

This Environmental and Social Responsibility Report 2004 shows both our progress in line with the new medium-term management plan implemented in 2002, and the results and efforts of NGK's environmental activities. Additionally, as a new initiative, this also illustrates the activities undertaken by NGK in order to fulfill our corporate responsibilities to society, in consideration of the items regarding society outlined in the "Environmental Reporting Guidelines 2003" published by the Ministry of the Environment. In general, our 2003 activities are on target to meet 2005 objectives. Our environmental management systems have reached the level of standards needed to obtain ISO 14001 certification, and each business group is developing Green Management aimed at promoting more effective responses to environmental issues.

We have accelerated our zero-emission activities aimed at meeting 2005 targets for the environmental impact from our production activities, and therefore expect to achieve these convincingly. In 2003, we formulated "Project E," and this has led to a comprehensive rethinking of energy systems aimed at achieving radical reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Furthermore, ongoing improvements in production processes garnered through cooperation between business groups has led to reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>. Our chemical-substance management has succeeded in dramatically reducing the quantities of these substances handled, through switching over to substitutes and updating facilities; our efforts, however, are continuing.

We are concentrating our focus on the environment in our research and development of products and technologies for environmental conservation as an activity tied closely to our operations. NGK is also making efforts on environmental communications in

addition to environmental conservation activities and development of environmentally conscious products. Heretofore, NGK has not had much of a direct relationship with stakeholders such as the consumer public, environmental NGOs, and other businesses, but our aim for the future is to carry out active communication with society, and to contribute toward society's environmental conservation activities as a whole. Additionally, along with further promoting activities as a managing company of the Environmental Partnership Club (EPOC), we at NGK are carrying out our own activities. We are also proceeding with sharing information with a wide variety of stakeholders, through seminars on our various accumulated production technologies aimed at reducing environmental impact, exchange meetings, forums, community relation activities, and international exchanges. In addition, we will use our participation in and cooperation with the 2005 World Exposition, Expo 2005 Aichi, Japan, to communicate directly with the children who will lead the next generation, and we are aggressively developing activities that will contribute to society in the future.

Our society and planet are sustained by our activities, but these activities are also capable of destroying it. While using this Environmental and Social Responsibility Report as a means of better communicating with society, NGK is using this more in-depth, direct communication with our wide spectrum of stakeholders to protect the environment, further develop activities for its conservation, and attain the trust of society. We are certain that this is connected to fulfilling our corporate responsibility, and to contributing to establishment of a sustainable society.



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