Our Head Office and Plant have grown together with the local community

ULVAC, Inc.’s Head Office and Plant are located in the middle of a residential area in Chigasaki City, Kanagawa Prefecture. The site area is approximately 48,000 square meters, and about 1,600 people work here, including ULVAC employees and employees of partnering companies. On clear days, it is easy to see Mt Fuji from the 6-story company building where we greet our customers.

At the Head Office/Plant, we primarily manufacture and conduct R&D on vacuum equipment and components for displays and semiconductors, as well as for medical/pharmaceutical applications and general industries. Because we deal with extremely large equipment, each work site is two stories high, and some work sites are clean rooms.

The Head Office/Plant relocated to Chigasaki City in 1968. Back then, the area was mostly rural, except for a few small factories, and regular bus service was not available.

Mt Fuji and ULVAC TECHNO, Ltd. buildings are visible from the ULVAC Head Office.
**Space Town Chigasaki**

Chigasaki City has many associations with space. The astronaut Soichi Noguchi is from Chigasaki City. ULVAC’s third president, Chikara Hayashi, served as the first leader of the Chigasaki Chapter of the Young Astronauts Club of Japan.

In addition, the Chigasaki Space Forum, a citizens’ organization that is the successor to the Young Astronauts Club of Japan, receives funding and other support from Chigasaki City. Recently, ULVAC has been collaborating with the Forum by hosting vacuum experiments and factory tours for children as part of the regularly scheduled Chigasaki Space Classroom. We conduct experiments that are fun for both children and adults, such as inflating marshmallows, boiling water, demonstrating vacuum deposition, shooting a vacuum cannon, and making aerated chocolate.

**Tsurumine Higashi District**

**On-site vacuum experiments at the Community Center**

When the Community Center in the Tsurumine Higashi District of Chigasaki held a special commemorative event in honor of its fifteenth anniversary, we conducted on-site vacuum experiments. At the event venue, the multiple experiments we had prepared to demonstrate the vacuum principle brought forth exclamations of surprise from participants. We plan to continue holding events that will encourage children to develop an interest in science and vacuum technologies.

**Rice Paddy Project utilizing fallow fields**

In the Rice Paddy Project, which marked its tenth year in 2019, we borrow fallow fields within the city to grow rice, in order to provide environmental education to children and recreational activities for our employees. Our employees and their family members, along with members of local nonprofits and university students, try to do as much of the work manually as possible, from paddy plowing and rice transplanting to harvesting. We also hold a harvest festival in which all participants enjoy the harvested rice together.

**ULVAC Global Festival (ULFes)**

Every year, we hold the ULVAC Global Festival, an event to show our gratitude to all our stakeholders for their unwavering support. A variety of activities are offered, including the Gourmet Grand Prix and produce exhibit hosted by our group companies in Japan and overseas, stalls and exhibits, factory tours, vacuum experiments, and performances by brass bands and cheerleaders from local junior and senior high schools. We also invite children from nearby children’s care facilities. The festival in FY2018 was a great success, with approximately 5,000 visitors attending.

**Chigasaki City beach clean-up activities**

Twice a year, ULVAC, together with other local companies and community organizations, participates in clean-up activities at Chigasaki’s Southern Beach. The activities help ensure that people using the beach will have a pleasant experience.
Nature in Sagami Bay and Satoyama, Chigasaki City

More than 50 years have passed since ULVAC’s Head Office and Plant relocated to Chigasaki City.
Here, an illustrated map introduces Chigasaki City and the surrounding abundance of nature.

*This map was created with the help and guidance of Chigasaki City. (The photos were also provided by Chigasaki City.)*

1. **Chigasaki Southern C and Eboshi Rock, two symbols of Chigasaki**
   The Chigasaki Southern C, modeled after the first letter in the name Chigasaki, is located at Southern Beach Chigasaki, a swimming beach, and has been featured in many songs about the Shonan area. Eboshi Rock, named after the ebi hat worn by nobles in the Heian period, is located offshore and has become a famous scenic attraction. The Shonan Festival and the Southern Beach Chigasaki Fireworks Display, two of the four largest festivals in Chigasaki, are also held at Southern Beach.

2. **Hamaori Festival, on the Chigasaki seashore, marks the arrival of summer**
   At dawn, approximately 40 mikoshis (portable shrines) from various shrines within the city are brought to the beach. With a type of shout unique to mikoshi carriers in the Saga Domain, all the carriers make their mikoshis dance wildly across the beach in a joint Shinto ritual to pray for a good harvest. With its long history, this festival has been designated part of the intangible folk cultural heritage of Kanagawa Prefecture, and has also been selected as one of the fifty festivals representing Kanagawa.

