Envisioning a world no one has ever seen
“Necessity is not the mother of invention, invention is the mother of necessity.”
These are the words of one of Casio’s founders.

The people who created Casio were determined to “invent necessity” – to create products that met latent needs with groundbreaking capabilities no one had ever seen before.

Ever since, Casio has been doing just that, bringing new discovery and delight to people around the world. This is Casio’s way of building an even more prosperous, richly rewarding world.
Message from the Chairman

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of our stakeholders as we celebrate 60 years in business in 2007.

Over the decades, we have developed innovative products such as calculators, watches, electronic musical instruments, electronic dictionaries, and digital cameras. With these products, we have helped to expand the possibilities of human intellectual activity and offered new value for the lives of people worldwide. By breaking free from preconceptions and conventional notions, we have conceived products that are truly needed and used our digital technologies to make them a reality. Products based on new ideas create new markets, giving rise to cultural trends that contribute to the further development of society. We will maintain this approach by continuously creating new value and evolving with society in the years to come.

In a world where new technologies steadily find their way into our lives, and where conventional notions are overturned one after the other, staying the same means going backward.

At Casio, we understand that if we content ourselves with past results and cease to evolve, we cannot continue providing revolutionary products. This is why we are using our past as a resource for our future. We will apply our many years of experience and know-how to providing a new future to our customers. We will leverage our collective technologies in areas such as development, production, sales and promotion, and continue to take on challenges in fields where no other companies have been, by coming up with completely new ideas. We will also develop messaging and methods that are easy to understand in order to effectively communicate and share the uses and potential of our new products.

At Casio, we intend to exceed your expectations and deliver surprises beyond your imagination. To create better products for everyone, we will continue to evolve constantly, as the entire Casio team pursues innovation by enhancing our already strong technologies. Casio’s policy is “continual change.” Unbound by conventional notions, we will continue striving to move forward.

Kazuo Kashio
Chairman and CEO
Casio provides support for the intellectual creativity of human beings, aiming to make the future more fulfilling for people everywhere.

Humans have unlimited potential. By applying the abilities of the human mind, anyone can create new value and contribute to social progress.

The value that Casio provides lies in creating new possibilities for people, not only in their personal lives, but also on the frontlines of business. Casio accomplishes this by providing original products and services that support intellectual creativity in diverse fields.
How Casio creates value

Perhaps the time people shine the most is when they discover their own unique potential.
Promoting personal growth through learning

When children receive instruction in mathematics, they acquire problem solving skills.

Casio scientific calculators play a useful role in schools around the world. They make calculations easier to understand by displaying formulas just like they appear in textbooks and by displaying information in the local language. This helps students to focus on solving the problems assigned to them.

Both children and adults can grow by learning. Casio provides products that support everyone’s desire to learn.

Supporting basic human activities

When a rescue team carries out a mission in harsh conditions, total accuracy and speed are required in all circumstances.

An accurate watch is indispensable in tough environments. It enables rescuers to ascertain the current and elapsed time and to determine the next action.

Watches also provide important information in daily life, allowing people to make plans based on accurate information. Casio provides products that support all of these human activities.
Empowering people to express their thoughts

A pianist captivates audiences by playing beautiful melodies. The music is created through the sensitivity of the musician and the expressive power of the instrument.

Imagine an electronic piano that can be played anywhere thanks to innovative technology. Then imagine one that also recreates the tone of a grand piano made by a traditional European piano maker. It sounds like the great pianos heard in concert halls.

To empower people to express their hearts and minds—this is why Casio makes products that enable people to share their joy and excitement.

Supporting business management and efficiency

When frontline staff handle packages in a logistics center, they have to guarantee highly precise operations.

Handheld terminals can be used to facilitate quick and accurate selection operations as well as management of product shipping and receiving. They can scan bar codes at high speed, even codes that are difficult to read because they are smudged, etc.

