

History of Publication of KONA Powder and Particle Journal: From Japanese Innovation to Global Recognition —A 43-Year Journey (1983–2026)

After 43 years of pioneering publication, the KONA Powder and Particle Journal will conclude with Issue No. 43 in 2026. Launched in 1983 as “KONA Powder Science and Technology in Japan”, it became the first English-language powder technology journal published in Japan, bridging Japanese innovation with global research communities. Throughout its remarkable journey, KONA evolved from a Japan-focused publication to an internationally recognized Diamond Open Access journal, adapting to digital transformation while maintaining its core mission of advancing powder and particle science. This retrospective chronicles the major milestones, innovations, and collaborative efforts that established KONA’s distinguished legacy in scientific publishing.

1. Background and purpose of the publication

The KONA Powder and Particle Journal was inaugurated in 1983 and has been published annually for over four decades. After careful consideration of various factors, it has been decided that the Journal will conclude with its final issue, No. 43 (2026). This article provides a concise overview of the Journal’s inception, its mission, and the significant milestones achieved throughout its history. For a detailed chronology of events, please refer to [Table 1](#).

Powder technology, compared to other foundational academic disciplines, has a relatively recent history. The Society of Powder Technology, Japan, was established in 1956. At that time, the field was nascent, and aside from the UK-based journal “Powder Technology” launched in 1967, Japan lacked international journals dedicated to this domain.

In 1958, the Hosokawa Micromeritics Laboratory was founded to commemorate the awarding of the Medal with Purple Ribbon to Mr. Eiichi Hosokawa, the founder of Hosokawa Micron Corporation (HMC), for his pioneering contributions to ultra-fine grinding mill technology. This laboratory not only advanced research and development but also fostered educational initiatives in collaboration with academic experts. In 1968, Mr. Masuo Hosokawa, the second president of HMC, established the Council of Powder Technology, which began organizing annual symposia in Osaka and Tokyo. Driven by the aspiration to disseminate Japanese research globally, the journal “KONA Powder Science and Technology in Japan” was launched in 1983 as Japan’s first English-language technical journal in powder technology (see [Fig. 1](#)). It was planned and edited by the Council of Powder Technology, sponsored by Hosokawa Micron, and supported by the Hosokawa Powder Technology Research Institute (formerly Hosokawa Micromeritics Laboratory).

2. Internationalization of the editorial board

As powder technology gained international recognition, the first World Congress on Powder Technology was held in



Fig. 1 Covers of KONA Journal, including the inaugural issue (No. 1), name change issues (Nos. 8 and 26), and selected recent volumes.

Table 1 Major milestones in the history of the KONA journal.

