

New assembly plant for Planova™ virus removal filters

Asahi Kasei Medical will construct a new plant for assembly of Planova™ virus removal filters in Oita, Japan, doubling the present assembly capacity of 40,000 m²/year to 80,000 m²/year upon completion in March 2010.

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.

To meet growing demand worldwide, a new plant for the spinning of hollow-fiber membrane for Planova™ is under construction in Nobeoka, Miyazaki, Japan, raising the present spinning capacity of 30,000 m²/year to 70,000 m²/year upon start-up in March 2009. Following this expansion of spinning capacity, construction of the new assembly plant in Oita in addition to the present assembly plant located adjacent to the spinning plant in Nobeoka will serve to reduce location risk as part of Asahi Kasei Medical's commitment as the market leader to maintain stable supply and high product quality.

Outline of the new assembly plant

Location: Oita, Japan

Capacity: 40,000 m²/year (raising total to 80,000 m²/year)

Investment: ≈¥2.5 billion

Groundbreaking: April 2009

Completion: March 2010