January 22, 2019 – Valeo Japan announced that it will establish the Ibaraki Advanced Driving Assistance System Development Test Center to develop and evaluate automated driving vehicles in Namekata-shi, Ibaraki Prefecture.

The Ibaraki Advanced Driving Assistance System Development Test Center will be the development center of the Comfort & Driving Assistance Business Group, which is responsible for ADAS (Advanced Driving Assistance Systems) at Valeo. Currently, Valeo Japan conducts mainly vehicle tests in low speed such as automatic parking in its Tsukuba Techno Center. However, as the development needs for ADAS from Japanese automakers have increased year by year, Valeo Japan decided to establish a development and evaluation facility with a test course that can run at high speed. The address of Ibaraki Advanced Driving Assistance System Development Test Center is as follows: 988-2, Serizawa, Namekata-shi, Ibaraki prefecture.

The Ibaraki Advanced Driving Assistance System Development Test Center has an area of approximately 41,482 m², with a long straight line of 300 meters, an oval circuit of 600 meters, and a NCAP test area of 150 meters long × 100 meters wide. Construction will start in March 2019, some areas become available from April 2019, and it will be completed in November 2020. It will allow Valeo to further accelerate the development of ADAS in Japan, as it has to use the test courses in Spain and the Czech Republic before opening the Ibaraki Advanced Driving Assistance System Development Test Center.

Along with this, Valeo will strengthen the R&D organization in Japan. Valeo currently has 1,122 engineers in all divisions in Japan, of which about 130 are engaged in ADAS. By 2021, engineers of this division will be 180 people.

In addition, Valeo owns six demo cars in Japan for research and development related to ADAS, including Valeo’s highway automated driving car, Cruise4U®, which has completed the "Hands-Off Japan Tour" in October last year, and Valeo XtraVue, a system based on a set of connected cameras that eliminates visual obstacles.

Mr. Shoji Akiyama, Vice President, Comfort and Driving Assistance Systems Japan ASEAN Regional Operations and Board of Director Valeo Japan, affirmed that "Valeo develops technologies which contribute to the intuitive driving and we are one of key player in the domain of the driving assistance and the automated driving. By building the R&D facility with a full-fledged test course in the Namekata-shi, Ibaraki prefecture, we aim to accelerate the technical development of the driving assistance and the automated driving in Japan and to respond needs of Japanese automakers and to develop the technologies of driving assistance and the automated driving in Japan.

About Valeo in Japan

Valeo marked the first step in Japan by establishing a Japanese branch in December 1985. Japan, homeland of leading automotive manufacturers, is a key strategic country for Valeo Group. Valeo is a leading global automotive supplier with deep-rooted footprint in Japan through 17plants, 7 R&D centers and about 6,104 employees. Valeo Japan is Group’s center stage for Research and Development, Manufacturing, Business Development and customer-care for the Japanese carmakers in Japan and worldwide.

Valeo is an automotive supplier, partner to all automakers worldwide. As a technology company, Valeo proposes innovative products and systems that contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions and to the development of intuitive driving. In 2017, the Group generated sales of 18.6 billion euros and invested 12% of its original equipment sales in Research and Development. At December 31, 2017, Valeo has 184 plants, 20 research centers, 35 development centers and 15 distribution platforms, and employs 111,000 people in 33 countries worldwide. Valeo is listed on the Paris stock exchange and is a member of the CAC 40 index.