Obtaining the Highest Environmental Rating from DBJ

In July 2012, Minebea received an "A" rating, the highest possible, under the environmental rating system administered by the Development Bank of Japan Inc. (DBJ). We have obtained environmental rating-tied financing from DBJ based on this, which will be used to advance our environmentally conscious management.

Minebea's Environmental Management Level

Environmental rating-tied loans are loans whose financing terms are decided based on an assessment of the company's environmental management level and the long-term sustainability of its business. The environmental management assessment screens companies on the basis of overall management, business-related factors, and performance-related factors, assigning an overall rating on a four-level scale from A, the highest, to D, the lowest. In FY2012, Minebea received an "A" rating based on the assessment that its environmentally conscious initiatives are particularly advanced. The evaluation specifically noted our efforts to lower the environmental burden in manufacturing processes by producing manufacturing equipment in-house, as well as the development of environmentally conscious products by leveraging ultra-high-precision machined components. The assessment also lauded our aim for comprehensive sustainable management as reflected in the formulation of a medium-term CSR plan and the holding of stakeholder dialogues.

Exemplary Initiatives

Overall management

- Clear medium-term plan for CSR activities
- Holding of a supplier dialogue
- Consideration of employee diversity, and work-life balance
- Execution of social contribution activities at global sites

Business-related

- Broad lineup of environmentally conscious products achieving resource efficiency, lightweight design, energy efficiency
- Formulation of criteria for Minebea Green Products based on unique characteristics of each type of product
- Procurement activities based on the CSR Procurement Guidelines

Performance-related

- Achievement of 40% improvement in energy efficiency at new ball bearing plant constructed within Bang Pa-in Plant in Thailand, compared with previous plants
- Achieving zero wastewater at two Thai plants and two Chinese plants

Aiming for an Even Higher Level of Environmentally Conscious Manufacturing

Though many of our environmental initiatives have received positive assessments, the evaluation processes have shown us that there are many ways in which we need to improve our global warming countermeasures. New financing will be used to actively address these issues and advance initiatives to raise the level of environmentally consciousness of our business operations.

With the financing, we are building a new plant with the highest energy efficiency among domestic Group plants on the premises of our new Matsuida Plant (scheduled for completion in November 2013). The new plant's thermal insulation features will enable low-capacity air conditioners, while substations and other equipment will lower energy consumption and the electrical burden. With this plant design, we are preparing for a higher level of environmentally conscious manufacturing.

Artist's impression of the completed New Matsuida Plant (building in the foreground)

Moving forward, as a Group we have set a target of reducing our CO_2 emissions per unit of production 5% by FY2015 (in comparison to FY2010) by pursuing new initiatives both at the Matsuida Plant and in other areas of our business, including raising logistics efficiency and bolstering our measures at other sites.

Energy efficiency measures at the new Matsuida Plant

	Measure	Purpose	Effect	Reduction % (target)
1	Roof insulation	Insulation against heat from direct sunlight on roof and external air heat	Air conditioner capacity reduction	10%-
2	Exterior wall insulation	Insulation against heat from direct sunlight on walls and external air heat	Air conditioner capacity reduction	10%-
3	Windbreak room	Prevention of external air and dust intake and escape of internally controlled air	Air conditioner capacity reduction	10%-
4	Minimization of room capacity	Reduction of air conditioned room capacity	Air conditioner capacity reduction	10%-
5	Substation	Use of highly efficient transformer	Power loss reduction	5%-
6	Electric power monitoring equipment	Electric power demand monitoring	Suitable management of equipment operation	15%-
7	Energy-efficient lighting	Use of highly efficient lighting, LED lights, luminance correction and auto on and off control functions	Electric power burden reduction	10%-
8	Energy-efficient inverters	Use of inverter air conditioners and fans	Suitable equipment operation	30%-
9	Air conditioning equipment	Use of highly efficient air conditioners	Electric power burden reduction	10%-
10	Air exhaust equipment	Use of eco-fans	Electric power burden reduction	6%-
11	Reduction in external air intake for air conditioning	Use of total heat exchangers	Air conditioner capacity reduction	5%-
12	Suitable air pressure	Use of flow regulating valves and pressure reducing valves	Electric power burden reduction	10%-
13	Cooling with outside air in winter	Use of cold outside air for manufacturing processes generating high heat	Electric power burden reduction	10%-
14	Fuel gas	Change from heavy oil air conditioning to gas systems	Greenhouse gas reduction	20%-
15	Health facilities	Use of waterless urinals	Reduction in water consumption and wastewater generation	10%-

*Please see P32- for a detailed explanation of environmental initiatives we are currently taking.