

Explore the Future



Atsushi Horiba

President and CEO

The semiconductor business is sometimes regarded as very speculative – high risk and high return. This is, however, the very reason that HORIBA Group continues to explore the possibilities for high reward in semiconductor measurement and analytical technology. We are going to enhance our semiconductor products and technology and make them one of the strongest contributors to our future business.

To survive in the semiconductor field, it is inevitable that we focus on the word “speed.” There are said to be two markets: one requiring speed first, then quality, and one that demands perfect quality (even if this sometimes means sacrificing speed). Yet the real issue is not selecting speed or quality; it means whether we can deliver what satisfies customers by the specified date. You can lose everything by even the slightest delay. It is an unforgiving world of “all or nothing.”

HORIBA Group aims to be the leader in the semiconductor measurement field, by our rapid response and delivery of unique products that apply our well-established and original technical seeds to the needs of the various markets.

Our first approach to fully participate in the semiconductor field is the expansion of products and technical fields. In 1997, the world leading company in spectroscopic technology, JOBIN YVON S.A.S. joined HORIBA Group. This has provided a technical environment in which we can now measure in all of the regions from gamma rays to infrared rays. The first fruit of our effort was the UT-300, Fully Automatic Ultra Thin Film Analyzer that is specially developed to provide specific process control solutions for the semiconductor industry. Similarly, with STEC Inc., the world leader in mass flow controllers and also the key company of HORIBA Group’s semiconductor business, we are developing new in-line monitoring devices by harnessing the synergy of combining STEC’s mass flow control technology and HORIBA’s analytical technology.

The second approach is the power of a wide alliance. Our top priority is always our alliance with customers. A close communication with semiconductor equipment manufacturers and their customers, the device manufacturers, plays a key role in responding to the customers’ needs.

Alliances with the worldwide top research institutes are also important. HORIBA participates in MIRAI (Millennium Research for Advanced Information Technology), a national research project for technology development in Japan, as well as communicating actively with advanced research institutes around the world to always stay current with the newest technology developments. To name a few, L’École Polytechnique in France,

and Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology of the University of Tokyo. In these alliance, the human exchange at the various levels is crucial. As a leader of this globally successful analytical instrument manufacturer, I am now working as one of the board member of SEMI(Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International), to realize my wish to contribute to the semiconductor industry.

HORIBA Group is challenging the future bravely with a slogan: “Explore the Future.” People’s dreams and hopes create the future using the tools of technology. We will keep on challenging new possibilities, to open a door to an advanced society.