

Intellectual Property Activities

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Intellectual Property Activities

The Osaka Gas Group positions intellectual property as an important management resource. At the same time, the Group takes proactive steps to secure and utilize intellectual property rights in concert with its business and technology development strategies.

Strategically Acquiring Intellectual Property Rights

The Osaka Gas Group has been developing strong rights coverage centered on technologies of strategic importance to business and R&D and placing priority on filing applications for their patents, particularly in areas deemed key for acquiring intellectual property rights. To this end, we have employed a range of methods including patent portfolio management. In particular, we are strategically filing patent applications in technologies related to residential gas cogeneration systems such as fuel cells.

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2013, the Group submitted 461 applications.

Effective Utilization of Intellectual Property Rights

Osaka Gas has focused on boosting its competitiveness by considerably increasing the number of patents it holds in areas of strategic importance, including cogeneration systems for residential use. It also holds patents on mist-sauna applications for residential use, gas air conditioning systems for non-residential use, and LNG tank technology and non-excavation pipeline methods in the areas of production, transport and supply. The Company also owns patents on fine materials and other materials technologies. Its intellectual property rights are used broadly throughout the Group's businesses, and patents are actively licensed to other companies. Group patents numbered 2,861 as of March 31, 2013, an increase of 166 from March 31, 2012.

Acquiring and Protecting Trademark Rights

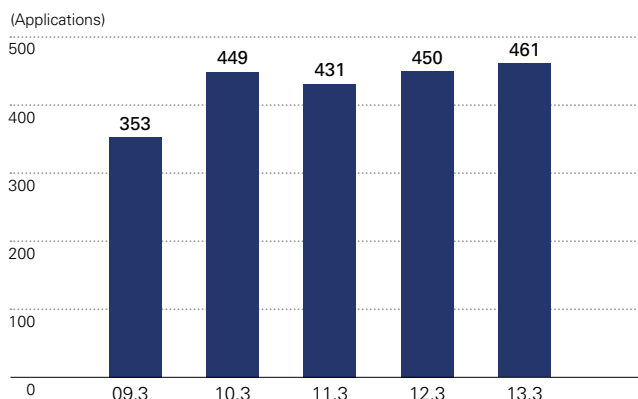
The Osaka Gas Group strategically obtains trademarks for the services and products it provides in order to build its corporate brand. As of March 31, 2013, the Group had 915 registered trademarks.

Strengthening Intellectual Property throughout the Group

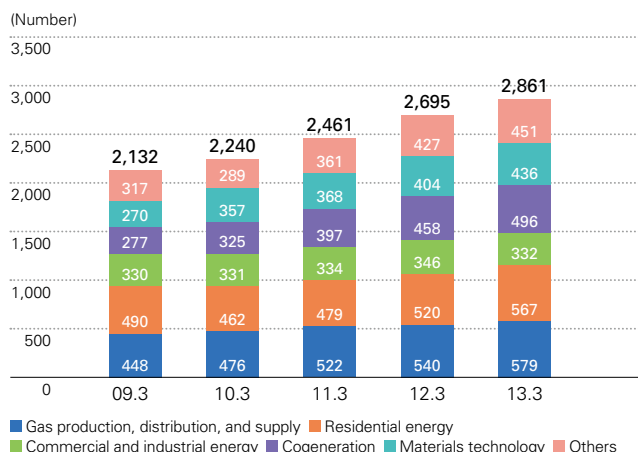
A variety of educational and instructional tools are used to further improve the Osaka Gas Group employees' understanding of intellectual property rights. For example, instructors from both inside and outside the Company conduct training sessions based on both goals and employee rank. E-mail magazines are also distributed with the latest news on intellectual property and explanations of important items to be observed when conducting business activities.

Other efforts are centered on reducing the risks of infringement of intellectual property rights belonging to other companies or infringement of our own intellectual property rights, including full investigations of the Group's trademarks.

Patent Applications by the Group



The Group's Patent Portfolio by Business Type



Examples of registered trademarks in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2013



(GaSmart) New concept logo
for the Osaka Gas Group

Rights jointly owned by Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd.
Trademark #: 5499764 and 5487229



Smart Energy House

Trademark #: 5522063



New kind of rice cooker

Rights jointly owned by Rinnai Corporation,
Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd. and Toho Gas Co., Ltd.
Trademark #: 5557848