The Hodogaya Chemical Group's History of Innovation



Otosuke Isomura
Founder

Hodogaya Chemical was founded in 1916 as the first company in Japan to manufacture caustic soda using an electrolysis method.

Since its foundation 111 years ago, Hodogaya Chemical has responded to the needs of the times by applying technologies developed over those long years, and through continuous innovation, created a wide range of products from dyes and agricultural chemicals to pharmaceutical intermediates, polyurethane materials and OLED materials, which support people's lifestyles and society.

As a corporate group, all members of the Hodogaya Chemical Group are committed to executing CODE/CHORD 2030 and contributing to the development of society through the creation of products and services that benefit people for the next 100 years.

1915
Hodogaya Soda Works founded in present-day Hodogaya Ward, Yokohama City, Kanagawa.

•1916
Toyo Soda Co., Ltd. (present-day Koriyama Plant) opened.



•1939
Tsurumi Plant (current Yokohama Plant) was established.
Name changed to Hodogaya Chemical Co., Ltd.



•1967
New York Office opened. (incorporated in 1986)

•1971
Nanyo Plant opened.



•1978
Hodogaya Vandex Construction Products Co., Ltd. established. (changed its name to Hodogaya Construction Products Co., Ltd. in 2017).

•1991
Tsukuba Research Laboratory was established.



•1993
Hodogaya Contract Laboratory Co., Ltd. founded.

•1994
HODOGAYA AGROS Co., Ltd. founded. (Changed its trade name to HODOGAYA AGROTECH Co., Ltd. in 2011.)

•1997
Hodogaya Logistics Co., Ltd. founded.
Shanghai Office opened. (Incorporated in 2014)

•2006
Some of the shares of Nippon Polyurethane Industry Co., Ltd. sold. (all shares sold off in 2012.)

•2008
Office in South Korea opened (incorporated in 2011).
HODOGAYA UPL Co., Ltd. established.

•2010
Düsseldorf Office opened. (incorporated in 2018)
Taipei Office opened.
Shares of SFC Co. Ltd. (South Korea) acquired.

•2015
Transitioned to company with Audit & Supervisory Committee.

•2022
Transition to the Prime Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.
Head office moved (Shiodome)

•2023
Completed construction of SFC BioPark (South Korea)

•2025
SFC Co., Ltd. (South Korea) absorbed REXCEL Co., Ltd. (South Korea).

2026
Celebrated its 110th anniversary

•2026
Acquisition of equity interests in Framochem (Hungary) (making it a wholly owned subsidiary)

* Non-consolidated figures through 1976, but consolidated figures since 1977.
* The figures for 1946–1950 are unknown because of postwar disposal.

Products developed

1915
Production of caustic soda using an electrolysis method launched (first for Japan).



1926
Production of phosgene started (first commercialized in Japan).

1927
Dye production launched.



1950
Production of agrochemicals started.

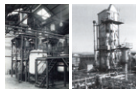


1963
Production of urethane materials (PTG) launched (first for Japan).

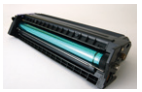
1966
Hydrogen peroxide production started.

1967
Production of urethane waterproof materials started (first in Japan).

1978
Production of charge control agents (CCA) for toners launched.



1984
Charge transport materials (CTM) production launched.



2001
Production of OLED materials and hole transport materials (HTM) launched.

2004
OLED materials and electron transport materials (ETM) developed.

2017
Production of OXYATTACK (disinfectant agent for food products), a peracetic acid formulation, started.
Urethane waterproof material Sugomaku production launched.

2020
Mass production of materials for PCR diagnostic kits launched.

2021
Began production of metal-free dyes for aluminum coloring.

2024
Started production of PTG-SOFTENA.

Needs of society

1920
- **1914** World War I
- **1923** The Great Kanto Earthquake

Broke free of chemical industry's reliance on imports

1930
- **1939** World War II

Became an integrated chemicals manufacturer as society industrialized and modernized

1940
- **1950** Postwar rebuilding
- **1960** Rapid economic growth
- **1973** Oil crises

Developed various products that supported post-war recovery

1980
- **1985** Plaza Accord
- **1991** Economic bubble burst

Expanded business fields to electronic materials with an eye toward the emergence of an electronics era

2000
- **2008** The collapse of Lehman Brothers
- **2011** Great East Japan Earthquake
- **2020** Novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Creating an environmentally conscious society through new materials and products with low environmental impact

Technological roots and change

Original products (1916–)

- Caustic soda
- Salt electrolysis
  - Chlorine
  - Hydrogen

Raw materials and intermediates	Major product groups	-1980	-2000	Present day
Aromatic compounds	Organic and optical device materials	Materials for copiers		OLED materials
				Bio materials
Natural materials	Various dyes	Aluminum coloring dyes		Color filter dyes
			Stationery dyes	
				Dyes for hair color treatment
Organic compounds	Urethane materials	Raw materials of spandex		
Phosgene	Pharmaceutical/agrochemical raw materials Industrial chemical raw materials	Raw materials for release agents		Pharmaceutical intermediates
	Urethane waterproof materials	Construction materials		
Aromatic compounds	Various herbicides	Herbicides		
			Technical grade active ingredients (in-house and in-licensed)	Agricultural materials
Hydrogen	Hydrogen peroxide and its derivatives	Hydrogen peroxide	Sodium percarbonate	Peracetic acid