

From Oceans to Crops, and From Crops to IPO

Avesthagen's systems biology approach to novel products targets more than land based organisms - dives deep into new products from the Ocean.

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Avesthagen has always been in the forefront of innovative scientific thinking and has developed a formidable portfolio of patents in all the four areas it operates in viz. bioAgriculture, bioNutrition, bioPharmaceuticals and in Science & Innovation. Approximately 600 patent applications cover both, process and products. There are several copyrights and design patents as well. Within each area Avesthagen aspires to benefit the common man, and more so for the "bottom of the pyramid".

Avesthagen has strengthened its Board of Directors with Dr. John Darbyshire, Operations Manager of the Beverages SBU at Nestle, Switzerland, Ms. Dominique Takizawa, Chief Financial Officer, Institute Merieux, and Dr. Chris Bowler, Professor, Molecular Marine Biology, Ecole Normale Superieure, Paris, France. They bring strategic, scientific direction to Avesthagen.



Avesthagen has today successfully concluded its Strategic Scientific Advisory Board Meeting. Dr. Rita Colwell, former-Director of the National Science Foundation, USA (1998-2004) has become the chairperson of Avesthagen's Strategic Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Rita Colwell is Chairman of Canon US Life Sciences, Inc. and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland at College Park and at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. The Strategic Scientific Advisory Board guides Avesthagen's scientific and business directions.

Secondly, Avesthagen is pleased to announce the arrival of the Tara Oceans expeditions to India. The French-led international expedition on the 36 meter sailboat Tara is carrying out a detailed analysis of microscopic life throughout the worlds' oceans during the next 3 years to understand its importance and its sensitivity to climate change. The boat will stop over in Mumbai, India on March 25, 2010 and in Goa on April 1, 2010 before continuing through the Indian Ocean and towards South America by the end of 2010. Chris Bowler is Scientific coordinator of Tara Ocean and is an Advisory Board Member of Avesthagen. More information at <http://oceans.taraexpeditions.org>

Finally, Avesthagen would like to share with the public the successful completion of the NIMTLI project. In 2003, Avesthagen Limited and its research partners—the National Institute of Oceanography (Goa), the Regional Research Laboratory (Jammu), and the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (Hyderabad) had received funding from the

Council of Scientific and Industrial Relations (CSIR) for their research proposal entitled: "Recombinant approach to produce alpha-linolenic acid and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) in sunflower and yeast". This truly innovative project has been completed wherein Avesthagen has successfully cloned genes from microalgae for production of DHA and other useful omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids. Patents have been filed for ALA, GLA, DGLA, ARA, and EPA, while the filing for DHA is in progress. A set of six genes is now being transformed into *Brassica* and Sunflower with the aim of overproducing DHA in these plants. The production of essential fatty acids such as DHA in plants will provide a commercially viable method for delivering these critical dietary components to the human population, while avoiding over-exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems.

As per Dr.Villoo Morawala Patell, CMD, Avesthagen Limited, " All signs look positive and Avesthagen armed with great scientific talent, technologies, patents and products requires funding to help it take the benefits to the market. We have internationally recognized leaders to guide Avesthagen in its science and I have no doubt that Avesthagen will deliver on all fronts. To fund Avesthagen's manufacturing and marketing of its products, the company plans to list as soon as the Investment climate improves. Avesthagen expects to generate 600 to 700 crores."

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 400 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 in addition to its agri-biotechnologies product pipeline, development of clinically validated botanical bioActives, derived from Indian medicinal plants, as well as the development of a pipeline of 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'.

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