



BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE

**Avesthagen introduces first-in-class vegetarian DHA omega 3 essential fatty acid.
Scouts for global licensing partnerships, manufacturing facilities.**

Bangalore, February 15th, 2011: Avesthagen Limited announced completion of a landmark project for the development of **AvestaDHA™** - a vegetarian source of DHA (docosahexanoic acid) omega 3 essential fatty acid based on an innovative approach using naturally occurring microalgae.



DHA is a polyunsaturated mega-3 fatty acid found throughout the body. More specifically, DHA Omega-3 is a major structural component found in the brain gray matter, eye retina and the heart. Numerous scientific studies confirm that everyone, from infants to adults, benefit from an adequate supply of DHA Omega-3. For mothers-to-be, DHA Omega-3 supports a healthy pregnancy. For toddlers, children, teens and adults, DHA Omega-3 supports brain, eye & heart health. Increased intake of DHA has been shown to be beneficial in inflammatory disorders, arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarction, thrombosis, and some cancers. Although DHA is naturally found in different types of fish oil and marine plankton, it is expected that the supply of this omega -3 fatty acid will be insufficient to meet growing demands. Moreover, fish oil requires extensive purification, may have unpleasant tastes and odors, and is subject to environmental bioaccumulation of heavy metal contaminants.



Avesthagen was awarded a prestigious grant for its research on Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) from CSIR under the New Millennium Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) scheme. The collaborative project between Avesthagen and three Institutional partners viz., National Institute of Oceanography (Goa), Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (Jammu) & Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (Hyderabad) had the objective to identify cost effective and renewable sources of DHA & other LCPUFAs.

Avesthagen's innovative technology allows commercial production of superior quality, 100% vegetarian **AvestaDHA™**. A novel *Schizochytrium linacinum* strain SC-1 was developed by Avesthagen for producing Vegetarian DHA through fermentation. The patented technology has been scaled up and validated for commercialization.

Dr Viloo Morawala Patell, founder and Chairperson Avesthagen stated "**AvestaDHA™** will serve as an acceptable and safe source of DHA for vegetarians and others all over the World. Avesthagen is open for global licensing, manufacturing and marketing alliances. This is one step towards our continual commitment to discovery and commercialization of science based products that promote health and well being throughout life. **AvestaDHA™** is also a step by Avesthagen in discharging an important Corporate Social Responsibility in that it is targeted at ameliorating the nutritional health of the bottom of the Pyramid and invites like-minded government, private organizations and civil society to join in the mission."

About Avesthagen:

AVESTHAGEN LIMITED (www.avesthagen.com) is India's leading integrated systems biology platform company that focuses on achieving convergence of food, pharma and population genetics leading to predictive preventive and personalized healthcare. It employs 300 people worldwide and is headquartered in Bangalore. Avesthagen Limited has established world class, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities in Bangalore. It began business operations in 2001. Since its inception Avesthagen has grown into one of India's leading healthcare biotech companies that has a robust portfolio of agri-biotechnologies, clinically validated botanical bioActives as well as bio-similar drugs.

Avesthagen Limited has four strategic business units: bioPharmaceuticals, bioNutrition, bioAgriculture and Science & Innovation. Its partners include multiple top 10 global companies in each of its fields of research. Avesthagen Limited collaborates at every stage in the value chain with appropriate partners, both public and private, for access to and exchange of technology and overall commercial expertise to leverage the 'India advantage'.

For more information, please contact:

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THE HINDU Business Line

Forget fish oil, get ready for Avesthagen's veg omega-3

Our Bureau

DHA omega-3 is an essential nutrient for people of all ages and known to promote treating some cancers. DHA is commercially available mostly as fish oil.

Bangalore, Feb. 15:

Medicinal and plant biotechnology company Avesthagen Ltd on Tuesday said based food supplement, a DHA omega-3 fatty acid, and was also open to licensing and marketing.

The product, AvestaDHA, is a vegetarian source of DHA (docohexanoic acid) derived from naturally occurring microalgae, Avesthagen said in a release.

DHA omega-3 is an essential nutrient for people of all ages and known to promote treating some cancers.

DHA is commercially available mostly as fish oil.

Dr Villoo Morawala Patell, founder and Chairperson of the Bangalore-based company, is into global licensing, manufacturing and marketing alliances.

AvestaDHA is also targeted at ameliorating the nutritional health of the bottom 10% and invites like-minded government, private organisations and civil society to join hands.

Avesthagen took up its research on DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) with a grant from the Technology Leadership Initiative. The project also involved the National Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, and the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology.

Avesthagen said it developed a novel patented *Schizochytrium linacinum* strain through fermentation.

“The patented technology has been scaled up and validated for commercialisation.”

Keywords: [Avesthagen Ltd](#), [DHA omega-3](#), [fish oil](#), [fatty acid](#)