

Notice Regarding Merger of Sohgo-Industry K.K. and VitalAire Japan K.K.

Sohgo-Industry K.K. (“Sohgo-Industry”) and VitalAire Japan K.K. (“VitalAire Japan”), two of our consolidated subsidiaries resolved, at their respective recent shareholders meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors, to implement a merger (the “Merger”) in which Sohgo-Industry will be the surviving company and VitalAire Japan will be the absorbed company, effective as of July 1, 2020.

1. Purpose of the Merger

This Merger aims to improve further our services to patients amidst a growing demand for home healthcare in Japan, as well as to increase management efficiency.

Two years and eleven months have passed since Sohgo-Industry joined the Group. VitalAire Japan, which we established as a subsidiary, has engaged in the home healthcare business in Japan for over 20 years. As demand for home healthcare increases within Japan’s healthcare system, the merger of the two companies is expected to make a strong, significant contribution to the domestic healthcare system in terms of both home healthcare and medical gases.

As a member of the Air Liquide Group, the new company plans to maximize its global experience in developing a medical approach in Japan, and will contribute towards increasing the Japanese home healthcare service.

2. Merger Method

The Merger is an absorption-type merger in which Sohgo-Industry will be the surviving company and VitalAire Japan will be dissolved. Sohgo-Industry will change its trade name to VitalAire Japan K.K. at the time of the Merger.

3. Situation After the Merger

Trade name following the Merger: VitalAire Japan K.K.

Head Office address: 2-11-13 Omori-Minami, Ota-ku, Tokyo

Representative’s position and name: Representative Director and CEO, Hideaki Takahashi

There will be no changes to its business operations, paid-in capital or the fiscal year-end.

Air Liquide’s commitment to healthcare in Japan

Air Liquide is a major healthcare player in Japan through its VitalAire and Sohgo-Industry K.K. brands/affiliates, both for home healthcare and medical gases markets. The Air Liquide’s healthcare brand has been present in the Japanese market for over 35 years, and currently serves more than 1,300 hospitals and clinics and approximately 20,000 patients at home suffering from respiratory diseases including: sleep apnea, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic respiratory failure, where Home Healthcare services in Japan are expected to continue increasing in the coming years.

Air Liquide Japan (“ALJ”; headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative President and CEO: Virginie Cavalli)

Air Liquide Japan (“ALJ”) was established in 1907, and has been contributing to the development of Japanese industries for over a decade. With a workforce of 2,000 employees, ALJ supplies nitrogen and oxygen to companies in electronics and other industrial fields and are at the service of our clients in problem solving and joint research. ALJ is also a leader in developing and providing new medical treatment devices and solutions using IoT, and continues to serve health care providers and patients. In addition to supplying gas for use in hospitals, ALJ focuses on the home healthcare field. Air Liquide Group has developed the hydrogen supply chain, and has installed more than 120 hydrogen stations around the world. In addition to building stations in Japan, ALJ’s goal is to become a leading company that encompasses the entire hydrogen energy value chain in Japan. ALJ will continue to provide innovative solutions with our industry-leading innovations and technologies at its core.

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