



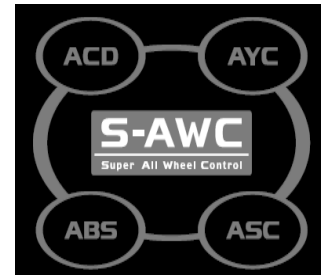
Interviews with development team: Takeo Matsui

(No. 1 Vehicle Testing Department)



Memories about the start of development

The new and bigger platform and body of the base model gave us the opportunity to make some major changes. The main topic of debate as we started on its development was what exactly we were going to try and achieve with Evolution X. After all, Evo IX, of which the handling development I was involved in as well, generally scored high marks for its performance; and there were those who thought it wouldn't be possible to make it go any faster. But this was a new generation model, and since it had its roots in the motorsport arena, we naturally had to achieve positive advances in speed and so on. But on top of that, we had to give it a new quality of road performance using new technologies such as the SST and S-AWC. Then we had to think about comfort and other factors; you know, we had to give the car outstanding speed, acceleration, and handling that was also easy and comfortable to enjoy. Of course, with previous Evolutions, while the primary emphasis was on making them go faster, we did also try to make them easier to drive, but now with the new base Lancer production model we really had to raise the bar, had to improve a whole range of parameters and create a car that we could be really proud of anywhere. That sums up our attitude as we set about its development.



Evolutionary change in "quality" of speed

In terms of speed, Evolution X is definitely faster than its predecessor, but we feel that there's also been a major change in the "quality" of its speed. Previous Evolutions have used a variety of 4WD traction control systems to help the driver drive his machine faster, but this is especially true of the latest model. Perhaps you might call it the ultimate in easy driving but its transmission, 4WD system, body, and suspension all make Evolution X really easy to drive very fast. It's the ultimate in easy driving. And it really is fast. I'm sure that's what people will feel after driving it. It's a car that allows you to drive very fast but also with reassuring confidence.

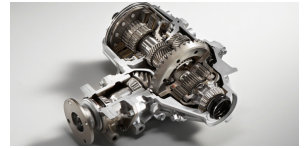
It's a car that handles just the way you want it to. Evolution X really is a car that lets you enjoy high-performance driving with reassuring confidence, largely because of its tremendous capabilities. I'm sure that's what our customers are going to enjoy.





Evolution in handling stability

We have made no mechanical changes to the ACD, AYC, or other components of the 4WD driveline, and although we have added brake force control, you'll be amazed at how much better the car feels to drive. It really has taken a meaningful evolutionary step forward. The biggest factor behind the improvement is our approach to system regulation, which we've changed by adding more sensors to the control system. Previous Evolutions may have left the driver feeling uncomfortable because the mechanical components would, for example, cause too great a degree of corrective turn so the car would feel very natural as it turned, but if it were to keep on turning then it would spin! But the incredible thing about the new system is that it takes you through a corner before you realize it, and stops just where you want it to. The system operates to actively enhance body yaw stability and that's one of the great things about it. The person behind the wheel finds the car is really easy to drive, feels that he's become a better driver, and that increases his confidence and allows him to enjoy driving his vehicle more.



Getting behind the wheel reveals evolution in road performance

It has been the goal of the Evolution series for each model to be faster than its predecessor, and that still remains true today. We realized that that was one goal we must never lose sight of. So while Evolution X brings definite improvements in comfort and other areas, I'm sure it will make customers aware of its motorsport lineage the moment when they drive it. And with that awareness, Evolution X's real appeal lies in the fact that it's the only car that delivers this new kind of feel-good performance.

