

As of April 1, 2002, the Scientific Instruments Group was renamed the Life-Science Instruments Group. The group is striving to develop attractive new products rapidly and aggressively market them in anticipation of customer requirements.

For some time, the group has focused principally on the applications of centrifugal force, particularly the use of high-speed rotation to generate centrifugal forces that are effective means of quickly isolating minute quantities of various substances. The group's mainstay line of centrifuges encompasses a broad spectrum of products ranging from extremely high-rotation-speed ultracentrifuges to low-speed, compact centrifuges. These products have stimulated considerable demand both in Japan and overseas.

Hitachi Koki's centrifuges are principally used in biotechnological applications. They are used for academic research in such fields as medicine, biology, agriculture, and physics, and they are also used by pharmaceutical companies to isolate, concentrate, and refine diverse organic materials. Recently, they have proven useful in research related to gene functions and protein structure analysis as well as in the research and production of vaccines.

A Review of Fiscal 2002

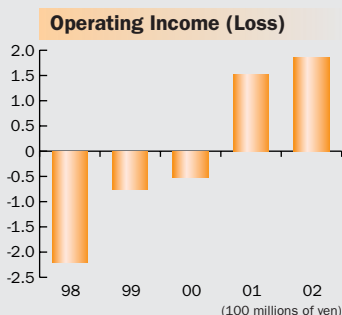
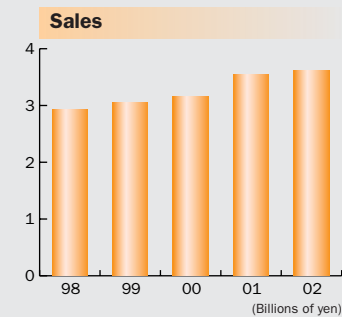
The group's overseas sales were weak, although sales of ultracentrifuges and high-speed refrigerated centrifuges were robust, particularly in China. In Japan, however, the group's sales grew due to a surge in biotechnology research programs as well as the strong popularity of the newly marketed CF16RX versatile compact centrifuge. Total sales in the Life-Science Instruments Group amounted to ¥3.6 billion. Efforts to comprehensively reduce costs enabled the group to increase its operating income ratio, and operating income totaled ¥185 million.

Future Issues

- **Expanding sales of main products**—To expand its share of the life sciences market, the group is working to increase sales of its popular compact centrifuges and centrifuges essential for biotechnology research related to genes, proteins, and drug discovery as well as for vaccine production.
- **Strengthening global development of ultracentrifuges**—The group is seeking to increase its share of the global market for ultracentrifuges by strengthening its alliance with U.S.-based Kendro Laboratory Products.

Noteworthy Product Introductions

- **CF16RX versatile compact centrifuge**—The CF16RX is a compact centrifuge that offers rapid acceleration and deceleration when using low-speed swing rotors as well as high-speed rotors for microtubes. It comes with diverse special functions as standard equipment, including a quick-mounting rotor system, a centrifugal force setting and display system, and an automatic rotor recognition function. It also carries the CE mark of conformance with EU requirements for mechanical and electrical safety and electromagnetic compatibility.



Himac CC40



CF16RX Versatile Compact Centrifuge