

Japan's Cosmo Oil to shut Yokkaichi isomer-mixed xylene plant for half-month in Oct

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Tokyo — Japan's Cosmo Oil plans to shut for scheduled maintenance its 300,000 mt/year isomer-MX plant at Yokkaichi for about half a month in October in line with upstream maintenance closures, a source close to the company said Tuesday.

Cosmo Oil has a total production capacity of 600,000 mt/year for isomer-MX, including 270,000 mt/year at CM Aroma's aromatics plant at Chiba.

The CM Aroma plant is expected to restart after a three-month planned maintenance in mid-July.

The Japanese isomer-MX market is currently tight as Taiyo Oil has also shut its aromatics plant at Kikuma for around three months for scheduled maintenance from the first week of June, S&P Global Platts reported earlier.

The Kikuma aromatics plant has the capacity to produce 700,000 mt/year of isomer-MX and 450,000 mt/year of benzene.

CM Aroma is a joint venture between Cosmo Oil (65%) and Maruzen Petrochemical (35%)