

# Wonderful Stories of Higashiosaka

Higashiosaka, a city of Monozkuri  
that enriches people's lives

# HIGASHIOSAKA

## What's "Monozkuri"?

First of all, "Mono" means things, "Zkuri" means producing, so "Monozkuri" is nearly equal to "manufacturing" but it also has a unique concept in Japan. People engaging in "Monozkuri" pursue the quality of products including productivity and precision. And the important point is, they also care about users; imagining the role the product plays and the scene of when it is actually used. In Japanese culture, we have a traditional way of thinking that a good soul resides in all carefully made products, which also underlies our "Monozkuri" philosophy.

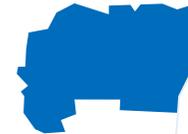
## Higashiosaka City

Area: 61.78 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 485,974

Number of households: 237,970

(As of December 1, 2023)



## A wonderful city of Monozkuri

**One of the leading manufacturing areas in Japan, which is full of a wide variety of products made by lots of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with high technology.**

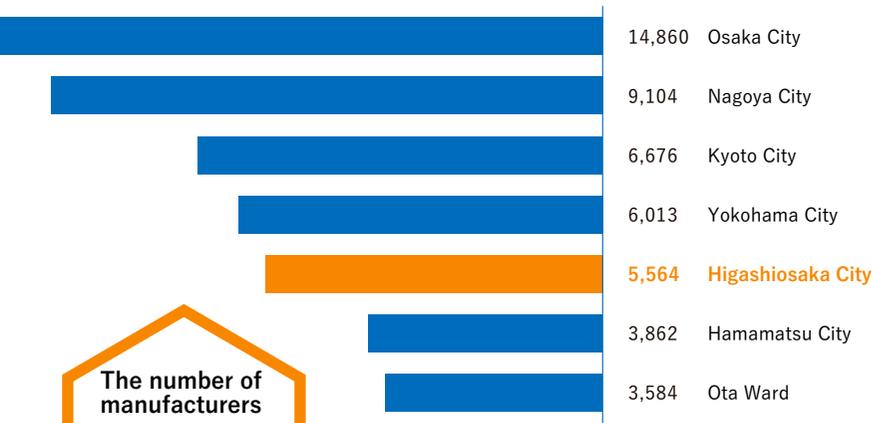
Higashiosaka is known as a city of the manufacturing industry. It has one of the highest numbers and densities of manufacturers in Japan. Additionally, SMEs with fewer than 20 employees on their payroll account for approximately 90 percent of the manufacturers in this city.

The products, which are created in small factories with reliable skills, play important roles in the country and the world.

**We are proud of the products made in Higashiosaka.**

Higashiosaka is nationally famous for Monozkuri. In this city, there are many manufacturers, which are small in scale but have a challenging spirit and passion. The partnerships among such manufacturers create the capability to produce everything from toothbrushes to artificial satellites supporting people's lives in the world. I hope that this booklet explains the attractiveness and social roles of the manufacturing industry and helps you understand the current situation of the manufacturing industry in Higashiosaka, which we are proud of.

**Yoshikazu Noda**, Higashiosaka city mayor



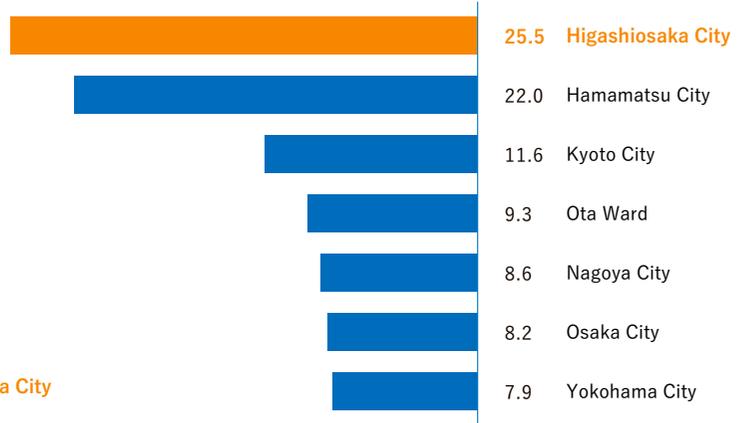
The number of manufacturers  
**The fifth highest**  
in Japan

## The number of manufacturers in Higashiosaka is the fifth highest in Japan.

The number of manufacturers is 5,564, which is the fifth highest in Japan and the highest with the government-designated cities being excluded. This proves that Higashiosaka is one of Japan's leading cities of the manufacturing industry.

