

In-Cosmetics Korea 2026: How K-Beauty Is Entering Its Next Scientific Chapter



Sources: Photo by Cosmetics IC & Latitude37

Every year, In-Cosmetics Korea offers a unique perspective on the technologies and ingredients shaping the future of beauty. Bringing together ingredient suppliers, formulators and R&D experts, the exhibition showcases the scientific advances that will define the next generation of skincare, haircare and beauty innovation.

Earlier this month, our Seoul-based innovation hub Latitude37 visited In-Cosmetics Korea 2026 and identified a clear shift: innovation is no longer driven by the search for a single hero ingredient. Instead, the industry is building integrated performance ecosystems where biotechnology, regenerative actives, advanced delivery systems and beauty technologies work together to optimize long-term skin health.

Across the exhibition, three major innovation directions stood out, illustrating how Korean ingredient innovation is entering a new phase of scientific sophistication.

LONGEVITY BECOMES THE NEW LANGUAGE OF PREMIUM SKINCARE

The strongest theme observed throughout the exhibition was the shift from traditional anti-aging claims toward longevity-driven skincare. Rather than focusing solely on reducing visible signs of aging, ingredient suppliers increasingly highlighted concepts such as cellular repair, biological age, skin longevity and healthy aging, inspired by advances in longevity biology and regenerative science.

This evolution was reflected in the growing presence of NMN, NAD+, senolytics, growth factors and antioxidants, presented as technologies designed to support the skin's long-term biological functions rather than simply address age-related concerns.

**REGENERATIVE INGREDIENTS DIVERSIFY BEYOND CONVENTIONAL
SOURCES**

Regenerative ingredients remained at the heart of innovation, with exosomes and PDRN continuing to gain momentum while evolving into more diverse technology platforms. Across the exhibition, suppliers showcased plant-derived, biomimetic and vegan exosomes, alongside new generations of PDRN sourced from rose, chlorella and other botanical origins, moving beyond the traditional salmon-derived approach.

This diversification reflects a broader maturation of regenerative skincare. Communication is becoming more sophisticated, highlighting ingredient origin, cellular communication and targeted efficacy, while supporting stronger sustainability and regulatory positioning. At the same time, both exosomes and PDRN are expanding beyond facial skincare into scalp care, haircare and advanced regenerative formulations, where they are increasingly combined with peptides, collagen-supporting actives and delivery technologies to enhance overall performance.

DELIVERY TECHNOLOGIES BECOME A KEY DRIVER OF PERFORMANCE

Beyond the active ingredients themselves, delivery technologies emerged as one of the most significant innovation themes at the exhibition. Suppliers showcased a wide range of platforms, including liposomes, niosomes, nanoemulsions, flexosomes, encapsulation systems and targeted delivery technologies, all designed to improve ingredient stability, penetration and controlled release.

This evolution reflects a growing recognition that formulation performance depends not only on what ingredients are used, but also on how effectively they are delivered to the skin. As a result, suppliers are increasingly developing integrated ingredient and delivery platforms that maximize efficacy across skincare, haircare, bodycare and sensitive-skin formulations.

THE CIC TAKE

Beyond the rise of individual ingredients, In-Cosmetics Korea 2026 highlighted a broader transformation of beauty innovation. Rather than relying on a single breakthrough active, the industry is building integrated performance ecosystems that combine regenerative biotechnology, advanced delivery systems and longevity science to support long-term skin health.

As cosmetic innovation becomes increasingly biologically driven, future product performance will rely not only on ingredient efficacy, but also on validated mechanisms of action, optimized delivery and scientifically grounded formulation platforms.

Interested in exploring the Korean beauty ecosystem? Together with Latitude37, we provide K-Beauty trend reports, innovation scouting and immersive Inspiration Tours to help brands identify the innovations that will shape tomorrow's beauty landscape.