Happy New Year!

2009 turned out to be an unprecedented year for Kawasaki and the entire robot industry. Even though it was a tough year, I believe we should be positive and look to learn from this valuable experience. This experience is sure to cause our customers to develop new ideas for their production lines. At Kawasaki, each employee is always thinking about what we can do for our customers. Starting the new year with our mind refreshed, we will strive to help support as many customers as possible.

(Masatoshi Yamaguchi, Executive Officer, G.M. of Robot Division)

New Product MX700N

Kawasaki has shipped the first MX700N, an extra large general-purpose robot (photo right). The MX700N has a maximum payload capacity of 700 kg, a substantial increase from the MX500N (payload capacity of 500 kg), enabling it to cope with the growing demand for handling heavier parts. It has the same reach as the MX500N, yet retains the slim construction of the M-series robots. With the launch our largest model to date, our whole lineup now covers payload capacities ranging from 3 to 700 kg. This extensive lineup enables us to accommodate a wider range of applications in robot automation. The first MX700N has already been shipped to our distributor in Denmark through our subsidiary company in Germany.

Useful Software (PLC function “KLogic”)

When it comes to controlling signals in a robot system, the software PLC “KLogic” provides a useful alternative to conventional hardware PLCs. Instead of using dedicated external controllers and boards, this option uses a software PLC to perform sequence controls from the robot controller. In addition, Kawasaki’s programming software “KLadder” enables one to create and edit sequence control programs by using the ladder diagram. Essentially, this program is a robot program. KLogic uses the same I/Os and fieldbuses that are used in the robot controller, and the I/Os and terminals on the ladder can be displayed on the robot teach pendant. In short, KLogic delivers the easy and low-cost alternative our customers seek.

Overseas Subsidiary (China)

Kawasaki Robotics China (Tianjin) Co., Ltd. was founded in 2006 as our robot subsidiary in China. The head office is located in Tianjin with 3 additional offices in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Kunshan. In total 43 employees are working in the sales, service and engineering departments, helping to serve the needs of the automotive, semiconductor and other general industries in China. To accommodate the booming Chinese market, Kawasaki has moved to expand our business operations. As part of this expansion, last year we moved the head office in Tianjin to a new building, and also opened a new purchasing office in Kunshan. (Chinese website: www.kawasakirobot.cn/)

Application Video

Kawasaki has just released the 2009 Robot Application Video. We release a new application video every 2 years and send it to all of our subsidiaries and distributors. This new 53-minute video describes 23 applications, including 10 new interesting applications accompanied with English subtitles.