

Acquisition of stocks of Nippon Atomized Metal Powders Corporation(NAMPC),
for making our subsidiary – for further expansion of business and its base –
(August 10, 2000)

We acquired 55% of stocks of NAMPC, a large manufacturer of copper and other various metal powders, (plant: Noda city, Chiba prefecture) making NAMPC our subsidiary.

While we are the largest supplier of Antimony Trioxide for use, as flame retardant additives for plastic products in office automation and home electric appliances and as polymerization catalysts of polyester fibers, we have been studying possibility of M&A of promising manufacturer in the field of non-ferrous metals, related to our core business, with understanding that expansion of operation and its base by good use of business resources is our current important subject.

On the other hand, NAMPC is one of the excellent manufacturers in the field of metal powder processing, established in 1964 and ranking the 3rd. Although they have been maintaining good profitability and financial standing, they were looking for somebody who can take over technologies and reputation with further development, while in keeping good performances, due to age problem of the management. We can say that the needs from both sides resulted in the acquisition.

NAMPC's products are mainly used for powder metallurgies as micro motor bearings of personal computers and cellular phones and as paste of printed circuit and are now being supported by the brisk demand of materials from information and communication appliances.

In addition to the above, various types of alloy powders such as tin powder, lead powder, zinc powder, brass powder, bronze powder, nickel powder, cobalt powder, stainless steel powder and silver powder over and above copper powder are produced for use as paints, abrasive materials, plastic mixtures and catalyst etc.

We would appreciate your continued patronage towards these items as well as our various antimony products.

Thank you.