The numbers of manufacturers by major city in Japan (based on the economic census activity survey of 2021)

The proportion of employees engaged in the manufacturing industry  
**The highest**  
in Japan



## One out of four employees is engaged in the manufacturing industry.

The city's employees engaged in the manufacturing industry account for 25.5%, which is the highest in Japan, showing that not only the number of manufacturers but also that of their employees are high. Those who are engaged in the manufacturing industry are supporting Higashiosaka.

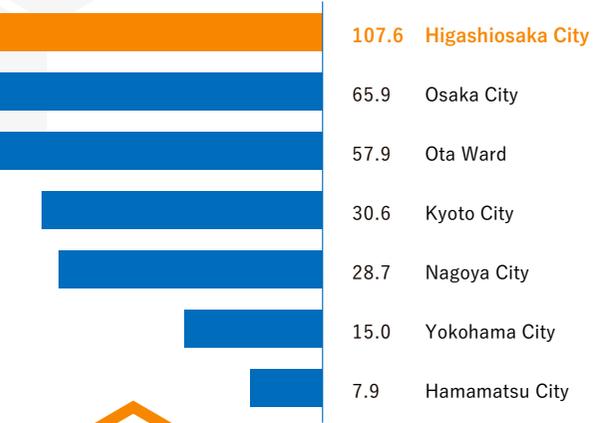
The proportion of employees in the manufacturing industry among employees in all kinds of industries (compared to the cities with 4,000 manufacturers or more through the economic census activity survey of 2021)

## Factories close to people in Higashiosaka

The density of manufacturers in Higashiosaka is 107.6 per square kilometer, which is the highest in Japan. This environment makes citizens feel familiar with the manufacturing industry.

The densities of manufacturers by major city in Japan (compared to the cities with 4,000 manufacturers or more through the economic census activity survey of 2021)

The number of manufacturers per square kilometer of habitable area (calculated using the habitable area described in the Statistical Observations of Municipalities of 2023).



The density of manufacturers  
**The highest**  
in Japan

# Story 1

## Three origins of industry

From long ago, the casting, wiredrawing, and cotton textile industries have been prosperous in Higashiosaka. Let's trace the history of a wide variety of industries derived from these three industries.



# Wonderful roots of the

As it is said that there is nothing that cannot be made, there are a  
The origin of the manufacturing industry in this city started in the

|       |                        |                          |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ~1602 | 1603~1867 (Edo period) | 1868~1912 (Meiji period) |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|

### Events related to manufacturing

### Casting industry

### Wiredrawing industry

### Cotton textile industry

Kawachi casting is said to be the roots of the casting industry in Japan. (Kawachi is the eastern part of Osaka prefecture)

The traditional technique known as Kawachi casting was introduced to Higashiosaka.

The water wheel industry utilizing the rapid stream from Mt. Ikomayama encouraged the manufacture of coloring powders and drug powders.

[1704] Rerouting and Reclamation of the river running through Higashiosaka, gave people the vast land for Kawachi cotton production.

Kawachi cotton textiles were distributed widely.

TOPICS

**Monozkuri in the Yayoi period (300 BCE to 300 CE)!**

Higashiosaka has an abundance of remains. Casting molds, bronze bell-shaped vessels, bronze swords, and bracelets were excavated from the remains of the Yayoi period, which shows they had engaged in casting from time immemorial.



A casting mold for bronze bell-shaped vessel excavated from the remains of Kitoragawa

Merchants in Higashiosaka started to manually draw wires with the order for the copper wires used to make Japanese hair sticks in Kyoto.

Wire drawing was performed using a water wheel as a source of power for the first time. In addition, the wiredrawing industry became prosperous in the Hiraoka area, eastern part of the city.

The imports of foreign-grown cotton gradually increased.

With the abolishment of tariffs on imported cotton in 1896, Japan's cotton agriculture declined rapidly, leading to unemployment and job-changing.

The production of iron kettles, as well as pots and pans, became widely popular.

After multipurpose iron wires were introduced, the domestic production of nails and other iron related products has started as well.

Breakdown of the cotton textile industry



# artisan spirit to try to make anything



wide variety of categories and styles of industries in the current Higashiosaka.  
Edo period.

## 1912~1926(Taisho period)

[1914]  
Osaka Electric Tramway opened.

The production volume of iron kettles in Higashiosaka increased and became famous.

