A large blue circular logo with a white "R" inside, connected to six small blue circles by thin blue lines, forming a star-like pattern.

SR Research Report  
2014/4/23

## **Aeon Delight Co., Ltd. (9787)**

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## Key financial indicators

Income Statement (JPYmn)	FY02/10 Cons.	FY02/11 Cons.	FY02/12 Cons.	FY02/13 Cons.	FY02/14 Cons.	FY02/15 Est.
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>140,299</b>	<b>170,905</b>	<b>219,797</b>	<b>248,876</b>	<b>257,243</b>	<b>270,000</b>
YoY	-3.7%	21.8%	28.6%	13.2%	3.4%	5.0%
Gross Profit	21,118	23,989	28,631	30,227	33,714	
YoY	0.8%	13.6%	19.4%	5.6%	11.5%	
GPM	15.1%	14.0%	13.0%	12.1%	13.1%	
Operating Profit	9,970	12,031	13,762	13,901	15,115	16,000
YoY	0.2%	20.7%	14.4%	1.0%	8.7%	5.9%
OPM	7.1%	7.0%	6.3%	5.6%	5.9%	5.9%
Recurring Profit	9,912	12,089	13,784	13,892	15,092	16,000
YoY	1.0%	22.0%	14.0%	0.8%	8.6%	6.0%
RPM	7.1%	7.1%	6.3%	5.6%	5.9%	5.9%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>5,466</b>	<b>6,495</b>	<b>6,912</b>	<b>7,509</b>	<b>8,161</b>	<b>8,600</b>
YoY	12.1%	18.8%	6.4%	8.6%	8.7%	5.4%
Net Margin	3.9%	3.8%	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%
<b>Per Share Data</b>						
Number of Shares	41,400	54,170	54,170	54,170	54,170	
EPS	137.8	142.6	131.8	143.2	155.5	163.8
EPS (Fully Diluted)	137.6	142.3	131.5	142.7	155.2	
Dividend Per Share	27.0	39.0	40.0	46.0	48.0	50.0
Book Value Per Share	787.8	1,005.6	1,095.6	1,202.4	1,324.8	
<b>Balance Sheet (JPYmn)</b>						
Cash and Equivalents	7,964	13,098	9,707	10,014	12,565	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>30,026</b>	<b>64,524</b>	<b>72,486</b>	<b>79,323</b>	<b>90,347</b>	
Tangible Fixed Assets, net	2,741	3,756	3,773	3,796	4,258	
Other Fixed Assets	3,977	4,766	4,276	5,257	5,829	
Intangible Assets	11,924	11,577	12,272	12,321	11,687	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>48,670</b>	<b>84,624</b>	<b>92,809</b>	<b>100,699</b>	<b>112,122</b>	
Accounts Payable	8,974	22,424	23,720	24,544	26,701	
Short-Term Debt	80	49	41	10	5	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>16,281</b>	<b>30,724</b>	<b>33,643</b>	<b>34,955</b>	<b>39,306</b>	
Long-Term Debt	31	6	15	5	0	
<b>Total Fixed Liabilities</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,500</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>17,306</b>	<b>31,737</b>	<b>34,626</b>	<b>36,151</b>	<b>40,806</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>31,364</b>	<b>52,887</b>	<b>58,182</b>	<b>64,547</b>	<b>71,316</b>	
Interest-Bearing Debt	111	55	56	15	5	
<b>Cash Flow Statement (JPYmn)</b>						
Operating Cash Flow	7,031	6,808	9,639	-4,358	21,359	
Investment Cash Flow	-1,966	-3,000	-10,051	7,086	-16,632	
Financing Cash Flow	-4,169	-1,321	-2,722	-2,257	-2,475	
<b>Financial Ratios</b>						
ROA	11.2%	9.7%	7.8%	7.8%	7.7%	
ROE	18.9%	15.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.3%	
Equity Ratio	64.2%	62.3%	61.9%	62.6%	62.0%	

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.



## Recent Updates

### Highlights

On **April 23, 2014**, SR updated comments on Aeon Delight Co., Ltd.'s FY02/14 full-year earnings based on interviews with management; please see the results section for further details.

On **April 8, 2014**, the company announced FY02/14 results and its medium-term plan; see the results section for details.

**For corporate releases and developments more than three months old, please refer to the News & Topics section.**

## Trends & Outlook

### Quarterly Trends and Results

Quarterly Performance (JPYmn)	FY02/13				FY02/14			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Sales</b>	<b>58,584</b>	<b>68,187</b>	<b>65,620</b>	<b>56,485</b>	<b>66,711</b>	<b>66,841</b>	<b>61,256</b>	<b>62,435</b>
YoY	10.6%	19.7%	19.0%	3.2%	13.9%	-2.0%	-6.7%	10.5%
<b>GP</b>	<b>6,984</b>	<b>7,998</b>	<b>7,790</b>	<b>7,455</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>8,808</b>	<b>7,984</b>	<b>8,749</b>
YoY	3.0%	3.5%	10.5%	5.3%	17.0%	10.1%	2.5%	17.4%
GPM	11.9%	11.7%	11.9%	13.2%	12.3%	13.2%	13.0%	14.0%
<b>SG&amp;A</b>	<b>3,890</b>	<b>3,979</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,957</b>	<b>4,782</b>	<b>4,624</b>	<b>4,589</b>	<b>4,604</b>
YoY	5.4%	2.1%	16.8%	15.5%	22.9%	16.2%	2.0%	16.4%
SG&A / Sales	6.6%	5.8%	6.9%	7.0%	7.2%	6.9%	7.5%	7.4%
<b>OP</b>	<b>3,093</b>	<b>4,020</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>3,499</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>4,185</b>	<b>3,395</b>	<b>4,145</b>
YoY	0.2%	5.0%	2.9%	-4.1%	9.6%	4.1%	3.2%	18.5%
OPM	5.3%	5.9%	5.0%	6.2%	5.1%	6.3%	5.5%	6.6%
<b>RP</b>	<b>3,102</b>	<b>4,022</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>4,168</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>4,110</b>
YoY	-1.2%	4.9%	2.4%	-3.3%	9.7%	3.6%	3.7%	18.1%
RPM	5.3%	5.9%	5.0%	6.2%	5.1%	6.2%	5.6%	6.6%
<b>NI</b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>2,289</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>2,357</b>
YoY	4.8%	7.3%	-1.0%	23.7%	4.0%	6.1%	6.1%	17.6%
NPM	3.0%	3.2%	2.4%	3.5%	2.8%	3.4%	2.7%	3.8%

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research; figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

### FY02/14 Results (announced on April 8, 2014; please refer to the preceding table)

In FY02/14, Aeon Delight recorded its fourth consecutive year of increased sales and its tenth consecutive year of increased profits.

Sales: JPY257.2bn (+3.4% YoY)  
 Operating profit: JPY15.1bn (+8.7%)  
 Recurring profit: JPY15.1bn (+8.6%)  
 Net income: JPY8.2bn (+8.7%)

#### Overall

The company worked to expand its services lineup and start new businesses with a focus on urban areas, ecology and environmental market, and Asia outside Japan as its main market and business focal points.



As a result, Aeon Delight was able to expand its businesses via measures such as housekeeping agency services to meet the complex needs of urban living, and facilities management geared toward small retail facilities. The company also conducted administrative management support for businesses through business process outsourcing (BPO).

An overview of each segment is as follows:

Facilities Management

Sales: JPY43.5bn (+3.3 YoY)

The company fulfilled over 400 orders for its Building Energy Management System (BEMS) to meet customer needs for air conditioning control functions and features to control fridge-freezer facilities. Additionally, by tracking data for energy usage by business type and by region enabled Aeon Delight to advance its unique energy management support service.

Securities Service

Sales: JPY34.2bn (+7.4% YoY)

In addition to new contracts, the company added 17 stores with "attender" services (i.e., attendant staff functioning as an information and security provider). The attender service has also been introduced to Beijing and Qingdao in China, and is receiving high praise from customers. The company is also moving to utilize security systems which integrate human elements of security with the latest technology ("cockpit"-style), and upon finalization of specifications using existing contracts as a baseline, will accelerate proposal of this new system to customers.

Cleaning Services

Sales: JPY42.3bn (+4.4% YoY)

The company's original coating agent, which replaces floor wax, was implemented in 121 properties. Other initiatives included progress in standardization and productivity improvement in product quality by uniformly sharing the company's cleaning expertise with a consolidated pool of consigned firms.

Construction Work

Sales: JPY45.6bn (-14.0% YoY)

LED construction work was down YoY due to a lack of orders from the Aeon group, which had been concentrated in the previous year. Sales for LED construction work to the Aeon group were JPY15.6bn (JPY26.6bn in the previous year). However, orders received for maintenance for existing stores and scheduled upkeep construction work were healthy, centered on the Aeon group.

Materials and Supplies Sourcing

Sales: JPY44.5bn (+13.4% YoY)

The company began taking orders for customers in the Kanto region which manage chain stores at small-scale retail shopping centers, and focused on providing hygiene and packaging materials. Concerning trays and packaging materials for fresh foods and delicatessen items, Aeon Delight was able to secure a 37.1% YoY increase in sales (JPY8.9bn) by concentrating demand.

Vending Machine Services

Sales: JPY33.3bn (+6.8% YoY)

The company continued to develop low-cost vending machines, and machines capable of accepting electronic money. Furthermore, the company's management of soft-drink vending managements saw a net increase of 4,800 units, due to the installation of new units in Sanyo Marunaka shops and new Aeon Malls.

Support Services

Sales: JPY13.6bn (+25.2% YoY)



Demographic changes (i.e., growing elderly population) and diversified lifestyle in urban areas contributed to a significant increase in housekeeping services, which recorded a sales increase of 50.9% YoY, and contributed to the improvement of segment sales and profitability. Kajitaku, a group company, expanded sales channels for its "Kaji Cloud" housekeeping services package, and succeeded in sales of approximately 120,000 packages, up significantly from the 50,000 packages sold in the previous year. From Q2 FY02/13 onward, the business grew at a rapid pace thanks to contributions from group companies that are now included in the scope of consolidation.

On the same day as the earnings announcement, the company announced its new medium-term plan (for FY02/15 through FY 02/17). The framework for the plan will be centered on:

1. Establish a dominant position in comprehensive FMS and competitiveness (strengthen the cleaning services segment and the energy solutions segment)
2. Develop the Asian market
3. Build an organizational base (organizational restructuring, human resource development, IT investment)

Year	Sales	Operating income	Net income
FY02/14	JPY257.2bn	JPY15.1bn	JPY8.2bn
FY02/15	JPY270.0bn	JPY16.0bn	JPY8.6bn
FY02/17	At least JPY330.0bn	At least JPY21.0bn	At least JPY11.0bn

Sales for FY02/17 will consist of 35% outside of the Aeon group, and 10% to overseas.

**For details on previous quarterly and annual results, please refer to the Historical Financial Statements section.**

### Full-Year (FY02/15) Outlook

FY02/15 Forecasts (JPYmn)	FY02/14			FY02/15		
	1H	2H	Full-Year	1H Est.	2H Est.	FY Est.
<b>Sales</b>	<b>133,552</b>	<b>123,691</b>	<b>257,243</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>136,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>
YoY	5.3%	1.3%	3.4%	0.3%	10.0%	5.0%
CoGS	116,570	106,958	223,528			
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>16,981</b>	<b>16,733</b>	<b>33,714</b>			
YoY	13.3%	9.8%	11.5%			
GPM	12.7%	13.5%	13.1%			
SG&A	9,406	9,193	18,599			
SG&A / Sales	7.0%	7.4%	7.2%			
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>7,575</b>	<b>7,540</b>	<b>15,115</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>16,000</b>
YoY	6.5%	11.1%	8.7%	0.3%	11.4%	5.9%
OPM	5.7%	6.1%	5.9%	5.7%	6.2%	5.9%
<b>Recurring Profit</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>7,521</b>	<b>15,092</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>16,000</b>
YoY	6.3%	11.1%	8.6%	0.4%	11.7%	6.0%
RPM	5.7%	6.1%	5.9%	5.7%	6.2%	5.9%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>4,147</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>8,161</b>	<b>4,150</b>	<b>4,450</b>	<b>8,600</b>
YoY	5.1%	12.6%	8.7%	0.1%	10.9%	5.4%

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

FY02/15 marks the first year of a new medium term plan. Targets for the plan are sales of JPY270.0bn (up



5% compared to FY02/14) and operating profit of JPY16.0bn (up 5.9%).

Plan incorporates uncertainty over the consumption tax hike and increases in labor costs

Although the average growth in sales is 8.7% per year for the three years covered by the medium term plan, the goal for the first year will be a 5% rise. The company is remaining cautious, citing uncertainty over the effect that the April consumption tax increase will have on consumer spending and overall sales, and effects of rising labor costs on profits.

Three main policies will be the focal points for FY02/15:

1. Reforming operational structure in Japan and Asia;
2. Establishing a combined cleaning services and facilities management ESCO business;
3. Strengthening management foundations.

The first two points are detailed below.

**Reforming operational structure**

As described in the medium term plan, thorough implementation of the solutions business will cause the operational structure will undergo reform to transition from a product out model to a market in model. The company is currently aiming to implement a structure which categorizes operations by customer and industry, and also created a new division which aims to acquire customers from the medical and nursing facilities sector, areas that Aeon Delight view with increasing importance. Plans are also underway to continue development of existing IT systems to create databases via IT investment, with the intent of increasing monitoring capacity for customers and industries.

**Establishing a combined cleaning services and facilities management ESCO business**

The cleaning services and facilities management businesses are both areas in which the company has determined to place additional corporate resources, as stated in its medium term plan. Concerning the cleaning services business, a standardized cleaning model will be established in FY02/15, the first year of the plan, and Aeon Delight will aim to improve profitability by using this standardized model at both its directly operated stores and outsourcing partners.

In FY02/14, the company established a separate department tasked with making improvements to the cleaning services business. Five domestic area managers will lead a process to improve operational efficiency at the company's 93 directly operated stores. Aeon Delight will first assemble a standardized cleaning model at its directly operated stores, and beginning in August FY02/15, move to implement this model across its outsourcing partners, which compose approximately 80 to 90 percent of its cleaning services business.

The company is aiming for these initiatives to have the following effects during FY02/15: a JPY300mn improvement at directly operated stores for the nine months beginning in June, and a JPY200mn improvement at its outsourcing partners for the seven months beginning in August, for a total of JPY500mn. Over 30,000 persons are involved in the cleaning services business, and there is currently a large discrepancy in profitability between different directly operated stores and outsourcing partners. As part of its medium term plan, Aeon Delight is targeting a 25% improvement in efficiency to create a leaner, more profitable operational structure at directly operated stores and outsourcing partners with low profitability.