Increasing frontline speed and accuracy improves management in the logistics and retail distribution businesses and beyond. Casio provides products that enhance frontline efficiency for these businesses.
Main products and core technologies

Digital technologies
Making the impossible possible

Energy saving
Smartly operating on little power

Durability
Long-lasting user confidence

Compact size
Compact, slim, lightweight

Ease of use
Easy for anyone to use

Using highly advanced technology to create highly original products
Highly advanced technology is required in order to give shape to innovative ideas that generate new value for the world. Casio is making the most of its five core technologies to create products that meet the latent needs of customers.
Where value comes from

Employing intellectual curiosity to create products that support intellectual creativity
Consistently creating unprecedented, truly needed products

The Smart Outdoor Watch WSD-F10 represents a new product category. By linking with a smartphone, it can provide timely information that will enhance enjoyment of the outdoors. The road that led to its creation reveals Casio’s unique product development approach.

01 Generating breakthroughs by going back to square one

Around the end of 2011, a new concept began to emerge among Casio developers. They started considering how to create a new Internet-connected product worn on the wrist, a prime location for an information device. The following spring, Casio launched a project to develop a wrist device.

By the end of 2012, the first prototype was ready. With an emphasis on versatility, it resembled a smaller version of a smartphone, both in function and shape. Then the development team members realized that, while it was great to have a device that could do anything, smartphones were already more or less serving that purpose. What would be the advantage of using the device on the wrist? Facing these challenges, the project was postponed.

Next, the team worked on a wrist device for use by runners. Although it had lots of features such as GPS, it also had an advantage—it was heavier and had a shorter battery life than electronic runner’s watches on the market. Smartphone apps that could compete with the new wrist device were also already available. Senior management decided that the proposed product would not be a market winner.

A development team member recalls that they were still struggling to make a breakthrough at that point. Their goal was to create entirely new value that no one had seen before, something that consumers would find truly necessary. But it just hadn’t materialized. That was when a young employee joined the project. He remembers opening the door to the team’s workspace for the first time. Rather than sensing discouragement, he found the team full of optimism, ready to make a brand new product.

The development team members decided to go back to square one. They started to re-identify the advantages of putting a smart device on the wrist. As their thinking became more and more focused, they hit upon the precise idea of a “smart outdoor watch” that could provide handy information, in situations where using a smartphone would be too troublesome.

Finally, they hit upon the precise idea of a “smart outdoor watch” that could demonstrate truly unique value in outdoor leisure activities. Take mountain trekking, for example. With a smartphone tucked away in a backpack, the user could give a verbal command to the smart watch at the first sign of dark clouds, and the watch could instantly display the locations where it was raining nearby. Or when cycling, a user could easily check the smart watch to see the remaining distance to the destination. The watch could even advise the wearer when to take a rest. A complete vision for the new product had crystallized in the minds of the team members. They formalized the concept, and finally got the go-ahead to create the product.

02 Conveying the ineffable concept with a prototype

The team began full-scale development. They made it a goal to ensure toughness, and they wanted the product to meet US MIL standards by passing the necessary drop, vibration and other testing.

One of the team’s absolute requirements was the development of a waterproof mic. Understanding that users engaged in outdoor activities would often not have their hands free, a mic would be essential for voice operation of the device. They also realized that outdoor activities—fishing and many others—often involve water and the possibility of bad weather. Rather than just creating a device that would be resistant to water spray, the team was determined to build the world’s first smart watch that is water resistant to 50 meters.

A team member describes the challenge: “We thoroughly examined potential materials for a vibrating membrane that would be both highly water resistant and could effectively transmit sound. Through a process of trial and error, we also came up with a construction that worked acoustically while still being able to resist deformation under strong physical pressure. With the unique product value delivered by 50-meter water proof performance and resilience in difficult outdoor environments, we know that we would be able to ensure very clear differentiation from competing products.”

Around this time product development began, Google announced the Android Wear™ operating system for wearable devices. The team talked with Google about permission to use the OS. They described the product, including the highly original Casio display with monochrome and color LCDs layered one on top of the other. However, Google did not think its OS was right for such specifications, and the discussions faltered. This, however, was no excuse to drop the project. With the dual-layer liquid crystal display, easy to view even in bright sunlight, and time shown using only the monochrome LCD to greatly extend battery life, the team members were confident that consumers would love the product. So they set about making a prototype that would demonstrate the appeal of their concept in a way that words could not match.

