

TIME



THE PLANET WE MADE
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THEN TURN THE PAGE AND KEEP STARING

Content from Global Kigyo

The automation technology helping to create a prosperous society

In the semiconductor and EV markets, state-of-the-art equipment from CKD and other Japanese manufacturers is helping to change production strategies, technologies and business concepts.



Katsuhito Okuoka,
President and COO, CKD Corporation

In line with modern technology trends, there is an increasing move towards automated manufacturing to improve efficiency, cut costs and mitigate labor shortages. That is where components manufacturers, such as Japan-based CKD, are playing such a crucial role in the technological revolution, by changing the industry with small components, putting automation front and center. "Focusing on automation of manufacturing sites, we provide products that contribute to solving social issues such as carbon neutrality and reduction of food loss, as well as automation of primary industries through technological innovation," said Katsuhito Okuoka. "Our corporate commitment is 'Care for the Global Environment' and 'Challenge to Technology Innovation,' so we focus on developing products that contribute to society," he said. The company started in 1943, making aircraft parts.

In its nearly 80-year history, CKD diversified into producing various machinery and electronics, and is now at the cutting edge of components for next-generation technology. In addition to semiconductors, which contributes to manufacturing components as well as the machines used in plants, CKD is also renowned for working with lithium-ion batteries. These batteries are essential to many modern rechargeable devices, particularly in the growth sector



SEMICON equip. manuf. clean room

Semiconductors are the crucial ingredient that make all digital manufacturing possible. The modest, seemingly unsubstantial elements found within diodes and circuits do more than just regulate electricity, they help entire industries and economies thrive. Developed nations are rushing to create new production lines and factories to keep up with demand and better control supply.

of electric vehicles, where a key innovation of a winding machine for electrodes has proven to be a great success. In terms of wider factory automation, CKD's products are also used in industries such as electronic parts, food, and pharmaceuticals, among others. Befitting such a diverse history and product range, CKD is always looking to the future, developing electronic motion actuators – components that make devices move – to replace pneumatic systems.



Lithium-ion battery winding machine

As part of its environmental and corporate responsibility, the company has introduced a sustainable development goal to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 50% by 2030. CKD's strategy is as impressive in numbers as it is in the scope of ambition. The firm has set a sales target of 180 billion yen (\$1.2 billion) by 2025, and an operating income target of 25 billion yen (\$171 million). Over the next four years, CKD will allocate 60 billion yen (\$412 million) for R&D and capital investment to focus on international expansion and service, changing their business style. In addition to manufacturing bases currently operating mainly in East Asia, the company opened a new plant in North America in April this year, and a new facility in India will open in 2023. Added to this expansion is the merger and acquisition of a sales company in Europe.

President Okuoka believes that today's competitive international market can be mastered by taking traditional Japanese commitment to quality and efficiency worldwide. "In a society that values cost over quality, we have witnessed the power of Japanese manufacturing waning year by year," he said. "However, I believe that society will change from a mass production and mass consumption (mass disposal) economy to a circular economy. I believe Japan has strengths in fundamental technologies, such as environmental technologies, and can regain its leadership position," Okuoka said.



Indian plant (operational in 2023)

Automation Technology for the Future

Electric actuators

Semiconductor components