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## Lexus development center starts operations

Toyota has put another section of its Technical Center Shimoyama research and development center into full operation. In addition to a visitor area, the new facility is also home to the Lexus development department, located directly on the company's own race track. Strategically located in a mountainous region between the cities of Toyota City and Okazaki City, Toyota utilizes the natural terrain to create a challenging track layout with numerous elevation changes and curves.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the research and development center in Shimoyama took place in April 2018. One year later, the central area was completed, followed by the eastern section in October 2021, including a high-speed track and a special test track that simulates special road conditions around the world. The western section of the facility, which includes a visitor center and vehicle development, has now been completed and put into operation.

In future, employees from all areas, including planning and design, development and construction as well as prototyping and evaluation, will come together in one place to jointly develop new models for Lexus and the Gazoo Racing motorsport division. In addition to driving on the test track, digital models will also be used for vehicle development. Around 3000 people will work in the Technical Center. The visitor center is used for meetings and discussions with business partners and suppliers.

Around 60 percent of the total site area (approx. 650 hectares) consists of preserved trees and green spaces as well as newly created green areas. Extensive attention was paid to the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment. In March 2023, the Environmental Learning Center was completed in the eastern area. Here, Toyota works with the local population to protect the environment. In addition to experience events, this also includes "Satoyama". This Japanese term refers to regions in which nature has been carefully shaped by humans in the vicinity of villages, and which form an important part of the sustainable ecosystem. Together with experts, local authorities and members of the local communities, Toyota continues to work on environmental protection initiatives here. (aum)

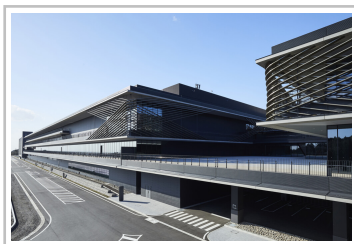
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## Images for article



Lexus Research and Development Center at Toyota's Shimoyama Technical Center.

Photo: Autoren-Union Mobilität/Toyota



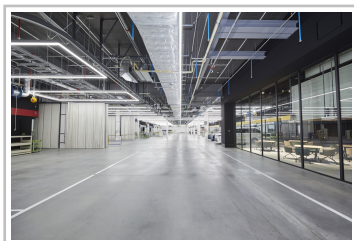
Lexus Research and Development Center at Toyota's Shimoyama Technical Center.

Photo: Autoren-Union Mobilität/Toyota



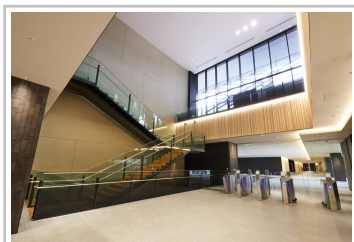
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Photo: Autoren-Union Mobilität/Toyota



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