Concerning the ESCO business, BEMS facilities will be installed at all MaxValu retail locations of the Aeon Group during FY02/15, and energy management is planned to commence in May 2014.



## Outlook

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In April 2014, Aeon Delight announced a new medium term plan, with FY02/17 as the final year. Targets for FY02/17 include sales of JPY330.0bn or more, operating profit of JPY21.0bn or more, and an operating profit margin of 6.4% or greater. The company aims to reduce its reliance on the Aeon Group and expand its overseas reach, setting sales composition targets of 35% and 10% for the two respective categories. In light of recent employment trends, personnel expenses are expected to rise 2% per year.

The framework for the medium term plan involves:

1. Establishing comprehensive FMS (Creating competitive advantages);
2. Creating inroads into the Asian market;
3. Establishing a foundation for business.

In order to secure prospects for growth in the medium to long term, the company views its cleaning services and energy solutions businesses as growth drivers. Aeon Delight will allocate significant amounts of management resources to these areas.

## The company's views on increasing sales by JPY73.0bn in FY02/14

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### M&A not included

The new medium term plan calls for an over JPY73.0 increase in sales compared to FY02/14. Approximately one-third of the JPY100.0bn sales increase in the previous medium term plan was composed of M&A activity. However, the new plan does not include any M&A, and instead is focused on digging deeper into existing revenue sources.

### Domestic Aeon Group: 1/3; Overseas: 1/3; Domestic, excluding Aeon Group: 1/3

Although specific figures have not been disclosed, Aeon Delight expects approximately 1/3 of the increase in sales to come from sales toward the domestic Aeon Group, 1/3 to come from overseas (including overseas Aeon Group companies), and the remaining 1/3 to come from domestic sales, excluding Aeon Group companies.

### Sales toward domestic Aeon Group companies

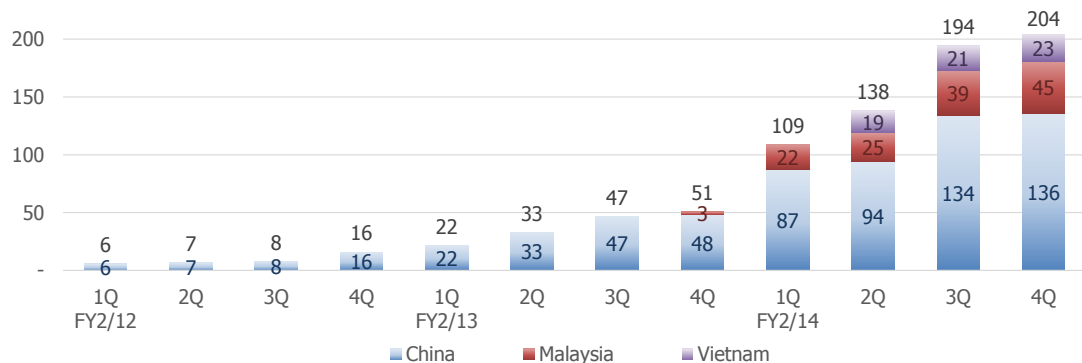
Aeon Delight believes that there is about JPY50.0bn of potential for contracts with domestic Aeon Group companies. In order to acquire these contracts, the company is in the process of an organizational restructuring, which includes forming a special sales department that will specifically target the Aeon Group. Sales were concentrated primarily on large group companies in the past, and other medium and small sized companies were not given adequate amounts of attention. Aeon Delight hopes to capitalize on these previously untapped group companies.





**Higher overseas sales: Aiming to be Asia’s number one company**

**Number of overseas facilities contracts acquired**



Source: Company materials, SR Inc. research

In the Asian market, the company has established a presence in China and ASEAN nations, and is seeking JPY30.0bn in sales from these areas by FY02/17. The above areas accounted for about 2% of sales in FY02/14. The number of facilities sourced to Aeon Delight were: China, 136; Malaysia, 45; Vietnam, 23. China is the dominant contributor to sales at this time, but the company plans to increase sales by at least JPY10.0bn each in both China and the collective ASEAN nations.

Although competition is heating up in emerging markets with overseas companies ISS (CPH:ISS) and SODEXO (EPA:SW), consistent population expansion in urban centers is allowing the Aeon Group to maintain its momentum in shifting focus to Asia.

**Aeon Group plans investment of JPY400.0bn over three years ending in FY02/17**

The Aeon Group plans to invest JPY400.0bn over the three years ending in FY02/17 to open large-scale shopping centers (SCs) in Asian countries such as China, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Aeon Delight is aiming to capture opportunities for its comprehensive FMS business, and believes that the Aeon Group’s investments will provide further opportunities for overseas sales growth.

**Establishing a federalized management structure in China and a comprehensive FMS menu in the ASEAN region**

During the previous medium term plan, the company strengthened its business fundamentals through acquisitions of promising local firms in China and the ASEAN nations. Two focal points of the new medium term plan are establishing a federalized management structure in China, and a comprehensive FMS menu in the ASEAN region.

Under the medium term plan, Aeon Delight will continue to press forward with its strategy of acquiring promising local firms. In addition to current acquisitions in Beijing, Tianjin, Jiangsu, Hubei, and Guangdong, preparations are underway to expand into Shandong. Since the 2007 establishment of a local office in Beijing, the company has expanded its business through M&A and partnerships with major players in local markets, and the company is moving to further solidify this strategy.



Expansion in China will revolve around the company differentiating itself via strengths in areas such as the ESCO business and elevator business. China is the world's largest market for elevators, and the company is prepped to make inroads thanks to its acquisition of one of the largest elevator manufacturers in Jiangsu.

As a percentage of sales, the company's sales activities in the ASEAN region still represent only a small amount. Although the medium term plan includes sales to Aeon Group companies, the company forecasts an increase in sales for the collective countries on par with the forecasted sales increase in China. Specifically, Aeon Delight will aim to become the market leader in the three businesses of cleaning services, vending machines, and energy conservation in Malaysia. In Vietnam, the company will enhance its services lineup and bolster its sales activities to both Japanese and foreign firms. Plans are also in place for expansion into Cambodia, Singapore, and Indonesia.

### **Domestic sales excluding the Aeon Group: 35% of sales to outside of the Aeon Group by FY02/17**

As of FY02/14, the percentage of sales that occurs outside of the Aeon Group was 31%. Aeon Delight aims to raise this figure to 35% by the end of FY02/17, and to 40% over the long term. Players in the comprehensive FMT market outside of the Aeon Group have not solidified, and there remains room for the company to enter the market with its unique expertise. Aeon Delight will continue to expand its reach in acquiring new contracts with hotels and hospitals, much as it did in FY02/14.

The company is working to prevent employees from becoming overly accustomed to working on projects for the Aeon Group. To foster this culture, Aeon Delight is driving momentum in acquiring market share outside of the Aeon Group. To this end, the company also plans to restructure fundamental business principles such as sales, business development, employee training, and IT investment.

### **Establishing comprehensive FMS (Creating competitive advantages)**

One of the focal points of the medium term plan is establishing comprehensive FMS and creating competitive advantages. In order to find new opportunities for growth, the plan calls for concentration of management resources in the cleaning services and energy solutions businesses. Although a degree of uncertainty exists in the environment surrounding comprehensive FMS owing to expansion of large western FM firms into Japan for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, demand is strong. New sources of demand are led by hospitals and nursing care facilities.

### **Strengthening the cleaning services business**

In FY02/14, the cleaning services business saw sales of JPY42.3bn (16.5% of total sales), operating profit of JPY5.7bn (25%, excluding eliminations, amortization of goodwill, and corporate expenses), and operating profit margin of 13.5%. The company is aiming to generate sales in excess of JPY180.0bn in FY02/21 (including M&A). Aeon Delight values the current domestic market at JPY1.3tn, and although it does not expect any significant growth in the market size, the company will increase sales via expanding its market share to over 10%.

To accomplish this, the company will expand into new areas, and establish a standardized cleaning model. Primary focal points for new areas will be hospitals and nursing care facilities. Major groups with nationwide hospital networks are eager to implement management reforms, and Aeon Delight believes that comprehensive FMS is a good fit to match these customers' needs in improving sanitation,



environmental conditions, safety, peace of mind, service improvement, and cost reductions.

**Expanding into new areas: taking on major nationwide hospital groups**

Through the organizational restructuring described below in FY02/15, the company has created a framework to tackle different industries, such as hospitals, with differing strategies for each. It has also changed its marketing approach from a product out model, in which the company touts the superiority of its products, to a market in model, in which the company adjusts its products to meet the needs of the market. Budgets are also no longer set at business headquarters, but are set based on proposals from individual sales departments, which are more in tune with the unique needs of each customer and market.

**Expanding into new areas: Developing service options through cooperation with European manufacturers**

To accelerate the fleshing out of its business offerings, the company will also further develop service options in cooperation with European manufacturers and health care departments of major domestic trading firms. For instance, when expanding into hospitals and nursing care facilities, disinfecting and sterilization techniques are essential. Aeon Delight does not hesitate to partner with European firms and universities, which harbor advanced technology in areas such as these. The company states that it has already partnered with a Swiss university. Although M&A will be an essential component of reaching JPY180.0bn in sales by FY02/21, it appears that the company has already determined, to an extent, targets for future alliances.

**Improving gross profit margin by establishing a standardized cleaning model**

Aeon Delight has set a goal of improving the gross profit margin of its cleaning services business over 10% by FY02/21. Developing high value-added services is an integral component, but the company believes that improvements to its cost structure will yield the largest gains. The cleaning services business is the segment with the highest operating profit margin (13.5% in FY02/14), but the company believes that there is still room for improvement.

To this end, the company is aiming, for the second time, to develop a standardization model (standardized quality based upon the optimal amount of labor input). An attempt was made in FY02/10, but after four years of use, its utility decreased, and a reassessment was deemed necessary.

Between 80-90% of sales are outsourced to external firms, and Aeon Delight is only directly involved with 10-20%. However, the profit composition is over 20%, and there is a large variation in margins between different offices. As such, the company decided to share its expertise with its outsourcing partners on methods to achieve high margins. The company also improved cost structures at its internal offices that were suffering from low margins. Through the above efforts, Aeon Delight expects its gross profit margin to rise. By increasing productivity for the roughly 30,000 persons employed in its cleaning services, the company will improve profitability as a whole. By reassessing its CoGS on a fundamental level, the process has already begun at 93 directly operated locations. SR will keep watch on how these initiatives progress throughout FY02/15 and FY02/16.

**Strengthening the energy solutions business**

In the energy solutions business, the company seeks to establish a proprietary combined facilities management ESCO business and be a comprehensive manager of energy across the Aeon Group. During the duration of the medium term plan, sales of JPY10.0bn are expected from the ESCO business. Plans to join with other companies in developing a business selling electricity are also under consideration, ahead of expected liberalization of the electricity market in 2016.

**ESCO business**

The ESCO business will be increasingly integrated into the combined facilities management ESCO



business. Although competition is fierce, the company has strengths in its energy conservation technologies in building maintenance. Without merely stopping with installation of control equipment, the company stated that energy savings of 10-15% are possible through addition of its unique facilities management expertise. Aeon Delight aims to expand its business by leveraging strengths such as those above.

#### **Energy management for the Aeon Group**

According to Aeon's environmental sustainability report, a combined 2,113mn kWh was utilized in FY02/13 by Aeon Retail, six MaxValu companies, Aeon Super Center, and Aeon Big. Assuming a rate of JPY22 per kWh, this equates to JPY46.5bn in electrical costs for the year. Adding electrical fees for other group companies will increase this figure even further, and at the Aeon Group's FY02/14 results presentation, electricity costs for the group were stated to be in excess of JPY80.0bn (within the Kansai Electric Power [TSE1:9503] area, Aeon's power usage is second only to the West Japan Railway Company [TSE1:9021]). Through management of this extremely high amount of electrical use, the Aeon Delight will not only be able to reduce the Aeon Group's electrical footprint, but also expand and acquire expertise.

#### **Building an organizational base**

To successfully implement the above initiatives outlined in the medium term plan, building an organizational base is outlined as one of the top priorities. The following three points are seen as focal points:

1. Active business development and organizational restructuring with solutions-based sales in mind;
2. HR development with an emphasis on service quality;
3. IT investment to realize corporate growth and a small headquarters.

In order to proceed with the cleaning services and energy solutions businesses as stated above, the company will consolidate and restructure its organizational structure, creating a sales structure that is specialized to each customer and industry. The process began in FY02/15, and Aeon Delight is aiming to develop a market in business model that is in tune with customer needs. Additionally, approximately JPY3.0bn of investment in IT is planned over the three years of the medium term plan. Investments will be used to develop tools and systems for the cleaning services and energy solutions businesses, which will in turn drive acceleration of the development of the company as a whole.



## **Business**

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### **Business Description**

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Aeon Delight is providing maintenance services for retail facilities and office buildings. The company, formerly known as Japan Maintenance (a subsidiary of MyCal Corp.), was established mainly to undertake maintenance at Mycal stores in November 1972. Mycal filed for bankruptcy in September 2001 (delisted on September 17, 2001), and became a subsidiary of Aeon in 2003. Japan Maintenance merged with Aeon Techno Service and the name was changed to Aeon Delight in September 2006. As of FY02/13, the company derives 65% of sales and 70% of operating profit from Aeon Retail Co., Ltd. and other Aeon group companies.

Aeon Delight handles between 80% and 90% of the facilities management work required by Aeon Retail, and about 65% of such work required by Aeon Mall Co., Ltd. (TSE1: 8905). Facilities management work at Aeon Mall was previously done by a subsidiary of Diamond City, a Mitsubishi Corp. (TSE1: 8058) affiliate absorbed by Aeon Mall in 2007. Aeon Delight also handles between 60% and 70% of the facilities management work at MaxValu retail stores owned the Aeon.

Aeon Delight is a subsidiary of Aeon, a comprehensive retail operator. Aeon was established in 1926 and moved to a holding company format in order to generate group synergies in August 2009. The Aeon group consists of "Aeon" flagship general merchandise stores (Aeon Retail), "MaxValu" supermarkets, "Aeon" shopping centers and malls (Aeon Mall). The company is not only looking to develop its own shopping centers, but also to build its business in facilities management, which will contract management of retail facilities developed by other companies. Aeon has been expanded into Hong Kong, Thailand, and Malaysia, and will also expand more broadly in ASEAN countries including Taiwan, Indonesia, China, Vietnam and Cambodia.

