

Topics of Fiscal Year 2006



Commemorative panel expressing appreciation for contributions made by Nikon and its equipment, received from NASA

Recognized for their high quality and reliability Nikon camera products have been mounted on every manned American spaceflight, since Apollo 15 back in 1971. Nikon has thus played an active role in being part of the history of NASA's space endeavors and recording the historical developments along the way.

In August 2005, Japanese Astronaut Soichi Noguchi gained headlines for his spacewalk during the Space Shuttle Discovery's mission, which was only the second Extra Vehicular Activity (EVA) ever performed by a Japanese astronaut at that time. During this mission, Nikon's F5-based digital camera, several types of Nikkor lenses and the SB-800 Speedlight flashes were used by NASA, and Nikon products played a vital role in photographically inspecting the Shuttle's heatshields and imaging the external fuel tank. In recognition of the contributions made by Nikon and its products during this mission, a commemorative panel expressing appreciation was presented by NASA in May 2006.

In order to further promote the longstanding relationship of trust it has enjoyed with NASA over many years, the Nikon Group will focus all of its resources and efforts on ever greater enhancement of product quality and reliability.



Commemorative panel comprising images of the external fuel tank and the astronauts themselves, actually taken during the Space Shuttle Discovery's Mission.



Nikon voted top company for digital camera after service in Nikkei Business magazine's survey two years in a row;
Nikon Inc. wins NAPET Manufacturer Service Support Award for sixth consecutive year

The Nikkei Business magazine (from Nikkei Business Publications) annually conducts a survey on the after-sales service provided by major corporations in 15 different business fields, and targets some 15,000 customers of such services. The survey evaluates each company in a questionnaire format, and generates comprehensive assessment based on areas including quality and speed of product repairs, the quality of telephone and customer desk service, among others.

Nikon was highly rated by customers in the magazine's "2006 After-Sales Service Survey" and for the second year running was voted the top company for after service satisfaction in the Digital Camera Section. This was the seventh time the Nikkei Business magazine has conducted this survey, and the fourth time Nikon has gained the number one position.

Meanwhile in the U.S., for the sixth consecutive year Nikon Inc. won the prestigious National Association of Photo Equipment Technicians (NAPET) Manufacturer Service Support Award in March 2007. NAPET is an organization comprised of 180 owners of independent camera repair businesses in the U.S. photographic industry, and their



Accepting the NAPET Manufacturer Service Support Award

award is a recognition of consistent quality service in the industry which is presented to one company annually. A company winning this award six consecutive years is unprecedented in the NAPET's 47-year history.



Nikon ArF Immersion Scanner NSR-S609B Wins 2006 Nikkei Superior Products and Services Award for Excellence

In January 2007 Nikon Corporation won the Nikkei Business Daily Award for Excellence in the "2006 Nikkei Superior Products and Services Awards" for its NSR-S609B ArF Immersion Scanner. Issued by Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc., these awards distinguish among approx. 20,000 products and services introduced yearly which are recorded in the four Nikkei newspapers article database and the Nikkei database. The awards are based on comprehensive assessment of technology development, cost performance, contribution to business performance, potential, originality and impact on industry and society. The NSR-S609B ArF Immersion Scanner, available on the market since January 2006, prints circuit patterns on silicon wafers via excimer laser light, determining performance levels for LSI manufacturing. Nikon changed the direction of development with immersion lithography. The space between the projection lens and the wafer is filled with purified water—an innovation that breaks through the barrier of NA (numerical aperture value indicative of lens performance) 1.0. This is a key to performance that cannot be matched through conventional methods involving lithography in a natural atmosphere, realized by such unique advanced technologies as those for local fill nozzle and tandem stage. The NSR-S609B



Nikkei Superior Products and Services Awards Ceremony



Nikon ArF Immersion Scanner NSR-S609B

scanner realizes circuit line width of less than 55 nm (1nm: 1 millionth of 1 mm) and operates in the world's most advanced semiconductor manufacturing factories.



Nikon Imaging Center (NIC) opened at the University of California at San Francisco

On September 29, 2006 Nikon Instruments Inc. unveiled the opening of the new Nikon Imaging Center (NIC) at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) in the United States. The Center is equipped with the latest in advanced Nikon microscopy and imaging equipment, and is open to researchers and students with the aim of contributing to research and education.

The major feature of the Center is that it serves as a comprehensive experiment facility that goes beyond microscopy studies, also housing pharmaceutical-related equipment and culture apparatus for various experiments. At UCSF, microscopy workshops are held monthly to instruct on fluorescent microscopy and confocal microscopy methods, and participants can also learn digital imagery and transmitted illumination techniques.

Through the NIC, many people can have access to and become familiarized with Nikon microscopes, and at the same time the Nikon Group can acquire information pertaining to the front line of various research areas which can be reflected in new products and future business development. To date, Nikon has also opened other Imaging Centers at Harvard University in the United States, The University of Heidelberg in Germany, Oxford University in Great Britain, and Hokkaido University in Japan.



After the opening ceremony, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom studies a specimen under a Nikon microscope



Inside the Nikon Imaging Center (NIC)