

Reorganization to Respond to the New Master Plan

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As already publicized in the March 1, 2005 issue of *Railway Technology Avalanche*, RTRI started its master plan RESEARCH 2005 in April 2005. At the start of this new master plan, we decided to make a partial change to our organization in order to properly respond to the changes in the conditions surrounding RTRI after 2000 when the previous master plan was formulated. The purpose of the reorganization was to concentrate the capacities of RTRI and carry out effective R&D, giving due consideration to compatibility with the previous master plan. The main points in the present reorganization are described below. The new organization of RTRI is schematically shown in Fig. 1.

1. Abolition of Maglev Systems Development Department and Installation of Maglev Systems Technology Division

Concerning the maglev technology development project that has been in operation since FY 1990, it was confirmed in FY 2004 that the key technologies for putting maglev into practical use had been established. It was decided, therefore, that R&D on maglev should now be focused on applying superconducting technology, linear motor technology and other technologies and know-how that have been developed thus far to conventional railways. To that end, the Maglev Systems Development Department, which played a leading role in the development of maglev technology, was abolished, and the Maglev Systems Technology Division was newly created. The Maglev Systems Technology Division includes several study groups and Yamanashi Maglev Test Center.

2. Reorganization of Information & International Affairs Division

RTRI had an Information & International Affairs Division, which was in charge of information transmission/reception and international affairs. However, in order to respond more properly to the changing situation, such as the growing state

of information networks within society and the increasing volume of work related to international standards, the former division was reorganized, and divided into the Information Management Division and the International Affairs Division.

To respond speedily and properly to the information networks in society, the Information Management Division exclusively takes care of utilization of the Internet, security and personal information management, as well as the conventional information management and information transmission/reception. Therefore, in addition to the existing Network Systems Management, Technical Information Services, Intellectual Property, etc., a Health Insurance Systems Center is included in the Information Management Division.

Concerning the International Affairs Division, in addition to the existing International Affairs responsible for coordination and promotion of international operations, an Information Standards Center in charge of international standards is newly installed to ensure the smooth, efficient execution of international operations.

3. Wind Tunnel Technical Center

The administration of the Wind Tunnel Technical Center that maintains and manages the large, low-noise wind tunnel of RTRI was transferred from the Administration Division to the Research & Development Promotion Division. The purpose of the transfer is to facilitate the adjustment of plans for use of the wind tunnel by RTRI divisions and outside organizations, and to reinforce and make smooth the management of testing and measuring facilities.

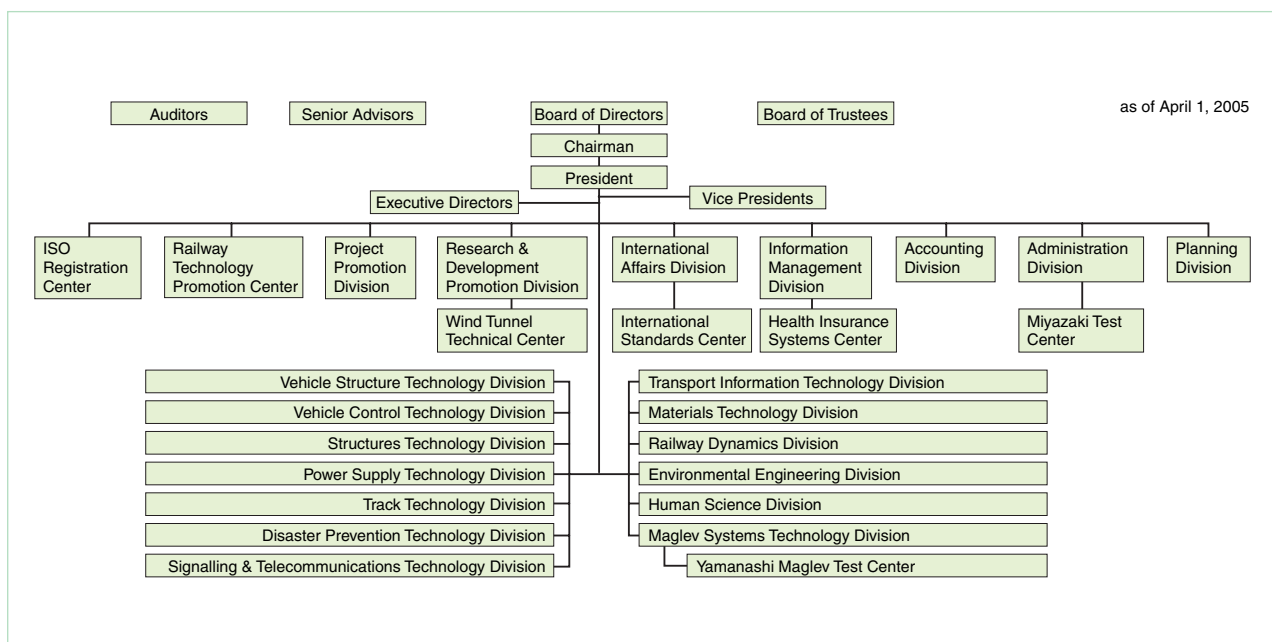


Figure 1. Organization of RTRI