Message from the Planner

With advances in information technology (IT) and networking has come the widespread adoption of mobile devices and social media, and this in turn has led to individuals becoming the source of a wide variety of information. Also expanding is the scope of application of machine to machine (M2M) systems that connect sensors and other equipment to networks to collect information or control their operation. The quantity of data these systems produce is growing year by year.

Providing social infrastructure that allows people to live prosperous and secure lives, building a society that promotes long and healthy lives, and delivering value chain innovation and creating new business models that facilitate business growth while also reducing the load on society and the environment require an approach to using information that can transform the large amounts of different types of data generated by daily life and corporate activity into new forms of value. It is this that provides the motive force for innovation.

Hitachi's core Social Innovation Business generates new value by fusing and integrating the infrastructure system technologies we have built up over many years with advanced IT, including cloud computing and big data utilization.

This issue of Hitachi Review focuses on advanced IT applications that drive innovation and the utilization of big data, one of the core elements of these applications.

The Overview article covers business and social infrastructure, and also discusses the big data that provides people with new value and the associated use of analytics. Subsequent articles describe platform technologies and provide examples of big data utilization in various different fields, while also explaining what Hitachi is doing to encourage smarter practices in fields like agriculture, logistics, and healthcare and the latest trends in the IT platforms and networks that support this work.

Through this issue, I hope that you can learn more about what Hitachi is doing, and that our solutions, services, and products can be of some help for innovation in your businesses or in wider society.

**Planner for this issue
"Information-driven Social and
Business Innovation"**

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