



J-StarX Global Growth for Climate Tech in Europe

Application Guideline:

October 14 (Tue), 2025, **11:59AM** (JST)





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Objective

Empowering Japanese Climate Tech startups to grow and expand into Europe by providing tailored mentoring, investor and partner connections, and access to major international events

1

Identify potential **partners, investors and customers** in Europe.

2

Build networks with European investors, corporates, and research institutions.

3

Participate in leading European climate tech events to maximize visibility and traction.

Destination

Major European countries, mainly the Netherlands

Target Participants & Support Structure

Bootcamp in Tokyo, online mentoring, travel to Europe (1-2 weeks)

Sectors

Broad **climate tech domains**, including (but not limited to):

- Renewable energy & storage
- Sustainable mobility & logistics
- Circular economy & resource efficiency
- Built environment & smart cities
- Carbon management and related technologies

Stage

Seed - Later Stage, TRL5 - 9



1 Startup Selection



Application Review & Interview (if necessary)

Five startups will be selected based on growth and impact potential, market fit, and readiness for European expansion

2 Kick-Off Program



Introductory Sessions in Tokyo (November 6-7)

Pitch, feedback, lectures, and speed dating with mentors

3 Individualized Mentoring



1on1 Mentoring

Up to 66.5 hours of support (50h with a master mentor, 15h with subject experts, and a personalized kick-off session)

4 Travel & Business Development



Travel to Europe & Business Development

Participation in leading climate tech and startup conferences based on startup's request (e.g., Slush, Cleantech Forum), investor meetings, and business development opportunities

Note: Program details are subject to change.

1

Selection

Selection of five high-potential Japanese climate tech startups.

Capacity

Five companies to be selected

Date

October 2025

Contents

Screening based on growth and impact potential, market fit, and readiness for European expansion

Matching with suitable Master Mentors from Climate KIC's network

2

Kick-Off Program

Kick-off program activities in Tokyo. Through Kick-Off Program and 1on1 meetings with mentors, participants will deepen their understanding of the course and build mutual understanding with the accelerator.

Capacity

Five companies

Date

November 6 (Thu) – 7 (Fri) * in Tokyo

Contents

Kick-off/Introduction

Program Orientation

Pitch and feedback

Expert lectures on European expansion and business development

1on1 Meetings with Mentors/ Experts

Initial strategic alignment with JETRO & Climate KIC teams

Office Hours

Cohort Networking Dinner

Tailored support to refine their business models, customer discovery, business development, GTM strategies, pitches, and solve individual challenges.

Capacity

Five companies

Date

November 2025 – March 2026 (continuous) *Online

Contents**One-on-one Mentoring**

- Up to 66.5 hours of mentoring (50h master mentor, 15h subject experts, 1.5h kick-off session)
*The time for “One-on-One Mentoring” also includes accompanying participants to the conference.
- Guidance on market entry, fundraising, and partner engagement
- Access to Climate KIC’s mentor pool (130+ experts)

4

Travel to Europe & Business Development

Participation in major European climate tech and startup events for visibility and connections.

