

New hollow-fiber spinning plant for Planova™ virus removal filters

Asahi Kasei Medical will construct a new plant to spin hollow-fiber membranes for Planova™ virus removal filters. With a production capacity of 40,000 m²/year the new plant will raise total production capacity from the present 30,000 m²/year to 70,000 m²/year upon completion in March 2009. The new plant will be located adjacent to the Planova™ assembly plant in Nobeoka, Miyazaki, Japan.

Planova™ virus removal filters are used to enhance safety in the production process for biotherapeutic products such as biopharmaceuticals and plasma derivatives. The outstanding performance of Planova™ filters in combining high rates of virus clearance with high rates of protein recovery has been widely recognized throughout the world, and nearly 90% of Planova™ sales are to customers in Europe and the US. With heightened standards throughout the world for the viral safety of biotherapeutics and advances in the development of monoclonal antibodies and other biopharmaceuticals, demand for Planova™ filters is growing briskly.

The new spinning plant, together with a new assembly line completed in September 2007, will enable Asahi Kasei Medical to meet this growing demand. Asahi Kasei Medical is also advancing new product development to meet emerging needs for quality and performance.

Outline of the new spinning plant

Location: Nobeoka, Miyazaki, Japan

Capacity: 40,000 m²/year (raising total to 70,000 m²/year)

Investment: ≈¥4.2 billion

Groundbreaking: April 2008

Completion: March 2009

Corporate profile of Asahi Kasei Medical Co., Ltd.

President: Yasuyuki Yoshida

Establishment: October 2007*

Paid-in capital: ¥200 million

Shareholding: 100% by Asahi Kasei Pharma

Head office: Tokyo, Japan

Business line: Development, production, and sale of Sepacell™ leukocyte reduction filters for transfusion and Planova™ virus removal filters

Production facilities:

Oita – Sepacell™ plant

Nobeoka – Planova™ hollow-fiber membrane spinning plant, Planova™ filter module assembly plant

Employees: ≈400 (as of Oct. 31, 2007)

* Sepacell™ and Planova™ businesses separated from the former Asahi Kasei Medical Co., Ltd. at the time of its reorganization to focus on hemodialysis and therapeutic apheresis products with the company name changed to Asahi Kasei Kuraray Medical Co., Ltd.