### **M&A Activities**

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Aeon Delight has pursued growth through acquisitions. In May 2007, the company established a business alliance with A to Z Service Co., Ltd., maintenance service provider for small commercial facilities, and raised its stake in the company to 54.8% from 20.4% in May 2011. A to Z Service specializes in maintenance services to convenience stores and fast food restaurants. Clients include McDonalds Japan (JASDAQ: 2702), Komeri (TSE1: 8218), and Seiyu. A to Z Service contributes roughly 5 billion yen in sales, but operating profit margin is low at around 3%.

The company took a 90% stake in Kajitaku Co., Ltd., a provider of cleaning, laundry and other household services in April 2011. Kajitaku adds about 500 million yen to 600 million to Aeon Delight's top line, and strengthened its expansion into the household segment. It acquired a 40% stake in Kankyouseibi Co., Ltd., operator of maintenance services for large-scale buildings in October 2008, and a 40% stake in Do Service Co., Ltd., a building maintenance services operator in western Japan in April 2009.

It also acquired Certo Corp., a provider of office supplies and operator of soft drink beverage vending machines in September 2010, and its subsidiary in Beijing, renamed the entity Aeon Delight (Beijing) Commerce Co., Ltd. in September 2010.

In April 2011, the company acquired 90% of Kajitaku Co., Ltd., a provider of house cleaning and condominium concierge services. In October 2012, it acquired a 55% stake in a domestic travel services company and renamed it Aeon Compass Co., Ltd. The company also bought 51% of General Services Inc., a business-process outsourcing company.



**M&A activities by Aeon Holding**

On March 4, 2013, Aeon acquired Peacock Store Ltd., a supermarket operator, from J Front Retailing Co., Ltd. (TSE1: 3086). There were 82 Peacock stores as of March 2013, providing a potential business opportunity for Aeon Delight. In April 2013, the company said that it would raise its stake in Daiei to over 40% from 20%. Aeon Delight had 9 billion in sales to Daiei in FY02/13, and may expand to 13 billion or more after it is integrated into the Aeon group.

In March 2013, Aeon announced it would raise its stake in Daiei to more than 40% from 20% by April 2013, and would assume a majority of Daiei's board seats. Shouhei Murai, who led Aeon's supermarket operations, will become Daiei's president effective May 2013. Mr. Murai became president of Aeon Retail in 2008 and boosted the company's profitability.

**Business Overview**

Aeon Delight operates eight main business segments: facilities management, security services, cleaning services, construction work, materials and supplies sourcing services, vending machines, support services, and other (real estate).

(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14
<b>Sales</b>	<b>170,905</b>	<b>219,797</b>	<b>248,876</b>	<b>257,243</b>	<b>OP</b>	<b>12,031</b>	<b>13,762</b>	<b>13,901</b>	<b>15,115</b>
Facilities Management	40,019	42,147	42,050	43,458	Facilities Management	5,115	5,084	4,661	4,725
Security Services	32,088	32,235	31,805	34,242	Security Services	2,764	2,823	2,692	2,865
Cleaning Services	41,142	39,852	40,519	42,320	Cleaning Services	5,937	5,882	5,918	5,716
Construction Work	16,420	28,513	53,071	45,630	Construction Work	1,214	1,936	2,209	2,580
Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services	18,718	36,730	39,284	44,543	Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services	627	1,234	1,462	2,333
Vending Machine Services	17,188	32,280	31,200	33,329	Vending Machine Services	1,480	2,330	2,396	3,068
Support Services	5,271	7,980	10,823	13,551	Support Services	375	156	504	829
Other	56	57	119	167	Other	215	156	237	331
						<b>-5,698</b>	<b>-5,843</b>	<b>-6,180</b>	<b>-7,334</b>
<b>YoY</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>OPM</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
Facilities Management	-1.2%	5.3%	-0.2%	3.3%	Facilities Management	12.8%	12.1%	11.1%	10.9%
Security Services	-6.3%	0.5%	-1.3%	7.7%	Security Services	8.6%	8.8%	8.5%	8.4%
Cleaning Services	-6.4%	-3.1%	1.7%	4.4%	Cleaning Services	14.4%	14.8%	14.6%	13.5%
Construction Work	18.2%	73.6%	86.1%	-14.0%	Construction Work	7.4%	6.8%	4.2%	5.7%
Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services	-4.3%	96.2%	7.0%	13.4%	Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services	3.3%	3.4%	3.7%	5.2%
Vending Machine Services	2.4%	87.8%	-3.3%	6.8%	Vending Machine Services	8.6%	7.2%	7.7%	9.2%
Support Services	-	51.4%	35.6%	25.2%	Support Services	7.1%	2.0%	4.7%	6.1%

Source: Company materials, SR research

Its customers included Aeon Retail, Aeon Mall, and MaxValu companies, while non-Aeon group customers were commercial facilities, office buildings, hotels, medical and welfare facilities, schools, factories, and warehouses.

**Facilities Management**

(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	FY2/14	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Sales</b>	<b>40,019</b>	<b>42,147</b>	<b>42,050</b>	<b>43,458</b>	<b>10,622</b>	<b>10,848</b>	<b>11,198</b>	<b>10,790</b>	
YoY	-1.2%	5.3%	-0.2%	3.3%	2.4%	0.9%	5.2%	5.0%	
<b>OP</b>	<b>5,115</b>	<b>5,084</b>	<b>4,661</b>	<b>4,725</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,120</b>	
YoY	-	-0.6%	-8.3%	1.4%	4.2%	3.8%	10.0%	-10.8%	
OPM	12.8%	12.1%	11.1%	10.9%	10.8%	11.7%	10.6%	10.4%	

Source: Company materials, SR research

This segment is involved in inspection, protection, and maintenance of facilities, providing monitoring support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Specific services are tailored to meet the needs of individual



clients. This is a staple business for Aeon Delight, and licensed technicians (such as electricians) are on standby at all times in large-scale shopping centers. Specifically, the company manages utilities such as electricity, water, and gas, HVAC (operations, repairs, construction, and required inspections), exit and entrance management, anti-theft measures, and automobile parking. Gross profit margin is about 15%, and operating profit margin is about 11%. Required facilities are purchased by the client (property owner), and primarily costs incurred by the company are personnel costs and facilities management costs (water and utilities costs and depreciation). The company puts personnel on-site at large retail facilities, while smaller facilities are visited periodically and monitored remotely.

**Security Services**

(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	FY2/14			
					1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Sales</b>	<b>32,088</b>	<b>32,235</b>	<b>31,805</b>	<b>34,242</b>	<b>8,438</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>8,481</b>	<b>8,956</b>
YoY	-6.3%	0.5%	-1.3%	7.7%	6.8%	5.8%	6.5%	11.5%
<b>OP</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>2,692</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>762</b>
YoY	-	2.1%	-4.6%	6.4%	6.8%	4.6%	16.0%	-0.5%
OPM	8.6%	8.8%	8.5%	8.4%	7.6%	8.4%	9.0%	8.5%

Source: Company materials, SR research

This segment provides comprehensive security services (i.e., security for facilities, security to handle crowds and traffic, and protection of valuable goods). By combining manual labor and the latest advances in technology, the company provides customized security solutions to clients.

It places security guards at client facilities. This segment outsources most of its work to Aeon Delight Security, a subsidiary. Gross profit margin was relatively low at 13% due to the large amount of personnel costs. This is in comparison to 23.2% at Sohgo Security Services Co., Ltd (TSE1: 2331) and 34.2% at Secom Co., Ltd. (TSE1: 9735) for FY03/13.

The company also began an attendant service in 2H FY02/12, which is similar in nature to a concierge service. Attendants are female security guards that also provide information services to patrons. This service was started in an effort to shed the old "security guard" image and provide a more hospitable environment. As of FY02/14, approximately 30 guards are stationed at 17 stores. Due to demand from clients, a new project team was established in March 2014, and plans call for 100 staff members at 53 stores by FY02/15. Although costs will arise from staff training, this business provides high added value, and is one to watch.

Also beginning in 2H FY02/12, "cockpit" security robots have been stationed to aid in security activities. As of FY02/14, this program is still in the testing phase, but owing to these robots, facilities that previously required five person teams now only require three guards.

**Cleaning Services**

(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	FY2/14			
					1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Sales</b>	<b>41,142</b>	<b>39,852</b>	<b>40,519</b>	<b>42,320</b>	<b>10,539</b>	<b>10,485</b>	<b>10,642</b>	<b>10,654</b>
YoY	-6.4%	-3.1%	1.7%	4.4%	4.1%	4.0%	4.3%	5.4%
<b>OP</b>	<b>5,937</b>	<b>5,882</b>	<b>5,918</b>	<b>5,716</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,490</b>
YoY	-	-0.9%	0.6%	-3.4%	-3.1%	-6.9%	-1.5%	-2.2%
OPM	14.4%	14.8%	14.6%	13.5%	13.3%	13.4%	13.4%	14.0%

Source: Company materials, SR research



With an eye to extending the longevity of buildings and facilities, Aeon Delight also places heavy influence on training staff to provide service in a friendly and courteous manner.

From its experience in managing many large-scale shopping centers for the Aeon Group, the company has implemented measures to increase efficiency of large machinery such as floor cleaners. These and other initiatives serve to standardize and increase the efficiency of work performed. This is a staple business that is, on an orders received basis, composed of about 10-20% work performed directly by the company, and 80-90% work performed by outsourcing partners. Gross profit margin was 20% (25% for directly operated services). Service contracts are renewed annually (80% of clients renew and are long-term customers). Primary outsourcing partners are Do Service Co., Ltd. and Kankyouseibi Co., Ltd. Approximately 30,000 persons are involved in the cleaning services business.

**Construction Work**

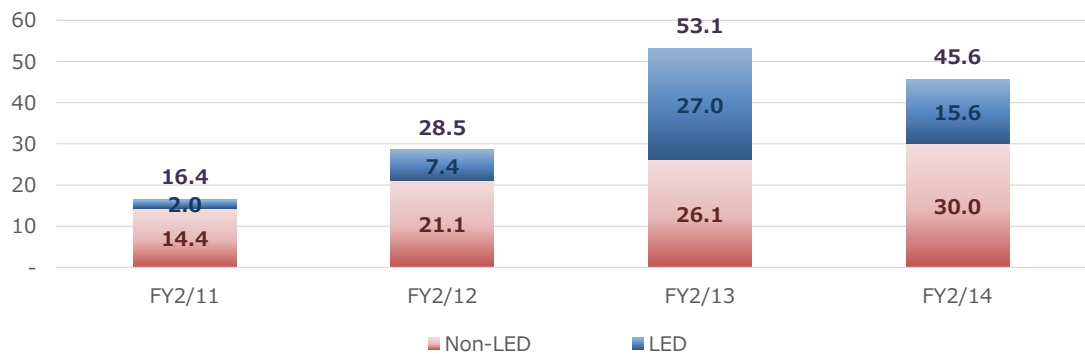
(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	FY2/14			
					1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Sales</b>	<b>16,420</b>	<b>28,513</b>	<b>53,071</b>	<b>45,630</b>	<b>15,888</b>	<b>13,929</b>	<b>8,254</b>	<b>7,559</b>
YoY	18.2%	73.6%	86.1%	-14.0%	43.4%	-26.2%	-47.7%	3.0%
<b>OP</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>491</b>
YoY	-	59.5%	14.1%	16.8%	84.6%	-4.0%	5.3%	-2.2%
OPM	7.4%	6.8%	4.2%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	5.7%	6.5%

Source: Company materials, SR research

This segment conducts large-scale renovation, interior design work, and installation of energy-saving devices (i.e., LED lighting) and solar power systems. This segment generates 70% of its sales from Aeon group companies, and has a gross profit margin of about 10%. Renovation remodeling (not designing) of Aeon retail locations, such as replacing signage, or modifying retail floor space. Sales for Aeon Mall are not significant, since individual tenant stores perform their own renovation work.

LED installation is the primary source of orders in the environmental business. Revenues from LED installation work were JPY26.0bn in FY02/13 (JPY7.4bn in FY02/12). LED lighting is sourced from suppliers, and sales are recorded once installations are complete at client locations. Personnel costs account for about 30% of overall costs, and the materials ratio is around 70%.

**LED-related sales (JPYbn)**



Source: Company materials, SR research

In April 2012, the company's initiatives in the field of solar energy were recognized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and certified as a "BEMS Aggregator" for installation of BEMS in





small- and medium-sized buildings to save energy. BEMS aggregators are companies that conduct energy support services (recognizing energy use and supporting energy saving) for clients through cloud systems. The cloud systems are linked to a central management system, and implementing these systems in small- and medium-sized buildings leads to conservation of energy. Quantifying energy use through BEMS will lead to reduced CO2 emissions and environmental burdens, ultimately yielding longer building life.

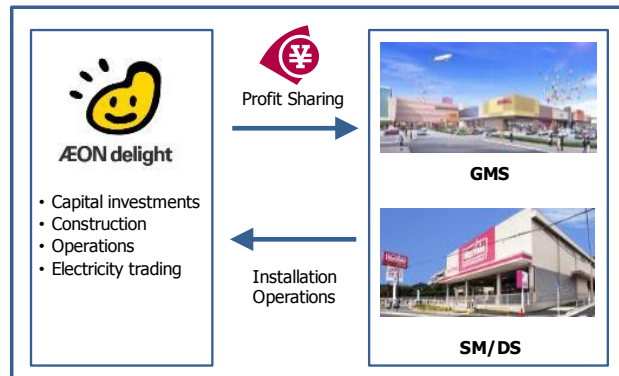
The company's solar power systems utilize unused land in Kikukawa City, Shizuoka Prefecture. Aeon Delight invested in a special-purpose company to operate this solar-power generation system, and intends to collect dividends from this investment. As a business, the construction of solar panels is classified as a construction business, and the company receives panels from suppliers and customizes them to fit its needs. It appears that dividends will not be received until after FY02/15.



Electric Utility Companies



AEON Group



Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

**Materials and Supplies Sourcing Services**

(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	FY2/14 1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Sales</b>	<b>18,718</b>	<b>36,730</b>	<b>39,284</b>	<b>44,543</b>	<b>10,721</b>	<b>11,023</b>	<b>11,542</b>	<b>11,257</b>
YoY	-4.3%	96.2%	7.0%	13.4%	12.6%	12.8%	14.8%	13.4%
<b>OP</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>591</b>
YoY	-	96.8%	18.5%	59.6%	109.9%	98.8%	39.9%	21.1%
OPM	3.3%	3.4%	3.7%	5.2%	5.3%	5.8%	4.6%	5.3%

Source: Company materials, SR research

Through efficient logistics, this business reduces costs for intermediate materials used in offices and retail stores. The segment deals in items such as plastic bags, gift bags, clothing, and other consumables (employee stationery, cleaning materials, etc.). In this business, stock must be maintained at all times, and the company undertakes logistics functions on behalf of the customer as well. Aeon Delight aims to



use efficient logistics to reduce costs for intermediate materials and increase process efficiency. Gross profit margin is about 7% to 8%.