Year	Issue No.	Major events related to the KONA journal	Remarks / Details
<i>Before the establishment of the Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation in 1991</i>			
1983	1	Launch of the KONA journal	The English journal “ <i>KONA Powder Science and Technology in Japan</i> ” was launched with the aim of disseminating the current state of powder technology in Japan to the world. The Council of Powder Technology was in charge of editing and the secretariat was located in the Hosokawa Micromeritics Laboratory.
1990	8	Start of the new worldwide three-block editorial board system	The new editorial boards were established in three blocks of Asia/Oceania, America, and Europe/Africa. The KONA journal contained not only translated papers from Japan but also papers submitted from around the world and changed its name to “ <i>KONA Powder and Particle</i> ”.
<i>After the establishment of the Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation</i>			
1992	10	Start of publishing support for the KONA journal by the Hosokawa Foundation	As part of the academic supporting business, the Hosokawa Foundation started to support the publication of the KONA journal.
1993	11	Start of insertion of authors’ face photos	It was started to add the authors’ photographs to the short biographies to convey their individuality and familiarity, which could not be transferred by just reading the papers.
1995	13	Start of publishing the KONA journal by the Foundation as its own project	The publication of KONA journal was taken over from the Council of Powder Technology and carried out as an independent project of the Hosokawa Foundation.
2003	21	Publication of the electronic version of the Journal	The electronic version of the KONA journal, which had been previously opened only in printed form, was published and posted on the Foundation’s website in addition to the printed one.
2008	26	Change of journal title	The Journal’s name was changed to “ <i>KONA Powder and Particle Journal</i> ”.
2009	27	Registration on Web of Science and Scopus	The publication of translated articles in KONA journal was stopped and only original articles were published. It was indexed in Web of Science providing with the impact factor and also indexed in Scopus. Color printing started in partial pages.
2011	29	Posting of all KONA journal articles on the homepage	All the articles from the first to the latest issues of the KONA journal were posted on the Foundation’s homepage.
2012	—	Presentation of KONA Distinguished Service Award	Distinguished Service Award was established for contributions as KONA journal editorial committee members, and the first award was given to four individuals.
2013	30	Registration on J-STAGE	In addition to the famous overseas online databases, such as Scopus, Web of Science, and BOSCO, the KONA journal was registered on J-STAGE, one of the largest comprehensive electronic journal sites in Japan, from the latest issue No. 30 (2013) using the international standard XML. It started publishing full-text information completely free of charge.
2014	31	Advance publication of the accepted papers on J-STAGE	It was started to publish the full-text PDF information of accepted papers in KONA journal for free on J-STAGE before printing.
		Publication of all back numbers of the Journal on J-STAGE completed	Registration of free publication on J-STAGE of full-text PDF information from all back issues of KONA journal No. 1 (1983)–No. 29 (2011) was completed.
2016	33	Full introduction of CC BY license as an open access (OA) journal	The Foundation fully introduced the CC BY license in response to the “Open Access Statement” of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the “Open Access Policy” of J-STAGE and to promote the use of KONA journal articles.
2017	34	Start of operation of EM (Editorial Manager®) system for editing the KONA journal	Full-scale operation of the J-STAGE online submission/review system with international standard EM (Editorial Manager®) was started to use for editing the KONA journal.
		Start of Advance Publication on J-STAGE of all accepted papers in the KONA journal	Full-text PDF information for all accepted papers of the KONA journal was started to be released completely free of charge to J-STAGE at least 3 months earlier than printing publication.
2019	36	Official registration of the KONA journal in DOAJ	The KONA journal was officially included in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), a site search service that organizes trusted open access journals by category, and all articles (1,003) were registered and published.
2021	38	Registration of the KONA journal as “Diamond Open Access Journal”	The KONA journal was opened in “The OA Diamond Journals Study” published by Science Europe and cOAlition S.
		Start of operation of J-STAGE Data	The KONA journal was registered on J-STAGE Data (a repository for promoting the sharing and utilization of research data provided by JST) and started its official operation.
2023	40	Increase in the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) up to 4.1	KONA journal’s 2022 Journal Impact Factor (JIF) improved to a record high of 4.1 (3.919 last year).
		Publication of all the papers in the printed and electronic versions in full color	All editing parts, including headers, headings, abstracts and representative figures, were redesigned and published in full color and electronically.
2024	41	Decision to cease the publication of the KONA journal	It was decided at the Board of Directors’ meeting to cease the publication of the KONA journal with the issue of No. 43 (2026).
2026	43	Final publication of the KONA journal	The KONA journal ceased publication with Issue No. 43. All articles published in the Journal remain available on J-STAGE. < https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/kona >

Table 2 Succession of Editors-in-Chief and evolution of article types.

