

News Release

December 13, 2011

Lithium Energy Japan
GS Yuasa Corporation

Lithium Energy Japan to Commence Work on Ritto Plant

**- Establishing one of the world's largest
automotive lithium-ion battery production capacities -**

Lithium Energy Japan (LEJ) announced today that it will commence work on its Ritto Plant on December 15. LEJ has completed construction of the Ritto Plant in Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture, which incorporates a manufacturing line, a test center and other facilities, and is preparing to commence mass production there. The Ritto Plant will be located on a plot of land adjacent to the Plant. LEJ signed a provisional contract with Ritto City on November 30 to purchase the land for the new plant, and today guests witnessed a ceremony where the ground was blessed by a Shinto priest. The Ritto Plant will consist of a single manufacturing plant building which is scheduled to be completed in August 2012. After completion, equipment will be installed and manufacturing activities are scheduled to begin in spring 2013. Together, the Ritto and Plants will employ a grand total of 1,100 people when they reach maximum production.

The site area of the Ritto Plant is 46,000m², and the plant's total floor area will amount to around 50,000m². The plant will have an annual manufacturing capacity of 1.2GWh. This is the equivalent of approximately 6.5 million cells of LEV50 automotive lithium-ion batteries (3.7V, 50Ah), enough to power approximately 75,000 i-MiEV electric vehicles from Mitsubishi Motors Corporation. LEJ plans to supply lithium-ion batteries from the Ritto Plant to Japanese and foreign automakers selling electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

In June 2009, LEJ became the first company in the world to mass produce automotive lithium-ion batteries at its Kusatsu Plant in Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture. The Kyoto Plant started mass production of the batteries in December 2010, and the Ritto Plant is scheduled to begin mass production in April 2012. The combined annual production capacity of the Kusatsu, Kyoto, Ritto and plants will be 12.5 million cells (equivalent to approx. 2.3GWh or enough to power approximately 150,000 vehicles), making LEJ one of the world's largest makers of automotive lithium-ion batteries.

To support the construction of the plant, LEJ will receive government subsidies worth as much as ¥8.8 billion under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's fiscal 2010 program to promote plant construction for job-creating domestic low-carbon industries.

Overview of Ritto Plant

Site area (approximate)	46,000m ²
Total floor area (approximate)	50,000m ²
Construction start	December 2011
Construction completion	August 2012
Shipment start	Spring 2013
Capital investment (approximate)	Maximum ¥30.0 billion

Overview of LEJ

Company name	Lithium Energy Japan
Establishment	December 2007
Head office	Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture, Japan
Capital	¥13.5 billion
Business description	Development, manufacture, and sale of large lithium-ion batteries

Overview of LEJ Production Capacity

Plant	Kusatsu Plant	Kyoto Plant	Ritto Plant	Ritto Plant
Location	Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture	Minami Ward, Kyoto City (within GS Yuasa Head Office site)	Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture	
Site area (approximate)	20,000m ²	200,000m ²	54,000m ²	46,000m ²
Total floor area (approximate)	9,800m ²	13,000m ²	61,000m ²	50,000m ²
Annual production capacity (approximate; in terms of i-MiEV vehicles)	110MWh (6,800 vehicles)	180MWh (11,000 vehicles)	800MWh (50,000 vehicles)	1,200MWh (75,000 vehicles)
Shipment start	June 2009	December 2010	April 2012	Spring 2013
Capital investment (approximate)	¥7.5 billion	¥6.7 billion	¥37.5 billion	¥30.0 billion

Image

Conceptual drawing of the completed Ritto Plant

