

**Construction of a new factory for flat panel display manufacturing equipment:
Playing a major role in production and quality testing of manufacturing equipment
for glass substrates from 8th generation onwards**

The FPD Equipment Company (President: Yoshinari Yaoi) of Dainippon Screen Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Kyoto, Japan), recently initiated construction of a new flat panel display (hereafter, "FPD") manufacturing equipment factory within SCREEN's existing Hikone plant (480-1 Takamiya-cho, Hikone, Shiga). The factory is expected to start operations by November 2006.

With the escalating popularity of flat televisions, an increased number of capital investments have been predicted within the FPD industry after 2006 in preparation for the production of large-size panels using 7th and 8th generation glass substrates. FPD manufacturing equipment makers have modified factories to handle the larger-size panels and work to improve production systems to produce larger FPD manufacturing equipment is a top priority.

After examining the various trends within the industry, construction has commenced on the new factory, which will operate as SCREEN's fifth FPD manufacturing equipment production base. The new factory will be mainly used for quality testing, demonstrations, and production of the coater/developer equipment for TFT liquid-crystal display panels with 8th generation glass substrates. A large clean room measuring 50 meters in width, 80 meters in length and a ceiling height of 6 meters has the capability of running two production lines for 8th generation equipment, each requiring 2,000 square meters of production space. The factory has also been constructed without central pillars to allow for more flexible layout possibilities as well as large scale production of 9th generation equipment that will appear in the future.

Completion of the new factory means production space for SCREEN's FPD manufacturing equipment will increase 1.6-fold, ultimately lead to a superior production equipment capable of providing a diverse range of products to panel manufacturers at the most opportune time.

SCREEN aims to strengthen its competitive edge within the FPD industry with this new factory. With products such as the industry leading coater/developer and a range of other products, SCREEN intends to further expand on its position within the FPD industry.



Artist's rendition of completed new factory

Please download the photo from
<http://www.screen.co.jp/press/nr-photo/indexE.html>

< New Factory Overview >

Location:	480-1 Takamiya-cho, Hikone, Shiga
Size of Site:	Approximately 8,100 square meters (The total area of the Hikone plant is approximately 144,300 square meters)
Building Footprint:	Approximately 6,400 square meters
Floor Space:	Approximately 6,800 square meters
Building Type:	Steel structure, single story building (with some 2-story sections)
Cost:	Approximately 1.5 billion yen
Start of Construction:	May 2006
Start of Operations:	November 2006
Intended Use:	Quality testing and production of FPD manufacturing equipment