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Asahi Glass to Expand Production Facility for Recombinant Protein for Biopharmaceuticals

Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

Asahi Glass Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Tokyo; President & CEO: Masahiro Kadomatsu) has decided to build a new plant for production of recombinant proteins, aiming to expand the contract manufacturing business for active biopharmaceutical ingredients. Asahi Glass will begin constructing the new plant, including a 3,000-liter jar fermentor, at its Chiba Plant (Ichihara City, Chiba Prefecture) in October 2006, planning to start commercial production in July 2008. The new facility will be ten times the size of the current facility which is located within the Research Center (Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture), and will be one of the largest such facilities operated by Japanese dedicated contract manufacturers of biopharmaceutical products. The new facility will accommodate various microbial expression systems to produce recombinant proteins and will comply with c-GMP requirements.

Since its foundation of the “ASPEX Division” in 2000, Asahi Glass has expanded its contract manufacturing business by carrying out process development work for various recombinant proteins for biopharmaceutical use, and manufacturing active biopharmaceutical ingredients for clinical study, using its pilot plant at the Research Center. In the course of promoting marketing activities targeting at Japanese and foreign companies, including pharmaceutical, chemical and food manufacturers, as well as bio-ventures, Asahi Glass has received many inquiries for its services, and already obtained orders for a number of projects. The announced facility expansion is intended to prepare for large-scale production of these existing projects as well as to timely cope with the potential needs of contract manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals, which is expected to grow in the future.

With the announced facility expansion, Asahi Glass would be able to establish a one-stop shop system, which enables it to offer services at any stage of recombinant protein production, from the strain construction using its proprietary fission yeast base expression system, “ASPEX”, to the mass production of products to be marketed.

Asahi Glass will strive to become the No. 1 company in the protein production field by enhancing

its ASPEX technology, and to establish a manufacturing system that can flexibly meet the diversifying needs of customers.

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