



JRI news release

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To: Media representatives

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.
The Japan Research Institute, Ltd.

Matsushita and JRI Jointly Develops a Firm Internet Banking System Services for Financial Institutions Using the ASP Method

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (head office: Kadoma City, Osaka Prefecture President: Kunio Nakamura [hereinafter called Matsushita Electric]) and The Japan Research Institute (head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo President: Shunichi Okuyama [hereinafter called JRI]) have jointly developed an Internet-based firm banking service using the ASP* method. The service will begin to be provided to financial institutions in October 2003.

The firm banking service helps streamline corporate business by linking PCs and other office machines of financial institutions and customer corporations via communication lines; and thereby enabling the bidirectional transmission/reception of data on requests of transfers by corporations, as well as those on payments, receipts and balances at the accounts of financial institutions. With the recent spread of the Internet, the use of Internet banking has already become popular among individual customers. This tendency is expected to become also widespread among corporate customers.

In its firm banking business over the past 16 years, Matsushita Electric has provided a total of 400,000 systems (comprising 220,000 exclusive terminals and 180,000 software packages for PCs) through 336 financial institutions. This performance is unsurpassed in the industry. In its business over the past 34 years, JRI has also made many achievements in the development of systems for Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and other financial institutions; and the building, operation and maintenance of system bases.

The present service has been designed by applying the ASP method to the firm Internet banking system originally developed for SMBC. It therefore represents a quick and low-cost solution for financial institutions in responding to the expanding use of firm Internet banking service.

The service is equivalent in menu and function to a conventional firm banking service using exclusive terminals and PC software. It only requires additional Web browsers and mail software for customer corporations in financial institutions.

The service benefits users by:

- (i) greatly reducing initial costs and system operation costs incurred by financial institutions (an effect of the ASP method);
- (ii) enabling the master registration and transmission of up to 500 designations for transfer; and
- (iii) permitting the transfer of registered data on customers using conventional firm banking services.

*ASP (Application Service Provider): A service providing the use of an application on a contract basis, instead of the sale of a system to the user. The application is installed not on the user's machine, but on the server or other machine located in a service center. The service mainly provides software packages through a WAN (e.g. the Internet or a VPN).

[Contact]

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. Panasonic System Solutions Co.

(General customers) Finance Team 1, Finance Group (Kato) 03-5460-2606

(Media representatives) Public Relations, Management Planning Group

(Tooda) 03-5460-2865

The Japan Research Institute, Ltd.

(General customers) Financial Business Dept. (Eda) 03-5431-6582

(Media representatives) PR Dept. (Sato) 03-3288-5360