

Oxford Nutrascience can now taste-mask ibuprofen

Oxford Nutrascience is offering a drug-delivery technology that allows ibuprofen to be incorporated into “next-generation” chewable tablets and liquid suspensions with “no taste or burn irritation issues”.

The technology was applicable to a broad range of pharmaceuticals, the company pointed out, including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and statins.

Oxford Nutrascience said it had signed an exclusive worldwide licensing agreement for the technology with Isis Innovation, a technology-transfer business wholly-owned by the University of Oxford. It noted that the technology provided for “outstanding taste-masking, enhanced drug stability and the potential for tunable drug-release properties”.

Nigel Theobald, chief executive of Oxford Nutrascience, said the company had establish-

ed the proof-of-concept for taste-masking of ibuprofen, and was now developing “no burn” chewable and liquid products for the OTC and prescription sectors. He noted, for example, that the company was working on 400mg ibuprofen chewable tablets and 400mg/5ml ibuprofen suspension.

“We are looking to license our dossiers to partners for commercial launch of the products either in specific territories or globally,” he added. “We are also making our taste-masking system available for other companies to develop dossiers for their own NSAID product concepts.”

Isis’ technology is protected by patents in France, Germany and the UK, and an application has been made for the US. Oxford Nutrascience aims to file further patent applications during 2011.