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**World's First Mass Production of Difficult-to-Form Automotive Body
Structural Parts Using Super High Formability 980MPa Ultra High Tensile Steel
- Contributing to Reduction in Body Weight of Nissan's New Crossover -**

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UNIPRES CORPORATION (Head Office: Yokohama, Kanagawa Pref., Japan; President: Masanobu Yoshizawa; hereinafter "UNIPRES") has succeeded in the world's first mass production of difficult-to-form car body structural parts using super high formability 980MPa (megapascal) ultra high tensile strength steel (hereinafter SHF 980MPa steel) and began supplying parts for Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.'s luxury mid-size Crossover launched in the North American market in 2018.

Across the automobile industry in recent years, while weight saving of car body has been advanced due to growing demand for reductions in CO2 emissions (improving fuel efficiency) in light of preserving the global environment, higher car body strength is also desired for greater occupant protection in the event of a collision.

As a result, automobile manufacturers have accelerated the use of ultra high tensile strength steel that enhances weight saving and collision safety through thickness reduction and greater strength of materials.

The SHF 980MPa steel that is used for those parts ordered by Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., this time, is a new material developed by Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation, and is applied to front side members, rear side members, and other under-body structural parts that are difficult to form.

Although the SHF 980MPa steel has elongation property close to that of conventional 590MPa steel, its application to the under-body structural parts having complex shapes was a challenge in terms of formation. UNIPRES solved this problem by developing a unique press forming technology that enabled application for those parts that could not be formed with conventional 980MPa steel.

UNIPRES will continue to meet the demands of automobile manufacturers by utilizing the long-held know-how for pressing ultra high tensile strength steel for hard-to-form parts while continuing to accumulate basic technology.

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