



NIMTEC INC. CHANGES NAME TO NIKKO MATERIALS

Change Supports Name Unification of Worldwide Operations

CHANDLER, Ariz., April 2, 2001 As part of an international name unification of operations under its parent company Japan Energy Corporation, NIMTEC Inc. has changed its name to Nikko Materials.

This decision signals a move to uniformity of the names of similar operating companies within Japan Energy Corp.

In addition to NIMTEC, Japan Energy Corp. subsidiaries NIMTEC GmbH in Europe, Japan Energy Pte Ltd. in Singapore, and Japan Energy (Taiwan) Co. are united under the Nikko Materials name.

"Changing our name to Nikko Materials harmonizes all of the names of our fellow subsidiary companies worldwide," said Robert H. Combs, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nikko Materials.

"With today's burgeoning electronic materials market, customers need only remember one name Nikko Materials for all their sputtering target, anode and compound semiconductor wafer needs."

The name Nikko Materials is indicative of the company's long-standing history in metals development and wide array of products currently offered from copper foils to sputtering targets in many compound and pure metal configurations.

The word "Nikko" is a contraction of the Japanese words "Nippon" (meaning Japan) and the word "ko" (meaning mining).

Operating as Nikko Materials, the company will maintain worldwide operations, providing the same high-quality products and services the global semiconductor, information display and data storage markets have come to expect from NIMTEC.

About Nikko Materials

Nikko Materials is a recognized leader in the field of high purity metals and wafers used in the microelectronics and communications industries.

Nikko Materials offers a wide variety of sputtering targets for the manufacture of semiconductors, data storage devices and optical films.

In addition to these products, Nikko Materials offers InP and CdTe wafers used for compound semiconductor and IR sensor application

Nikko Materials is a subsidiary of Japan Energy Corporation, a widely diversified company active in petroleum products, non-ferrous metals and electronic materials.

About Japan Energy

Japan Energy Corporation is one of Japan's leading integrated suppliers of energy.

Its operations encompass exploration, development, refining and marketing for a product portfolio ranging from petroleum to sophisticated metal products used in high technology sectors, such as the electronics industry.

The Japan Energy group consists of 210 subsidiaries and 92 affiliates, including the world's leading supplier of non-ferrous metals.

The company was founded as Nippon Mining in 1905, and has been a pioneer in the field of materials technology throughout the past century.

Today, through its Nikko Materials Limited subsidiaries, Japan Energy delivers a broad array of electronic materials products to the semiconductor, data storage and display industries.

Through its dedication to the pursuit of high technology and product excellence, the company has become a world leader in the development of high purity metal products.