

# Making Beauty Natural

An Interview  
with Dr. Peter Röthlisberger

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*Lipoid Kosmetik is a leading manufacturer of natural raw materials for the cosmetic and personal care industries. Specialising in plant-derived actives, botanicals and phospholipid products, the company is focused on quality and sustainability. Managing Director Dr Peter Röthlisberger discussed environmental development, in conversation with Antonia Cole.*

Founded in 1972, Lipoid Kosmetik has over 50 years of experience within the cosmetics industry, Managing Director Dr Peter Röthlisberger said: "The company's long history attests to our reliability. We are honest and transparent in our operations, especially in terms of sustainability, having the highest EcoVadis rating since 2015 and Platinum Status since 2020."

Privately-owned by the Lipoid Foundation, Lipoid Kosmetik is a globally active company that sells approximately 600 products in 60 countries. Headquartered in Switzerland, 50 % of sales are generated in Europe, and the rest in Asia, the US and Latin America.

With a portfolio based on more than 350 plant species, Lipoid Kosmetik works closely with environmentally focused

organisations: RSPO, NATRUE, COSMOS and MyMicrobiome.

Over half of the company's products are based on organic raw materials and, according to ISO 16128, approximately 60% of Lipoid Kosmetik's portfolio has a natural content of over 99%. Additionally, more than 90% of the company's portfolio is palm oil- and GMO-free, as well as being 94% vegan and 86% halal.

"Despite the pure natural cosmetic sector being a niche market, it is now a driver for the whole industry," added Dr Röthlisberger. "We have always been committed to sustainable practices, responsible business conduct and environmental governance. With our high-quality, natural product portfolio, we are well equipped to support our customers on their sustainability journeys too."

## EcoVadis achievements

Since 2015, Lipoid Kosmetik has ranked in the top 1% of cosmetic companies for sustainability according to EcoVadis. Over the years, the company has worked to improve environmental measures and limit its impact.

"The assessment by EcoVadis clearly shows our strengths, as well as opportunities for optimisation," explained Dr Röthlisberger. "This has allowed us to continuously adapt our processes to become more sustainable. We have our own dedicated but small sustainability team and invite all employees to participate and share their ideas on improving the company. Yet the key is to have all sustainability issues integrated into our quality management system. Through regular CSR meetings, we set defined targets and take action to meet them."



Lipoid Kosmetik has even been awarded best performer with the Sustainability Leadership Award by EcoVadis in 2020, highlighting the company's dedication to sustainable development. Customers ▾



**PLATINUM Top 1%**  
**ecovadis**  
Sustainability Rating  
**AUG 2024**


**Lipoid Kosmetik**

**YOUR PARTNER FOR INNOVATIVE COSMETIC ACTIVES, EXTRACTS AND PHOSPHOLIPIDS**

Discover our rating

- EcoVadis Platinum medal since 2020
- Rated in the Top 1% of suppliers assessed

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can be confident that Lipoid Kosmetik is operating responsibly and continuously evolving sustainable standards.

Among many other initiatives, in 2019 the company launched a project to make packaging material more environmentally friendly. This involved altering designs to minimise resource use, as well as utilising reusable and recyclable materials.

“We use packaging that consists of mono-materials, which enable a more circular economy,” continued Dr Röthlisberger. “Customers can simply return the packaging into the economic cycle and have a significant sustainable impact. We also avoid

unnecessary packaging material, such as outer packaging, wherever possible. If an outer packaging is needed, then we only use cardboard boxes from 100 per cent recycled materials with FSC certification.”

### Taking action

To maintain these high standards of sustainability, Lipoid Kosmetik has a constantly evolving action plan. From sourcing materials to development and to finished products, the company strives



to make every stage of operations as environmentally friendly as possible.

For Lipoid Kosmetik, environmental protection begins with the sourcing of natural resources. The conservation of biodiversity is an essential factor in the company’s operations. Through an excellent supplier network, Lipoid Kosmetik is able to trace resources and ensure sustainable procurement.

“We take into account the country of origin, plus cultivation and working conditions when choosing our suppliers,” commented Dr Röthlisberger. “As we have built up trust in our suppliers through open communication and shared values, we are then able to do the same with our clients.

Through collaboration with our suppliers and customers, we hope to promote sustainable development and the exchange of information along the supply chain.”

In operations, Lipoid Kosmetik strives to limit environmental impacts. Utilising modern machinery, 100% green electricity and energy-saving technologies, the company is working to become more efficient.

In collaboration with the Swiss Energy Agency for Industry, Lipoid Kosmetik set up an energy efficiency plan already in 2010. Thus far, the company has reduced energy consumption by 460GJ and carbon emissions by 18.4t CO<sub>2</sub>e.

“We are also in partnership with myclimate, and have been for several years now,”



actives and concepts consisting of plant-based extracts and phospholipids, the company is at the forefront of revolutionary cosmetic design.

“Our proprietary manufacturing process is designed to protect the phytochemical composition of the plant,” said Dr Röthlisberger. “The electronically controlled, full-spectrum mild extraction technology is environmentally friendly and energy efficient, guaranteeing quality, consistency and sustainability. Our long-term partnerships within the industry allow us to develop innovative processes like this and offer the best options to our clients.

“Companies are looking for scandal-free, well-documented products which can help to increase their brand reputation and image. They are looking for reliable suppliers which provide consistent quality and innovation.”

Also, the company is part of the Lipoid Group. Not only does Lipoid Kosmetik benefit from the knowledge and resources of the group, but it is also part of the Lipoid Foundation. This organisation supports disadvantaged children, such as children with illnesses, disabilities or social needs.

“The progress we make at Lipoid Kosmetik is really rewarding,” added Dr Röthlisberger, in conclusion. “Not only do I get to work within a talented and dynamic team, but I am also able to make a small difference to the planet and society. On top of this, the beauty industry itself is based in making people happy and confident. I am proud to be a part of this, especially in a company that drives innovation and continuous progression, along with a profound sustainability strategy.”

added Dr Röthlisberger. “It is a nonprofit organisation, based in Switzerland, and a world-leading foundation for voluntary carbon offsetting measures. We finance a climate protection project which provides efficient stoves for women in Kenya. Not only does this support the women, but it also minimises the necessity for firewood, therefore protecting forests and limiting emissions.”

The company’s operations have a minimal environmental impact, as many materials are biodegradable. Any waste is separated, with over 90% being recycled or recovered. Lipoid Kosmetik heavily monitors the production of excess materials and strives to optimise resource use.

### Supporting people

Innovation is at the heart of Lipoid Kosmetik’s operations, in terms of both sustainability and product design. From BakuLipid®, a plant-based cosmetic alternative, through to award winning

