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Japan's Asahi Kasei establishes life science unit to drive bioprocess businesses forward

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With the aim to expand as part of the growing healthcare sector business

To meet growing demand from the pharmaceutical industry, Japan-based Asahi Kasei has established Asahi Kasei Life Science to operate its bioprocess businesses under a new organisational structure. Through this change, the company can offer the industry more agile and focused services, deeper innovation in bioprocess solutions, and stronger support in emerging modalities.

As part of the evolving pharmaceutical ecosystem, where multiple stakeholders are involved in drug development and manufacturing, Asahi Kasei's bioprocess-related business units have operated under Asahi Kasei Life Science since April 1st of this year.

This includes virus removal filters Planova and Microfilters BioOptimal, its contract research organization (CRO) testing services performed by ViruSure of Austria, acquired in 2019, and Bionique Testing Laboratories (Bionique) of the US, acquired in 2021, as well as the US-based biologics contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO), Bionova Scientific (Bionova), acquired in 2022.

Asahi Kasei Life Science covers a broad range of bioprocess products and services. Planova virus removal filters and equipment used in the manufacturing process of biotherapeutic products contribute to improved safety and productivity for antibody drugs, plasma derivatives, and nucleic acid drugs. Recently launched products such as Planova's FG1 and THESYS SCS and ACS Columns are already highly valued by customers.

In line with the strategic expansion of its Healthcare business sector, Asahi Kasei has expanded its production and service capabilities for its bioprocess-related business throughout the past years. In 2023, the company scaled its facility in Glenview,

Illinois, to fuel innovation and meet growing market needs for fluid management equipment and virus filtration technology. In 2024, a new assembly plant for Planova was completed in Nobeoka, Miyazaki, Japan to further ensure stable supply in response to the growing global demand.

Furthermore, Asahi Kasei decided to launch its plasmid DNA business under Bionova and establish a new pDNA facility in Texas. The business is expected to grow by providing solutions for new modalities such as cell and gene therapy. Asahi Kasei Life Science will continue proactive investment in these products to drive innovation and reinforce its leadership in the field.