At the next consultation with Google, they showed a prototype with a dual-layer LCD. The Google team was very impressed, describing the dual-layer design as astounding. Next, the team refined the software for full practical use, and entered final-stage consultations. A team member recalls, “They agreed to test our dual-layer LCD that could be conveniently used with Android Wear™ and finally we obtained the consent of the decision maker at Google. If we had not been able to do so, we would have lost some of the best functionality of the display.”

03 Developing an original app that people will use again and again

What kind of functionality does an outdoor enthusiast really need? How do we create value that people will continue to use over the years? In order to find the answers to these questions, a team member interviewed mountain climbers and actually went fishing with professional bass anglers. The knowledge he gained was used to create functions in the product’s original app and to provide information tailored to each type of user’s activities. These helpful functions perform tasks such as informing a climber that it is 30 minutes to sunrise, or providing advice to a cyclist on the timing of calorie intake, or notifying an angler of suitable time periods for fishing, based on precipitation phase and hour angle. He describes the direction of future development, “Originally, when pursuing the special value that a wrist device could provide, we came up with the concept of ‘Instant value’. This is the kind of value that provides helpful information the user may not know is available, the moment the user needs it. We want to continue expanding on this concept for people who enjoy the outdoors.”

In March 2016, Casio released the wrist device developed by this team: the Smart Outdoor Watch WSD-F10. The development team had realized their quest to find new value that people would continue to use. By refusing to give up whenever they hit a wall, and by continuing to generate breakthroughs based on novel ideas, they rose to the challenge time and again. Leveraging this spirit of development as a driving force, Casio will continue to create unprecedented products that people truly need.
Casio, growing worldwide

Casio products are familiar to many people, and the brand is delivered worldwide through global production systems and sales networks. Casio products are useful in people’s lives, and we will continue to provide products and services that offer new value around the world.

SALES
Percentage of sales outside Japan
Sales outside Japan from April 2016 to March 2017
66.7%

BRAND
Casio brand trademark registrations
Territories that are part of one regional trademark system are counted as one region
187 countries and regions

GROUP NETWORK
Size of Casio Group
Number of headquarters and group companies (as of June 25, 2017)
47

PRODUCTS
Total calculator shipments worldwide
Total shipments from September 2016 to March 2017
over 1.4 billion units

Total G-SHOCK shipments worldwide
Total shipments from April 2016 to March 2017
over 95 million units

COMMUNICATION
Experience-based events to promote shared awareness: SHOCK THE WORLD

SHOCK THE WORLD is a global promotional campaign that conveys the G-SHOCK brand worldview, along with its essential feature of toughness. Since the first event in New York in 2008, events have been held in a total of 73 cities around the world (as of June 2017). The initiative is designed to allow G-SHOCK fans to enjoy the product’s appeal through a full sensory experience.

Raising the profile of the Casio brand at international trade shows

Every year, Casio participates in exhibitions attended by the world’s leading companies. Held annually in Las Vegas, the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) is one of the largest events of its kind anywhere. Baselworld is a watch and jewelry fair held in Switzerland that attracts media and buyers from all over the world. By participating in these and other events, Casio is distributing its latest information globally.
Casio, a globally trusted brand

Seeking to ensure that customers can use Casio products with confidence over many years, the company maintains uncompromising manufacturing practices and strict quality control from the design stage to the completion of the finished product. In addition, Casio is also working worldwide to help people lead more enjoyable, safer lives.

Reliability initiatives

Product design concept for durability and peace of mind

Casio design concepts ensure that customers will be able to use their Casio products for a long time. Casio developed TAFROCOT technology for product toughness; it enhances body rigidity with side beams made from high-strength material and aluminum alloy panels. This design mitigates any external force applied to the LCD panel thanks to high-performance cushioning material and the aluminum alloy panels, providing a protective interior space. Casio has adopted this technology for its electronic dictionaries to protect them from damage if dropped during use or if pressure is placed on them inside a bag.

