



BURCON RECEIVES TWO NOTICES OF ALLOWANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Vancouver, British Columbia, December 15, 2009 — Burcon NutraScience Corporation (TSX - BU) (“Burcon” or the “Corporation”) is pleased to announce today that it has received notices of allowance from the United States Patent and Trademark Office for two separate patent applications. The first allowance relates to a patent application covering processes for the preparation and production of oil seed meal specifically tailored to produce superior quality Puratein[®] canola protein isolate and Supertein[™] canola protein isolate. The second notice of allowance received relates to a patent application covering extraction procedures that improve the final colour profile of Puratein[®] canola protein isolate and Supertein[™] canola protein isolate. A notice of allowance from the United States Patent and Trademark Office is a written notification that a patent application has cleared internal review and is nearing issuance.

These two patent applications both relate to processes for the production of canola protein isolates with superior organoleptic properties (improved color, superior taste, improved aroma, improved mouth feel etc.). The first notice of allowance is for a patent application to protect novel processing conditions in oil seed meal preparation and the production of a tailored meal in place of conventional canola meal. These oilseed meal preparation techniques have a significant impact on the quality of the final protein products as well as on the yield obtained through the extraction process. The second notice of allowance is for a patent application to protect important processing conditions in the protein extraction process that produce a final protein product with significantly improved colour.

Puratein[®] is a cruciferin-rich canola protein isolate comprised principally of globulin proteins. The functional properties of Puratein[®] include emulsification, gel formation, thickening, formation of heat-stable foams, and water and ingredient-binding. Applications for Puratein[®] include dressings and sauces, meat substitutes, baked goods and protein bars, among many others.

Supertein[™] is a highly-soluble napin-rich canola protein isolate comprised principally of albumin proteins. The functional properties of Supertein[™] include excellent solubility, the ability to form transparent solutions and foaming. Applications for Supertein[™] include beverages, confectionery, aerated desserts, and protein bars, among others.

“It is gratifying to have two more of our U.S. patent applications allowed,” said Johann F. Tergesen, President and Chief Operating Officer, adding, “So far during 2009 we have had eight U.S. patent applications allowed which is a testament to our hard work over the past ten years. Our patenting activities are aimed at building a broad patent portfolio of process, application and compound patents around our core protein extraction and purification technologies.”

To-date, Burcon's patent portfolio consists of 104 issued patents in various countries, including 11 issued U.S. patents, and in excess of 200 additional pending patent applications, 65 of which are U.S. patent applications. Five of Burcon's 65 U.S. patent applications have been allowed, including the two patent allowances which are the subject of this news release, and will be issued as granted U.S. patents in the near future.

About Burcon NutraScience

Burcon is a leader in nutrition, health and wellness in the field of functional, renewable plant proteins. Since 1999, Burcon has developed a portfolio of composition, application, and process patents originating from our core protein extraction and purification technology. We are developing Puratein® and Supertein™ canola protein isolates with unique functional and nutritional attributes, and CLARISOY™, a revolutionary soy protein isolate which is 100% soluble and completely transparent in acidic solutions. Our team of highly specialized scientists and engineers work from our own research facility to develop and optimize environmentally sound technologies. To-date, our patent portfolio consists of 104 issued patents in various countries, including 11 issued U.S. patents, and in excess of 200 additional pending patent applications, 65 of which are U.S. patent applications.

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ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"Johann F. Tergesen"

Johann F. Tergesen

Burcon NutraScience Corporation is a publicly listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "BU". For more information on Burcon, visit www.burcon.ca.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, the Corporation's, plans and timing for the introduction or enhancement of our products, statements about future market conditions, supply and demand conditions, and other expectations, intentions and plans contained in this press release that are not historical fact. Our expectations regarding the prospect for future success depend upon our ability to develop and sell products, which we do not produce today and cannot be sold without further research and development. When used in this press release, the words "goal", "intend", "believes", "potential", "expected", "anticipates", "will be", and similar expressions, generally identify forwardlooking statements. These statements reflect our current expectations. They are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. In light of the many risks and uncertainties surrounding the development of a source of protein from canola meal, you should understand that we cannot assure you that the forward looking statements contained in this press release will be realized.

For more information, please contact:

Jade Cheng, Chief Financial Officer
Burcon NutraScience Corporation
(604) 733-0896 / (888) 408-7960 toll-free
jcheng@burcon.ca www.burcon.ca

AXINO AG

Wolfgang Seybold, Investor Relations Europe
AXINO AG, Königstraße 26, 70173 Stuttgart, Germany
Tel. +49-711-25 35 92-40 / Fax +49-711-25 35 92-55
wolfgang.seybold@axino.de www.burcon.net