

July 21st, 2020

Nippon Shokubai Announces the Establishment of “Data Science & Informatics Promotion Office” to Enhance Data-Driven Research and Development

NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD. (Headquarters: Osaka, Japan; President: Yujiro Goto, hereinafter “Nippon Shokubai”) has newly established "Data Science & Informatics Promotion Office" on June 1, 2020 at Innovation & Business Development Division in the Suita Research Center.

Nippon Shokubai has been uniquely applied data science and materials informatics for the past 10 years to accelerate the development of materials such as acrylic acid catalysts and superabsorbent polymers. Our approach was achieved through Bayesian inference (*) methods, with the comprehensive analysis of multifaceted research data on manufacturing methods, physical properties and measurements.

In recent years, since the demand for responding to diversifying customer needs and shortening the lead time to commercialization in overall product development has been stronger than before, we have established the DS&I Promotion Office to enhance data-driven research and development throughout the company, by further developing our technologies and knowledge accumulated in the fields.

The DS&I Promotion Office will carry out far-sighted capital investment and technology demonstration. At the same time, we attach great importance on cultivating data literacy of our R&D staff, and we will also aim to foster relevant researchers continuously and allocate them in all research departments appropriately.

In the medium to long term, we will focus on building a cross-departmental information infrastructure, toward transforming our data resources into further strengths in R&D strategy, that will dramatically improve certainty and speed of exploratory research to commercialization.

(*) Bayesian inference:

It is a probabilistic methodology that treats various information ranging from numerical data to past experience in a unified manner. By combining it with machine learning, it is possible to identify optimal material design and key factors even with relatively small amounts of data.

About NIPPON SHOKUBAI Co., Ltd.: Since 1941, Nippon Shokubai has grown up its business with unique catalyst technology. Nippon Shokubai has supplied, for example, ethylene oxide, acrylic acid, automobile catalysts, process catalysts and so on. Among all, our global market share

of superabsorbent polymer is the largest in the world now. Nippon Shokubai is a global chemical company operating under its corporate mission "TechnoAmenity-Providing affluence and comfort to people and society with our unique technology." <https://www.shokubai.co.jp/en/>

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