

JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND POLICY NEWS

July 2018

LEGISLATION AND POLICY NEWS

New Strategic Energy Plan Adopted

On July 3, the Cabinet approved the new Strategic Energy Plan as the basis for the orientation of Japan's new energy policy towards 2030 and further towards 2050, considering the changes in energy environments inside and outside Japan. According to a press release of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, efforts to achieve an optimal energy mix are only partly accomplished. The new plan emphasizes the strengthening of such efforts to ensure continued, concrete results towards 2030.

Towards 2050, the new plan seeks to achieve energy transitions and decarbonization, in light of the global momentum in this direction and in enforcement of the Paris Agreement, and to pursue all tenable options toward this end.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0703_002.html

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/pdf/0703_002a.pdf

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/pdf/0703_002b.pdf

METI Releases Overseas Development Strategy of Water Industry

Based on the Export Strategy for Infrastructure Systems established by the Management Council for Infrastructure Strategy on June 7, 2018, the Overseas Development Strategy in the Field of the Water Industry has been formulated. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) released the Strategy on July 27.

The Export Strategy for Infrastructure Systems (FY2018 revised version) stipulates a governmental goal that Japanese companies should receive orders for infrastructure projects with a total value of approximately 30 trillion yen in 2020, and the government should formulate overseas development strategies necessary for major industries and important fields as an approach to achieving the goal.

Based on the analysis results of overseas and domestic market trends in the water industry, Japan's strong points, trends in competitor countries and other issues, the Strategy explains priority fields on which Japan should place weight

and shows future directions of Japan's efforts for overseas development.

In line with the Strategy, METI will promote related efforts, e.g., effective utilization of the existing support frameworks for facilitating policies, and will contribute to achieving the governmental goal.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0727_001.html

<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keikyou/dai38/siryou1.pdf> (in Japanese)

METI Revised the Interpretative Guidelines on Electronic Commerce and Information Property Trading

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) periodically revises the Interpretative Guidelines on Electronic Commerce and Information Property Trading. On July 27, METI released the latest Guidelines which were revised taking into account changes in trade environments brought about by AI, blockchain technology and other advanced technologies.

Points of contention that need to be revised to address changes in trade environments are as follows.

- I-10 Electronic commerce using AI speakers (new provision)
- I-10-1 Cases where an AI speaker fails to recognize target speech (new provision)
- I-10-2 Cases where an orderer has made a speech error to an AI speaker (new provision)
- III-14 Value transfer using blockchain technologies (new provision)
- IV-7 Coverage of Acts related to product safety for cross-border trading (new provision)

In addition, there also are other revisions such as revision in line with the revision of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions and others.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0727_002.html

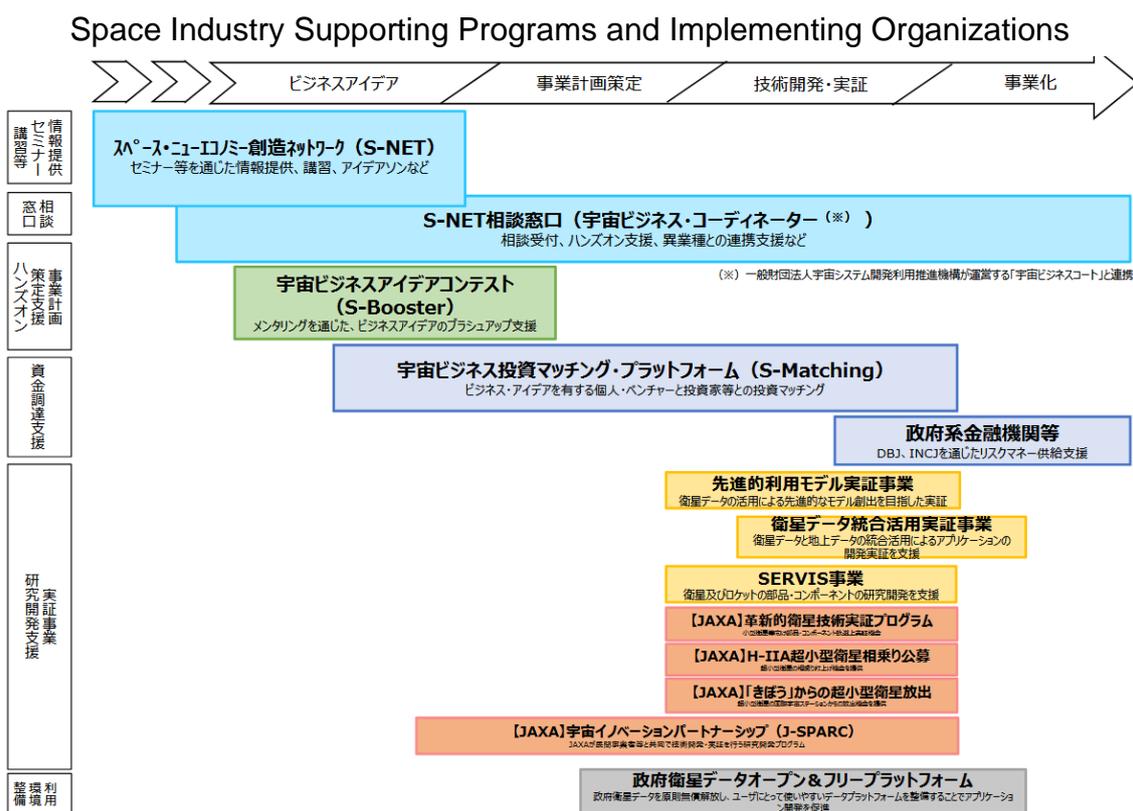
METI to Enhance the “Space New Economy Creation Network (S-NET)”

