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**Evonik expands production capacity for Mepron®**

Evonik Industries expands its production capacity for Mepron®, a coated DL-methionine product for dairy cows, by one third by mid-2013. Evonik is taking this step to further solidify its strong position in the market of rumen-protected methionine products.

“We have been successfully active in this market for over twenty years and this investment affirms our long-term strategy in the area of feed additives," said Dr. Reiner Beste, head of the Health & Nutrition Business Unit at Evonik.

High-performing dairy cows have a particularly high demand for methionine, which is typically covered by feed protein. However, high prices for feed protein, the increasing performance of dairy cows, and scientific insights from animal nutrition research with respect to the amino acid demand of high-performing dairy cows have contributed to a continuous rise in demand for methionine products for dairy cows over the past years.

"Adding Mepron® to a dairy cow ration allows the crude protein content in the diet to be reduced without any loss in performance," explains Dr. Beste. This cuts down on the overall cost of feed while increasing the profitability of dairy operations.

Evonik is the only company worldwide to produce and market all four essential amino acids for modern animal nutrition: Biolys® (source of L-lysine), MetAMINO® (DL-methionine), ThreAMINO® (L-threonine), and TrypAMINO® (L-tryptophan). The Group provides innovative services and products in more than 100 countries.

**Company information**

Evonik, the creative industrial group from Germany, is one of the world leaders
in specialty chemicals. Profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company form the heart of Evonik’s corporate strategy. Its activities focus on the key megatrends health, nutrition, resource efficiency and globalization. Evonik benefits specifically from its innovative prowess and integrated technology platforms.

Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world. In fiscal 2012 more than 33,000 employees generated sales of around €13.6 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.6 billion.

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