

April 6th, 2017

Nippon Shokubai Announces to Establish Research Alliance Laboratories at Osaka University

NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD. (Headquarter: Osaka, Japan, President: Yujiro Goto, hereinafter “Nippon Shokubai”) hereby announces to establish NIPPON SHOKUBAI Research Alliance Laboratories, on April 1, 2017 at Osaka University (President: Shojiro Nishio).

In April 2014, Nippon Shokubai established Osaka University Nippon Shokubai Joint Research Chair at Osaka University graduate school of engineering, and since then, Nippon Shokubai has been working on the creation of basic technologies related to competitive functional chemical synthesis by merging Osaka University's state-of-the-art catalyst / synthesis technology with Nippon Shokubai's holding technology. In order to further accelerate new business creation and technological innovation, from April 2017, the Research Alliance Laboratories will be newly established by expansively resolving the Joint Research Chair.

The Research Alliance Laboratories focuses on the collaboration between the cutting-edge technologies of Osaka University in medical engineering cooperation fields and our holding technologies of catalysts, organic synthesis, and polymer synthesis. By utilizing Osaka University's Research Alliance Laboratories system, our target is to create innovative technologies and business as well as to train research human resources, expanding the collaboration with Osaka University into multifaceted cooperation with other universities and companies.

Nobuyuki Harada (Managing Executive Officer, Nippon Shokubai) will take a position as associate director and specially appointed professor (Full time) of NIPPON SHOKUBAI Research Alliance Laboratories.

【Concept of Research Alliance Laboratories】

1. Creation of innovative technology related to our existing business

In our existing businesses, we will create innovative technologies that will be the source of overwhelming competitive advantage.

2. Creation of innovative technology related to our new business

We aim to create innovative technologies that will become the core of new business creation.

3. Create new business in the medical engineering field

We will create new business by combining the technologies of Nippon Shokubai and Osaka University in the medical engineering field (interdisciplinary field of medicine and engineering).

【Outline of Research Alliance Laboratories】

Name: Nippon Shokubai Research Alliance Laboratories

Location: within Osaka University Suita campus

Frontier Research Center F1 Building 4th Floor (to be relocated from May this year)

Research organization:

Director: Masahiro Miura (Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University)

Associate Director: Nobuyuki Harada [Specially appointed professor (Full time), Osaka University Graduate School of Engineering]

Osaka University: 7 concurrent teachers

Nippon Shokubai: 1 invited professor

2 invited associate professors

12 invited researchers

Period: 3 years from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020

ABOUT NIPPON SHOKUBAI: Since 1941, Nippon Shokubai has grown up its business with unique catalyst technology. Nippon Shokubai has supplied, for example, Ethylene oxide, Acrylic acid, automobile catalyst, process catalyst and so on. Among all, our global market share of superabsorbent polymer comes up to No.1, now. Nippon Shokubai is a global chemical company with its corporate mission as "Providing affluence and comfort to people and society, with our unique technology".

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