

## Press Release - For immediate release

### **Leaf Technologies and Dutch DNA Biotech enter in R&D collaboration for the development of a value added fermentation solution to produce itaconic acid**

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Leaf Technologies (LESAFFRE ADVANCED FERMENTATION TECHNOLOGIES) and Dutch DNA, a spin-out of TNO, are glad to announce they have entered into a R&D collaboration for the **development of a new fungal host for the production of itaconic acid**. The ambition of the partnership is to **reduce the production cost** of itaconic acid and **enable its broader use as a renewable building block chemical**.

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Today, itaconic acid has a small current market with limited industrial applications. The objective of the R&D collaboration partnership between Leaf Technologies and Dutch DNA is to create an engineered fungal host with superior performance, which could utilize both simple and cellulosic sugars. With this higher performing host, the two partners' ambition to significantly reduce the production cost of itaconic acid enabling new applications for its use by the industry as a renewable building-block chemical.

*"We are very happy to enter into this collaboration with Dutch DNA, recognized as experts in engineering fungal hosts. They had already demonstrated their technology at lab scale, and we are eager to turn their science into industrial reality. We strongly believe organic acids, such as lactic and succinic acids, will play a key role in growing the biobased chemicals market, and we aim to make itaconic acid the next major commercial renewable chemical."* says Adam Javan, Business Development Director at Leaf Technologies

*"We are excited to start our collaboration with Leaf Technologies, Lesaffre. Lesaffre with more than a century of expertise in industrial strain development and large scale fermentation, brings the critical competencies and capabilities required for commercialization of our technology. We are very motivated to see the full potential of itaconic acid, and look forward to expanding our collaboration with Lesaffre to other organic acids"* says Art de Boo, CEO at Dutch DNA.

#### **About Dutch DNA Biotech**

Dutch DNA Biotech is a management buyout from TNO, which continues the R&D activities on biotechnology from this National Research and Technology Organization of the Netherlands. TNO developed a world leading position in fungal Biotechnology since the late eighties. Since 2015 Dutch DNA Biotech applies and commercializes the knowhow base bought from TNO.

More information: [www.ddna-biotech.com](http://www.ddna-biotech.com)

#### **About TNO**

TNO connects people and knowledge to create innovations that boost the competitive strength of industry and the well-being of society in a sustainable way. This is our mission and it is what drives us in our work every day. TNO is an independent research organization that employs some 3,000 specialists. We believe in the joint creation of economic and social value. Our strategy is a reflection of the trends we observe in society and technology. We focus on transitions or changes in five social themes: Industry, Health, Defense, Urbanization and Energy. Innovation with purpose is what TNO stands for. We develop knowledge not for its own sake, but for practical application.

More information [www.tno.nl](http://www.tno.nl)

## About Leaf Technologies

Leaf Technologies (**LESAFFRE ADVANCED FERMENTATION TECHNOLOGIES**) launched in 2014 as a business unit of Lesaffre specialized in developing advanced fermentation products for the conventional and lignocellulosic bioethanol as well as renewable chemicals industries. Using synergies within its teams, the Lesaffre group and through strategic partnerships along the value chain, Leaf Technologies ambition is to develop economically viable fermentation solutions for bio-based chemicals producers.

More information : [www.leaftechnologies.com](http://www.leaftechnologies.com)

## About Lesaffre

As a global key player in yeasts and fermentation, Lesaffre designs, manufactures and markets innovative solutions for Baking, Food taste & pleasure, Health Care and Biotechnology. Family-owned group born in Northern France in 1853, now a multi-national and a multicultural company, Lesaffre commits to work with confidence to better nourish and protect the planet. In close collaboration with its clients and partners, Lesaffre employs 8 300 people in more than 70 subsidiaries based in about forty countries. Lesaffre achieves a turnover of more than 1,6 billion euros including over 40% on emerging markets.

More information on [www.lesaffre.com](http://www.lesaffre.com)

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