Thorough quality testing in the design stage

Casio quality standards are created to ensure that products can be used with confidence in diverse situations. Casio performs stringent testing by prototyping products from the design stage. For example, electronic dictionaries are subjected to a pressure test, where a load is placed on the dictionary unit, verifying top-down robustness. Since Casio handheld terminals are designed for use in locations high above the ground, they are tested to ensure they provide height-specified drop strength. Only those prototypes that meet all the quality criteria for the product concerned, such as water and dust resistance, move on to the production process.

Production system enhances quality with a high level of manufacturing technology

The Premium Production Line at Yamagata Casio produces high-quality Casio brand watches that sell at higher price points. It employs technology to maximize accuracy using the company’s own special manufacturing equipment, combined with a high level of human skill found only in top certified personnel. Under a global production system, Casio sites deliver high product quality worldwide. For example, to prevent any particulate matter from contaminating products being made at Casio Thailand, plastic parts are molded in a clean room. This ensures steady production of highly reliable products.

Environmental initiatives

Environmentally responsible products free from harmful mercury

Casio has been working hard to create products with a low impact on the environment. It has invented high-brightness projectors using the world’s first light source technology that replaces high-pressure mercury lamps. As a result, all Casio projectors are now mercury-free. Global efforts to eliminate the use of mercury in products include the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which aims to reduce the risk of hazardous mercury contamination. As part of this effort, Casio is striving to reduce its environmental impact as a leading company that provides mercury-free projectors.

Regional initiatives to address climate change

At Casio Electronics (Shenzhen), a production site in China, employee volunteers participate in an annual tree planting activity organized by the local government. With 2017 marking the tenth year of its involvement, the company is helping to promote regional reforestation. The Casio World Open, a men’s professional golf tournament in Japan sponsored by Casio, has been taking steps to offset the CO₂ emitted by its shuttle buses during the tournament since 2010. The tournament does its part by purchasing emissions credits, while also encouraging guests to use the shuttle bus rather than drive their own vehicles in order to help reduce CO₂ emissions.

Social contribution activities

Helping to improve educational environments and promote interest in science and technology

Casio China is promoting “My Dream Backpack,” a program to help children lacking educational opportunities due to poverty or natural disasters. It aims to help improve the educational environment for these children by donating backpacks filled with school supplies, along with Casio products that can be used in the classroom, such as calculators and electronic musical instruments.

The Toshio Kashio Memorial Museum of Invention was established to showcase numerous inventions of one of the founders of Casio. The museum holds an exhibit for children during the summer vacation. The aim was to further foster interest in science and technology.
History of Casio innovation

Utilizing their distinct individual talents, the four Kashio brothers—Tadao, Toshio, Kazuo, and Yukio—succeeded in developing the world’s first compact all-electric calculator, and founded Casio Computer Co., Ltd. in 1957. Toshio, the second eldest, was in charge of development. He had the notion that “innovation is the mother of necessity.” Instead of developing something that society had been looking for, he believed the product he and his brothers had invented would tap new needs people didn’t even know they had. This conviction remained as the development philosophy of Casio, and the company went on to invent and develop many innovative products such as electronic calculators, watches, and electronic musical instruments using its advanced digital technologies. Casio continues to create new value even today.

1957: The world’s first compact all-electric calculator. It boasted quiet, high-speed calculation in a unit small enough to be used in an office. The 14-A offered reliability thanks to Casio’s development of its own relay, which were dust-resistant and less prone to contact failure. It was adopted by many companies and research institutions, and reduced the labor required for office and technical computing.

1957: The world’s first personal calculator. It sold for just 12,000 yen thanks to a simple component design, a single-chip LSIs and a six-digit display. The Casio Mini became widely popular in ordinary homes, and the series sold a total of 10 million units. It also contributed to semiconductor development.

1957: This electronic watch was based on the concept of timekeeping by adding one second at a time. It was the world’s first wristwatch to feature an automatic calendar that correctly adjusted the number of days for each month.

1959: An electronic musical instrument based on the concept of a keyboard that anyone can enjoy playing. It produced sounds that mimicked various types of acoustic instruments using a Consonant-Vowel System developed by focusing on temporal variations in sound.

