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PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

R2 begins the co-development of a new service for Chlor-Alkali Membrane Electrolysis Process following a joint study as part of the Asahi Kasei Group

Montreal, Quebec.
September 07, 2021

Recherche 2000 Inc. (R2), headquartered in Montreal, Canada, the world leading provider of safety, maintenance and optimization solutions for the bi-polar Membrane Electrolysis process is pleased to announce the co-development with Asahi Kasei Group of a data-driven service for the Chlor-Alkali Membrane Electrolysis Process. This project follows R2's joining the Asahi Kasei Group (Head Office in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Japan) in February 2020.

Background

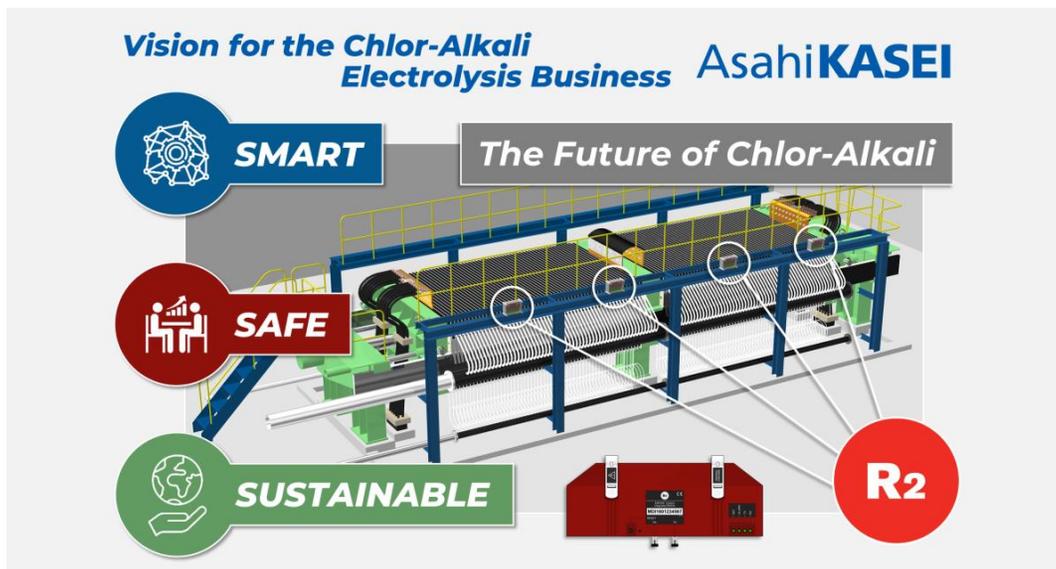
R2 specializes in the design, development, and implementation of intelligent systems geared at industrial safety process, predictive maintenance, and process optimization providing world leading cell room safety systems. Top manufacturers and market leaders worldwide trust the R2 EMOS® Safety System to assure their safety and reduce their production costs

Since its inception in 1989, R2 has devoted its information technology know-how and electrochemical expertise to develop, produce, and deliver practical solutions to the electrochemical industries. Backed by unique expertise and knowledge, gained from monitoring over 75,000 cells in 26 different countries, R2 offers a series of tools for the chlor alkali industry.

New Services

By integrating R2's technologies and expertise of intelligent systems with Asahi Kasei's exceptional technical service, the blueprint of new data-driven services such as predictive maintenance and process optimization was prepared. Such services focus on "Smart (digital transformation)", "Safe/Stable" and "Sustainable" as key attributes that contribute to the further success of customers operating membrane process chlor-alkali electrolysis plants. Trials of the new services are being launched for the proof-of-concept demonstration at some customers' plants.

In April 2021, Asahi Kasei's Specialty Solutions SBU launched a Customer Success Department in the Ion Exchange Membrane Business Unit of its Membrane Solutions Division, in order to advance the new services in alignment with R2 for the provision of total solutions to the chlor-alkali industry and plans to also apply the service platform to the hydrogen business field moving forward.





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R2 and Asahi Kasei will exercise proper care with respect to the handling customers' data and will not share confidential information such as plant operational data without customers' explicit request or consent.

R2 will continue to operate independently under the R2 name and EMOS® brand, as a separate company within the Asahi Kasei Group, with its head office remaining in Montreal, North America's hub for artificial intelligence innovation and talent. R2's dedicated and talented team will continue to provide its customers with cutting-edge technology solutions which help plants operate safely, optimize operations, and reduce costs.

"We set out 32 years ago to make the lives of Chlor-Alkali plant managers easier and help them to sleep better at night. We had a vision to automate the operation of electrolyzers around the world, similarly to an airplane's autopilot. Thanks to advances in computing, and new discoveries in Artificial Intelligence, we have finally launched EMOS® Advisory AI solutions which brings us closer to this vision," said Gilles J. Tremblay, Founder and President of R2." "Asahi Kasei also shares our vision of Chlor-Alkali Industry 4.0. Joining forces in developing the Membrane Electrolysis Process of the future will be what takes us into the next chapter in our storybook. Stay tuned to see where our growth and innovation takes us from here."

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About Asahi Kasei Group:

For over 45 years since commercialization in 1975, Asahi Kasei's membrane process for chlor-alkali electrolysis has earned a strong reputation among customers for its superior operating performance and reliability. As of August 2021, it has been adopted at more than 150 plants in 30 countries with a total capacity of over 30 million tons per year converted to 100% caustic soda, which makes Asahi Kasei the world's leading supplier.

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