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News Release

Ashland advances high-growth oral biologics delivery applications with launch of permexa™ sodium caprate

Commercialization follows strong interest from pharmaceutical developers worldwide

WILMINGTON, Del., August 24, 2026 – Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH), is announcing the launch of **permexa™ sodium caprate,** a high-performance intestinal permeation enhancer designed to support the scalable development and commercialization of oral peptide, biologic and low-permeability drug products, including rapidly expanding GLP-1 agonists and related therapeutic pipelines.

The launch comes at a time of significant market momentum in oral peptide and biologics development. Pharmaceutical companies continue to invest heavily in oral alternatives to injectable therapies, driven by the potential to improve patient convenience, enhance treatment adherence and unlock new therapeutic opportunities. As a result, pipelines across GLP-1's, diabetes and weight loss, metabolic disorders, endocrine therapeutics and other peptide-based medicines continue to expand.

Developers continue to face important challenges as programs move from concept through development and manufacturing, despite growing investment and encouraging clinical progress. Permeability enhancement remains critical for oral drug products, but formulation consistency, process robustness and scalability are increasingly recognized as key barriers to successful commercialization.

Ashland permexa™ sodium caprate was engineered to help address these challenges by combining established sodium caprate functionality with improved pharmaceutical processing performance. The excipient is designed with an IP-protected process to support more robust tablet manufacturing through improved powder flow, enhanced compressibility and greater formulation consistency, while maintaining the permeability enhancement characteristics required for oral drug delivery applications. The result is a solution intended not only for laboratory success, but also for real-world pharmaceutical development and manufacturing environments where reproducibility, scalability and process robustness are essential.

The Ashland launch follows strong interest from pharmaceutical developers worldwide. Ahead of the commercial launch, the company recorded engagement with multiple pharmaceutical, biotech and CDMO organizations globally, spanning sampling activities, technical evaluations, pre-launch sales, benchmarking studies and formulation development discussions. Customer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive on the product's differentiated properties.

"The rapid growth of oral peptide development is creating demand for excipients that support both biological performance and pharmaceutical manufacturability," said Alessandra Faccin, senior vice president and general manager, Life Sciences, Ashland. "Permexa™ sodium caprate was engineered to help customers address complex challenges and move more confidently from formulation through commercialization. The level of engagement we have seen prior to launch demonstrates the importance of solutions that support both drug delivery performance and scalable manufacturing."

Caroline Cooreman, strategy director, Life Sciences, Ashland, continued, "Consequently, Ashland is not stopping here. We have developed a multi-stage strategy to support the pharmaceutical market with essential excipients for the oral delivery of biologics. We have multiple additional products in the pipeline and recognize important synergies with our vinyl pyrrolidone and derivatives (VP&D) portfolio. We are already actively servicing this market with our established VP&D portfolio, which will be further strengthened by our oral biologics' portfolio expansion," she concluded.

For more information about Permexa™ sodium caprate and how the expanded Ashland portfolio of solutions for oral biologics delivery—including product information, technical support and sampling opportunities—interested parties should visit http://ashland.com/permexa or contact their local Ashland solver.

About Ashland
Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a global additives and specialty ingredients company with a conscious and proactive mindset for environmental, social and governance (ESG). The company serves customers in a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, including architectural coatings, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care and pharmaceutical. Approximately 2,900 passionate, tenacious solvers – from renowned scientists and research chemists to talented engineers and plant operators – thrive on developing practical, innovative and elegant solutions to complex problems for customers in more than 100 countries. Visit ashland.com and ashland.com/ESG to learn more.

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