

## **The Ajinomoto Group Completes the Consolidation of the Domestic R&D Bases of Its Food Products Business**

### Accelerating the Technological Integration of Three Group Companies to Help Resolve Food and Health Issues

**TOKYO, April 6, 2021** – In accordance with the details announced in the press release “Ajinomoto Group to Consolidate the R&D Bases of Its Japan Food Products Business” dated December 4, 2017, Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto Co.”) has recently completed the construction of a new R&D building and the modification of an existing R&D building at its Kawasaki Plant. This completes the consolidation of the domestic R&D bases of three Ajinomoto Group companies involved in the Food Products business—Ajinomoto Co. and its consolidated subsidiaries Ajinomoto Frozen Foods Co., Inc. and Ajinomoto AGF, Inc.

In Japan, consumer needs are becoming more diverse due to factors including the aging population, the increase in single-person households, and the resulting changes in lifestyles. Under these circumstances, expectations have been increasing for the food industry to provide restaurant and institutional use product and service solutions in addition to products for household use, with similar trends in other regions around the world as well. Moreover, conditions in the market for food products and food-related services have changed further due to the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020, requiring high-level R&D capabilities to respond to such changes flexibly and promptly.

Since its founding, Ajinomoto Co. has made ongoing investments in research and development of leading-edge bioscience and fine chemical technologies and in technologies for achieving delicious taste and health through food. Activities in recent years have included development of “deliciousness technologies” and research and development of products that utilize the functions of amino acids. The consolidation of these R&D bases will enable Ajinomoto Co. to accelerate the integration of Ajinomoto Group technologies with the aim of adding greater value to its products and strengthening the structure of its Food Products business.

In its FY2020-2025 Medium-Term Management Plan, the Ajinomoto Group has established a vision for co-creation of people’s wellness. This vision entails unlocking the power of amino acids to resolve food and health issues stemming from eating habits and aging, with the goals of helping a billion people extend their healthy life expectancy and reducing the Group’s environmental impact by 50% by 2030.

With the resolution of food and health issues as a new driver, the Ajinomoto Group will conduct research and development of food products through collaboration between this fully integrated domestic R&D base for the Food Products business and the Research Institute for Bioscience Products & Fine Chemicals, which has leading-edge analysis and process development technologies, as well as through technological integration and exchange inside and outside the Ajinomoto Group at the Client Innovation Center, which was established in 2018. Going forward, Ajinomoto Co. will create value for customers by conducting a global rollout of the model it has developed in Japan, a country that leads in resolving these issues.

## Consolidation of Domestic R&D Bases of the Food Products Business

### (1) Overview of new R&D building (Food Products):

- (a) Location: 1-1, Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan
- (b) Building specifications: Floor area approximately 7,400m<sup>2</sup> (4-story building with seismic base isolation structure)



New R&D building

(Modified existing R&D building on the left, Client Innovation Center in the foreground)

### (2) Total investment:

Approximately JPY 6 billion (includes construction of new R&D building, modification of existing facilities, etc.)

### (3) Post-consolidation R&D personnel involved in food products:

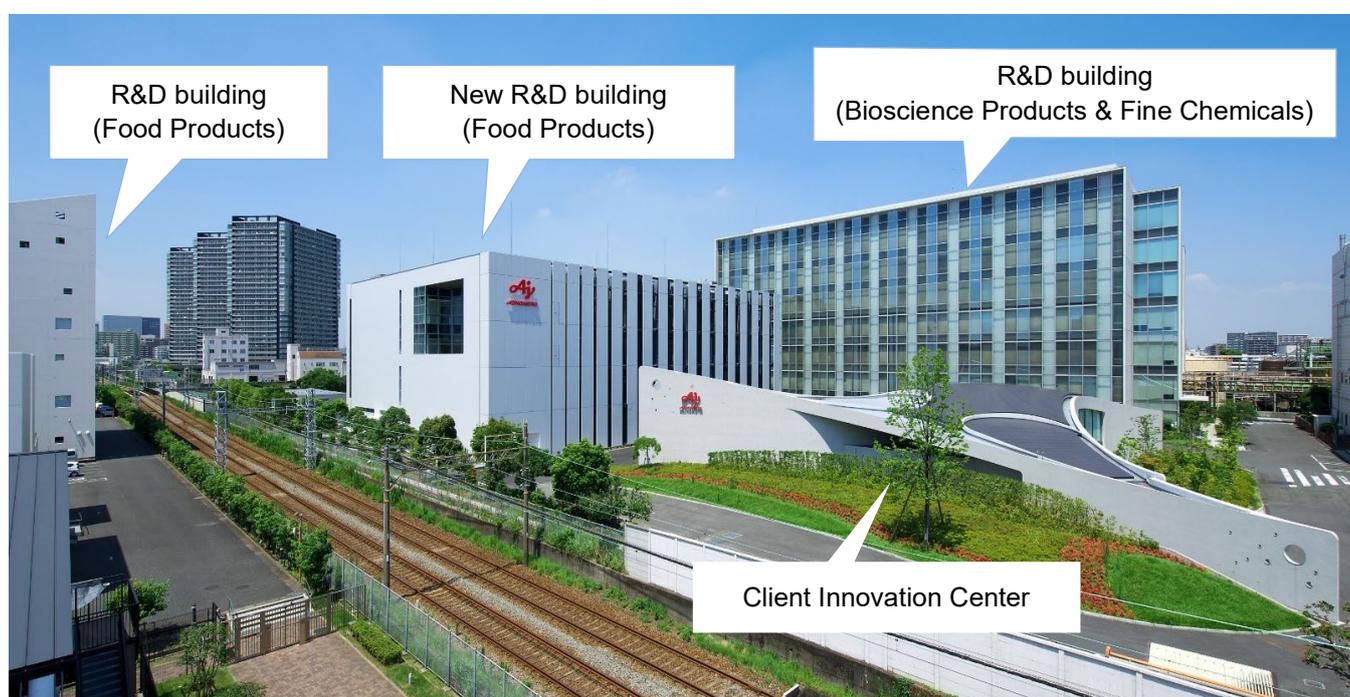
Total of approximately 620 (total for all three companies)

### (4) Start of construction:

December 2017

### (5) Completion:

New R&D building: July 2020; Modification of existing facilities: March 2021



Ajinomoto Group Fully Integrated Domestic R&D Base and Client Innovation Center

### Reference

Press Release dated December 4, 2017

“Ajinomoto Group to Consolidate the R&D Bases of Its Japan Food Products Business”

[https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2017\\_12\\_04.html](https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2017_12_04.html)

Press Release dated May 28, 2018

“Client Innovation Center to Open on June 1, 2018”

[https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2018\\_05\\_28.html](https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2018_05_28.html)

The Ajinomoto Group, unlocking the power of amino acids, aims to resolve food and health issues associated with dietary habits and aging, and contribute to greater wellness for people worldwide.

Based on the corporate message “Eat Well, Live Well.”, we have been scientifically pursuing the possibilities of amino acids to aim for future growth by creating new value through sustainable and innovative solutions for communities and society.

The Ajinomoto Group has offices in 35 countries and regions, and sells products in more than 130 countries and regions. In fiscal 2019, sales were 1.1000 trillion yen (10.1 billion U.S. dollars). To learn more, visit [www.ajinomoto.com](http://www.ajinomoto.com).

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