August 9, 2017

Sanyo Special Steel Co., Ltd.

State-of-the-Art No.2 Metal Powder Plant started operation.

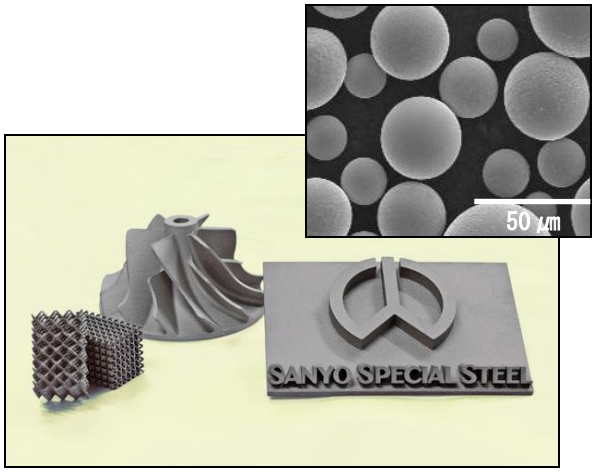
--New market creation corresponding to the metal powder market growth for such as 3D printers and the demands for high purity materials.--

Sanyo Special Steel Co., Ltd. ("Sanyo", Head Office: Himeji City, Hyogo, President: Shinya Higuchi) constructed its No.2 Metal Powder Plant at the headquarter site to create new market and to correspond to the market growth of high functional metal powders and the demands for updated materials. A completion ceremony was held at new plant and operation started on Wednesday, August 9.

Sanyo supplies high functional metal powder products that are used across a wide range of fields. These products include: powders for arc welding and thermal spraying for the steel and industrial machinery sectors; shot peening powders used in automotive industry; powder metallurgy high-speed steels that are used as cutting tools, dies, and components for injection-molding machines; flaky powders for electro-magnetic wave absorbers used in mobile devices; and various sputtering targets.

<Appearance of the No.2 Metal Powder Plant >

Sanyo's metal powders are highly regarded in many fields owing to their desired spherical form and high purity achieved by the process combination of vacuum melting and inert gas atomization. The market growth of metal powders is expected corresponding to the expansion of the applications of metal 3D printing, for which Sanyo's high-purity spherical metal powders are suitable. 3D printing is anticipated that it could bring a breakthrough revolution to the manufacturing site.



■Top: Extremely spherical metal powder (electron microscope image)
Lower: Examples of moldings by 3D printing

Two high-purity vacuum melting and inert gas atomizers have been installed in a highly clean environment at the new plant. They will enable us to fulfill the metal powder market growth spurred on by 3D printers and the demands for highly reliable and highly pure metal powders that is rising mainly in the electronic component field. A state-of-the-art centrifugal atomizer that can produce extremely spherical metal powders has also been installed to advance our research into the production of extremely spherical metal powders of high-melting-point materials and the exploration of their applications.

(Reference)

<Outline of the No.2 Metal Powder Plant>

Location	Headquarter site (Himeji, Hyogo)
Investment	Approx. 2 billion yen
Facilities	Gas atomizers ・200 Kg/batch×1 ・ 50 Kg/batch×1 Centrifugal atomizer ・ 30 Kg/batch×1

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