



P R O C O R K

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PROCORK ACHIEVES MAJOR PATENT MILESTONE

Australian wine technology company ProCork has overcome the first major hurdle in securing a global patent for its revolutionary new cork closure.

The International Preliminary Examination Authority (IPEA) has issued a report acknowledging ProCork's product as novel, inventive and having an industrial application.

Having received a positive response from IPEA the company will now embark on the "national phase" of its international patent application where each country it applies to will assess the application. The international patent application was made under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

ProCork chief executive officer Gregor Christie said the report was a very positive step for the company.

"Securing a patent for our technology around the world will ensure we are given the full opportunity to take our product to commercialisation without 'copycats' hindering our progress," Dr Christie said.

"This application is about ensuring we have a strong foundation on which to build a successful Australian company in the long term."

The team of scientists, engineers and industry professionals at ProCork have spent more than three years developing technology that allows natural cork to be used with confidence in wine and other beverages.

ProCork's technology revolves around a series of membranes that are applied to each end of the cork to reduce chemicals entering the wine, regulate the passage of oxygen through the cork and retain cork moisture to prevent breakage.



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The membrane is at the heart of ProCork's technology and consists of separate layers of advanced polymers, each with its own specific role.

The membrane prevents TCA (trichloroanisole) - the compound that causes a wine to be "corked" - from entering the wine.

"ProCork enables natural cork to be used by winemakers with high certainty that the membrane will reduce any off character entering the wine," Dr Christie said.

It also improves the cork's natural oxygen characteristics, resulting in a closure that gives a much higher consistency when aging wines.

The company is currently undertaking further testing of its product and is nearing completion of an industrial machine which will produce 20 million ProCorks per year on single shift.

The first release of wine under a ProCork closure was released this month through Victoria's Mount Avoca label, which secured seven medals at the recent Ballarat Wine Show.

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Visit www.procork.com for more information.