

Aichi Int'l Business Newsletter

— Business and Economic Close-Up on Aichi and the Greater Nagoya Region —



Mitsubishi to Open New Facility in Aichi

A portion of land in Toyoyama, Aichi is on loan to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. The plot, which occupies about 5 acres (2ha) of land adjacent to Nagoya Airport, will be an important base for aircraft research and development in Aichi.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries celebrated the groundbreaking for a newly designated testing facility on April 12th. Mitsubishi needs the facility to complete certification of the MRJ (Mitsubishi Regional Jet), Japan's first domestic jet airliner. Detailed technical trials are necessary to certify the structural strength of the MRJ. The first test is called the "static strength test" and it verifies the ultimate load bearing capabilities without damage to the airframe. In another test called "fatigue testing" the MRJ will be subjected to loads for twice as long as the projected limits of the airframe. These tests are necessary to obtain an understanding of the strength characteristics of the MRJ.

Nagoya Airport's position as an aerospace research and development hub will also be strengthened by the addition of a Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Flight Research Center.

Nagoya Airport Celebrates 5 Years

For five years Nagoya Airport has served as a gateway for commercial なごびよん flights and business jets. Commemorating this milestone the Nagoya Airport Council has selected an airport mascot. A public contest was held and "Nagopyon" was selected as the winner. Nagopyon will travel to various locations to promote the airport. Nagoya Airport is the main hub for J-Air, a regional jet carrier.



Central Japan Rail's Ambition

In January 2010 Central Japan Railway (JRC), based in Aichi, announced its intent to sell internationally for the first time. In a press release the President of JRC, Yoshiyuki Kasai, said "Now that we have a clear vision and strategy for the deployment of our high-speed rail technologies to international markets, we will move forward together with these companies to aggressively pursue these markets."

US-Japan High Speed Rail will help promote the sales of a complete high-speed rail system built for the N700-I. The N700-I, "I" stands for International, is a modified version of the N700 bullet train currently used in Japan. In the Japanese archipelago, though earthquakes, snow and typhoons are common occurrences the bullet trains have maintained an exceptional safety record.

Nagoya Success Story: LEONI Insight

On January 4th, 2010 Leoni opened their first Japanese office in Nagoya. The location will help extend its existing Japanese activities in automotive cables, solar and fiber optics. Founded in Germany LEONI is a group of companies which employs around 48,000 people in 35 countries and generated revenue of EUR 2.9 billion in 2008. President and CEO Dr. Klaus Probst said, "We consider Japan to be a strategic bridgehead to the entire Asian continent."

Aichi Strengthens its Position as a Research Hub



Site of the Knowledge Hub in Aichi

Aichi has a long tradition of cultivating innovation and education. Four Japanese Nobel Prize winners for Science were graduates or staff of Nagoya University.

Now the university, city and regional governments are planning to strengthen Aichi's position as a research hub. They will focus on the region's strong point: monozukuri, which, roughly translated, means "The Spirit and Quest for Manufacturing Excellence."

Scientists and policy-makers are now striving to add next generation technology to monozukuri, using academic strengths in physics and chemistry. Initially 3 main research projects will be conducted over 5 years at a cost of several billion yen. The facility is collaboration between 14 Universities, 8 Public Research Centers, 94 Researchers and 46 Private Companies. Currently there is a synchrotron facility being built at the knowledge hub.



Upcoming Event in Nagoya

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is an International conference to discuss the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. In October 2010 national and local governments, international organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, private enterprises from around the world will present projects, initiatives, ideas, and issues all in the interests of preserving biodiversity. In parallel with the conference at Nagoya Congress Center many exhibitors will have display booths at Shirotori Park (nearby the conference center), Aichi Expo Commemorative Park, and Sakae (Downtown Nagoya)
www.cop10.jp/aichi-nagoya/english/

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