2025 Osaka-Kansai World Expo Version

Kansai Startup Mashups 2025

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We support 700+ Japanese startups per year through our 15 different acceleration programs, and 3,000+ through mentoring. Browse our alumni list to watch pitch videos from our most promising startups and explore the best Japanese startups in our portfolio!

JETRO
Japan External Trade Organization

JETRO Osaka Innovation Division
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osd@jetro.go.jp

2025. April

Kansai Startup Mashups 2025

JETRO Magazine

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KYOTO WISDOM INDUSTRY CREATION CENTER
KOBE CITY GOVERNMENT / HYOGO PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT

Introduction Message

Welcome to the vibrant world of Japan's startup ecosystem, Kansai Startup Mashups!!

As we gather in Kansai for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, we have a unique opportunity to showcase the innovative spirit and transformative potential of Japanese startups.

This booklet highlights 51 of Japan's leading startups with a focus on the Kansai region, each chosen for its ingenuity, impact, and global growth potential*.
This booklet aims to provide you, esteemed investors and visionaries, with an insightful introduction to the dynamic opportunities within Japan's startup landscape.

We hope this booklet not only sparks your interest but also lays the foundation for meaningful connections and collaborations. Let this be your gateway to discovering Japan's next wave of game-changing ventures.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We look forward to building a brighter future together.

Warm regards,

JETRO Osaka Innovation Division

***The selection of the startups in this booklet**
Following the launch of the Cabinet Office's "Startup City Project Japan" in 2019, eight locations were designated as central hubs for startups. Among them is the "Osaka-Kyoto-Hyogo Consortium," also known as Kansai Startup Mashups, which is a joint initiative by Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City, Hyogo Prefecture, and Kobe City.
Since its selection, JETRO and local governments have actively supported startups through collaborations with global partners. The 51 startups featured in this booklet have participated in Kansai Startup Mashup's programs or events since FY2022.

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Kansai Startup Mashups

Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe Startup Ecosystem

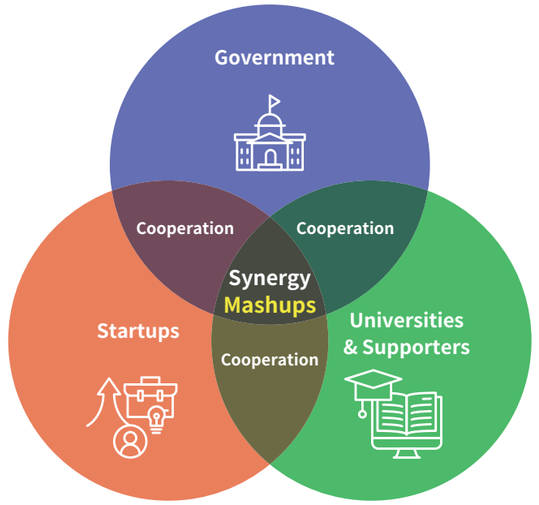
What is Kansai Startup Mashups?

Kansai is the southern-central part of Japan's main island. It's known for its rich history, cultural landmarks, and economic significance. Kansai includes six prefectures, among which, three notable cities Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe are working together to create a new ecosystem for Kansai startups aiming towards the global market. Mashing up each cutting-edge technology and originality based on a long history, "Kansai Startup Mashups" is the brand message (tagline) that communicates this initiative to the world.

- **Osaka**: A gathering of companies in a wide range of fields including deep tech.
- **Kyoto**: A city of startups backed by universities and research institutes.
- **Kobe**: Focus on the life science area and easy to engage in social experiments.

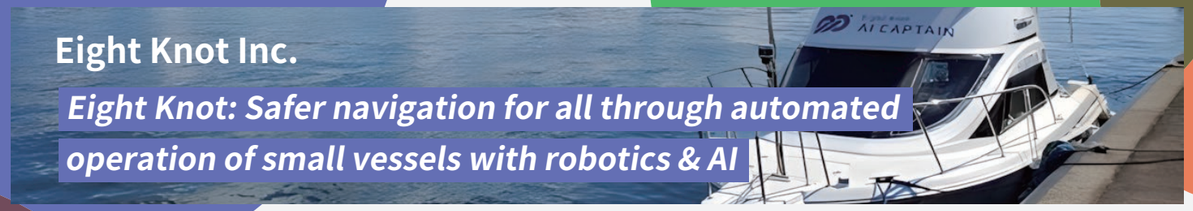
The three cities coming together will allow a circle of collaboration and support that universities, companies, and government are engaged in. We aim to promote the presence of Kansai startups to domestic and international investors and create new synergy in startups through the exchange of cutting-edge technology and global wisdom in Kansai, a region with plentiful long-lived companies.

Make Kansai a place of connection for the hard-working entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and all those who want to support the process.



Eight Knot Inc.

Eight Knot: Safer navigation for all through automated operation of small vessels with robotics & AI



Addressing small vessel operation issues through AI

There are said to be approximately 310,000 small vessels in Japan, accounting for the majority of marine vessels operating in the country. Small vessels are often used for public transportation and logistics purposes by residents of remote islands, but there are many regions where aging populations have led to an urgent shortage of licensed boat operators.

Operating small vessels requires constant monitoring of local conditions, such as wind and waves, as well as the presence of other vessels and obstacles. The skill and experience of the pilot is therefore a major factor in determining whether navigation is carried out safely, with research showing that approximately half of all accidents are caused by human error.

One-tap solution for robotics and AI-based autonomous navigation

Seeking to provide a solution to these issues, in October 2022, Eight Knot announced “Eight Knot **AI CAPTAIN**,” an autonomous navigation platform that provides fully-automated and safe navigation for small vessels.

A single tap on the product’s tablet-based user interface triggers Eight Knot’s proprietary AI to automatically select the optimal route and begin safe, automatic navigation to the chosen destination. Vessels utilizing **AI CAPTAIN** are fitted with a high-precision positioning system which receives data from the Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System, as well as a LiDAR (laser imaging, detection, and ranging) scanner capable of detecting other nearby vessels and even birds floating in the surrounding waters. In addition to engaging in obstacle-specific avoidance and evasive maneuvering, **AI CAPTAIN** also allows for automated departure and docking.

Demonstration tests for unmanned navigation

Although unmanned navigation is currently not feasible due to legal barriers, plans are underway both in Japan and abroad to revise laws related to the automation of marine vessels, with the International Maritime Organization moving toward the formulation of corresponding codes by January 2028. Eight Knot is now working on demonstration testing to gain a dominant share of the market and establish its position as a platform for autonomous navigation by that time frame. In early 2023, Eight Knot demonstrated its product’s safety by conducting a pilot operation of a water taxi equipped with **AI CAPTAIN** in Hiroshima Prefecture. The company has also been selected to participate in a total of 10 demonstration projects by national and local governments, including the 2023 “SBIR Promotion Program” offered by the Japanese New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization. Through this program, Eight Knot will work on demonstrating the development of autonomous navigation systems for small vessels and the establishment of associated safety indicators, while also proposing guidelines to relevant organizations to help drive the realization of unmanned navigation of small vessels.

Developing an autonomous navigation software business

Initially, Eight Knot envisions a business model in which **AI CAPTAIN** is physically retrofitted to existing vessels. This approach simultaneously achieves two of the company’s core objectives: the monetization of business operations, and the collection of small vessel behavioral data.

In the future, Eight Knot plans to utilize the vast amounts of data it will have gathered with this initial approach to build a higher-profit business model centered on the provision of software that enables autonomous navigation of all types of small vessels.

Global interest in autonomous navigation is steadily increasing, with companies from countries including Norway, the Netherlands, and South Korea emerging as providers of software solutions for this field. Interest is particularly strong in Europe, where Eight Knot plans to expand by 2026. Eventually, Eight Knot hopes to install autonomous navigation systems on all water-based mobility devices. Starting with this technological achievement, the company’s business development voyage will continue toward the ambitious goal of creating unprecedented sea-based businesses and new economic opportunities.

Eight Knot

Yujin Kimura
CEO/Co-founder

After graduating from California State University, Yujin worked at Apple Japan before joining DeAgostini Japan, where he was in charge of various robotics projects, including the communication robot “Robi.” Yujin later went independent after launching a new business while working at Balmuda. He has handled marketing and PR strategy for robotics startups and product planning for major manufacturers. Yujin has long been drawn to the ocean and enjoys marine activities such as stand-up paddleboarding and diving. He also holds a first-class boat operator’s license.

Name:
Eight Knot Inc.

CEO/Co-founder:
Yujin Kimura

Established:
2021

Head office:
313 S-Cube 130-42
Nagasonecho Kita-ku,
Sakai-shi, Osaka 591-8025

Tokyo office:
3C Kujiraoka Daiichi Bldg ,
1-16-8 Kameido, Koto-ku, Tokyo
136-0071

Hiroshima office:
405 HIOS HIROSHIMA 7-1
Kamihatchobori Naka-ku,
Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima
730-0013

Business activities:
Development of autonomous navigation systems for aquatic mobility devices

Website:
https://8kt.jp

GramEye Inc.

GramEye: Overcoming antimicrobial resistance with AI

The global spread of antimicrobial resistance

Over the last century, increasing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has become a pressing global issue. This phenomenon occurs when bacteria become resistant to antimicrobials, rendering the medicine ineffective precisely when it is most needed.

It has been reported that drug-resistant bacteria have a mortality rate approximately three times that of normal bacteria,[1] and it is predicted that the number of deaths caused each year by drug-resistant bacteria will exceed 10 million by 2050, surpassing the number of deaths due to cancer.[2]

As the movement of people and goods continues worldwide, there is growing global concern regarding this issue. In 2021, the WHO declared AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats currently facing humanity.[3] In Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has announced an “Action Plan for Drug-Resistant Bacteria.”[4]

First-ever fully-automated AI Gram-staining-to-species-determination solution

Provided that they are used appropriately, antimicrobials are an indispensable part of modern medicine. For this reason, one of the most impactful approaches to addressing the problem of AMR is to identify pathogens as quickly, easily, and inexpensively as possible so that physicians can prescribe more appropriate antimicrobials to their patients.

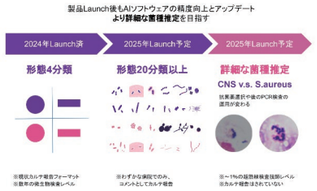
This is what GramEye, a startup from Osaka University, seeks to achieve with the use of AI and robotics.

GramEye has developed a microbial and cell-staining analyzer that fully automates all processes from Gram staining to classification and identification of bacterial species using AI. The product has been on the market as a medical device since 2025. While automated Gram-staining technology already exists, GramEye’s analyzer will be the world’s first fully-automated device capable of handling every step from staining to bacterial species classification and identification.[5]

Significantly reduces laboratory technician workload & shortens reporting timeframe

With GramEye’s analyzer, the entire testing process—from staining to bacterial classification—can be completed automatically within 10 minutes, simply by inserting a glass slide coated with a specimen.

One survey has shown that microbiology laboratory technicians spend 40% of their time on Gram staining.[6] Introducing GramEye’s system, which can operate 24 hours a day, would reduce technician workload and free up availability for other tasks. As a result, the use of GramEye’s analyzer will help shorten the half-a-day to two-day reporting window currently required by manual testing.



Same capabilities as an experienced laboratory technician by 2025

The company has collected large amounts of stained image data from dozens of cooperating medical institutions and started marketing the product as a medical device from 2025.

Within 2025, GramEye plans to increase the possible Gram staining classifications from the current standard of four to more than 20, and also expects to be able to identify bacterial species which are difficult to distinguish with Gram staining. At present, only a small number of skilled microbiologists are capable of performing classification and species identification at this level, and not every hospital or clinic has someone with such proficiency on staff. If GramEye’s AI can allow for standardized and highly-sophisticated Gram staining, this could be expected to result in improved antimicrobial selection by physicians and greater efficiency in the post-Gram stain testing process.

Potential to serve as a Gram-staining digital image platform through global expansion

GramEye’s analyzer aims to efficiently collect standardized image data that does not depend on laboratory technician competence. As Gram staining is currently a manual process, on a global scale the digital standardization of test images taken from Gram staining has yet to be achieved.
This being the case, the image data collection capability of GramEye’s device is likely to become a major advantage in the global market. Within a few years, the company plans to expand its business to Europe and the United States, where laboratory automation is advancing, and it believes that the device has the potential to serve as a platform for collecting and standardizing Gram-stained image data from around the world.
With its mission of creating a world where antimicrobials are prescribed appropriately, the university-launched startup and their attempts to help solve the global problem of drug-resistant bacteria have recently drawn attention both within Japan and abroad.

1 Nature, “The staggering death toll of drug-resistant bacteria” (Tosin Thompson)
2 National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Antimicrobial Resistance Clinical Reference Center (Japanese)
3 WHO, “Antimicrobial resistance”
4 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, “Antimicrobial Resistance Countermeasures” (Japanese; accessed September 10, 2023)
5 GramEye internal research (as of September 2023)
6 GramEye internal research (as of September 2023)

GramEye

Yu Hiraoka
President and CEO

Graduated from Osaka University School of Medicine. While a student, Yu worked for a hospital consulting firm on strategies for improving profitability by reducing the length of hospital stays. He later went on to study programming and pursue the development of medical data analysis, web services, and mobile applications.
As an executive member of the Osaka University School of Medicine’s “OU medical python” association, Yu is involved in programming education activities.
At GramEye, Yu is responsible for all software development initiatives, including the development of artificial intelligence and its implementation in mobile devices. He is also currently working as a radiologist at Osaka University.

Name:
GramEye Inc.

CEO/Co-founder:
Yu Hiraoka

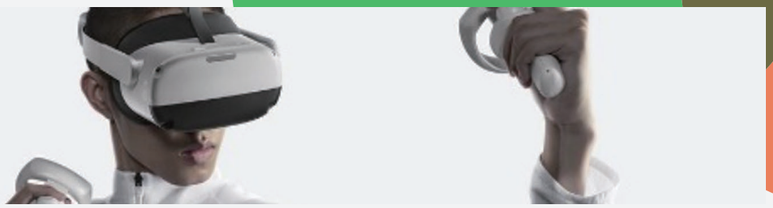
Established:
2020

Address:
4F Nature Ibaraki, 3-7-1 Ekimae, Ibaraki City, Osaka

Business activities:
Developing AI and robotics solutions aiming to improve the appropriate use of antimicrobials by updating Gram-staining testing methods.
- Development of bacterial classification (eventually species identification) AI
- Development of Gram-staining hardware

Website:
https://grameye.com/

NeuralPort Inc.



Discover your best self by visualizing stress

NeuralPort is a Kobe-based startup that leverages cutting-edge technology to make hidden stress visible through virtual reality (VR) eye measurement and AI-driven analysis. This unique approach allows the company to visualize stress and develop solutions that support high levels of mental performance.
Operating small vessels requires constant monitoring of local conditions, such as wind and waves, as well as the presence of other vessels and obstacles. The skill and experience of the pilot is therefore a major factor in determining whether navigation is carried out safely, with research showing that approximately half of all accidents are caused by human error.

VR-based stress testing through eye measurements—a pioneering achievement

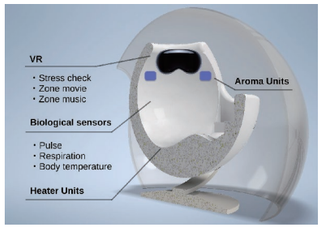
Accurate measurements of stress levels are essential for determining the degree of an individual's stress. At present, self-administered questionnaires are often used to assess stress, but it is widely recognized that subjective answers may not accurately reflect a respondent's mental state, and that arbitrary questions may result in discrepancies with actual stress levels.
For this reason, NeuralPort has focused its development efforts on the close relationship between mental health and eye gaze, resulting in the creation of ZEN EYE PRO, a VR-based software solution that can visualize a user's stress by measuring their gaze. Assessing stress with ZEN EYE PRO is a straightforward experience: the user simply puts on a headset capable of detecting line of sight, and watches a series of moving images on the VR display for approximately three minutes. NeuralPort's proprietary AI then calculates the user's stress levels by analyzing their gaze using quantified measurement data. One advantage of using this gaze-based data is that it can be measured without being consciously influenced by the user and without being impacted by their physical condition.
ZEN EYE PRO represents the world's first-ever method for using AI to measure stress based on gaze data, and is currently patent pending (as of December 2023; NeuralPort's own research).

The beta version of ZEN EYE PRO was released in December 2022, and NeuralPort is currently working with baseball players and other professional athletes to accumulate real-world insights in preparation for the product's full launch in June 2024. Moving forward, the company plans to promote the technology to athletes—followed by astronauts, pilots, and other individuals who require high levels of mental resilience—in order to market and build awareness of this world-leading product among the general public.

In the future, NeuralPort expects to primarily target sports teams and corporations, where the company's product can be widely deployed to support the mental health and high performance of team members and employees through prompt, accurate identification of individual stress levels.

Experience the feeling of being in the zone through the power of VR-based stress measurement

In addition to ZEN EYE PRO, NeuralPort is also developing ZONE-Z, an integrated software and hardware solution that recreates the experience of fully-aligned mental and physical focus, resulting in the feeling of "being in the zone."



ZONE-Z is a capsule-type machine that scientifically recreates the "zone" state by generating 20 minutes of content that stimulates the five senses. This content, which includes images, sounds and even scents—which are strongly linked to memory—is chosen according to the user's mental state as determined by VR-based stress measurements.
The product also allows users to select relaxation or power nap modes according to their stress levels. These options make the product a compelling solution not only for athletes but also for a broad range of other individuals who are likely to experience high levels of stress, such as executives and entrepreneurs.

ZONE-Z is scheduled to be exhibited at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, where visitors will be able to experience the product's effectiveness for themselves.

Strong reception in the US and Europe drives plans for global expansion

To date, NeuralPort's business and products have enjoyed high acclaim in Europe and the US, where interest in mental health care is high. The company plans to expand its business in the US by 2024.
Eye tracking technology and mental wellbeing are currently enjoying a surge in global interest. With its successful business model that focuses on these two themes, NeuralPort is well-positioned to make a uniquely impactful contribution to mental health both within Japan and abroad.

NEURALPORT

Anna Shimafuji
President and CEO

Born in 1992, Anna conducted research on the gaze behavior characteristics of children with autism spectrum disorder using eye-tracking devices at the Graduate School of Human Sciences/School of Human Sciences, Osaka University. After completing her master's degree, she engaged in advanced and comprehensive research on the brain and intelligence at the United Graduate School of Child Development at Osaka University, and the International Research Center for Neurointelligence at the University of Tokyo. Anna additionally accumulated extensive expertise in information and communication technology at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology and the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International. Anna founded NeuralPort Inc. in September 2020.

Name:
NeuralPort Inc.

CEO/Co-founder:
Anna Shimafuji

Established:
2020

Address:
4-13, Higashiyama, Ashiya, Hyogo 659-0091, Japan

Business activities:
Research and development and business development of VR eye tracking-based stress measurement and "zone" stimulating solutions

Website:
https://neuralport.studio.site/

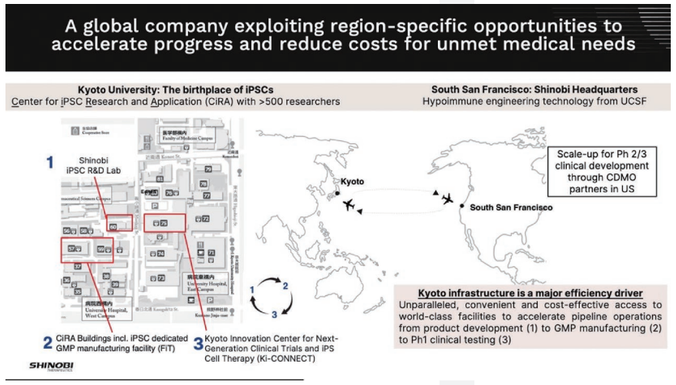
Shinobi Therapeutics, Inc.

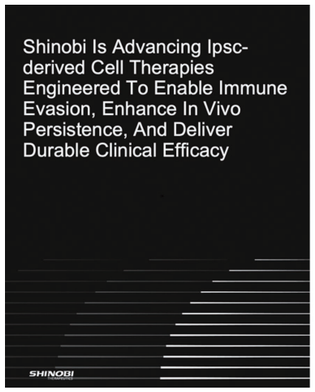
Shinobi Therapeutics originated from Kyoto and San Francisco

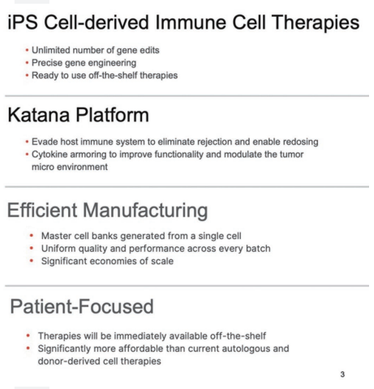
Shinobi Therapeutics, the biotechnology company developing a new class of immune evasive iPS cell therapies, originated from the research of scientist co-founders Shin Kaneko, M.D., Ph.D., at Kyoto University and Tobias Deuse, M.D., at University of California, San Francisco.

Immune cell therapies showed great potential. However, they still faced many challenges

Cell therapies have shown remarkable promise in treating blood cancers and other intractable diseases, but manufacturing costs render these therapies inaccessible to many patients around the world. Current off-the-shelf cell therapies rely on donor-derived (allogeneic) methods and offer a more scalable manufacturing approach, but face the additional challenge of allo-rejection, as patients' immune systems reject donor-derived and engineered cells as foreign invaders. In the treatment with current cell therapy products, patients receive immunosuppressive drugs before treatment, which can often result in unwanted side effects and serious complications.







Shinobi's approach is a great solution to these challenges

Shinobi has created a new allogeneic cytotoxic iPS cell-derived immune cell platform, the Katana platform, that transforms iPS cells into cell therapies with plug-and-play diseased cell specificity, engineered to evade the immune system, find their target, and attack. iPS cells provide a universal solution for scalable cell therapies. Importantly, Shinobi's immune evasion technology not only shields from cellular immunity but also against humoral immunity-mediated rejection. The Katana cells are engineered to have enhanced potency in hostile microenvironments, such as the immunosuppressive tumor micro-environment, and enable safer, scalable, and re-doseable allogeneic therapies. Shinobi is committed to addressing unmet medical needs for patients with intractable diseases such as cancer and autoimmune diseases in Japan, and then globally.

SHINOBI THERAPEUTICS

Name:
Shinobi Therapeutics, Inc.

Website:
https://www.shinobitx.com/

RUTILEA, Inc.

RUTILEA: Reverse-Engineering from Exit Strategies: Building AI Businesses that Anticipate the Future

Accelerating business endeavors through AI

AI made easy. This is the mission statement of RUTILEA, a startup from Kyoto, Japan that envisions a future where users around the world can easily use AI.

At RUTILEA, we use cutting-edge AI-driven technology to solve pressing social needs. One key feature of the company's business model is our market-driven perspective. Rather than focusing solely on the company's high-level technological capabilities, we chose to emphasize the strategy of identifying a profitable business model and combining it with ever-evolving AI technology. This approach has attracted the attention of numerous venture capitalists within Japan and Saudi Arabia. As of January 2024, we have raised a total of approximately ¥11 billion in funding.

Rutilea operates under the vision of "Leading the democratization of AI technology, making it an essential, accessible tool for everyone." We provide GPU Cloud services and vertical AI solutions that simplify the complex AI development process for immediate AI implementation. Founded by CEO Takafumi Yano in August 2018, we initially focused on automating visual inspections, especially for major automobile manufacturers and other manufacturing industries, by developing unique AI models and implementing them as practical solutions. Recently, we have expanded to create specialized vertical AI tailored to specific sectors, which we introduce to central government agencies and larger corporations. Additionally, we offer GPU Cloud services specifically designed for AI researchers.

Access to cutting-edge open-source AI models along with GPU cloud

Recognizing the growing global interest in AI, the increased demand for GPU servers, and the rapid proliferation of open-source AI, our group has established two GPU data centers, each equipped with the latest NVIDIA H100 and H200 GPU servers, in Fukushima Prefecture. Alongside our GPU cloud resources, we offer a development environment that enables access to cutting-edge open-source AI models. With the surge in open-source AI, the need to compare various models in a unified manner has grown. To address this, our GPU Cloud service offers flexibility for AI developers to maximize GPU computing resources and accelerate AI model development.

Industry-Specific AI Solutions

Our company positions "Vertical AI" as "AI developed to address the specific needs of individual industries." The global demand for specialized AI solutions is experiencing rapid growth, making Vertical AI a sector with high growth potential. We are seeing increasing development and adoption of applications such as deepfake detection systems, medical conversation summarization and management tools, automated diagnostic solutions, and legal document automation and management platforms. In our Vertical AI division, we develop AI models by focusing on specific industries such as government agencies and the automotive industry. This focused approach allows us to build unique, industry-specific datasets and create AI models with deep understanding of industry-specific issues and processes. This specialization enables us to tackle more complex industry challenges. Our current development portfolio includes large-scale LLM fine-tuning for generative AI, automated visual inspection systems primarily for the automotive sector, and video-based operation recognition systems, all tailored to specific industry requirements. The key differentiator of our Vertical AI models lies in our unique combination of industry-specific proprietary datasets and state-of-the-art GPU computing infrastructure. By leveraging industry-specific datasets, we deliver AI solutions that are ready for immediate deployment without additional training. This approach allows organizations to implement AI solutions rapidly while reducing development costs through access to our group's GPU computing resources.

A Kyoto-born tech startup with global ambitions

While Japan has yet to have a globally-recognized tech startup, our CEO, Takafumi Yano, has expressed an enthusiastic belief that Rutilea could make that all change. As we begin pursuing large-scale global expansion, we are seeking to leverage our manufacturing industry experience to build internationally-available products that simplify the implementation of AI-driven services for developing high revenue-generating solutions to existing problems.

From AI-driven system development to the newest GPU cloud services, we at Rutilea offer advanced solutions tailored to your company's needs.

Rutilea

Takafumi Yano
President and CEO

Born in Okayama in 1990. Takafumi co-founded a data integration company with a friend while pursuing his master's degree in Electrical Engineering at Kyoto University. He sold the business during his doctoral program and gained experience as DX leader for the company's new owners, including taking it through an initial public offering. In 2018, he founded RUTILEA, Inc. with the aim of becoming a global leader in a new field dedicated to solving manufacturing challenges with AI.

Name:
RUTILEA, Inc.