**Vending Machine Services**

(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	FY2/14			
					1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Sales</b>	<b>17,188</b>	<b>32,280</b>	<b>31,200</b>	<b>33,329</b>	<b>7,498</b>	<b>8,716</b>	<b>7,479</b>	<b>9,636</b>
YoY	2.4%	87.8%	-3.3%	6.8%	-0.1%	1.7%	0.8%	25.1%
<b>OP</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>1,288</b>
YoY	-	57.4%	2.8%	28.0%	17.8%	11.5%	0.2%	64.7%
OPM	8.6%	7.2%	7.7%	9.2%	7.1%	9.3%	5.8%	13.4%

Source: Company materials, SR research

This segment operates soft drink vending machines. It also creates relaxation areas with foliage plants and air purification equipment.

The company's vending machines stock a variety of products from different manufacturers. Aeon Delight operates approximately 40,000 vending machines, and its gross profit margin is around 11% (as of FY02/14). About 70% of segment sales come from supermarkets belonging to the Aeon group. The remainder of sales came from shopping malls operated by Aeon group and non-Aeon companies. Aeon Delight acquired Certo Corp. (delisted from JASDAQ after being acquired) in September 2010, a vending machine operator 66.4% owned by Aeon.

**Support Services**

(JPYmn)	FY2/11	FY2/12	FY2/13	FY2/14	FY2/14			
					1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Sales</b>	<b>5,271</b>	<b>7,980</b>	<b>10,823</b>	<b>13,551</b>	<b>2,964</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>3,550</b>
YoY	-	51.4%	35.6%	25.2%	43.1%	54.8%	2.7%	17.4%
<b>OP</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>117</b>
YoY	-	-58.4%	223.1%	64.5%	92.5%	69.1%	6.5%	-685.0%
OPM	7.1%	2.0%	4.7%	6.1%	2.6%	9.4%	8.7%	3.3%

Source: Company materials, SR research

This segment provides business process outsourcing (BPO), housework support services, business travel services, training services, and staffing services. Much of these support services are conducted by companies acquired through M&A. BPO services are conducted by General Services, Inc., which was acquired via M&A as well. Services that BPO undertake include cost management, salary calculations, administrative functions, social security and welfare, receipt of telephone calls, and system management.

Kajitaku Co., Ltd., a housework services provider, implemented a comprehensive FMS model for BtoBtoC, and its sales for FY02/14 were JPY4.7bn, demonstrating almost 20% YoY growth. Sales for "Kaji Cloud," a housework services package, are contributing to strong growth. A to Z Service Co., Ltd., a maintenance service provider for small commercial facilities, was acquired in 2011. A to Z Service operates a 24 hour, 365 days a year call center to provide comprehensive support services for retail chains in small-scale shopping centers.

Business travel services are provided by Aeon Compass, Co., Ltd. Specific duties include logistics for corporate business trips, planning for group holidays, and logistics services for meetings and events. Although orders received are JPY20.0bn, fees collected are recorded as sales on the company's books.



Aeon Delight Academy, Co., Ltd. operates the "Aeon Delight Academy Nagahama" in Shiga Prefecture to provide real-world training. It also operates a staffing service for technical professions.

### Overseas Business

As of FY02/14, overseas business accounted for about 2% of sales, but Aeon Delight is looking to expand into China and Asia in the medium term. In China, expansion is looked at on a per-province basis, and the company is able to expand rapidly through cooperation with the largest regional firms. As of FY02/14, the company has expanded into Beijing, Tianjin, Jiangsu, Hubei, and Guangdong, and preparations are underway to expand into Shandong. Aeon Delight aims to have overseas sales account for 10% of its overall sales by FY02/17. In China, the company plans to further its relationships with local firms and differentiate itself via its ESCO and elevator businesses. For the ASEAN region, the company will establish a comprehensive list of FMS services.

### Overseas companies

Aeon Delight (China) Co., Ltd. (facilities management services, 100% owned by Aeon Delight)

Utilizes accumulated expertise from Japan to provide Japanese-quality service that is made in China, yielding unique Chinese comprehensive FMS.

Aeon Delight (Hangzhou) Service Outsourcing Co., Ltd. (outsourcing services, 70.0% owned)

Utilizes IT to provide outsourced BPO solutions for personnel management, administrative tasks, and accounting.

Aeon Delight Sufang (Suzhou) Comprehensive Facility Management Service Co., Ltd. (maintenance services, 51.0% owned)

After acquisition of a First Class Manufacturing Management License in Suzhou, provides cleaning, road maintenance, parking maintenance, and warehousing services. Acquired an elevator business via M&A in September 2013.

Wuhan Xiaozhu Comprehensive Facility Management Service Co.,Ltd. (management services, 51.0% owned)

Largest provider of manufacturing management in Wuhan. After acquiring a First Class Manufacturing Management License in Wuhan, also provides meeting room, cafeteria, and building maintenance services, in addition to comprehensive building management services.

Aeon Delight (Vietnam) Co., Ltd. (facilities management, 100% owned)

Provides Japanese services after becoming the first Japanese firm to acquire multiple licenses. Provides comprehensive FMS in Vietnam.

Aeon Delight (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. (facilities management, 100% owned)

Provides comprehensive FMS primarily in Malaysia, but also in the greater ASEAN region. Also provider of facilities and back office service functions.

### Business Model

Aeon Delight became a leading facilities management operator through its relationship with the Aeon group. It has also grown through acquisitions. The company derives its earnings by providing a comprehensive, all-in-one package of facilities management services to large-scale retail and commercial properties. It was able to differentiate itself from competitors by its expertise and costs competitiveness. Competitors included Tokyu Community Corp. (TSE1: 4711), Biru Daiko Co., Ltd., Nihon Housing Co., Ltd. (TSE1: 4781), and Nippon Kanzai Co., Ltd. (TSE1: 9728).



There are three type of property management, residential, commercial, and office buildings. Most of these competitors were mainly involved in residential management of condominiums. Few other large companies were focused on commercial facilities and building management due the high costs involved. The company was able to gain expertise in commercial property management through servicing large-scale retail facilities such as shopping malls and supermarkets. The property maintenance industry includes over 5,000 companies, most of which are small- and medium-sized businesses.

The structure of the building maintenance industry resembles that of the construction industry, with second- and third-tier subcontractors working under prime contractors. Aeon Delight, a prime contractor, uses a number of subcontractors. Most of its contracts are signed on an annual basis, which are almost always renewed. In other words, it has a recurring-revenue structure.

The company renegotiates contracts once a year, a process that regularly challenges its pricing, quality, and ability to offer clients attractive packages. For example, the parent company Aeon conducts a competitive bidding to keep the process fair and open. However, Aeon Delight is able to provide competitive bids given its knowledge of the client's needs, and know-how. Its superior position as a large company with comprehensive reliable services will be further enhanced as the size of buildings expands. The company is able to handle large-scale facilities maintenance given its size and economy of scale, which further reinforces its strength and position. Thus, SR Inc. believes that Aeon Delight's position within the commercial facilities industry is likely to improve, as the company has know-how and expertise.

In response to these changing requirements of its customers, Aeon Delight intends to leverage its accumulated expertise in areas such as building and equipment diagnostics to expand its operations from building maintenance into building and project management. The company has an in-house developed system for building and equipment. It uses the system for tasks including the diagnosis of deterioration in a building's fabric and analysis of its energy consumption performance. Based on the results, Aeon Delight can carry out any necessary repairs and improvements. It already has developed expertise in using the latest equipment and technology, such as infrared imaging, fiber optics, X-rays, and ultrasound. Management now intends to further develop the company's analysis capabilities in this area.



## Profitability Snapshot, Financial Ratios

Aeon Delight's overall operating profit margin has been generally stable at 6% to 7%. The main driver of SG&A expenses is labor, which accounted for 40% as of FY02/13.

Profit Margins (JPYmn)	FY02/09	FY02/10	FY02/11	FY02/12	FY02/13	FY02/14
Gross Profit	20,955	21,118	23,989	28,631	30,227	33,714
Gross Profit Margin	14.4%	15.1%	14.0%	13.0%	12.1%	13.1%
Operating Profit	9,946	9,970	12,031	13,762	13,901	15,115
OP Margin	6.8%	7.1%	7.0%	6.3%	5.6%	5.9%
EBITDA	11,441	11,563	13,818	16,107	16,138	17,547
EBITDA Margin	7.9%	8.2%	8.1%	7.3%	6.5%	6.8%
Net Profit Margin	3.3%	3.9%	3.8%	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%
Financial Ratios						
ROA	10.1%	11.2%	9.7%	7.8%	7.8%	7.7%
ROE	19.9%	18.9%	15.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.3%
Total Asset Turnover	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4
Working Capital	7,502	7,330	7,298	9,047	22,366	13,223
Current Ratio	149.8%	184.4%	210.0%	215.5%	226.9%	229.9%
Quick Ratio	135.8%	166.6%	195.4%	201.0%	207.6%	208.9%
OCF / Current Liabilities	31.3%	38.6%	29.0%	30.0%	-12.7%	57.5%
Net Debt / Equity	27.6%	34.6%	60.4%	63.5%	43.4%	63.1%
OCF / Total Liabilities	31.8%	40.6%	21.5%	27.8%	-12.1%	52.3%
Cash Cycle (days)	14.3	14.8	10.4	8.2	18.5	20.3
Changes in Working Capital	108	-172	-32	1,749	13,319	-9,143

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

SG&A Breakdown (Million Yen)	FY02/09 Cons.	FY02/10 Cons.	FY02/11 Cons.	FY02/12 Cons.	FY02/13 Cons.
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	101	-	77	31	80
Salaries	3,484	3,650	4,175	5,300	5,897
Employee Bonuses	584	-	-	-	-
Provision for Bonuses	206	120	92	251	323
Provision for Director Bonuses	103	101	121	120	90
Retirement Benefits Expenses	188	195	216	268	295
Provision for Director Retirement Benefits	21	24	19	15	18
Other	6,321	7,058	7,257	8,883	9,623
	<b>11,008</b>	<b>11,148</b>	<b>11,957</b>	<b>14,868</b>	<b>16,326</b>

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

The company outsources most of its facilities management work, such as security and cleaning jobs. Outsourcing expenses accounted for 59% of total cost of sales as of FY02/13. Its cost of sales increased 28% YoY in FY02/11, as a result of its acquisition of Certo Corp., a provider of office supplies and operator of soft drink vending machines in September 2010.



Parent (Million Yen)		FY02/09 Cons.	FY02/10 Cons.	FY02/11 Cons.	FY02/12 Cons.	FY02/13 Cons.
Cost of Sales		-	-	27,383	52,999	54,433
		-	-	19.6%	29.8%	27.0%
Labor		22,466	20,280	19,647	20,215	20,610
	% of Total	18.7%	18.7%	14.0%	11.4%	10.2%
Outsourcing		94,857	86,071	87,185	95,676	118,200
	% of Total	79.2%	79.2%	62.3%	53.9%	58.5%
Other		2,475	2,256	5,808	8,766	8,687
	% of Total	2.1%	2.1%	4.1%	4.9%	4.3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>119,799</b>	<b>108,608</b>	<b>140,024</b>	<b>177,658</b>	<b>201,933</b>

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

In FY02/13, the cleaning services and facilities management segments had the highest operating profit margins (pre-unallocated corporate expense) of 15% and 11%, respectively, despite being labor intensive. On the other hand, materials/supplies sourcing and construction work had the lowest operating profit margin, mainly attributable to servicing the Aeon group companies.

	Facilities Management	Security Services	Cleaning Services	Construction Work	Materials/ Supplies Sourcing	Vending Machine Services	Support Services
Sales	42,050	31,805	40,519	53,071	39,284	31,200	10,823
Operating Profit	4,661	2,692	5,918	2,209	1,462	2,396	504
OPM	11.1%	8.5%	14.6%	4.2%	3.7%	7.7%	4.7%

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research



## Strengths & Weaknesses

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### Strengths

- **Strong ties with the Aeon Group:** Aeon Delight is a subsidiary of Aeon Co., Ltd., and almost 70% of sales are generated from the Aeon Group. This provides for stable sales, and the Aeon Group's expansion into Asia is also proving to be a positive factor for Aeon Delight's growth. The company is able to leverage economies of scale from the Aeon group, and has accumulated expertise in comprehensive FMS from its transactions with Aeon. This provides for a stable recurring-revenue model.
- **Industry leader in comprehensive commercial maintenance services:** Aeon Delight is the industry leader capable of providing comprehensive all-in-one building maintenance services such as facilities management, security, cleaning, and renovations. Its competitors can only provide one to two of these services (i.e., security or cleaning). Owners of large-scale commercial facilities and buildings are would prefer to contract such services to one service provider rather than negotiate with each individual service provider based on their specialty. The company's ability to provide such comprehensive service is a competitive advantage over its competitors.
- **Financial strength to buy growth:** Aeon Delight has a very strong balance sheet. SR Inc. believes that this balance sheet could be used aggressively to buy growth. According to the Japan Building Maintenance Association, there are currently over 5,000 property maintenance service providers throughout Japan. This market is relatively mature, and a realignment of the industry is possible. Aeon Delight, with its financial strength and industry prowess, would be able to acquire smaller firms with specialized services in local areas. This could lead to further growth and expansion. The company is able to benefit from economies of scale. It can leverage its balance to buy growth since it has a recurring stable source of revenue from the Aeon group. The company could take on debt to expand its business since it has an under leveraged balance sheet.

### Weaknesses

- **Organic growth challenging:** Aeon Delight has grown through acquisitions. Therefore, organic growth may be a challenge because the market is relatively mature. There is limited domestic growth and overseas offers one avenue of expansion. M&A activities could dry up, and this could have an impact on earnings. The company has been able to buy growth using its strong financial position.
- **Overly dependent on the Aeon group:** Aeon Delight is a consolidated subsidiary of Aeon, and derives almost 70% of its sales from the Aeon group. A drawback from such a strong relationship is that the parent company may ask for support in pursuing its agenda. Recently, Aeon acquired 50% of Tesco Japan, the U.K. supermarket chain operator's Japan retail business. A joint venture company, Aeon Every Co., Ltd. is in charge of supermarket operations. The parent Aeon could ask the company for support in future acquisitions.
- **Mature property management market:** The property management market is relatively mature. However, small-scale retail stores in urban areas offer growth opportunities given the greater number of customer volume. Many small-scale retailers are renovating their stores and upgrading facilities. Aeon Delight's expertise has been in large-scale facilities, mainly supporting the Aeon group retail stores such as shopping centers and supermarkets. As smaller commercial facilities emerge in large urban areas, the question remains whether the company can successfully adapt its facilities maintenance know-how to this segment of the market. The company may need to look at this segment for growth.



