

## **Acquisition of New Factory in Kochi Prefecture – Full-scale production of BAMBOO+® composite bamboo fiber material to commence in FY 2025 –**

TOKAI RIKA CO., LTD. (Head Office: Oguchi-cho, Niwa-gun, Aichi, Japan, President: Hiroyoshi Ninoyu) has acquired a new factory in Konan city, Kochi Prefecture, with the aim of starting up a production line for a composite resin material called BAMBOO+® formed using domestically grown bamboo fibers.

The development of the composite BAMBOO+® resin is a step on the road toward achieving carbon neutrality, and forms part of our efforts to invest in the creation of the businesses of the future with the aim of expanding the scope of our business activities and helping to realize our mid-term business plan.

This new factory will be home to an integrated production line on which domestically grown raw bamboo material is turned into fibers and blended with resin. By combining this line with environmentally friendly equipment, we are aiming to lower our environmental footprint while simultaneously raising production efficiency. This newly acquired factory will be operated in partnership with MIROKU TECHNO WOOD Co., Ltd. (head office: Nankoku city, Kochi Prefecture).

The BAMBOO+® material that we plan to produce at this factory has potential uses in a wide range of fields, including automotive parts, furniture, construction materials and equipment, home electronics, containers, and the like.

Through the development and production of BAMBOO+®, TOKAI RIKA is aiming to facilitate the efforts of our customers to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable carbon-neutral society.

### ■ Outline of New Plant

[Products] BAMBOO+®, Bamboo fibers

[Production start time] July 2025 (Plan)

[Land area] Approx. 19,700 m<sup>2</sup>

[Building area] Approx. 11,600 m<sup>2</sup>

## ■ Details of BAMBOO+®

BAMBOO+® is a composite material consisting of at least 50% bamboo fibers. It was developed to help utilize neglected bamboo thickets in Japan and create employment in local regions by making effective use of a readily available raw material. TOKAI RIKA started the development of BAMBOO+® in 2021 as a joint project with our business partner MIROKU TECHNO WOOD Co., Ltd. as well as Kochi Prefecture (via the Kochi Prefectural Industrial Technology Center and the Kochi Prefectural Paper Industry Technology Center). Aside from BAMBOO+®, TOKAI RIKA and MIROKU TECHNO WOOD Co., Ltd. are also partners in the production of bamboo steering wheels.

BAMBOO+® has been awarded the Biomass Mark 50<sup>\*2</sup> accreditation from the Japan Organics Recycling Association (JORA).

<sup>\*2</sup> A mark that can be displayed by a product that consists of at least 50% (dry weight) biomass resources.



BAMBOO+® pellets

