



FI FUJI OIL HOLDINGS INC.

NEWS RELEASE

January 27, 2022

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Blommer Chocolate Company announces the opening of a new R&D Applications Lab in Chicago

(January 26, 2022) Chicago IL - Blommer Chocolate Company, the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate supplier in North America, a group company of Fuji Oil Group announces the opening of a new R&D Applications Lab, located in downtown Chicago, IL in The Merchandise Mart. This space represents an expansion of R&D capabilities, full of new and improved ways to support the business as well as Research & Development.

“We are looking forward to hosting customers! The new lab has been thoughtfully designed to be a functional workspace for the team with a welcoming atmosphere for collaborating with customers.” says Marie Loewen, R&D Corporate Manager, Applications.

The new lab is outfitted with two kitchens, one specifically for chocolate and compound work and one for “hot” applications including baking and frying. The chocolate kitchen opens into a large room, making it perfect for hosting customers for training, ideation, and demonstrations. It is humidity controlled and contains a variety of small-scale equipment to allow for confectionery work including moulding and panning.

This lab will be a refreshing, collaborative space to highlight the capabilities of both Blommer & Fuji Oil Group and will help to elevate the brand in the market as well as live the Blommer R&D vision: Through thoughtful and proactive collaboration, we will deliver advanced innovation, impactful technical support, and generate meaningful, creative solutions to help unlock the full potential of our customers.

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About Blommer Chocolate Company

Blommer Chocolate Company is the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate supplier in North America. The company provides comprehensive business solutions for domestic and international customers of all sizes in the confectionery, baking and dairy industries. Among Blommer’s core competencies are cocoa bean processing, chocolate manufacturing, commodity risk management, and product and process R&D. The company is a leader in advancing sustainable cocoa farming as a founding member of the World Cocoa Foundation and through its privately managed farmer programs in Cote d'Ivoire and Ecuador. Founded in 1939, Blommer maintains an outstanding reputation for customer service and quality. For more information about Blommer Chocolate Company, please visit <https://www.blommer.com/>.

About Fuji Oil Holdings

The Fuji Oil Group is a manufacturer of plant-based food solutions in the fields of hard butters for chocolate and industrial use chocolate, emulsified and fermented ingredients and soy ingredients. With Headquarters in Japan, the Group has 33 companies in 14 countries and employees nearly 6000 talented people. Since its establishment in 1950, Fuji Oil has maintained its belief that the way to survive and grow is to develop new fields by leveraging its originality. Based on our passion for food ingredients, which we have cultivated with vegetable oils/fats and plant-based proteins, we pursue health and taste. For details, please visit <https://www.fujioilholdings.com/en/>