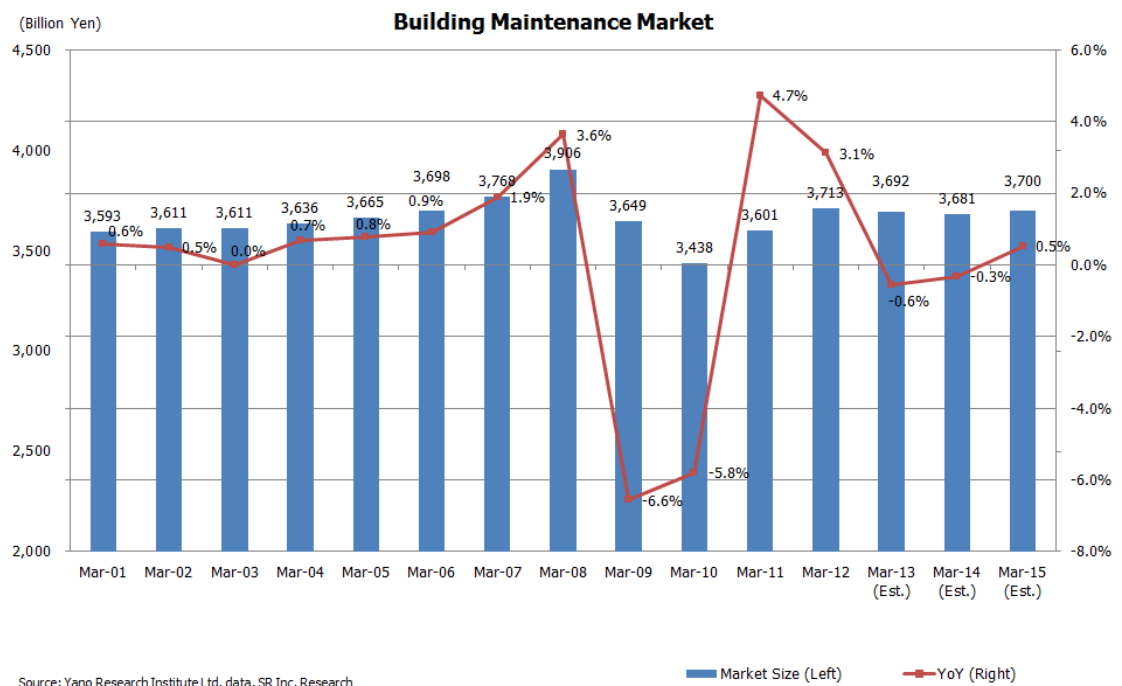
## Market and Value Chain

### Market Overview

#### Building maintenance market valued at ¥3.3trn

Japan's building maintenance market was worth 3.7 trillion yen in FY03/12 (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011), up 3.1 YoY, according to Yano Research Institute Ltd. This included facilities maintenance, cleaning, and security services, as well as repairs and renovation work. The market grew steadily until the second half of the 1990s, supported by the expansion in office buildings. However, the financial crisis caused the real estate market and, consequently, property management services to contract in 2009 and 2010. The market fell to 3.4 trillion in FY03/10. The market slightly expanded for the next two years, and has stabilized at 3.6 billion yen to 3.7 billion yen.

According to Aeon Delight, it had 4% of the domestic market for cleaning services at retail stores, hospitals, schools, hotels, and other facilities that totaled 960 billion yen in FY02/12. Retail stores accounted for 17% of its cleaning business sales, while hotels made up a mere 2%.



Instead of agreeing to individual contracts for facilities management, security services, and cleaning activities, customers now prefer comprehensive agreements covering all their requirements. In order to drive up the profitability of their facilities, customers have been seeking further progress in minimization of the maintenance and equipment replacement costs over the entire lifespan of such facilities. Property maintenance providers are given more freedom to offer an effective program for facility management, security, and sanitation, based on its accumulated expertise.





**LED**

The domestic market for LED lamps was 202.0 billion yen in FY03/12, and 370.0 billion yen in FY03/13, according to Yano Research Institute. By 2020, the market has the potential to expand to 450 billion yen. Aeon Delight had sales of about 26 billion yen, for a market share of slightly less than 7% in FY02/13.

**Recirculating, water-saving, plastic urinal**

According to Aeon Delight, there are 4 million urinals in Japan, most of which are ceramic (as of April 2013). The potential market for its water-saving urinals is 500 billion yen (4 million units x 120,000 yen).

**Analysis of potential market**

Floor space is a direct measure of potential market size for the company's facilities maintenance services. According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism, total floor space of Japan's hospitals and medical facilities was around 13.4 million sq.m. in March 2010. If sales per sq.m. and workers' hourly pay were the same across the board (in reality, cleaning hospitals is more expensive), SR Inc. estimates that potential demand from hospitals and other medical facilities is 50 billion yen (355,000 yen/sq.m. x 13.4 million sq.m.).

The ministry data also show that total floor space of non-residential buildings owned by corporations was about 1.7 billion sq.m. Such buildings include offices, stores, factories, warehouses, welfare facilities, hotels/lodging facilities, schools, and buildings used for automobile parking. If these corporations outsourced all of their cleaning work for that floor space, the potential market would be 6.2 trillion yen (355,000 yen/sq.m. x 1.7 billion sq.m.).

Furthermore, the Aeon group's store openings and acquisition strategy affect Aeon Delight's business performance. Aeon Delight generated 14.1 billion yen in sales from cleaning services to Aeon Retail in FY02/12. Total floor space of Aeon Retail was 3.97 million sq.m., which translates to 355,000 yen in annual sales per sq.m. for Aeon Delight.



**AEON Group Stores by Format (Domestic & Overseas)**

	Feb. 2009	Feb. 2010	Feb. 2011	Feb. 2012	Feb. 2013	Feb. 2014
GMS	603	601	590	590	604	617
Supermarket	1,231	1,267	1,307	1,537	1,797	1,977
Discount Store	41	52	72	105	332	353
DIY Store	127	125	127	122	123	122
Supercenter	31	33	32	29	26	26
Department Store	1	1	1	1	1	1
Convenience Store	3,270	3,514	3,811	4,121	4,462	4,581
Specialty Store	4,746	4,475	3,305	3,424	3,663	3,853
Other Retail Format	87	180	268	418	562	756
Financial Service	395	386	401	460	528	641
Services	1,621	1,549	1,410	1,383	1,401	1,519
Total	12,153	12,183	11,324	12,190	13,499	14,440
					0	0
AEON MALL	51	53	56	59	62	137
AEON TOWN	42	44	45	107	115	122

Source: AEON Co. data, SR Inc. Research

**Stores by Format in China, South Korea, and ASEAN**

	Feb. 2009	Feb. 2010	Feb. 2011	Feb. 2012	Feb. 2013	Feb. 2014
GMS	42	46	52	54	61	69
Supermarket	18	19	25	44	81	95
Discount Store	-	-	-	-	22	23
Convenience Store	-	-	-	2,033	2,294	2,370
Specialty Store	-	-	-	37	55	61
Other Retail Format	18	21	24	27	29	29
Financial Service	-	-	-	236	279	302
Services	-	-	-	25	41	95
Total	78	86	101	2,456	2,862	3,044

Source: AEON Co. data, SR Inc. Research

**Customers**

AEON Delight generates almost 70% of its sales from the AEON group companies. The remainder comes from non-AEON group customers that include commercial facilities, offices, hotels, medical facilities, schools, factories, warehouses, public facilities, and event operators. The company's largest customer is AEON Retail, which accounted for 33.7% of its facilities management services segment sales in FY02/14. Its share of AEON Mall's business is about 60%, and its share of MaxValu's business is 60% to 70% as of FY02/13. Outside Japan, AEON Delight seeks to reduce its reliance on the AEON group to about 40%. Construction work accounted for the largest portion of segment sales at 49.9% (as of FY02/13).

**Facilities Management Services**

	AEON RETAIL	Segment Sales	% of Segment Sales
Facilities Management	12,642	42,050	30%
Security Services	15,129	31,805	48%
Cleaning Services	13,727	40,519	34%
Construction Work	26,484	53,071	50%
Materials/Supplies Sourcing	11,956	39,284	30%
Vending Machine Services	5,609	31,200	18%
Support Services	3,720	10,823	34%
Total	89,270	248,756	36%

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research



## Competition

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Aeon Delight's competitors include Secom Co., Ltd. (TSE1: 9735) and Alsok (TSE1: 2331) in security services. It competes with Azbil Corp. (TSE1: 6845), Nippon Kanzei Co. Ltd. (TSE1: 9728), and Tokyu Community Corp. (TSE1: 4711) and over 5,000 small local operators in property management services. There are no major competitors that offer cleaning services; Aeon Delight competes with smaller, regional cleaning operators. In construction-related work, Aeon Delight competes with Azbil in the environmental solutions business. In the energy-saving business, major rivals are NTT Facilities, Inc. (consolidated subsidiary of NTT (TSE1: 9432)) and Hitachi Ltd. (TSE1: 6501).

## Barriers to Entry

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Property management for residential and small office buildings has relatively low barriers to entry. However, the barriers are high for large-scale facilities given the comprehensive services required. Smaller residential or office building owners are less concerned about having total package of services and usually focus on cleaning or security. However, large-scale facilities require comprehensive services such as maintenance, cleaning, and security, all-in-one. Instead of hiring a contractor for each service, large-scale building owners prefer to contract out these services to one company that is able to provide all of these services in package. Consequently, this enables Aeon Delight to enjoy a relatively high barrier of entry in its market niche, namely servicing large-scale retail stores and office buildings, due to its expertise in providing an all-in-one package of services. The company knows the market, and has a foothold with the Aeon group. It is able to enjoy economies of scale, and offers comprehensive services (maintenance, cleaning, security, and repairs and renovations), while its competitors are specialized in one or two areas (i.e., security or cleaning). The company enjoys a high rate of retention (i.e., customers are reluctant to switch companies), with most of its contracts renewed.

## Strategy

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The company is looking to invest in sources outside of the Aeon Group, using its stable revenue sources from within the Aeon Group (such as new store openings and overseas expansion) as a springboard.

Aeon Delight's strategy is to grow existing business through expansion of comprehensive services to customers inside and outside of the Aeon Group. Over the medium term, the company aims to expand sales to non-Aeon group companies and lower this weighting to around 40%. It plans to do this by leveraging its main strength - the ability to take on comprehensive management contracts for large facilities - and by expanding into airports, factories, hospitals, and other retail facilities. Some of the specialty store operators also have outlets in non-Aeon shopping centers. SR Inc. expects the specialty store and services business to expand more quickly than the Aeon group's shopping centers.

The company adopted a new medium term plan, ending in FY02/17. Please see the Outlook section for details. In the medium term plan ended FY02/14, Aeon Delight concentrated on growth in three main areas, as described below.

Aeon Delight adopted a growth-through-acquisition strategy as mentioned above. (Please refer to M&A Activities section). The company acquired businesses that strengthened its integrative capabilities, and intends to do the same going forward. In addition, the company is aiming to strengthen its comprehensive facilities maintenance services. Aeon Delight has targeted three markets: major urban area market, ecology and environmentally friendly market, and the Asian market.

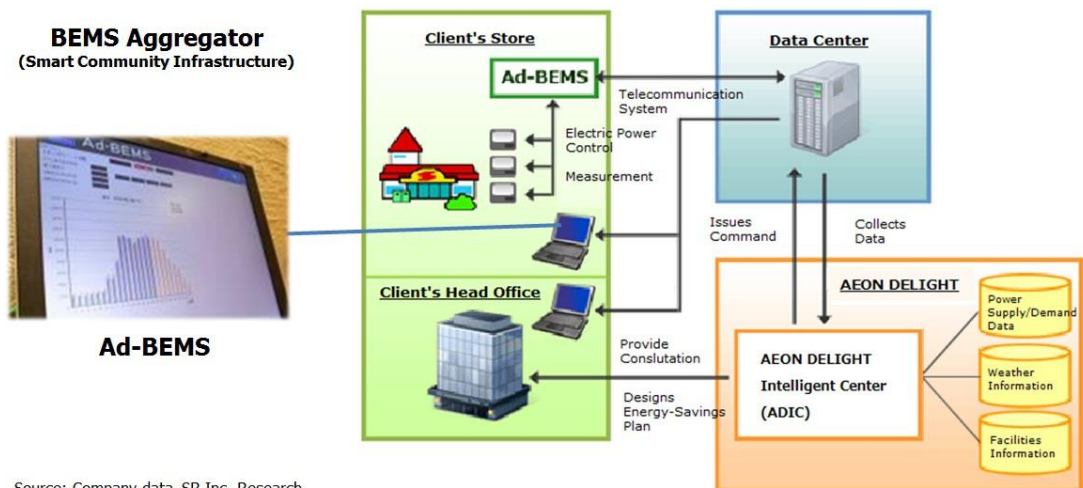


Major urban area market

Small commercial facilities are expected to grow in major urban areas. Aeon Delight has been targeting this segment by pooling its core competencies of A to Z Service, which became a consolidated subsidiary in May 2011, and other companies in its group. In addition, it leveraged the strengths of housework support services provided by Kajitaku, which became a consolidated subsidiary in April 2011, and expanded services to residential market for which demand is expected to increase due to changing demographics.

Ecology and environmentally friendly market

Aeon Delight has provided environmental solutions, such as LEDs and other environmental products. The company's initiatives in this field was recognized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and certified as a "BEMS Aggregator." METI is expected to introduce BEMS (building energy management system) to more than 60,000 buildings across Japan. The company would be in a good position to benefit from any regulatory or designation changes (i.e., facilities maintenance contracts awarded only to certified service operators). This is still in the works and no regulatory changes have been made yet.



Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Aeon Delight also plans to extend sales of its energy management services, water-based coating agent, and water-saving urinals to hotels, hospitals, and nursing-care facilities, which are generally environmentally conscious. It is also offering cleaning and security services in these facilities and is developing a cleaning method to control bacteria more effectively. Aeon Delight plans to capture 10% of the hospital and nursing-care market.

