

AmeriSciences' Space Act Agreement: The stage is set for market impact



Boosting the science of nutritional supplementation to new heights, AmeriSciences has now entered “phase 2” of its Space Act Agreement with NASA’s Johnson Space Center (JSC) as testing and research progresses on four product formulations being developed for use by the Astronaut Corps during earthbound conditioning as well as future space missions.

Two of the four formulations are directly based on AmeriSciences existing formulas for Omega Max and the Men’s and Women’s Master-Multi. NASA’s medical Operations Board has already approved the use of these products for astronauts on Earth. Currently, additional studies are being conducted as a collaborative effort between NASA’s scientist and AmeriSciences’ Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to determine the safety and toxicity of the products before they can be approved for astronauts to take in space.

In addition to these studies, AmeriSciences is working with the JSC staff to develop two unique organic gel compounds that are considered by NASA to be a crucial component in maintaining the health and nutrition of the astronauts for extended or prolonged space travel. As part of this effort, AmeriSciences will be assisting NASA with a series of clinical testing programs that will be conducted at JSC and in conjunction with other entities such as the University of Pittsburgh and the National Space Biomedical Research Institute.

“The agreement between AmeriSciences and NASA/JSC has been so prolific that it has surpassed its original intent,” explains Carlos Montesinos, AmeriSciences’ director of product development and liaison to NASA/JSC. “The physicians and scientists at NASA, along with our product developers and the SAB, have found additional areas where supplementation could play a role in the well-being of the men and women in our space program. These areas range from overall health maintenance to space-walk food intake and alternative means for nutrition in emergency situations.”



Joint research with NASA/JSC is expected to greatly benefit AmeriSciences distributors and consumers alike. Products based on specialty energy, antioxidant and performance formulations are expected to hit the market over the coming years from AmeriSciences. "Given products derived from our research on the gel delivery program with NASA may play an important role in future product lines from AmeriSciences," adds Montesinos.

Since entering into the Space Act Agreement, AmeriSciences has contributed hundreds of staff hours, numerous resources as well as the cooperation of the company's extensive network of physicians. Additionally, AmeriSciences has provided JSC researchers with samples of each product as well as the acetylcysteine and placebo components necessary for testing. Furthermore, the company has extended to NASA the results of its own research and testing data.

"Having participated in the progression of this project from a mere document to the start of formula development, and now with the current stage of data collection and clinical study, I can confidently say that the outcome of our Space Act Agreement with NASA/JSC will lead to accomplishments like nothing the nutritional industry has ever seen," affirms Montesinos.

As AmeriSciences' relationship with NASA/JSC continues to flourish, the company has committed itself to the advancement and fulfillment of the projects that have originated from the Space Act Agreement and beyond. Over the next three to four years, the company estimates that it will be investing more than half a million dollars to provide NASA with additional research and testing, product formulations and development, and collective input and expertise of the SAB and the company's associated physicians.

"Combining the expertise of AmeriSciences and NASA to develop products that meet the extreme needs of astronauts will truly set a new standard in nutritional supplementation. We are extremely proud to be a part of this important project," says AmeriSciences Chairman Lou Gallardo. "This will greatly contribute to our goal of creating a healthier world."

Making history...

In 2005, AmeriSciences began a joint venture with NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC) as part of a Space Act Agreement to develop and test nutritional supplements intended for use by members of the Astronaut Corps during earth-bound conditioning and for in-flight physical maintenance. The ongoing research conducted as a result of this historic agreement not only has the potential for groundbreaking advancements in the field of nutritional science but could also result in extraordinary consumer products through AmeriSciences.

Approximately 40 miles from AmeriSciences' own headquarters in Houston, Texas, the Johnson Space Center serves as NASA's primary facility for flight-related scientific and medical research programs. For several decades, technologies developed at JSC have been incorporated into many facets of life on Earth, including medicine, energy, transportation, agriculture, communications and electronics.

The agreement itself established both short- and long-term objectives for both parties, including shared responsibility for the co-development and extensive testing of a complete multivitamin for astronauts' general health as well as a specialized vitamin designed to meet astronauts' nutritional needs during prolonged space flight.

In addition to the development and testing of supplements, AmeriSciences will work with JSC researchers to complete necessary project reports as well as identify and assess other nutrition-related technologies and activities of mutual interest.