



Awazu Plant



Komatsu's Manufacturing Structure for Assuring Superior Product Quality and Reliability

(Part 1: Awazu Plant)



New guest house (left) and new Technical Center



are also equipped with the development function for products and production technologies. One such Mother Plant is the Awazu Plant, located in Komatsu City where Komatsu was founded. In this article, Komatsu spotlights the plant, featuring its history, an overview of production lines and interaction with the local community.

Establishment as the Second Plant of Komatsu

Komatsu City is a nature-rich city located in Ishikawa Prefecture along the Sea of Japan. The city is home to Komatsu's Awazu Plant and Komatsu-no-Mori, which includes the KOMATSU Way Global Institute, Techno Training Center and Waku-waku Komatsu Kan, as well as many of Komatsu's partner companies, with Komatsu playing a significant role in the city's development.

The Awazu Plant was established in Komatsu City in 1938 and commenced operations as the second plant of Komatsu following the Komatsu Plant (currently, Komatsu-no-Mori). Starting



Attaching crawler tracks to a bulldozer



Fitting tires on a wheel loader



Mounting an operator's cabin on a hydraulic excavator

from the production of tractors for agricultural use, the plant also manufactured the first bulldozers in Japan.

Production Lines

The Awazu Plant, which commemorated the 70th anniversary of its foundation in 2008, mainly manufactures crawler dozers (bulldozers), hydraulic excavators (crawler excavators), wheel loaders and motor graders.

Main Products

	Operating weight	Models
Crawler dozers	3,940 to 27,730 kg (8,686 to 61,134 lbs)	D21A to D85EX
Hydraulic excavators	7,290 to 13,400 kg (16,072 to 29,542 lbs)	PC78US to PC138US
Wheel loaders	7,125 to 32,620 kg (15,708 to 71,914 lbs)	WA100 to WA500
Motor graders	10,800 to 29,700 kg (23,810 to 65,477 lbs)	GD511A to GD825A

Among the facilities at the Awazu Plant are two machine body assembly shops with one production line for crawler dozers and hydraulic excavators and another for wheel loaders and motor graders.

In 2014, the assembly shops will be integrated as a new shop that not only raises productivity but also places a greater emphasis on the environment and energy. Plans call for setting up two production lines for crawler products and wheeled products, respectively, in one building.

In addition to the abovementioned mainstay products, the plant is also the hub for the development and production of transmissions, which are a key component. All transmissions equipped in Komatsu products are being produced at this plant and supplied throughout the world.

Initiatives for Manufacturing Prowess

The Awazu Plant currently has a total of 10 Meisters for each skill*, who are working to pass down skills based on theories and principles. They are contributing to nurturing engineers both at factories, where improvement activities are underway to acquire a higher level of QCD (quality, cost, delivery), and at overseas subsidiaries and business partners. This will enable Komatsu to continue to manufacture products with even higher quality well into the future.



A Meister instructs a young employee on assembling a component.

* Machining, welding, painting, heat treatment, assembly, maintenance, operating inspection, parts inspection and casting

Awazu Plant Open Day for Interaction with the Local Community

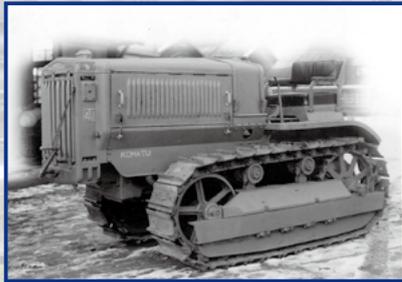
Awazu Plant Open Day is held as an annual event. Demonstrations and test drives to provide a riding experience in passenger seats of construction equipment are carried out to enable visitors to become more familiar with Komatsu. Many games for children and refreshment booths are also set up at the venue for visitors to enjoy the event. With more than 10,000 people visiting each year, the event is well received and the number of visitors is increasing every year.

In addition to the plant open day, interaction with the local community is also actively promoted through volunteer initiatives that entail planting cherry tree seedlings and natural environment conservation activities.



A scene from Awazu Plant Open Day

History of Plant



G40 tractor manufactured circa 1940



Awazu Plant circa 1941

1921	Komatsu Ltd. is established with its head office in Komatsu City, Ishikawa Prefecture.
1938	The Awazu Plant is established for increased production of tractors, farm and mining equipment.
1943	A prototype of today's bulldozers is developed and produced by attaching a dozer blade to a tractor.
1961	Project (A) D50 bulldozer development is initiated.
1968	Production of hydraulic excavators is started.
1988	Transmission Manufacturing Department (currently, Component Department) is newly established.
1999	Production of wheel loaders is started.
2005	Production of motor graders is started.
2006	Models with Tier III emission regulations certified engine are produced.
2008	70th anniversary of Awazu Plant
2012	<p>Six vehicles, including the earliest and currently existing G40 tractor (manufactured in 1940), the earliest and currently existing D50 bulldozer (manufactured in 1949) and D50A prototype bulldozer (Project (A) model manufactured in 1961), were registered as industrial assets of Ishikawa Prefecture.</p> <p>The G40 is currently displayed at the Awazu Plant.</p>



D65E-6 bulldozer at work in the United States



Awazu Plant's very first motor grader rolling off the production line in 2005



Completed bulldozer

KOMATSU

2-3-6, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8414, Japan
<http://www.komatsu.com>

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views@komatsu.co.jp

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