

Nippon Flour Mills Adds Large, Cutting-Edge Milling Line to Its Chiba Mill.

Nippon Flour Mills Co., Ltd. (president: Masataka Horikawa) recently completed a flour milling line at its Chiba Mill, located in Mihama-ku, Chiba, which is one of the Company's core facilities in the Tokyo metropolitan area. With the completion of the construction, which commenced in April 2004, a cutting-edge line that is the largest of its kind in the Japanese flour milling industry is now in full-scale operation.

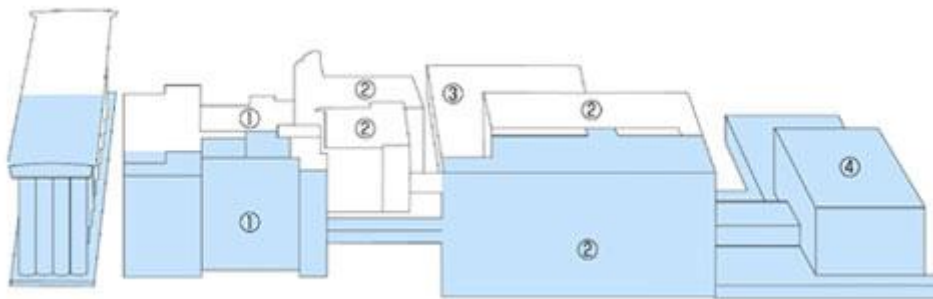
The Chiba Mill is capable of unloading wheat and corn from large cargo vessels and is located in the Chiba New Port, convenient to transporting goods to the Tokyo metropolitan area. The construction of Mill D, the fourth flour milling line in the Mill, was designed to help the Company benefit from the inherent advantages of this facility so that it can succeed in what has become a highly competitive international operating environment. The construction was a key project in the 05/07 Medium-Term Business Plan, which aims to create a highly profitable business structure to increase the Company's competitiveness and bolster sales by strengthening product supply capabilities. Incorporating start-of-the-art information technology that calls on the accumulated expertise of Nippon Flour Mills, Mill D is a major new line that boasts stellar quality and productivity. It also features Japan's greatest production capacity, at 500 metric tons per day.

As a result, the total production capacity of the Chiba Mill, including the existing equipment and the corn mill, increased to 1,600 metric tons per day. A Flour silo equipped with a fully-automated bulk shipment system was completed at the same time. The Mill also has a highly efficient automated high-rise warehouse system and material grain silo that was finished October last year and put into service, to raise the total capacity including that of existing silos to 75,000 metric tons.

The consequence is that the Chiba Mill has become the most sophisticated state-of-the-art flour mill in Japan.

In April 1998, this mill became the first facility in the wheat flour milling sector to acquire the ISO 9001 quality assurance certification. In November 2003, it was commended by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry as an enterprise demonstrating excellence in measurement system and in April 2004, it acquired ISO 14001 certification, an environmental management system standard. Complying with the Chiba Prefectural Ordinance on Community Development, the Chiba Mill is open to the local community, so that members of the community can feel free to visit.

Nippon Flour Mills will continue to step up its efforts in the areas of quality control, safety and reliability, environmental considerations and contributions to the local community. At the same time, by remaining fully committed to responding to demands for large-volume production and supply and engaging in customized production and joint development, the Company will continue to evolve into a diversified food company that earns the trust and satisfaction of its customers.



▲ Chiba Mill: (1) Main Mill Building, (2) Flour Silos, (3) Single-Story Warehouse with Shipping Site and (4) Automated high-rise Warehouse with Shipping Site



▲ Central Control Room

▲ Rolling machine



▲ Sifter

▲ Purifier

(Reference: Profile of Chiba Mill following expansion)

Manager	Hirokazu Shimizu
Location	229-4 Shimminato, Mihama-ku, Chiba, Chiba Prefecture
Lot area	67,500 m ²
Buildings	The main mill building, an office building, Wheat Silos, Flour Silos, Automated high-rise warehouse and others
Production capacity	1,600 metric tons per day, consisting of 500 tons produced by the new line and 1,100 tons by existing facilities including the corn mill
Wheat Silos	75,000 metric tons (comprising 25,000 metric tons covered by the new facilities and 50,000 covered by the existing facilities)