

## Special Feature: Collaboration with South Korean Group Companies – Towards Realizing Our Ideal Figure

Born in 1916 as the first company in Japan to manufacture caustic soda using the electrolysis method, the Hodogaya Chemical Group has worked to expand its business and grow by responding to the needs of the times and continuously innovating. In recent years, we have worked to build a cross-border development and sales structure to address the remarkable globalization of the economy. By investing in South Korea and promoting personnel exchanges with the country in particular, we aim to achieve further innovation as well as business expansion and growth.

### A Global Research Structure

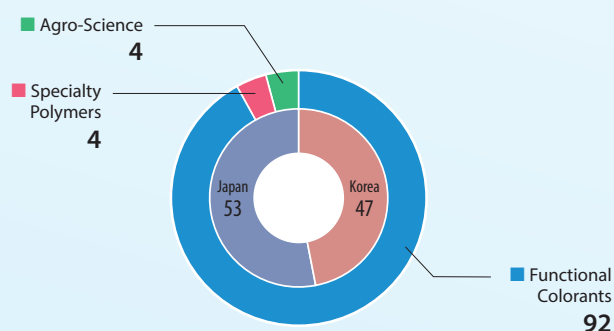
In addressing the rapidly expanding market for OLED displays, the Hodogaya Chemical Group is particularly focused on building a development structure in South Korea, where core panel manufacturers compete. Through the establishment of a development base in the South Korean market and collaboration with Japan, we will engage in comprehensive and speedy proposals involving OLED materials and will contribute

to the future of displays. Moreover, applying our proprietary technology and knowledge gained primarily in the OLED field, we will also launch development in the promising growth areas of biotechnology and semiconductor materials, which we will connect to the creation of a new portfolio that fully leverages the strengths of our development structure in South Korea.

### Research and Development that Leverages Our Geographical Advantage in South Korea

By prioritizing the establishment of a development structure in South Korea, the Hodogaya Chemical Group has increased the percentage of basic patent applications originating at its South Korean base. We will continue to place importance on this development structure in South Korea.

Percentage of patent applications, FY2022–FY2024 (%)  
(by country and segment)



### Our Japan-South Korea Personnel Interaction Structure

In building and deepening its structure in South Korea, the Hodogaya Chemical Group is working to invigorate personnel interaction across the Group as a whole.

For purposes of human resource development, we conduct overseas practical training by which we send young researchers from Japan on short-term assignments to South Korea. The researchers study new technologies and gain knowledge that they can apply to their own work from a global perspective. In the Research & Development Department, several Japanese researchers are currently working at posts in South Korea, undertaking R&D work from a long-term perspective while actively communicating with researchers in South Korea. At Group-wide presentations of research outcomes, staff from South Korea come to Japan to share the latest research topics. The Company prepares subsequent opportunities to deepen friendship, ensuring information sharing and heightening the sense of Group unity. Our business departments are also integrated with development departments, constantly tracking the quality and performance demanded by markets and staying involved in joint Japan-South Korea development sales.



Through these active personnel interaction initiatives, we will continue striving to build and deepen a structure tailored to the business environment.