



Entrance to Starlite's Ritto Plant

Pursuing innovation for a sustainable society

Starlite is a company committed to working toward the creation of systems that do not place an excessive burden on the planet by deepening its understanding of usability and continuously improving products for more sustainable use.

Founded in 1936 as a venture business to develop original phenolic resin sliding materials, Starlite has since diversified into a wide range of fields, including the steel, shipbuilding, industrial machinery, automobile, telecommunications and housing industries, by utilizing various materials such as high-performance engineered plastics and advanced tribology (friction, wear, lubrication engineering) technology.

"We are a technology development-oriented creative group that supports the safety and security of people's lives and provides solutions for social issues through *monozukuri*," explains Takashi Saigo, President and CEO of Starlite. "It is Starlite's mission to provide support for an enriched life in harmony with nature, and every moment we strive to fulfill this mission means growth for us. We do not merely pursue convenience and comfort, but provide

In doing so, the company is committed to working toward the creation of systems that do not place an excessive burden on the earth "by deepening our understanding of usability and continuously improving products for longer use," says Mr. Saigo. "In addition, we hope to pursue spiritual enrichment by focus-



Active Grille Shutter (AGS)

ing on serious problems such as social disparity, natural disasters, climate change, environmental pollution and mental illness that we are facing as a result of recent economic development."

When it comes to sustainability, Starlite plans on moving into bioplastics and advancing recycling technology, with recent research and development focused on looking into the adjustment of temperatures used to melt materials for recycling. "We are working very hard with our R&D department to achieve a circular economy," says Mr. Saigo. "When you talk about sustainability, many people automatically jump to recycling. However, I feel it's important to keep using existing things also and to find new uses for them."

As the automotive industry transitions towards electrifica-

tion as part of the low-carbon agenda, the company is looking at how it can apply some of the technologies it is developing to serve the sector with innovative solutions. Since 2009, Starlite has had a technology alliance with Röchling Automotive and developed various products, one example being the active grille shutter (AGS) which manages aerodynamics and thermal systems in cars. "We would like to further expand this original technology of theirs in the Japanese market through the joint venture," adds Mr. Saigo. "We are also working on reducing the weight of a lot of our components. We believe that there is room to develop components that use lightweight plastics rather than heavy metals such as steel."



eMET

Compounding experience of material technology developed over many years, combined with evaluation and analysis technologies, has enabled the development of new functions suited to various operating environments and performance requirements. Starlite's



"We are working tirelessly with our R&D department to achieve a circular economy."

Takashi Saigo,
President & CEO, Starlite

products range from damage and heat resistant aprons for rolling mills and rudder bearings for marine applications, to brakes for various equipment and miniature peel-off claws for multi-functional printers. In recent years, Starlite has contributed to ensuring the safety and efficiency of on-site work operations by developing 'eMET', a helmet with an IoT-based remote management system. Furthermore, the company released Japan's first-ever biomass-based helmets in June this year.

Moving forward, Starlite aims to mobilize the power of the group to tackle a wide range of problems for the future of the planet by addressing today's social issues with its technologies and ideas, and by co-creating with like-minded people.



STARLITE
<https://starlite.co.jp>



Clutches and brakes

experiences and services through our products that are truly necessary for the planet and society."