

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005

## **Announcement for the Completed Expansion Work on the Production Capacity of Super Pure Ammonium Hydroxide in the Niigata Factory**

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo/ President: Odaka, Hideki) has been directing the expansion work on the production capacity of Super Pure Ammonium Hydroxide in the Niigata factory (Niigata-shi, Niigata), which has seen the completion at the end of January this year.

With this expansion work, the production capacity is to reach 15,000 tons annually that is approximately double the present capacity. In consequence, following the case of Super Pure Hydrogen Peroxide, we are expected to hold domestically the highest level of production capacity for Super Pure Ammonium Hydroxide. The new facility is expected to be enabled for the product shipment by the end of March, following the forthcoming facility launch, trial operation and so on.

The domestic use of Super Pure Ammonium Hydroxide is estimated to record approximately 15,000 tons annually, used as a means of cleaner for the process involved in the production of semiconductor devices and silicon wafers. In parallel to trends of increased cleanliness and larger specifications associated with silicon wafers in recent years, its demand has seen consistent increases.

In 1987, our company began participating in the production of Super Pure Ammonium Hydroxide with the liquid ammonia as a basic ingredient that had been produced in the Niigata factory. Though we have been steadily increasing its production, the decision has been made to go ahead with the enhancement work on a basis of our intention to stabilize the supplying capability and further affirm the foundation of our business, and also to cater for the increased demand both from the domestic and foreign markets since spring last year, induced by the thriving semiconductor industry. Although the semiconductor market is experiencing a temporary stagnation since autumn last year, we expect further growth in both the domestic and foreign demands as it is considered that the necessary inventory adjustment will be completed in a short while.

In times ahead, we aim to further strengthen the business foundation for our key products of Super Pure Hydrogen Peroxide and Super Pure Ammonium Hydroxide. At the same time, we also intend to make efforts in expanding our business for Super Pure and high-performance chemicals suited for semiconductors, FPD and print circuit boards that include the high-performance chemicals (series of products known as ELM CLEAN) such as the cleaner and remover, and also the chemical polishing solutions.

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