Capacity

Five companies

Date

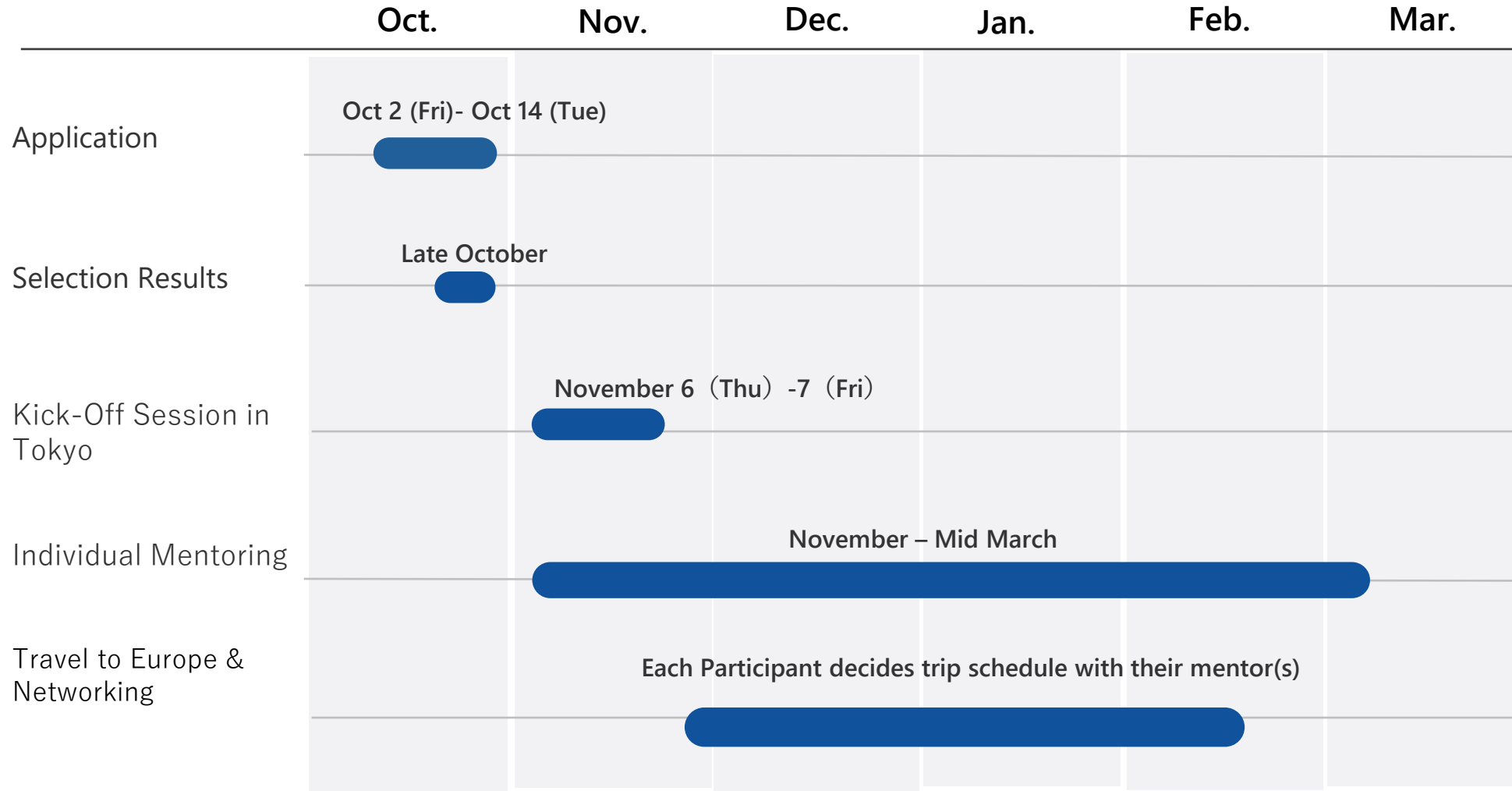
November 2025 – February 2026 (based on the participants' request)

Contents

Attendance at events (e.g., Climate Technology Show in London, Slush in Helsinki, Cleantech Forum in Barcelona, European Climate Summit in Lisbon, Ecosummit in Berlin)

10–20 curated business meetings with investors, corporates, and ecosystem partners

Pitch deck refinement and on-site networking support





Strong collaboration with VC,
corporate partnerships



500+ climate-focused investors



130+ recommended climate tech mentors



150+ universities, research institutes, and
entrepreneurship organizations

Climate KIC

<https://www.climate-kic.org/>

Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community. Established over 15 years ago, it orchestrates solutions and partnerships to drive systemic change at pace and scale. By connecting startups with investors, partners, and policymakers, Climate KIC plays a central role in building Europe's climate tech ecosystem and accelerating market adoption of transformative solutions.

Proven Experience: Over 15 years of programs covering ideation (Climathons), incubation (Climate Launchpad), and acceleration (ClimAccelerators), supported by multiple investment portfolios and funds.