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Cabinet Office (CAO) have jointly been deploying a project called “Space New Economy Creation Network (S-NET).” Under the project, METI and CAO have been holding regional business matching events between the space industry and other industries, aiming to facilitate the creation of new industries and services taking advantage of business involving space.

According to a joint press release of METI and CAO dated July 13, METI and CAO will strive to further enhance S-NET's efforts to more sustainable, autonomous, and practical and to broaden the base on which the space industry will develop.

Five “pillars” for enhancing S-NET are as follows:

- (1) Increase the number of S-NET consultation counters for space business [sustainable effort]
- (2) Foster and support Municipalities for Promoting Creation of Space Business [autonomous effort]
- (3) Deliver lectures in regional areas on utilization of satellite data, etc. [practical effort]
- (4) Hold annual events on space-related business in major cities across Japan [sustainable effort]
- (5) Convey more information to the public [practical effort]



http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0713_002.html

Business Participants in Project for Supporting Joint Development of AI Systems Selected

Project for Supporting Joint Development of AI Systems is an initiative by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to support venture businesses having advanced AI technologies and business entities in collaboratively developing AI systems and commercializing the outcomes of the development. Through this project, METI aims to accelerate joint business based on data collaboration expecting overseas business development as an effort towards achieving the Connected Industries policy.

Concerning this project, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), an operator of the project, determined and adopted businesses participating in the project based on the discussion results of an examination committee of outside experts. On July 11, NEDO announced the adopted businesses, namely their names, names of collaborating businesses, and outlines of project themes.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0711_001.html

<http://www.meti.go.jp/press/2018/07/20180711002/20180711002-2.pdf>

(in Japanese)

The First Meeting of U.K.-Japan Aviation Working Group Organized

On July 19, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom, held the first meeting of the U.K.-Japan Aviation Working Group. The working group was established based on the results of a Japan-U.K. Industrial Policy Dialogue held in December 2017, aiming to enrich and develop Japan-U.K. cooperation in the aviation industry.

Based on the views exchanged at the first meeting of the working group, METI and BEIS identified the following six fields as potential fields for cooperation, and the two countries agreed that they will continue to hold discussions regarding these fields.

1. Cooperation in research and development of advanced materials for aero engine applications
2. Exchange of information on cooperation on Additive Manufacturing (AM) technologies
3. Exchange of information on cooperation on digitization of design and manufacturing processes

4. Cooperation in Japan-U.K. aero engine companies on maintenance and repair technology involving engines
5. Continuation of cooperative projects involving heat exchange and landing gear systems
6. Cooperation in establishment of supply chains in Asia

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0720_001.html

The Fifth Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space was Held

The Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America held their Fifth Meeting of the Comprehensive Dialogue on Space in Tokyo, on July 20. According to the joint statement, the Fifth Comprehensive Dialogue on Space continued the work to enhance and strengthen cooperation between the two countries from a broad, inclusive, and strategic perspective.

During the Dialogue, both sides provided updates on their respective space policies. In regard to space traffic management (STM), as outer space is becoming increasingly congested with orbital debris and the volume and diversity of activities in space grows, both sides affirmed the importance of measures to maintain the safe and responsible use of outer space, and confirmed strengthened cooperation on related issues such as space situational awareness (SSA), orbital debris mitigation and international norms and best practices for activities in space. Both sides also discussed opportunities for cooperation in space resource development.

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000384601.pdf>

METI and MAFF Establish Joint Team for Promoting Exports of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Foods

On July 27, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) established a Joint Team for Promoting Exports of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Foods consisting of officials from these ministries who are in charge of related fields.

