

## Large Capital Investment in Kyushu Ichikoh Industries

A major automotive parts manufacturer, Ichikoh Industries, Ltd. (Headquarters: Itado, Isehara-shi, Kanagawa-ken Representative Director & President: Heiko Sauer) is promoting large capital investment in its wholly owned production subsidiary, Kyushu Ichikoh Industries, Ltd. (Nakatsu-shi, Oita-ken).

It is expected that automobile production will continue to expand in the Kyushu region. Aiming to intake new orders, the Company plans to make a total of approximately 1.2 billion yen in capital investment from FY2020 to 2021 and start operations in September, 2021. This investment will comprise an injection machine of the latest technology enabling an increased production while reducing energy consumption. And in accordance, additional employment of approximately 70 employees is planned in 2021 (347 employees as of January 1, 2021).

Kyushu Ichikoh carried out extension constructions in 2014 and 2016 in order to increase its production capacity to manufacture headlamps and rear lamps, with a wide range of products covering all the segments from kei cars to high end luxury cars, and focusing to deliver car makers in Kyushu as well as West Honshu. Annual sales (9.1 billion yen in FY2020) and personnel of the company have both continued to grow, more than doubling from three years ago, and this investment will further enhance its production capacity.

〈Kyushu Ichikoh Industries, Ltd.〉

Kyushu Ichikoh Industries, Ltd. was established in 1983 in Nakatsu-shi, Oita-ken, as the fourth domestic manufacturing base of the “ICHIKOH” group. It manufactures headlamps and rear lamps for automobiles for the domestic market, and is steadily increasing sales.

The northern Kyushu area, where Kyushu Ichikoh is located, is one of Japan’s leading automobile production bases called “Car Island Kyushu”. Taking geographical advantage of this area, Kyushu Ichikoh will expand deliveries to automobile manufacturers in the western Japan area, including Kyushu.

(Image of Kyushu Ichikoh Industries)



(Reference) <Ichikoh Industries, Ltd.>

Since its establishment in 1903, as a manufacturer specialized in car lamps and mirrors, Ichikoh Industries has delivered products to major car makers in Japan and overseas.

Ichikoh mounted lamps to the first domestically mass-produced Datsun cars in 1932, and has independently developed unique products such as first domestically-produced projector headlights, the world's first electric retraction mechanism for door mirror, Mercury-free HID headlamps and LED headlamps.

In 2000, Ichikoh entered into an alliance with Valeo of France in the lighting equipment division, and in 2017, became a subsidiary of Valeo. Utilizing synergies with Valeo, Ichikoh strengthened its development of new products such as especially LED headlamp modules, high definition lighting, and LED signaling which will contribute the development of EV and autonomous driving, cost reduction by joint procurement and joint research, development utilizing economies of scale, addition of market share in global market by aggressive sales activities, expansion of customer base, and the geographically complementary relationship.

Also, a new plant in Atsugi city of Kanagawa started operation in June 2019.

New Atsugi Plant adopts all the latest industrial concepts, from lean manufacturing to automated production while benefiting from the digitalization of some tasks in order to increase its efficiency in production, to improve competitiveness leading to future business growth.

<Inquiries>

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