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## MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC SHIPS 400,000TH ELEVATOR/ESCALATOR MADE IN ITS JAPANESE FACTORY

**Tokyo, June 11, 2009** – Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (President and CEO: Setsuhiro Shimomura) (TOKYO: 6503) announced today it has now achieved 400,000 units in cumulative Japanese domestic production of elevators and escalators. The 400,000th unit, an elevator for Tokyo Metro Co., Ltd., was shipped from the company's Inazawa Works on June 4, 2009. Mitsubishi Electric's cumulative worldwide production total of elevators and escalators has now reached approximately 750,000 units.

Inazawa Works, located in Inazawa City of Aichi Prefecture, Japan is the domestic base of production as well as the global base for development of Mitsubishi Electric's elevators and escalators. It oversees the technology of the company's 11 elevator/escalator factories around the world, from where products have been shipped to 88 countries worldwide. The 173 meter-high elevator testing tower "SOLAÉ", which was built on the grounds of Inazawa Works in 2007, is used for R&D of high-speed and large-capacity elevators for super-high rise buildings. Mitsubishi Electric endeavors to continue its efforts in providing safe, comfortable and highly efficient elevators and escalators.

## History of Mitsubishi Electric's Elevators and Escalators

Mitsubishi Electric's production of elevator components first started in 1931, and until now the company has, as the top elevator/escalator manufacturer in Japan, provided vertical transportation characterized by safety, comfort and efficiency.

Integrated production of Mitsubishi Electric's elevators and escalators started in 1935 at its Kobe Works. The company's first elevator was installed in the Mitsubishi Kobe Hospital, while its first escalator was installed in the original store of Isetan, a leading department store chain in Japan. In 1937, an elevator factory was established in Nagoya, and in 1964, the Inazawa Works was founded, and has now become the company's main factory for elevators and escalators.

Mitsubishi Electric manufactured its 10,000th elevator/escalator in 1965, and the next year, the Inazawa Works completed the construction of its first elevator testing tower, 65 meters in height. In 1972, the company became the first Japanese manufacturer to market a double-deck elevator, and, in 1978, installed an elevator in the Sunshine 60 Building, Tokyo, which was the world's fastest elevator at the time with a vertical speed of up to 600 meters per minute.

In 1982, Mitsubishi Electric launched Japan's first inverter-controlled elevator with variable voltage and variable frequency (VVVF). The next year, the company's accumulated domestic production of elevators and escalators reached 100,000 units. The company also developed the world's first spiral escalator in 1985, and in 1988, launched an artificial intelligence (AI) group-control system, called the "AI-2100".

In 1993, the same year that Mitsubishi Electric achieved an accumulated domestic production total in elevators and escalators of 200,000 units, the company once again broke the world record for the fastest elevator at the time, installing in the Yokohama Landmark Tower an elevator with a speed of up to 750 meters per minute.

Mitsubishi Electric's 300,000th unit of elevators/escalators made in Japan was reached in 2000, while the next year, the company marketed "ELESAVE", a cutting-edge hybrid elevator system that uses rechargeable batteries. This was followed by, in 2004, Mitsubishi Electric's development of a "variable traveling speed elevator system", the first in Japan, which reduces elevator waiting and riding times. The same year, the company's accumulated domestic production of elevators and escalators reached 350,000 units. In 2007, the company completed the construction of "SOLAÉ", the world's tallest elevator testing tower at the time, 173 meters in height.



Mitsubishi Electric's Inazawa Works

## **About Mitsubishi Electric**

With over 80 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products to both corporate clients and general consumers all over the world, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. The company recorded consolidated group sales of 3,665.1 billion yen (US\$ 37.4 billion\*) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2009. For more information visit <a href="http://global.mitsubishielectric.com">http://global.mitsubishielectric.com</a>

\*At an exchange rate of 98 yen to the US dollar, the rate given by the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market on March 31, 2009.

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