Issue No.	Year	Editor-in-Chief	Number of papers				Total pages	Total citations*
			Original research papers	Translated research papers	Review papers	Total		
1	1983	Prof.Emeritus Yoshioka, Naoya	8	0	3	11	101	23
2	1984	Prof.Emeritus Yoshioka, Naoya	7	2	1	10	91	29
3	1985	Prof.Emeritus Yoshioka, Naoya	2	5	3	10	89	89
4	1986	Prof.Emeritus Yoshioka, Naoya	0	10	2	12	119	19
5	1987	Prof.Emeritus Yoshioka, Naoya	0	6	4	10	89	71
6	1988	Prof.Emeritus Yoshioka, Naoya	1	8	2	11	116	17
7	1989	Prof.Emeritus Jimbo, Genji	1	12	2	15	130	43
8	1990	Prof.Emeritus Jimbo, Genji	8	9	2	19	166	102
9	1991	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	5	9	8	22	242	97
10	1992	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	6	7	6	19	202	51
11	1993	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	6	7	8	21	240	173
12	1994	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	8	8	5	21	192	91
13	1995	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	9	8	5	22	240	216
14	1996	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	4	5	11	20	200	178
15	1997	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	8	7	8	23	254	252
16	1998	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	9	4	8	21	256	376
17	1999	Prof.Emeritus Miyanami, Kei	9	6	9	24	250	114
18	2000	Prof.Emeritus Kousaka, Yasuo	15	7	3	25	248	194
19	2001	Prof.Emeritus Kousaka, Yasuo	9	7	7	23	283	156
20	2002	Prof.Emeritus Kousaka, Yasuo	12	6	5	23	276	389
21	2003	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	13	6	2	21	246	253
22	2004	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	8	5	3	16	211	364
23	2005	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	8	4	6	18	224	322
24	2006	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	9	5	6	20	252	201
25	2007	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	9	6	7	22	303	405
26	2008	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	5	3	11	19	282	382
27	2009	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	8	—	10	18	248	421
28	2010	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	7	—	9	16	242	420
29	2011	Prof.Emeritus Tsuji, Yutaka	16	—	6	22	284	392
30	2013	Prof.Emeritus Hidaka, Jusuke	9	—	13	22	288	364
31	2014	Prof.Emeritus Hidaka, Jusuke	11	—	8	19	274	331
32	2015	Prof.Emeritus Hidaka, Jusuke	14	—	8	22	283	561
33	2016	Prof.Emeritus Hidaka, Jusuke	14	—	11	25	357	538
34	2017	Prof.Emeritus Hidaka, Jusuke	11	—	11	22	293	715
35	2018	Prof.Emeritus Okuyama, Kikuo	10	—	10	20	287	382
36	2019	Prof.Emeritus Okuyama, Kikuo	6	—	12	18	297	274
37	2020	Prof.Emeritus Okuyama, Kikuo	9	—	10	19	271	549
38	2021	Prof.Emeritus Okuyama, Kikuo	6	—	12	18	288	192
39	2022	Prof.Emeritus Okuyama, Kikuo	7	—	11	18	277	157
40	2023	Prof.Emeritus Naito, Makio	4	—	12	16	281	138
41	2024	Prof.Emeritus Naito, Makio	5	—	12	17	286	64
42	2025	Prof.Emeritus Naito, Makio	5	—	13	18	289	20
43	2026	Prof.Emeritus Naito, Makio	7	—	12	19	330	—
Total			328	162	317	807	10,177	10,125

*Article Citation is accumulated from the publication date through July 11, 2025, provided by J-STAGE®, <https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp> (retrieved July 29, 2025).

Nuremberg, Germany in 1986, facilitating global collaboration among researchers. Following this, there was a growing demand for KONA to include contributions from international authors. Simultaneously, the Society of Powder Technology, Japan, was preparing to launch the English-language journal “Advanced Powder Technology”. These developments underscored the need for KONA’s editorial internationalization.

In 1990, KONA transitioned from a single Japanese editorial office to a tri-regional editorial board structure encompassing Asia, the United States, and Europe. Each region appointed a chairman and several editors, with the Asian board led by an Editor-in-Chief overseeing the publication. Printed copies were distributed free of charge to universities, companies, and libraries worldwide. The Journal’s name was updated to “KONA Powder and Particle”, removing the phrase ‘in Japan’.

Table 2 presents the succession of Editors-in-Chief and the evolution of article types.

That same year, the second World Congress on Powder Technology was held in Kyoto, Japan, attracting approximately 700 participants globally. During this event, the inaugural KONA Award was presented to Prof. Campbell of the University of Southern California for his outstanding contributions. Initially established by Hosokawa Micron, the award became a formal initiative of the Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation established in 1991.

By 2024, 39 researchers worldwide had received this honor, with award details published in the Journal. In 1995, the Hosokawa Foundation assumed responsibility for KONA’s publication, supported by Hosokawa Micron.

3. Digitization and evolution of publishing methods

In the 1980s, manuscript submissions and peer reviews were conducted via postal mail due to limited digital infrastructure. With technological advancements, KONA embraced electronic publishing in 2003, making its content freely accessible online via the Hosokawa Foundation’s website.

