JAPAN ROUNDUP

The Recombinant DNA Technology Subcommittee, attached to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry-sponsored Chemical Products Council, is planning safety guidelines which emphasize isolation of recombinant DNA and related microorganisms in advanced industrial research. This is in accordance with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

●

NGK will start a 10-year diversification program of their production of insulators by advancing into ceramics and biotechnology.

●

Yakult Honsha Co. (Minato-Ku) celebrated the completion of additional laboratories at the Yakult Central Institute for Microbiological Research (Kunitachi, Tokyo). The 3-billion-Yen facility includes labs for genetic engineering research, study of microbial activity, immunology, animal cell experiments, organic synthesis and chemistry of living organisms, an energy research wing, and 3-story GLP-capable safety test and research labs. Also, Yakult is conducting R&D on aging, involving new drugs, foodstuffs, and cosmetics.

●

Ube Industries, Ltd. has developed a plasma separator using polypropylene microporous hollow fiber membrane. Construction of a plant for its manufacture is scheduled for completion by the end of 1985. Ube will be the first company in Japan to commercialize this type of product.

●

Ube Industries will also market two monoclonals that aid in preventing fungal contamination of food and feed by targeting mycotoxins ochratoxin A and T-2-toxin.

●

Sekisui (Osaka) will work with Cetus (Emeryville, CA) in evaluating monoclonals for prostate cancer.

●

Researchers at Toyo Soda Mfg. Co., Nissan Chemical Industries Ltd., Central Grass Co. Ltd., and Hodogaya Chemical Co. Ltd. of Tokyo, have mass-produced a cloned vaccine against polio virus type 1. From a cDNA segment of VP1 inserted into *Escherichia coli*, they are developing an antigenic peptide.

●

Hayashibara Chemical Research Institute has agreed with McDonnell Douglas Corp. (St. Louis, MO) to use its electrophoresis operation system on the June 1986 space-shuttle to study a biological response modifier.

●

Hayashibara Biomedical Labs will begin construction next April of an 11-billion-Yen factory for interferon and OH-1, an anti-cancer agent.

●

Endotronics Far East Ltd. (Tokyo) was established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Endotronics (Minneapolis, MN), the biomedical and biotechnology instrumentation company. Endotronics is using cellular engineering and proprietary hollow-fiber technology for tissue culture and large-scale production of monoclonal antibodies and interferon.