

Company Profile



Introduction

As Visual Communication Experts

Sophisticated visuals have the ability to touch people's hearts. They are the essence of expressiveness.

The amana group believes that people should be at the center of its business. With that in mind, the group works hard to generate valuable creativity to contribute to visual communications in society. In line with this philosophy, we amass the expressive capabilities of each member of our staff as visual communications experts, through which we also raise our competitiveness. In this way, the amana group embraces the challenges of visual communications that come with the changing times.





Message from the CEO

Stirring the Emotions with Visuals

Not just sending a message, but getting it across

The amana group traces its origins to 1979, when operations began as an advertising photography company. Since that time, we have grown our business by concentrating on not just sending a message, but getting it across, honing our skills as a group of visual communications experts.

Our business model is one of responding to a broad range of markets: we create the visuals with the focus on advertising usage, plan and produce communications content, and sell creative elements. As we work to maximize the power of photographs and other visuals, we provide communications that are about not just sending a message, but getting it across. This sort of visual communications is at the heart of the amana group's business.

Evoking Emotions with Visual contents

The advancement of digital media and the spread of the Internet are encouraging people to communicate in ever more diverse ways. The ongoing emergence of ever more new devices is also changing the face of advertising. In response to this increasing diversity, the amana group remains a step ahead of the changing times with the creation of new business model and the creative services.

Our business now extends beyond the worlds of advertising and publishing, including new industries and an even broader range of industries and markets. We are also developing our business outside of Japan and into other parts of Asia.

With society growing increasingly diverse, we work to ascertain the reality that lies just ahead of the present as we search out and create visual communications that touch ever more people's hearts.

amana inc.
Chief Executive Officer

Hironobu Shindo





Visual Communication Business

Translating Messages through Visuals

The amana group leverages a rich variety of creative resources, serving as a one-stop location that employs visuals to draw up, produce and execute communications plans.

Our team of producers plans a range of visual communications to offer those best suited to the customer, whether they be advertising or other graphics, television commercials or websites. Our professional photographers and CG artists provide top-class performance of expression and technical capabilities, leveraging one of the industry's largest archives of creative elements to conduct communication that convey underlying customer messages with visuals. We are also taking advantage of the condensed corpus of our own media to develop new methods of expression.





Visual Communication Business

Producing over 20,000 Works a Year

We are professionals in the art of using visuals to touch people's hearts. Our 400-strong sales staff interface with advertising agencies, art directors and designers, as well as customers in the corporate public relations, advertisement and sales promotion arenas to meet a host of visual needs. Our 40 photographers and 190 CG artists work in a creative environment the amana group has built, including 21 photography studios, to maximize their potential, bringing to life the visuals that truly communicate the messages our customers want to express.



Enhancing Expressiveness and Technical Capabilities in CGIs and Video

When creating visuals, mainly in product images, the use of computer-generated imagery, or CGIs, lends itself not just to lower costs but also for greater freedom of expression. They make possible a multifaceted usage and simulations of visuals. Also, the growing demand for video, whether for television commercials, websites or smart devices, makes it necessary to create high-quality visuals inexpensively. We apply leading-edge technologies to this purpose. In addition to honing our skills of expression, we work on a daily basis to research and develop new systems.



Offering a Wide Range of Digital and Physical Content

The spread of the Internet and smart devices has put corporations in charge of their own media and brought about an information age. This is also an age of mass consumption of visual content. To achieve high-quality, richly expressive visual communication in digital media, we focus on the development of new materials, ranging from virtual reality content using leading-edge technologies to owned media distribution services. We can also meet real-world event planning needs for experience-oriented events and seminars, allowing us to offer a wide range of content, from digital to physical.





amana creative service

Stock Photo Sales Site: “amanaimages.com”

We offer for sale the creative elements needed for advertisements, publications, television programs, websites and a host of other media. Working with photographers under contract and partner companies, we commission photos of people, landscapes, news, celebrity portraits and much more, offering a highly original collection of stock photos. In addition, to dramatically improve cost performance and work efficiency when producing computer graphics and video, we provide a wealth of video as well as fonts that can be purchased individually. Our leading-edge search functionality provides an on-line service environment that makes visual content convenient and easy to use.

