

INCJ to sell its share in UniZeo Co., Ltd.

Tokyo, December 7, 2018 — INCJ, Ltd. (“INCJ”) announced today that it has agreed to sell all its shares in UniZeo Co., Ltd. (“UniZeo”) to the company’s representative director, Yasuo Yamazaki.

About UniZeo Co., Ltd.

Established: May 2013

Representative: President & CEO Yasuo Yamazaki

Headquarters: Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo

Business outline: R&D, manufacture, and sales of zeolites produced using OSDA-free zeolite-synthesis technology

URL: <http://unizeo.com/index.html/>

About INCJ, Ltd.

INCJ, Ltd. was established in September 2018 via company split from Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ). INCJ was established in July 2009 with the aim of overcoming boundaries between companies and industries, creating and nurturing key industries via open innovation for the prosperity of future generations, and the company has changed its name to Japan Investment Corporation (JIC) and begun new activities. INCJ, Ltd. will continue the activities of INCJ, engaging in “Value Up” activities such as overseeing additional investments, milestone investments and exits from investments in portfolio companies until March 2025.

URL : <http://www.incj.co.jp>

Appendix

Target: UniZeo Co., Ltd.

Established: May 2013

Headquarters: Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo

Representative: Yasuo Yamazaki

Business outline: R&D, manufacture, and sales of zeolites produced using OSDA-free zeolite-synthesis technology

Overview of investment

Authorized investment: JPY 600 million (maximum)

Amount invested: JPY 570 million

Co-investors: Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Venture Capital Co., Ltd., SMBC Venture Capital

- Investment announcement: September 2013:
- Press Release:
<https://www.incj.co.jp/english/news/upload/docs/4c97958723dd008a5aee1fd6a65b6ce0353100d0.pdf>
- Investment structure diagram:
<https://www.incj.co.jp/english/performance/upload/docs/UniZeo.pdf>

1. Background to investment

UniZeo was established in May 2013 for commercializing an innovative *zeolite synthesis technology that eliminated the need for organic templates (structure-directing agents; SDA), which had previously been necessary in traditional synthesizing techniques. Zeolites synthesized via UniZeo's technology have higher crystallinity and lower ratios of silica and alumina, giving them greater ion exchange capacity, heat resistance, and water resistance than existing products, so there was the possibility for them to be applied to a wide range of fields beyond automobile and petrochemical catalysts. INCJ provided support for the development of manufacturing technology suitable for commercialization, with the hope that UniZeo would become a model for other venture materials companies that have commercialized unique platform technology resulting from sophisticated academic research.

*Zeolite:

Zeolites are minerals composed mainly of silicon dioxide and aluminum oxide. A number of types are known to science, differing according to their crystalline structure. They are widely used as adsorbents and catalysts in processes such as treatment of automotive exhaust gases and synthesis of petrochemical products.

2. Business progress

Despite the high value of UniZeo's zeolite to major catalyst producers, especially as an ingredient in SCR*, the company was unable to form cooperative partnerships. In addition, the company faced difficulty acquiring additional financing necessary to overcome various challenges for the

commercialization.

UniZeo's zeolite synthesis technology is highly regarded by leading companies both within Japan and overseas. UniZeo has transferred control of its intellectual property, equipment, and other assets to a domestic materials manufacturer, which will manage the technology and drive it forward.

*SCR: Selective Catalytic Reduction

3. Reason for exit

Under the circumstances, INCJ discussed with UniZeo Representative Director Yasuo Yamasaki for the purchase all of UniZeo's shares and reached agreement.

While commercialization was not successfully achieved, INCJ plans to continue proactively supporting commercialization ventures based on innovative technology developed at major companies or universities through strengthening of management structures, and the development of strategic partners in a variety of different business areas as well as capital investment.

4. Statement from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Proactive support of venture businesses from the initial development remains important in order to strengthen Japan's industrial competitiveness going forward. This project has allowed for the accumulation of expertise regarding the early-stage support of venture companies and will help ensure the profitability of future projects.

<Press Contacts>

Japan Investment Corporation Communications, Irie, Sakai

Tel. (03) 5218-7202