

## PRESS RELEASE

### **NatLifE 2020 Alliance Partners Look Back On Successful Year At 2017 Annual Meeting**

- **Phase 2 (development phase) launched successfully, new research partners integrated**
- **Taste modulator portfolio expanded, further prototypes for healthier food validated**
- **Strategic alliance coordinated by BRAIN AG**

**Zwingenberg, 6 April 2017: The regular annual meeting of the NatLife 2020 strategic alliance was recently held on the premises of the Fraunhofer Research Institution for Marine Biotechnology and Cell Technology (Fraunhofer EMB) based in Lübeck. More than 40 scientists hailing from Germany, the Netherlands and France were able to look back on a successful year given the new research results achieved since the beginning of the new funding period in early 2016.**

The NatLife 2020 strategic alliance, co-financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), took up its work in 2013. Harnessing the full potential of biotechnology and understanding biological systems, the alliance seeks to develop a new generation of sustainably produced and biologically active ingredients for the food and cosmetics industries, which in turn will notably improve the nutrition, health, well being and lives of people. An interim evaluation at the end of the first funding phase was successfully passed in late 2015. The second funding period was kicked off in March 2016.

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Based on the research results from the first funding phase, the second funding period now focuses on the development of bioactive substances along the entire value-added chain. The activities continue to benefit from an open exchange of information and pre-competitive synergies within the alliance.

BRAIN AG has managed the NatLife 2020 efforts right from the word go. However, there was a slight change in the line-up of the 22 alliance partners at the outset of the second funding period, as Henkel AG & Co. KGaA and Phyton Biotech GmbH joined the alliance, as did the Fraunhofer Research Institution for Marine Biotechnology and Cell Technology.

At the annual meeting held in Lübeck at Fraunhofer EMB on 8 and 9 February 2017, speakers and participants alike praised the fruitful integration of the new partners. The alliance partners also agreed that all research and development efforts organised in the four sub-programmes continue to be on the right track. For instance, the alliance managed to expand their natural taste modulator portfolio of candidates to include substances that reduce a bitter off-taste in foodstuffs. Among other things, the past few months have also seen the development of lower energy density foods, characterized by e.g. a significantly lower fat content.

The NatLife 2020 alliance development phase is scheduled to last three years and will end on 28 February 2019. This period will then be followed by another three-year period, known as the pilot phase or Phase 3. Prior to the start of this period, in late 2018, the research and development results will once more be reviewed by a panel of experts appointed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Further information:

NatLifE 2020 Strategic Alliance Given Go-Ahead After Successful Interim Review:  
<https://www.brain-biotech.de/en/press/erfolgreiche-zwischenevaluierung-der-strategischen-allianz-natlif-2020>



## About NatLifE 2020

The NatLifE 2020 strategic alliance currently unites 22 industrial, SME and academic research partners. The alliance is scheduled to last a total of nine years, consisting of three three-year funding periods. During the current funding period (Phase 2) NatLifE 2020 bears the funding code FKZ 031B0089 and has a total budget of Euro 30m. The alliance was the first strategic alliance to be co-financed from 1 February 2013 under the German Ministry of Education and Research's (BMBF) "Innovation Initiative for Industrial Biotechnology" programme.

## About BRAIN

BRAIN is one of Europe's leading technology companies in the field of industrial biotechnology, the core discipline of Bioeconomy. As such, BRAIN identifies previously untapped, efficient enzymes, microbial producer organisms or natural substances from complex biological systems that can be put to industrial use. The innovative solutions and products developed by help of this „Toolbox of Nature“ are successfully applied in the chemistry, the cosmetics and the food industries. Today, BRAIN's business model is based on two pillars – „BioScience“ and „BioIndustrial“. The first pillar, „BioScience“, comprises its – frequently exclusive – collaboration business with industrial partners. The second pillar „BioIndustrial“ comprises the development and commercialisation of BRAIN's own products and active product components. Further information is available at [www.brain-biotech.de/en](http://www.brain-biotech.de/en).



Group picture showing the participants of the annual NatLifE 2020 strategic alliance meeting in Lübeck. Photo: Dr Sandra Schumann, Fraunhofer EMB