Providing Services to Support Creative Work

Our “panowork” offers panoramic photographs that express the world in its full 360-degree splendor. Available on the web, this service can be used to provide virtual spatial tours of offices and event spaces and is perfectly suited to sales promotion tools. We also have a network of 500 photographers in all over Japan. Whether the need is for portraits of people, offices, shops or events, we offer service packages to meet a range of uses and budgets. In addition to photography services, we also provide offerings, such as helping out with rights that are too much for individuals to handle or by casting models.





amana creative service

Art Photo Business

In keeping with the amana group's mission of touching people's hearts through high-quality visuals, we are responding to growing global demand for art photos. To create a market in Japan for art photos, we plan, produce and sell art photos under two brands. The IMA brand plays a major role in disseminating the fascination of art photos through composite media such as magazines and books, as well as at galleries and events related to art photos, expanding the base of this market. Meanwhile, the amanasalto brand offers a premium publishing business that employs world-leading platinum printing techniques to provide art photos to high-end customers. We have also launched the "amana photo collection" of works by young Japanese photographers and are working to build it into one of the world's foremost collections.

IMA

In addition to publishing IMA, a quarterly photo magazine themed on "living with photography," we operate IMA Online to distribute photobooks and information about photos. We are also launching gallery. The IMA Gallery, which opened in Tokyo's Tennozu district, sells photographic works and hosts events by photographers. Meanwhile in Yokohama, we have opened "&ima," operating under the concept of a "home for enjoying photographs." A uniquely experience-oriented shop, &ima offers photography services, as well as a printing service for a host of photography-related items. Through these shops, we are working to broaden the base of photography fans.



amanasalto

amanasalto employs a world-leading platinum photo-printing method to plan and publish works, as well as planning, producing and selling printed works. This method expresses gradations beautifully, as well as deep jet blacks and fine detail. Digital technologies are also employed to facilitate the expression of high-end monochrome. This method is extremely durable, with colors said to last 500 years without fading if stored properly. Some of the most well-known novelists and photographers in Japan and overseas employ this technique, including Hiroshi Sugimoto, Nobuyoshi Araki and Tadao Ando, and we are working to extend the business still further.





amana creative platform(acp)

A New Concept for Creating the Visuals: acp

The amana group has conceptualized the “amana creative platform (acp)” as a cloud-based system aimed at rationalizing the production process.

The platform that serves as the base for acp stretches across the amana group, allowing creators and producers to work on a common platform. This approach creates a database of groupwide knowledge, rationalizes production processes and ensures the safety of information. As a result, the system allows flexibility in meeting the needs of diverse clients, markets, media and means of expression. We also offer acp as a service, providing a creative platform for customers.

Get the Knowledge of Thousands in Your Pocket: akb

The “amana knowledge board (akb)” is a key component of our inner communication system. It improves our abilities on both the corporate and individual level by visualizing the people, things, and ideas that make up our company and bringing employees together. The knowledge from our projects is recorded by our specialized editing department and shared with employees online. We hope to strengthen the competitive edge of our employees by enlisting systems and content that emphasize human connections.



