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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Cargill-DSM joint venture Avansya starts commercial-scale production of EverSweet™ stevia sweetener, as consumers increasingly demand reduced-calorie food and beverages**

***New fermentation facility in Blair, Nebraska, to sustainably produce the zero-calorie sweetener***

HEERLEN, NL and WAYZATA, MN USA (November 14, 2019) – As consumers continue to watch their calorie intake and strive to live a healthier lifestyle, food and beverage manufacturers are in need of great-tasting, zero-calorie sweeteners to help them achieve these goals. To meet this demand, Avansya, the joint venture between [Cargill](file:///C:\Users\k379909\Desktop\Blair%20Fermentation%20Facility%20Start%20Up%20Celebration\Press%20Release\cargill.com) and [Royal DSM](https://www.dsm.com/corporate/home.html), has today started production at the first commercial-scale fermentation facility for stevia sweeteners in the U.S. The facility is producing [EverSweet™](https://www.cargill.com/food-bev/na/eversweet-sweetener), a [non-artificial](https://www.cargill.com/food-beverage/na/eversweet-a-bit-of-science), zero-calorie stevia sweetener.

The $50 million fermentation facility is located in Blair, Nebraska, and is operated by Cargill. It produces highly sought-after, sweet-tasting molecules, such as Reb M and Reb D used to make EverSweet, and gives food and beverage manufacturers an even more scalable, sustainable and low cost-in-use solution than if these molecules were extracted from the stevia leaf. The market for high-intensity sweeteners produced by fermentation is expected to exceed $3 billion by 2025.

Speaking at the opening, Cargill managing director and chairman of the Board of Avansya, Mike Wagner said: “*Building this first-of-its-kind, stevia sweetener fermentation facility on the existing Cargill Blair campus reaffirms our pledge to helping food and beverage manufacturers meet the sharply rising consumer demand for great-tasting, zero-calorie products to meet their dietary needs and goals. It also reaffirms our commitment to strengthening the business community and Nebraska as a biotechnology mecca.”*

*“The need for effective solutions for advanced sugar reduction on a global scale has never been clearer or more urgent. With today’s opening, we are showing that, as an industry, we can do more, and faster, to innovate and provide consumers around the world with reduced- and zero-calorie food and beverage products, with no compromise on taste, and so help support good health and well-being in our societies,”* said Patrick Niels, President of DSM Food Specialties and Avansya Board Member.

EverSweet’s clean taste profile is well-suited for use in products such as yogurt, chocolate milk, soft drinks, ice cream, cereal, bars and confections. Avansya has commercial volumes available and is already supplying EverSweet to various customers. Further consumer products will launch in the coming months across multiple market segments. Over 300 customer trials and product development projects are currently in progress.

EverSweet is GRAS and FEMA GRAS approved for use in food and beverage products in the U.S. and Mexico and additional regulatory approvals for use in other countries are underway.

Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska Mike Foley took part in the opening ceremony: *“We are very pleased to see Cargill and Royal DSM once again selecting the Blair Campus to invest in the production of innovative solutions that are going to make a difference to people’s lives. We have a great tradition of supporting the food and beverage industry with strong partnerships, skilled workers and high-quality products, and I’m proud to continue that tradition today.”*

The 10,000 square-foot, stevia sweetener fermentation facility at the Blair Campus took approximately 225,000 hours to build and features 6 miles of new piping and 2,000 new instruments, in addition to the fermenters and evaporators that were installed.

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**About DSM – Bright Science. Brighter Living.™**

Royal DSM is a global, purpose-led, science-based company active in Nutrition, Health and Sustainable Living. DSM’s purpose is to create brighter lives for all. DSM addresses with its products and solutions some of the world’s biggest challenges while simultaneously creating economic, environmental and societal value for all its stakeholders – customers, employees, shareholders, and society at large. DSM delivers innovative solutions for human nutrition, animal nutrition, personal care and aroma, medical devices, green products and applications, and new mobility and connectivity. DSM and its associated companies deliver annual net sales of about €10 billion with approximately 23,000 employees. The company was founded in 1902 and is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. More information can be found at [www.dsm.com](http://www.dsm.com).

**About Cargill**

Cargill’s 160,000 employees across 70 countries work relentlessly to achieve our purpose of nourishing the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Every day, we connect farmers with markets, customers with ingredients, and people and animals with the food they need to thrive. We combine 154 years of experience with new technologies and insights to serve as a trusted partner for food, agriculture, financial and industrial customers in more than 125 countries. Side-by-side, we are building a stronger, sustainable future for agriculture.

**For more information:**

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