

Pearl Development Group announces first nucleus coating: 'P.D.G. Alpha™'

'Better science, better quality, better price... for better pearls.'

Pearl Development Group, L.L.C.—an U.S.-based pearl science biotechnology consortium—is pleased to announce that our first nucleus coating—P.D.G. Alpha—is fully tested and is now available to nucleus suppliers and farmers. P.D.G. Alpha coating provides both antibiotics and other proprietary materials to improve healing after surgery, promote better pearl sac formation, and enhance pearl quality.

In our controlled experiments, PDG Alpha™ resulted in 29% greater retention over control uncoated nuclei (average retentions increased from 56% to 85%, see table below).

More than just an alternative to other coatings, however, PDG is able to offer three distinct advantages to the pearl farmer: better price, better quality, and better science.

Better quality

PDG is the only company in the world today that is focussed specifically on researching and developing innovative materials and methods for improving the natural pearl formation process in the oyster. We represent a consortium of Pacific pearl farming and investment companies, together with leaders in U.S. biotechnology applications to aquaculture, New England's biomedical expertise, and university affiliates and researchers in materials science, marine biotechnology and bone and shell formation from around the country.

PDG also guarantees the potency of our coatings. Each batch is packed immediately after coating and stamped to certify the technician and the date when it was coated. This ensures coated nuclei do not sit around in warehouses or refrigerators beyond the date of maximum effectiveness.

Better price

PDG Alpha is offered at a significant cost saving over other products on the market. We offer a simplified price structure for coating any grade of nuclei, any size: US\$ 50 per 100 momme bag, or part thereof (FOB, Portland, Maine). Ship us the nuclei, we will coat them in our state-of-the-art lab facility, and then will forward them—at your expense—to anywhere in the world. This price also includes all handling charges in Portland, quality-assured packaging, and affixing of labels or brand names of your choice at no added cost. We will provide this flat-fee service for any size of order from 100 momme upwards.

Better science

What would your doctor think if you were taking the same drug day-in, day-out, year-in, year-out, just in case you might get sick? Why should the standards you set for your oysters' health be any different to your own?

Modern medicine is all too well aware of the potential for rapid development of resistant bacteria from overuse or repeated use of the same antibiotic. We believe that it will become increasingly important for pearl farmers to have available

Table 1: Increase in retention of nuclei using PDG Alpha™ over uncoated nuclei

Nuclei	Seeder # 1	Seeder # 2	Seeder # 3	Average
Uncoated	54%	57%	57%	56%
PDG Alpha™	96%	90%	70%	85%
Increased retention	42%	33%	13%	29%

Retentions calculated from catch-bag data collected at 28 days post-seeding, for three different seeding technicians. Results from *Pinctada margaritifera* seeding trials at PDG experimental farm site, February, 1999.

a wide range of various antibiotics and other coatings, to ensure that each treatment remains effective. Prudent pearl farmers would then rotate their nuclei coatings either from day-to-day or month-to-month.

To support this end, PDG is developing several other coatings—both antibiotics and other materials. PDG Beta and PDG Gamma are currently in the latter stages of testing, and will hopefully be available on the market in the near future.

PDG's ongoing investment in improved nucleus coatings and pearl seeding materials ensures that further developments will be brought to market once they have been fully proven. We plan to offer a range of coatings, materials, scientific support

and consultative services to our clients. With PDG in their pockets, the world's most astute and innovative pearl farmers will have a wealth of research expertise working for them, guaranteeing that their pearls continue to attract attention, and exceed all expectations.

For more information, please contact :

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Situation wanted

A 36 year old Pathology Laboratory Technician with a burning ambition to secure a position within the Pearl Oyster industry. Having recently completed a Diploma of Aquaculture at the Fremantle Maritime Centre in Perth Western Australia, I am eager to hone my newly acquired skills.

I can offer my prospective employer over 15 years of experience in diagnostic disease testing including microbiology, histopathology, and necropsy techniques.

With the knowledge gained from my aquaculture course and my extensive analytical skills I believe a supportive role in the field or a hatchery technician's position would allow my abilities to be fully exploited.

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