

February 23, 2021

### **KIMICA Corporation Plans Big Upgrade to its Chiba-Plant with World-class Research Facilities**

Manufacturer of alginate, KIMICA Corporation (HQ: Tokyo, CEO: Fumiyo Shi Kasahara) will build a new research facility as the project to celebrate its 80th anniversary. This facility will consolidate R&D laboratories, quality control laboratories, welfare facilities, and office spaces.

The total area of the new facility will be 3,450 m<sup>2</sup>. The office spaces will be tripled, and the research area quadrupled, to meet increasing demand due to heightened health consciousness and advanced quality requirements. In addition, the dynamic structural design provides a large open space of 24m x 70m, designed to flexibly respond to future business development and diverse work styles in the post-COVID-19 era.

The new hub will be suitable for KIMICA Corporation, the award-winning company of the "JAPAN SDGs AWARD". In addition to adopting many technologies with excellent environmental performance, by incorporating the thoughts of all employees collected through workshops, the facility will be friendly to both the people and the environment.



#### **【Overview】**

Location	: 1029 Ohori, Futtso City, Chiba Prefecture, JAPAN
Total Floor Area	: 3,450 m <sup>2</sup>
Structural System	: steel, reinforced concrete, 2 stories
Construction Period	: July 2021 - July 2022
Architects	: RUI SEKKEISHITSU Co., Ltd.

#### **【Features】**

##### **■ Triple the Floor Space to Realize a World-class Research Environment**

The office spaces will be tripled, and the research area quadrupled, to meet increasing demand due to heightened health consciousness and advanced quality requirements. The design and quality of the testing and inspection environments will be suitable for manufacturer of pharmaceutical ingredients that meet the advanced demands of the

medical field. The quality control laboratories will have designated areas such as an instrument analysis room, a microbial testing room, and a stability monitoring room, which will comply with pharmaceutical cGMP guidelines. This facility is equipped with a "Food Application Laboratory" to develop new alginate applications with customers and prepare a seminar room that can accommodate 100 people.

■ **One-room Office and One-floor Lab for Employee Collaboration**

The large open space of 24m x 70m without pillars will have excellent functionality and will enable a flexible response to future business development. The 1st floor (one-room office) and the 2nd floor (one-floor laboratory) will be connected by a cross staircase (inner staircase) located in the center of the building, which will enhance the mobility of employees and encourage collaboration. A communication space has been expanded around the main staircase to foster a sense of unity within the organization.

■ **Reducing Environmental Impact with Technology to Enhance Environmental Performance**

The facility will adopt a radiant air-conditioning system to create a living space that is windless and silent, creating an even temperature throughout the building with much less energy consumption. Furthermore, by effectively utilizing natural energy (extracting/absorbing heat from/in groundwater), the system reduces the environmental load by 50% or more compared to a general air conditioning system. It will be equipped with an external air conditioner that can take in fresh air without affecting the room temperature, an exterior double-layer system (double-glazed windows), and a dimming control blind system to further reduce the heat load on the building, making it a suitable facility for KIMICA Corporation, the award-winning company of the "JAPAN SDGs AWARD".

■ **BCP Measures and Employee Safety**

To prepare for flood damage, the entire building will be raised by 50cm and the research space and electrical room will be placed on the second floor. The power supply will be backed up by an emergency generator in case of a power outage. The building is designed to be highly earthquake-resistant, 25% superior to the current quake-resistance standards. "Evacuation Safety Verification Method" has been applied to ensure that anyone can evacuate safely in case of emergency, wherever he/she may be inside the building.

**【About KIMICA Corporation】**

KIMICA Corporation was the first company in Japan to industrially produce alginate, a natural polysaccharide, and has been distributing alginate for 80 years since. KIMICA is the only company in Japan that produces alginate, and the sales share in the domestic market has grown to over 90%. In fields where high grade and high quality are required for foods and pharmaceuticals, we are proud to have the world's top production volume.

With a production system that ensures a stable supply and a research system that promises high quality, we can offer a wide range of thickening polysaccharides in addition to alginates such as chitin, chitosan, CMC, and xanthan gum. We are also able to support a wide range of production needs, from small-quantity spot production to mass production.