Company History and Strengths

Since its establishment in 1915, Yaskawa Electric has determined that in order to promote various forms of modern industry in the community, its area of business would be electric motors and their applications. Continuing to make challenges to employ the latest technology of the times, it initially began receiving orders and manufacturing electric equipment for use in coal mines, and its technology was introduced for system control at Yawata Steel Works. Yaskawa went on to develop the epoch-making Minertia motor, which dramatically improved the performance of motors, and set out to expand its area of business through research and development for AC drives, which are indispensable for motor control, as well as aim to realize “unmanned factories” ahead of the rest of the world. Embracing “mechatronics” as its key concept, it became the first in Japan to develop an all-electric-powered industrial robot that was equipped with the motor technology that the company had nurtured and contributed to the automation of manufacturing, starting with the automobile industry. It has leveraged applications of these core technologies in recent years and has been making new challenges in the areas of clean power and humatronics.

* Unmanned factory: A term coined by Yaskawa with the idea of an automated factory run by humans free from dependence on manpower with support from machines.

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The founding years

A founder who invested in human resource development

Keiichiro Yasukawa, the promoter of Yaskawa, was born in 1849 in Fukuoka. Following the Meiji Restoration, Keiichiro absorbed new knowledge and philosophies from the West, with which he engaged himself in mining, later expanding his business to spinning, steel, railway and banking. In 1909, he personally funded the opening of Meiji College of Technology, a vocational school for training engineers. The school later became a national university, Kyushu Institute of Technology, and continues to produce numerous engineers to this day.

Initiative for the leading-edge technology

At the beginning of the Taisho period (1912-1926), electric motors were starting to advance into all industrial segments as replacements for steam engine. Daigoro Yasukawa, the fifth son of Keiichiro, was among those who learned the fundamentals of such leading-edge technology. In 1915, with his father promising “to provide financial support, but not interfere with the way you run the business,” Daigoro founded our predecessor, Yaskawa Electric Manufacturing Co. The company started its business by manufacturing electric mining products ordered by the mining company operated by Keiichiro. In a time when domestic electric products were both scarce and technologically several steps behind the imported products that dominated most of the market, this was a move that went ahead of the time.
Offering solutions that match changes in society and industry

Developing applications of mechatronics technology and focusing on creating new areas of business

Total solution provider

- Electric product for plants of paper, film and textile
- Water and sewerage system
- PV1000 PV inverter for photovoltaic generation
- Enewin series Large-scale wind power generation system
- MOTOMAN-BMDA3 Biomedical applications
- MOTOMAN-VA1400 World’s first seven-axis robot
- MOTOMAN-UP6 World’s first multiple robot cooperative control
- MOTOMAN-DA20 Dual-arm robot
- MOTOMAN-HC10 Collaborative robot
- YASKAWA Report 2016