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MHI Delivers 100th SG

On October 23, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) announced the delivery of its 100th steam generator (SG) for use in a pressurized water reactor (PWR), a type of nuclear power plant (NPP). The SG was manufactured at the company's Kobe Shipyard & Machinery Works and shipped to the Tomari-3 NPS of the Hokkaido Electric Power Co.

The company made its first SG (the first ever manufactured in Japan) back in 1970, built for the Mihama-2 NPS of Kansai Electric Power Co. It took the company 38 years to reach the milestone of 100 SGs.

MHI is the only manufacturer of SGs in Japan, and has built almost all of the SGs used in domestic PWRs. Starting around 1995, also, it began taking orders for replacement SGs (RSGs) overseas, providing them mainly to North America and Europe, with 22 having been delivered so far. MHI has also delivered 29 RSGs domestically.

MHI's 100th SG for Tomari-3

The typical SG for domestic use measures approximately 21m in height, around 5m in diameter (at maximum) and weighs some 330 tons. Inside each SG are some 3,400 inverted U-shaped heat transfer tubes, each measuring around 20mm in exterior diameter and about 20m in length.

Despite the huge overall size of each SG, an extremely high level of machining accuracy -- to the 1/100 millimeter level -- is required. MHI's technological prowess built up over the years will be leveraged to win future orders in the domestic and internationally markets.

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