President and Representative Director:
Takafumi Yano

Established:
August 2018

Address:
S6F Y.J.K Building, 397 Shimomaruya, Nakagyo, Kyoto

Business activities:
Vertical AI Business and GPU Cloud Service

Website:
https://www.rutilea.com/en

PITTAN Inc.

PITTAN: Building a Society Where Everyone Can Live Life to the Fullest Through World-Leading Sweat Analysis Technology

Maximize each individual's enjoyment of life through simple and accurate monitoring of physiological biomarkers in sweat

"Health is a state where everyone can achieve their life goals without physical constraints" - this is the philosophy behind PITTAN, a deep-tech startup from Kobe that aims to change the world using cutting-edge analytical technology. Whether it's feeling reluctant to appear in public due to acne concerns, wanting to work as energetically as in your twenties, or desiring to travel the world regardless of age... With 100 people come 100 different ways of living, each accompanied by physical constraints (worries, concerns, and complexes) in achieving these aspirations.

PITTAN aims to maximize each individual's enjoyment of life through simple and accurate monitoring of physiological biomarkers in sweat. PITTAN achieves this by visualizing inner body conditions through the analysis of trace components in sweat.

Accurate and Simple Body Monitoring Through Non-Invasive Analysis of Ultra-Trace Components in Sweat

PITTAN possesses proprietary technology for analyzing biological information from trace amounts of sweat. This has enabled the analysis of biomarkers from minimal sweat samples, which was previously considered difficult. Furthermore, by fiscal year 2025, through microfluidic device technology that CEO Kazuya Tsujimoto and CTO Hirotaka Koyama have consistently worked on since their student days, they expect to miniaturize what was previously laboratory-scale massive analytical equipment into on-site usable devices. The cost will also be dramatically reduced from tens of millions of yen to just a few hundred thousand yen per unit.

As a result, this technology can be deployed in small spaces within beauty salons, fitness gyms, clinics, drugstores, and eventually homes, making analytical technology accessible to anyone. The range of analyzable compounds will expand from amino acids to hormones such as insulin and sex hormones, inflammatory markers, and antioxidants, aiming for more comprehensive health evaluation.

Japan has long been a world leader in analytical chemistry, though this fact is not widely known. This is because analytical chemistry technology has primarily been confined to laboratories, with few opportunities for public recognition.

PITTAN aims to bring this technology out of the lab, "democratizing" analytical chemistry that has historically worked behind the scenes, and create new business models. Through this, we aspire to astonish the world once again with Japanese technological prowess.

Launching Service: Analysis of Inner Skin and Muscle Health via Sweat Biomarkers

PITTAN emphasizes the social implementation of scientific technology and has launched a mail-in service business ahead of completing their on-site analytical device. This is a B2B sweat analysis service that can promote improvements in skin and muscle health based on sweat analysis results.

Through monitoring inner conditions, which was previously difficult at beauty salons and fitness gyms, we help business owners improve their service quality and increase sales. We have made the on-site collection process extremely simple: the collection patch only needs to be applied to the skin for 3 minutes to collect transpired sweat. After sending the collected sweat sample to PITTAN, staff can check the results online within one week. These results can be used to provide nutritional guidance and support the sales of supplements and care products.
Currently, we primarily focus on amino acid analysis, and we have expanded our educational materials to help on-site staff explain amino acid results, making the service very easy to implement.

The service of analyzing trace amounts of sweat remains an untapped market

While there are already several biofluid analysis services, sweat analysis hasn't gained much traction until now. This was due to the difficulty in analyzing the trace amounts of components present in sweat. PITTAN has been able to pioneer this market using component extraction technology for trace biofluids, which co-founder Tsunoda has researched for over 20 years.

When compared to other biofluid analyses, sweat's advantage lies in its convenience. Blood collection involves physical invasiveness through needle use. Urine collection also carries significant psychological burden. Moreover, among all biofluids, sweat is uniquely recognized by the CCD and Ministry of Health as having no infection risk.

This has profound implications for the compact on-site analysis machine to be released after 2025. It means that completely new internal body analysis - something no one has achieved before - will become accessible to many people, allowing "anyone, anywhere" to conduct analysis in just 15 minutes.

PITTAN, a candidate exhibitor for the Osaka Expo 2025, plans to showcase 'MiniLab' - a prototype of their on-site analysis device miniaturized for store use. This exhibition is expected to draw further attention from both domestic and international audiences.

PITTAN

Kazuya Tsujimoto
CEO

As a university student, Kazuya immersed himself in the field of Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) research at Kyoto University, culminating in the completion of both his master's and doctoral degrees. His professional journey began with a role in the research division of Tokyo Electron Ltd., and later at ROHM Co., Ltd., in pursuit of pioneering the application of MEMS technology in miniaturizing devices. Throughout his career, Kazuya developed a strong passion for efficiently utilizing cutting-edge technologies held by large corporations to drive social innovation. This led him to co-found a startup with a friend in 2022, followed by gaining valuable experience in consulting firms and venture capital. Kazuya has been expanding our business by bringing scientific technology to society through widespread academic collaborations.

Name:
PITTAN Inc.

President and CEO:
Kazuya Tsujimoto

Established:
June 9, 2022

Address:
- Office: Suidosuji 6-1-3, Nada, Kobe, Hyogo
- PITTAN Lab. Kobe: Creative Lab Kobe 212, Minatojima minami-machi 6-3-7, Chuo, Kobe, Hyogo

Business activities:
- Development of trace bio-component analysis technology
- Development of healthcare services using ultra-compact and ultra-fast analysers.

Website:
https://pittan.life

THE STARTUPS

We are delighted to present a selection of innovative Japanese startups. See potential for collaboration or investment? Feel free to reach out! We've included their contact information in this booklet.

If you need help finding more startups or have specific criteria in mind, don't hesitate to contact JETRO.

JETRO Osaka Innovation Division

Environment/Green Tech/Agritech

EX-Fusion · Regional Fish · SiRC · Green Science Alliance · Microwave Chemical

Medical Equipment & Devices

UniMedical · SMILE CURVE · STONY · Lily MedTech · IMMUNOSENS · SECOND HEART · FairMed · HICKY · Osaka Heat Cool · Physiologas Technologies · ALMAPRISM

Medical AI & DX & Data

SOUTHWOOD · CALLISTO · GENON Genon.Inc · Non-Profit Organization Medical Shinansha · 株式会社I.W.G · fcuro

Biotechnology & Drug Discovery

bacterico · Immunorock · CNS Drug Innovation · smart tissues · Antibody Therapeutics Inc · Rege Nephro

Healthcare

ANY-EDGE · elan-able · NINZIA · PITTAN · Elcyo · Redge · GastroMedica · maya-mind® · Beyond S Corp. · RENATO SCILNCL · ARIRGE Address Social Issues Related to Cancer · TIGER

Mobility/AI

Eight Knot · Chinougijutsu · OSINTech · open-socio · Thinker

EX-Fusion Inc.

EX-Fusion

About us

We are a laser fusion company based in Osaka, Japan. Our mission is to build the first laser fusion power plant by 2035. Currently, we are accelerating the R&D and sales of products developed from our laser technologies, including our advanced laser cutting machine.

Our partners/clients

VCs: ANRI, OUVC, Delight Ventures, Nissay Capital, Miyako Capital, EQT Foundation

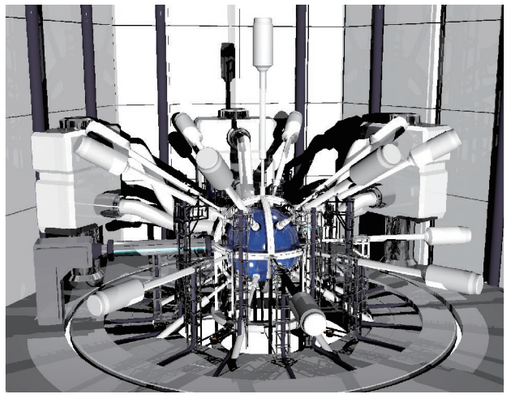
Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

- **Chairman & CEO:** Dr. Kazuki Matsuo
- **Established:** 2021
- **Location:** Suita City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Environment/Green Tech
- **Number of employees:** 51
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://en.ex-fusion.com/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/ex-fusion

Future Business Plans

EX-Fusion is Japan's first laser fusion company, specializing in inertial fusion energy using the innovative fast ignition method. Our goal is to demonstrate the scientific gain Q=1 by 2027 while upgrading to a more powerful laser by 2029. We aim to complete the first commercial laser fusion reactor by 2035, contributing to global decarbonization efforts. Beyond fusion technology, we are actively commercializing our laser and optical control systems for industrial processing and aerospace applications. We continue to accelerate both R&D and product commercialization across these sectors.



Regional Fish Institute, Ltd.

Regional Fish

About us

We do high-speed breed improvement of aquaculture using cutting-edge technologies such as genome editing, etc.

