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# Introduction to Valqua Technology News

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Let us begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and sincerely thanking our valued readers for your continuing interest in our magazine.

The year 2017 witnessed many environmental changes. IoT and AI technologies have entered practical use such as for automated driving and the home-connected Internet. The conventional market is undergoing a complete structural change and new market opportunities are emerging. On the other hand, due to increased global awareness of environmental issues and accelerating technological development in both the public and private sector, the range of conventional products is transforming so quickly and drastically that the traditional approach to product lifestyle cannot cope. For example, the auto industry is experiencing dramatic changes in product lineups, and such transformations are emerging in various markets. Therefore, as a company, we must seriously examine how to respond to such changes.

Amid this environment, Valqua, a leading seal engineering company with a history of 90 years, will continue to contribute to social sustainable development through our unique and creative technologies based on our corporate philosophy of “The Valqua Way.” In order to develop unique and creative technologies, we are determined to expand our role as a provider which takes customers’ viewpoints into account to provide new solutions in various fields.

This issue features technical papers and businesses which contribute to industrial safety and security under various conditions and special environments. These include a paper which was awarded ASME PVP Award (best paper award) from the Computer Technology & Bolted Joints Technical Committee of ASME PVP; a paper on the behavior of flange connections at the time of an earthquake; a paper on countermeasures against severe accidents; and a paper on countermeasures against seal troubles. Regarding our hard & seal engineering service (H&S) business, this issue introduces a contributed article and Valqua’s approaches. All the articles in this issue feature technical information which is unique to Valqua. We hope you will find it useful.

We will continue to provide technical information which meets the needs of the times, and hope that you will continue to use Valqua products.

Senior Executive Officer Director of Corporate Research and Development Group **Mutsuo Aoki**