

**PRESS RELEASE**

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.  
15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8315, JAPAN

**Ajinomoto Group to Begin Full-Scale Operation of a New Plant for Soups at the Kawasaki Administration & Coordination Office in October**  
**Toward Doubling Current Labor Productivity by Introducing ICT and Automation Technologies, Integrated Manufacturing and Packaging, etc.**  
**—Enhanced Plant Tours to Boost Direct Communication with Consumers—**

**TOKYO, October 1, 2021** – Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto Co.”) has completed construction of a new plant that will carry out integrated manufacturing and packaging of soups (*Knorr® Cup Soup*, *Knorr® Soup DELI®*, etc.) at the Kawasaki Plant of Ajinomoto Food Manufacturing Co., Ltd. on the premises of the Kawasaki Administration & Coordination Office. This is in accordance with the details announced in the press release “Ajinomoto Group to Restructure Seasonings and Processed Foods Production System in Japan,” dated September 29, 2017. Total investment was approximately JPY 20 billion. Following the start of packaging operations in April 2021, the plant will implement integrated manufacturing and packaging at all packaging lines as of October.



Exterior view of the new plant

Ajinomoto Co. has set out a vision of becoming a solution-providing group of companies for food and health issues. To achieve this vision, we are reorganizing the production system at our Japan Food Products business. As part of this effort, Ajinomoto Food Manufacturing Co., Ltd., a new company responsible for the production of seasonings and processed foods in Japan, was launched in April 2019. Structural reforms to gradually consolidate our plants in Japan are underway.

Ajinomoto Co. has produced soups and other products in three buildings on the premises of the Takatsu Plant, which opened in 1962, but the buildings are deteriorating and there is no longer room to expand. Therefore, the new plant erected on the premises of the Kawasaki Plant serves to consolidate the bases and to integrate the manufacturing and packaging of soups.



Main products

By introducing advanced ICT and automation technologies, the new plant aims to double current levels of labor productivity during fiscal 2022 to achieve world-class productivity. To adapt to the changing needs of customers and society, we have designed flexible production processes that switch seamlessly between product categories. The introduction of state-of-the-art energy-saving technologies will lessen the environmental impact. We also intend to enhance the plant tours with interactive content to boost direct communication.



Part of the Soup Tour Course

To implement the Eat Well, Live Well message, the Ajinomoto Group intends to strengthen the value chain to be able to consistently deliver products that consumers can enjoy with peace of mind, and to continue to contribute to consumer food and health.

The impact of this matter on the Ajinomoto Co. consolidated business results for fiscal 2021 will be immaterial.

#### Overview of the New Plant

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| (1) Location:                                     | Premises of the Ajinomoto Co. Kawasaki Administration & Coordination Office<br>1-1 Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki City, Kanagawa |
| (2) Plant manager:                                | Shogo Maruyama  |
| (3) Start of construction/<br>start of operation: | Start of construction: December 2018<br>start of full-scale operation: October 2021   |
| (4) Total investment:                             | Approximately JPY20 billion   |
| (5) Products produced:                            | The main items are <i>Knorr® Cup Soup</i> , <i>Knorr® Soup DELI®</i> , <i>Nabe Cube®</i> etc.                                       |
| (6) Number of employees:                          | 201 (as of September 1, 2021)   |
| (7) Floor area:                                   | 31,070 m <sup>2</sup> (steel-frame six-story building)  |
| (8) Start of public tours:                        | Scheduled for winter 2021 ( <i>Knorr® Cup Soup</i> , <i>Knorr® Soup DELI®</i> Tour Course)  |

First launched in Japan in 1964, *Knorr®* brand products were a perfect fit with consumer lifestyles, and have continued to expand and sell well over the decades. The delicious and hot soups have been popular with consumers since the brand was launched.

