

PR PRESS RELEASE ES

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Lesaffre expands its development in human nutrition and health with the acquisition of NattoPharma, in Norway

Lesaffre announces the completion of its take-over of NattoPharma, a Norwegian nutraceutical company specializing in research and marketing of vitamin K2. With this acquisition, Gnosis by Lesaffre, the business unit of Lesaffre dedicated to human care, is strengthening its presence in the global human nutrition and health market and confirms its commitment to accelerate its research and development activities.

This announcement completes the friendly public offer launched in February to acquire all outstanding shares of NattoPharma, a company listed on Euronext Expand Oslo. Given that Lesaffre now holds more than 90% of the share capital of NattoPharma, a delisting and compulsory acquisition of the remaining shares will be carried out in due course.

Lesaffre pursues its investments and development in human nutrition and health sector

As a global player in the field of fermentation and micro-organisms, Lesaffre has been expanding its capabilities in human nutrition and health for more than 15 years. With the acquisition of NattoPharma, a company headquartered in Norway and specializing in vitamin K2, Lesaffre confirms its commitment to becoming a key player in this double-digit-growth market.

Through its business unit Gnosis by Lesaffre, Lesaffre is already an established supplier of Vitamin K2, an ingredient used in dietary supplements, with benefits in bone health and cardiovascular health. Joining forces with NattoPharma will help Gnosis by Lesaffre expand the awareness about and access to the benefits of Vitamin K2 to support the health capital of consumers.



"This acquisition is perfectly in line with our strategy of development in human nutrition and health. We are very happy to welcome the NattoPharma team within our group. Lesaffre and NattoPharma share a common goal of answering the needs for food, health and naturalness while providing safe and trustworthy ingredients to their clients and end customers", says Antoine Baule, CEO of Lesaffre.



Gnosis by Lesaffre wishes to strengthen its presence and offering

Gnosis by Lesaffre has been developing products for human nutrition and health for more than 15 years and currently employs over 400 people in its various sites (France, Italy, Switzerland, USA, China and Singapore). This operation will enable the business unit to strengthen its presence in the global human nutrition and health market and to further develop the access to natural vitamin K2.



"By joining our forces and combining our expertises, we will accelerate our investments in clinical trials to research and demonstrate vitamin K2 effects for the benefit of consumers, and thus further increase science-based differentiation levers for our customers," adds Marc Philouze, Managing Director of Gnosis By Lesaffre.

NattoPharma is a nutraceutical company founded in 2004 and headquartered in Oslo. Since its inception, the company has played a leading role in building the clinical science to substantiate the health benefits of vitamin K2 with more than 20 published clinical trials. It sells K2 under its brand MenaQ7® and via a global sales organization with salespeople located in Europe, USA and Asia.



"I am proud of the entrepreneurial journey accomplished by the NattoPharma team to build the Vitamin K2 market and supporting science over the past decade. Lesaffre is recognized as a worldwide key player in the fermentation industry, leveraging innovation and industrial platforms to produce fermentation products; this, paired with NattoPharma's expertise on the various forms of Vitamin K2, makes us confident that we together will accelerate research and further explore K2 benefits as the true global leader in Vitamin K2 with a full range of products meeting all customer needs," says Kjetil Ramsøy, CEO of NattoPharma.

Rothschild acted as financial advisor to Lesaffre. Thommessen AS acted as the Norwegian legal advisor, and Linklaters as the French legal advisor to Lesaffre. ABG Sundal Collier ASA acted as financial advisor and CLP DA as Norwegian legal advisor to NattoPharma.

ABOUT NATTO

NattoPharma is a public limited liability company listed on Euronext Expand Oslo and is headquartered in Oslo. NattoPharma is the world's leader in vitamin K2 research and development, and is the owner and exclusive distributor of MenaQ7® Vitamin K2 as MK-7, the best documented, vitamin K2 as menaquinone-7 (MK-7) with guaranteed actives and stability, clinical substantiation, and international patents granted and pending, and now the new MenaQ7® Full Spectrum, which delivers menaquinones 6, 7, 8, and 9. The company has a multi-year research and development program to substantiate and discover the health benefits of vitamin K2 for applications in the marketplace for functional food and dietary supplements.

ABOUT GNOSIS BY LESAFFRE

Gnosis by Lesaffre harnesses the power of microorganisms and biotransformation processes like fermentation to cultivate nutritional actives, probiotics, and nutritional and functional yeasts that benefit human health and wellbeing. The team draws on its focused research and applications capabilities to collaborate with nutraceutical and pharmaceutical brands to develop game-changing products for their customers.

More information on <https://gnosisbylesaffre.com/>

ABOUT LESAFFRE

A key global player in fermentation for more than a century, Lesaffre, with a 2,2 billion euros turnover, and established on all continents, has 10,700 employees with more than 85 nationalities. On the strength of this experience and diversity, we work with customers, partners and researchers to find ever more relevant answers to the needs of food, health, naturalness and respect for our environment. Thus, every day, we explore and reveal the infinite potential of microorganisms.

To nourish 9 billion people, in a healthy way, by 2050, making the most of our planet's resources, is a major and unprecedented issue. We believe that fermentation is one of the most promising answers to this challenge.

Lesaffre - Working together to better nourish and protect the planet

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