In 2009, KONA was indexed in *Web of Science* (formerly Thomson Reuters, now Clarivate) and received its first Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of 0.268. This metric, which reflects citation frequency, steadily increased and reached 4.1 by 2022. Around the same time, the Journal was also indexed in *Scopus*, with coverage extended retroactively to its inaugural issue. Here, we present a comparison of six journals in the fields of powder technology and chemical engineering—each indexed in Web of Science—based on their **Cites per Document (4 years)**, which indicates the average number of citations per article published over the past four years, provided by *Scimago Journal & Country Rank*, based on Scopus® data (see **Fig. 2**).

KONA joined J-STAGE in 2013, enabling online access and keyword searches. This platform accelerated the access to the KONA journal (see **Fig. 3**) and also provided useful insights into reader demographics. In 2014, KONA adopted J-STAGE’s Advance Publication system, allowing timely online release of articles prior to print.

In 2017, with JST support, KONA implemented the Editorial Manager® system for streamlined online submission and peer review. This led to increased manuscript submissions and enhanced review efficiency through an international editorial network keeping a certain ratio of the invited review to the original research papers (see **Fig. 4**).

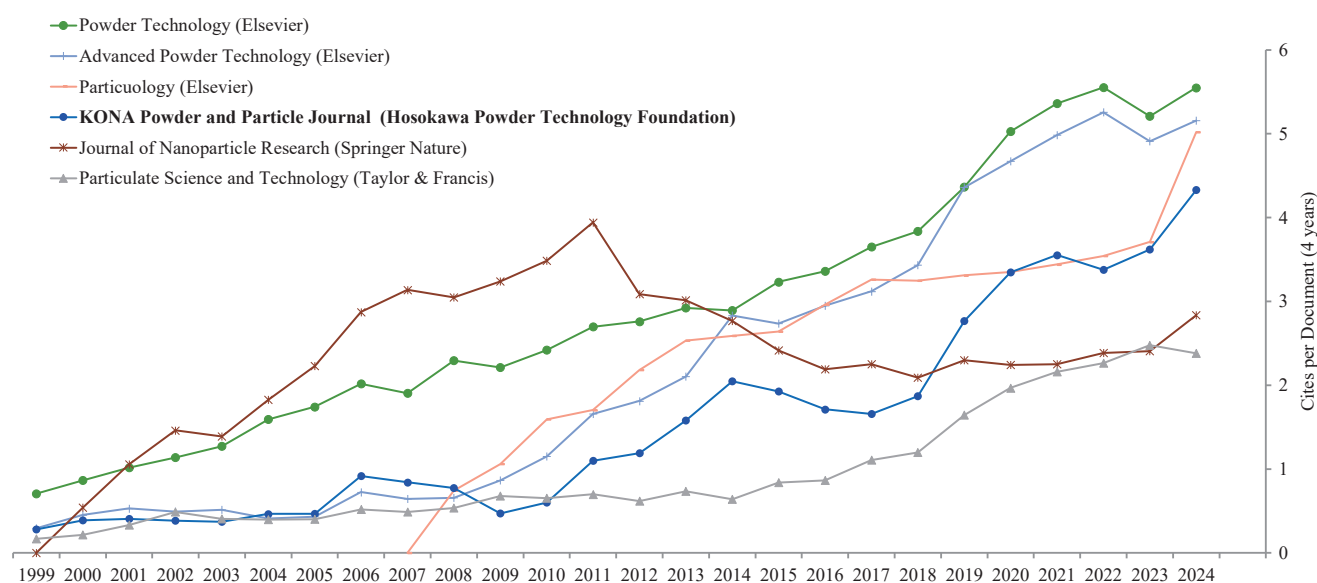


Fig. 2 Annual trends in Cites per Document (4 years). Data adapted from Scimago Journal & Country Rank, based on Scopus® data, <https://www.scimagojr.com> (retrieved August 1, 2025).