As part of Aeon group's energy-saving initiative announced in August 2012, Aeon Delight is developing an electric vehicle battery charger that uses Aeon Retail's electronic money, WAON.





## Historical Financial Statements

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### Summary

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#### **Q3 FY02/14 Results (announced on January 8, 2014; please refer to the preceding table)**

Cumulative Q3 FY02/14 sales were 194.8 billion yen (+1.3% YoY), operating profit 11 billion yen (+5.5% YoY), recurring profit 11 billion yen (+5.5% YoY) and net income 5.8 billion yen (+5.4% YoY). Gross profit margin improved 1 percentage point over the previous year to 12.8%. The company is gradually seeing the impact of its cost-cutting efforts, such as lowering costs in directly managed properties and reworking ties with partner companies.

An overview of each segment is as follows:

Sales in the Facilities Management segment were 32.7 billion yen (+2.8% YoY). The gross profit margin was 15% (14.4% in Q3 FY02/13). The company secured new contracts with the Aeon group and hotels during Q3 (September to November). The company also added impetus to uptake of its Building Energy Management System (BEMS) by developing functions for controlling existing air-conditioning machines and fridge-freezer facilities. The company also continued constructing a proprietary service for supporting energy management, which records data on how much energy clients are using in different industries and seasons.

Sales in the Securities Services segment were 25.3 billion yen (+6.4% YoY). The gross profit margin was 13.1% (13.2% in Q3 FY02/13). In addition to new securities services contracts, the company added "attender" services (i.e., attendant staff functioning as an information and security provider) to 12 stores. The company says future uptake of these "attender" services appears promising, in light of the favorable feedback they received. The company also undertook a number of security contracts for major events, such as J-League soccer matches (J-League is Japan's national soccer league).

Sales in the Cleaning Services segment were 31.7 billion yen (+4.1% YoY). The gross profit margin was 18.5% (18.8% in Q3 FY02/13). We note that 206 stores began using the company's original coating agent, which replaces floor wax, after the company promoted its uptake. Also, in September 2013, the company installed 14 of its "recirculating, water-saving urinals" in Aeon Shinagawa Seaside Shopping Center (Tokyo). The company is making steady advances in its preparations for mass production of this product, paving the way for full-scale sales drives, but it is a little behind its plan. The company had planned for 1,500 installations this year, but that now looks likely to run into next year. On the other hand, results for this year will receive a small boost as the front-loaded expenses associated with installations will also be delayed.

Sales in the Construction Work segment were 38.1 billion yen (-16.8% YoY). The gross profit margin was 8.6% (7.4% in Q3 FY02/13). This sector saw a fall in earnings on the previous year as LED construction work, which had been concentrated in the previous year, lost momentum. However, the company received a healthy supply of orders for maintenance and upkeep construction work, mainly from within the Aeon group. The improvement in the gross profit margin is because LED-related work comprised a smaller share of total sales. The company will begin selling solar power from FY02/15, but states that its aim is to improve performance in upkeep and maintenance work.

Sales in the Materials and Supplies Sourcing segment were 33.3 billion yen (+13.4% YoY). The gross profit margin was 7.8% (7.1% in Q3 FY02/13). The company started providing hygiene and packaging materials to newly added customers, including Aeon Market Co., Ltd., whose stores became part of the



Aeon group last year. Furthermore, as a result of concentrated demand for trays and packaging materials for fresh foods and delicatessen items, sales jumped 45.2% YoY to 6.4 billion yen.

Sales in the Vending Machine Services segment were 23.7 billion yen (+0.8% YoY). The gross profit margin was 9.5% (unchanged from Q3 FY02/13). The company continued to develop low-cost vending machines, and machines capable of accepting electronic money. Furthermore, the company's management of soft-drink vending managements saw a net increase of 2,000 units, due to the installation of new units in Sanyo Marunaka shops and new Aeon Malls.

Sales in the Support Services segment were 10 billion yen (+28.2% YoY), a significant increase over the previous year. The gross profit margin was 26.3% (20.5% in Q3 FY02/13). Demographic changes (i.e., growing elderly population) and diversified lifestyle in urban areas contributed to a significant increase in housekeeping services, which recorded a sales increase of 76.6% YoY, and contributed to the improvement of segment sales and profitability. The significant increase in the gross profit margin was due to the fact that commission fees at Aeon Compass Co., Ltd. were included in the calculation of this margin (these fees are not included in the sales figure for this segment; Aeon Compass Co., Ltd. offers third-party services for business trips and conferences).

The company's business in China and the ASEAN region expanded at a healthy rate, to 134 projects in China, 39 projects in Malaysia, and 21 projects in Vietnam. Profits in China seem assured.

The company has maintained its full-year forecasts. The company will need a 15% increase in sales in Q4, and a 30% increase in operating profit to meet those targets. However, the company believes it can achieve them, given that there will be new stores opening in the Aeon group in Q4 (no new stores opened in Q4 FY02/13), and that it will be providing comprehensive facilities management services (FMS) to a flagship Aeon store (AEON Mall Makuhari Shintoshin, which opened in December 2013 in Chiba City).

The company plans to release its new medium-term plan (for FY02/15 through FY02/17) in April 2014. It appears that this plan will focus on the growth of the cleaning services segment and the energy management business. SR believes it will be a reasonable plan, calling for average annual growth of around 5% in sales and 10% in operating profit, in the manner of previous plans.

### **1H (Q2) FY02/14 Results (announced on October 2, 2013; please refer to the preceding table)**

The company maintained its full-year forecasts.

Sales in 1H FY02/14 were 133.5 billion yen (+5.3% YoY), operating profit 7.6 billion yen (+6.5% YoY), recurring profit 7.6 billion yen (+6.3% YoY) and net income of 4.1 billion yen (+5.1% YoY). Gross profit margin improved 0.9 percentage points over the previous year to 12.7%.

An overview of each segment is as follows:

Sales in the Facilities Management segment were 21.5 billion yen (+1.6% YoY), and the segment gross profit margin was 15.5% (14.7% in 1H FY02/13). Sales growth was mainly attributable to new contracts from the Aeon group to manage large-scale facilities from March 2013, coupled with favorable demand from outside the Aeon group such as servicing a large sports stadium, government and public office facilities. In addition, facilities management of newly added resort hotel and prefectural hospital during the previous term contributed to the increase in segment sales.



Sales in the Securities Services segment were 16.9 billion yen (+6.3% YoY), and the segment gross profit margin was 12.8% (13.1% in 1H FY02/13). In addition to new securities services contracts, the company added "attender" services (i.e., attendant staff functioning as an information and security provider) to nine new stores. As of the end of the period, the company was offering attender services at 11 stores. Aeon Delight plans to provide attender services at 15 stores by the end of FY02/14. The company added that it won many contracts for security services at large events (e.g., J-League soccer games).

Sales in the Cleaning Services segment were 21.0 billion yen (+4.0% YoY), and the segment gross profit margin was 18.4% (18.9% in 1H FY02/13). Supported by the company's promotion of its original coating agent, which replaces floor wax, and added 174 new stores using this new product. In addition, the company continued to prepare for mass producing its "recirculating, water-saving urinals" that it developed last year, although the preparations were slightly behind schedule.

Sales in the Construction Work segment were 29.8 billion yen, 0.5% lower YoY largely due to exceptionally strong LED-related sales (16.0 billion yen) a year earlier. The company said that the sales were better than its estimate. The segment gross profit margin was 8.2% (7.9% in 1H FY02/13). LED-related sales and installation work reached 12.0 billion yen, due to stronger than initially expected energy-savings related investments and measures to reduce electricity costs by each of its customers. According to Aeon Delight, the bulk of LED-related sales were made to the Aeon group. Although the company's initial plan for full-year LED-related sales to the Aeon group was 10.0 billion yen, the company appeared to be experiencing LED-related sales per store climbing higher than initially expected.

Sales in the Materials and Supplies Sourcing segment were 21.7 billion yen (+12.7% YoY), and the segment gross profit margin was 8.0% (6.8% in 1H FY02/13). The company started providing hygiene and packaging materials to newly added customers, including Aeon Market Co., Ltd., whose stores became part of the Aeon group last year. Furthermore, as a result of concentrated demand for trays and packaging materials for fresh foods and delicatessen items, sales jumped 61.2% YoY to 4.2 billion yen.

Sales in the Vending Machine Services segment were 16.2 billion yen (+0.8% YoY), and the segment gross profit margin was 10.2% (9.9% in 1H FY02/13). The number of soft drink vending machines under the company's management increased 1,400 units. This significant increase was due to installations of new machines (e.g., electric money-capable, lower-price) and to new installations at stores run by new group companies since last year (e.g., Marunaka Co., Ltd., Daiei, Inc.). In 1H, Aeon Delight installed about 200 units at Daiei stores, adding that it would install roughly 2,000 units in 2H.

Sales in the Support Services segment were 6.4 billion yen (+49.1% YoY), and the segment gross profit margin was 26.3% (16.3% in 1H FY02/13). Demographic changes (i.e., growing elderly population) and diversified lifestyle in urban areas contributed to a significant increase in housekeeping services, which recorded a sales increase of 68.2% YoY, and contributed to the improvement of segment sales and profitability.

## **October 3, 2013 1H Results Meeting Summary**

### **Initiatives in 1H FY02/14**

#### Restructuring Efforts

##### 1. Cost Reductions

- Cleaning Services: Profitability improved on lower costs at directly managed properties and lower commissions paid to partner companies
  - Directly managed properties: Optimized work scheduling and process standardization





- Partner companies: Lowered commissions
- Materials and Supplies: Profitability improved on standardized materials and supplies used at group companies, streamlined logistics network, and better ordering processes
- 2. New Product/Service Development
  - Aeon Delight Coat
    - Plans to use this new floor coating agent at 500 properties (mainly of the Aeon group) and have related sales of 250 million yen
  - Aeon Delight Hard Coat (Upgraded Coating Agent)
    - This coating agent eliminates “puffing” work on floors. Due to this feature, the company has begun talks with new potential customers (e.g., specialty stores).

#### Attender Services

The Securities Services segment’s new service line combining securities and information services

- Launched at nine stores during 1H, winning high evaluations
- Launched also at MaxValu Tsingtao at the Wangban Center Building in China, gaining high evaluations and many enquiries

#### Lifestyle Support Services

- Popular housekeeping service options were packaged and sold at 3,000 locations nationwide (e.g., large home appliance stores, Aeon group stores) with 1H sales surging 68% YoY.

#### Eco Businesses

- Because LED light bulbs do not dissipate heat, they help reduce air-conditioning costs in spring and summer. Due to this power-saving feature, investment in LED lighting can pay off in less than two years, though requiring installation of peripheral equipment on existing fluorescent lamps. Therefore, demand is likely to increase going forward.
- With its LED light bulbs, Aeon Delight intends to target non-Aeon group clients (e.g., hospitals, hotels) and new applications (i.e., those other than fluorescent lamp replacements).

#### Electric Vehicle Chargers at Aeon Malls

- Aeon Delight plans to add electric money WAON compatibility to its EV chargers (2014 target: 1,150 chargers at 490 stores).

#### New Clients

Aeon Delight gained new clients through solutions sales push.

- Solutions sales: Many of target clients are corporates, meaning efficient and effective business propositions are key to success. The company distributed iPads to about 1,000 sales staff, and sales staff are now able to show target clients movies of Aeon Delight services.
- The company increased transactions with new Aeon group stores and new group companies. The company plans to open 35 new stores in 2H.

#### ASEAN/China

Aeon Delight provided services in Japan, China, and ASEAN by giving equal emphasis on each region.

- China: The company won new contracts for 49 locations (a total of 136 locations). In July, the company established a joint venture with the leading company in Wuhan.
- Malaysia: The company provided services at 45 locations (mainly vending machine and cleaning services).
- Vietnam: Aeon Delight was developing new businesses there.



### Initiatives Planned for 2H FY02/14

#### Additional Restructuring Efforts

- BEMS Upgrades

In 1H, Aeon Delight jointly developed a new, fridge-freezer control-enabled Building Energy Management System (BEMS) with a large equipment manufacturer. The new BEMS helps reduce power consumption during thawing processes. The company plans to begin selling and installing the new BEMS at Aeon group stores from this 2H, with an eye to selling to non-group clients (e.g., drugstores).

- Urinal Revolution

The company improved its "recirculating, water-saving urinals" further in 1H, claiming that they cut water usage by 90%. The company plans to begin the shipment of the urinals in 2H. In fact, Aeon Delight delivered 14 units to the AEON Shinagawa Seaside Shopping Center (currently being installed).

#### Expanding Client Base

Aeon Delight plans to begin providing comprehensive facilities management services (FMS) to flagship AEOM stores (AEON Mall Makuhari Shin-toshin in December 2013).

#### Creating New Markets in Asia

##### China

- China has yet to see oligopoly in the comprehensive FMS market, thus likely offering business opportunities. Aeon Delight was ranked 10th in the market as of the end of 1H FY02/14.
- Aeon Delight believes that its services are much needed in China, considering Beijing's PM2.5 and other problems.
- Aeon Delight was cooperating with local partners in preparation for new businesses, such as Energy Service Company (ESCO) services. In fact, the company was receiving many enquiries from potential clients in South China and Hong Kong.
- China's Ministry of Commerce is planning to develop about 300 shopping malls with estimated total investment of two trillion yen.

##### Malaysia

Due to instable electricity supply, ESCO services may provide ample opportunities.

#### Next Medium-Term Plan

Aeon Delight intends to announce its new medium-term plan (FY02/15-FY02/17) next spring.

### Q1 FY02/14 Results (announced on July 3, 2013; please refer to the preceding table)

Consolidated sales were 66.7 billion yen (+13.9% YoY), gross profit was 8.2 billion yen (+17.0% YoY), and gross profit margin was 12.2% (11.9% a year earlier). Sales rose after the company added Aeon Market Co., Ltd. (Peacock Stores) to the Aeon group while winning new clients such as a large stadium, headquarters buildings of major corporations, and commercial facilities. Gross profit margin improved attributable to greater cooperation with partner companies in an effort to lower costs and streamline operations. Gross profit appeared to have exceeded the company's forecast (Q1 guidance not disclosed), mainly due to stronger-than-expected results in the Facilities Management segment.

An overview of each segment is as follows:

Sales in the Facilities Management segment were 10.6 billion yen (+2.4% YoY), with gross profit of 1.6 billion yen (+9.0% YoY, gross profit margin of 15.5%). This segment was supported by new contracts from the Aeon group to manage large-scale facilities from March 2013, as well as favorable demand from



outside the Aeon group such as servicing a large stadium, and new contracts for government and public office facilities. In addition, segment sales were also supported by favorable contributions from management services of a resort hotel, which started in the previous term, and a prefectural public hospital.

