

Contributing to measures against unknown infectious and other diseases that threaten humanity GENECUBE® fully automated gene analysis system for PCR testing, and specialized reagents



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Toyobo developed the GENECUBE® fully automated gene analysis system in 2011. The system's combination of fast-acting DNA amplification PCR enzyme KOD® DNA polymerase with a high-speed temperature control system is able to return results as quickly as 25 minutes from the start of measurement. As COVID-19 began running rampant across the globe in 2020, we leveraged our experience in the development of enzymes to accelerate development of PCR testing drugs for SARS-CoV-2 tests, receiving regulatory approval in July of that year. At present, over 300 GENECUBE® units have been adopted by medical institutions in Japan, where they contribute to society through use in daily testing.

About 70 years ago, Toyobo undertook the development of technology using microorganisms to treat effluent generated from the manufacturing of pulp used as a raw material for rayon. We also investigated the potential for industrial use of the enzymes created in the cells of microorganisms, and succeeded in applying the enzymes to diagnostic drugs. Expanding the types of enzymes, about 40 years ago we moved into the field of genetic research reagents, focusing on restriction enzymes for genetic engineering. Reagents using the KOD® DNA polymerase PCR enzyme developed by our company, collected from unique microorganisms inhabiting the undersea volcanic craters of Kodakara-jima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, demonstrate a particularly fast DNA amplification rate and accurate replication. This has led to the reagents' use in genetic diagnosis and many other applications. Today, enzyme technologies have become core technologies in the life science business.

Unknown infectious diseases and other diseases that threaten humanity are expected to occur again in the future. By providing higher-performance products to clinical testing and other markets, we will contribute to the health of people around the world and to greater efficiency in treatment.



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