The government of Japan has set a goal for 2019 that Japan should achieve one trillion yen as a total export value of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and foods. To this end, it is important for the government to harmonize and coordinate this goal with other trade encouragement measures, while other governmental organizations, such as the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), need to

be committed to a variety of efforts related to this goal.

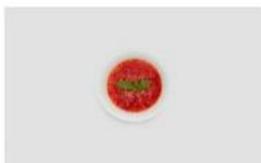
http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0727_004.html

Successful Projects Selected under the BrandLand Japan Program

In 2017, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) launched a program titled “BrandLand Japan” that uses experts called “producers” to support SMEs and other entities in winning overseas demand for their attractive commodities and services that are unique to Japan.



YAMAMO “I.L.A. (Industry Loves Art)” PROJECT



J-Konjac
Introducing Japanese Konyaku to North America



Developing SAMURAI tours to discover the traditional center of Japanese sword production



JAPAN GREEN: Developing business mainly of seaweed sheets overseas



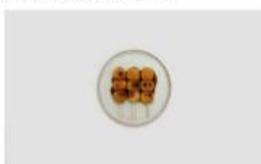
Tritan - a new material: Utilize Japanese experts' techniques to develop business in North American markets for a high-value-added material



Combination of unique lactobacillus soap and packaging with Ukiyoe pictures: Cultivating new Asian markets



Comfortable Made-in-Japan shoes for women: Cultivating new Asian markets targeting middle-aged women



Sanjyuen, a Japanese confectionery expert with a 150-year history: From Toyoake to the World



Initiative to attract overseas visitors to a shopping arcade: Program providing overseas visitors with opportunities to experience traditional daily life at Endoji Shopping Arcade



Overseas business development of best pot



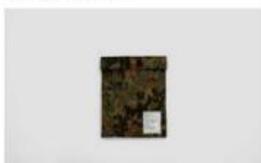
Project providing cycling tourism to discover ancient scenery in Japan



New furniture constructed around single-line-based structures



“hibi 10 MINUTES AROMA”: Approaching sales agencies to establish a One Agency per Country system



Taking on Europe through AKERU PROJECT

BrandLand : JAPAN

On July 18, METI selected 14 projects from the 50 applicants for the FY2018 program through screening by an external examination committee.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0718_002.html

SURVEY AND BUSINESS DATA

White Paper on International Economy and Trade 2018 Released

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) released the 2018 version of its annual White Paper on International Economy and Trade, which was reported to the Cabinet on July 10.

According to the White Paper, the global economy is now facing significant shifts, for example; movements against the free trade system under the WTO; advancement of digital transformation including expanding digital trade; and the rise of China and other emerging and developing economies.

The White Paper 2017 focused on the first shift mentioned above, and analyzed the issues surrounding inequality in developed economies and relationships between trade and inequality. The White Paper 2018 focuses on the remaining two shifts.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0710_001.html

Actions for SDGs by the Japanese Companies Compiled in English

Global Compact Network Japan (GCNJ) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) announced on July 5 the launch of a report summarising the results of a survey on the progress front-running Japanese businesses are making towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is the English translated version of the Japanese Report published in March 2018.

The publication, "SDGs and Business for the Future: Actions by Private Companies in Japan" follows up last year's IGES-GCNJ survey report "SDGs and Business in Practice - Early Actions by Japanese Private Companies" which gave an overall picture of initiatives on SDGs by Japanese companies.

This year's report looks at ways to integrate SDGs into core business focusing on two approaches - Organizations and Corporate Activities. This latest report also includes 25 case studies highlighting ongoing SDG measures and initiatives undertaken by concerned businesses.

