



Newsletter on the Latest Technologies Developed by RTRI

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Preface

Masaru TATEYAMA

Director, Marketing and Business Development Division

On April 1, 2014, I was appointed Director of the Marketing and Business Development Division. While RTRI is funded primarily by contributions from the JR-group companies and by governmental subsidies, it also conducts a significant amount of contract business based on individual requests from the nation, railway operators, and other private firms. The annual revenue of the RTRI is approximately 18 billion Japanese Yen including 3 billion Japanese Yen of contract business. Our division has the mission of managing the contracted business itself and pursuing business development opportunities based on RTRI's research achievements.

Specific content of the contract business includes assessment and diagnosis tasks, and design and inspection projects for railway facilities. Examples of business development opportunities based on the research achievements of the RTRI include implementation of a seismic-preventive system (Earthquake Early Warning System for Railways) and the sale of design and analytical programs for railway structures. License income from patent and other intellectual properties are also included in business revenues, and technologies such as semi-active suspensions and ladder sleepers are already developing business operations overseas.



While serious derailment accidents which took place in recent years around the world may still be fresh in our memories, several accidents in Japan caused by earthquakes, landslides, or maintenance problems have raised people's awareness of railway safety. The RTRI has investigated the causes of such natural disasters and derailment accidents, and developed preventive measures, as a part of its contract business. The RTRI will continue contributing to the enhancement of railway safety in the future through these new business fields.