Accelerator program for Central Japan Startup Ecosystem

1.Background

Based on the central government's Startup Ecosystem Strategy, a selection committee consisting of the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and other ministries selected core cities (July 2020). Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya City and Hamamatsu City were selected as "Central Japan Startup Ecosystem" (hereinafter referred to as Central Japan) as one of the four global hub cities. Gifu, Mie, and Shizuoka were also added in 2025.

The STATION Ai, the largest incubation facility in Japan opened in 2024. JETRO Nagoya aims to accelerate the growth of the startup ecosystem in Central Japan by fostering a global business mindset among local startups. This is achieved by providing opportunities to learn from regions in the US where the latest innovations occur, and similar industries exist. The program helps startups discover new market opportunities, prepare for business expansion in the US, identify potential customers, and strengthen open innovation with overseas companies, mainly in the US.

2.Deliverable

US Company Visit Program

1. Four (4) Preparatory virtual workshop sessions and 1:1 coaching session comprised of topics.

Workshop sessions

- U.S. go-to-market strategy
- Storytelling
- Founder readiness
- 1:1 coaching session

Before in-person program in San Francisco, each startup must have 1 on 1 mentoring session at least two times to make the purpose of this program clear.

Audit and support for pitch decks, English websites, and communications

- 2. In-person assistance: Company Visits and Networking in Silicon Valley Aims to foster a global mindset and promote readiness for global expansion.
 - Focus on three areas: Robotics, Drones, and Subtractive
 Manufacturing and assigning mentors and site visits accordingly for

each.

- Networking opportunities for connections to potential US partners, subject matter experts and investors.
- Face-to-face lectures from mentors.
- Practice real life introductions.
 - Mindset development through lectures from mentors and interactions with company personnel.
 - 1:1 intensive matching with industry veterans, curated with the assistance of the Coaches.
- 3. One (1) post events integration virtual workshop and Eight (8) bookable Office Hours for the participating investors.
 - Following up with prospective clients and partners post event
 - GTM planning and determining next steps for US expansion

3.Compensation

Please include the following for the budget calculation:

a. Pre-program

Application review of up to one hundred (100) applications & Startup Interviews

Promotional materials

Startup onboarding

b. Online Components

Virtual Workshops – four (4) virtual workshops

- 1:1 Coaching Sessions total of 4 sessions per startup or 16 coaching sessions in total)
- c. In-person Components

Support for developing global business mindset through lectures and mentoring from industry experts, as well as practical assistance for conducting business in English. Business Matching function to give founders abroad a range of feedback from active industry experts in an organized manner.

d. Post Program

Program Final Report

Post Program Office Hours - eight (8) hours of consulting to participants.

	NOTE: JETRO will not compensate any cancelation fee due to any incidents
	in Japan or accelerator's convenience.
	Payment Terms
	a. First payment (50%)
	b. Second payment (50%)
	c. All payments to be made in USD via JETRO San Francisco
4. Contract	2025/8- 2026/3/19
Period	
5. Budget	Maximum \$ 204,400