

7. Awards, etc.



KONICA MINOLTA

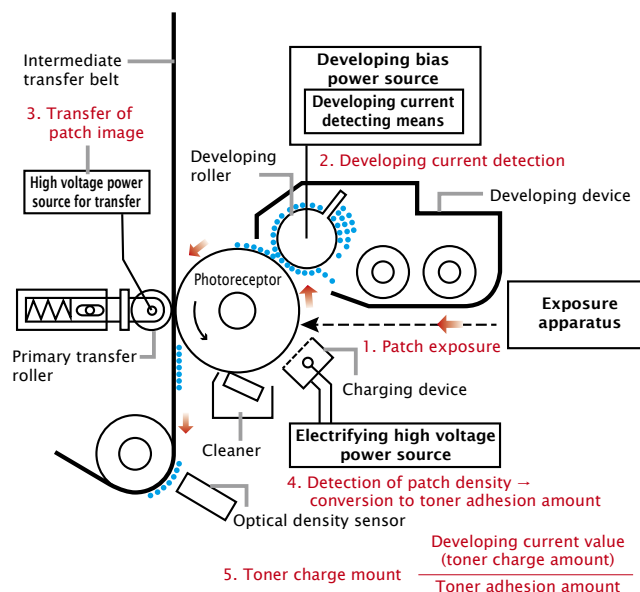
At the fiscal 2016 awarding of Local Commendation for Invention (organized by the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation), Konica Minolta received an award of excellence for Tokyo due to its Patent No. 5,024,192 invention. This award-winning invention contributes to improving the image quality and stability of Konica Minolta's production printing flagship model bizhub PRESS C1100/C1085 which already enjoys a favorable reception from our customers for its high image quality and stability.

Received fiscal 2016 award of excellence for Tokyo from the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation

Name of invention: Image forming apparatus mounted with toner charge measurement

Inventors: Yutaka Miyasaka, Nobuyasu Tamura, Kazutoshi Kobayashi

To be applied in electrophotographic color image forming apparatuses used in digital printing machines, etc. it is a device that provides a means for a simple, yet highly accurate measurement of toner charge Q/M for each color inside the apparatus. Installation on the products has been made possible by making use of density sensor to detect the toner adhesion amount that is necessary to calculate the charge amount. It is an invention that enhances the stability of printing machines, inasmuch as data obtained from measurement of toner charge may be used for such purposes as adjustment of imaging mechanical processing conditions, to improve the stability of image quality and color reproduction.



On November 10, 2016, Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported that Konica Minolta was ranked 6th in "Patent asset volume ranking for all industries" (fiscal 2015 registration) ^{*8} published by Patent Result Co., Ltd.

Ranking	Previous year ranking	Company Name	Patent asset volume (pt)	Number of patents
1	1	Mitsubishi Electric	135,429.2	3,394
2	2	Toyota	131,974.7	4,325
3	3	Panasonic	127,267.8	3,398
4	4	Canon	95,795.4	3,699
5	10	Honda	86,187.7	1,940
6	15	Konica Minolta	73,190.2	1,608

In the article, Konica Minolta is presented as having significantly improved its ranking from 15th in fiscal 2015. While in terms of the number of registered patents, we ranked 13th in fiscal 2015 with 1,608 registered patents and 22nd in fiscal 2016 with 1,380 registered patents (see P4), we earned the 6th place in the ranking for patent asset volume.

*8 To view the article on "Patent asset volume ranking for all industries", visit Patent Result Co., Ltd. website: <https://www.patentresult.co.jp/news/2016/11/all.html> (Japanese)