In the wake of the tramway, the grid electricity became available, leading to better productivity.

Switched to yarn twisting and towel industries by making use of traditional weaving of Kawachi cotton textiles.

Started toothbrush bristles processing and button holing.

Started production of wire meshes and hairdressing tools (electric shaver) after mastering expertise in Osaka.

## 1926~1988(Showa period)

[1936]  
Osaka-Hiraoka Route of Osaka Prefectural Road opened.

Main products of casting changed from household products into machine-related cast parts, the city's primal industry.

Traffic improvement efficiently connected Hiraoka with Osaka(market).

[Rapid growth period (1955~1973)]  
The number of SMEs increased dramatically.

The manufacturing industry for electrical equipment, shipbuilding, industrial machinery, and automobiles has developed. In the period of high economic growth, the casting industry also reached its peak.

The wiredrawing industry in Higashiosaka accounted for 40% of the market nationwide and became the largest local industry.

[1983]  
The number of factories in Higashiosaka exceeded 10,000, reaching record high.

The number of casting factories decreased because of changes in the market demand and increasing pollution problems, while the technology of Kawachi casting was sophisticatedly adapted to highly evaluated products of fine arts and crafts.

The wiredrawing industry declined because of the labor shortage, pollution problems, and fierce competition with foreign companies. In the meantime, some companies became specialized in new business fields.

The casting industry originated from Kawachi casting built the foundation of the current development of the machinery and metallic industries.

The wiredrawing industry, includes production of , not only wires but also nails, wire meshes, bolts and nuts, leading to the development of the overall wire processing industry.

After the decline of the cotton textile industry, people started new business such as toothbrush, button and various kinds of products.



Reference: "Dissemination from the 'SME Town' of Higashiosaka" by Hitoshi Konaka

Story  
**2**

# Wonderful Higashiosaka products around us

From the moment we wake up until we go to bed, so many products made in Higashiosaka are supporting our lives.

TOPICS

Feel close to these masterpieces

Higashiosaka brand certified products are displayed in the lobby on the first floor of the main building of Higashiosaka City Hall.



Fishing gear



Clocks



Line marker for athletic fields



Shoes



T-shirts



Fryer



Tools



Plastic bottle recycling system



Drone assist devices



## Ecology



Toothbrush made of natural wood and bristles, designed to decompose naturally as an alternative to plastic



Turf protection plate adopted for the temporary port for "flying cars" at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai



# Higashiosaka Brand

## Carefully selected products from Monozkuri City



The title of "Higashiosaka Brand" is granted to regional brand products that are recognized as distinctive and original, created through repeated trial and error and with passion by companies based in Higashiosaka, a Monozkuri City.

## Safe and secure



Never-loosen nuts used in public infrastructure including railroads, various machine tools and robots, etc.



Ceiling panels installed at Shin-Osaka Station and other major stations and airports throughout Japan

## Child-rearing



Bicycles that can carry two children close in age



Cardboard kids' tents that parents and children can enjoy assembling together

## Sports



Goggles used by professional athletes



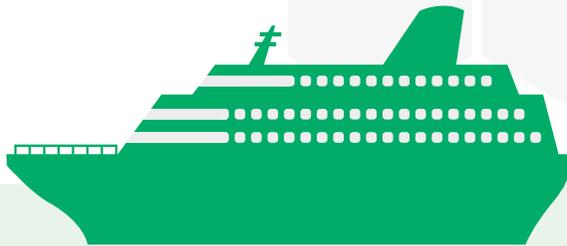
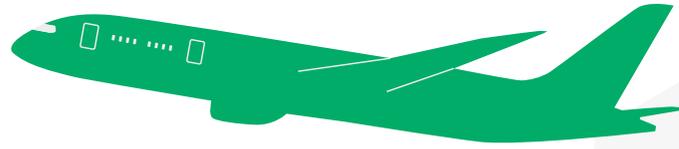
Automotive wheels that combine design and safety features

