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Ajinomoto Group Expands Cysteine Derivatives Production Capacity

Tokyo (July 16, 2014) – Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (Ajinomoto Co.) has announced that its subsidiary Nippon Protein Co., Ltd. in Japan will increase Cysteine derivatives production capacity during 2014.

Cysteine derivatives are amino acids widely used in various applications such as pharmaceutical products, bread (dough conditioner), flavors and cosmetics. Many Cysteine derivatives from other manufacturers are produced through an extraction process using animal-origin material, such as human hair and bird feathers; however, Ajinomoto Co. has developed a production method by fermentation based on raw material from vegetable sources. Making use of our own technology for producing Cysteine derivatives, Ajinomoto Co. began supplying fermentation-origin products to the market last year.

The demand for fermentation-origin Cysteine derivatives is dramatically increasing as the demand for animal-source products has fallen. Human hair and bird feather extraction methods are losing favor, in part due to the heavy environmental burdens - such as the creation of large amounts of waste water - that result from the process. Accordingly, demand for our fermentation-origin Cysteine derivatives - which is considered sustainable - is surging globally. Ajinomoto Co. is expanding to accommodate this increased demand and will prepare for further expansion to cope with customers' demand.

Ajinomoto will make the best effort to meet the market requirement by making use of our advantageous fermentation technology.

About Ajinomoto Co.

Ajinomoto Co. is a global manufacturer of high-quality seasonings, processed foods, beverages, amino acids, pharmaceuticals and specialty chemicals. For many decades Ajinomoto Co. has contributed to food culture and human health through wide-ranging application of amino acid technologies. Today, the company is becoming increasingly involved with solutions for improved food resources, human health and global sustainability. Founded in 1909 and now operating in 26 countries and regions, Ajinomoto Co. had net sales of JPY 991.3 billion (USD 11.0 billion) in fiscal 2013. For more about Ajinomoto Co. (TYO: 2802), visit www.ajinomoto.com.

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