😮 The Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc. 🛛 Annual Report 2007 Business Focus: Deregulation and Business Strategies

> Devising and implementing key business strategies for sustained growth in an increasingly competitive market







## Transformation of the Power Industry

From April 2005, all customers who con tract for electricity received at high voltages be came free to choose their preferred power sup plier. Users matching that criterion account for roughly 60% of Kansai EP's total sales volume. In addition, wheeling charges formerly levied by the power companies against transmissions through their supply grids were eliminated, and a wholesale power market was newly estab lished, thereby setting in place an ever more competitive environment.

## A New Era in Business Competition

Since the implementation of the industry's first deregulatory measures in 2000, new par ticipants have become increasingly active in the ty Groupwide.

First, to achieve greater competitive strength, we are determined to pursue ever stronger price competitiveness in line with de velopments in deregulation, and to invite greater customer satisfaction through the provision of new forms of value. Toward those ends, we firm ly aim to improve efficiency throughout all as pects of our operations, and to develop new electrically operated equipment, new services and new rate menus. Furthermore, we intend to muster our comprehensive Groupwide capabili ties toward fortifying our solution-focused servi ces. In this last connection, we will strengthen

Kansai EP is taking decisive steps to enhance its competitive position amid the ongoing deregulation of the nation's power industry.

domestic electricity market. Already, more than 20 new energy providers have entered the mar ket and successfully acquired customers in areas throughout the nation. The Kansai region is no exception, and activities targeted at at tracting demand within our traditional operat ing base are gathering momentum.

Since deregulation got under way, rate re ductions have been executed by all power firms, leading to rate leveling that to date has prevented scrambles for customers. Going for ward, however, it is difficult to project how the competitive situation might change in tandem with continuing developments in industry de regulation.

## Focused Response to a Shifting Environment

Kansai EP is keenly cognizant of the risk potential for becoming embroiled in severe competition as our business environment un dergoes vertiginous changes. More importantly, however, we view these environmental trans formations as an ideal opportunity to enhance both our corporate and shareholder value through profit expansion. To capitalize on this opportunity - one not afforded to us when we

our programs of human resource development so as to cultivate the professional teams needed to provide our key solutions.

Second, in order to make our financial structure ever more muscular, we intend to ap ply the enhanced cash flow to come from the foregoing efficiency-centered initiatives. Rein forcement of our financial structure is indispens able in two respects: to ensure the Company's survival as competition becomes increasingly se vere in coming years, and to win the confidence of the capital markets.

Third, to achieve stronger earning capability as a Group, we will strategically select business operations and develop new areas of business that will enable the most effective use of our Groupwide resources. In doing so, we will con centrate on three core areas: total energy solu tions, amenities in support of lifecycle needs, and information technology (IT). Today steady progress is being achieved in each of those fields, for example in the form of retail gas sales capital izing on our expertise in operating LNG process ing facilities, home-security services rooted in the trust placed in us by the local community, and Internet services taking advantage of our re

operated in a fully regulated environment - we are focusing on three targets: 1) greater competi tive strength, 2) a more muscular financial struc ture, and 3) enhancement of our earning capaci

markable 80,000-kilometer fiber-optic network. Going forward, we will continue to invest vigor ously into new business areas that will lead to ever greater expansion of our earnings base.

As the three supporting pillars of our busi ness strategies, our marketing, financial and Group strategies will enable Kansai EP to main tain its leading position in the coming era of se vere competition.