<https://www.iges.or.jp/en/press/20180705.html>

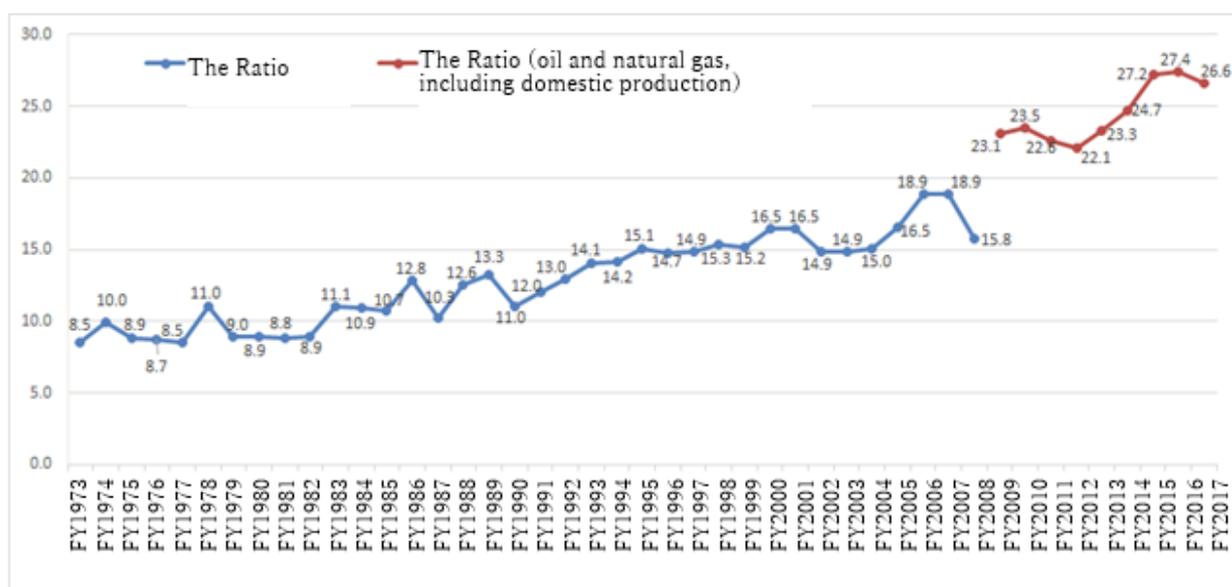
Situation of Japan's Independent Development of Oil and Natural Gas in FY2017 Released

The Agency for Natural Resources and Energy announced on July 27 that Japan's independent development ratio of oil and natural gas in FY 2017 was 26.6%, down by 0.8% point from the previous year.

Japan's independent development ratio of oil and natural gas is defined as the share of the offtake amount of oil and natural gas under the control of Japanese entities (including domestic production), out of the total amount of imported and domestically-produced oil and natural gas.

As Japan is a country largely dependent on imports from abroad for its oil and natural gas, it is indispensable that it secure stable supplies of natural resources and energy. In light of this, the Fifth Strategic Energy Plan, approved by the Cabinet in July 2018, sets a goal that Japan should increase the Ratio to over 40% in 2030.

Changes in Japan's ratios of independent development for oil and natural gas since FY1973



http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0727_003.html

Imported Car Sales Recorded a Modest Increase in the First Half

According to the statistics published on July 5 by the Japan Automobile Importers

Association (JAIA), a total number of imported cars registered in the first six months of the year was 170,745. It is an increase of 3.3% as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. It includes 19,461 units of Japanese brand cars. Sales of foreign brand cars in the same period was 151,284 (+0.5%). By brand, Mercedes-Benz (32,490 units), VW (26,075), BMW (23,458), Audi (14,052) and BMW MINI (12,772) were the top five.

http://www.jaia-jp.org/wp-content/uploads/private/201806NewCarNews_e.pdf

Declining Pace of Gas Stations Slows Down

According to an annual statistic of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) released on July 19, the number of gas stations were 30,747 in March 2018. Although the declining trend continues, the pace of reduction is slowing down. Reduction of stations in the past year was 720, fewer than 866 stations registered in the previous year.

<http://www.meti.go.jp/press/2018/07/20180719011/20180719011.html>

(in Japanese)

COMPANY NEWS

A Small Satellite Launching Service Company Established

CANON ELECTRONICS INC., IHI AEROSPACE Co., Ltd., Shimizu Corporation and Development Bank of Japan Inc. announced on July 2 the collective decision to reclassify New Generation Small Rocket Development Planning Co. Ltd. (the Business Planning Company), established through joint investment by the four companies, as SPACE ONE Co., Ltd. (the Operating Company), along with an increase in capital.

Since the announcement of the Business Planning Company's establishment in August 2017, the Business Planning Company and the aforementioned four companies have endeavored to determine the viability of the business in the development of small rockets. As a result, the four companies have concluded that there is ample opportunity for business development of an operating company and, having completed the necessary procedures for increasing capital, announced the reclassification of the Business Planning Company as an Operating Company. In response to increasing demand worldwide for small satellite launch services, the four companies are accelerating plans for

reclassification, with the aim of commercializing the Operating Company by 2021.

<https://www.ihl.co.jp/ia/en/news/index.html>

Honda and Panasonic to Begin Research Experiment on Battery Sharing Using Detachable Mobile Batteries and Electric Motorcycles in Indonesia

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. and Panasonic Corporation announced on July 13 plans to conduct a research experiment in Indonesia on battery sharing using the Honda Mobile Power Pack (“Mobile Power Pack”) detachable mobile battery with electric mobility products, including electric motorcycles powered by the Mobile Power Pack. The two companies are planning to begin the research experiment in December 2018 in Bandung in West Java, Denpasar and Kuta in Bali.



