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BREAKTHROUGH CHEMICAL COMPOUND PROMISES RADICAL “MAKOVER” OF THE INTERNATIONAL COSMETICS INDUSTRY.

Britain’s multi-million pound personal-hygiene cosmetics industry is on the brink of undergoing its own revolutionary “makeover” with the development of an innovative chemical compound that can kill bacteria, viruses and spores when activated by light.

Stephen Darren Magee, an award winning biomedical engineer who is heading up the project on behalf of a new Anglo-American company, Singlobet, is confident that the first photodynamic products will be available in major retail outlets and pharmacies throughout the country within “a matter of months”.

It will include a range of existing tried-and-tested soaps, skin creams and lotions, moisturisers, shampoos and sun-protection products that will be enhanced with the addition of a novel molecule – a pigment called SingloTex - that gives the product “sustained disinfection characteristics” when exposed to either natural or artificial light.

“This new technology will be launched in the UK within a matter of months but will almost certainly become a game-changer for the industry worldwide in the not too distant future,” he added.

Hartlepool-born Mr Magee, who is Head of Medical Engineering at the North Cumbria University Hospitals Trust, explained that in the presence of sunlight or artificial light, the water-soluble compound produced a high-energy form of oxygen - singlet oxygen – with potent antimicrobial, antiviral and antibacterial properties, including bacteria resistant to antibiotics.

“As such the use of this molecule has given rise to an entirely new generation of personal-hygiene cosmetics - the first in the world with photodynamic characteristics, offering a host of advanced ethical and beneficial solutions,” he added.

“There will be so many practical benefits, especially for people who have skin conditions such as acne who will be able to use what will be an effective cleaning or moisturising

product combined with an enhanced and sustained antibacterial, suitable for individuals of all ages and all skin types.”

He explained that the SingloTex molecule would be incorporated into a diverse range of already successful personal-hygiene products that have been in regular use in the UK under various brand names as a result of collaborative ventures with two companies set up by Mr Magee, Green Frog Enterprise Ltd. and EndoMed Ltd.

The original formulations, he explained, have been developed by a number of successful companies in various countries, among them the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, the United Arab Emirates as well as England, Scotland and Ireland.

Both of his own companies, along with Singlobet Ltd, which has its headquarters in Nottingham, are members of the International Association of Advanced Ethical Technologies, a professional association set up by Mr. Magee specifically for pioneering companies worldwide that can demonstrate “green” technological innovation.

“Many of these excellent products, including a considerable number used for domestic pets and in animal health and welfare, will now be enhanced still further with the addition of the photodynamic SingloTex molecule giving them sustained disinfection characteristics,” he said.

“In the months ahead we also expect that the singlet oxygen will be incorporated not just into existing products but that many entirely new ones will also be developed. This is likely to include so-called ‘white label’ products that will become available from major retail outlets with their own in-house brand names.”

Guy Eatch, Singlobet’s Chief Executive, said he is already in talks with a Danish cosmetics company in Copenhagen who are keen to develop a brand new range of personal-hygiene products incorporating the singlet oxygen technology.

The novel SingloTex technology was invented and developed by a former British scientist, Barry Noar, now living in California, who during his years at ICI Pharmaceuticals in Cheshire, UK (now Astra-Zeneca) developed a number of compounds for therapeutic use in medical practice. To develop SingloTex internationally he recently joined forces with the

UK biotech company, BioActive Environmental Technologies Ltd. of Nottingham, to form the new Anglo-American enterprise, Singlobet,

Over and above its potential for creating a new generation of personal-hygiene cosmetics, the water-soluble singlet oxygen technology is currently being used in a photodynamic treatment trial with bladder cancer patients by consultants working with then North Cumbria University Hospital Trust and colleagues at other cancer units elsewhere in the UK.

Its potential clinical uses also includes the treatment of dermatological conditions including warts, psoriasis and nail fungus, in addition to a wide and diverse range of other uses that include water purification in fisheries and cargo vessel ballast water, the elimination of slippery algae on concrete coastal sea defences, the control of infection on hospital bedding, operating theatre drapes, biohazard suits and gloves and so-called “accessible” baby clothing and to kill bacteria alighting on a range of surfaces such as food packaging and toilet handles.

“There is really a very bright future for the use of this technology in a wealth of different applications that promise significant benefits in both human and animal health and welfare,” said Mr Magee, a man with an enviable track record in scientific innovation.

In 1999, TV personality Carol Vorderman presented him with a Trade and Industry SMART award for his work on the monitoring and control of the vibrations in human tissue causing “white finger” or Raynaud’s phenomenon which is a common condition that affects the blood supply to certain parts of the body, usually the fingers and toes. With European Biomedical Engineering colleague Francisco Soriano, he also designed and developed the world’s first Disposable Modular Endoscopic Technology, (Dimoen).

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Further information from:

(details to be added)

