

Shikoku Welding Electrode: Fusing innovation with quality

For 75 years, Shikoku Welding Electrode has been providing high-quality welding solutions for large-scale projects.

An object is only as strong as its weakest link, and for thousands of years humans have been working to strengthen these links through welding metals together. At an industrial scale, welding is imperative to keeping the global supply chain moving, especially through its contribution to shipbuilding, and Japanese firm Shikoku Welding Electrode is one of the firms pushing this sector forward with its innovative solutions.

Founded in 1947, the company is oriented towards large-scale projects such as shipbuilding and construction, providing state-of-the-art welding solutions for its customers. A good example of its forward-thinking products is the TAS-10 flux cored wire for all-position welding. Applicable



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to both ship and bridge building, the TAS-10 uses low-hydrogen type flux, mainly rutile, and was created for speed of use and a wide current range. The product also works to tackle spatter, a prominent problem in welding. Shikoku Welding president Yuichi Murakami explains that the company offers more services to help improve its customers' experience: "Our staff sometimes go to shipyards to teach workers about how to more effectively use our products."

Shikoku Welding has expanded from its original base in the shipbuilding city of Imabari, building a factory in Vietnam as the company looks to expand its presence in Southeast Asia with the help of sales partners. Vietnam is in a period of rapid industrializa-

tion and reviving its shipbuilding industry for the future. And so the Southeast Asian country particularly suits Shikoku Welding and its broad goal to contribute to society with its products that provide solutions in developing countries.

Welding has traditionally been a male-dominated industry, but Shikoku Welding is working to address this imbalance especially in the face of Japan's aging population. Mr. Murakami says: "I've held meetings to discuss bringing in more women to our staff, asking what kind of a working environment would be best for them to feel comfortable and to work most efficiently."

This commitment to ensuring safe working conditions extends to Shikoku Welding acting as a trading company that purchases personal protective equipment (PPE), including specialized masks for welding. Through its fusion of innovation, quality and diversity, Shikoku Welding aims to continue making a positive impact as it expands.



Headquarters



Various welding materials



Rewinding process