

January 21, 2003

Public Relations
Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Tel: +81-6-6222-5551
Fax: +81-6-6222-2875

Ono Announces Completion of Its Tsukuba Research Institute

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Osaka City, President: Kimiichiro Matsumoto) announced today that the Tsukuba Research Institute was completed on December 28, 2002, and the completion ceremony was held on January 20, 2003. The Institute was constructed in the Tsukuba Northern Industrial Park, Ibaraki Prefecture, to serve as the hub for genomics-based drug development, the core of Ono's future projects.

In addition to gathering further information concerning the genomic basis of drug discovery, the exploratory research activities for novel compounds will be promoted at the Institute. This effort will take advantage of our state-of-the-art genomic technology. Pharmacokinetics research on the developed compounds will also be performed.

Ono has two major research facilities: the Minase Research Institute for exploratory and discovery research and medicinal chemistry in new drug development; and the Fukui Research Institute for ensuring the safety of new drugs and for devising practical drug development methods. We are expecting that the Tsukuba Research Institute will effectively promote research activities by using genome-related information in cooperation with the chemical synthesis and toxicity research groups at both existing Institutes. This will contribute to the development of compounds with a maximum chance of success as drugs, as well as to shorter research times for drug development.

To reduce energy consumption, the Tsukuba Research Institute is equipped with a technical corridor to reduce the effects of solar radiation, an air-conditioning unit with an ice thermal storage system that uses off-peak electricity, a total enthalpy heat exchanger to reduce the effects of the outside air, and an infrared sensor for controlling the lighting system. In addition, special consideration will be given to the conservation of the natural environment, and the existing trees on the premises of the Institute will be preserved.

At present, trial operations and adjustments are being conducted on the facilities and equipment at the Institute so that its operation can begin in early April.

[Outline of the Tsukuba Research Institute]

Location: 17-2, Wadai, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture

Construction commenced: October 10, 2001

Structure: Three-story building with steel framed reinforced concrete structure

Premises:

Lot area: 98,081.00 m²

Building area: 4,296.076 m²

Total floor area: 8,734.487 m²

(Research building) 6,243.403 m²

(Administration building) 1,721.794 m²

(Energy center and other buildings) 769.290 m²

Total construction cost: approx. 5 billion yen