



Newsletter on the Latest Technologies Developed by RTRI

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# Railway Technology Avalanche

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## Foreword

**Kazuhiko TEZUKA**

Director, Planning Division

The Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) will celebrate its 20th anniversary in December 2006. RTRI was established as an incorporated foundation on December 10, 1986, as part of the breakup and privatization of Japanese National Railways (JNR). It began its research and development in earnest on April 1, 1987, when the JR group of companies was launched.

Every five years, RTRI draws up a new master plan and implements it to fulfill management policies and the original RTRI vision. The current master plan, for the fiscal years 2005 to 2009, is called Research 2005, and promotes the following five basic courses of action:

- Create new railway technologies for the 21st century
- Demonstrate the comprehensive potential of a railway engineering group
- Respond rapidly to the needs of society and the JR Group of companies
- Transfer railway technologies and acquire basic technologies
- Spread knowledge of railway technologies and transmit railway-related information

During the last 20 years, we have depended considerably on the intellectual and physical assets accumulated by JNR over its many years of managing Japan's national railway services. Although some of our equipment and infrastructure was installed since our establishment, much of our testing facilities, and the land and buildings we use for research, were inherited from the former JNR, as were many of our staff members who developed their technical expertise during their years with JNR.

During the last two decades, some companies within the JR Group have established their own technical research centers to actively pursue development programs with manufacturers, universities, and public research institutes that were transformed into independent corporate entities.

Because of these various circumstances, RTRI must give its research activities a new perspective for the next 20 years, while at the same time fully using assets acquired from JNR. One example of these assets, and the most important, is our human resources. Sixty percent of RTRI's technical staff joined us since we became an



independent incorporated foundation two decades ago. Some fundamental challenges now facing our Institute are to ensure that this technical experience is passed on to younger generations, to train more high-caliber technical staff, and to secure even more highly qualified human resources. Another important goal is to replace testing facilities and equipment that are becoming obsolete, and to introduce new, more advanced ones.

The vision that inspired the establishment of RTRI reinforces our intention to continue working well into the future for the betterment of society, taking advantage of the most advanced railway technology that we can possess.

手塚和彦