

COFFEE
BREAK

We chat with Doug Smith, whose growing InSpec Group is the general contractor for Sanyo's solar factory rising in Salem.

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Coffee break

A chat with an interesting, influential or innovative voice in Oregon business

For years, Doug Smith has helped behind the scenes to steer big manufacturers into Oregon, many of them Japanese: Komatsu, Asahi Glass, Tokai Carbon, Tokyo Electron.

Now Smith and his business partner, Taro Toyoda, are cutting a higher profile as their expanding company



Smith

serves as general contractor for Sanyo's solar factory under construction in Salem. Smith sees further potential for renewable-energy technology in Oregon, noting that Komatsu's semiconductor plant in Hillsboro, which never opened, has begun a new life as a SolarWorld factory.

We caught up with Smith, 45, recently as he watched his daughter, Adelyn, 13, play soccer.

His job: InSpec Group partner and chief financial officer.

Company: InSpec is a privately held Portland company with about 60 employees, and offices in Atlanta and Tokyo. Founded in 2001, InSpec's name is an acronym for what it does — international strategic planning, engineering and construction.

Athletic interruption: "Oh, she scored!" Smith said. "I just saw it go in."

Back to business: InSpec cut its teeth expanding a soy-sauce tank farm for Yamasa Corp. in Salem and adding production furnaces at a com-

pany now called Epson Toyocom Corp. in Longview, Wash.

InSpec introduced Japan's Maruha Restaurant Systems to McCormick & Schmick's, helping the companies put together The Oregon Bar & Grill restaurant in Tokyo. Smith's company helped expand Toray Group plants in Washington state and Alabama that together make the carbon-fiber material used in Boeing's Dreamliner plane.

Japan connection: After graduating from Cornell University, Smith worked for the Japanese Consulate in New York. The Eugene native lived in Japan for two years on an exchange fellowship, meeting his wife, Ritsuko Fujiwara. Returning to Portland, Smith worked for Rubicon International and state government, recruiting international companies. These days InSpec also works with companies from the United States and elsewhere abroad.

Thoughts on Oregon's prospects: "It's a tribute to Oregon that despite the current financial situation, companies continue to move forward, investing here for the long term. The state is wise to identify the industries that have growth potential, and where Oregon has competitive advantage."

Recreation: Soccer, whether playing defense on InSpec's indoor team, or watching Adelyn and her 9-year-old brother, Kazuma, on the field.

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