Honda Mobile Power Pack



Charging station (concept model)

Honda’s Detachable Mobile Batteries and Charging station (concept model)

This research experiment will be conducted as one of the projects subsidized by Japan’s New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) under the theme of a “research experiment of mobile battery sharing as distributed energy resources.”

As the third largest motorcycle market in the world, Indonesia is facing an issue with air pollution associated with the increase in traffic volume. To address this issue, the Indonesian government has announced a policy to facilitate the widespread use of electric mobility products.

For this research experiment, the two companies will install charging stations at several dozen locations, which will charge multiple units of the Mobile Power Pack simultaneously and supply fully-charged Mobile Power Packs to users at any time. Users of electric mobility products who experience a low battery level can stop at the nearest charging station and exchange their Mobile Power Pack for a fully-charged one and get back on the road.

<https://global.honda/newsroom/news/2018/c180713eng.html>

Ocean Current Generation System Awarded a Category Prize of “Ship of the Year”

IHI Corporation announced on July 13 that an underwater floating-type ocean current generation system named “Kairyu” which was developed jointly by the IHI and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) won “an offshore structure/machinery” category award of the Ship of the Year 2017.

The Ship of the Year award is given by the Japan Society of Naval Architects and Ocean Engineers to innovative vessels built in the past year based on technical, artistic and social considerations. The Ship of the Year 2017 which is the grand prix went to the “MOL TRUTH”, a 20,000TEU mega containership that Imabari Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. constructed.



Award-winning “Kairyu”

https://www.ihl.co.jp/ihl/all_news/2018/technology/2018-7-13/index.html (in Japanese)

<https://www.jasnaoe.or.jp/en/soy/soy2017.html>

Sumitomo Corp. and the UK's ITM Power Announce Strategic Partnership for Producing CO2 Free Hydrogen

Sumitomo Corporation and ITM Power plc announced on July 17 a Strategic Partnership Agreement for the development of multi-megawatt projects in Japan based exclusively on ITM Power's electrolyser products.

Under the terms of the Agreement, ITM Power will supply multi-megawatt electrolyser systems to Sumitomo for integration into wider projects on an exclusive basis in Japan and on a non-exclusive basis in other territories. According to an executive officer of Sumitomo, their goal is to contribute to creating a carbon free society in producing CO2 free hydrogen by electrolyzing water with renewable energy, which can be utilized as fuel for the next generation of energy and mobility.



<https://www.sumitomocorp.com/en/jp/news/release/2018/group/10470>

Solar Power Station for Large-scale Solar Power Sharing was Constructed in Iwate

Renewable Japan Co., Ltd., Tokyu Land Corporation and Japan Asia Investment Company, Limited (JAIC) announced on July 18 that a solar power

station that they were constructing in Ichinoseki city, Iwate prefecture was completed. It is for a large-scale solar power sharing built over the barley production field. Solar panels are placed not to become an obstacle to agricultural production. In addition, a part of sales income of electricity will be used for supporting local agriculture.

Estimated annual electricity generation is 3,044,867kWh, which is an equivalent to the consumption of 687 households.



<http://www.rn-j.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/20180718.pdf>

(in Japanese)

