

Testimonial: Customer

Determined to continue to supply the market with highly reliable products, in partnership with THK

YASKAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION

YASKAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION was established in 1915. As Japan's foremost manufacturer of mechatronics devices, YASKAWA has always supported leading-edge industries and technologies. Its activities are currently focused on the following four business domains: "Motion Control," "Robotics," "Systems Engineering" and "Information Technologies." YASKAWA operates business hubs in 25 countries around the world, including Japan, and has production bases in 9 countries. The technologies, products, and services YASKAWA provides are highly regarded and have won the trust of customers around the world.



Akihiro Furutani

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What do you appreciate about THK products?

First of all, we appreciate their high precision. Thanks to the circular-arc design,* THK's LM Guides are easy to incorporate into an assembly because they can be more freely aligned. That's why we use THK products so often when high precision is required. I'm involved in the development of robotic devices that help produce semiconductors and liquid crystal panels, so I also greatly appreciate the fact that THK Caged Ball LM Guides and Ball Screws operate so quietly and cleanly—there's little contact between metal surfaces, so they generate less dust and dirt. I should explain that noise-free operation is a requirement for semiconductor-production robots and other equipment that's used in the controlled environment of a clean room. To the customer, noise means that vibrations are occurring, vibrations mean that contact is occurring, and contact means that particulate matter is being generated. Harsh-sounding noise is also stressful for the people working in the clean room. That's why I'm so grateful for low-noise THK Caged Ball LM Guides.

* Circular-arc design: The groove cross-section consists of a single circular arc; the balls make contact at only two points.

Have you had any experiences with THK that left a special impression on you?



SEMISTER-M124,
Semiconductor Wafer
Handling Clean Robot

Yes. Once we were in a very tight spot—a product incorporating THK guides was due to be delivered to the customer the next day, and we found out that it wasn't meeting the precision requirements. Unless

we could fix the problem by the following morning, we'd be causing a lot of trouble for the customer.

The summer holidays had already begun, and we couldn't reach the engineer at the plant concerned. Then an engineer from another THK plant arrived on the scene and assured us that he'd figure out some way to solve the problem. I'll never forget the way he said that. He worked through the night, and the next morning we were able to meet the precision requirements and meet the delivery deadline. This engineer wasn't even from the plant we'd been dealing with, but he cared about our situation and gave it his very best, and he helped us a great deal.

When everything's going well, people take things for granted, but when trouble comes along it's good to know you have a partner you can count on. THK has that kind of fundamental capability, and that's why we can work together in a relationship of trust.

What do you expect from THK in the future?

Nowadays products are expected to be reliable, and that includes service life. The robots that help produce semiconductors and liquid crystal panels operate under severe conditions 24 hours a day. The challenge for us is how to prevent a stoppage and how to minimize the damage in the event that a stoppage does occur. When crucial components such as guides or bearings—the basic elements of the machinery—break down, it takes time to resume operations. I hope THK will continue to pursue even greater reliability and provide products that can run 24 hours a day and last a little bit longer.

Like a lot of customers, we'd also like to minimize the down time required for maintenance. I'd like THK to find ways to make their products more user-friendly by incorporating automatic lubrication mechanisms and otherwise making lubrication easier.