

## Press Release

Kaiseraugst (CH), 10 July 2019

Royal DSM  
[media.contacts@dsm.com](mailto:media.contacts@dsm.com)  
[www.dsm.com](http://www.dsm.com)

30E

# DSM and Evonik take next step in sustainable aquaculture: Veramaris facility in Blair (USA) starts commercial production

Royal DSM, a global science-based company in Nutrition, Health and Sustainable Living, today together with Evonik celebrated the grand opening of their Veramaris 50-50 joint venture's commercial-scale US\$200 million production facility located in Blair, Neb. (USA). This new site has begun commercial production of omega-3 fatty acids rich in EPA and DHA from natural marine algae for sustainable salmon farming. This innovation helps to reduce the pressure on wild fish stocks, supports the aquaculture industry to sustainably meet the rapidly growing global demand for seafood, and enables healthier fish for the consumer.

Three billion people today rely on marine fish for food. Especially salmon is a rich source of the two essential omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA, which are vital for brain, eye and heart health. Spiraling demand for seafood and the consequent pressure on overfishing has fueled the growth of fish farms. Aquaculture, however, compounds the burden on wild fish stocks, since 20% of the wild catch is used to make feed for farmed fish and 75% of all fish oil produced is currently fed to farmed fish.

In response to a limited, finite availability of fish oil along with soaring demand for seafood, the level of omega-3 EPA and DHA fatty acids in salmon has declined by more than a half over the past decade. This development is not supportive for consumers looking for a healthy food option. Furthermore, the limited wild fish stocks restrict the amount of fish oil available and thus the growth of the aquaculture industry.

Veramaris' algal oil offers a sustainable alternative: Veramaris' algal oil goes right back to the source - algae are the original source of Omega-3 fatty acids - making it possible to leave all marine life between the original phytoplankton and algae untouched. The highly concentrated algal oil contains twice the levels of EPA and DHA than fish oil. For the first time, it will enable the aquaculture industry to keep up with the increasing demand for these two essential omega-3 fatty acids and help to reverse the decline of these vital omega-3 levels in farmed salmon without any reliance on fish oil obtained from wild fish stocks. The salmon industry has welcomed this solution and first premium salmon products have been launched by leading retailers across Europe.

The Veramaris facility's initial production capacity of Omega-3 fatty acids rich in EPA & DHA is equivalent to that derived from 1.2 million tons of wild-caught fish. This will meet around 15 percent of the global salmon farming industry's annual demand for Omega-3 fatty acid - a significant contribution to conserving the biodiversity in our oceans.

Feike Sijbesma, CEO/Chairman DSM Managing Board commented: *"I am pleased that together with Evonik we have reached a key milestone in turning the tide: through Veramaris, we are able to reduce the aquaculture industry's reliance on the world's finite fish oil resources for these vital omega-3 fatty acids."*

### Forward-looking statements

This press release may contain forward-looking statements with respect to DSM's future (financial) performance and position. Such statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections of DSM and information currently available to the company. DSM cautions readers that such statements involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict and therefore it should be understood that many factors can cause actual performance and position to differ materially from these statements. DSM has no obligation to update the statements contained in this press release, unless required by law. The English language version of the press release is leading.

DSM and Evonik take next step in sustainable aquaculture:  
Veramaris facility in Blair (USA) starts commercial  
production

*This fits perfectly with our purpose-led performance driven strategy, focused on addressing the world's biggest challenges while simultaneously creating economic, environmental and societal value for all our stakeholders."*

DSM is a leading global integrated nutritional solutions provider to the feed markets with an industry leading portfolio of innovative feed ingredient solutions for aquaculture, a strategic growth segment for its animal nutrition & health business. Veramaris combines DSM's expertise in the cultivation of marine organisms including algae and long-established expertise in fermentation processes with Evonik's know-how in the development of industrial biotechnology processes and operating competitively large-scale manufacturing sites for fermentative amino acids.

*"In Veramaris, we have combined the competencies of two strong partners to make an innovative contribution to the healthy nutrition of the world's growing population, without putting any further burden on our oceans,"* said Christian Kullmann, chairman of the Executive Board of Evonik.

Construction of the new facility was completely on time, on budget and with no lost-time incidents. Evonik's existing site in Blair was selected to produce the omega-3 fatty acids to take advantage of the fermentative production capacity at the site and the favorable site infrastructure. The Veramaris production will be a zero-waste facility including concepts to utilize by-products in sustainable applications, such as biogas and cattle feed.

Photos of the grand opening will be uploaded throughout the day on the [Veramaris website](#). B-roll is available on request.

#### **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).

Or find us on:    

#### **For more information:**

DSM Media Relations  
Lieke de Jong  
tel. +31 (0) 45 5782420  
e-mail [media.contacts@dsm.com](mailto:media.contacts@dsm.com)

DSM Investor Relations  
Dave Huizing  
tel. +31 (0) 45 5782864  
e-mail [investor.relations@dsm.com](mailto:investor.relations@dsm.com)