1965: The world’s first electronic desktop calculator with a memory function.

1965: A scientific calculator that enabled one-key operation for a variety of calculations such as trigonometric and exponential functions.

1972: A scientific operation for a variety of calculations such as trigonometric and exponential functions.

1974: This electronic watch was based on the concept of timekeeping by adding one second at a time. It was the world’s first wristwatch to feature an automatic calendar that correctly adjusted the number of days for each month.

2000: A tough cellular phone featuring shock and water resistance. This popular cellular phone could be used almost anywhere.

1995: World’s first consumer digital camera with an LCD. It helped to popularize digital cameras, creating a culture of communication through images.

2014: A digital camera featuring a design with a detachable controller unit with an LCD monitor.

2011: This digital camera offered a dynamic shooting style thanks to a freely adjustable frame and articulating lens.

2010: Thanks to a hybrid light source using both laser and LED technologies, this environmentally responsible projector offered high brightness without using a high-pressure mercury lamp. A light source lifespan of 20,000 hours was also achieved.

2008: A digital camera that offered high-speed continuous shooting at 60 photos per second.

2004: An electronic dictionary with a robust design that resisted shock and vibration.

2003: A space-saving and stylish electronic piano for playing enjoyment.


1983: A credit card-sized calculator with a thickness of just 0.8 mm. It was the ultimate thin calculator that could be taken and used anywhere.

1983: A full-fledged electronic piano featuring an AP sound source for delicate and rich expression.

1985: A scientific calculator that enabled the user to intuitively understand formulas with its graphing display.

1984: A digital synthesizer with a P.D. sound source that allowed users to easily produce a variety of sounds.

1996: This product marked the beginning of full-scale electronic dictionary deployment. It expanded the electronic dictionary market through substantial improvement of content and search capabilities.

1999: A full-functioning terminal that ran on the Windows CE open platform.

1998: A tough cellular phone featuring shock and water resistance. This popular cellular phone could be used almost anywhere.

2002: A wearable card-sized camera with an LCD monitor and the world’s slimmest profile (at that time). Since it was portable enough to be taken everywhere, the camera allowed users to capture images whenever the mood struck them.

1995: A wristwatch that always provided the wearer with the correct time, thanks to a function that maintained the exact time based on the reception of time calibration radio signals.

1983: A shock-resistant watch created under the development concept of a watch that would not break, even dropped. It overturned the established notion of watches being delicate and breakable devices. The practical G-SHOCK could be worn anywhere and provided toughness to support users worldwide.

1980: An electronic musical instrument based on the concept of a keyboard that anyone can enjoy playing. It produced sounds that mimicked various types of acoustic instruments using a Consonant-Vowel System developed by focusing on temporal variations in sound.

1991: A full-fledged electronic piano featuring an AP sound source for delicate and rich expression.

1972: A scientific operation for a variety of calculations such as trigonometric and exponential functions.
I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to everyone who is using our products in daily life. Casio is where it is today thanks to the support of its customers over the six decades since its establishment. Our company has grown by developing products with priority on what will be useful to customers. By sticking to this founding spirit while also thinking about how the business needs to respond to the changing times, we will continue to provide customers with value that exceeds their expectations.

As technologies and markets change, we are revising the roles of businesses that we have conducted since our foundation. Currently, scientific calculators make up the majority of our calculator sales. This product is actively used especially in classrooms, as a tool for studying mathematics. We ship ~3 million of them every year. As dedicated devices, they offer ease of use not available in smartphones and tablets, and the product specifications can be tailored to meet the needs of students and educators in each country and region. We are also focusing on other learning tools such as electronic dictionaries, English conversation learning devices, and digital pianos for studying music.

Protecting and nurturing the value we have created is our promise to all of you. G-SHOCK, our signature watch brand, is a product that continues to grow with its fan base because of its unique image as well as performance features such as shock resistance. While protecting this value together with you, we will continue to provide new and inspiring products.

In addition, by fully integrating and leveraging our existing technologies, we will flexibly respond to individual and corporate customer needs across all categories and business fields. To realize our corporate creed “Creativity and Contribution,” we will continue to develop products that are useful to customers.