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What's The Plan?

20.11.2020

ISSN 2052-1081

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Japanese technologies at the core of Smart Cities

With Japan leading the transformation towards Society 5.0, Japanese companies are developing the state-of-the-art telecommunications technology that will be at the heart of the data-driven Cities of the Future.

New technologies such as IoT, the latest sensor systems, Big Data, cloud computing, robotics and 5G/6G internet will pave the way for the Smart City concept to become a reality over the coming years.

In our data-powered world, Smart Cities will gather and make sense of an almost endless stream of digital information collected from physical objects connected to the internet. Insights gained from that data will be used to manage resources and services more efficiently.

Tokyo has long been seen as a 'City of the Future' and is a natural center-point of Japan's – and indeed the world's – Smart City revolution. As a global authority in high technology, Japan has even taken the Smart City concept one step forward with Society 5.0, the idea of a super-smart society brought forward by the Japanese government, where "Big Data collected by IoT will be converted into a new type of intelligence by AI and will reach every corner of society."

In its Fifth Science and Technology Basic Plan, the Japanese government laid out its roadmap for the future of the nation, outlining its plans to create Society 5.0, "a human-centered society that balances economic advancement with the resolution of social problems by a system that highly integrates cyberspace and physical space."

Up to now industrial and social revolutions have existed separately from each other, taking place at different points in history. However, under Society 5.0, the industrial/economic development will merge with societal change, where the latest Industry 4.0 technologies such as IoT, Big Data, artificial intelligence and robotics, will be deployed to improve livelihoods, solve environmental issues and reduce social inequality.

Drawing on the nation's technological prowess, Japan aims to turn Society 5.0 into a reality, incorporating these new technologies at all levels of industry, business and social life in order to achieve both economic development and solutions to a broad range of societal issues.

But ultimately it will be Japanese companies, and not the government, that ensure Japan leads the transformation towards Smart Cities and Society 5.0. Anritsu Corporation, for example, considered a global pioneer for developing the world's first wireless telephone network, finds itself once again at the forefront of the next communications revolution.

"If you were to consider a Smart City, you are going to have different signals and different wireless networks ensuring that everything is functioning," says president of Anritsu Corporation, Hirokazu Hamada.

"For example, in a Smart City, autonomous vehicles and connected cars will need to stop at red light signals, and those red light signals will be operating on wireless signals. If you were to consider a Smart City, you are going to have different signals and different wireless networks ensuring that everything is functioning."

"You need devices to ensure that those wireless signals are properly working and that is where our devices come into play."

> "Japan aims to turn Society 5.0 into a reality, incorporating these new technologies at all levels of industry, business and social life in order to achieve both economic development and solutions to a broad range of societal issues"

With Japan at the forefront of Society 5.0 and the Smart City revolution, the efforts of Japanese companies like Anritsu Corporation to develop next-generation telecommunications infrastructure will go a long way towards the development of a smarter world.

NCN: the global reference in luxury wooden housing development

With trends towards sustainability in construction, the demand for high-quality wooden housing continues to grow, particularly in the US, Europe and Japan.

Japan has always had a predilection for wooden housing. However, the nation's proneness to earthquakes has traditionally been a major issue for these types of structures. In 1996, after having witnessed the catastrophic damage caused to wooden buildings by the Great Hanshin Earthquake, NCN founder Ikuo Takusari set about establishing a company aimed at providing safe and secure wooden structures using the most advanced structural calculation methods.

Since then, NCN has become the developer of reference in wooden housing, employing its proprietary SE-structure method to build earthquake-resistant, luxury, wooden homes that maintain asset value, using the highest-quality wood sourced from its Nordic suppliers.

"Structural calculations are crucial when building wooden buildings. Even though the law now states the obligation to provide them, there is a lack of expertise in the field," explains NCN president, Mr. Takusari.

"We fill this gap by providing structural calculations for our clients. We also provide our customers with energy-efficiency calculations using our in-house CAD/CAM system. We will continue to conduct research and development daily, focusing on improving our technology and quality to be utilized in the market."

Having maintained vital data on structural records for over 24,000 wooden houses spanning the past 23 years, NCN has gained unrivalled knowledge and expertise in structural calculations in wooden housing, with over 520 companies nationwide now employing its construction system as SE-registered constructors.

> "NCN's innovation is providing people with a safe, natural, and harmonious living environment"
>
> Ikuo Takusari, President, NCN