Guided by the corporate philosophy of providing innovative products to the world and generating new trends to contribute to the creation of an affluent society, THK continually strives to create original products as a company focused on creation and development.

A Global R&D System for the Next Generation

THK is endeavoring to use its core linear motion system technology and expertise to develop its mainstream linear motion systems, mechatronic devices such as XY precision stages and linear motor actuators, and products in the consumer goods-related fields of automotive parts, robotic equipment, aircraft, robotics, and renewable energy at its centers for R&D: the Technology Center and the new headquarters established in October 2017 in Tokyo.

In 2010, the THK Group established the R&D Center in China. This facility, which was THK’s first R&D facility outside of Japan, began full operation in 2012. With the addition of THK RHYTHM AUTOMOTIVE’s German R&D facility in 2015, the THK Group is on its way to building R&D structures oriented toward the Americas, Europe, and Asia in order to more accurately meet the needs of customers around the world.

Initiatives During the 2017 Fiscal Year

To meet the varied needs of its customers in the industrial machinery field, THK has expanded its lineup of LM Guide and ball screw products and developed a diverse lineup of new products that contribute to the automation of customers’ production lines, including low-inertia ball screw/splines and gripper-type electric actuators. In the robotics field, THK has expanded its lineup of SEED Solutions components for next-generation robots and introduced SEED Platform robots, which combine such components, in order to help lower total costs for customers. In addition, even as THK participates in robotics competitions, the Group has also actively been involved in sponsoring robotics events in order to contribute to the overall development of the service robotics industry.

In the automobile and transportation industry, THK has utilized new production methods to introduce aluminum products to the market in order to meet the customer need for more lightweight automobiles. The Company has also developed aluminum hot forging technology in-house in North America. Even in the new production methods it has developed—in cold forging, hot forging, and precision press technology—THK has distinguished itself from its competitors. Furthermore, the Company has used the unified R&D efforts of THK, THK RHYTHM, and TRA to begin developing and mass-producing linear motion products for the automotive industry to meet the needs generated by the increasing use of electronics in vehicles and self-driving car technology.

Policies and Initiatives for the 2018 Fiscal Year

In the 2018 fiscal year, the THK Group plans to continue focusing its efforts on the efficient development of new products with the aim of further expanding applications for THK’s technology. Above all, with the acceleration in AI, the IoT, and robotization, THK will promote the development of new products that incorporate IoT technology into its products. Furthermore, as it strengthens its global development structure, THK will work with THK RHYTHM and TRA to incorporate its accumulated core linear motion technology into the development of products used in the automotive industry. In this manner, these members of the THK Group will work to maximize the synergistic effect of putting their respective technologies to use in one another’s fields to contribute to the development of new products.

R&D Expenses

(Billions of yen)

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<th>Year</th>
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*This data reflects a modified reporting period that includes 9 months from consolidated companies whose fiscal years ended in December.