A one-of-a-kind testing field “Fukushima Robot Test Field”: An important base for Japan’s robotics technology development

[Development Base Area] Research Building

[Unmanned Aircraft Area] Transport testing of blood for transfusion

Background/Aims

- In order to revive local industries along the coast of Fukushima Prefecture that were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, as a national policy Japan is promoting the creation of a cluster of industries such as robotics, energy, and agriculture/forestry/fisheries, as well as human resources training.
- In 2020, Fukushima Prefecture established the “Fukushima Robot Test Field” on the coast in Minamisoma City and Namie Town as a large development and testing base for field robots designed for land, sea, and air use.

Project Outline

- Located on an approx. 500,000 m^2 site in Minamisoma City, the test field comprises four areas—Development Base Area, Unmanned Aircraft Area, Infrastructure Inspection and Disaster Response Robot Area, and Underwater and Maritime Robot Area—making practical testing possible using all types of field robots for land, sea, and air.
- The test field is an important Japanese base for drone verification testing and training, and is the only test flight base for “flying cars” in Japan.

Features

- A practical test field unmatched in the world for its ability to handle all types of field robots for land, sea, and air
- A one-of-a-kind facility enabling testing in extremely unique and practical fields such as the “Urban” and “Submerged Urban” fields.

Results

- As of October 2020, approx. 30,000 researchers have visited the test field and more than 240 verification tests have been carried out.
- Robot research bases have been newly established along the coast of Fukushima Prefecture by 55 companies and organisations.