Story

3

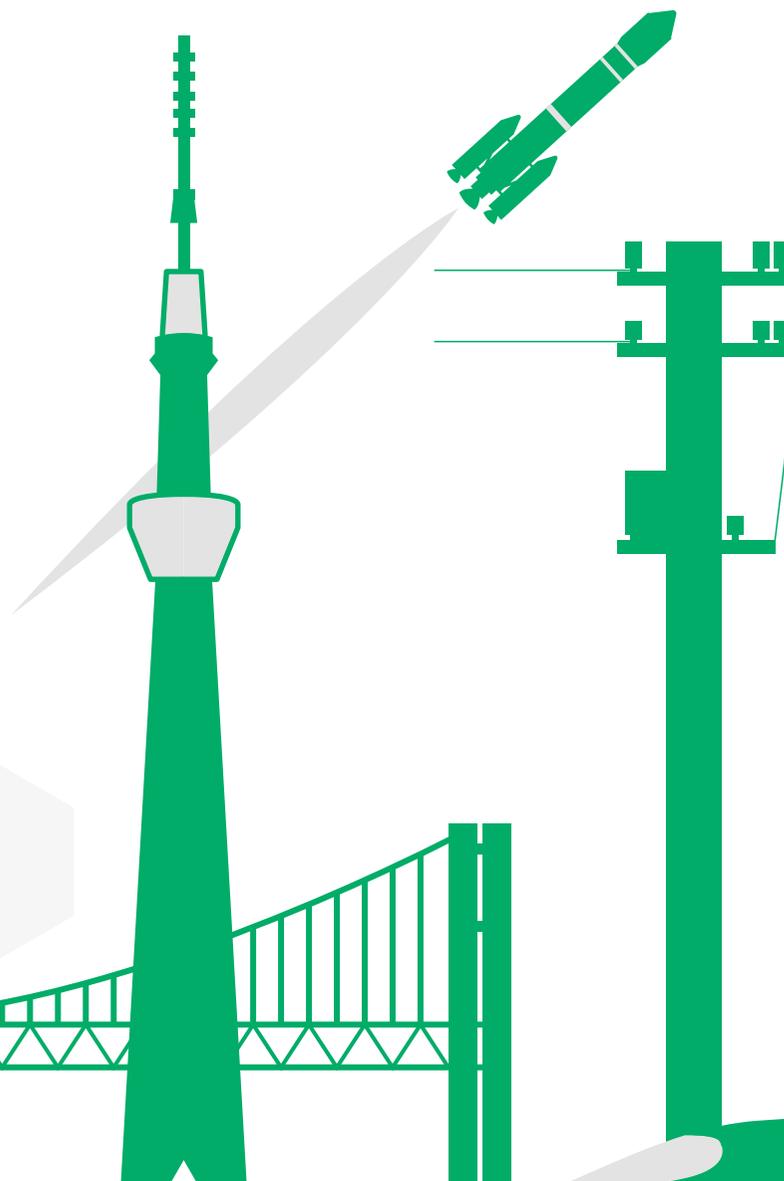
# Wonderful techniques supporting our society

Vehicles we use everyday and the symbolic buildings and structures in Japan. Technology from Higashiosaka is applied to the products that are fundamental to our society.



## Establishing unwavering trust with superior techniques!

Our highly evaluated techniques are applied to a wide variety of products such as automobiles, motorcycles, radio towers, IC cards, and aircraft. This is because our products are made under severe quality control and quality assurance, which connects them with the society.



### TOPICS

#### Products made in Higashiosaka with strong global presence

See the products made in Higashiosaka that contribute to help solve infrastructural and environmental problems, such as screws that do not loosen under any kind of shock or vibration, and water-saving cleaning nozzles that can reduce water consumption by 90% without compromising cleaning power.



▶ Scan this QR code to watch the video!



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# Wonderful network among companies in Higashiosaka.

Strong partnership among the companies in different kinds of industries will lead to new businesses and our future possibilities.



## “Collaboration” is the best strategy.

The strong point of Higashiosaka’s SMEs is that they are always trying to promote various intimate relationship in all directions enabling them to cope with challenging businesses and to establish new relationships among them. Higashiosaka’s SMEs could be both strong competitors and good cooperative partners with each other. We believe that building up international competitiveness through our challenging spirit and strong collaborations is very important for us.



## Solutions for everything! Higashiosaka City’s manufacturing network

A company that received an order for a product can manufacture with the help of cooperative companies.

