News Release

2013-02-14

Saitama Plant: Notice of Completion of New Factory

Introducing a new model plant for automotive parts intended to lead our global six-hub production concept

Tsubakimoto Chain (Headquarters: Osaka, Japan. President: Isamu Osa) held an opening ceremony today for its new automotive parts plant established within the existing Saitama Plant located in the city of Han-no, Saitama.

With 77% of the domestic market and 35% of the world market, Tsubakimoto Chain is the world's leading supplier of automotive engine timing chain drive systems. The company's Automotive Parts Operations maintain six production hubs located in Saitama Japan, the U.S.A., the U.K., Thailand, China, and South Korea.

Currently, this business segment is implementing manufacturing reforms intended to achieve significant productivity improvements. Notably, the timing chain assembly line in the new plant adopts the "just-in-time" production system developed by Toyota in which the required quantity is produced only when needed; it also incorporates an integrated production line for plastic guide and lever molding assemblies. The plant has been positioned as a world-leading model plant among manufacturing sites.

Moreover, the new plant adopts eco-friendly design features that include a green roof, a photovoltaic power generation system, and energy-efficient lighting and air conditioning facilities.

■Plant Outline

1. Location:	Tsubakimoto Chain Co. Saitama Plant 20, Shinko, Han-no, Saitama
2. Construction site:	5,100 sq. m.
3. Total floor area:	12,900 sq. m. (over 3 floors)
4. Construction period:	May 2012 to January 2013
5. Scheduled start of operation:	April 2013
6. Design concept:	The "5 E" Plant Approach: Efficiency, Economy, Ecology, Emotion & Evolution