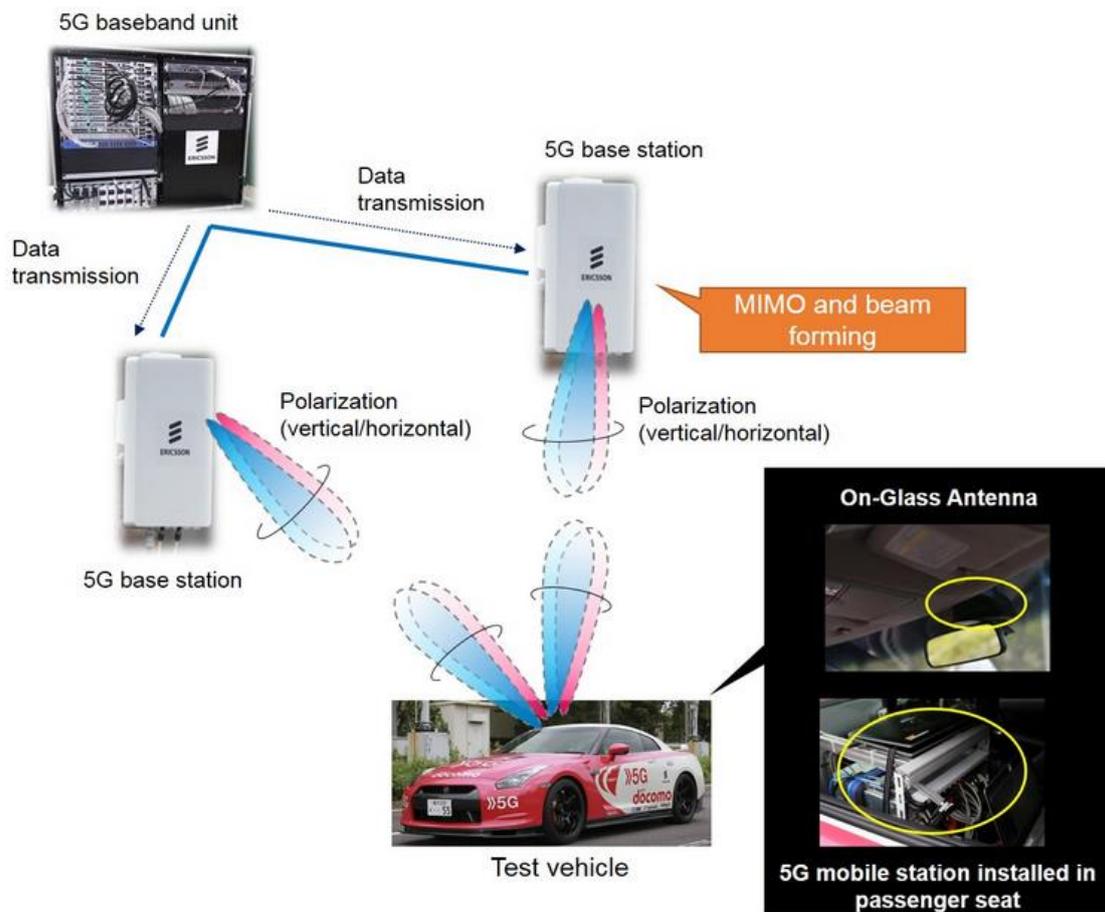
5G Super High-speed Communications with a Fast-moving Connected Car Proved Successful, Using “Vehicle Glass Mounted Antenna”

On July 25, AGC Inc. (AGC) and NTT DOCOMO, INC. (DOCOMO) achieved the world’s first 8 Gbps 5G communications with a fast-moving vehicle equipped with “vehicle glass mounted antennas” (On-Glass Antennas) in a field trial conducted in conjunction with Ericsson Japan.

The 5G 28 GHz band compatible On-Glass Antennas were designed and developed by AGC. The antennas are not easily seen from the exterior and can be installed on glass surfaces without affecting the vehicle design.

The trial was held at the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management in Ibaraki prefecture, Japan. While moving at high speeds of approximately 100 km/h, a maximum communication speed of 8 Gbps was achieved, and a maximum of 11 Gbps was achieved at a speed of approximately 30 km/h, confirming that high-speed in-vehicle communications in the 28 GHz band can be achieved by utilizing On-Glass Antennas.

