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 1944, 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, sale, and service of medical devices.

(¥billion)
200.0
150.0
100.0
50.0
0

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.



FY1970
Net Sales
¥4.4 billion

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

Central patient monitoring system for monitoring vital signs of multiple patients

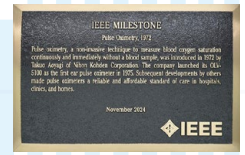
The intensive care monitor allowed medical staff to centrally monitor the EEG, ECG, blood pressure, heart rate, respiration rate and body temperature of up to 8 patients. This monitoring system consists of a central monitor at the nurse station and bedside monitors in patient rooms.
As a result, medical staff 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 staff.



November 2024

Pulse oximetry principle recognized as an IEEE Milestone

The principle of the pulse oximetry invented by Nihon Kohden's engineer, the late Takuo Aoyagi, PhD and others, was honored as an IEEE Milestone by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The IEEE Milestone program was established in 1983, and recognizes significant achievements in electrical and electronic, information, and telecommunications that have contributed to the development of society and industry in the 25 years or more since their development. The reason for this recognition is that the pulse oximeter has been highly evaluated for its significant contribution to improving the quality of medical care.



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

FY2025
Net Sales
¥235.0 billion
Domestic Sales
¥144.4 billion
Overseas Sales
¥90.6 billion

1950s

March 1952
Launched the **world's first** electric ophthalmodynamometer, the MOB-1.



June 1955
Launched the **world's first** electrocardiograph with electronic recording, the MC-1C.



1960s

September 1960
Launched **Japan's first** multi-purpose monitoring recorder (polygraph), the RM-150.



August 1965
Launched **Japan's first** battery-powered defibrillator, the MDV-1.



1970s

March 1974
Applied for patent in Japan for the **world's first** pulse oximetry.



November 1976
Launched the **world's first** telemetry systems, the WEP-6000.



1980s

February 1984
Launched the **world's first** all telemetry fetal monitor, the OMF-7201.



April 1985
Launched the **world's first** combined respiration monitor, the OMR-7101.



1990s

December 1990
Launched **Japan's first** digital ECG telemetry monitor, the WEP-8430/8440.



March 1991
Launched the **world's first** digital multi-parameter telemetry bedside monitor, the BSM-8502.



2000s

May 2003
Launched the **world's first** mainstream-method CO_2 sensor to be used for non-intubated patients.



June 2009
Launched **Japan's first** automated external defibrillator, the AED-2100.



2010s

August 2018
Launched the **world's first** mid-range bedside monitor that can display echo images by connecting an ultrasound probe, the CSM-1700.



June / September 2019
Launched the **Company's first** ventilators, the NKV-330 and NKV-550.



2020s

July 2023
Launched **Japan's first** syringe pump control software for assisting with total intravenous anesthesia, the ROP-1680, AsisTIVA.

AsisTIVA 

August 2024
Launched dashboard software for monitoring patient condition to prevent sudden changes or deterioration in patient condition through early warning scores, the QH-101N.

