



PRESS RELEASE

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New Alliance to 'Biologize' Industrial Processes

Funded by the BMBF – Additional research on alternatives to antibiotics

Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH, Bionorica SE and Organobalance have received funding approval from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for a joint research project. Titled GOBI ("Good Bacteria and Bioactives in Industry"), the project will see the three companies, in collaboration with scientists, analyse microorganisms and their positive effects and how they could be used in animal feed as well as the health and pharmaceutical industries.

The corporate alliance will pool research findings on microbiota, microbiomes, metabolomes and genomes, apply these to the industrial use of microorganisms and subsequently develop bioactive products.

"Our aim is to selectively and systematically assess the rapidly growing knowledge on the interplay between microorganisms and humans or animals and, in a second step, translate this into products" explained Prof. Dr. Christine Lang, Managing Director of Organobalance GmbH, who coordinates the Alliance.

This close collaboration between companies from different industries was to bring about "a new generation of alternative biological agents," Lang said. "The result will be health benefits in the context of a 'One health' strategy for animals and humans." Examples would be bio-based alternatives to conventional antibiotics.

"For the transformation towards a sustainable, bio-based economy to be successful, companies have to embrace the opportunities offered by new scientific findings and technological developments", said Dr. Georg Schütte, State Secretary at the BMBF, at the presentation of the certificate. "Here, what we need are courageous risk-takers with a vision, scientists, developers and entrepreneurs such as the partners of the GOBI Alliance."

The Alliance is intended to last for a period of six years and have a volume of up to nine million euro. Funding will be provided as a part of the Ministry's 'Innovation Initiative Industrial Biotechnology' programme. The initiative's aim is to open the tremendous potential of biological solutions for industrial processes and to accelerate innovation processes.



About Organobalance GmbH:

ORGANOBALANCE is a biotechnology research and development company. Founded in 2001, the firm develops and sells products based on probiotic bacteria cultures and yeast production strains for use in industrial biotechnology. The company owns a unique strain collection of yeast and lactobacillus cultures, some of which date back to the 1920s. At its offices in Berlin and Flensburg, some 35 employees work for multinational clients from the food, cosmetics, feed, agriculture and pharmaceutical industries. Christine Lang, the company's Managing Director, is also a Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the TU Berlin and have already received several business awards.

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