

## **Present status and future plans of the Rits center**

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Just ten years have passed since the world smallest storage ring, "AURORA" was installed in Ritsmeikan University and the SR center (Rits center) was established.

The AURORA ring has been operated with the energy of 575 MeV and the maximum current of 300 mA. Among many facilities in Japan, the Rits center has played its own role as a unique institution in a private university. Now there are 14 beamlines which cover soft x-ray spectroscopies, imaging and microfabrication. In 2005, registered users amounted to 296, in which 53 users are from private companies. Different from other SR facilities, this center is actively used for industrial applications. Typical one is the deep lithography, so-called, LIGA project.

The center has been involved in the Nanotechnology supporting program by MEXT since 1996 and encouraged non-experienced users, especially those from companies, to perform nanotechnology-related uses of synchrotron radiation.

As a future program, we plan to install a new beamline of infrared microscopy to reinforce the biological applications, which is related to the foundation of faculty of bioscience in the university.

Several unique applications and the future plans of the center will be presented.