

September 8, 2003

Mitsui-Takeda's TDI Plant Starts Commercial Operation

Japanese urethane chemicals maker **Mitsui Takeda Chemicals Inc. (MTCI)** has successfully commissioned its new toluene diisocyanate (TDI) plant and started its commercial operation as scheduled on August 1 2003, MTCI announced today. The plant was constructed at Kashima, north of Tokyo, and had been undergoing test operation.

A joint venture company between Japanese chemical makers Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (MCI) and Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Takeda), MTCI is engaged in the manufacture, sale and research of urethane materials, polyurethane resins, adhesives and organic acids.

With a TDI production capacity of 60,000 ton/yr, the new Kashima plant is a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility embodying the integrated technologies of MCI and Takeda and thus endowed with top-class competitiveness in the world. It not only demonstrates high efficiency and high product quality, but also adequately reflects the environmental and safety considerations in its design.

Now that the new plant has kicked off its commercial operation, TDI production capacity at Kashima including the existing plant totals 120,000 ton/yr. Adding to it the existing Omuta Plant in Kyushu, southern Japan, at 120,000 ton/yr, MTCI's cumulative TDI capacity now stands at 240,000 ton/yr, to firmly establish the company's presence as Asia's largest TDI manufacturer.

The new capacity addition this time accommodates the market outlook that Asia's TDI demand would undergo significant growth from now on, and with that in mind, MTCI intends to further strengthen and expand TDI as a core business in order to capture the growing Asian demand.

MTCI was established on April 1, 2001 with its Head Office in Tokyo, at a capital of 20 billion yen, with MCI holding a 51% interest and Takeda 49%. Production sites are located in Kashima, Ibaragi Prefecture, Omuta, Fukuoka Pref., Shimizu, Shizuoka Pref., Nagoya, Aichi Pref. and Tokuyama, Yamaguchi Pref.

>>>><<<<<