

2022 Select USA Spinoff Investment Mission (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Robotics/A.I. Course)

JETRO held a business tour in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to observe the business investment environment in conjunction with the SelectUSA Investment Summit 2022 (sponsored by the Department of Commerce) that was held in Washington, D.C., USA, from Thursday, June 23 to Friday, June 24.

Intending to promote network building among related parties, we provided an opportunity for Japanese companies to efficiently collect information on Pittsburgh's robotics/A.I. ecosystem, research facilities (Carnegie Mellon University), and the community which has been attracting investments from tech companies around the world.

On the first day, an opening reception was held for the Japan delegates, and co-hosted by the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance. Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh startup companies, Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, and other local members and companies participated to meet the delegates.

The second day was the main program, featuring a driving tour of 'Robotics Row', and visits to the National Robotics and Engineering Center (NREC), Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), and Mill 19 – Steel Mill Transformed to Tech/Manufacturing Hub.

The participants were very active in exchanging business cards and information with the people involved in the visits, and a lively question-and-answer session was held. In addition, we received many favorable comments about the region (Pittsburgh) and field (robotics/A.I.) where we conducted our tour this time, and the participants were satisfied.

*** Information on Visited Destinations**

① Driving Tour of 'Robotics Row'

Many tech companies gather in the area. About 90 companies in robotics, including autonomous driving technology giant ArgoAI, major gaming companies, and automobile companies, have established bases along the three-mile street.

② National Robotics and Engineering Center (NREC)

It is funded primarily by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to conduct research and development. The facility has been significantly involved in the initial

development of autonomous driving and has won awards such as the autonomous driving technology contest sponsored by DARPA.

③Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)

In the robotics division, the facility is heavily involved in the early and intermediate stages of product development. Many collaborations with companies and sponsors and corporate programs are provided. If chosen, companies can also set up offices on the CMU campus. The participants also visited the Human and Robotics Partners Lab and Biorobotics Lab.

④Mill 19 – Steel Mill Transformed to Tech/Manufacturing Hub

Mill 19 was developed inside a hollow steel factory that was built in 1943. Since 1990, the factory has been closed, and the house has been vacant for more than 20 years, but in 2019 CMU established an innovation center in collaboration with other companies. Currently, CMU and its spin-off companies are tenants in the building, with plans to further expand the ecosystem in the future