Our partners/clients

Strategic and financial partnership with: Beyond Next Ventures, NTT, Food & Life Companies, and others

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

- **CEO:** Tadanori Umekawa
- **Established:** 2019
- **Location:** Kyoto City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Agritech
- **Number of employees:** 60
- **Current funding status:** Series B
- **Website:** https://regional.fish/en/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/shunsukeishimoto/

Future Business Plans

We are a foodtech startup that began from Kyoto University and Kindai University.
We apply cutting-edge technologies like genome editing on aquatic species to fast forward and enhance breed improvement, realizing higher productivity and added value.
We're the first company in the world to introduce genome-edited animal food into the market, launching 3 new varieties as of 2024.
We're currently looking into opportunities to expand globally, especially in the ASEAN region. We aim to apply our technology to locally farmed species to contribute to the growth of the country's aquaculture production and profitability.

SIRC Co., Ltd.

About us

SIRC Co., Ltd. a startup from Osaka City University (currently Osaka Metropolitan University), is providing powerful DX solutions utilizing patented sensing technology.

Our partners/clients

Daikin Industries, Ltd.; Toyota Boshoku Corporation; TokyoGas Co., Ltd.; Electric Power Development Co., Ltd.; TakasagoThermal Engineering Co., Ltd.; Kandenko Co.,Ltd.; JR EastStart-up Co., Ltd.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Distributor partners and sales reps

Future Business Plans

The SIRC device is a multitasking device with four functions (power, current, angle, and frequency conversion) despite its 5mm square size. By utilizing the world's first "SIRC IoT power sensor unit" equipped with this core device, we can measure active power without any electric constructions and power outages. Toward zero CO_2 emissions by 2050, enterprises are required to understand the current status of power consumption and CO_2 emissions and to present specific reduction targets through segmentation. By utilizing our IoT power sensor unit, we can easily visualize power consumption and CO_2 emissions on each existing line and machine, and provide DX solutions that calculate the carbon footprint of each product and provide improvement hints for energy reduction.

- **President & CEO:** Mariko Takahashi
- **Established:** 2015
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Environment/Green Tech
- **Number of employees:** 30
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://sirc.co.jp/

mui Lab, Inc.

About us

mui Lab is a leading smart home and energy management service provider in Japan, and also develops Calm Technology-inspired interfaces, which are sold internationally.

Our partners/clients

We are seed funded by Monozukuri Ventures, and Series A & B funded by Japanese banks and other corporate groups. We also have a strategic partnership signed with Mitsubishi Real Estate.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

Future Business Plans

mui Lab's future goals involve product hardware business expansion into the United States market. Having launched two successful crowdfunding campaigns in the last year, mui Lab is expecting expand hardware sales in both the D2C and B2B domain. mui Lab is also focused on developing PoCs with US developers, service installers, and design professionals.

- **Co-Founder & CEO:** Kazunori Oki
- **Established:** 2017
- **Location:** Kyoto City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Environment/Green Tech
- **Number of employees:** 30+
- **Current funding status:** Series B
- **Website:** https://muilab.com/en/
- **Contact:** Linkedin : https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaz-oki-b453ba51/

Green Science Alliance Co., Ltd.

About us

We carry out research and development of cutting edge materials and technologies in the fields of carbon neutral, sustainable energy, and environmentally-friendly green industries. This includes plant based biodegradable plastic, resin, biomass coating, paint, glue, plant-based cosmetics, next-generation-type rechargeable batteries, fuel cells, solar cells, CO_2 capture and conversion, quantum dot, metal organic framework, nano fertilizer, and more.

Our partners/clients

Fuji Pigment Co., Ltd.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

Future Business Plans

We research cutting edge materials and technologies to develop actual products that are carbon neutral, and sustainable products in order to reduce plastic pollution and CO_2 emissions to decelerate climate change. At the moment, we manufacture our products in Japan. However, we now have offices in Biel/Bienne, Switzerland, Toronto, Canada, and are planning to expand further. Especially now, we are planning to launch the world's first recycle-type lithium-ion battery to the global market which will be manufactured in Japan and Switzerland, initially. We would like to accelerate our energy and environmentally-friendly business to the global market and we are planning to raise capital soon. We aim to go public either in the Tokyo, Japan market, Swiss market, or Nasdaq stock market in the near future.

- **CEO:** Dr. Ryohei Mori
- **Established:** 2010
- **Location:** Kawanishi City, Hyogo
- **Business fields:** Environment/Green Tech
- **Number of employees:** 110
- **Current funding status:** Under Fuji Pigment Co., Ltd. Group, preparing to be independent by raising capital from investors
- **Website:** https://www.gsalliance.co.jp/?lang=en
- **Contact:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryohei-mori-5ab33a89/?originalSubdomain=jp

Microwave Chemical Co., Ltd.

About us

Development of Microwave technology for various production process mainly in Chemical and Mining sectors.

Our partners/clients

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc., Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, Mitsui & Co.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Partners having any challenges for heating process.

Future Business Plans

Our future business plan is to expand the track record of implementing processes that use microwave technology in the manufacturing field. This approach aims to drive both qualitative growth by integrating microwave technology into society and quantitative growth by maximizing our company's scale. In terms of growth areas, we are targeting not only the chemical industry but also the mining sector, the field of inorganic material calcination, and the area of chemical recycling.

- **Chairman & CEO:** Iwao Yoshino
- **Established:** 2007
- **Location:** Suita City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Environment/Green Tech
- **Number of employees:** 59
- **Current funding status:** IPO
- **Website:** https://mwcc.jp/en/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/microwavechemical/

UniMedical, Inc.

UniMedical

About us

We are developing a magnetocardiography using quantum sensor, which is a medical device that contributes to the early diagnosis of heart diseases and provides new therapeutic intervention opportunities for patients with heart diseases.

Our partners/clients

R&D with Tohoku University and SpinSensingFactory

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

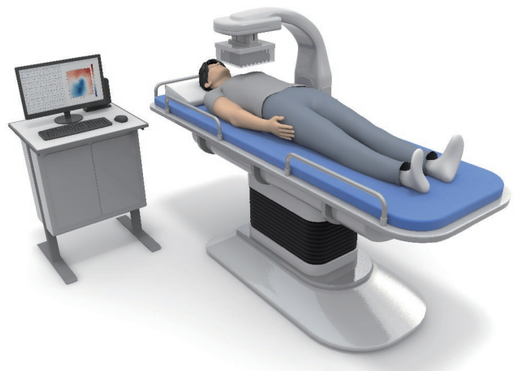
KOLs, experts, key persons within communities
PoC partners

- **CEO:** Dai Inagaki
- **Established:** 2023
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 2
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Website:** https://unimedical.co.jp/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/daiinagaki/

Future Business Plans

With the vision of “Optimal Medical Care Anytime, Anywhere, for Anyone,” we are pursuing a new form of diagnosis that transcends conventional boundaries—highly accurate and burden-free.
We are currently in the process of developing a prototype and are actively exploring international business expansion. Our primary goals include achieving FDA approval and establishing partnerships with leading global companies. To facilitate these objectives, we are focused on securing overseas funding to drive growth and support our entry into new markets.



SMILE CURVE, Inc.

SMILE CURVE

About us

Design and sale of a new spinal diagnostic system

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

Future Business Plans

Development: Creation of globally scalable medical devices, establishment of quality assurance systems, manufacturing of mass-production equipment.
Regulatory: Obtaining medical device approvals in Japan and international markets.
Sales: Formulating global expansion strategies and plans, conducting joint research with overseas medical institutions, identifying and securing distribution partners.
Others: Talent acquisition, fundraising to support development, regulatory, and sales initiatives.

- **CEO:** Masakatsu Noguchi
- **Established:** 2023
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 3
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://jp.linkedin.com/in/masakatsu-noguchi-ph-d-3b3a5720

STONY & Co.

STONY

About us

STONY specializes in the development, licensing, and manufacturing of innovative medical devices. Our products, such as the SPUTA VACUUMER®, MicroVent®V3, and ?VENT®, enhance infection control, respiratory care, and emergency healthcare access. We also support medical education with intuitive training solutions, contributing to safer and more efficient global healthcare systems.

Our partners/clients

R&D with TOCHIGI SEIKO Co., Ltd.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

Future Business Plans

STONY aims to expand its global presence through strategic partnerships, focusing on licensing agreements, product exports, and joint development projects. We plan to enhance our product portfolio with advanced, cost-efficient medical devices, emphasizing 3D printing and sustainable designs. By collaborating with international healthcare providers, we will address critical challenges such as infection control, remote healthcare access, and emergency care. Additionally, STONY will invest in R&D for innovative solutions while promoting medical education and training programs. Through these efforts, we strive to improve healthcare quality worldwide and strengthen our position as a trusted leader in the medical device industry.

- **Founder & CEO:** Naoyuki Ishihoku
- **Established:** 2023
- **Location:** Shibukawa City, Gunma
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 1
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Website:** http://www.stonymed.tech/

Lily MedTech Inc.

