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Yazaki Corporation

Yazaki Corporation Launches Innovation Hub – REN, an Innovation Facility Aiming to Automate Manufacturing and Create New Value Using AI and Robotics

A Development Base for Next-Generation Smart Factories Using Physical AI and Humanoid Robots Creating the Future of Manufacturing Industry Through Industry-Academia Collaboration and Co-Creation

Yazaki Corporation (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Riku Yazaki) has launched full-scale initiatives aimed at next-generation manufacturing using AI and robotics at Innovation Hub – REN, an innovation facility established at Y-CITY, a research, development, and management base in Susono City, Shizuoka Prefecture. This facility will validate automation and promote research and development through industry-academia collaboration to create new value.



Left: Photo by Takenori Hikosaka, SS Co., Ltd.



■ Facility Outline

This facility will help solve issues facing the Japanese manufacturing industry through new initiatives not bound by conventional frameworks, utilizing the manufacturing expertise Yazaki Corporation has gained over the last 85 years.

In terms of productivity, the facility will promote front-loading of the development process (resolution of issues at the initial development stage) by conducting everything from the validation of automated machines to the construction of production technologies in an integrated manner. We will further deepen collaborations with our customers and partners, significantly reducing lead times and improving development speed as a result.

In terms of the labor environment, we will actively introduce AI and robotics into fields that rely on human labor for many processes. We aim to realize “people-friendly factories” where diverse human resources can work with peace of mind by reducing the burden of transporting heavy goods and developing “work styles not restricted by location” using remote support robots.

These initiatives represent new challenges based on the expertise and skills that Yazaki Corporation has gained over numerous years of people-centered manufacturing. Our goal is not to replace humans with robots but rather to achieve better manufacturing by having humans and robots work together, leveraging each other's strengths.

As we utilize these technologies, we will also pass on Yazaki's unique manufacturing value of valuing people to the next generation.



A remote support robot

■ Main Features of this Facility

1) Introduction of humanoid robots

One of the features of this facility is the introduction of humanoid robots. Unlike conventional robots that follow human instructions, the humanoid robots introduced at this facility have autonomy to reproduce human movements while thinking and learning on their own. We will establish a system that is expected to be the first in Japan to utilize such humanoid robots. Utilizing Yazaki's years of expertise, we aim to quickly introduce the system to production sites.



2) Formulation of inventory strategy models

In cooperation with FACTORY X Inc., which develops and deploys inventory strategy models, we are working to strategically and logically optimize inventory management, which previously relied on human intuition and experience.

3) R&D through industry-academia collaboration

We promote research and development through industry-academia collaboration, including joint research with the Institute of Science Tokyo in the field of humanoid and collaborative robots. Our collaborations also include co-creation with external partners, including Chinese companies that provide AI solutions.

■ Facility Outline

Name	Innovation Hub – REN
Location	1500 Mishuku, Susono City, Shizuoka Prefecture
Site Area	12,547m ²
Gross Floor Area	3,682m ²

■ About Yazaki Corporation

Yazaki Corporation was founded in 1941. Under the company mottoes of “a corporation in step with the world” and “a corporation needed by society,” we are engaged in the development, manufacture, and sale of automotive parts and energy equipment, including automotive wire harnesses, in which we boast a world-leading market share.

Currently, we have offices in 46 countries and regions around the world and are working to expand our business globally. We will contribute to a more prosperous future through products and services that support automobiles, people's daily lives, and greater society.

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