymes and producer strains, as well as the associated technologies required for identification, development and production of products based on enzymes and biocatalysts for consumers and business partners.

The strategic investment of BRAIN into WeissBioTech was made to get access to an established and lucrative enzyme business and also, in order to strengthen the position of WeissBioTech in the enzyme market in future business. The further details of the transaction have not been disclosed.

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Through the establishment of this strategic partnership, the two companies together combine more than 500 FTE years of experience in applying their respective enzyme and production expertise in the field of White Biotechnology.

The new strategic partnership combines the complementary disciplines of high sophisticated research on enzymes and biocatalysts with development, production and distribution of technical enzymes to the market.

BRAIN and WeissBioTech aim to work together to discover, develop and implement the most economic solutions for established and emerging markets like grain processing for bio-energy and food applications. WeissBioTech currently has more than 100 enzyme products in its range and sold several thousand tons of enzyme products during 2013 in more than 50 countries on all continents.

Within this strategic partnership that product portfolio will continuously be expanded. Every year between 2 and 4 product candidates and concepts are being developed for a variety of industrial applications and markets through the enzyme related R&D activities at BRAIN. The intensification of the companies` joint activities is of particular interest in the fast growing enzyme sector, where "all natural" concepts combined with proven efficiency are increasingly important for both, enzyme suppliers and end users.

"WeissBioTech has been working intensively on its production and sales units for the enzyme industry for several years. The strategic partnership with the leading biotech company BRAIN makes it possible to bridge the gap between the identification of various novel enzymes on the one hand and the development, production and marketing to the target industries on the other," explains Hans de Bie, CEO of WeissBioTech. "Through this alliance with its long-standing partner BRAIN, the company will be strengthened further, but will continue to operate as an independent entity".

"The synergy between the two companies can be found clearly in the establishment of the complete value chain from discovery to market.

BRAIN, being the innovator, and WeissBioTech having the regulatory, production and sales know-how in place," says Dr. Jürgen Eck, CTO of BRAIN, about the importance of the new partnership. "The alliance combines the development of novel enzymes and biocatalysts as well as proprietary production strains. Additionally it offers the opportunity to optimise both enzymes, in terms of properties such as stability and solubility, as well as production processes in terms of efficiency and sustainability."

The new alliance will start with a clear focus on a well-defined number of specialty enzyme segments (e.g. grain/starch processing, beverages and food enzymes, as well as emerging markets such as plant health and nutrition) with more segments to come. In these segments, the two partners have both, an in depth application knowledge and a strong technical background. The technical expertise is complemented by a strong product portfolio and in-depth customer knowledge. The technical background and market intelligence will from now on be synergistically used to grow the successful business in a well-established yet still growing market.

Enzymes are one of the main products of the White Biotechnology market. Since the early 1970s enzymes have become of growing importance for our daily lives and the manufacturing of various goods for consumer and industrial markets. Technical enzymes are produced by microbial manufacturing systems in closed environments and serve as amazing natural catalysts, which speed up many technical processes that have replaced a number of traditional chemical manufacturing steps. In 2013 the total global enzyme market had a volume of approximately €3 billion. Between 2006 (market volume €1.6 billion) and 2012 the enzyme market showed an annual growth rate of 8 - 12 percent.

About BRAIN

BRAIN AG is Europe's leading industrial White Biotech company and both 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 99 strategic partnerships and alliances with nearly all the relevant companies within the chemical industry, for example BASF, Ciba, Clariant, Evonik, DSM, Genencor, Henkel, Nutrinova, RWE, Sandoz, Schering, Südzucker and Symrise, to name but a few. BRAIN currently employs 116 highly skilled personnel.

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

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About WeissBioTech

In 2002 the company WeissBioTech GmbH was established and focused on addressing the market needs for a specialty enzyme supplier in the developing market of first generation Bio-Fuels, the fuel ethanol business. Their high-end technical service, keen understanding of enzymes technology (including enzyme side activities and its value in the respective applications as well as the value of certain enzyme blends), deep application knowhow, large network into the food and starch processing industry and into the world of enzyme developers, producers and suppliers worldwide helped to build a profitable enzyme business. Their unique proprietary know-how and network position in the specialty enzyme business allows WeissBioTech to carve out their niche position and demand higher margins than that of a mere distributor.

In 2011 WeissBioTech GmbH further pursued the expansion of their value added position by the establishment of a blending, mixing and packaging facility in France at their newly founded subsidiary WeissBioTech France SARL. Combined with the establishment of their strong QA/QC function this enabled WeissBioTech to further add value through the purchase of specific enzyme concentrates they could subsequently mix and blend down to the desired customer product specs and sell under WeissBioTech GmbH trade mark.



Enzyme-Tanks at the WeissBioTech site from which on customers demand process-relevant enzyme-mixtures and formulations are produced.

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