F4N journey helped us power through the pandemic
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When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, ferry manufacturer Kitasato changed its way of working, safeguarding its business and supply chain, and enabling express delivery. Company CEO Akira Kitasato explains how the company’s investment in faculty member helped them through a challenging year.

As the coronavirus epidemic of 2020 accelerated, many companies found themselves unable to operate conventional manufacturing processes. Kitasato was no exception.

"We had to adapt and change the way we were working," says Akira Kitasato. "We had to find new ways to communicate and collaborate with our suppliers and customers." The company’s response was to invest in F4N (Ferry 4 New), a digital platform that connects manufacturers and suppliers.

"F4N allowed us to connect with our suppliers and customers in real time," says Kitasato. "We were able to quickly resolve any issues and ensure our supply chain remained stable." The platform also allowed the company to track its orders and deliveries, giving it greater control over its inventory.

In addition to F4N, Kitasato also invested in automated production processes, enabling it to maintain a consistent output of high-quality products. The company also implemented rigorous cleaning protocols to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

"We took all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of our employees," says Kitasato. "We also implemented telework and remote working policies to reduce the number of people in the office at any one time." The company’s efforts were recognized with a number of awards, including the Japan Productivity Award.

"We are proud of what we achieved," says Kitasato. "We are committed to continuing our efforts to ensure the safety and health of our employees and customers, and to driving innovation in the industry."