

REQUEST # 66990

Skin smoothing using skin tensing agents

RESPONSE DUE DATE: [March 18, 2011](#)

MANAGER: David Feitler, Ph.D.

SOLUTION PROVIDER HELP DESK

EMAIL: PhD@ninesigma.com **PHONE:** +1-216-283-3901

Opportunity

Licensing, product acquisition, contract research, proof of concept leading to scale up to manufacturing, joint development agreement

Timeline

Phase 1 – Proof of concept by mid May 2011
Phase 2 (if required) – Joint development of product(s) to be started by August 2011

Financials

Payment for samples for phase 1 testing is possible for non-profit situations, but the primary financial incentive for this project is a supply agreement

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

NineSigma, on behalf of a global luxury brand invites proposals for polymers that flatten wrinkles and lines in human skin.

The successful technology will:

- Be hypo-allergenic and well tolerated by human skin
- Be composed of elements that are acceptable within global cosmetic regulatory & toxicology requirements
- Be free to use from an intellectual property standpoint
- Be soluble in cosmetic media
- Be effective with a pH range 4-7
- Be compatible with a wide range of other cosmetic ingredients
- Be odourless in finished cosmetic product
- Be invisible and not too sticky on skin
- Not peel off from the skin
- Provide an acceptable and documentable degree of skin flattening
- Provide a perceivable but not too strong tensing perception on skin (finished cosmetic products needs to remain comfortable)

Existing technologies are preferred. However approaches in developmental stages will also be considered, providing there is a strong evidence of efficacy.

BACKGROUND

Smooth skin is seen as youthful and healthy across many cultures. Evading the appearance of age and ill-health is an ancient and cross-cultural practice. Modern scientific efforts to smoothing skin have primarily focused on three approaches:

- The use of fillers to even out surface variation
- the use of optical light scattering agents to diffuse the appearance of skin imperfections
- The use of hydration agents to encourage concavities in the skin to fill with water or collagen

A fourth approach is to apply tensioning agents to pull the skin flat. Examples of such agents are known for hiding wrinkles. These agents have good adhesion to the skin and a tendency to dry or cure to a flat film, thus pulling the skin with it to

a flatter surface. New agents with improved flattening power, and increased compatibility with conventional makeup formulations are of considerable interest.

POSSIBLE APPROACHES

Possible approaches might include, but are not limited to film forming polymers that retract skin when drying in order to lift up the wrinkle, for instance:

- Carbohydrates, polysaccharides
- Cellulose derivatives
- Reticulated polysaccharides
- Non allergenic plant proteins (not from wheat, nuts or milk) and hydrolysates thereof
- Synthetic polymers
- Polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and derivatives
- Polyurethanes
- Grafted silicone polymer

APPROACHES TO BE AVOIDED

Approaches to be avoided include:

- Materials known to cause allergic reactions
- Materials derived from Genetically Modified Organisms
- Human Source Materials (Placental sourced etc.)
- Animal Sourced Materials
- Wheat extracts and their derivatives

ANTICIPATED PROJECT PHASES OR PROJECT PLAN

Phase 1 – Proof of concept

Materials with credible evidence of tensing/smoothing effects will be tested in NineSigma's client's facilities under NDA/MTA (including non-Analysis clauses) for sensory attributes and formulation compatibilities.

Phase 2 – Toxicology Review

Phase 3 – In vivo testing of formulations

CRITERIA FOR MOVING FROM PHASE 1 TO PHASE 2

There must be a clear demonstration of tensing/smoothing performance and formulation compatibility at reasonable cost.

APPROPRIATE RESPONDERS TO THIS REQUEST

Responses from companies (small to large), academic researchers, other research institutes, consultants, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, or inventors are welcome. For Example:

You represent a **cosmetic ingredient company** with an existing or developmental tensing agent
Or

You are an **academic researcher** with a novel bio-compatible polymer with demonstrable and specific effects relevant to this RFP
Or

You work in any of the following industries where a known or developmental polymer could provide a flattening effect:

- Ink & Print
- Paint-
- Paper
- Food (surface appearance)
- Medical polymers (wound care)
- Soft contact lenses

RESPONDING TO THIS REQUEST

The [proposal template](#) provides both an easy means of responding to this request and a framework for best presenting your response to NineSigma's client. It also contains information about how NineSigma presents responses to our client.

Some items that will be especially important to present in your response are:

- If you have an existing material, provide photographic evidence of skin smoothing on human subjects
- If you have a material under development, demonstrate why the material is expected to have a skin smoothing effect
- Statement of non-allergenicity
- Description of regulatory and toxicology status
- Commercial Objective (can you make this available on an exclusive basis?)
- Freedom to practice (show why your material can be used without interference of pre-existing Intellectual Property or Commercial Agreements)

NON-CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE

By submitting a Response you represent that the Response does not and will not be deemed to contain any confidential information of any kind whatsoever.

Your Response should be an executive summary (about 3 pages). The Response should briefly describe the technical approach and provide information on technology performance, background, and description of the responding team and their related experience.

By submitting a Response, you acknowledge that NineSigma's client reserves the sole and absolute right and discretion to select for award all, some, or none of the Responses received for this announcement. NineSigma's client also may choose to select only specific tasks within a proposal for award. NineSigma's client has the sole and absolute discretion to determine all award amounts.

RESPONSE EVALUATION

NineSigma's client will evaluate the **Response** using the following criteria:

- Overall scientific and technical merit of the proposed approach
- Approach to proof of concept or performance
- Potential for proprietary position (i.e., is the technology novel or protectable)
- Economic potential of concept
- Respondent's capabilities and related experience
- Realism of the proposed plan and cost estimates

The client will contact respondents with highly responsive proposals for next steps.