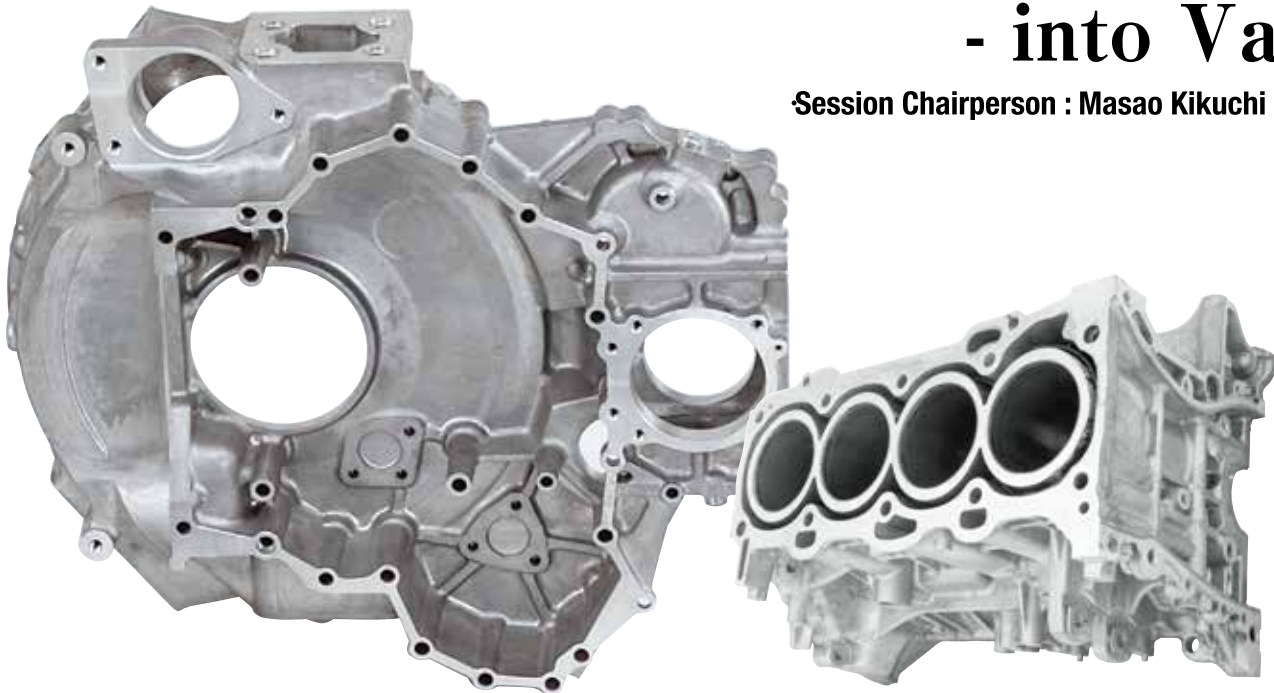




The Challenges and Outlook of the Die Casting Industry Transformation - into Value -

Session Chairperson : Masao Kikuchi (Noncoastal)



Special Lecture ①

Beyond the End of Deflation: Value Creation and the Challenge of Building Global Niche Top (GNT) Enterprises in Saitama

◆ Saitama Industrial Promotion Public Corporation Kazuhiro Akitomo

As the era of near-zero interest rates comes to an end and deflation gives way, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are now confronted with the imperative of exercising pricing power. At the same time, advances in generative AI are opening a new window of opportunity to narrow the scale gap with large corporations. This lecture focuses on the challenge of building Global Niche Top (GNT) enterprises, as advanced by the Saitama Industrial Promotion Public Corporation, and looks ahead to a transition from supply chain dependency to a regional economy capable of generating revenue global markets. It will also outline the development of global business talent through industry–government–academia collaboration and value creation through DX and AI. Finally, it will present—drawing on my own perspective—emerging directions for hands-on support based on a decentralized and integrated innovation model that brings technological capabilities and market creation into dynamic alignment.

Special Lecture ②

Trends in the Automotive Industry and Their Impacts and Outlook for the Die Casting Industry

◆ Ministry of Economy, Trade and industry OIMA Hirofumi

This presentation outlines recent developments and major shifts in the automotive industry and introduces the policy directions for the automotive sector in light of these changes.

In addition, it discusses how the die casting industry, as a fundamental pillar supporting the future of the automotive industry, is expected to respond to and adapt to these transformations.