Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Hull Production Co., Ltd. to Specialize in Large-scale Hull Blocks



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Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Hull Production Co., Ltd., a subsidiary that specializes in manufacturing large-scale hull blocks, commenced business operations in October 2015. The new company handles hull block production at the Nagasaki Shipyard's Koyagi Plant, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.'s (MHI) key commercial vessel manufacturing base for its marine and vessel operations since its launch in 1972. Capitalized at 300 million yen, the company's six square kilometer site is home to 170 full-time employees, 370 in-plant partner, and 100 trainees from overseas working on steel structure processing such as cutting, bending, assembly, outfitting and coating.

In addition to manufacturing hull blocks for vessels ordered via Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., another subsidiary launched at the same time, the company also markets its products to other shipyards. Focused on the manufacturing of large-scale hull blocks, the company will pursue expansion in production scale and the reduction of manufacturing costs by increasing production volumes from the current 100,000 tons to 150,000 tons based on the continuous production of blocks of identical types.

1. Corporate philosophy

The company sets out the following four values:

(1) Do work that is appreciated by others:

It is extremely rewarding to be valued and appreciated for the results of your hard work achieved through your precious time and efforts. Fulfillment comes from honest work.

(2) Foster trust by understanding "the next process is the customer":

Just as the person who orders and receives final products is a customer, each process involving mid-production goods is also considered a customer. Trust must be established through understanding each customer's needs and meeting their performance expectations.

(3) Work together with unity of purpose:

Every employee is part of the engine of the company, and the company's reputation is each employee's reputation. Goals can only be achieved through shared values and mutual collaboration.

(4) Continuous correction and improvement:

The status quo is not always perfect. Ongoing improvement efforts by everyone lead the way to a better tomorrow.

2. Advantages

The site features a panel block plant ("Unit D") capable of the indoor manufacturing of panels up to 45 meters in length, 30 meters in width and 600 tons in weight (**Figure 1**). In addition, a coating plant has been added to the site in order to handle increased production (**Figure 2**). To facilitate more convenient and efficient product delivery, an intermediate gate has been installed 80 meters inward from the main dock gate of the neighboring Mitsubishi Heavy Industries

Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. A barge can be easily moved inside the dock and products loaded using a large Goliath crane for timely delivery.

With a small management team, the company focuses heavily on actual production. A quality assurance unit, independent of the manufacturing department, has been implementing an ISO 9001 certified management system since its operational launch (**Figure 3**).

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Hull Production Co., Ltd. also obtained ISO 14001 certification to pursue environmental objectives that are shared with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.

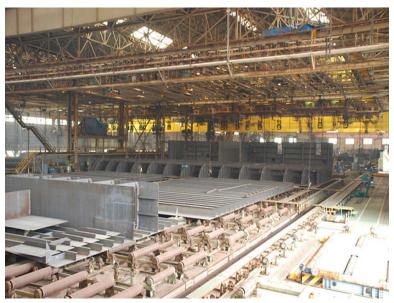


Figure 1 Panel block plant



Figure 2 Coating plant



Figure 3 ISO9001 certified

3. Local history

Koyagi, the name of the town where the company is located, means "burning of incense," and has a long history dating back to the time of Kukai (also known as Kobo Daishi), a famous monk. Before and after visiting China as a religious scholar, Kukai was said to have stopped by this area and prayed by burning incense. At Enfuku Temple in the town, the aroma of incense remains at the small hollow where this ritual took place.

In 1965, Nagasaki Prefecture reclaimed land between the Town of Koyagi and the City of Nagasaki following the creation of a coastal industrial zone, making the island of Koyagi accessible by land. The island was home to the defunct Kawanami Heavy Industries Koyagi-jima Shipyard and the remains of its dock structure were discovered recently at the Koyagi Plant. One of the vessels constructed at the Kawanami Heavy Industries' plant here was the renowned Soya, an Japanese Antarctic-exploration vessel.