

Integrating plant chemistry
into everyday life

Groupe Berkem acquires Laboratoires ERIGER and strengthens its position in the active cosmetics market

- **Integration of patented PhytoVec® technology, a major innovation in encapsulating active plant ingredients for dermatological benefits**
- **Innovation ensuring improved efficacy, stability and formulability of active ingredients, proven in several applications for Groupe Berkem's "Health, Beauty & Nutrition" business area**
- **Transfer of Laboratoires ERIGER's production tools to Groupe Berkem's Chartres industrial site. This site is now dedicated to freeze-drying, a sublimation low-temperature drying technique for plant materials and sensitive products.**
- **Presentation of PhytoVec® at INCOSMETICS Amsterdam trade show, from April 8 to 10, 2025**

Blanquefort (France), March 10, 2025 - Groupe Berkem, a leading player in bio-based chemistry, announces the acquisition of Laboratoires ERIGER, a specialist in technologies derived from pharmaceutical research for the cosmetics industry.

Olivier Fahy, Chairman and CEO of Groupe Berkem, stated: *"We are delighted to integrate Laboratoires ERIGER's cutting-edge technology into our Group. The production tools will be transferred to our industrial site in Chartres, a city recognized as a center of excellence and competitiveness for international players in the cosmetics industry. Laboratoires ERIGER's recognized know-how will be an invaluable asset in consolidating our expertise in plant-based chemistry and strengthening our position in the active cosmetics market. Their patented PhytoVec® technology, which micro-encapsulates plant active ingredients thanks to the chlorophyll they contain, is a major breakthrough that we intend to deploy to its full potential within our "Health, Beauty & Nutrition" business area. In markets constantly seeking naturalness, the integration of Laboratoires ERIGER's active ingredients represents a major step forward, enabling us to offer our customers and prospects ever more innovative solutions. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Eric Buchy for his commitment and invaluable support throughout this operation."*

Eric Buchy, CEO of Laboratoires ERIGER, added: *"The acquisition of Laboratoires ERIGER's activities by Groupe Berkem represents a genuine industrial continuity for PhytoVec® technology. I'm delighted by Groupe Berkem's ambition, embodied by Olivier Fahy and his teams, to make PhytoVec® technology an essential reference in the field of encapsulation of plant active*

ingredients. I am convinced that our shared know-how will be the driving force behind our future success. It is therefore with great enthusiasm that I join Groupe Berkem in this new journey, with the aim of making plants an essential pillar of tomorrow's chemistry.”

PhytoVec® patented technology, a revolution in the encapsulation of active plant ingredients

Specialists in technologies derived from pharmaceutical research for the cosmetics industry, Laboratoires ERIGER has developed and patented PhytoVec® technology, an innovative process for encapsulating active plant ingredients using chlorophyll. Encapsulation consists of imprisoning unstable active ingredients within a protective micro-capsule, thus protecting them from any risk of oxidation or deterioration caused, for example, by light.

This technology represents a major advance for Groupe Berkem’s “Health, Beauty & Nutrition” business area, thanks to the major benefits it offers: greater efficacy, improved stability and optimal formulability of plant active ingredients. Its effectiveness has in fact been demonstrated in combination with several plant active ingredients for cosmetic use, notably by ensuring better concentration of the active ingredient in the final product. A study carried out by the Spincontrol laboratory, involving a panel of 60 people, on the combination of vitamin A with PhytoVec® technology demonstrated 100% efficacy on wrinkles. In addition to these recognized benefits for cosmetic products, the integration of PhytoVec® technology also protects fragrance molecules, enhances sensoriality, improves the efficacy of anti-wrinkle and antioxidant active ingredients, and limits the use of preservatives.

Strengthening and extending Groupe Berkem's offering in the cosmetics market

Thanks to the combination of its expertise in plant chemistry and PhytoVec® technology, Groupe Berkem is now able to produce micro-encapsulations in chlorophyll-based products such as hydroalcoholic solutions and serums, consolidating its position as a key player in plant chemistry. Groupe Berkem is also working on integrating certain products developed by Laboratoires ERIGER into its own range of cosmetics.

Groupe Berkem will present PhytoVec® technology and its many benefits at the INCOSMETCS Amsterdam trade show, to be held from April 8 to 10, 2025.

The transaction was close March 6, 2025, and the financial terms are confidential.

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ABOUT PHYTOVEC® TECHNOLOGY

PhytoVec® is a technology developed by pharmaceutical research to protect, stabilize and potentiate active molecules. Thanks to the physico-chemical properties of chlorophyll, the active molecules are encapsulated in small capsules, invisible to the naked eye, which protect them from the external environment and prevent premature degradation (loss of efficacy). These capsules, which are stable under different conditions, can be used, for example, to solubilize a fatty substance in an aqueous environment, offering formulators new outlook in the design of finished products. Well-protected and stable in different conditions, active molecules will be able to deliver their full potential in terms of efficacy.

ABOUT LABORATOIRES ERIGER

Co-founded in March 2019 in Tours by Eric BUCHY and Gérard CHOMAT, based on work carried out at the Philippe Maupas Pharmacy Faculty, Laboratoires ERIGER is specialized in the field of encapsulation. Thanks to PhytoVec® technology, using chlorophyll, Laboratoires ERIGER offers their customers (in the cosmetics, pharmaceutical and phytosanitary sectors) a solution for protecting active ingredients while guaranteeing optimal formulability and efficacy. Thanks to their in-house know-how, and the R&D and production facilities at their Chambray-lès-Tours site, Laboratoires ERIGER can meet their customers' needs from design to production.

ABOUT GROUPE BERKEM

Founded in 1993 by Olivier Fahy, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Groupe Berkem is a leading force in the bio-based chemicals market. Its mission is to advance the environmental transition of companies producing the chemicals used in everyday life (Construction & Materials, Health, Beauty & Nutrition, Hygiene & Protection, Industry). By harnessing its expertise in both plant extraction and innovative formulations, Groupe Berkem has developed bio-based boosters, unique high-quality bio-based solutions boosting the performance of synthetic molecules. The Group has almost 250 employees working at its head office (Blanquefort, Gironde) and 6 production facilities in Gardonne (Dordogne), La Teste-de-Buch (Gironde), Chartres (Eure-et-Loir), Tonneins (Lot-et-Garonne), Valence (Spain) and Tours (Indre-et-Loir).

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