

The Yokohama Smart Community Spirit

The Yokohama Smart Community is based on the concept of a community learning from, and using, nature as expressed in the 'Grand vision of the Smart Community' of Yoshimichi Nakamura, representative of the Fukuoka Smart House Consortium (*1). The energy system of the Smart Community is a flexible system introducing storage batteries for autonomous operation to accommodate peak cuts and power outages on the power grid, smooth introduction of renewable energy, and recharging of electric vehicles, and will be researched and verified (*2). Research will also cover mechanisms for coordinating home energy.

In the words of Soichiro Fukutake, 'The arts and culture are the necessities of human life, the signpost of mankind' (*3). On this basis, the building of a society with well-developed social activities, learning from and using nature, existing without imposing environmental loads, and living in harmony with nature while making effective use of natural energy in daily life (e.g., electric vehicles for mobility), requires the development of a considerable body of knowledge and wisdom. It is necessary to consider the contribution of science and technology to human society within this context.

*1 A Grand Vision for the Smart Community
'Learning from and using nature'



Participants in the Yokohama Smart Community include supporting businesses and organizations (construction, energy, technical education). Each participant brings unique experience to the development of new ideas to a site providing opportunities for verification and experiment in the creation of practical future communities. The project encompasses the building of a comprehensive town system integrating nature and the environment.

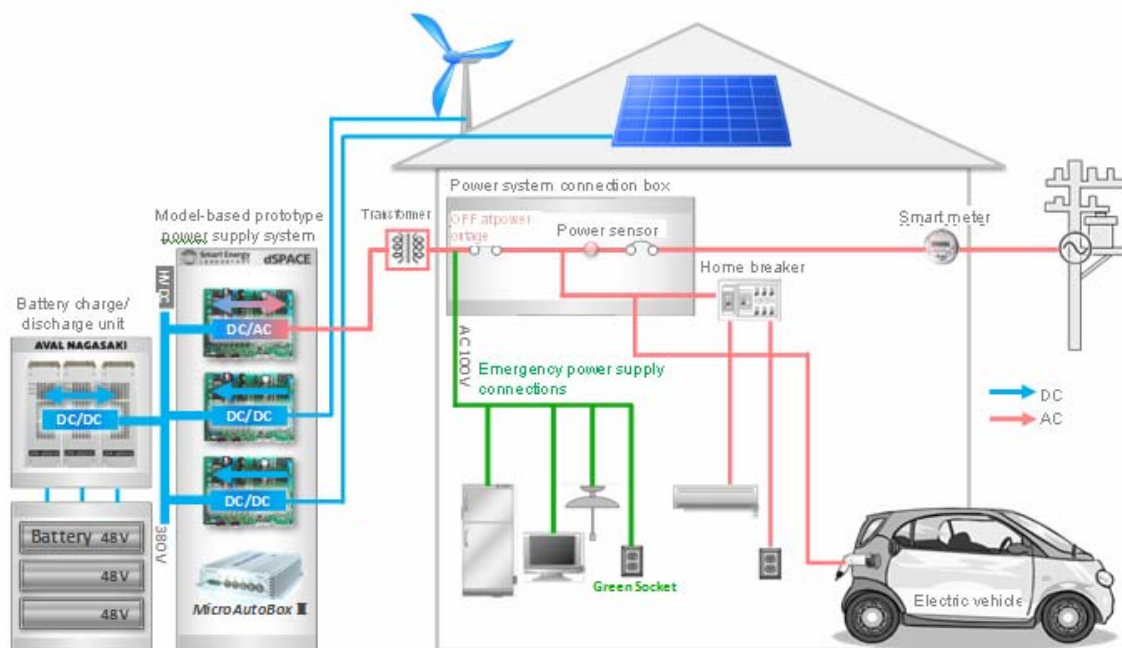
In addition to member companies in the areas of construction and energy technology, the project also seeks the participation of a diverse spectrum of participants from such fields as art, culture, and agriculture, as well as overseas businesses and organizations. It is planned that the community will exist for 50, 100 years into the future, integrating daily life, culture, and education, gathering participants from throughout the world while constantly evolving. The ideal for the community is that of Barcelona's La Sagrada Familia in which people gather from throughout the world (*4).

Project results will be shared at public seminars and private showings held periodically. These events will introduce new mechanisms and specifications etc., and activities focused on standardization will be pursued. Expenses incurred in participation of project members will be borne by their organizations, and members will participate voluntarily in verification and testing on each theme. The details of verification and testing will be actively published to ensure that these events act as a showroom for the Smart Community. In accordance with the participation policy, publication of the results of the project and disclosure of intellectual property rights are the responsibility of the participating members.



Smart House Power Supply Unit System Configuration (example)

Installed in prototype system



*2 'The business community must be praised not for the technology it uses, but rather for what the technology is used for, for reasons, and for results. The business community and related individuals are not the sole source of indices of the ease with which we live our lives - the level of civilization, and our sense of satisfaction and security in our lives, must also be counted as objectives to be achieved.' Yoshimichi Nakamura, CTO, Smart Energy Laboratory.

*3 'What really generates the necessary force for human life is not economics, but art and culture, the signpost of mankind', Comments on Beliefs - Soichiro Fukutake

From 'Personal Recollections (Watashi no Rirekisho) of Tadao Ando'. Published by Nikkei Newspapers.

*4 La Sagrada Familia, a symbol of Barcelona, is an uncompleted work of the architect Antoni Gaudi. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005. Attracts visitors from throughout the world.

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