

May 15, 2025

Sojitz Corporation

Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.

Sojitz Acquires Majority Shares in NIPPON A&L INC.

Sojitz Corporation (“Sojitz”), Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. (“Sumitomo Chemical”), and Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (“Mitsui Chemicals”) have concluded a share purchase agreement in which Sojitz will acquire shares of NIPPON A&L INC. (“Nippon A&L”), a company engaged in R&D, manufacturing, and sales of SBR latexes and ABS resins. Following the necessary share acquisition procedures, Sojitz is expected to purchase 66.5% of shares in Nippon A&L in July 2025. Following this acquisition, Nippon A&L will become a consolidated subsidiary of Sojitz.

As a joint venture of Sumitomo Chemical and Mitsui Chemicals, Nippon A&L is recognized as a global supplier with advanced technology in SBR latex used as anode binders for lithium-ion batteries (LiB), for which demand is expanding due to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. In the field of SBR latex for paper processing, the company boasts one of Japan’s leading supply chains and is highly regarded in both areas. Additionally, in ABS resin used for automobiles and home appliances, Nippon A&L has a stable customer base both domestically and internationally, supported by its high level of technological expertise.

Sumitomo Chemical will continue to upgrade its business portfolio in accordance with its new growth strategy under the slogan, Leap Beyond: Returning to a Growth Trajectory. The company is working to further strengthen the resilience of business structures through continuous structural reforms and to improve financial and capital efficiency. Against this backdrop, different measures have been under consideration to ensure continued growth for Nippon A&L.

As a result, Sumitomo Chemical has reached the decision to make a partial transfer of shares held in Nippon A&L to Sojitz. Sojitz has a history of handling LiB products, including Nippon A&L products, from the early days of the LiB industry. Sojitz has demonstrated business knowledge and experience coupled with an active interest in strengthening the latex businesses, and Sojitz is expected to leverage its management resources and expertise in

order to contribute to raising Nippon A&L's corporate value further.

Mitsui Chemicals' VISION 2030 Long-Term Business Plan positions "Chemistry for Sustainable World" as the company's ideal vision. In pursuing portfolio reform as a basic strategy for achieving this plan, Mitsui Chemicals aims to become a truly global specialty company by leaning on the two key pillars of a high-growth, high-profitability global specialty chemicals business and a sustainable green chemicals business centered on competitive derivatives. To maximize Nippon A&L's strengths and foster positive synergy, Mitsui Chemicals has been exploring partnerships with other companies as part of the portfolio transformation. As a result, Mitsui Chemicals has concluded this recent share purchase agreement with Sojitz based on the expectation that Nippon A&L's corporate value will increase and the company will generate new value under the Sojitz Group.

Sojitz aims to double its corporate value to reach the Next Stage as set out in Medium-term Management Plan 2026. As part of these efforts to reinforce its growth foundations, Sojitz has established energy and materials solutions as a strategic focus area to drive growth. This recent acquisition of Nippon A&L shares marks an initiative in this energy and materials solutions field. Sojitz's customer network in the chemical industry includes over 5,000 companies in Japan and overseas, and the company is engaged in the chemical trade business handling a wide range of products from basic chemicals such as methanol to synthetic resins and other functional materials in addition to inorganic chemicals such as industrial salts and rare earths. Sojitz's Chemicals Division has positioned one of its growth strategies as the creation of next-generation businesses in line with a low-carbon and eco-friendly society. Sojitz will acquire Nippon A&L as a consolidated subsidiary, and this investment aligns with Sojitz's growth strategy for its chemical business. Sojitz seeks to strengthen earnings by expanding into manufacturing for the resin and latex fields in which the company has related product knowledge and understanding of market needs and anticipates synergy with existing business fields. Sojitz will leverage its global customer network, logistics, human capital, and other resources to further enhance Nippon A&L's corporate value while simultaneously working to expand its business in the EV and storage battery markets.

[Company Overview – NIPPON A&L INC.]

Established	July 1, 1999
Location	Sumitomo Bldg., 5-33, Kitahama 4-Chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka
Capitalization	¥ 6.0 billion (85% from Sumitomo Chemical and 15% from Mitsui Chemicals) *After the deal closes, 66.5% from Sojitz and 33.5% from Sumitomo Chemical)
Representative Director	Soji Sakamoto, President
Main Business	Manufacture, sale, and R&D of SBR latexes and ABS resins

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