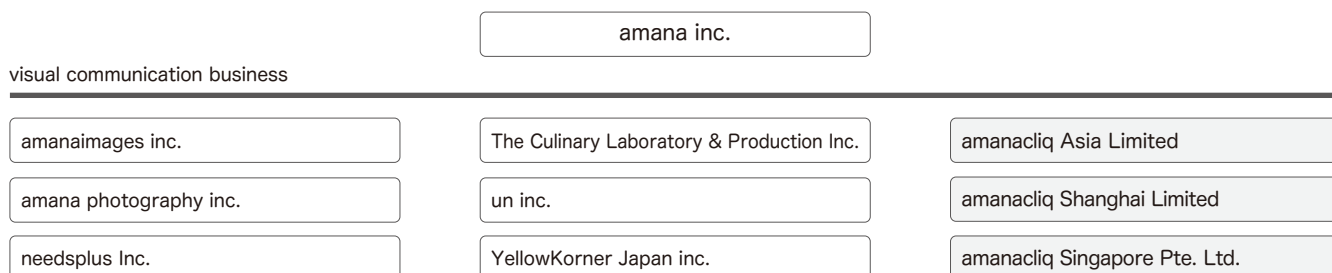
The System for Visual Asset Management and Operation: shelf

Appropriate management and operation of the wealth of visual assets we possess also helps rationalize workflows. To this end, we have developed “shelf,” a database that supports the management and operation of a range of visual assets, including logos and product photos. We concentrate on developing efficient systems in our role as a corporate visual solution partner.



Company Name	amana inc.
Representative	Hironobu Shindo, Chief Executive Officer
Board Members	
Directors	Yukihiko Ishigame, Kazuo Fukasaku, Yukihiko Sawa, Kinya Horikoshi, Mitsuru Tsukiyama, Yoshikazu Fukao, Tomoki Matsubara, Takeshi Yasukawa
Corporate Auditor	Keiko Endo
Outside Corporate Auditors	Junichi Tobimatsu, Yukako Nishii
Operating Officers	Hidefumi Aihara, Nobuaki Aburatani, Yusuke Arai, Jun Ichimura, Makoto Uesaka, Ayumi Okubo, Hitoshi Ote, Takashi Okamoto, Hiromasa Gamo, Takayuki Sasaki, Akira Sato, Kimiyuki Sato, Yuta Sato, Yasuhiro Saheki, Kazunori Shimomura, Keigo Sugihara, Yuichi Takita, Takashi Taniai, Wataru Nakata, Makoto Harikae, Manabu Hori, Tetsuya Minakawa, Yasuhiro Miyahara, Satoshi Yashima, Toshimitsu Yamaguchi
Headquarters	2-2-43, Higashishinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan +81-3-3740-4011
Main Business	Visual Communication Business
Paid-in Capital	¥1,097,140,000
Established	April 28, 1979
Total Revenue	¥23,031 million (consolidated results for the year ended December 31, 2019)
Consolidated Group Companies	amanaimages inc., amana photography inc., needsplus Inc., The Culinary Laboratory & Production Inc., un inc., YellowKorner Japan inc. amanacliq Asia Limited, amanacliq Shanghai Limited, amanacliq Singapore Pte. Ltd.
Equity-Method Affiliate	amana ANG inc., amana TIG inc., art liaison inc., Ca Design, Inc., MISSILE • COMPANY inc., Premium Japan Inc., XICO Inc., AMANA JKG
Affiliated Organization	Consolidated : 1,107 * As of Jan 1, 2020
Number of Employees	Resona Bank, Limited.; Development Bank of Japan Inc.;
Main Banks	Central Cooperative Bank for Commerce and Industry (Shoko Chukin Bank); Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation; MUFG Bank, Ltd.; Mizuho Bank, Ltd.; The Bank of Yokohama, Ltd.; The ChibaBank, Ltd. * As of Jan 1, 2020
Corporate Website	https://amana.jp/en/

