

Akihiro Hasegawa, President, Sankei Giken Kogyo Co., Ltd.

association the increase in vibration and noise, also poses problems with regards to durability. To address such issues, engineers must develop superior welding processes," he says. "As a part of our manufacturing process, we conduct stringent vibration testing in-house before sending our proposals to our clients. If we are able to overcome these challenges – vibration, noise and also heat – I am positive that our technology will please our clients and change the market."

With the increasing demands for advanced plastic materials, Sankei has placed great emphasis on strengthening its plastic component division. "A large part of our business now stems from the production of exterior elements that require plastic," adds Mr. Hasegawa. "As such, we have strengthened our moulding and painting technologies. Our three key technologies are: moulding, painting, and plating. While many companies possess these three techniques, we have the unique ability to significantly enhance the functionality and performance of plastic-based products."

Meeting environmental regulations with lightweight materials Established in 1948, Sankei Giken Kogyo is a leading manufacturer of metal and plastic automotive parts made by forming and surface-treatment processes. When it comes to meeting the latest industry demands, Sankei focuses on developing lighter weight parts aimed at improving a vehicle's fuel efficiency, a major theme these days as manufacturers look to comply with stricter environmental regulations by adopting new materials such as aluminum and titanium.

"We are able to forge and process different materials, including aluminum and titanium, because of our long history and track-record in producing motorcycle mufflers," says Akihiro Hasegawa, president of Sankei.

However, as Mr. Hasegawa points out, the shift to new, lighter weight materials has in turn increased problems related to noise, heat, vibration and durability, something which the company has set out to solve. "The demand for lightweight materials, and by