Sales in the Security Services segment were 8.4 billion yen (+6.8% YoY), gross profit was 1.1 billion yen (+2.1% YoY, gross profit margin of 12.5%). In addition to new security services contracts, the company added "attender" services to four new stores. The company stated that the attender services received positive customer feedback and that such services may expand going forward.

Sales in the Cleaning Services segment were 10.5 billion yen (+4.1% YoY), with gross profit of 1.9 billion yen (+2.0% YoY, gross profit margin of 18.3 %). The company promoted its original coating agent, which replaces floor wax, and introduced the product at six additional stores. Furthermore, the company is preparing to market its "recirculating, water-saving urinal," which was developed last year; during the latter half of this fiscal year (the company has not changed its plan to sell 1,500 urinals during FY02/14).

Sales in the Construction Work segment were 15.9 billion yen (+43.4% YoY), with gross profit of 1.3 billion yen (+31.3% YoY, gross profit margin of 7.9%), a significant increase over the previous year. In the environmental operations, the company posted a 70% sales increase YoY after winning a 6.6 billion yen order for LED-related work mainly for the Aeon group. In the renovation operations, demand for store renewal and earthquake-resistant construction work led to a 27% sales increase. It should be mentioned that LED-related work at the Aeon group is nearing its final stages. Thus, sales contributions from this business may begin to decline in Q2 and thereafter.

Sales in the Materials and Supplies Sourcing segment were 10.7 billion yen (+12.6% YoY), with gross profit of 800 million yen (+32.7% YoY, gross profit margin of 7.8%). The company started providing hygiene and packaging materials to newly added customers, including Aeon Market Co., Ltd., whose stores became part of the Aeon group last year.

Sales in the Vending Machine Services segment were 7.5 billion yen (-0.1% YoY), basically flat over the previous year, with gross profit of 700 million yen (+2.7% YoY, gross profit margin of 9.1%). Sales per vending machine were stagnant as consumers remained cautious about spending, despite installing new vending machines in its customer stores, including Marunaka Co., Ltd., that were added to the Aeon group during the previous year. Meanwhile, the company is seeking to install vending machines at Daiei Inc. stores. Although there had been no negotiations between the two companies as of Q1, progress is expected now that Daiei is an Aeon Co., Ltd. subsidiary.

Sales in the Support Services segment were 3.0 billion yen (+43.1% YoY), with gross profit of 700 million yen (+146.1% YoY, gross profit margin of 24.7%), a large increase over the previous year. Kajitaku Co., Ltd. favorably expanded its mainstay housework services and recorded an 18.9% YoY growth in sales. In addition, Aeon Compass Co., Ltd. and General Services Inc., two companies that become consolidated subsidiaries from the Q2 of last year, also contributed to the strong growth in segment sales. Gross profit recorded strong growth, as a result of Aeon Compass (business travel, conference support services) started booking sales commissions as gross profit (previously booked as sales) during the term.

As a result of adding new consolidated subsidiaries and implementing an aggressive investment strategy, SG&A expenses totaled 4.8 billion yen (+22.9% YoY). Consequently, operating profit was 3.4 billion yen (+9.6% YoY), recurring profit was 3.4 billion yen (+9.7% YoY), and quarterly net profit was 1.9 billion yen (+4.0% YoY).

The company maintained its 1H and full-year earnings forecasts, and conditions remain favorable in Q2 (as of July).



### **FY02/13 Results**

Aeon Delight had sales of 248.9 billion yen (+13.2 YoY) in FY02/13. By segment, Facilities Management sales were 42.1 billion yen (-0.2 YoY), Security Services sales were 31.8 billion yen (-1.3% YoY), Cleaning Services sales were 40.5 billion yen (+1.7% YoY). Construction Work sales rose 86.1% YoY to 53.1 billion yen due to increased orders for energy-saving projects and repair work. During FY02/13, Aeon Delight won 26 billion yen worth of orders for LED construction, mostly from the Aeon group companies, compared with 7.4 billion yen a year earlier. Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services sales were 39.3 billion yen (+7.0% YoY), reflecting increased orders from within the Aeon group. Vending Machine Services sales were 31.2 billion yen (-3.2% YoY). Support Services sales were 10.8 billion yen (+35.6% YoY), supported by its consolidated subsidiary, Kajitaku Co., Ltd., which strengthened its housework and cleaning services to individuals.

Gross profit rose 5.6% YoY to 30.2 billion yen due to increased LED construction work from the Aeon Group. However, gross profit margin fell to 12.1% from 13.0% a year earlier due to higher cost related to LED work. SG&A expenses rose 9.8% YoY to 16.3 billion yen due to start-up costs mainly related to increased headcount in environmental and facilities management operations. Consolidated operating profit rose 1.1% YoY to 13.9 billion yen.

Extraordinary expenses declined to 50 million yen in FY02/13 from the 900 million yen charges recorded in FY02/12 (related to the aftermath of the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake). Consolidated net income was 7.5 billion yen (+8.6% YoY).

In FY02/13, the company expanded through acquisitions, acquiring General Services Inc. and Aeon Compass in October 2012. In the same month, Aeon Delight also set up a company to in Hangzhou, China to expand business in that region.



**Income Statement**

Income Statement (JPYmn)	FY02/09 Cons.	FY02/10 Cons.	FY02/11 Cons.	FY02/12 Cons.	FY02/13 Cons.	FY02/14 Cons.	FY02/15 Est.
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>145,690</b>	<b>140,299</b>	<b>170,905</b>	<b>219,797</b>	<b>248,876</b>	<b>257,243</b>	<b>270,000</b>
Facilities Management	42,253	41,666	40,019	42,147	42,050	43,458	43,397
Security Services	36,670	34,281	32,088	32,235	31,805	34,242	34,242
Cleaning Services	42,403	45,050	41,142	39,852	40,519	42,320	42,320
Construction Work	18,515	13,889	16,420	28,513	53,071	45,630	45,630
Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services	-	-	18,718	36,730	39,284	44,543	44,543
Vending Machine Services	-	-	17,188	32,280	31,200	33,329	33,329
Support Services	-	-	5,271	7,980	10,823	13,551	13,551
Other	5,846	5,412	56	57	119	167	167
<b>YoY</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
Facilities Management	5.1%	-1.4%	-4.0%	5.3%	-0.2%	3.3%	3.3%
Security Services	2.3%	-6.5%	-6.4%	0.5%	-1.3%	7.7%	7.7%
Cleaning Services	3.2%	6.2%	-8.7%	-3.1%	1.7%	4.4%	4.4%
Construction Work	-	-	18.2%	73.6%	86.1%	-14.0%	-14.0%
Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services	-	-	-	96.2%	7.0%	13.4%	13.4%
Vending Machine Services	-	-	-	87.8%	-3.3%	6.8%	6.8%
Support Services	-	-	-	51.4%	35.6%	25.2%	25.2%
Other	62.8%	-7.4%	-	1.8%	108.8%	40.3%	40.3%
CoGS	124,735	119,180	146,916	191,166	218,648	223,528	223,528
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>20,955</b>	<b>21,118</b>	<b>23,989</b>	<b>28,631</b>	<b>30,227</b>	<b>33,714</b>	<b>33,714</b>
YoY	11.3%	0.8%	13.6%	19.4%	5.6%	11.5%	11.5%
GPM	14.4%	15.1%	14.0%	13.0%	12.1%	13.1%	13.1%
SG&A	11,008	11,148	11,957	14,868	16,326	18,599	18,599
SG&A / Sales	7.6%	7.9%	7.0%	6.8%	6.6%	7.2%	7.2%
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>9,946</b>	<b>9,970</b>	<b>12,031</b>	<b>13,762</b>	<b>13,901</b>	<b>15,115</b>	<b>16,000</b>
YoY	19.4%	0.2%	20.7%	14.4%	1.0%	8.7%	5.9%
OPM	6.8%	7.1%	7.0%	6.3%	5.6%	5.9%	5.9%
Non-Operating Income	108	88	208	281	213	163	163
Non-Operating Expenses	241	147	149	260	221	186	186
<b>Recurring Profit</b>	<b>9,812</b>	<b>9,912</b>	<b>12,089</b>	<b>13,784</b>	<b>13,892</b>	<b>15,092</b>	<b>16,000</b>
YoY	19.9%	1.0%	22.0%	14.0%	0.8%	8.6%	6.0%
RPM	6.7%	7.1%	7.1%	6.3%	5.6%	5.9%	5.9%
Extraordinary Gains	110	457	5	73	80	28	28
Extraordinary Losses	940	234	985	880	53	529	529
Tax Charges	4,026	4,618	4,613	5,932	6,306	6,192	6,192
Implied Tax Rate	44.8%	45.6%	41.5%	45.7%	45.3%	42.4%	42.4%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>4,876</b>	<b>5,466</b>	<b>6,495</b>	<b>6,912</b>	<b>7,509</b>	<b>8,161</b>	<b>8,600</b>
YoY	11.3%	12.1%	18.8%	6.4%	8.6%	8.7%	5.4%
Net Margin	3.3%	3.9%	3.8%	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

Engineering-training operations, staffing operations, and document-management operations were part of the "Other" section until FY02/10. These businesses were designated as Support Services from FY02/11 after the company merged with Certo Corp. in September 2010. Materials/Supplies Sourcing Services and Vending Machine Services, which had been operated by Certo, were also added as separate categories.



## Historical forecast accuracy

Initial CE vs. Results (JPYmn)	FY02/09 Cons.	FY02/10 Cons.	FY02/11 Cons.	FY02/12 Cons.	FY02/13 Cons.	FY02/14 Cons.
Sales (Initial CE)	145,000	150,000	181,000	213,000	260,000	260,000
Sales (Results)	145,690	140,299	170,905	219,797	248,876	257,243
<b>Initial CE vs. Results</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
Operating Profit (Initial CE)	9,100	10,100	12,050	14,300	16,600	15,500
Operating Profit (Results)	9,946	9,970	12,031	13,762	13,901	15,115
<b>Initial CE vs. Results</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>	<b>-16.3%</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>
Recurring Profit (Initial CE)	9,000	9,900	12,105	14,300	16,600	15,500
Recurring Profit (Results)	9,812	9,912	12,089	13,784	13,892	15,092
<b>Initial CE vs. Results</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	<b>-16.3%</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>
Net Profit (Initial CE)	4,600	5,200	6,470	7,600	8,700	8,300
Net Profit (Results)	4,876	5,466	6,495	6,912	7,509	8,161
<b>Initial CE vs. Results</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>	<b>-13.7%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

The company operates under a stock business model, and revenue is stable (and low-risk) since approximately 70% of its sales are generated by a single group company. There is little difference between estimates and performance.

However, for FY02/13, there were significant shortfalls. Firms acquired under M&A in initial forecasts did not provide profits as expected in their first year.



## Balance Sheet

(JPYmn)	FY02/09	FY02/10	FY02/11	FY02/12	FY02/13	FY02/14
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash and Equivalents	6,991	7,964	13,098	9,707	10,014	12,565
Accounts Receivable	18,025	16,284	28,246	31,240	44,673	37,420
Allowance for Doubtful	-188	-122	-226	-657	-144	-290
Inventories	28	20	1,476	1,527	2,237	2,504
Deposit of Subsidiaries and Affiliates	2,500	3,000	18,920	27,320	18,020	32,420
Other Current Assets	2,794	2,880	3,010	3,349	4,523	5,728
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>30,150</b>	<b>30,026</b>	<b>64,524</b>	<b>72,486</b>	<b>79,323</b>	<b>90,347</b>
Buildings	762	1,185	1,234	1,217	1,089	1,046
Machinery for Area Control, net	343	305	265	246	274	238
Tools, Furniture, and Fixtures, net	-	-	1,791	1,918	2,079	2,487
Land	475	284	284	284	282	278
Construction in Progress	13	15	-	-	-	-
Other Fixed	1,009	952	182	108	72	209
<b>Total Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>3,773</b>	<b>3,796</b>	<b>4,258</b>
Investment Securities	1,730	2,050	2,983	2,577	2,973	3,897
Deferred Tax Assets	534	289	278	406	288	254
Other	1,566	1,779	1,701	1,517	2,196	1,877
Allowance for Doubtful	-172	-141	-196	-224	-200	-199
<b>Total Other Fixed Assets</b>	<b>3,658</b>	<b>3,977</b>	<b>4,766</b>	<b>4,276</b>	<b>5,257</b>	<b>5,829</b>
Goodwill	11,974	11,295	10,546	11,249	10,801	10,078
Other	649	629	1,031	1,023	1,520	1,609
<b>Total Intangible Assets</b>	<b>12,623</b>	<b>11,924</b>	<b>11,577</b>	<b>12,272</b>	<b>12,321</b>	<b>11,687</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>18,885</b>	<b>18,644</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>20,322</b>	<b>21,375</b>	<b>21,775</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>49,035</b>	<b>48,670</b>	<b>84,624</b>	<b>92,809</b>	<b>100,699</b>	<b>112,122</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts Payable	10,551	8,974	22,424	23,720	24,544	26,701
Short-Term Debt	1,688	80	49	41	10	5
Other Current Liabilities	7,892	7,227	8,251	9,882	10,401	12,600
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>20,131</b>	<b>16,281</b>	<b>30,724</b>	<b>33,643</b>	<b>34,955</b>	<b>39,306</b>
Long-Term Debt	56	31	6	15	5	-
Other Fixed Liabilities	768	993	1,006	968	1,190	1,500
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Total Interest-Bearing Debt</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>20,956</b>	<b>17,306</b>	<b>31,737</b>	<b>34,626</b>	<b>36,151</b>	<b>40,806</b>
<b>Shareholder Equity</b>	<b>28,079</b>	<b>31,364</b>	<b>52,887</b>	<b>58,182</b>	<b>64,547</b>	<b>71,316</b>
Issued Capital	3,238	3,238	3,238	3,238	3,238	3,238
Reserves	2,963	2,964	18,741	18,753	18,770	18,818
Retained Earnings	20,852	25,366	30,575	35,285	40,539	46,235
Treasury Stock	-461	-461	-461	-460	-458	-449
Total Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	-42	145	645	647	992	1,711
Share Warrants	72	110	149	173	205	165
Minority Interests	1,456	-	-	545	1,260	1,597
<b>Total Shareholder Equity (Net Assets)</b>	<b>28,079</b>	<b>31,364</b>	<b>52,887</b>	<b>58,182</b>	<b>64,547</b>	<b>71,316</b>
Working Capital	7,502	7,330	7,298	9,047	22,366	13,223
Interest-Bearing Debt	1,744	111	55	56	15	5
Net Debt (Net Cash)	7,747	10,853	31,963	36,971	28,019	44,980

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research  
 Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

### Assets

Current assets account for approximately 80% of the company's assets (as of FY02/14). A large portion of receivables are due from Aeon Retail, and amounted to about JPY20.0bn as of the end of FY02/13. Majority of its investment securities are with Aeon Mall, Aeon Kyushu Co., Ltd. (JASDAQ: 2653), Aeon Fantasy Co., Ltd. (TSE1: 4343), and MaxValu companies. There is also a large amount of goodwill (9% as of FY02/14) due to the volume of M&A.

