

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

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Mitsubishi Electric Strengthens U.S. Operations with Major Pittsburgh Investment

Mitsubishi Electric Corporation [has announced](#) an \$86 million investment in its Pittsburgh-based subsidiary, Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc., to support U.S. renewable energy goals and the rising demand for modern grid infrastructure. This is part of a broader \$110 million global initiative to bolster the company's energy system production capabilities across Japan and the U.S.

Central to the plan is the construction of a 160,000-square-foot Advanced Switchgear Factory in Western Pennsylvania, the company's first new U.S. manufacturing facility in over a decade. Initially producing both vacuum and gas circuit breakers, the factory will shift focus to vacuum circuit breakers, aligning with the needs of U.S. electric utilities and decarbonization efforts. Once fully operational, the facility will employ more than 200 workers.

Tricia Breeger, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, emphasized the project's significance, stating, "By investing in this state-of-the-art switchgear factory, we will better serve our customers, and we will significantly advance the production of critical components that strengthen both distribution and transmission grids while driving new technologies forward in support of the nation's decarbonization initiatives."



The company is also expanding its Warrendale, PA facilities and introducing advanced automation technologies to improve efficiency. Support from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, including \$6.75 million in grants, further underscores the state's commitment to attracting transformative projects.

This investment solidifies Pittsburgh's position as a hub for energy innovation, offering Japanese and global partners a unique opportunity to collaborate in shaping the future of sustainable power.

AI, Robotics, and Automation: Pittsburgh's Continued Dominance



In a [December 2024 article](#), Jonathan Kersting of the Pittsburgh Technology Council outlines Pittsburgh's key sectors poised for growth in 2025: artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and automation. These industries are driving Pittsburgh's continued leadership as a global innovation hub.

Kersting emphasizes how Pittsburgh's institutions, including Carnegie Mellon University, are leading the charge in AI research and development. The city's AI capabilities span industries like healthcare, where analytics and machine learning are revolutionizing outcomes, and autonomous systems, a field Pittsburgh continues to dominate. Pittsburgh's prowess in AI was further demonstrated by NVIDIA's recent announcement that they would be launching their inaugural AI Tech Community in the city.

Robotics also continues to take center stage, with Pittsburgh leveraging its industrial history and partnerships such as the Defense Robotics Coalition. As geopolitical demand for advanced defense technologies grows, Kersting highlights Pittsburgh's ability to innovate in this critical area.

Automation ties these advancements together, with the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute playing a pivotal role in applying robotics to manufacturing. As noted in the article, these efforts are expected to increase productivity and safety across industries.

Japanese investors and businesses can look to Pittsburgh for partnerships in these thriving sectors, making 2025 a year of opportunity for global collaboration. As Kersting mentions, "As 2025 beckons, Pittsburgh tech radiates with an allure that is hard to ignore. The confluence of AI, defense robotics and automation present a stage ripe for investment, innovation and growth. We can all look forward to a vibrant Pittsburgh, where grit meets tech to solve the world's toughest challenges."

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Why Kubota Bought Bloomfield Robotics
(<https://www.futureofagriculture.com/episode/why-kubota-bought-bloomfield-robotics-with-mark-desantis>)
- Carta Healthcare to Power Oncology Research with Acquisition of Realyze Intelligence, a UPMC Enterprises Company
(<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/carta-healthcare-to-power-oncology-research-and-clinical-trials-with-acquisition-of-realyze-intelligence-a-upmc-enterprises-company-302325384.html>)
- Pitt Center Will Use AI to Accelerate Women's Health Research Globally
(<https://www.pitt.edu/pittwire/features-articles/2024/12/09/vihar-womens-health-ai-research>)
- Pittsburgh AI Firm Attracts \$300 Million Investment (<https://blueskypit.com/pittsburgh-ai-firm-attracts-300-million-investment/>)
- Pittsburgh's innovation ecosystem is surfing a wave of momentum
(<https://technical.ly/civic-news/pittsburgh-tech-innovation-ecosystem/>)



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.