SMM Receives "Best Partner Award" from Panasonic Corporation

Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. (SMM) has received a "Best Partner Award" from

Panasonic Corporation. The award, the highest given by the company, was

presented today at the Panasonic Excellent Partners Meeting. Simultaneously SMM

was also recipient of Panasonic's "Cost Improvement Award of Outstanding

Performance."

Every year Panasonic presents various awards as part of its "ECO-VC" (Ecology •

Value Creation) activities that target reductions in global environmental impact and

rationalization merits through joint initiatives with its business partners. The "Best

Partner Award" is given to the one company among its award winners deemed most

deserving from the perspective of implementing measures that lead to reduced CO<sub>2</sub>

produced by Panasonic products or enhancement of the company's product appeal.

SMM was chosen for this honored accolade for the first time, selected from among

1,445 entries.

For a number of years SMM has supplied Panasonic with high-performance lithium

nickel oxide, a cathode material used in rechargeable batteries that was jointly

developed by the two companies. SMM was presented an "Cost Improvement

Award of Outstanding Performance" for its enhanced production capacity in lithium

nickel oxide and achievements in cost improvement. The 2014 "Best Partner Award"

was given to SMM for the significant contribution it has made to Panasonic's product

appeal through the provision of high-quality metals and electronic materials

incorporating cutting-edge technologies.

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