

Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Establishes Materials Informatics Center of Excellence

Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation

Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation (MCHC; Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Hitoshi Ochi) today announced that it has established a new Materials Informatics Center of Excellence (CoE)^{*1} in the Digital Transformation Group of its Emerging Technology and Business Development Office (ETBDO). The goal is to enable and promote the proactive use of Materials Informatics^{*2} technology across the entire MCHC Group.

The Material Informatics CoE will leverage key technologies from the MCHC Group and its external partners, including academia, to speed up material development and realize early stage new material designs. The team will apply human resources with a particular focus on researchers and will promote the sharing of technology information and the building of external networks.

Across the chemical industry, in addition to conventional materials development processes, new approaches that take advantage of the latest developments in data science and artificial intelligence (AI) are being introduced. Materials Informatics, led by national projects in Japan and overseas, has drawn considerable attention over the past few years as it edges closer to practical use.

The MCHC Group has a long history of applying computational science and technologies such as quantum chemical calculations and molecular dynamics to the development of important chemical and material products. In the pharmaceutical field, the MCHC Group has used its broad experience and expertise to move aggressively into molecular design using informatics, machine learning, and molecular simulations.

The Materials Informatics CoE will create new methodologies to enable innovative materials development, while playing a central role in bringing together and expanding our established capabilities to enhance the MCHC Group's initiatives. In addition, the CoE will focus on the development of human resources to address the current lack of specialists in this important field.

*1. CoE refers to a group and hub that concentrates on high-level activities in research and development in a specific field and plays a central role in human resource development and business creation.

*2. Materials informatics is a concept that introduces Informatics in the research and development of materials, inclusive of data science and simulations.

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