

Fine Sinter: The powder metallurgy specialist that's branching out

Boasting over 70 years of experience, the leading-edge maker of vehicle and machinery parts is adapting and diversifying as it looks to the future.



"Fine Sinter is a pioneer in powder metallurgy, which requires a large amount of precision and high quality."

Yoichi Inoue, President,
Fine Sinter Co., Ltd.

Fine Sinter specializes in manufacturing metal parts for automobiles, locomotives and industrial machinery – but also offers a va-



Sintered parts

riety of other products as part of a growing, increasingly diverse portfolio of services.

The Japanese company, which has international locations in China, Indonesia, Thailand and the U.S., crafts vehicle and machinery components using a process known as powder metallurgy: metal powders are pressed into molded shapes, which are then hardened by being sintered.

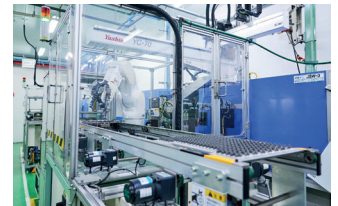


Hydraulic motor pump

"The automobile manufacturer Toyota has historically been our main customer," says President Yoichi Inoue. "We follow the rules and production systems Toyota's famous for, and the principles of *kaizen* – continuous improvement – drive our dedication to quality assurance."

Amid the shift to greener cars, Fine Sinter is keeping pace with a radically-changing automotive industry. "Electric and hybrid vehicles are the way of the future," Mr. Inoue says, "so we're introducing new products to meet the demands of the market."

Aside from powder metallurgy, Fine Sinter also boasts expertise in hydraulic systems. For example, the firm manufactures pumps used to adjust dentist chairs.



Automated line

"They're the quietest and smoothest around," Mr. Inoue notes.

Meanwhile, a fresh addition to the company's ever more varied product range – "we're not putting all our eggs in one basket," Mr. Inoue says – is insect food: "It's a business that actually shares plenty of similarities with powder metallurgy. Both deal with powders and heat treatments – two areas we excel in."

Moving forward, Fine Sinter is not only branching out into new directions, but is focused on establishing what it calls "the factory of the future" at its Mirai Factory. "Automation is the ultimate goal," Mr. Inoue says. "We want to simplify strenuous tasks with automated and semi-automated robots."

 **FINE SINTER**

www.fine-sinter.com