



Newsletter on the
Latest Technologies
Developed by RTRI

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Railway Technology Avalanche

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Commercialising the Results of Research

Shinji KONISHI

Director, Marketing and Business Development Division

Every year the Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) obtains a number of excellent research results which can be applied to railway operation. Its research and development activities cover various fields, such as civil engineering, disaster prevention, rolling stock, electrical engineering, telecommunications, materials and ergonomics, etc.

RTRI has quickly commercialised most of these outcomes for use by customers, though some results require further work to arrive at practical applications.

To disseminate the technologies newly developed by RTRI and promote their more widespread use among railway operators and other customers, the Marketing and Business Development Division (MBDD) is now promoting commercialisation and on-contract-application of products developed by RTRI which have practical benefits. MBDD works in conjunction with the Research and Development Promotion Division and other R&D Divisions at RTRI.

Some research work is now conducted under contract to the government, railways, Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency (JRJT) and other organizations, with the results utilized by the respective contractors.

MBDD arranges meetings for technology transfer and studies on specific topics, where it introduces RTRI's achievements that are useful for railway businesses. MBDD also exchanges opinions with customers, identifies the needs in the field and collects the necessary data, which are fed back to research divisions to determine new themes for research and development in the future.

Railways are now required to undertake development and improvement in various ways. These include running faster services and achieving manpower savings, the keywords being reliability (safety and stability), convenience (rapid-



ity, comfort), economy (low costs) and harmony with the environment. As a result, the services to be carried out by railway staff have become extremely sophisticated, diversified and complicated. This suggests that railway companies may have a number of problems which are specific to their own management conditions, and these need to be solved by railway operators.

For this purpose, therefore, customers are kindly requested to draw on the expertise of experts at RTRI, who have high-level knowledge and technological competence.

Shinji Konishi