

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

March 2022

II-VI Expands Semiconductor Manufacturing in PA & Abroad

II-VI Incorporated (pronounced “Two Six Incorporated”), a global leader in engineered materials, semiconductors and optical systems, has announced large-scale factory expansions in Pennsylvania and Sweden amid the ongoing global chip shortage. This is part of the II-VI’s \$1 billion investment in silicon carbide (SiC) semiconductors, which they say enables more efficient and compact power electronics subsystems than those based on silicon.

II-VI, which is headquartered in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh, was founded in 1971 and currently has 73 locations consisting of R & D, manufacturing, sales, service and distribution facilities worldwide, including in Japan. They develop and manufacture innovative products for a variety of applications such as communications, industrial, aerospace and defense, semiconductor capital equipment, life sciences, consumer electronics, and automotive markets. Their mission is to enable the world to be safer, healthier, closer, and more efficient. In FY 2021, their 50th year in business, II-VI reported \$3.1 billion in revenue.



II-VI presented next-generation lithium metal batteries.

The products created by II-VI are expected to be in increased demand in coming years as they are used in mobile devices, autonomous and electric vehicles, communication networks, and more. “Our customers are accelerating their plans to intersect the anticipated tidal wave of demand for SiC power electronics in electric vehicles that we expect will come right behind the current adoption cycle in industrial, renewable energy, datacenters, and more,” said Sohail Khan, Executive Vice President, New Ventures & Wide-Bandgap Electronics Technologies. In 2020, Fujitsu Network Communications, Inc., the Japanese information and communication technology company, honored II-VI with a Supply Chain Excellence Award. You can learn more about II-VI at <https://ii-vi.com/>.

CleanTech Startups Featured in J-Bridge Event

Pittsburgh area CleanTech startup companies are currently being featured in a new J-Bridge/JETRO New York webinar titled "US Clean Tech Series - Pittsburgh Edition," which is available to view through April 1, 2022 by going to <https://www.jetro.go.jp/events/nya/3771093aea807088.html>. These companies have been selected to participate due to the environmentally sustainable nature of their innovations, as well as their interest in exploring partnerships and collaborations with Japanese companies. Participating companies include:

[CleanRobotics](#) is a company dedicated to making an impact in the waste industry. We believe that sorting waste at the point of disposal is the most effective and efficient way for material recovery. We invented TrashBot to automate the process from the start. TrashBot is a system that uses AI and computer vision to detect the waste as you throw it away. It robotically sorts the waste in unit with 300% more accuracy than the public.

[HiberSense](#) provides a smart solution that enables precise climate control for each room, which was impossible with central air conditioning. The central hub controls adjustable adapters for AC vents and collects sensor data of temperature, humidity, brightness, and human presence. People in each room can set their preferences in their app, and the hub controls the climate automatically. HiberSense has received investment from [Monozukuri Ventures](#), which maintains offices in Kyoto and New York City.

[Kloopify](#) enables organizations to achieve their environmental, social, and governance goals by tackling the climate and social crisis at the center of the problem: sustainable procurement. Their SaaS platform connects organizations with suppliers in real-time and gives purchasers immediate insights into the social and environmental impact of each purchase decision. Kloopify grades and assess each product and service by the impact they make on greenhouse gas and carbon emissions.

J-BRIDGE **JETRO New York**

米国クリーンテックシリーズ - ピッツバーグ編 -

オンデマンド配信 (期間限定)
2022年3月4日 (金) 9:00AM - 2022年4月1日 (金) 5:00PM (JST)

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Three Pittsburgh CleanTech startups recorded pitches for the J-Bridge webinar.

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Fast Company names Seegrid to “Most Innovative Robotics Companies” list
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/news/2022/01/27/pitt-researchers-quantum-computer-qubits-system.html>)
- Pittsburgh is a laboratory for sustainable innovation
(<https://pittsburghregion.org/2022/02/09/making-pittsburgh-a-laboratory-for-sustainable-innovation/>)
- AI & Robotics Venture Fair kicks off Cascadia Connect automation & AI conference
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/fundings/2022/03/04/iw-cmu-robotics-vc-fair.html>)
- Mindstate Design Labs exits stealth with \$11.5 million for psychedelic-inspired therapeutics
(<https://www.fastcompany.com/90720911/mindstate-psychedelics>)
- Agot AI’s \$17 million in funding help deliver AI improvements to restaurants
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/fundings/2022/02/11/agot-ai-adds-2-million-to-seed-round.html>)



About Ryan

Ryan O'Shea is a JETRO Investment Advisor focused on connecting Japanese companies to opportunities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the host of Future Grind, a podcast that explores the ethics and impact of emerging science and technology, and also works with the Pittsburgh Robotics Network. In 2017, Ryan co-founded an artificial intelligence startup that was named a Top 10 team in the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE. Ryan has represented NASA and CalTech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Solar System Ambassador and serves both as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and an ambassador for Pittsburgh AI. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh & serves on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations.