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**New “Super-deep Drawing” Used to Form Metal Fuel Tanks
– Nissan GT-R incorporates Unipres technology” –**

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Unipres Corporation (President: Satoru Nito) has announced the development and successful application of technology to manufacture metal fuel tanks for motor vehicles that dramatically enhances versatility in tank shape. Unipres applied this new technology to the metal fuel tank of NISSAN GT-R, which was announced recently by Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.

Unipres uses deep drawing to manufacture metal fuel tanks in complex shapes for rear-wheel drive (FR: front engine, rear-wheel drive) and four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles. To avoid the suspension and drive train, fuel tanks for vehicles using these types of drives are typically fitted in the under-seat area in the rear of the vehicle, calling for a saddle shape, which is difficult to form. A saddle shape can be difficult to achieve, even using resin, which is generally considered to offer a high degree of shape versatility. Unipres has traditionally created metal fuel tanks by leveraging the thinness and ease of forming that are inherent in steel plate, and the company’s sophisticated deep drawing fabrication technology.

The space allocated to the fuel tank in the recently announced NISSAN GT-R was particularly confined, creating a challenge not just for a resin tank, but even making it extremely difficult to achieve the required tank volume and performance with Unipres’ traditional metal fuel tank forming technology.

To solve the issue, Unipres engaged afresh in R&D of new super-deep drawing technology to maximize the merits of metal, which can be made stronger and thinner than resin. Using super-deep drawing, the company succeeded in developing a saddle-shaped metal fuel tank that is superior to a resin tank in volume and lightness, and it is that tank that has ultimately been incorporated into the NISSAN GT-R. The depth of the drawing in the metal fuel tank developed is some 1.6 times the depth achieved by Unipres to date.

Responding to today’s strong requirement for concern for the environment, reflected in tougher environmental regulations and a growing awareness of the importance of recycling, the fuel tank uses Ecokote-S® (made by Nippon Steel Corporation)—plated steel plate for vehicle fuel tanks—which meets lead- and chromate-free requirements. The achievement has been made possible by collaboration incorporating both development of the steel plate, which is superior in terms of all of corrosion resistance, ease of forming, and ease of welding, and development of Unipres’ super-deep drawing forming technology.

Unipres will build on these newly developed technologies to address the growing need for metal fuel tanks.

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