

January 31, 2012

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.

Expansion of Hydroquinone Production at Iwakuni-Ohtake Works

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (Toshikazu Tanaka, President & CEO) announced a 1,000 ton production augmentation of hydroquinone at its Iwakuni-Ohtake Works.

Works	Product	Production Capacity(t/y)		
		Current	Increase	Post-Augmentation
Iwakuni-Otake	Hydroquinone	11,500	1,000	12,500

*Completion June 2013 (tentative)

Demand for hydroquinone, with main uses including polymerization inhibitors, anti-oxidant ingredients for rubbers, and as pigments, has increased significantly worldwide and especially in Asia in line with growing demands for acrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, and acrylonitrile in which it is used as a polymerization inhibitor.

Expanded needs have resulted in ongoing tight supply. The Iwakuni-Ohtake Works of Mitsui Chemicals boasts the world's largest production facilities for hydroquinone and the Company holds Asia's top market share.

The planned production augmentation will increase our competitiveness and will respond to the continuing growth in demand for hydroquinone and further intensify the Company's position as Asia's top manufacturer.