



## AFYREN and ESSE Skincare begin partnership to offer 100% natural cosmetic solutions with enhanced skincare performance

- **First application of bio-based propionic acid brings new potential for skin health and sustainable cosmetic solutions**
- **Propionic acid has benefits for microbiome preservation and skin balance**
- **Bio-based propionic acid is produced via natural fermentation at the AFYREN NEOXY plant in France**

**Clermont-Ferrand/Lyon, December 9, 2025, 07:45 am CET** - **AFYREN**, a greentech company offering manufacturers biobased, low-carbon ingredients through a unique fermentation technology based on a completely circular model, and South Africa-based **Esse Skincare**, a leader in microbiome skincare science, are partnering to introduce the world's first bio-based propionic acid for the skincare industry.

Propionic acid is a naturally occurring short chain fatty acid essential for maintaining a balanced skin microbiome. Emerging research suggests it helps modulate inflammation, support barrier resilience, and maintain microbial balance – key to hydrated, resilient skin.

Until now, propionic acid has only been available at industrial scale from petrochemical sources. Through this partnership, Esse gains access to AFYREN's sustainably produced, COSMOS-certified, bio-based alternative propionic acid made at AFYREN NEOXY, the company's flagship industrial biorefinery. Using AFYREN's proprietary circular, low-carbon fermentation process, the plant is the first in the world capable of producing a portfolio of organic acids at commercial scale.

*"Our collaboration with AFYREN allows us to use a natural microbial metabolite in its pure, bio-based form – a first for the skincare industry,"* said the late **Trevor Steyn, founder of Esse**, reflecting the pioneering vision that continues to guide our innovation. *"This agreement represents a significant step toward creating formulations that work in harmony with the skin's natural ecosystem, opening the door to new cosmetic solutions that stay true to this principle."*

**Nicolas Sordet, CEO of Afyren**, said: *"This shows how biotechnology can unlock new opportunities for both performance and sustainability in cosmetics that bring real benefits to humans and the environment. We look forward to seeing the first products reach consumers."*

Together, Esse and Afyren are shaping a new generation of skincare products - one that merges biotechnology, sustainability, and proven skin science.



## About ESSE Skincare

Esse Skincare is a leader in professional microbiome skincare. Certified organic, carbon neutral, and cruelty-free, Esse partners with skin professionals in over 40 countries to deliver science-backed products and treatments that rebalance the skin microbiome and optimize long-term skin health.

Find out more: [www.esseskincare.com](http://www.esseskincare.com)

## About AFYREN

AFYREN is a French greentech company, founded in 2012, focused on providing innovative, sustainable solutions to reduce reliance on fossil-based resources. AFYREN's proprietary, nature-inspired fermentation technology valorizes local biomass from non-food agricultural co-products to produce 100% biobased, low-carbon carboxylic acids. The company's sustainable solutions address decarbonization challenges in a wide variety of strategic sectors, including human and animal nutrition, flavors and fragrances, life sciences, materials science, plus lubricants and technical fluids. AFYREN's competitive, plug-and-play, circular technology enables manufacturers to adopt sustainable solutions without modifying production processes.

The company's first industrial plant, AFYREN NEOXY, a joint venture with Bpifrance's SPI fund, is based in the Grand-Est region of France, serving primarily the European market. AFYREN is also pursuing a project in Thailand with a global leader in the sugar industry and is building its presence in the Americas, based on existing distribution agreements.

At the end of 2024, AFYREN employed 130 people across sites in Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand and Carling Saint-Avoid. Committed to continuous innovation, the company invests 20% of its annual budget in R&D to further develop the range of sustainable solutions.

AFYREN is listed on Euronext Growth® Paris since 2021 (ISIN code: FR0014005AC9, ticker: ALAFY).

For more information, visit [www.afyren.com](http://www.afyren.com) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).



## Contacts

**AFYREN**  
Director for ESG, Communications  
and Public Affairs  
Caroline Petigny  
[caroline.petigny@afyren.com](mailto:caroline.petigny@afyren.com)

**Investor Relations**  
Mark Reinhard  
[invest@afyren.com](mailto:invest@afyren.com)

**NewCap**  
**Investor Relations**  
Théo Martin / Mathilde Bohin  
Tel: +33 1 44 71 94 94  
[afyren@newcap.eu](mailto:afyren@newcap.eu)

**Media Relations**  
Nicolas Mérieau / Gaëlle Fromaigeat  
Tel: +33 1 44 71 94 98  
[afyren@newcap.eu](mailto:afyren@newcap.eu)

**MC Services AG (international)**

**Investor Relations**  
Bettina Ellinghorst

**Media Relations**  
Shaun Brown, Dr. Johanna Kobler  
Tel: +49 89 210 228 0  
[afyren@mc-services.eu](mailto:afyren@mc-services.eu)