

## Nippon Roballo Co.,Ltd (Hibiki Plant)

Nippon Roballo Co.,Ltd is a Japanese arm of Rothe Erde GmbH, which is headquartered in Germany and the world's largest manufacturer of slewing bearings. Nippon Roballo is a leading manufacturer of



large-diameter slewing bearings used for the spinning or slewing parts of heavy structures. The company commands an over 70 percent share of the domestic market, and is expanding its business to an application for generators of wind power, which is a new energy resource, and other applications.



Company Profile	
● Representative	Representative Director and President; Tsutomu Tomita Hibiki Plant Manager ; Kiyotoshi Fuchigami
● Location	1-111-1 Wakamatsu-ku, Kitakyushu City
● TEL	+81-93-752-0686
● URL	<a href="http://www.roballo.co.jp">http://www.roballo.co.jp</a>
● Established	January 2009
● Parent Company	Rothe Erde GmbH (Germany)
● Capital	¥ 740 million
● Number of employees	95 (total of Kyushu and Hibiki Plants)
● Description of business	Manufacture of slewing bearings

### Reasons for Starting Business in Kyushu

- Construction of a total system from manufacture through to sales
  - We originally outsourced production to a steel-making company, a raw material manufacturer; however, aiming at constructing a total system from manufacture through to sales, we established our Kyushu Plant in December 2000. Because we successfully received mass orders of large-diameter slewing bearings of over 3 meters from a wind power facility manufacturer in recent years, we newly constructed our Hibiki Plant in Kitakyushu City, which has been our base.
- Good accessibility (infrastructure, information)
  - Because we deal with heavy products, it is indispensable that the plant is located near ports. The location of the Hibiki Plant is near the ports and also near our Kyushu Plant. Furthermore, we can easily find well-qualified workers. These were the decisive factors.

Nippon Roballo Co.,Ltd started business in Japan as a sales company in 1966. In 1987, the company established Japan SR Co., Ltd., which was 100% owned by the company, and constructed two plants which are located in Hakui City, Ishikawa Prefecture and in Tobata-ku, Kitakyushu City. In 2003, Nippon Roballo consolidated Japan SR and became a company engaged in both manufacture and sales. The total number of employees is 220.

### Business Conditions

- Only one Roballo slewing bearing can absorb the whole weight and moment at the spinning or slewing part of heavy structures.
- Roballo slewing bearings are used in, for example, acral spinning parts of tunnel boring machines and cargo crane seats used at ports, dockyards and ships. For wind power generators, the products manufactured at our plant are used in four sections: the bases of the fan and the coupling parts of the generator. The bearings have a spinning part made from hobbled steel, or have steel balls inside. It takes about three months to finish the products after cutting inspection. Our products only need oiling for maintenance in principle once they are installed.
- Regarding production at locations throughout the world, Germany is the largest and Japan, the U.S. and China form a second group. In Asia, there are three bases: Japan, China and India and each base shares its territory: Nippon Roballo is carrying out business in Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asia and Xuzhou Rothe Erde Slewing Bearing Co., Ltd. (China) is doing business in China.

### Future Prospects

- Taking on challenges and expanding the market
  - We will try to meet customers' needs (improvement of silence, weight saving etc.). Followed by the bearings for wind power generators, we aim at expanding our business by making inroads into the medical field (for CT scans etc.)
- Employment of well-qualified persons from local communities
  - It is necessary that slewing bearings do not become loosened and it takes about five years to obtain the necessary skills. The steel-making company to which we outsourced production is an important human resource. We have inherited expertise and operators from the company.



