



August 11, 2014

JFE Engineering Corporation

J Farm Tomakomai Co., Ltd.

Startup of the First Smart-Agriculture Plant – Completion Ceremony Held in Tomakomai on August 8 –

JFE Engineering Corporation (President and CEO: Hisanori Kanou; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) and a JFE affiliate, J Farm Tomakomai Co., Ltd. (President: Koichi Kimura; Head Office: Tomakomai City, Hokkaido) ^{*1} recently completed a Smart-Agriculture Plant ^{*2} in Tomakomai City, Hokkaido and launched a farm products production business. Shipments of baby leaf will begin from the 4th week of August, and shipments of tomatoes are scheduled from October.

Accompanying the completion of the plant, JFE Engineering and J Farm Tomakomai announced that the Completion Ceremony was held in Tomakomai on August 8. A total of approximately 150 distinguished guests and persons involved in the project were invited, beginning with Mr. Nobutaka Machimura, who is a member of the House of Representatives of Japan, Ms. Harumi Takahashi, the Governor of Hokkaido, and Mr. Hirofumi Iwakura, the Mayor of Tomakomai City.

The recently-completed plant is the first unit in JFE Engineering's smart-agriculture business. The plant is a state-of-the-art facility that creates the optimum environment for cultivation by combining an advanced climate control system developed by Priva BV in the Netherlands, one of JFE Engineering's technical partners, and JFE Engineering's own gas engine/tri-generation system (combined supply of electricity, heat and CO₂) which utilizes natural gas as an energy source.

In December of this year, biomass boiler equipment will be installed on the grounds of the plant, and the company will begin model demonstration of a Smart-Agriculture plant that can operate in regions where a supply of natural gas is not available by supplying heat and CO₂ using wood chips as a fuel.

In the future, JFE Engineering intends to obtain cultivation know-how in connection with high sugar-content tomatoes ^{*3}, which are now in the development stage, and improvement of the yield of baby leaf, aiming at early application to the new plant.

^{*1} Company established by joint investment by Add-One Farm (President: Yuya Miyamoto; Head Office, Chuo-ku, Sapporo), and JFE Engineering (investment ratio: 51 : 49).

^{*2} Partially supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Grants-in-Aid for Building a Strong Agricultural Sector for FY2013.

^{*3} High sugar-content tomato cultivation technology is currently under development in the experimental greenhouse at JFE Engineering's Yokohama Head Office.



▲ The Governor of Hokkaido, Ms. Harumi Takahashi (center) attending the ceremony
Mr. Hirofumi Iwakura, Mayor of Tomakomai City (center right)
Mr. Nobutaka Machimura, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan (center left)
Mr. Hisanori Kanou, President and Representative Director of JFE Engineering Corporation (far right)
Mr. Koichi Kimura, President and Representative Director of J Farm Tomakomai Co., Ltd. (far left)



▲ Inside the facility

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