

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

IHI Taps U.S. Technology To Devise Wireless EV Charger

TOKYO (Nikkei)—IHI Corp. (7013) is developing a wireless charging system for electric vehicles using technology licensed from U.S. firm WiTricity Corp.

Drawing on the Massachusetts firm's noncontact technology, IHI aims to create a system that can power up an EV battery by simply parking the vehicle near an embedded charger.

In its tests at a Yokohama factory, the major Japanese heavy machinery maker succeeded in transmitting up to 3.3kw wirelessly with 90% or higher efficiency.

The company is now testing a system consisting of a transmitter on a parking lot surface and a receiver affixed to the vehicle's bottom to confirm its safety. It plans to develop smaller, lower-cost systems in the future.

IHI is holding talks with major Japanese automakers toward commercializing the system. Once it has selected a partner, the firm plans to begin testing the system on EVs.

WiTricity has a separate tie-up agreement with Toyota Motor Corp. (7203) for using the company's wireless charging technology.

(The Nikkei June 15 morning edition)

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MARKETS

Times and dates of each index are local.

Nikkei 225	9,868.07	+51.98	07/01 close
DJIA	12,540.12	+125.78	07/01 12:56
FTSE 100	5,989.76	+44.05	07/01 16:35
Yen/Dollar	80.86-.88	0.09	07/02 1:46
Yen/Euro	117.28-.32	+0.10	07/02 1:49
Bonds (10-yr JGB)	1.140	0.010	07/01 15:49
Crude Oil Tokyo (\$)	106.18	-0.88	07/01