

Harnessing the Power of Information Technology

The potential impact of information technology (IT) on innovation in corporate activity is huge. We are using IT to overhaul our traditional way of doing business and speed up management processes, improve productivity and reinforce international competitiveness. By unifying and providing real-time access to a variety of information on group companies, suppliers and corporate management, Toyota Industries aims to accelerate decision-making and facilitate networking as well as digitalize the process from order receipt through development and manufacture to delivery.

We have made the following progress in the introduction and use of IT.



E-Lab, our springboard for promoting IT

Strengthening Network Infrastructure

We have been working to set up a network infrastructure that enables each division and employee to share needed information. Toyota Industries Corporation (the parent company) has completed upgrading almost all its PCs. We are reinforcing network lines among domestic plants as well as inside the Company. Servers are integrated to improve data processing and security. Through these measures, the strengthening of the domestic network infrastructure has been almost completed.

Introducing ERP Systems

We are pushing ahead with the introduction of ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) systems to facilitate improvements in overall

management and to allow swifter decision-making through universal access to a unified management database. We are gradually harnessing ERP to upgrade our accounting, procurement, personnel and production management.

Renovating the Design and Manufacturing Process

We are concurrently developing products by exchanging digital information on every process from development to procurement to manufacture, thus enabling shorter product development lead-times. Utilizing three-dimensional CAD systems and other systems, we are reducing man-day and product development costs.

Establishing a Global Network

We will proceed with an enlargement of the existing network to include our overseas subsidiaries, starting with TMHU, TIEM, MACI and TIESA. In the future, we intend to combine the network with that of BT Industries, thereby establishing a network encompassing all Toyota Industries Group companies.

In May 2002, we established "e-Lab," an information technology research laboratory, to promote IT within Toyota Industries, create new businesses to bank on the network era and further improve the added value of our products. The lab will study the feasibility of digital technologies in enabling production line simulations necessary to shorten the lead-time from product development to manufacture.



(Photos on this page by Yasunori Shimomura)