

Press Release

October 26, 2026

Wacker Chemie AG
Corporate Communications
Gisela-Stein-Straße 1
81671 Munich, Germany
www.wacker.com



Joint press release by WACKER and EVANIUM

WACKER and EVANIUM join forces to bring berberine to the global market as a functional health solution

- WACKER obtains exclusive global distribution rights for EVANIUM's berberine ingredient, marketed as CAVABERINE® powered by OPTISOLV®.
- The ingredient was named Most Innovative Nutraceutical Ingredient at the Vitafoods Europe Startup Challenge 2026 and is recognized for its potential to support metabolic health and longevity.
- Berberine is widely used in nutraceutical products targeting metabolic health, blood sugar balance, and weight management.
- WACKER will be presenting the product at SupplySide Global in Las Vegas, marking its entry into the US market.

Munich/Regensburg – WACKER, a leading provider of innovative, customized products and services for the life-science sector, and EVANIUM, a German life-science startup specializing in ingredient delivery technology, today announced an exclusive distribution partnership for a new generation of berberine. What began as a technical exchange between two teams working on the same problem from opposite ends - one with decades of cyclodextrin chemistry and global supply chains behind it, the other with a novel dual-coating technology and the speed of a startup - has become a joint product: the ingredient, developed by

EVANIUM using its proprietary OPTISOLV® Technology, will be distributed by WACKER under the brand name CAVABERINE® powered by OPTISOLV®. The partnership brings together EVANIUM's formulation technology and WACKER's global distribution network, regulatory infrastructure, and long-standing expertise in the cyclodextrin market.

Few supplement categories have grown as quickly as metabolic health. Weight management and blood sugar control have moved from a niche concern to a mainstream consumer topic. Much of that shift has been driven by GLP-1 medications, which have put metabolism at the center of public health discourse. The clinical attention the field has received in recent years has widened the market: consumers who now think about their metabolism in medical terms are also looking for natural, plant-based options they can use over the long term. This shift has greatly boosted demand for berberine, a plant-derived alkaloid compound widely used as a dietary supplement to support blood sugar management, lipid metabolism, and overall metabolic health. Global launches of berberine supplements grew at a compound annual rate of 58 percent between 2021 and 2025.

However, the ingredient comes with its own challenges in terms of commercialization: berberine is poorly soluble and poorly absorbed. Conventional products therefore require daily doses of 1,000 to 1,500 mg, often split across several intakes, which is a frequent cause of gastrointestinal discomfort and poor consumer compliance. To overcome this limitation, EVANIUM developed the OPTISOLV® Technology, a dual-coating system that combines an inner cyclodextrin-based core with an outer phospholipid shell. By stabilizing berberine in a crystal-free state, the technology enhances absorption compared with native berberine, enabling more efficient delivery and supplementation at lower doses. This creates new opportunities for more consumer-friendly products in metabolic health and emerging areas such as longevity. The innovation behind the ingredient has already been recognized by the industry, with EVANIUM's berberine ingredient named Most Innovative Nutraceutical Ingredient at the Vitafoods Europe Startup Challenge 2026 in Barcelona.

Open innovation as a route to faster market access

The partnership is an example of open innovation applied to commercial speed. Rather than developing a competing formulation in-house, WACKER is adding a fully developed, award-winning, and market-ready ingredient to its nutrition portfolio, where it complements WACKER's established cyclodextrin business.

“This partnership demonstrates how open innovation can accelerate speed to market by combining the strengths of a specialized technology innovator with WACKER’s expertise in bringing differentiated health ingredients to customers worldwide,” said Christian Hauk, Head of BioIngredients at WACKER’s Biosolutions business division. “CAVABERINE® perfectly complements our successful product family and expands our portfolio in one of the fastest-growing areas of consumer health.”

For EVANIUM, the partnership provides commercial reach that supports the company’s global growth plans. “Our OPTISOLV® Technology solves a formulation problem that the industry has been working around with higher dosages for years,” said David Ofner, Co-Founder and CTO of EVANIUM. Felix Rolka, Co-Founder and CEO of EVANIUM, added, “WACKER brings the global network, the supply chain reliability, and the regulatory depth to put that technology in front of customers in every relevant market. That combination brings the ingredient to market in only a few months, faster than either of us could have managed alone.”

Beyond the product itself, the collaboration demonstrates how startups and established companies can combine complementary strengths to bring innovation to market faster. The ingredient was developed, validated, and scaled to industrial production by EVANIUM before WACKER came in. The partnership adds visibility and market access: a startup that has already done the difficult technical work, and a corporation with the global reach to take the result to customers worldwide right away. For WACKER, partnering on a finished technology removes years of internal development work. For EVANIUM, it opens up global reach and visibility in the early stages of commercialization of its wider portfolio.

For customers and consumers, this means faster access to differentiated, science-based solutions that address the limitations of conventional ingredients and enable new opportunities in metabolic health and beyond. WACKER will introduce CAVABERINE® to the North American market at SupplySide Global in Las Vegas, on October 28. The US is the largest single market for metabolic health supplements and is the primary commercial focus of the partnership in its first phase. The global market size for weight loss supplements in 2026 is estimated to be 35.8 billion US dollars.

About EVANIUM

EVANIUM is a Germany-based life-science company developing innovative ingredients based on its IP-protected delivery technology OPTISOLV®. The company focuses on improving key properties such as solubility, stability, and

bioavailability of ingredients for applications in nutraceuticals, functional foods, nutricosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. Through its proprietary OPTISOLV® technology platform, EVANIUM enables more effective ingredient absorption and performance, helping partners create high-performance, clean-label products. Headquartered in Regensburg, EVANIUM collaborates with industry partners to unlock the full potential of ingredients.

For more information, visit www.evanium.de



Berberine is widely used in nutraceutical products targeting metabolic health, blood sugar balance, and weight management. Source: EVANIUM



Felix Rolka (left) Co-Founder and CEO of EVANIUM and Christian Hauk, Head of BioIngredients at WACKER's Biosolutions business division. Source: WACKER

Disclaimer: The ingredient is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Statements made do not constitute health claims under Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 and have not been evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Please note: This press release and the accompanying photos are available for download on the WACKER website (www.wacker.com) under Media: <http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

Additional information:

WACKER:

Dr. Karsten Werth
Media Relations
Tel. +49 89 6279-1573
Karsten.Werth@wacker.com

EVANIUM:

Eliza Weitzel
Media Relations
Tel. +49 151 72222039
e.weitzel@evanium.de

The company in brief

WACKER is a global company with state-of-the-art specialty chemical products found in countless everyday items, ranging from tile adhesives to computer chips. The company has a global network of 27 production sites, 22 technical competence centers and 47 sales offices. With more than 16,000 employees, WACKER generated annual sales of around €5.5 billion in fiscal 2025.

WACKER operates through four business divisions. The Silicones and Polymers chemical divisions supply products (silicones, polymeric binders) for the automotive, construction, chemical, consumer goods and medical technology industries. Biosolutions, the life sciences division, specializes in bioengineered products such as biopharmaceuticals and food additives. Polysilicon produces hyperpure polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaic industries.

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