



Technical Prospects for the Special Purpose Vehicles Business

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1 Introduction

The Special Purpose Vehicles Div. manufactures and sells concrete mixer trucks as its core product, as well as environmental products including pruned tree shredder trucks. The special purpose vehicles business will be exposed to significant changes in the external environment. We need to respond to the demand for electrification of trucks and create a second pillar product after concrete mixer trucks.

This report provides technical prospects for the special purpose vehicles business.

2 Responding to Changes in the External Environment

One of the changes in the external environment affecting the entire special purpose vehicles industry is the electrification of trucks to reduce CO₂ emissions during transportation. Truck manufacturers generally plan to electrify small vehicles first and then move on to larger vehicles. We believe it is our social responsibility to develop and launch concrete mixer trucks that are comparable to such electrified trucks. While working with truck manufacturers, we will propose drive systems for the mixer section to develop concrete mixer trucks with even higher energy efficiency.

3 Growth and Development of New Products

The Special Purpose Vehicles Div. has begun taking orders for a new motorhome (Fig. 1). Based on the concept of “a motorhome that stimulates the spirit of adventure and allows you to enjoy driving,” the vehicle can be driven on highways, mountain roads, and even city streets thanks to

the suspension and vehicle attachment technologies. The living space inside the vehicle has been designed to be luxurious and elegant, as if traveling to destinations in a cottage. It is important to get this product on the right track, although we have only just begun to work on motorhomes. To achieve this, we need to integrate technologies owned by other divisions, such as vibration control and hydraulic technologies, with the suspension and vehicle attachment technologies of the Special Purpose Vehicles Div. and thereby continue to develop new types of motorhomes. In this way, we need to expand our product range.



Fig. 1 Motorhome “VILLATOR”

4 In Closing

The Special Purpose Vehicles Div. has complete products that can show you what KYB is all about. As mentioned in the technical prospects above, we as members of the Special Purpose Vehicles Div. would like to develop and launch products using these technologies to give customers pleasure and fun and to enhance the KYB brand.

Author



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General Manager, Engineering
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