

Aichi Int'l Business Newsletter

— Business and Economic Close-Up on Aichi and the Greater Nagoya Region —

Synchrotron Radiation Facility Opens at Knowledge Hub Aichi

A state-of-the-art research and development center called the Knowledge Hub Aichi has been built in Aichi Prefecture to support high-value added manufacturing, and now it includes a Synchrotron Radiation Facility. The center is the product of many years of collaboration between government, academia, and private industry.



The Synchrotron Radiation Facility

On March 22, 2013 in Seto City a ceremony was held to commemorate the opening of the Synchrotron Radiation Facility. This is the last major piece of the Knowledge Hub Aichi and will help the prefecture develop science and technology for the public and private interest. This facility will officially be called the Aichi Synchrotron Radiation Center and will be commonly called the AichiSR.

The Knowledge Hub Aichi also consists of Aichi Center for Industry and Science Technology. From the planning stage the facility was designed for industry use of synchrotron radiation so that the results obtained from the facility would lead to create new industries and advance local industry.

The most recent expansion of the Knowledge Hub Aichi happened in February of 2012 with the completion of the Aichi Center for Industry and Science Technology. That facility is operated by Aichi Prefectural Government and the Knowledge Hub Aichi as a venue for cutting-edge collaborative research. It houses technology essential for the development of new materials, material analysis, and advancing technology.



The Knowledge Hub Aichi

The Knowledge Hub Aichi is situated on 170,000 square meters of land and is designed for fundamental research, as well as the progression of engineering, manufacturing techniques, medical research, and industry-specific research. The progression of research and manufacturing projects has qualified the Knowledge Hub Aichi for international level quality in research. Collaboration with the international research community will help bring in more people, funding, and innovation. The profile of Aichi's academic community will also receive a boost from the Knowledge Hub Aichi.

More MRJ Sales

Mitsubishi Aircraft Company of Nagoya has confirmed a deal with SkyWest, Inc. for 200 MRJ90 regional jets, including 100 options.

The MRJ90 holds 90 seats in a single class, compared with 70 for the MRJ70. The sizes are desirable for U.S. regional carriers. Bradford R. Rich, President, SkyWest, Inc. He said, "SkyWest believes the MRJ, with its significant advancements in fuel economy, passenger comfort, and environmental friendliness, will be a valued addition to our fleet. We are looking forward to strengthening our relationship with Mitsubishi Aircraft".

Mitsubishi currently anticipates first deliveries for SkyWest, Inc. to happen in 2017. This is a significant show of confidence in still in initial production MRJ. SkyWest's current order has a list value of US \$4.2 billion, and an additional US \$4.2 billion related to the executable 100 options.

Green Energy in Aichi

This January the Aichi Public Enterprise Bureau and Tahara City reached an agreement with Mitsubishi Corporation and C-Tech Corporation to develop a large scale solar and wind project in Tahara City. The location is on the Atsumi Peninsula in southern Aichi, and is known for its warm climate. Evaluations of the area have shown that Tahara City has some of the best sunlight and wind conditions. So this project will take advantage of these optimum conditions to produce renewable energy for supply to local communities.

The agreement between Mitsubishi and C-Tech will establish the "Tahara Solar Co., Ltd." This new company will be in charge of constructing and operation of the 77 MW power plant. This will make the wind and solar power plant one of the largest renewable energy projects in Japan. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer and then in 2014 the power plant will be ready to begin selling electricity to Chubu Electric Power Company. The total cost of the project will be over 20 billion yen.



Photo Courtesy of Aichi Public Enterprise Bureau

Mitsubishi has been collaborating with not only private partners but also local governments including Aichi Prefecture. The development of renewable energy will improve Japan's energy self-sufficiency and help decrease the use of fossil fuel locally and globally. The project will also support innovations in and development of new industries. Mitsubishi currently operates a total of 130 MW of solar energy in Japan, and the company is planning to expand its renewable energy to 200 MW by 2020.

Aichi Prefecture is involved in a number of project to help our prefecture and Japan become a low carbon emission society. Support for developing renewable energy as well as reducing the use of fossil fuels and improving efficiency. These efforts have help Aichi become #1 in home solar power production, and there are 5 major renewable energy projects currently being planned or in operation.

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