About amanagroup



alphabetical order

1979	Apr.	Urban Publicity inc., forerunner of the amana group, is established and begins commissioned production of advertising photography.
1987	Jan.	The Aoyama Office is established in Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, and commences design and sales of stock photographs.
1990	Jun.	Urbane USA Inc. is established in New York to fortify Urban Publicity's stock photography design and sales business.
1991	Apr.	Urban Publicity changes its name to IMA Co., Ltd.
1996	Nov.	Photonica Europe Ltd. is established in London to fortify IMA's stock photography design and sales business.
1997	Nov.	IMA merges with stock photo agency Camera Tokyo Service and changes its name to amana inc.
1998		amana Italy S.r.l. (Milan/Feb.), amana France S.A. (Paris/Mar.) and amana Germany G.m.b.H. (Hamburg/Sep.) are established, expanding the base of stock photo operations in Europe.
	Dec.	amana merges with Studio Kanno Ltd. and changes its name to Zillion Ltd.
1999	Jun.	amana merges with VIN SEPT Ltd. reinforces the digital imaging division of amana's visual content design and production business.
	Sep.	amana (Kansai Region) combines its stock photography sales offices in Osaka to form a separate company: aiwest inc.
2000	Aug.	Part of the photography department of amana Photography is spun off into a separate company: aura inc.
	Sep.	amana also turns its illustration coordination department into a separate company: art liaison inc.
2001	Apr.	amana photography sets up part of its photography department as an inc., a separate company.
	Aug.	amana establishes Corbis Japan, a stock photography agency, as a joint venture with Corbis Corporation of the United States.
	Oct.	Viz Consulting Co., Ltd. is established to expand the market for amana's visual content design and production business.
	Dec.	amanaimages international Ltd. is established in London to fortify amana's stock photography design and sales business.
2002	Jan.	Changing its company name from Zillion inc., amanaonline inc. is established to boost stock photograph Internet-based search-and-sales operations.
		amana transfers its holdings of art liaison(September), Viz Consulting(September) and aiwest(December) to boost management efficiency.
2003	Mar.	amanaimages international changes its name to iconica Ltd.
2004	Jul.	amana shares are issued on the Market of High-Growth and Emerging Stocks (Mothers) on July 1.
	Oct.	needs+ inc., a model casting company, is established.
2005	Jan.	Kaburagi Studio is established to enhance its visual contents design and production business for the distribution industry.
	Mar.	acube inc., SPOON inc., dip inc., hue inc., and voile inc. are established in a reorganization of amana photography.
	Jun.	Overseas subsidiary stocks are transferred to Getty Images Inc., of the United States, thus boosting sales capacity for stock photography overseas through a comprehensive tie-up.
	Jul.	enterarks inc. is established to expand business in the entertainment market.
	Oct.	amana acquires shares in stock photography agency neovision inc., expanding its stock photo business content.
	Nov.	bin inc., a branding and products promotion design and production company that focuses on visual images, is established.
		amana Beijing Co., Ltd. is established and commences visual content design and production for major Beijing advertising agencies.
	Dec.	amana acquires shares in Orion inc. a stock photography agency expanding its stock photo Business content.
		amana acquires shares in computer graphics video production company NABLA inc. to reinforce visual solutions for cross-media.
		Corbis Japan's stock is transferred through the signing of a sales agency agreement.
2006	Jan.	amana acquires shares in A&A inc., a design company that concentrates on sales promotion planning and production.
		amana acquires shares in Sekai Bunka Photo inc., a stock photography agency, and the company changes its name to Seibun Photo inc.
	Feb.	All of amana holdings in Mature inc., an equity-method affiliate until the previous consolidated fiscal year, are transferred to equity partner Senior Communication Co., Ltd.
	Apr.	axia inc. is established, focusing on production of corporate brochures and public relations publications.
	Jun.	amana purchases additional shares in aiwest and includes it as a subsidiary to expand stock photography business in the Kansai market. As a result, aiwest subsidiary ailead Co., Ltd. becomes an indirectly held amana subsidiary.
		amana productions inc. is established in New York to enhance content competitiveness in the stock photography business.
	Aug.	amana acquires shares in MISSILE COMPANY inc., a design company specializing in advertising planning and production.
	Dec.	amana acquires shares in Digital Archive Japan inc. to boost consulting-based sales of rights-free contents in the stock photography market.