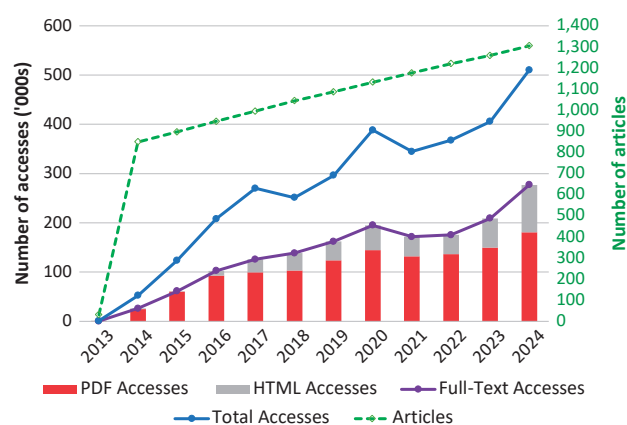


Fig. 3 Trends in J-STAGE access and cumulative number of published papers. Data adapted from J-STAGE®, <https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp> (accessed between 2013 and 2025).

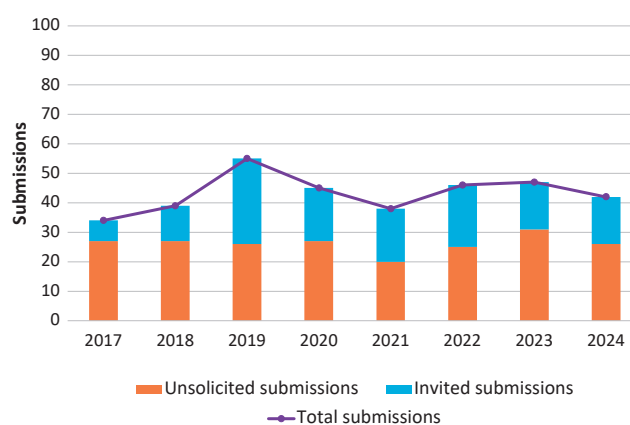


Fig. 4 Annual invited and unsolicited submissions via the Editorial Manager® system. Data adapted from Editorial Manager®, <https://www.editorialmanager.com> (accessed between 2017 and 2025).

4. Expansion of Open Access

Originally designed for unrestricted access, KONA formally adopted the CC BY license in 2016, affirming its Open Access status. In 2019, it was designated as a Diamond Open Access journal, requiring no fees from either authors or readers, including Article Processing Charges (APCs).

To align with global open science trends, KONA was selected by JST as one of the top 10 domestic journals on J-STAGE. Following extensive preparation, the KONA Data site was launched in March 2021, with official operations commencing in July. By 2024, 25 videos and datasets had been published.

J-STAGE Data enables journals to publish supplementary materials with DOIs under Open Access terms. This enhances citation potential for both data and associated articles.

With the advancement and spread of electronic communication technology, digital databases of electronic journals are being created one after another around the world. KONA is now indexed in major global databases—roughly in chronological order of inclusion—including Web of Science, Scopus, Compendex, JDream III, EBSCO, J-Gate, and Inspec, as well as Open Access platforms such as J-STAGE, DOAJ, Google Scholar, Dimensions, and ScienceON.

These digital integrations facilitate journal evaluation based on citation metrics, although the target data and calculation methods differ between the evaluation indicators. In addition to its JIF, KONA's CiteScore rose to 8.4 in 2023, up from 6.8 the previous year.

5. Additional features

The term 'KONA' means 'powder' in Japanese, initially suggesting a focus solely on powders. However, as interest in particles grew, the title was deemed insufficient and modified. Advancements in printing allowed partial color pages in 2009, and by 2023, all content including headers, headings, abstracts, and representative figures (including graphical abstract) was published in full color following continuous design improvements.

In 1993, KONA began including author photographs to personalize the research community. Although this practice has declined in the majority of scientific journals due to privacy concerns, including an author's portrait in a research article could convey aspects of the researcher's individuality and character that are not easily communicated through text alone.

6. Summary

Since its inception, the KONA Powder and Particle Journal has aimed to disseminate Japanese research and promote powder technology globally. Over 40 years, it has evolved in response to digitalization and publishing innovations, supported by authors, reviewers, publishers, and readers. The Journal has covered a broad spectrum of topics, from fundamental research to cutting-edge nanotechnology and AI applications. As powder and particle technology gains prominence across academic and industrial domains and many related academic, technical, and commercial journals are being published now, the KONA journal is considered to have fulfilled its original mission. With the conclusion of its publication, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to its success.