A Business Originating from a Social Issue: Our Solar Energy Business Stretches Back for More than 40 Years

Ever since Kyocera was founded, our business core has remained unchanged as we work to resolve social issues. That is typified by our solar energy business, which has been in existence for more than 40 years now. What can we do to enable all humankind to develop sustainable societies without overburdening the environment? One answer to that question is to generate electricity from sunlight, a form of renewable energy. We believe our solar energy business to have social significance, as it enriches people's lives around the world while being gentle on the global environment.

1975

Launch of solar cell R&D

Kyocera played a central role in establishing Japan Solar Energy Corp. with four other companies, including Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (now Panasonic Corp.) and Sharp Corp. At that time, solar cells were expensive, costing between 20 and 30 thousand yen per watt.

1982

Mass production of multicrystalline silicon solar cells launched

The start of full-scale mass production of multicrystalline silicon solar cells using the casting method, a world first*¹. We established an international business division for solar energy products the following year, and began shipments to North America and Europe.

*1 In February 1982.

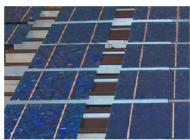
1998

Global top in solar cell production output*2

Global top for two years running, in 1998 and 1999.

*2 "PV NEWS Vol.18 No.2, February 1999" (In 1999)







2013

70 MW Kagoshima Nanatsujima Mega Solar Power Plant into operation

Kagoshima Nanatsujima Mega Solar Power Plant came online on November 1. 290,000 solar panels were installed in an area of approx. 127 hectares, giving a total capacity of 70 MW.



2016

Participation in VPP demonstration test project

A VPP controls and integrates dispersed energy resources such as solar power generating systems, and makes them function like a single power plant. We are participating in a demonstration test project run by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and playing a part in supporting Japan's energy of the future.



2019

Providing new solar power services

We established Kyocera Kanden Energy LLP, and launched an energy service where, in principle, we install residential solar power generating systems at no cost to the customer. The system is transferred free of charge to the customer once the contract has expired. We also established Kyocera EPA LLC for industrial lease schemes. It has started to provide solar power generating system lease schemes to businesses that offer energy services utilizing renewable energy.

