

ZEON Group (Japan)

ZEON Medical Inc.

Introduction to ZEON Medical Inc.

ZEON Medical Inc. was established in 1989 to continue ZEON Corporation's medical business as its wholly owned subsidiary.

Since then the company has developed medical equipment that uses new materials, particularly biocompatible materials, produced by combining ZEON's various proprietary technologies. ZEON Medical acquired approval to manufacture supplementary artificial hearts from the Ministry of Health and Welfare (now Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) in January 1990. This was a world-first technology at the time and a typical example of the company's success in this field.

In January 1990, ZEON Medical commenced operations to market its supplementary artificial heart. In July 1996, it took over operation of exports, research and development, and manufacturing divisions from ZEON Corporation, the final addition in ZEON Medical's becoming a fully integrated medical equipment business in both name and substance. Since then the company has developed, manufactured, and marketed predominantly cardiovascular and gastrointestinal medical equipment in an effort to expand its business domain as a domestic manufacturer in Japan.

The healthcare field has been evolving dramatically in the wake of continuing advances in medical technologies. With the sense of responsibility and purpose that comes with being stewards of health, we are continuing to develop and improve our innovative medical equipment, and provide systems and services that satisfy our customers.

We will continue to deliver safe, high-quality products that can be used with peace of mind by doctors, technologists, nurses, and other healthcare practitioners to maintain the well-being of their patients.

The research lab is within the Takaoka Plant. From the design stage, the research lab works together with the manufacturing department and partakes in development aimed at devising design and assembly methods that ensure efficient production and consistent quality.



President Muneki Sawa



ZEON Medical's research center and plant



Environmental and Safety Activities

1. Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact

We monitor our environmental impact on an ongoing basis by setting emission reduction targets for chemical substances subject to the PRTR Law and keeping track of the material balance of waste substances. In the coming years we will implement strategies to reduce emission amounts.

In fiscal 2012, we consumed 1,530,343kWh of electric power, an increase from the fiscal 2011 level of 1,308,539kWh. Although we are implementing measures to reduce our power usage, we believe the level increased owing to the establishment of a new research lab.

Efforts to reduce waste and design more environmentally friendly products include using less product packing material and reducing part counts through integral casting.

To safeguard the safety of our employees, we conduct evacuation drills based on major earthquake and tsunami scenarios, in addition to daily 4RKY^{*1} and near-miss prevention activities^{*2}.

^{*1} 4RKY

A risk assessment method whereby employees proactively eliminate risk by discussing and learning from each other about potential risk factors in their work environment and tasks as well as the circumstance those factors can create. The program consists of four steps, or rounds (R), hence the name 4RKY (KY is for "kiken yochi," or risk assessment).

^{*2} Near-miss incidents

Near-miss incidents are unplanned events that nearly result in an accident, injury, or other loss.

2. Environmental Data

ZEON Medical Inc.		FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Substances covered by PRTR law	Number of substances	1	1	1	1	1
	Consumption (tons)	1.1	1.5	2.3	2.2	1.6
	Amount emitted (tons)	1.1	1.5	2.3	2.2	1.6
Industrial waste	Amount generated (before volume reduction) (tons)	5.0	5.4	7.6	22	10
	Amount sent to landfill (tons)	5.0	5.3	7.6	11	5.0
Water resources (Industrial water + Ground water + Waterworks) consumption (1,000 m ³)		-	-	-	12	14.3
CO ₂ emissions (tons)		1,000	969	970	969	1,143
Energy consumption (crude oil equivalent, kL)		412	472	462	431	511

Activities with the Local Community

One activity undertaken by the ZEON Takaoka Group is participation in neighborhood clean-up efforts along the nearby Kokubun-hama shoreline and the Himi Coast.

Also, to contribute to the development of the medical device industry in Toyama Prefecture as an administrative member of the West Toyama Prefecture Medical Device Development Council, we conducted a business matching program in which we spoke with local Hokuriku companies and followed up with individual meetings to examine business opportunities.

In R&D, we participated in a research meeting held by the Toyama Industrial Technology Center and are moving forward with development in collaboration with local companies.