

Other Businesses



Fiscal 2011 Overview

At Kobelco Research Institute, Inc., demand in the target materials business was sluggish. In contrast, real estate sales and the leasing businesses at Shinko Real Estate Co., Ltd. were steady. As a result, segment sales were up 5.5% year on year, to ¥69.2 billion, and ordinary income increased ¥0.7 billion to ¥7.2 billion.

Topics

Shinko Real Estate Co., Ltd.

In July 2012, sales of condominium units began at Proud City Kobe Myodani, one of Kobe City's largest condominium projects jointly developed by Shinko Real Estate Co., Ltd., Nomura Real Estate Development Co., Ltd., Ryohkoh, Ltd., and MID Urban Development Co., Ltd.

- Total site area: 17,500m²; Number of units: 434 (redevelopment project on old Kobe City land)
- Environment-friendly smart homes that offer a next-generation "green lifestyle" based on the conservation, generation, and storage of energy.



In July 2011, Kobe Steel began the building management (facility management, security and cleaning) of Kobe City Medical Center General Hospital. This is a PFI project that is primarily managed by Kobe Steel.

Kobelco Research Institute, Inc.

■ Secondary Battery Evaluation, Analysis and Testing Business

In recent years, we have seen a shift in the automobile industry — a source of environmental and energy problems — to electric and hybrid vehicles. The commercialization of solar batteries and wind-power generation as renewable energy sources is rapidly moving forward. The development of higher-capacity, higher-energy output and safe, low-cost secondary batteries as storage batteries is actively growing.

With the market for in-car and stationary batteries expanding, there are virtually no testing agencies that can evaluate the properties of large secondary batteries, investigate the cause of battery deterioration, or evaluate their safety. As a result, there is market demand for this service.

Kobelco Research Institute, a Kobe Steel Group company that specializes in contracted research, testing, and analysis services, launched a groupwide project in 2008 for secondary battery evaluation, analysis, and testing. Kobelco Research Institute has developed physical and surface analysis using airtight equipment that enables consistent handling from trial battery production to evaluation, as well as safety evaluation and testing technology that uses reaction and thermal analysis simulation technology and cubic and domed chambers. Kobelco Research Institute has grown to become the industry leader in this business.

With even greater growth expected in the years ahead, we will pursue renewable energy use through our business and contribute to next-generation battery development and commercialization.



Cubic chamber (left) and domed chamber (right)