

Management Philosophy

We contribute to the world by fighting disease
and improving health with advanced technology,
and create a fulfilling life for our employees.



At the time of founding
Nihon Kohden started with only twelve staff



Founder Yoshio Ogino

ME (Medical Electronics or Medical Engineering) is the union of medicine and engineering.

ME is a common abbreviation in recent years but the founders of Nihon Kohden began working in medical electronics around 1945, long before this phrase was born.

The neuromuscular tissue of a small bird was the impetus behind the founding of Nihon Kohden.

The late Dr. Yoshio Ogino, founder of Nihon Kohden, was doing research in electrical engineering when one day he happened to see an experiment involving stimulation of the neuromuscular tissue of a small bird. He was struck by the wonder of biology and remarked that “to measure part of a living body requires several hundred times the sensitivity and at least two decimal places more than the equipment developed by the leading electrical engineering experts in Japan.”

He wondered if it might be possible to apply a higher level of engineering to the subtleties of biology and study the human body.

And furthermore, if this union of medicine and engineering could be used for saving human life. With this powerful inspiration, he studied medicine and in August 1951 founded Nihon Kohden.

With the unshakable conviction that “curing disease is something that transcends politics and national borders, and we will never have any regret putting all our energy into this goal.”

Nihon Kohden produced a number of state-of-the-art medical electronic equipment.

As medicine evolved, Nihon Kohden’s products branched out into many areas. However, the original vision did not change and it still inspires the Company’s engineers.

Medical electronic equipment developed by the Company has been used in clinical practice in more than 120 countries and saved a lot of lives of patients.

We continue to leverage its core strengths: capacity to develop technologies rooted in medical practice; broad client base inside and outside Japan; high-quality products and services, and development, production, sales, and service systems to support them; and powerful brand cultivated over many years. Moving forward, the Company will continue to create and provide value for patients and medical professionals, contributing to the world by fighting disease and improving health with advanced technology.

Trajectory of Nihon Kohden

Since its foundation in August 1951, Nihon Kohden has grown steadily by tackling healthcare issues and contributing to society through the development, production, sales, and service of medical devices.

December 1951
Launched the **world's first** all AC-powered direct-writing electroencephalograph, the ME-1D

Birth of an electroencephalograph driven by a battery-less AC power source that changed the world

Most of the EEG devices in use in Japan at that time were imported devices powered by a battery to avoid interference from AC noise. These products had problems with battery exhaustion during patient examinations causing the interruption of recording and failure to record important EEG phenomenon. Maintenance of the battery was also another problem. The ME-1D, featuring reduced noise interference and improved operability, enabled more effective EEG testing and contributed to reduction of the burden on patients/medical staff.



April 1967
Launched **Japan's first** intensive care monitor, the ICU-80

Central patient monitoring system for monitoring vital signs of multiple patients

The intensive care monitor allowed medical staff to centrally monitor the EEG, ECG, blood pressure, heart rate, respiration rate and body temperature of up to 8 patients. This monitoring system consists of a central monitor at the nurse station and bedside monitors in patient rooms. As a result, medical workers became able to notice changes in a patient's condition and record vital signs at the nurse station, which has contributed to improving the quality and safety of medical care and reducing the burden on medical workers.



October 2021
Takuo Aoyagi, PhD, received American Society of Anesthesiologists Honorary Member Award

In October 2021, Nihon Kohden engineer, the late Takuo Aoyagi, PhD, received the Honorary Member Award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). The award celebrates a physician, scientist, or eligible member, who has attained outstanding eminence in anesthesiology or related fields. The award has been presented to seven individuals over the past 40 years, and Dr. Aoyagi is the first Japanese person to receive this award.



FY1970
Net Sales
¥4.4 billion

FY2000
Net Sales
¥66.7 billion
Domestic Sales
¥59.4 billion
Overseas Sales
¥7.3 billion

FY2022
Net Sales
¥206.6 billion
Domestic Sales
¥135.7 billion
Overseas Sales
¥70.8 billion

1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
<p>March 1952 Launched the world's first electric ophthalmodynamometer, the MOB-1.</p>	<p>September 1960 Launched Japan's first multi-purpose monitoring recorder (polygraph), the RM-150.</p>	<p>March 1974 Applied for patent in Japan for the world's first pulse oximetry.</p>	<p>February 1984 Launched the world's first all telemetry fetal monitor, the OMF-7201.</p>	<p>December 1990 Launched Japan's first digital ECG telemetry monitor, the WEP-8430/8440.</p>	<p>May 2003 Launched the world's first mainstream-method CO₂ sensor to be used for non-intubated patients.</p>	<p>August 2018 Launched the world's first mid-range bedside monitor that can display echo images by connecting an ultrasound probe, the CSM-1700.</p>	<p>February 2022 Launched the Japan's first fully automatic AED produced in Japan, the AED-3250.</p>
<p>June 1955 Launched the world's first electrocardiograph with electronic recording, the MC-1C.</p>	<p>August 1965 Launched Japan's first battery-powered defibrillator, the MDV-1.</p>	<p>November 1976 Launched the world's first telemetry systems, the WEP-6000.</p>	<p>April 1985 Launched the world's first combined respiration monitor, the OMR-7101.</p>	<p>March 1991 Launched the world's first digital multi-parameter telemetry bedside monitor, the BSM-8502.</p>	<p>June 2009 Launched the Japan's first automated external defibrillator, the AED-2100.</p>	<p>June / September 2019 Launched the Company's first ventilators, the NKV-330 and NKV-550.</p>	<p>July 2022 Launched the Company's first patient monitor specialized for neonatal resuscitation, the NFM-1300 BreathCue, in Japan.</p>