System configuration for field trial



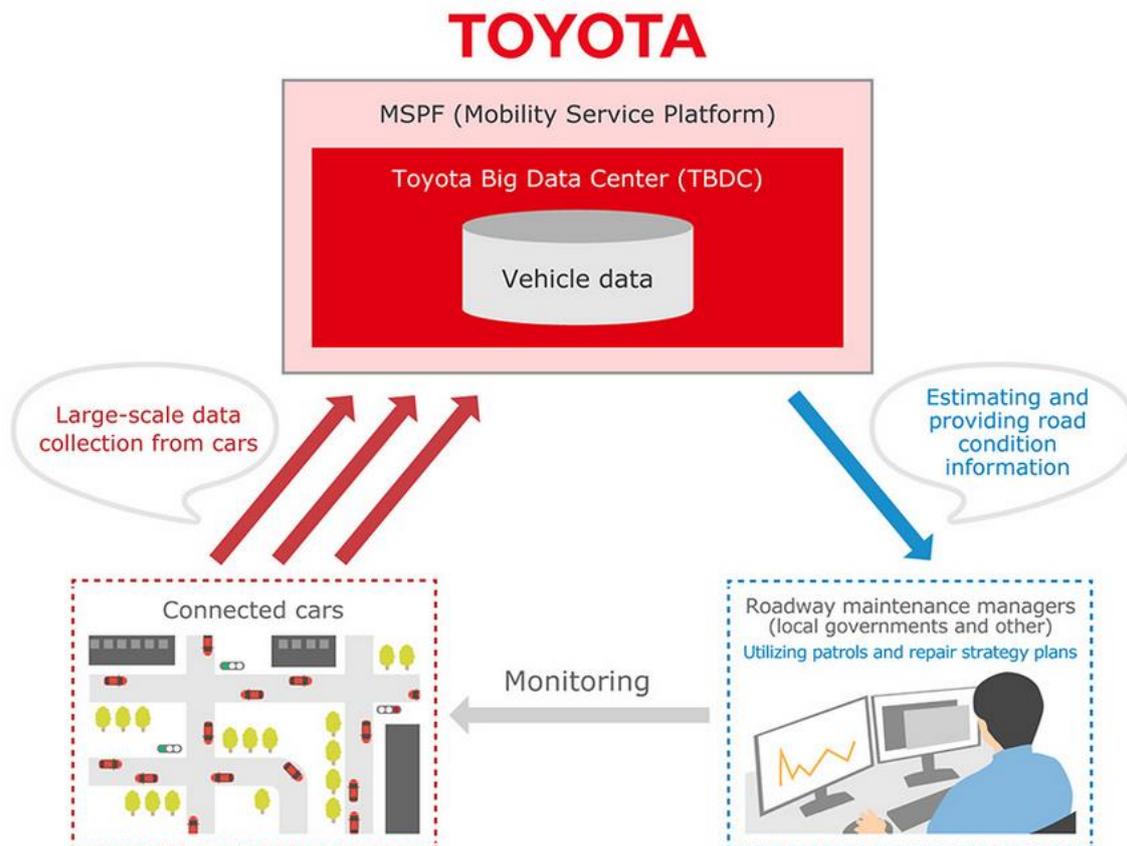
http://www.agc.com/en/news/detail/1197413_2814.html

Toyota to Start Verification Testing for Road Maintenance Inspections Using Data Obtained from Connected Cars

Toyota Motor Corporation announced on July 18 that it would start from August 1, Japan's first verification testing for road maintenance inspections with Toyota City, using vehicle data obtained from connected cars.

The verification testing will enable assessment of whether the degree of road deterioration index values computed from the car's behavior data and actual road conditions are consistent, and validate these findings on typical regional roads. Toyota also aims to further advance its technology toward supporting administrative services that implement road maintenance and inspection work in Toyota City more accurately and appropriately.

Overview of Verification Testing



<https://newsroom.toyota.co.jp/en/corporate/23485508.html>

JGC to Implement Seawater Desalination Business in Oman

JGC Corporation announced on July 23 that Al Asilah Desalination Company S.A.O.C, in which JGC is the major shareholder, has received an award to build, own and operate a seawater desalination plant in the Sharqiyah region in eastern Oman, by the client, the Oman Power and Water Procurement Company S.A.O.C. The parties have signed finance agreements on 11 July to extend project financing towards this project and the project has started in full swing.

The contract involves the construction, operation and maintenance for a period of 20 years on a BOO (Build · Own · Operate) basis of a seawater desalination plant with the application of reverse osmosis membrane. The plant is capable of supplying nearly 80,000 cubic meters per day, which is sufficient to provide potable water for a population of approximately 200,000, and is scheduled to commence service in April 2021. Part of the financing for the total project cost of

around 20 billion yen will be provided through project financing by MUFG Bank, Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited and Shinsei Bank, Limited, whose loan would be covered by Overseas Untied Loan Insurance provided by Nippon Export and Investment Insurance.

<http://www.jgc.com/en/DisplayHtml/view/287>

<https://www.nexi.go.jp/en/topics/newsrelease/2018072002.html>

UNICEF and LIXIL Concluded a Partnership to Help Children Gain Access to Safe and Clean Toilets

UNICEF and LIXIL Corporation announced on July 26 that they are coming together in a new partnership to help vulnerable children gain access to safe and clean toilets. The partnership, named “Make a Splash! Toilets for All”, will leverage the two organizations’ complementary strengths to support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal of achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation by 2030. UNICEF and LIXIL have already successfully worked together in Africa to provide people in need of toilets with access to sanitation products, designed by LIXIL to fit local conditions.



LIXIL’s SATO model which is specifically designed for developing markets

As part of this new partnership, UNICEF and LIXIL will:

- Launch market-driven programs to help establish a sanitation economy and ensure that sanitation products are available at affordable prices for the people

who need them, starting in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya.