Lily MedTech
Toward a world without the phrase "Fight against breast cancer"

About us

Development and commercialization of a painless, highly accurate, 3D breast cancer ultrasound diagnostic device

Our partners/clients

Sales agency agreement with Alfresa (pharmaceutical wholesaler) as a shareholder

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

- **CEO:** Takashi Azuma
- **Established:** 2016
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 2
- **Current funding status:** Series C

- **Website:** https://www.lilymedtech.com/en/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/takashi-azuma-81a834258/

Future Business Plans

Development of the device, acquisition of pharmaceutical affairs approval in Japan, and acquisition of large-scale clinical data for AI have been completed. We are currently developing AI using the acquired data. In the future, we plan to commercialize the product in countries where mammography is not yet widely used and expand into the United States, where we believe the product will have significant value.

Immunosens Co., Ltd.

About us
We are a startup emerging from Osaka University, focused on developing a small, highly sensitive rapid point-of-care testing (POCT) device utilizing a proprietary electrochemical immunoassay method known as GLEIA.

Our partners/clients
Raised seed, A and B and B-2 series funding from Osaka University Venture Capital Co., Ltd.; Global Brain Corporation; KIRIN HEALTH INNOVATION FUND; Shimadzu Future Innovation Fund;TOPPAN Holdings Inc.; Bussan Animal Health Co., Ltd. and other.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
PoC partners

- **CEO:** Hirokazu Sugihara
- **Established:** 2018
- **Location:** Suita City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 21
- **Current funding status:** Series B

- **Website:** https://immunosens.com/en/
- **Contact:** Website : https://immunosens.com/en/contact/

Future Business Plans
For the medical sector, we have completed an application for third-party certification of an in-vitro diagnostic reagent for the cardiovascular system through joint research with the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, and we aim to launch the product in 2025.
In the healthcare sector, we are working with partner companies to launch services such as POCT diagnosis for animals, stress diagnosis, and physical condition management for athletes by 2025.

SECOND HEART Inc.

About us
Development and sales of solutions for preventing the worsening of diabetes complications

Our partners/clients
Future Venture Capital Co., Ltd.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
Fundraising

Future Business Plans
Utilizing the CEO's knowledge as a clinical engineer, the company developed a foot checking app that allows medical professionals and patients to manage foot information, VR content for educating diabetes patients, and socks to prevent foot amputations.
Please help us enter the Southeast Asian market by 2025.
With Series A funding, we will develop AI Nurse and diabetic peripheral neuropathy diagnosis. Ultimately, we will focus on expanding our technology and penetrating international markets to create a comprehensive patient support ecosystem, aiming for zero diabetic foot amputations.

- **CEO:** Yukihiro Ishida
- **Established:** 2019
- **Location:** Nagaokakyo City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 2
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Website:** https://www.secondheart.co.jp/en
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://jp.linkedin.com/company/secondheart
  https://www.linkedin.com/in/secondheart

FairMed

About us
We manufacture and sell medical devices that support physician decision-making during surgery. Our product provides AI-powered, real-time analysis and guidance during endovascular procedures, helping optimize surgical decision-making through advanced image processing and procedure recommendations based on patient-specific vascular conditions.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
Distribution partners and sales reps

Future Business Plans
We are developing an AI-powered medical device to assist physicians during endovascular surgery. Our system provides real-time decision support during procedures, enhancing surgical precision and patient outcomes. Currently in the basic research and development phase, we aim to conduct clinical trials in 2026. Following successful validation, we plan to pursue regulatory approvals from medical device authorities in various countries, including submissions to organizations like the PMDA and FDA. Our roadmap includes applications for medical insurance coverage and reimbursement in target markets after obtaining necessary regulatory clearances, making our innovative technology accessible to healthcare providers worldwide.

- **CEO:** Sumire Fukuda
- **Established:** not yet established
- **Location:** Kobe City, Hyogo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 1
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Contact:** LinkedIn: http://linkedin.com/in/smrfukuda

HICKY, Inc.

About us
HICKY, Inc., a Tokyo Biodesign start-up, is developing a minimally invasive medical device for central sleep apnea in patients with heart failure. Combining endovascular treatment with wireless power transmission, our device aims to enhance sleep quality, life quality, and prognosis while reducing re-hospitalization rates.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies:
KOLs, experts, and key persons in communities

- **CEO:** Kentaro Hayashi
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 5
- **Current funding status:** Grant-funded, pre-seed

- **Website:** https://www.hicky.jp/en

Future Business Plans
We are developing an implantable treatment device for central sleep apnea and aim to create a leadless, battery-free phrenic nerve stimulator in the future. Within the next three years, we plan to conduct acute-phase clinical trials and are in preparation for funding rounds. Our development efforts focus on achieving regulatory approval and market penetration in the US.

Osaka Heat Cool Inc.

About us

Osaka Heat Cool Inc. is a startup specializing in innovative healthcare solutions, focusing on itch relief devices using thermal stimulation and menstrual pain simulation devices. Through creating unique user experiences, we aim to contribute to the medical and wellness fields, expanding our reach both domestically and internationally.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

R&D partners

Future Business Plans

In addition to our itch relief devices and menstrual pain simulators, we are developing innovative hardware, including wireless systems utilizing the latest Bluetooth standards and IoT-enabled office furniture to enhance workplace efficiency. Our products, based on solid academic research evidence and featuring exceptional design, stand out in the market. Moving forward, we plan to expand our product lineup and increase collaborations with other businesses. We welcome opportunities to co-develop new ventures with both domestic and international partners. Please feel free to contact us to discuss tailored business proposals.

- **CEO:** Kenzo Ibano
- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** Minoh City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 10
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://www.osaka-heat-cool.com/en
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/kenzo-ibano-91a25427/

Physiologas Technologies Inc.

About us

Physiologas Technologies, a startup from Kitasato University, is developing an innovative waterless home dialysis system. Using patented dialysate recycling technology, our compact device eliminates plumbing needs, reducing patient burdens, improving quality of life, and enabling accessible treatment in areas with limited water infrastructure.
Our goal is to revolutionize hemodialysis globally.

Our partners/clients

Funds raised from Green Core Inc., KSP Inc., SO-TWO. Inc. and others.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

Future Business Plans

After product development, Physiologas Technologies aims to expand globally with a waterless hemodialysis system, scheduled for launch around 2028.
Expansion efforts will prioritize well-developed healthcare markets and regions with high dialysis demand, as well as areas with limited water infrastructure to increase accessibility and meet critical patient needs.

- **CEO:** Kazuyoshi Miyawaki
- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** Sagamihara City, Kanagawa
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 3
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://physiologas.co.jp/en-index.html
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/kazmiyawaki/

Almaprism Inc.

About us

We use video games to measure the cognitive traits and characteristics of children in order to provide customized, personally tailored care advice

Our partners/clients

Joint research with Nagoya University and Hamamatsu Medical University

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

R&D partners

Future Business Plans

Many people have trouble deciding how best to care for and support the development of children, but finding the best way requires becoming familiar with each child's strengths and weaknesses. Our novel software takes advantage of how someone's behavior in a video game reflects facets of their cognition and personality to output the players cognitive traits, strengths, and weaknesses objectively. Our product has gone through clinical testing and publication. We expect to raise funding in 2026 and release it as a consumer healthcare app, first in Japan and the United States.

- **CEO:** Shinichi Kasuno
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Kyoto City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 3
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://www.almaprism.com
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/shinichikasuno/

Southwood Inc.

About us

We develop AI-enhances portable echocardiography solutions to improve heart disease detection.

Our partners/clients

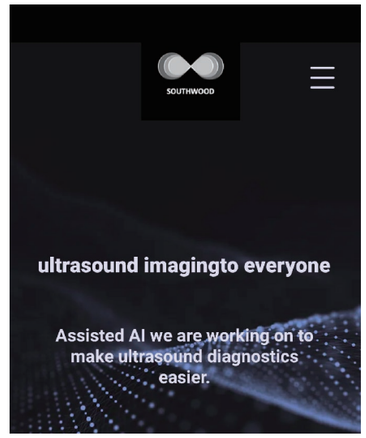
Investment from Industry-Academia Collaboration Capital; Member of the Medical AI Platform Technology Research Association.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

R&D partners

Future Business Plans

We are a developer of AI solutions for echocardiography. While portable echo devices are widely used internationally, our proprietary AI technology was developed through Japanese research initiatives. Currently, heart failure diagnosis via echocardiography requires specialist expertise. Our AI technology aims to support general physicians in making accurate diagnoses. We welcome partnerships with companies interested in distributing advanced medical AI solutions, whether bringing overseas technologies to Japan or expanding Japanese innovations globally. We are committed to ongoing R&D and commercialization efforts.



- **Representative Director, MD:** Kenya Kusunose
- **Representative Director:** Masatoshi Taketani
- **Established:** 2023
- **Location:** Tokushima City, Tokushima
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 5
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://www.southwood.co.jp/en

Callisto Inc.

