



July 8, 2022

**Notice Regarding Installation of Krypton and Xenon Gas Manufacturing Equipment at
the Fukuyama Plant of JFE Sanso Center Corporation**

Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corporation (“TNSC”, President: Kenji Nagata) announces that it has decided to newly install manufacturing equipment for krypton and xenon, which are rare gases, at the Fukuyama Plant of JFE Sanso Center Corporation (President: Masahiro Uehara), which is operated through a joint venture with JFE Steel Corporation (President and CEO: Yoshihisa Kitano).

1. Background

Rare gases (krypton and xenon) are harvested as byproducts during the manufacturing of oxygen, nitrogen, and argon in large-scale air separation units. For this reason, Japan, where there are very few large-scale air separation units, relies on imports for the majority of its rare gases.

In terms of demand, rare gases are used primarily in fields such as electronics, lighting, outer space, and energy conservation. Although demand has been increasing globally in recent years, the reality is that supply is becoming tight. Furthermore, the Japanese government has recognized these rare gases as gases used in the semiconductor manufacturing process. It regards these rare gases as materials that immediately require the implementation of countermeasures to guarantee a stable supply and will consider steps to be taken.

TNSC manufactures rare gases at Oita Sanso Center Co., Ltd. However, in light of the circumstances of demand and the government’s policy, it has strengthened production in Japan in order to stably provide customers with rare gases, and decided to newly install rare gas manufacturing equipment at the Fukuyama Plant of JFE Sanso Center Corporation to toughen the supply chain.

2. Overview of new rare gas manufacturing equipment

Location of installation: JFE Sanso Center Corporation, Fukuyama Plant

Production capacity: Krypton 2,600,000 L/year

Xenon 210,000 L/year

Scheduled beginning of operation: April 2024

3. Overview of JFE Sanso Center Corporation

Locations: (Head office and Fukuyama Plant) 1-Kokancho, Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture

(Keihin Plant) 1-Ogishima, Kawasaki Ward, Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture

(Kurashiki Plant) 1-chome Mizushimakawasakidori, Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture

Establishment: April 1, 1966

Capital: ¥90 million

Investment ratio: TNSC: 60%, JFE Steel Corporation: 40%

Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corporation

Tnsc.Info@tn-sanso.co.jp