

**IWAKI & CO., LTD., a leading specialized pharmaceutical trading company, has announced today its acquisition of Jitsubo CO., LTD., a pharmaceutical venture with unique liquid phase peptide manufacturing technology, Molecular Hiving™, through its 100% subsidiary, SPERA PHARMA, Inc. a CMC R&D contract company.**

**With this transaction, Jitsubo has become 100% subsidiary of SPERA PHARMA.**

**Through this acquisition,**

**IWAKI** expects broadening and deepening its technology base by fully leveraging pharmaceutical and CMC resources of IWAKI group and diversifying IWAKI's value chain from small molecule pharmaceuticals to middle molecule pharmaceuticals, e.g. peptides.

**SPERA PHARMA** expects to provide broader services to its customers by adding capabilities for contract research and manufacturing of growing middle molecule pharmaceuticals and cosmetic products based on variety of peptides.

**Jitsubo** expects to achieve sustainable growth as a contract research company in the growing peptide market using Tag-assisted Liquid-Phase Peptide Synthesis, Molecular Hiving™, which has been gaining global recognition in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries as low cost, high quality and environment friendly technology.

#### **About IWAKI & CO., LTD.**

- Address : 8-2 Nihonbashi Honcho, 4-Chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-8403 Japan
- President & CEO : Keitaro Iwaki
- Paid in Capital : 2,687 million yen
- Main Businesses : Fine Chemical Division, Medical Division, Health & Beauty Care, Food Division, Industrial Chemicals Division
- Affiliated Companies : IWAKI & CO., LTD., Iwaki Seiyaku Co., Ltd., Meltex Inc., SPERA PHARMA, Inc., APROS Co., Ltd., Iwaki Seiyaku Sakura Factory Co., Ltd., Maruman H&B Co., Ltd., Bohen-Kasei Co., Ltd., Iwaki Research Institute Co., Ltd.
- Number of Employees : 1,295 (Consolidated group total)

- Listed on No.1 Tokyo Stock Exchange (code : 8095)
- URL : <http://www.iwaki-kk.co.jp/>

#### **About SPERA PHARMA, Inc.**

- Address : 17-85, Jusohonmachi 2-chome, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka 532-0024, Japan
- President : Tomomi Ikemoto, Ph.D.
- Paid in Capital : 310 million yen
- Main Businesses : Pharmaceuticals CMC R&D contract and manufacturing
- Number of Employees : 245
- URL : <https://www.spera-pharma.co.jp/en/>

#### **About Jitsubo CO., LTD.**

- Address : Life Science Research Center 4-1  
1-1-43 Suehiro-cho, Tsurumi, Yokohama, Kanagawa 230-0045 Japan
- CEO : Kazuaki Kanai, Ph. D.
- Paid in Capital : 10 million yen
- Main Businesses : Development of peptide synthesis technology, Molecular Hiving™, Development, Technology Transfer and Licensing of peptide synthesis process
- Number of Employees : 20
- URL : [www.jitsubo.com/en](http://www.jitsubo.com/en)

#### **Contact**

For further information, please visit respective websites or contact person below.

- For Jitsubo CO., LTD.  
Kiichiro Ohya, CSO  
Tel : +81-45-633-4327  
E-mail : [ohya@jitsubo.com](mailto:ohya@jitsubo.com)