

KIMICA Opens New World-Class R&D Facility with Excellent Environmental Performance.

On October 4, 2022, as part of its 80th-anniversary project, alginate manufacturer, KIMICA Corporation (HQ: Tokyo, CEO: Fumiyoshi Kasahara) opens "KIMICA HONKAN" a 3,923m² building constructed with advanced technologies in Futtsu-city, Chiba-Prefecture.

Located adjacent to the existing KIMICA office and factories, *KIMICA HONKAN* consolidates R&D laboratories, quality control laboratories, welfare facilities, and office spaces. With larger laboratory and office spaces, KIMICA will be able to meet increasing demand while recognizing heightened health consciousness and advanced quality requirements. The advanced technologies supported by employee feedback gives the building excellent environment performance and business contingency. KIMICA also opens two new warehouses on the same day to support continued expansion.



- The 1st floor has a traditional brick-like design, expressing the weight of our 80-year history.
- The modern glass-enclosed design of the 2nd floor expresses KIMICA's determination to lead the future of the industry as a R&D oriented company.
- A spacious garden extending in front of the building is open to the neighboring community.



- The interior of the building uses plenty of natural wood.
- The dynamic structural design creates a 24m x 70m open space without pillars.
- The office (1F) and the laboratory(2F) are connected by an inner staircase in the center of the building, which enhances the mobility of employees to encourages collaborations.

Characteristics of "KIMICA HONKAN"

■ Developing a World-Class Research Environment

The laboratory area is four times larger than before and is suitable for the manufacture of pharmaceutical-grade products. The quality control laboratories have designated areas such as an instrument analysis room, a microbial testing room, and a stability monitoring room, which 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.

■ In Pursuit of Sustainability

The building adopts 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 is equipped with an exterior double-layer system (double-glazed windows), and a dimming control blind system to further reduce the heat load on the building.

The site produces 430,000 kWh (equivalent to 182 tons of CO₂) of renewable energy each year, making it a suitable facility for KIMICA Corporation, the award-winning company of the "JAPAN SDGs AWARD".

■ BCP Measures and Employee Safety

In addition to raising the floor of the entire building by 60 cm, the lab area and electrical room are placed on the second floor in preparation for possible flood damage. Since a standard solar generator cannot generate power during a power outage, an additional system has been added, that can continue to generate power even in the event of a power outage. An emergency power generator is also installed to further prepare for emergencies. The building is designed 25% superior to the current quake-resistance standards. "Evacuation Safety Verification Method" has been applied to ensure that anyone in the building can evacuate safely in case of emergency.

■ Striving to be a Company Open to the Community

KIMICA does not install any fences in front of the building and makes the spacious green space open to the local community. There are fences as security measures in the productions area to ensure food safety, but these fences use materials that allow visibility into the area to increase the sense of security of the residents. There are also plans to hold a science experiment class for local children in the seminar room that can accommodate up to 100 people.

NEWS RELEASE

【Project Outline】

Location	: 1029 Ohori, Futtsu City, Chiba Prefecture, JAPAN
Construction	: <i>HONKAN</i> = steel frame with reinforced concrete Warehouse = steel structure
Floor Space	<i>HONKAN</i> = 2 floors above ground (total floor area 3,923m ²) Warehouse = 1 floor above ground (total floor area 1,995m ²)
Construction Start	: August 1, 2021
Construction Completion	: October 4, 2022
Designer	: <i>HONKAN</i> = Rui Sekkeishitsu Co., Ltd. Warehouse = Taisei Corporation
Constructor	: Taisei Corporation

ABOUT KIMICA CORPORATION

KIMICA Corporation is the only manufacturer in Japan that extracts "Alginate" from natural seaweed and supplies it to various industries. KIMICA Corporation succeeded in the industrial production of alginate for the first time in Japan and has been leading the industry for 80 years since then. Alginate is a polysaccharide contained in seaweed and is used in various processed foods as a texture modifier as well as in a wide range of fields such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, textiles, steel, and paper manufacturing.

KIMICA recently attracts attention as a frontrunner of sustainability. In 2020, KIMICA won the JAPAN SDGs Award, the highest award for sustainability in Japan. In 2021, KIMICA received award from Minister of the Environment two times. In 2022, KIMICA is nominated for the Earthshot Prize, the world's most prestigious environmental award founded by Prince William of the British Royal Foundation.

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