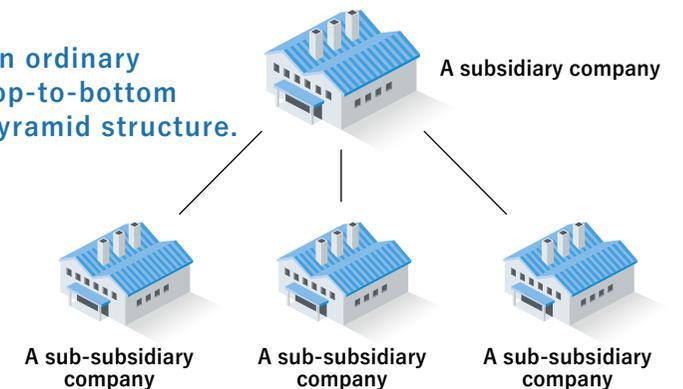
### TOPICS

#### Higashiosaka, where the show “Maiagare!” or “Soar up!” is set

Higashiosaka City is one of the locations featured in the 2022 television series “Maiagare!” The heroine, who develops bonds with various people while struggling as a sales representative at a screw factory before starting a company that connects local factories, truly symbolizes the characteristics of Higashiosaka, a Monozkuri City.



#### An ordinary top-to-bottom pyramid structure.



Story  
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# Monozkuri, contributing to a wonderful future

Feel the enthusiasm of people  
working on sustainable manufacturing  
for the future society

interview



Koushi Chemical Industry  
Co., Ltd.  
**Tetsuya Nambara**



**Helmets and resources  
recycling**

Helmets made from new  
materials, compound of waste  
scallop shells and plastics.

I strongly believe that creating new materials out of waste is a key solution to environmental problems.

We manufacture plastic products including parts used for devices in hospitals and offices. Although we often manufacture products based on drawings provided by our clients, in recent years we have been focusing on developing our original products as well. Coming from an engineering background, I had always wanted to “give shape to my ideas,” but when a product I developed during the COVID-19 pandemic was adopted in educational area, I became aware of the need to develop products that could contribute to society.

In the meanwhile, I learned that the large amount of discarded shells generated during the processing of scallops is a social issue in Hokkaido. In order to solve this situation, we developed an environmentally friendly helmet made of eco-plastic material, which is a compound of waste shells and plastics.

It was an experienced employee with extensive knowledge of plastics who came up with the idea of utilizing seashells as a material. This idea was born from the know-how accumulated within the company and the ideas of younger employees. We would like to positively change the impression of reuse of waste by utilizing our eco-plastics manufacturing technology.



## Challenging spirit of Higashiosaka to solve waste plastic bottles issues.

Our company dedicates to cutting and processing of precision metal parts for automobiles, medical equipment, industrial robots, and others. In recent years, the company has been focusing on the development of small parts washers as new business. The washer was originally developed to improve the productivity of our production line. However, as we started showcasing it at exhibitions and on YouTube, we began receiving many inquiries everyday asking, "Is it possible to wash this?" We customize the number, position, and angle of nozzles to meet our customers' needs through daily trial and error.

Since 2021, we have been developing a reusable bottle washer collaboration with a manufacturers of thermos bottles. This will facilitate washing bottles at cafes, offices, and other places on the go, we expect that making it easier to carry around reusable bottles will help reduce the number of waste plastic bottles.

It is difficult to meet such requirements as quick and easy washing and not taking up too much space, but we have a lot of passion within the company to "do something about it," so we are working to make it happen. I see many companies in Higashiosaka that are brimming with such a challenging spirit.



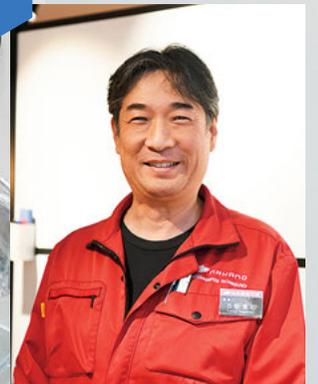
**Washer that makes it easy to wash your own bottles on the go**

Increasing the use of reusable bottles will help reduce the number of plastic bottles that would contribute to solve environmental problems.



interview

Nakano Manufacturing Co., Ltd.  
**Shigekazu Furuno**





# A city of Monozkuri brings a **wonderful** relationship between people and manufacturers.

Higashiosaka promotes community development  
where citizens and manufacturers understand each other and live together.



Support measures for  
manufacturing business by  
Higashiosaka City Government

## To be a comfortable city for both citizens and manufactures.

Higashiosaka City is a vibrant city with a cluster of a wide variety of manufacturing business.

Our daily lives and manufacturing industry in the city are supported by their technological capabilities.

As they support our daily life and industrial activities all over Japan, they also have important roles to bolster the local economy and revitalize local residents. It is important to preserve and create a comfortable living environment for citizens and a superior business environment for manufacturers.

