

Japanese biotechnology startup Spiber announces construction of world's largest structural protein fermentation facility in Thailand after BOI approval

BANGKOK, 27 January 2020 – Japanese biotechnology company Spiber Inc. (Spiber) today announces that the company has been approved by the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) and plans to construct a biotechnology plant for protein fermentation and purification operations at the Eastern Seaboard Industrial Estate in Rayong Province. The construction of the new plant represents Spiber's first expansion overseas. This new plant is expected to be the world's largest structural protein fermentation facility (as of January 27, 2020; independent research), with a planned production capacity of several hundred tons per year, and will serve as a base of operations for research and development into fermentation and purification technologies for structural proteins. Commercial production is expected to begin in 2021, and the BOI is granting tax exemption status for 10 years.

The primary factor that led to Spiber's investment in Thailand is the country's ideal location, plentiful in biomass resources needed in the company's fermentation production process. Additionally, Thailand boasts strong supply chains in several industries of interest to Spiber, such as clothes and automotives, which may be useful for potential future operations.

In line with this expansion, Spiber is looking to recruit employees for roles in fields such as production engineering, plant engineering, human resources, administration, accounting, and finance, as well as drivers.

Spiber is one of the most advanced biotechnology companies in the world and has applied for more than 200 patents in a variety of fields. The company is working to develop technology for the production of biodegradable, environmentally-friendly materials that do not rely on traditional petroleum resources. Receiving approval from the BOI to establish this plant in Thailand represents the achievement of a significant business goal for Spiber, who will continue to develop technology related to the production of next-generation, innovative materials as part of their mission to address global environment issues and help actualize a sustainable society for all mankind.

Spiber Inc.

Founded:	September 26, 2007
Location:	234-1 Mizukami Kakuganji Tsuruoka, Yamagata 997-0052, Japan
Representative Executive Officer:	Kazuhide Sekiyama
Business Domain:	New-generation biomaterial development
Paid-in Capital:	¥22.44366 billion (incl. capital reserves, etc.)
Employees:	223 members (as of Apr. 2019)
Home Page:	https://www.spiber.jp/en

Spiber Inc., established in September 2007, is a Japanese biotechnology startup engaged in the development of novel sustainable materials. The company recently announced Brewed Protein™, its proprietary structural protein materials produced through an entirely in-house brewing (i.e. fermentation) process. Free from reliance on animal and petroleum resources, this revolutionary new material is well positioned to contribute to animal-free and plastic-free initiatives in the clothes and automotive industries. Including significant government grant support, Spiber has raised more than 30 billion yen (approximately 275 million USD) to date, and is currently engaged in various upscaling and process-refinement initiatives.

Spiber will be holding recruitment sessions in Bangkok on March 7, 2020, and in Rayong on March 8, 2020. For more details, please refer to:

<https://www.spiber.jp/en/archives/2337>



Spiber (Thailand) Ltd.

Contact person: Krittikar Kawakami (Ms.), Yasuhiko Yuki Yoshi (Mr.)

Phone Number: +66-2-260-8367

No.159/18 Sermmit Tower Building, 11th Floor, Sukhumvit 21 (Asoke) Road, North Klongtoey, Wattana, Bangkok 10110