Aeon Delight's assets and liabilities swelled in FY02/11 due to its merger with Certo Corp. It took on



assets of 31.5 billion yen and liabilities of 15.3 billion yen.

**Liabilities**

Aeon Delight was basically debt free, with a mere several million of interest-bearing debt at the end of FY02/14. Cash and deposits exceeded interest-bearing debt. Receivables account for a significant portion of liabilities (68% as of FY02/13). However, receivables are diversified among a large portion of counterparties, and the largest is JPY1.0bn from Japan Beverage Holdings.

**Equity Capital**

Equity capital ratio rose to 64.2% at the end of FY02/10 from 39.9% in FY02/07 due to growth in equity as a result of acquisitions. The company has maintained a relatively high equity capital ratio for the past four years. However, SR Inc. believes that the company could use financial leverage (i.e., use of debt to acquire additional assets) to expand business and its equity.

**Shareholder Rewards**

Aeon Delight aims to provide dividends that correspond to its financial performance in a stable and continuous manner. It aims to provide a 20% dividend payout ratio, while keeping a close watch on its net asset ratio. The dividend ratio in FY02/14 was 30.9%, and the company plans for a ratio of 30.5% in FY02/15.





## Statement of Cash Flows

(JPYmn)	FY02/09	FY02/10	FY02/11	FY02/12	FY02/13	FY02/14
Operating Cash Flow (1)	6,668	7,031	6,808	9,639	-4,358	21,359
Investment Cash Flow (2)	-2,087	-1,966	-3,000	-10,051	7,086	-16,632
<b>Free Cash Flow (1+2)</b>	<b>4,581</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>-412</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>4,727</b>
Financial Cash Flow	-5,255	-4,169	-1,321	-2,722	-2,257	-2,475
Depreciation & Amortization (A)	1,495	1,593	1,787	2,345	2,237	2,432
Capital Expenditures (B)	-707	-912	-792	-1,184	-1,607	-1,999
Working Capital Changes (C)	108	-172	-32	1,749	13,319	-9,143
<b>Simple FCF (NI + A + B - C)</b>	<b>5,556</b>	<b>6,319</b>	<b>7,522</b>	<b>6,324</b>	<b>-5,180</b>	<b>17,737</b>

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

### Operating Cash Flow

In FY02/13, net cash used in operations was 4.4 billion yen (net cash provided by operations was 9.6 billion yen in FY02/12), attributed to a 12.6 billion yen increase in accounts receivables related rise in LED construction work for the Aeon group, and 6.6 billion yen paid in corporate income taxes. Prior to FY02/13, cash flow from operations ranged from 6.5 billion in FY02/08 to 9.6 billion in FY02/13.

### Investment Cash Flow

A significant portion of cash flow from investments stems from M&A activities. There is also a large variance due to contributions from affiliated companies, but this more significantly affects operating cash flow.

### Financial Cash Flow

In FY02/13, net cash used in financing activities were dividend payments of 2.3 billion yen. Prior to FY02/09, the company used cash for repayment of funds raised from liquidation of future receivables.

### Simple Free Cash Flow

In FY02/13, working capital increased 13.3 billion yen YoY (13.4 billion yen increase in accounts receivables and 710 million yen increase in inventories minus 820 million yen increase in accounts payables). Depreciation and amortization of goodwill totaled 2.2 billion yen and capital expenditures were 1.6 billion yen. Net income totaled 7.5 billion yen. Simple free cash flow was negative 5.2 billion yen at the end of FY02/13.

Cash Conversion Cycle	FY02/09	FY02/10	FY02/11	FY02/12	FY02/13	FY02/14
Accounts Receivable Turnover	8.2	8.2	7.7	7.4	6.6	6.3
<b>Days in Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>58.2</b>
Inventory Turnover	6,565.0	4,965.8	196.4	127.3	116.2	94.3
<b>Days in Inventory</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Payables Turnover	12.0	12.2	9.4	8.3	9.1	8.7
<b>Days in Payables</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>41.8</b>
<b>Cash Conversion Cycle (days)</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>20.3</b>

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Figures may differ from company materials due to differences in rounding methods.

Inventory turnover rate deteriorated over the past three years due to increased inventories from acquired companies. Accounts receivable are mainly from Aeon group companies, while accounts payable are with various suppliers, such as soft drink beverage suppliers. In FY02/13, its cash-conversion cycle increased due to increased LED installation work for Aeon group companies.



## **Other Information**

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### **History**

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#### **Japan Maintenance**

In 1972, Nichii Co., Ltd. (renamed Mycal Corp. in 1996) established Nichii Maintenance Co., Ltd., to undertake maintenance at Mycal stores (Aeon Retail acquired Mycal in March 2011). In 1976, Nichii Maintenance changed its name to Japan Maintenance Co., Ltd. The company listed its shares on the Second Section of the Osaka Securities Exchange in 1995, and on the Second Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in 1999. In 2000, it listed its shares on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

#### **Aeon Techno Service**

In 1987, Jusco Maintenance was established after Jusco Kosan Co., Ltd. (currently Aeon Mall) created a subsidiary from its building maintenance division. The company handled facilities maintenance, cleaning, and security services for retail stores for the Aeon group companies. In 1997, Jusco Maintenance changed its name to Aeon Techno Service Co., Ltd.

#### **Merger**

Mycal, falling under hardship and filed for bankruptcy in 2001, became a wholly owned subsidiary of Aeon in 2003. As a result, Japan Maintenance merged with Aeon Techno Service, and changed its name to Aeon Delight Co., Ltd. in 2006. In 2006,

#### **Aeon Delight**

Prior to the merger, Japan Maintenance generated 40% of its sales from Mycal group companies, while Aeon Techno Service depended mostly on Aeon group companies for its business. The company derived 65% of total sales from Aeon group companies as of end of FY02/13, and made several acquisitions to expand its business.

## **News & Topics**

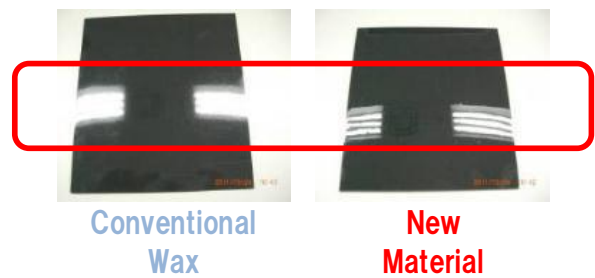
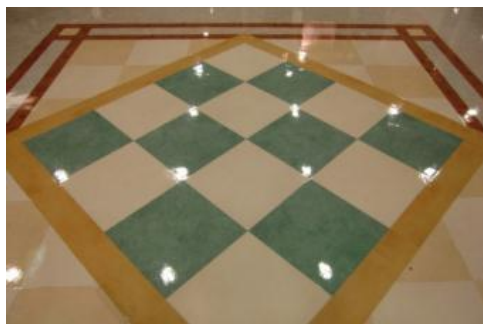
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In FY02/12, Aeon Delight developed recirculating, water-saving plastic urinals. These urinals reduce water consumption by 90%. According to Aeon Delight, a train station in which 500 people use the restroom daily could save at least 160,000 yen a year with one urinal (500 people x 1.8 liters x 365 x 0.55 yen x 90%). This calculation is based on the assumption that water and sewage cost 550 yen per 1,000 liters, and that conventional urinals require 1.8 liters of water per use. Aeon Delight plans to sell these urinals for 120,000 yen per unit. However, after testing in stores, there was room for improvement, and although experiments continue, it is still not at a stage where it can be implemented en masse.



Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

Aeon Delight also developed a water-based coating agent as an alternative to conventional resin wax. "Aeon Delight Coat" has a high-luster finish without organic solvents or the removal of older wax coatings. Another product, "AD Hard Coat," which is under development, eliminates the need for buffing.



Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

### November 2013

On **November 28, 2013**, the company announced the launch of a solar power business.

Aeon Delight, Recycle One, Inc., etc. will jointly invest to establish Kikugawa Ishiyama Solar Ltd. and Kikugawa Horinouchiya Solar Ltd. The 9.4-megawatt facilities of Kikugawa Ishiyama Solar and the 7.5-megawatt facilities of Kikugawa Horinouchiya Solar will have a total annual output of 20.84 megawatt-hours, equivalent to the annual power consumption of about 5,000 typical households. Construction is scheduled to begin in December 2013, and electricity sale is slated to begin in February 2015.



## Major Shareholders

Aeon group companies own over 60% of the company.

As of February 28, 2013

Top Shareholders	Amount Held
Aeon Retail Co., Ltd.	42.94%
Aeon Co., Ltd.	16.81%
The Master Trust Bank of Japan, Ltd. (Trust Account)	1.91%
Aeon Delight Business Partners	1.33%
Japan Trustee Services Bank, Ltd. (Trust Account)	1.31%
The Bank of New York Treaty JASDEC Account	1.27%
Aeon Delight Employees	1.24%
Japan Trustee Services Bank, Ltd. (Trust Account 9)	1.15%
Northern Trust Company (AVFC: Sub-account British Client)	1.09%
JP Morgan Chase US Pension Treaty JASDEC	1.06%

Source: Company data, SR Inc. Research

## Top Management

President Ippei Nakayama (born in 1954) joined Jusco in 1971 and developed his career in store operations, management, and human resources before being seconded to the Ministry of Labor (currently, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare) in 1985. After returning to Aeon, he continued his career in human resources, and was later involved in establishing Talbot, Inc. in Japan. He became a director at Aeon Techno Service Co., Ltd. in 2002, and was promoted to executive managing director in 2006. Furthermore, Mr. Nakayama became a managing director of the newly formed Aeon Delight Co., Ltd., following the merger of Japan Maintenance Co., Ltd. and Aeon Techno Service in September 2006. He became senior vice president in 2012, and was promoted president of Aeon Delight in 2013.

## Employees

Aeon Delight had 9,018 employees and an average of 5,184 temporary employees on a consolidated basis as of FY02/13. At the parent level, there were 3,777 employees and 2,169 temporary employees. The average age, average length of employment, and average annual salary on a parent basis are as follows:

- Average age: 46 years and 6 months
- Average length of employment: 10.0 years
- Average annual salary: 5.2 million yen

## Investor Relations

Aeon Delight holds earnings briefings twice a year (following half-year and full-year business results).



## By the Way

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### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Activities

Aeon Delight is pursuing corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities by strengthening its efforts to protect the environment with a management principle of creating “environmental value” for clients.

The following are examples of the company’s environmental initiatives:

- Promotion of energy-saving lighting equipment  
The company is promoting energy-saving lighting devices, such as light emitting diode (LED) lamps, that significantly reduce electricity consumption. The company seeks to help clients cut carbon dioxide emissions and reduce expenses by selecting the most suitable source of lighting depending on the situation and intended use, such as lighting for room interior or a parking space, and for illuminating a billboard.
- Proposal for environmentally friendly packaging  
The company proposes a variety of packaging materials, including biomass materials obtained during the growth process of plants that do not increase carbon dioxide when burned, as well as water based gravure printing that has low environmental impact.
- Introduction of environmentally friendly vending machines  
The company introduced environmentally friendly vending machines that can reduce electricity consumption by as much as 45% a year with the use of heat pumps and LED lighting. The company unveiled heat-pump vending machines in 2008, and those equipped with LED lighting in 2011.
- Participation in Aeon 1% Club  
Aeon 1% Club supports projects to protect the environment, boost international cultural and human exchange, promote regional cultural and social activities, and donate to welfare projects. It is an initiative under which group companies contribute 1% of their pretax profits so that these activities can be maintained regardless of the companies’ business performances.
- Tree planting through Aeon Environmental Foundation  
The company participated in a tree-planting event in Beijing, China in fiscal year 2010, took part in a similar project in Jakarta, Indonesia in fiscal year 2011 and 2012, respectively. For the tree planting event in Jakarta held during fiscal year 2012, the company sponsored participation of endorsing companies, in addition to having its employees from Japan volunteering for the event
- “Clean Day” on the 11th Day of Each Month  
The company designated the 11th day of each month as “Clean Day,” where employees clean streets around their workplaces before the start of the working day.

The company also conducts a number of social contributions as part of its CSR activities:

- Volunteering at social welfare facilities  
The company conducts volunteer activities at nationwide welfare facilities once a year, using the system of the Aeon Social Welfare Foundation.
- Shopping basket cleaning outsourced to vocational aid facilities  
The company outsources cleaning of its shopping baskets to vocational aid centers. Shopping baskets used at its stores are sent to six “washing centers” within the vocational facilities, where the baskets are



washed and applied with anti-bacterial coating.

- Construction of a school in Laos (completed in June 2008)  
The Aeon Delight Group conducted fund raising activities, and through the Aeon 1% Club and the Japan Committee for UNICEF, constructed and donated a school in Laos named "Aeon Good-Job School."

In addition, Aeon Delight's logo is a mascot named "Gu Jo-Kun," derived from "a good job!" and symbolizes that the company wishes to make all people happy.





**Company Profile**

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<b>Company Name</b> AEON DELIGHT CO., LTD.	<b>Head Office</b> Minamisemba Heart Bldg. 2-3-2 Minamisemba Chuo-ku, Osaka City Osaka, Japan 542-0081
<b>Phone</b> +81-6-6260-5621	<b>Listed On</b> Tokyo Stock Exchange 1st Section
<b>Established</b> November 16, 1972	<b>Exchange Listing</b> September 29, 1995
<b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.aeondelight.co.jp/english/">http://www.aeondelight.co.jp/english/</a>	<b>Fiscal Year-End</b> February
<b>IR Contact</b>	<b>IR Web</b> <a href="http://www.aeondelight.co.jp/english/ir/">http://www.aeondelight.co.jp/english/ir/</a>
<b>IR Mail</b>	<b>IR Phone</b>



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## Contact Details

<http://www.sharedresearch.jp>

Email: [info@sharedresearch.jp](mailto:info@sharedresearch.jp)

3-31-12 Sendagi

Bunkyo-ku Tokyo, Japan

Phone: +81 (0)3 5834-8787