

PUBLICATION: Confectionery Production

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DATE: February 2007

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COVERAGE: Europe

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CIRCULATION: 3,500

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# Increased glutamine capacity

Production of Ajinomoto Glutamine is now on stream following the construction of a new facility in Limeira, Brazil.

Glutamine is an amino acid that is used widely in clinical nutrition products and pharmaceuticals as well as sports drinks and the company says demand has risen sharply in recent years as more evidence of the therapeutic benefits of glutamine has been published. It is claimed to help strengthen the immune system, alleviate nervous disorders and play a role in the treatment of wounds. Glutamine is also used in combination with other amino acids in products for amateur and professional sportsmen and women.

In Japan, where the market was pioneered, products with amino acids have helped the sports drinks sector to gain a 10 per cent share of the beverage market. Amino Vital, a sports drink with amino acids, has recently been launched in the United States and demand looks set to extend to Europe where the sports nutrition industry is growing rapidly.

The factory in Brazil is one of the world's largest amino acid production facilities, helping Ajinomoto consolidate its position as the leading amino acids manufacturer. As well as glutamine, the new plant will also produce the branched-chain amino acids valine, leucine and isoleucine.