- Engage in joint advocacy efforts that draw attention to the significant development opportunities presented by the sanitation economy.
- Fundraising and engagement activities by LIXIL to support the expansion of the partnership to new countries.

https://www.lixil.com/en/news/pdf/180726_UNICEF_LIXIL_E.pdf

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Be Careful of a Fake Website of METI

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced on July 4 that a fake website pretending to be its homepage had been found. It gave warning on the risk of virus infection by accessing to this fake site.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0704_001.html

Part of Fukushima Robot Test Field to Open

On July 19, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), together with Fukushima prefecture, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Minamisoma city and Namie town, both in Fukushima prefecture announced that a part of Fukushima Robot Test Field (RTF), the world's first test base for drone operation and controlling long-distance flights control would open the following day.

Under the Fukushima Innovation Coast Scheme, METI and Fukushima prefecture have been advancing development of Fukushima RTF in Minamisoma city and Namie town. Mainly targeting onshore, undersea and aerial field robots (e.g., disaster-response robots, underwater exploration robots and drones used for distribution, infrastructure inspection, disaster response and other purposes), the test field is a research and development base in which researchers are able to conduct R&D, demonstration tests, performance assessments and pilot training in simulated environments at the RTF that are very similar to environments in which drones are actually utilized.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0719_002.html

Academic, Corporate Collaboration Succeeds at World's Most Efficient Solar Power-Generated Hydrogen Production

A research group consisting of Assistant Professor Yasuyuki Ota and Professor Kensuke Nishioka from the University of Miyazaki, Professor Masakazu Sugiyama of the University of Tokyo, Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd., and Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd., designed and built a system for water electrolysis using electricity obtained from high-efficiency concentrator photovoltaic cells (figure 1), successfully converting 18.8% of the solar energy (daily average) to hydrogen energy.

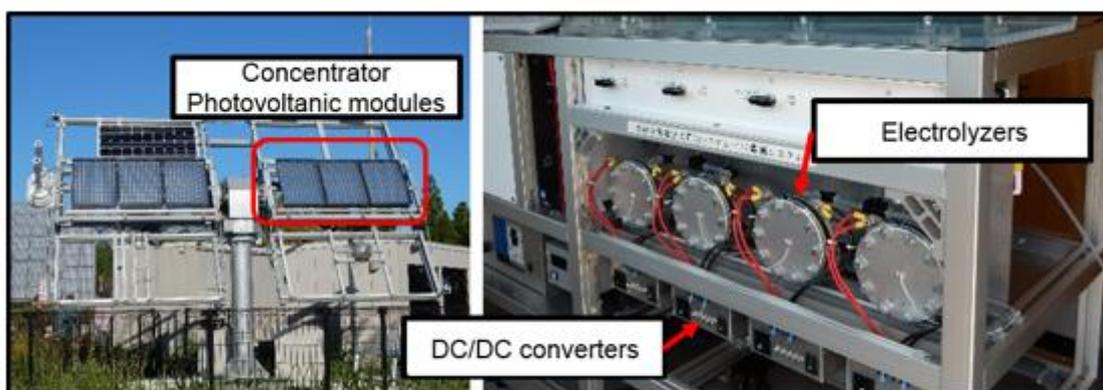


Figure 1: The trial equipment used in the outdoor hydrogen production experiment at the University of Miyazaki.

<http://www.fujitsu.com/global/about/resources/news/press-releases/2018/0719-01.html>

Partial Revision of the METI Organization Approved

On July 20, the Cabinet approved the Cabinet Order for Partial Revision of the Ordinance on the Organization of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, aiming to ensure that METI appropriately carries out the affairs under its jurisdiction. The main points of the revision are as follows.

(1) Minister's Secretariat

Establish a new position of director-general that is responsible for promotion of evidence-based policy making. Its English official title will be decided soon.

(2) Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau

Establish the Industry Creation Policy Division for creation of new industrial activities that tow the Fourth Industrial Revolution and for creation of industrial activities that take advantage of new technologies.

(3) Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau

Establish the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Division for integrated commitment to measures for preventing industrial pollution and those for addressing industrial waste, an effort for promoting recycling activities and

securing effective utilization of other resources.

(4) Small and Medium Enterprise Agency

Transfer inspection tasks involving public financing for SMEs and small enterprises from the Business Environment Department to the Commissioner's Secretariat in order to fortify the current inspection system.

The Cabinet Order came into effect on July 25

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0720_003.html

METI Establishes Digital Transformation Offices to Promote Digitalization in Its Administrative Procedures

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced on July 25 that it would establish a new office called the "METI Digital Transformation Office." This office will aim to systematically promote integration of a variety of METI's internal duties into a consistent flow, ranging from review of internal service procedures and design, development and operation of services, to data utilization. METI will simultaneously establish a new office called "SMEA Digital Transformation Office" to improve the user-friendliness of highly in-demand administrative services for SMEs in particular, and to increase the sophistication of policy planning, based on data utilization.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/0725_002.html