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- 2007 Jan. For the reorganization of stock photo business, Sebum Photo merges with Orion and divides stock photo business. And its changes its business name to amanaimages inc..
anonymous inc., a premium content design and production stock photography company, is established.
amana acquires shares in HiSCHOOL inc., to launch amana in the television commercial industry.
- Dec. amana transfers its shares in bin.
- 2008 Feb. For thereorganization of visual design and production business, axia is dissolved.
- Apr. For the reorganization of stock photo business, amanaimages merges with Digital Archive Japan.
Kaburagi Studio changes its name to azray inc., through restructuring of visual content design and production business, and subsequently fuses its sales division with amana's sales division to instigate a production company specializing in visual materials for sales promotion.
- Jul. amana converts to a holdings company and changes its name to amana holdings inc. while transferring its visual content design and production business to the newly established amana inc.
- Aug. For the reorganization of visual design and production, amana merges with enterarks.
- Oct. Additional aiwest shares are purchased through restructuring of stock photography design and business, and amanaimages is included as a full subsidiary.
For the reorganization of stock photo business, amanaimages merges with neovision and anonymous.
- Nov. amana holdings gains ISO/IEC 27001:2005 international standard certification for its information security management system(November 24).
- Dec. MISSILE COMPANY inc. (equity-method affiliate) stock transfer is carried out.
- 2009 Jan. amana spins off a portion of visual content design and production business to newly established amana interactive inc.
- Oct. amana spins off a portion of visual content design and production business to newly established amana cgi inc.
- Dec. For the reorganization of visual design and production, amana interactive merges with HiSCHOOL.
- 2010 Jan. For the reorganization of visual design and production, dip merges with aura and voile. And its changes its business name to Vda inc.
- Apr. amana spins off a portion of visual content design and production business to newly established Hydroid inc.
- Nov. For the reorganization of the stock photography sales business, amana productions inc. is dissolved.
- Dec. wonderactive inc. is established to handle advertising design and production in the visual design and production business.
- 2011 Jan. amana purchases shares in WORKS ZEBRA CO.,LTD. and includes it as a subsidiary to expand the CG design and production business in the visual design and production business. As a result, WORKS ZEBRA CO.,LTD., a subsidiary of WORKS ZEBRA USA, INC., becomes an indirectly held amana subsidiary.
- Apr. amanagroup acquires shares in Polygon Pictures Inc.(equity-method affiliate), to expand the CG design and production business.
- Jul. amana holdings purchases additional shares in Polygon Pictiures and includes it as a subsidiary to expand CG design and production business.
- Oct. amana interactive purchases shares in The Culinary Laboratory & Production Inc. and includes it as a subsidiary to expand the advertising design and production business.
- 2012 Jan. amana salto inc. is established by merging with Salto Ulbeek, to expand the platinum print business.
- Jul. For the reorganization of visual design and production, NABLA inc. changes its name to RIZING inc.
- Sep. amanaciq Asia Limited is established to expand the visual design and production business in the Asian market.
amanaimages acquires shares in Nature Production, Nature Pro Henshushitsu and Nature Books to expand the stock photography sales business.
- Oct. amanaciq Shanghai Limited, subsidiary of amanaciq Asia Limited, is established as a business base for the visual design and production business in the Asian market.
- Dec. amana acquires shares in WESTVILLAGE CA CO., Ltd. to expand the advertising design and production business.
- 2013 Jan. For the reorganization of amana and amana interactive, amana divides its production business with amana interactive, and amana interactive divides its sales activities with amana.
amanainteractive changes its name to amanacreative inc.
- Apr. amanaTIG inc. (equity-method affiliate) is established by merging with Taka Ishii Gallery, to expand content sales capabilities in the consumer market and to aim at the creation of a business base.
