

# Completion Ceremony Held for One of the Largest-scale Wood-derived Sugar Solution and Ethanol Pilot Plant in Japan

Aiming to Shift from Fossil-derived to Wood Biomass-derived Materials—

Oji Holdings Corporation (President: Hiroyuki Isono, Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo) is pleased to announce that on Wednesday May 21, 2025, it held a completion ceremony for a wood-derived sugar solution and ethanol pilot plant that was constructed within the Yonago Mill of Oji Paper Co., Ltd. (President: Atsushi Sekiguchi, Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo).



**Completion Ceremony** 

Completed pilot plant

To realize a sustainable society, we are working to develop new materials derived from wood to replace fossil-derived plastics and fuels in the existing manufacturing processes with biomass-derived materials.

Among these, "wood-derived sugar solutions", which are expected to be used in a wide range of applications as a key raw material for bio-manufacturing, and "wood-derived ethanol", which can be used to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and basic chemicals for the chemical industry, are expected to see growing demand in the future.

The pilot plant is one of the largest scale in Japan with an annual production capacity of 3,000 tons of wood-derived sugar solutions and 1,000 KL of wood-derived ethanol. We will accelerate these initiatives by conducting demonstration experiments at the plant, aiming for commercialization in FY2030.

On the day of the completion ceremony, Tottori Prefecture Governor Mr. Shinji Hirai and Ms. Naomi Trauden, our TV commercials model, participated in the ceremony and plant tour.

# Naomi Trauden speaking at the panel discussion "Wood has infinite possibilities. We owe so much to trees."

After a traditional ceremony and a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Ms. Trauden and President Isono participated in a panel discussion. Looking at wood-derived sugar solutions and ethanol manufactured at the pilot plant and listening to an explanation, Ms. Trauden, looking surprised and hopeful, said, "Wood has infinite possibilities. Recycling ligneous resources connects trees more closely to our lives." Asked what she thought about our initiatives to realize a sustainable society while maintaining forest resources, she said, "I can feel your belief in wood. This project is a catalyst for the development of environmentally friendly products. I am excited and look forward to them."



## Overview of the Oji Holdings pilot plant

Address	373, Yoshioka, Yonago-shi, Tottori, Japan
Business	Manufacturing wood-derived sugar solutions and ethanol derived from wood
Building area	1,025 tsubo

#### About sugar solutions and ethanol derived from wood

We are promoting R&D related to wood-derived sugar solutions and ethanol using wood, a renewable resource. The procurement of wood does not compete with food production. In addition to being renewable, wood is inedible, unlike corn and sugarcane, which began to be used in the production of biomass-derived products before wood.

Both sugar solutions derived from wood and ethanol derived from wood are very versatile. It is expected that they will be used in a wide range of fields as raw materials that are an alternative to petroleum-derived products. Accordingly, there is anticipation for their rapid mass production. Utilizing the existing pulp manufacturing process at the paper mills, we are aiming for commercialization using as a raw material, wood pulp that has been used for papermaking.



The biomanufacturing of products derived from wood that is the Oji Group's goal

#### **O** Wood-derived sugar solution

A wood-derived sugar solution containing glucose as a main component is manufactured by decomposing cellulose, a main component of wood pulp, using the enzyme cellulase. Biomanufacturing is the process of making products such as plastics, fibers, and rubber that have conventionally been made from petroleum using materials of biological origin utilizing the power of living organisms such as microorganisms. Wood-derived sugar solutions are a basic raw material for biomanufacturing.

### O Ethanol derived from wood

Ethanol derived from wood is manufactured by fermenting a wood-derived sugar solution using yeast cultured in the plant. When fermentation is completed, ethanol and water are still mixed together. The ethanol is then separated and refined through distillation.

Ethanol can be used to manufacture Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), basic chemical and industrial products.

Contact

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