3. **Raw young sardines, sheets of dried sardines, fishing, beach seining**
   Fresh young sardines are caught in the fishing grounds off Chigasaki in Shonan. After the young sardines have been rinsed in cold water so that they can be eaten raw, they are packed and shipped to be enjoyed the same day. The ocean around Chigasaki is ideal for all types of fishing, from surf fishing to fishing from onshore rocks or from boats. Ferries also operate at the fishing port, taking fishermen to Eboshi Rock. Beach seining, which is an old-fashioned fishing method, is currently being practiced by three fishing families.

4. **Bridge pier from the old Sagami river, which appeared during the Great Kanto Earthquake**
   During the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, this bridge pier emerged from the middle of a rice paddy. The bridge is said to have been built in 1198 by Shigenari Saburo Inago, a senior vassal of Yoritomo Minamoto, for the repose of the soul of his wife. It has been designated a historic landmark and natural monument by the Japanese government.

5. **Interesting street names**
   - **Teppo-michi** This road cuts through the eastern seashore in the east-west direction and was given this name (Teppo means cannon and michi means street) because samurai used it to transport cannons for practice on a cannon field built on the beach in the Edo period.
   - **Southern-dori** The road leading from the Chigasaki Station to Southern Beach has been nicknamed Southern-dori (dori means road) since 2000.

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Chigasaki's mascot characters Eboshimaro and Mina
Chigasaki City's original PR mascot characters
Eboshimaro: A boy about 9 years old who is a Chigasaki noble and always speaks in the style of a nobleman. Mina: A wave spirit who can create waves in the ocean.
Ooka Echizen Festival and Ooka Echizen no Kami Tadasuke

Ooka Echizen no Kami Tadasuke, a famous magistrate of the Edo period who oversaw a place called Tsutsumi, possessed both excellent character and great insight. He gained the confidence of Shogun Yoshimune Tokugawa and served successively in important posts, including as town magistrate of Edo and as commissioner of temples and shrines. He left a great legacy as a judicial official. His many great deeds as a statesman and man of culture are also well known. The Ooka clan’s cemetery is located at the Jo-kenji Temple, and the Ooka Echizen Festival, held to honor Tadasuke’s virtuous life, is a very popular spring festival.

Northern Chigasaki with its abundance of nature and the Koshikake Jinja Shrine

In northern Chigasaki, satoyama landscapes (woodlands between cities and nature where people and nature exist in harmony) are still vital. Koshikake Shrine, whose thriving trees have been designated a natural monument by the city, was given this name because it enshrines the Koshikake Boulder, said to have served as a place of rest for Yamato travelers. In those days, when the Sagami River would rise, travelers would stop at Chaya-machi, within Chigasaki, for lodging.

Takasuna green space park and Kawakami Otojiro • Sadayakko

When you travel south (towards the ocean) from Chigasaki Station, you come to Takasuna green space park, rich in vegetation, in the middle of a quiet residential area. Another famous site in this area is a house known as Bansho-en. Bansho-en was the home of Otojiro and Sadayakko Kawakami, a popular actor and actress team from a nouveau school of drama popular at the turn of the twentieth century. Otojiro’s song “Oppeke” gained him much fame during the Meiji Era. Sadayakko, his wife, also appeared on stage regularly as Japan’s first female actress.

Nankoin and Doppo Kunikida

As a former tuberculosis sanatorium, Nankoin contributed significantly to the development of Chigasaki City beginning in the Meiji period, and it had a major impact on the city’s culture and history. Nankoin became well known throughout Japan when Doppo Kunikida, a famous author, was admitted there after being diagnosed with TB in 1908. He spent some time there fighting the disease.

Farm Support Volunteer System

Chigasaki City also has a thriving farming community and a fishery. The purpose of the Farm Support Volunteer System is to promote farming and help address the labor shortage at farms within the city. The program also helps citizens improve their health, do something fulfilling in their free time, and gain a better understanding of agriculture.

Summer is Aloha Wear time! Sister city agreement with Honolulu

Since Chigasaki City is on the waterfront and has a pleasant climate, many Hawaiian shops line its streets. To encourage people to wear Aloha shirts, the Chigasaki Aloha Committee proposed the Aloha Wear Campaign in 2003. One now sees city workers wearing Aloha shirts instead of business suits to work in summer. Chigasaki City also has a sister city agreement with Honolulu, Hawaii, and there are many hula dance enthusiasts here. The city even hosted a Hula World Convention one year.

*Quoted from Sightseeing Hot Spots, Road Nickname Project, and Chigasaki City website (page introducing the Store Association)