#### Reference

Press release dated September 29, 2017

“Ajinomoto Group to Restructure Seasonings and Processed Foods Production System in Japan”

[https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2017\\_09\\_29.html](https://www.ajinomoto.co.jp/company/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2017_09_29.html)

Press release dated October 20, 2017

“Ajinomoto Group to Build a New Plant for Manufacturing and Packaging Seasonings and Other Products”

[https://www.ajinomoto.com/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2017\\_10\\_20.html](https://www.ajinomoto.com/en/presscenter/press/detail/g2017_10_20.html)

Press release dated September 27, 2018

“Ajinomoto Group to Form Ajinomoto Food Manufacturing Co., Ltd., a New Company in Charge of Manufacturing and Packaging of Seasonings and Processed Foods in Japan, in April 2019”

[https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms\\_wp\\_ajmnt\\_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/g2018\\_09\\_27\\_02.pdf](https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms_wp_ajmnt_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/g2018_09_27_02.pdf)

Press release dated November 30, 2018

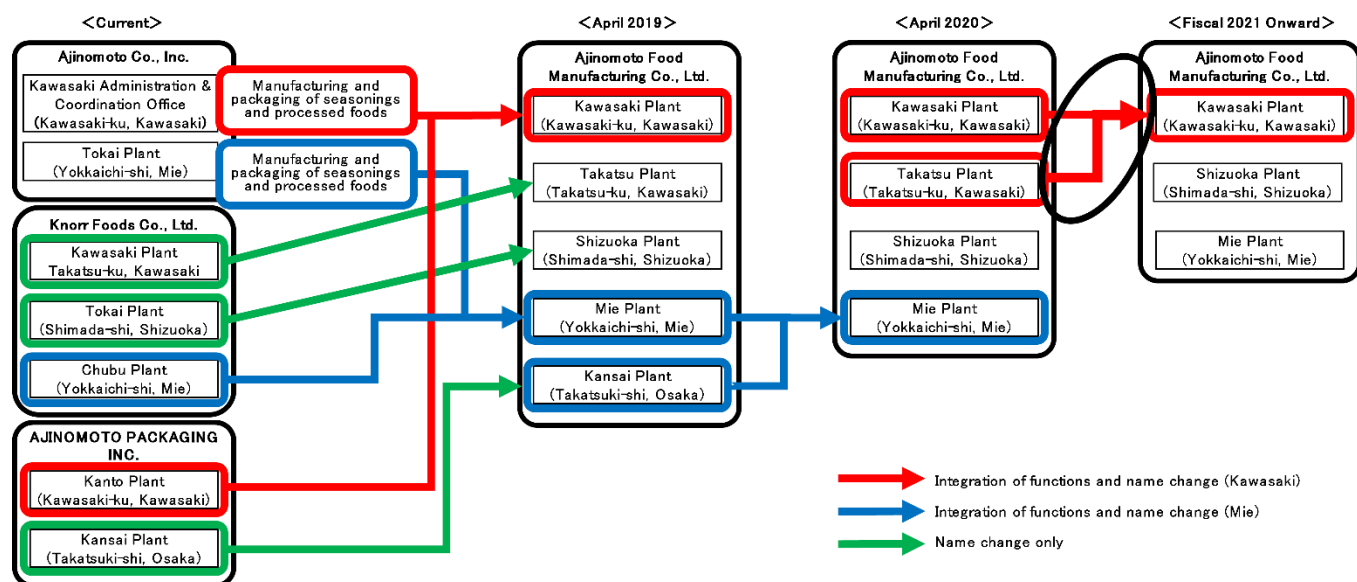
“Ajinomoto Group to Build a New Plant for Soups and Other Products at its Kawasaki Administration & Coordination Office”

[https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms\\_wp\\_ajmnt\\_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/g2018\\_11\\_30.pdf](https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms_wp_ajmnt_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/g2018_11_30.pdf)

Press release dated August 27, 2020

“Ajinomoto Group to Begin Full-Scale Operation of a New Plant for HON-DASHI® in Mie Prefecture in October”

[https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms\\_wp\\_ajmnt\\_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/200827-NR-New-Plant.pdf](https://www.ajinomoto.com/cms_wp_ajmnt_global/wp-content/uploads/pdf/200827-NR-New-Plant.pdf)



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

Based on the corporate message Eat Well, Live Well, we will deliver further growth by engaging in the scientific pursuit of the potential of amino acids, and by creating new value together with local communities and society through our business.

The Ajinomoto Group achieved sales of 1.0714 trillion yen in fiscal 2020. The Group has offices in 35 countries and regions, and sells its products in more than 130 countries and regions (as of 2021). To learn more, visit [www.ajinomoto.com](http://www.ajinomoto.com).

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