- Jun. J CUBE Inc., which develops 3DCG softwares, is established by Polygon Pictures Inc.
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	Jul.	amanaciq Singapore Pte. Ltd., subsidiary of amanaciq Asia Limited, is established as a business base for the visual design and production business in the Asian market.
	Aug.	amana acquires shares in Ray Breeze inc. to accelerate the development of new products and makes it a subsidiary. For the reorganization of the visual communication business, WORKS ZEBRA USA, INC. is dissolved.
	Oct.	For the reorganization of the stock photo business, amanaimages inc. (surviving company) merges with Nature Books.
2014	Jan.	amana establishes amanadesign inc., design company in the visual communication business. amanacreative changes its name to studio amana inc.
	Mar.	amanaANG inc. (equity-method affiliate) is established, to set a business base and a content sales base in the domestic and foreign high end consumer market.
	Apr.	For the reinforcement of the group's sales structure and the use of strategic and flexible management resources, amanaholdings (surviving company) merges with amana and changes its name to amana, becoming the successor company. One part of the stock photography business possessed by amanaholdings is divided. SPOON Inc. (surviving company) merges with Vda Inc. and changes its name to parade inc. to plan the rationalization of the visual production system.
	Jun.	amanaimages inc. (surviving company) merges with Nature Production to expand the educational market in the stock photography business.
	Jul.	AMANA JKG (equity-method affiliate) is established by a joint investment with Jean-Kenta Gauthier, to establish a business base in the domestic and foreign high end consumer market.
	Aug.	Nature Pro Henshushitsu changes its name to nature&science inc.
	Dec.	One part of the amana equity securities of Polygon Pictures are transferred to King Record Co. Ltd. and to Polygon Pictures Holdings, to build a new business and production system and to optimize management resources in the group. amana acquires shares in Eyedentify Inc. and makes it a subsidiary to accelerate the development of digital products.
2015	Jan.	aiwest changes its name to amana west inc., to reinforce the management system of Western Japan.
	Apr.	amanabi inc. is established for amana to deal with the management and planning of a company and staff training in visual communication.
	Jun.	DAYS Book Co., Ltd. is established by a joint investment with TSUTAYA Co., Ltd to expand the sales route of "DAYS Book 365".
	Jul.	amana Australia Pty Ltd is established in Australia by a joint investment with Adam Lionel Read to expand the foreign market.
	Oct.	YellowKorner Japan inc. (equity-method affiliate) is jointly established by amana inc., YK Luxembourg S.à r.l. and Culture Convenience Club Co., Ltd. intended to sell art photography to consumers in and outside of Japan.
2016	Dec.	amanaimages inc. (surviving company) merges with nature&science inc.
2017	Jan.	For the reinforcement of the group's industrial-wide sales structure and promotion streamlining of the creative section, amana inc. merges with amana west inc. studio amana inc. merges with parade inc. and changes its name to amana photography inc. RIZING inc. merges with amana cgi inc. and Hydroid inc. and changes its name to amana digital imaging inc.
2018	Jul.	Ca Design,inc. (equity-method affiliate) is jointly established by amanadesign inc. and Cyber Agent, Inc. aiming to efficiently structure mass-production model for high-quality creatives and deliverables.
2019	Jan.	A&A inc., changes its name to amanadesign studio inc.
	Feb.	amana acquires shares in XICO Inc. (equity-method affiliate), to expand the market. amana acquires shares in Premium Japan Inc. (equity-method affiliate), to expand the market.
	Dec.	amanadesign inc. merges with amanabi inc. and WESTVILLAGE CA CO., LTD.
2020	Jul.	amana inc. merges with amanadesign inc.
	Sep.	amana transfers its holdings of amana drone school (as of September 1, 2020) to optimize management resources within amana group.
	Oct.	amana acquired stocks from CCC Art Lab co., Ltd., thus incorporating YellowKorner Japan inc. as a consolidated subsidiary aiming for swift decision-making to expand art-photo-related business. (shares were transferred from Culture Convenience Club Co.,Ltd. to CCC Art Lab co., Ltd.)
	Nov.	amana inc. merges with amanadesign studio inc., amana digital imaging inc., amana salto inc., wonderactive inc. amana photography inc. merges with acube inc., hue inc.