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| November 3, 2016  Contact person specialized press Dr. Jürgen Krauter  Head of Communications  Nutrition & Care Phone +49 6181 59-6847  Fax +49 6181 59-76847  juergen.krauter@evonik.com |
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Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH

Rellinghauser Straße 1-11

45128 Essen

Telefone +49 201 177-01

Fax +49 201 177-3475  
Germany

www.evonik.com

**Supervisory Board**

Dr. Ralph Sven Kaufmann, Chairman

Management Board

Dr. Reiner Beste, Chairman

Dr. Hans Josef Ritzert  
Michael Gattermann  
Markus Schäfer

Registered office Essen

Registered court

Essen local court

Commercial registry B 25784

HR no. FN 431387 v

Evonik submits bid for METEX methionine technology platform

# Evonik to strengthen its biotechnology platform

# Binding bid for METEX fermentation methionine technology

# Both parties agreed to exclusivity and aim for a timely conclusion of the agreement

Essen, Germany. Amino acids produced by fermentation are an important pillar of Evonik’s product portfolio for sustainable animal nutrition. The production processes for Biolys® (lysine), ThreAMINO® (threonine) and TrypAMINO® (tryptophane) have been made continuously more efficient over the past years and the portfolio was just recently enlarged by launching ValAMINO® (valine). In order to strengthen its biotechnology platform Evonik intends the acquisition of a large technology package from the French company METabolic EXplorer (METEX) and has submitted a binding offer on October 27th. The bid is subject to approval by Evonik committees.

METEX, which is headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand (France), has succeeded in developing a fermentation process for manufacturing methionine. The binding Evonik offer includes the takeover of METEX’s entire methionine technology as well as patents, essential bacteria strains, and the inoLaTM brand. These are to be transferred to Evonik after closing.

The transaction also includes a license agreement for the continued use of base technology by METEX. The companies also intend to explore the possibility of a research cooperation on the technological development of biotechnologically produced amino acids.

The companies are planning a timely conclusion of the agreement and have agreed to exclusivity and not to disclose any information on the next steps until the agreement has been signed.

Founded in 1999 the biotechnology company METabolic EXplorer specializes in the development of biotechnology production processes for bio-based substances that are used in a wide variety of daily everyday products such as textile fibers and feed additives.

**Company information**

Evonik, the creative industrial group from Germany, is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals, operating in the Nutrition & Care, Resource Efficiency and Performance Materials segments. The company benefits from its innovative prowess and integrated technology platforms. In 2015 more than 33,500 employees generated sales of around €13.5 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.47 billion.

**About Nutrition & Care**

The Nutrition & Care segment is led by Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH and contributes to fulfilling basic human needs. That includes applications for everyday consumer goods as well as animal nutrition and health care. This segment employed about 7,000 employees, and generated sales of around   
€4.9 billion in 2015.

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