

# Intellectual Property Department Being Active in “Pro-Patent” Era\*



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## 1 Introduction

### *Synopsis:*

*Activity related to intellectual properties such as patents is done by Intellectual Property Dept. of Kawasaki Steel and Patent & Technical Information Business Div. of Kawasaki Steel Techno-Research Corp. (KTEC). Kawasaki Steel established a system in 1996 that meets all kinds of requirements made in the so called “pro-patent” era. The main focus is on (1) patenting its own technologies, (2) respecting the patents of other companies and (3) effective use of its own patents. The number of patents filed annually increased to reach a maximum of about 2 400 in 1993 and now remains at a level of about 1 300. Most of them are in the field of steel as a matter of course for a steel company. The number of patents granted and maintained in Japan is about 4 400 while it is about 2 800 abroad. The number of patents granted to Kawasaki*

It is said that the “pro-patent” policy which strongly respects and protects the right of owners of intellectual properties has significantly contributed to the current development of the economy in the United States of America. In Japan, the same policy has been adopted in the last few years to promote the “swift, strong and wide” protection of intellectual properties through the establishment of systems and laws related to intellectual properties. This is the basis for the 21st century which is said to be the “age of intelligence.” It means a shift from

*Steel in the USA is one of the greatest among the steel companies in the world. The income made on the basis of technology began surpassing the expenditure in 1979. The balance between them has increased since then. The annual internal use of patents granted and its benefit have reached about 300 in number and about four billion yen, respectively.*

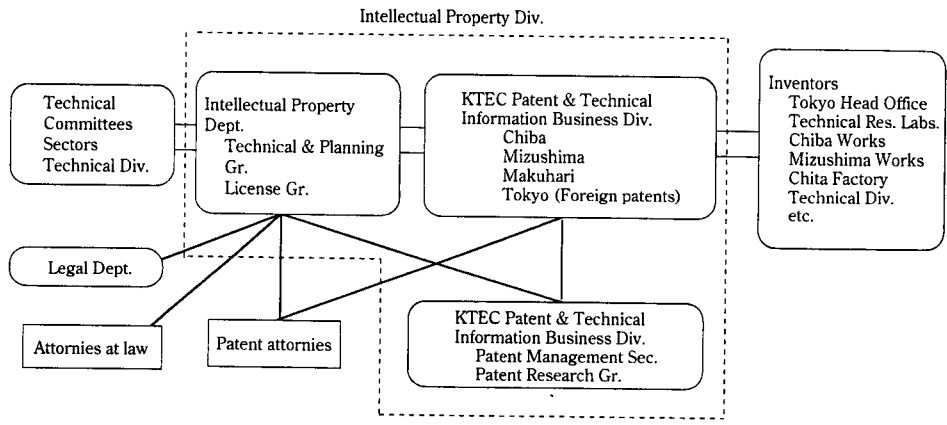
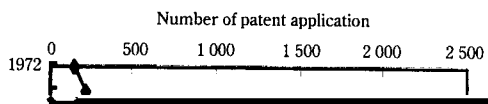


Fig. 1 System of Intellectual Property Division

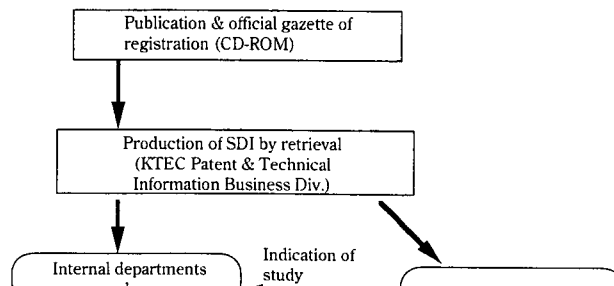


whole company in 1959 after the foundation of the company in 1950. They steadily developed with the expansion of business and the progress of research and devel-

and promotion of R&D, the manufacturing process of the developed technology, and business.

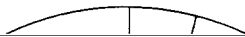
### 2.2.1 Acquisition of patents from our own technology

A strategic support for patent application is made under what is called "patent prioritized theme" program. Under the program, from the stand point of the whole company, it selects in each fiscal year especially impor-

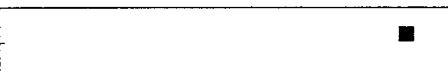


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6

