

TikTok's Surprising New Stars

# INTERNATIONAL Newsweek®

**YOUNG** **BLOOD**

**SILICON  
VALLEY  
IS OUT TO  
HACK THE  
PROCESS OF  
AGING**

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# Contributing to environmentally-friendly paper-making

**Serving paper industries with Felts and Belts with unique and value-added technologies to "squeeze" the water out during paper manufacturing, Japan's Ichikawa Co., Ltd. develops pioneering products for the press section for energy savings.**

Paper-making is an energy-intensive process consisting of three main steps: the forming section, the press section, and the drying section. As the drying section requires most of the energy in the whole process (like ironing your

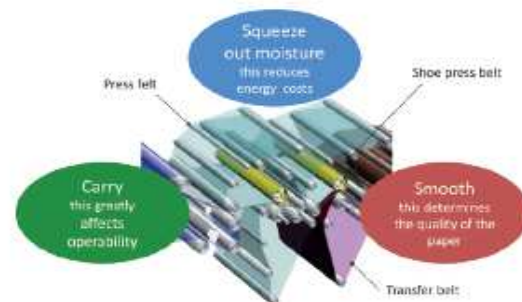
shirts at home), extracting as much water as possible from the paper at the press section is essential to reduce overall energy consumption. "Because we manufacture the most critical product for press sections, we contribute to and synergize the process of reducing the total energy used for production. We play a very crucial role in the paper making process and we consider ourselves to have a very important responsibility," explains Masataka Ushio, President of Ichikawa Co., Ltd. "Globally, there are only three companies that are able to manufacture all of these critical products: the press felts, the shoe press belts, and the transfer belts. The global market share of the shoe press belt is number one or two and number one for the transfer belt."

Ichikawa also engages in the production of heat-resistant industrial materials. Based on its advanced technologies, these high-performing industrial materials are used at demanding production lines around Japan and the world, supporting the galva-



"We are ranked number one or number two in global market share for our shoe press belts, and number one in global market share for transfer belts"

Masataka Ushio,  
President, Ichikawa Co., Ltd.



the paper machine. We are putting more efforts in our R&D, and focusing on continuous quality

nizing lines of ultra-high-tensile steel materials for automobiles, and high temperature laminating press lines of printed circuit board for 5G, IoT, automated driving and other areas of rapidly advancing technological innovation.

"Our production facility can handle products up to 13m wide and 195m long. We make 1µm design adjustment, as customers use our products with a maximum speed of 130km/h and dewatering on

and productivity improvement as we aim to increase our global market share and keep our competitiveness for all existing services, and also in order to create new markets with our technology," adds Mr. Ushio. "Ultimately, we want our customers to enjoy our products and say, 'Ichikawa manufactured-products are best in their class.'"

**ICHIKAWA CO., LTD.**  
www.ik-felt.co.jp/english/