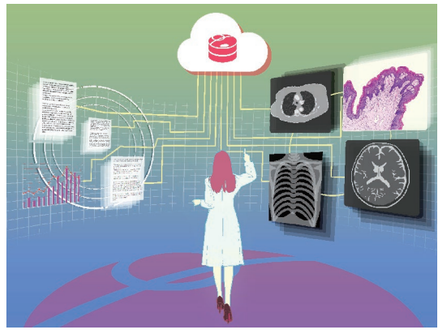
About us
Medical Image Data Platform Ready-to-Use for Medical AI/Drug Discovery and AI R&D. We sell high-quality, (annotated) radiology scans (X-ray, CT, MRI), pathology scans (WSI), and clinical/molecular data from Japan.

Our partners/clients
Fujifilm, KONICA MINOLTA. VCs: ITOCHU Technology Ventures, NOW

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
Fund raising and customer acquisition

- **CEO:** Changhee Han (Kallis)
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 23 (including executives, interns, and subcontractors, as of October 2024)
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://medical-datahub.ai/en
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/changheehan

Future Business Plans
We are currently selling our datasets internationally and plan to focus on ready-to-use radiological and pathological scan datasets, including data collection, selection, standardization, and annotation, with a particular emphasis on the US and European markets. Our immediate goal is to connect with potential customers in these regions. While our upcoming fundraising (Series A) will target only Japan, we are considering raising funds in the US during the following round (Series A) to further expand our global reach and accelerate growth.



NPO Medical Shinansha

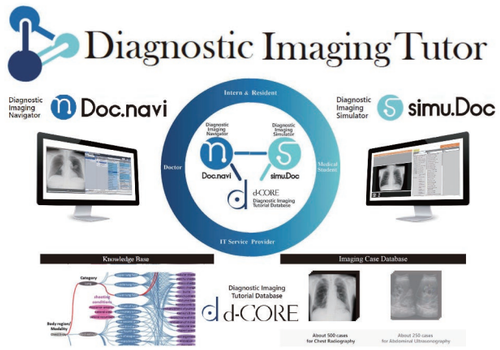
About us
Web-based Diagnostic Imaging Tutor -Navigator and Simulator-Image diagnostic accuracy “variability” has actually led to fatal cases caused by overlooking serious diseases. In response to this, we developed a web-based online service called “Diagnostic Imaging Tutor” that offers two types of applications: Diagnostic Imaging Navigator (Doc.navi) and Diagnostic Imaging Simulator (simu.Doc).
These applications provide knowledge, experience, and case studies in image diagnostics, thereby improving physicians’ image diagnostic accuracy and promoting efficient acquisition of image diagnostic skills in both urban and rural areas.

Our partners/clients
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), Techno Project Japan Co., Bunkashihonsouken Co., Ltd., etc.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
PoC partners

- **Chief Director:** Kosuke Sasai, Ph.D.
- **Established:** 2007
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 3
- **Current funding status:** Popularization period
- **Website:** https://www.medicalshinansha.or.jp/en/

Future Business Plans
One method is to establish local distributors and collaborate with them to expand the use of the product by healthcare professionals and to utilize their skills in teaching healthcare professionals how to use the product.
A certification system will be established and periodically renewed to ensure that Japanese staff maintain the ability to support local distributors.
Once the use of the Diagnostic Imaging Tutor is established locally, it will be possible to establish a local system to build, maintain, and operate the infrastructure for the Diagnostic Imaging Tutor.



Genon.Inc

About us
We operate HifuMed, an online medical service specializing in dermatology with an integrated Personal Health Record (PHR) system. Our PHR system allows patients to document their daily symptom changes and treatment history, which can then be shared with their doctors. Combined with online medical consultations, this system ensures nationwide accessibility and consultation times three times longer than usual, ensuring more thorough care for each patient.

Our partners/clients
Pre-seed funding from East Ventures and Gaiax Co. Ltd.; Seed funding from Z Venture Capital Corporation

- **CEO & Founder :** Chiaki Takahara
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 2
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://genon.co.jp/en/
- **Contact:** Website contact form
  LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/genon-inc/

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
PoC partners

Future Business Plans
Through HifuMed, we collect data on symptom changes and treatment history of skin diseases. We also plan to develop an AI-based image analysis system in the future. This system will enable both our current chronic disease patients and a broader patient base to access optimal medicine through their local pharmacies. We aim to expand HifuMed services internationally, particularly targeting regions where medical care access is limited in rural areas. We would like to offer our services to patients suffering from skin diseases all over the world.

I.W.G Inc.

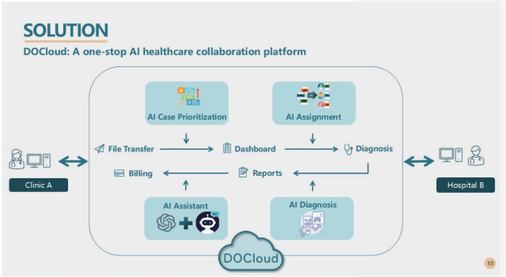
About us
DOCloud is an AI-powered cloud platform designed for healthcare collaboration. It integrates data sharing, task management, billing, and secure communication into one system. Tailored for clinics and small hospitals, it reduces costs, streamlines workflows, and enhances patient care with advanced AI capabilities and seamless connectivity.

Our partners/clients
Collaboration with Mayo Clinic, Indonesian healthcare providers; Antler Japan Cohort Member

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
PoC partners

- **CEO:** Xiaoyan Zhou
- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 7
- **Current funding status:** Bootstrapping
- **Website:** https://www.iwg-inc.com/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/%E6%A0%AA%E5%BC%8F%E4%BC%9A%E7%A4%BEi-w-g/

Future Business Plans
Our future plans focus on scaling operations and expanding market presence. We are collaborating with Mayo Clinic for Phase II of their program, conducting a PoC to enhance AI-driven diagnostic workflows. In Southeast Asia, we are targeting Indonesia as a key market, leveraging partnerships with local healthcare providers to introduce DOCloud. This expansion aligns with our strategy to address underserved markets, focusing on small to medium-sized healthcare facilities. Additionally, we aim to enhance DOCloud’s mobile compatibility for broader accessibility and integrate advanced AI functionalities, reinforcing our position as a leading healthcare collaboration platform globally.



fcuro Inc.

About us

We believe in pushing the boundaries to save lives, even when all hope seems lost. We tackle this by transforming the overwhelming flow of information in emergency rooms into actionable insights. We developed breakthrough software that can identify life-threatening injuries throughout the entire body in just 10 seconds.

Our partners/clients

R&D collaboration with 21 hospitals endorsed by the Japanese Society for Emergency Medicine (2020–2024), and with Mitsubishi Research Institute under a Cabinet Secretariat project (2020–2022, COVID-19 AI & Simulation Project). Supported by grants from the Information-technology Promotion Agency (2020, Mito Advanced Program), the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (2020, NEDO Entrepreneurs Program), the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (2022–2023, Medical Innovation Promotion Project), the Osaka Innovation Hub (2022, Kidou Program), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2024, ICT Startup League).

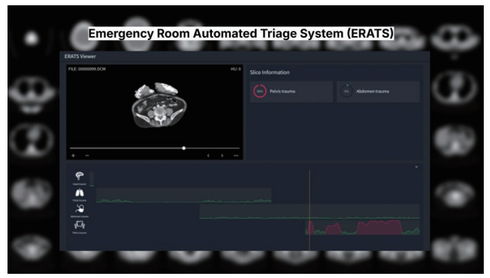
- **CEO:** Naoki Okada (Acute Care Specialist and Surgeon)
- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 30 (including part-time staff)
- **Current funding status:** Not fundraising
- **Website:** https://fcuro.com/en/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/shusukeinoue

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

R&D partners

Future Business Plans

In developing our core strength—imaging analysis technology—we have conducted joint research with 21 emergency centers and university hospitals both in Japan and abroad. Starting in 2024, we began pilot testing at these institutions to validate its clinical impact. Based on this evidence, we plan to expand our collaborations worldwide, further enhancing the versatility of our system.
As an additional strength, we are developing an integrated emergency system, which has been our long-standing goal. This multimodal life-saving AI system aggregates and analyzes all clinical data from the emergency room, including vital signs, blood test, and other physical examination findings, bringing our vision to life.



AED Inc.

About us

We accelerate drug discovery with an alternative approach.

Our partners/clients

Pharmaceutical companies and food companies

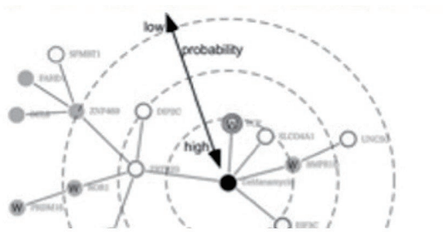
Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

R&D partners

Future Business Plans

Japanese pharmaceutical companies on average spend $1.6 billion per company on drug development. In the U.S., it is 10 times that amount. Our business model is very simple. A company sends us a drug, we classify it using a million different human cells, and we return the gene network regulation results and the drug sensitivity. There are many molecular drug discovery technologies, but no other technology can be called network drug discovery like ours. We hope to scale our business overseas within three years.

