Research and Development of Steel Plate and Sheet in Kobe Steel

Kobe Steel, in prompt response to customer needs, has been continually involved in the research and development of materials and application technologies for steel plate and steel sheet. This special edition introduces the latest developments at Kobe Steel regarding new materials and simulation technologies in steel plate for vessels, construction and bridges and steel sheet for automobiles and electrical appliances.

Fig. 3 shows an example of a press part using TRIP-aided Bainitic Ferrite Type 980MPa grade cold rolled steel. The forming of the complicated shape of the press part is made possible by the excellent ductility acquired through the fine dispersion of retained austenite.

The cover includes three sets of pictures representing each feature. Material processing technologies (Feature I) include KOBELCO Steel Powder and the powder metallurgy products (upper left), a titanium alloy forging (middle) of propellant tanks in the HTV (H-8 Transfer Vehicle) for transporting cargo to the International Space Station and a crankshaft (bottom) for medium-speed diesel engines for power station and marine use. Steel wire rod and bar technologies (Feature II) involve roughing trains for bar rolling (lower left), the statem line (lower right) of the No.8 wire rod plant and the vertical warehouse (upper left) of the No.7 wire rod plant. Steel plate and sheets technologies (Feature III) are applied to "TOKYO SKY TREE", a tower trademarked by TOBU RAILWAY CO., LTD., and TOBU TOWER SKYTREE Co., Ltd., opening business on May 22, 2012, and to "Future Steel Vehicle (FSV)" by World Auto Steel (2011)’. High strength in the steel plate and sheet is required for taller building construction or for a greater weight reduction in car bodies. High-strength steel pipe KSAT630 (which won the Chairman Prize of the Hyogo Industrial Association in the third Hyogo Monozukuri Technical Award, 2010) has been applied to the antenna tower of Tokyo Sky Tree, and advanced high-strength steel with excellent formability is widely utilized for FSV.

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