Let's see and realize a city where citizens and manufacturers live together and stride forward together.

### TOPICS

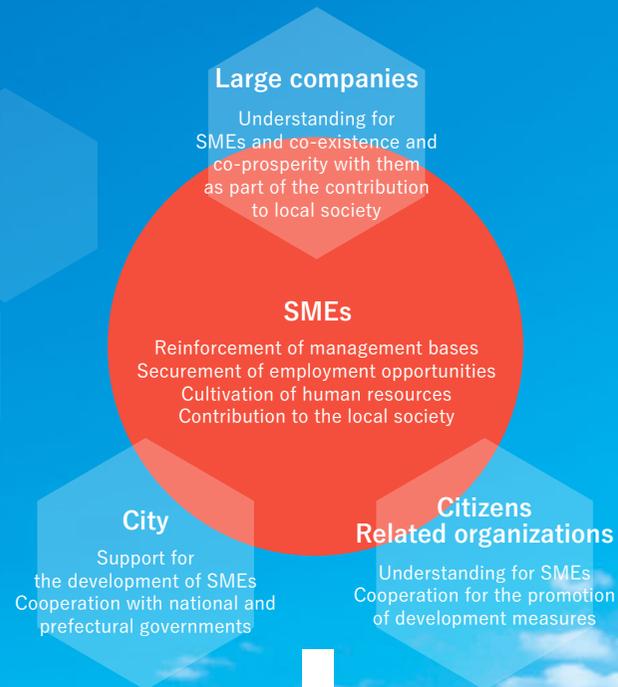
#### Manufactures' activities for citizens

An open factory event "Let's go to a factory!" is held primarily by manufacturers. Factories, where usually only authorized persons are allowed to access, is opened to visitors so that they could have a chance to learn about Monozkuri in an enjoyable format. Through such efforts, it is expected to help manufacturing companies build close relationship with local residents and also to gain their interest in and understanding of Monozkuri business.



## SMEs are the main players in the local economy.

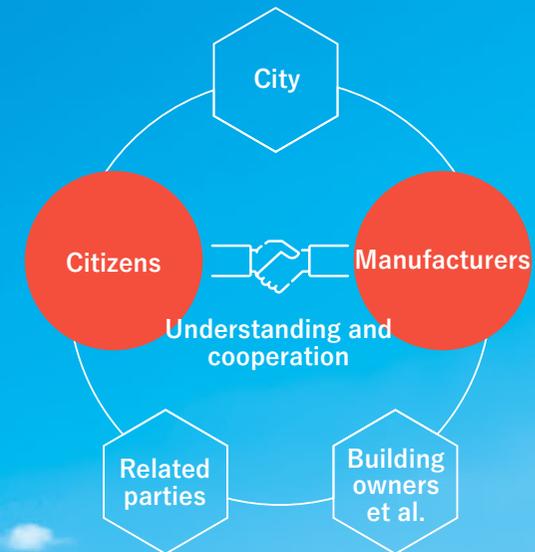
It is necessary to understand the importance of roles played by SMEs and to work on their development cooperatively. Higashiosaka established the "Higashiosaka City ordinance on the development of SMEs" to promote the development of SMEs.



SMEs stimulate the local economy!

## Creation of a city where citizens and manufacturers live together

Higashiosaka City promotes the creation of a city where citizens and manufacturers live together in order to keep the living environment clean and comfortable for citizens, as well as to secure the business environment for manufacturers. We hope that brings industrial clusters, which are treasure-trove of the city, for a bright future.



Promoted in cooperation with each other

**Higashiosaka font** HIGASHIOSAKA

Higashiosaka font is an original and unique because of its successive-letter pattern, representing our hope that strong partnerships among companies in the city could lead to new businesses all over the world.

**Tagline “WHERE THE ANSWER IS”**

It's a strong message from manufacturing companies in Higashiosaka representing a sense of dedication and pride that they can always respond to the needs, no matter how demanding they are.

MONOZKURI CITY

HIGASHIOSAKA

WHERE THE ANSWER IS

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the Manufacturing Support Office,  
City, Sports and Industry Promotion Department, Higashiosaka City  
1-1-1, Aramotokita, Higashiosaka-shi, Osaka 577-8521 Japan  
TEL: +81-6-4309-3177 FAX: +81-6-4309-3846  
Email: [monodukuri@city.higashiosaka.lg.jp](mailto:monodukuri@city.higashiosaka.lg.jp)  
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