

### Capacity expansion for Hipore™ in Hyuga

Having decided to increase production capacity for Hipore™ Li-ion battery (LiB) separator at its plant in Hyuga, Miyazaki, Asahi Kasei E-materials has begun construction of new facilities and today held a signing ceremony with Hyuga City for an agreement regarding the siting of the facilities in the city.

Hipore™, a microporous polyolefin membrane separator placed between the anode and cathode of LiBs, prevents contact between the electrodes while allowing Li ions to pass through. It is the world's leading LiB separator, with a market share of some 50%. To meet increasing worldwide demand for separators driven by growing markets for LiBs, Asahi Kasei E-materials has advanced a program of strategic expansion of this business, with production facilities in Moriyama, Shiga, and in Hyuga, Miyazaki.

This expansion of 15 million m<sup>2</sup>/year had been planned at the plant in Moriyama, as announced in the press release dated November 26, 2008. Upon its completion, total Hipore™ capacity will increase to over 200 million m<sup>2</sup>/year.

#### *Outline of the new Hipore™ capacity expansion*

Location:	Hososhima 4th Industrial Park, Hyuga, Miyazaki, Japan
Capacity:	15 million m <sup>2</sup> /year (Line No. 3)
Investment:	≈ ¥2 billion
Groundbreaking:	October 2010
Scheduled start-up:	June 2011

#### *Hipore™ plants currently operating and under construction*

Moriyama Plant (Shiga):	150 million m <sup>2</sup> /year
Hyuga Plant (Miyazaki):	20 million m <sup>2</sup> /year (Line No. 1 started up in April 2010)
	20 million m <sup>2</sup> /year (Line No. 2 to start up in April 2011)
	15 million m <sup>2</sup> /year (Line No. 3 to start up in June 2011)