

Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## NEWS RELEASE

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, GEI's Bio-Foundry Base <sup>\*1</sup> was visited by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (5 members led by Mr. Hirokazu Shimoda, the director of the Biochemical Industry Division, Commerce and Service Group of METI), New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (3 members led by Mr. Tomoyasu Nishimura, the executive director of NEDO) and Professor Minoru Seki of Chiba University, the leader of the "Development of Bio-Based Production Technology to Accelerate Carbon Recycling" project.

The observation party visited Bio-Foundry Base in Mobara Branch Factory of Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. in Mobara City, Chiba Prefecture, where GEI is constructing and assembling Bio-Foundry Base. The party also observed the status of the Bio-Engineering Bench<sup>\*2</sup> (Fig.1), which has already been in operation, and the Bio-Foundry Research Center (Fig.2 and 3), which is currently under construction.

GEI has been building up this Bio-Foundry Base as a development infrastructure for bio-production processes and the core of the global bio-community<sup>\*3</sup> to promote bio-production demonstrations in the industry and the academia, budgeted 5.4 billion yen<sup>\*4</sup> over 6 years since 2021. It is also an open base for human resource development for bio-manufacturing.

With full-scale operation in coming spring, the production demonstration of various bio-chemicals will be executed at this base.

Through this Bio-Foundry Project, GEI will boost the commercialization of bio-derived chemical products and contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society.

(Fig.1: Equipment at Bio-Engineering Bench)



(Fig. 2: Exterior of Bio-Foundry Research Center)



(Fig.3: Equipment installed in Bio-Foundry Research Center)



\*1 Based on the government's "Bio-Strategy 2020 (Fundamental Measures)" (announced by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020), GEI started constructing and organizing Bio-Foundry Base in 2021.

\*2 Please refer to the press release dated May 24, 2022 (Japanese version only)

\*3 A cross sectoral community that can lead smooth and tight collaboration among the world's most advanced research institutions and business sector of the industries, to accelerate commercialization.

\*4 The scale of the project may change due to changes in the NEDO budget, etc.

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