

Epax launches first commercially available VLC-PUFA product

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Epax has launched EPAX® Evolve 05, the world's first commercially available VLC-PUFA (very long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acid) product.

VLC-PUFAs are a family of Omega-3 fatty acids that offer particular potential in the healthy ageing category. Pre-clinical studies have found that supplementation is associated with improved sight and that depletion is linked to age-related phenomena such as reduced bone density and muscle strength. Additionally, VLC-PUFAs have been found to have profound effects in areas such as skin health and male fertility.

Epax has played a leading role in much of the research on VLC-PUFAs from fish oil. Ten years ago, Epax discovered that fish oil contains small amounts of these valuable fatty acids and developed a method for concentrating them. Epax now holds several patent families in the field, paving the way to the development of EPAX Evolve 05 – a unique new marine concentrate, and the world's first commercially available VLC-PUFA product.

Containing around ten times the amount of VLC-PUFAs as crude fish oil, the patent-protected concentrate is part of the company's NovusLipid range, which features up-and-coming marine ingredients.

EPAX Evolve 05 has already been evaluated by regulators. Acting on behalf of EFSA, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority has concluded that it is not a Novel Food, allowing it to be marketed in the EU. In the US, Epax recently obtained self-affirmed GRAS status following an expert panel assessment. To achieve this, it performed genotoxicity and repeat-dose toxicology studies, leading to two peer-reviewed papers.