

# FOREWORD

Masashi Tomishima  
Director  
General Manager, LSI Division



Kawasaki Steel Technical Report, with its long tradition in the field of advanced steel-related technologies, is proud to present its first special issue on LSIs.

Kawasaki Steel's LSI business activities began with the establishment of Nihon Semiconductor Inc. in August 1985, as a joint venture between an American company, LSI Logic Corporation (investment ratio 55%), and Kawasaki Steel (investment ratio 45%). Subsequent milestones include the inauguration of the LSI Promotion Department in September of the same year, the establishment of the LSI Research Center in August 1986, the reorganization of the LSI Promotion Department as the LSI Division in August 1990, and the start of commercial production at Utsunomiya Works in September 1991. Thus, only a little more than two years have passed since we began to offer products under our own brand name, and we are undoubtedly newcomers to this field.

Kawasaki Steel's new businesses were undertaken to support the company's future after an examination of its future in the steel industry in the mid-1980s, based on the recognition that steel, as a mature industry, could not be expected to show the same impressive growth as it had during the past 40 years. Although the majority of new businesses worldwide develop out of ongoing connections with a company's main business, either in technology or marketing, the LSI business is quite far removed from Kawasaki Steel's core business, as our readers know. Only the fact that both steel and LSIs are fundamental to industry, in other words, only the similarity in the ways that basic material industries move, gave us a sense of familiarity with this new field. We had no hands-on feeling for the individual technologies and marketing involved.

However, against this background we are developing our LSI business with the mission of "providing ASICs which offer software and systems on silicon, answering customer needs for higher added value in products." In the nine years since the establishment of the LSI Promotion Department, the staff of the LSI Division has come to number 600. Of course, we are still youngsters who have yet to reach full adulthood in this field, but we are progressively cultivating a number of people with youthful enthusiasm.

We were able to put together this special issue on LSIs centering on this group of people, and trust that our readers will find it interesting in spite of the youthful shortcomings which may appear in some of the papers and product descriptions. We invite any criticisms and encouragement our readers may wish to offer, and we look forward to offering a more substantial second special issue on LSIs in the coming years.