



March 24, 2020

Denka Company Limited

Denka Seiken Co., Ltd.

Notice Regarding the Status of Development of Simple and Rapid Testing Kits
for the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus Infection

Denka Company Limited (headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; president: Manabu Yamamoto; hereinafter, “Denka”) announces that Denka Seiken Co., Ltd. (headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; president: Hideki Takahashi; hereinafter, “Denka Seiken”), which is a consolidated subsidiary of Denka, has concluded a joint research agreement with the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (“NIID”) for the development of diagnostic test kits for the COVID-19 novel coronavirus.

Through its participation in research activities by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), Denka Seiken has been working to develop rapid testing kits applying an immunochromatographic method to antigens or antibodies provided by NIID.

It normally takes at least eighteen months to two years for rapid testing kits to be approved for manufacturing and marketing. Denka Seiken aims to achieve large scale manufacturing capacity to produce up to 100,000 testing kits per day within a year, seeking cooperation from both public institutions and research laboratories at home and abroad for speedy development, while aiming to develop a prototype within two to three months with early application for regulatory approval as an in vitro diagnostic agent.

In an attempt to respond to a range of testing needs at medical institutions, The Denka Group is working to develop testing methods applying not only immunochromatography but also other antigen identification methods including the ELISA and genetic methods. Taiwan-based PlexBio Co., Ltd., in which Denka acquired 33.4% of shares in September 2019, is working to develop methods capable of identifying this novel coronavirus and other types of virus causing respiratory diseases at the same time. The Taiwanese company has succeeded in developing a prototype and is planning to undertake clinical tests for commercial use soon in Taiwan and Japan.

About Denka

Denka is a chemical manufacturer headquartered in Chuo-ku, Tokyo. The company specializes in developing business activities on a global scale across a wide range of fields, from inorganic and organic chemicals, to electronic materials and pharmaceuticals. Founded in 1915, Denka has steadily continued to develop and manufacture products that contribute to the development of society by fully utilizing its unique concepts and technological capabilities. Upholding its corporate slogan, “Possibility of Chemistry,” the company and its president, Manabu Yamamoto, are committed to contributing to the sound development of society while sincerely tackling the challenges that society is now confronting.

About Denka Seiken

Established in 1950, Denka Seiken Co., Ltd. has always been true to its mission, namely, “respecting the dignity of life and protecting people’s health.” Harnessing its strength in preemptive measures against diseases, the company is active in the fields of disease prevention and diagnostics as a manufacturer and supplier of various vaccines and diagnostic reagents. Looking ahead, Denka Seiken will ceaselessly contribute to people’s health via the provision of trustworthy and innovative products, thereby living up to the confidence of society.

For inquiries about this press release:

Denka Company Limited CSR & Corporate Communications Dept.

TEL: +81-3-5290-5511 E-mail : csr-koho@denka.co.jp