Impact:

- 3,000+ climate-positive startups incubated
- €12.7+ billion combined enterprise value of alumni
- €5.8 billion in climate funding leveraged
- 15,000 jobs created, 66,000 participants in education activities since 2010



Ben Honan
Investment Lead

Contributes extensive investor expertise & networks



Guus Visman
Program Manager

Specialist in Climate Entrepreneurship & Ventures. Connects startups with investors and place-based ecosystem partners



Christian Daube
Strategic Programs Builder

Expertise in entrepreneurship and value proposition building



Rebecca Gironi
Program Support

Project Assistant in Climate Entrepreneurship at Climate KIC. Supports coordination and delivery of programs, helping startups access mentoring, funding, and markets

**Ron Bloemers**

*Founder & Managing partner
@ Start-U-up*

Ron has over 20 years of experience in the global cleantech industry and is the founder of Start-U-up, a boutique cleantech accelerator. He is passionate about mentoring startups and sharing his expertise to drive impactful climate solutions through platforms like ClimateLaunchpad.

**Maria Ida Palmieri**

*Growth mentor for
regenerative startups*

Maria is the Director of Growth & Operations at a venture studio and is an experienced growth mentor for regenerative entrepreneurs. With an extensive network in Europe, she has helped multiple entrepreneurs successfully grow and scale their businesses in Europe.

**Israel Griol Barres, PhD**

*Startup ecosystem manager &
experienced mentor*

Israel is the start-up ecosystem manager of the Universitat Politècnica de València in Spain and an experienced lecturer, trainer and mentor. His specialities are innovation, business models, business strategy and entrepreneurship. Israel is a Telecommunication and Electronics Engineer.

Requirements

Applicants must meet all the following:

1. Japan-based startup
2. Planning expansion into Europe
3. Business-level English proficiency
4. Decision-maker on overseas expansion (e.g., executive or lead)

Notes

- Past participants of J-StarX may apply. If you participate other programs offered by JETRO, please clarify in the application
- Data may be shared with METI, and partner accelerators

Selection Criteria

Applications reviewed by C-KIC and JETRO based on submitted materials. Finalists may be invited for interviews. No status inquiries accepted.

- Team expertise, network, and language skills
- Product/service growth potential and EU market fit
- Impact
- Execution capability
- Alignment between course content and business goals

Costs

◆ Covered by JETRO

- Program fee

◆ Covered by participating startup:

- Europe program travel and accommodation
- Domestic travel/lodging for Bootcamp
- Europe entry costs (ETIAS/insurance etc.)
- Program-related communication fees
- All other non-JETRO-covered expenses

Application Form

Deadline:
October 14(Tue) 11:59AM(JST)

- Applications will be reviewed, and acceptance or rejection notifications will be sent.
- Online interviews may be conducted in addition to document screening.
- We cannot respond to inquiries about screening results.
- Pitch Deck materials (in English) must include those listed below.
- Please have a copy of your Letter of Commitment and passport photo ready, as these are required. Details will be sent to those selected for the program.

◆ English Pitch Deck (10 slides max, PDF/PPT) including:

✓ Product/Service (Problem + solution)

✓ Business model, market size, competitive advantage

✓ Past achievements and future plans

✓ Team background (include founders' LinkedIn profiles)

* Data may be shared with METI, and partner accelerator for selection and program operation

1. As a general rule, support for participation expenses in this program is limited to TWO person per company
2. If necessary, a mentor/JETRO staff may accompany you to meetings with local negotiators. In addition, we ask for your cooperation in grasping the results and checking the progress after returning to Japan.
3. Please note that after passing the selection process for this program, JETRO may publicly announce about the project and the results and outcomes.
(The contents of the publication will be confirmed in advance.)
4. You must not be participating in a travel program of any other J-StarX program's advanced course.
* Acceptance of overlapping applications will be determined by JETRO.

Disclaimer

Please read the [disclaimer](#) carefully before applying.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations will not be accepted for any reason after submission of Letter of Commitment.

CONTACT

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