- **CTO:** Takuma Shiraki
- **Established:** It has not yet been incorporated.
- **Location:** Kinokawa City, Wakayama
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** none
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://sites.google.com/view/aed-inc/



Drug classification by network screening

bacterico.corp

About us

Bacterico develops personalized healthcare solutions through gut microbiota research and technology. We specialize in creating customized formulations for personalized medicine and preventive care.

Our partners/clients

R&D partnerships with Keio University, The University of Tokyo, and other leading institutions.

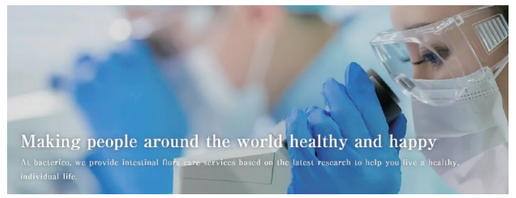
- **CEO:** Natsuki Suganuma
- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 4
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://bacterico.co.jp/en
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://jp.linkedin.com/in/natsuki-suganuma-218200182

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

Future Business Plans

Bacterico is pursuing global business expansion, with a focus on key markets in Asia, Europe, and the United States. We aim to establish strategic partnerships with local healthcare providers, research institutions, and companies to advance our innovative personalized healthcare solutions. Our primary focus is scaling our technology for customized formulations in preventive and precision medicine to address diverse health needs across different regions. We are actively seeking overseas collaborators to strengthen our market presence and accelerate our global growth.



Immunorock Co., Ltd.

About us

Immunorock, founded in 2021 at Kobe University, is a biotech company developing an innovative oral vaccine platform that uses the microbiome to deliver antigen proteins to the gut immune system. Its therapeutic cancer vaccine candidate, B440, is currently in a Phase I clinical trial for the treatment of urothelial carcinoma at Kobe University Hospital.

Our partners/clients

OSAKA University Venture Capital, Kobe University Capital

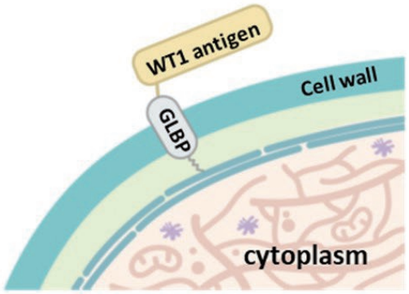
Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

Future Business Plans

The goal of our business is to commercialize B440, the world's first oral IO (immuno-oncology) drug, capable of significantly augmenting the efficacy of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) regardless of cancer type. In a Phase I clinical trial of B440 monotherapy for advanced urothelial carcinoma, which began in January 2023, the safety of B440 and its ability to induce tumor-specific cellular immunity were confirmed. Starting in late 2025, a domestic Phase I/II clinical trial will commence for the combination therapy of B440 and ICIs as a first-line treatment for malignant pleural mesothelioma, where WT1 protein is expressed in over 90% of cases. Additionally, in 2026, an international Phase II clinical trial will begin to evaluate the combination therapy of B440 and ICIs as a second- or third-line treatment for WT1-positive solid tumors resistant to ICIs, regardless of cancer type. Through these clinical trials, the aim is to achieve Human Proof of Concept (POC) and secure an exit via an M&A with a major pharmaceutical company by 2028.

- **CEO:** Toshiro Shirakawa
- **Established:** 2021
- **Location:** Kobe City, Hyogo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 5
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://immunorock.com/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/toshiro-shirakawa-82488634/



B440: WT1 displaying *Bifidobacterium*

CNS Drug Innovation

About us

Our innovative start-up in Fukushima, Japan, is at the forefront of developing FABP3 ligands to treat Lewy body diseases, including Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies. These neurodegenerative diseases arise from the spread and formation of toxic α-Synuclein protein complexes in the brain. Our breakthrough research has identified FABP3 as a pivotal molecule in this process. By preventing the binding of FABP3 and α-Synuclein, our novel compounds effectively inhibit the propagation and aggregation of α-Synuclein, the primary culprit in Lewy body diseases. This groundbreaking treatment could potentially be the first foundational drug for combating α-Synucleinopathies.

Our partners/clients

Tohoku University, Fukushima Medical University

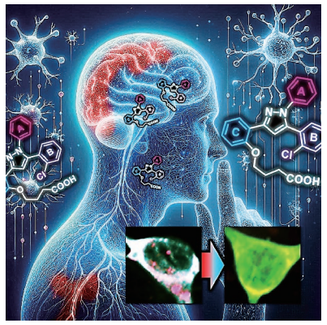
- **Head of Research:** Ichiro Kawahata
- **Established:** Before incorporation
- **Location:** Fukushima City, Fukushima
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of project members:** 5
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://plaza.umin.ac.jp/brain/theme.html

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fund raising

Future Business Plans

We plan to license our groundbreaking drug candidate to pharmaceutical companies, leveraging our comprehensive preclinical and clinical trial data. Alternatively, we may pursue regulatory approval through in-house development. Currently, we are preparing for Phase 1 clinical trials. Our drug targets Lewy body diseases, addressing a significant unmet medical need in a market valued at $32 billion. Our innovative approach offers high specificity and efficacy, setting us apart from other drug candidates. We are actively seeking investors to support the necessary funding for our upcoming clinical trials. Additionally, we are looking for pharmaceutical companies interested in licensing our promising drug candidate.



Smart Tissues

About us

We are focused on developing the next generation of wound dressings specifically tailored for chronic wound management. Our aim is to address critical challenges in wound healing, such as high infection rates and delayed tissue regeneration, by integrating innovative and sustainable biomaterials and precision manufacturing.

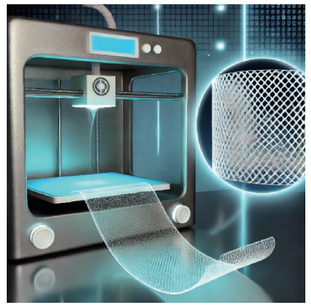
Our partners/clients

Fundraising

- **CEO:** Denise Zujur
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Kyoto City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 1
- **Current funding status:** Pre-Seed
- **Website:** https://www.smart-tissues.com/en/home-2/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/smart-tissues/ Website: https://www.smart-tissues.com/en/contact/

Future Business Plans

We are currently at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5, having completed the formulation and chemical modification of the materials needed for wound dressing and preliminary in vitro and in vivo testing of wound healing models. These studies have shown promising results, confirming both the safety and efficacy of our advanced wound dressing in controlled environments. We are now seeking for investment to advance our efforts through regulatory approval and increase our production.



Antibody Therapeutics Inc. (ATI)

About us

To fulfill the unmet medical needs (UMN) of pulmonary fibrosis and cancer, we are developing antibody drugs that inhibit signal input to fibroblasts from matrix proteins rather than soluble factors such as cytokines or growth factors.

Our partners/clients

Takeda Pharmaceuticals, with seed investment from Mitsubishi UFJ Capital

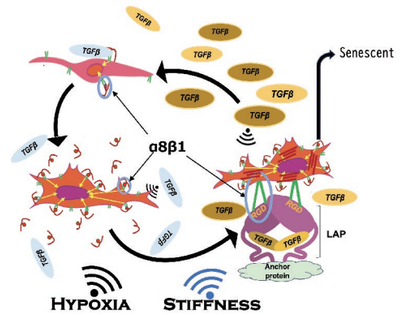
- **CEO:** Yasuyuki Yokosaki
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Hiroshima City, Hiroshima
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 2
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://www.integrin.jp
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/yasuyuki-yokosaki-50568548/?locale=en_US

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

Future Business Plans

Intractable diseases ruin lives, no matter how innocent the patient. Our founder, a pulmonologist, felt incompetent after losing his patient with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) two decades ago, despite her complete trust. He founded ATI in 2022 with a mission to bring an IPF drug he had discovered to patients as quickly as possible. He noticed a self-perpetuating loop in IPF that kept fibroblasts activated and found an integrin molecule that was the driver. After raising $3 million to manufacture the blocking antibody for integrin α8β1, our clinical trial will launch in 2027.



Rege Nephro Co., Ltd.

About us

We carry out research and development for drug discovery using iPSC-derived human disease models and iPSC-derived cell therapy for kidney diseases. Our leading product, RN-014, is in Phase II clinical trials for ADPKD, and RN-032, iPSC-derived nephron progenitor cells, is in preclinical study.

Our partners/clients

Collaborative research with AstraZeneca, Nikkiso, Shimadzu Corporation, Mitsui Chemical, and Toyo Seikan. Raised Series B funding from Kyoto University Innovation Capital, JAFCO, DCI Partners, Mitsubishi UFJ Capital, and JIC-VGI

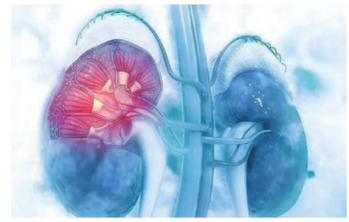
- **CEO:** Akifumi Morinaka
- **Established:** 2019
- **Location:** Kyoto City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 25
- **Current funding status:** Series B
- **Website:** https://www.regenephro.co.jp/en
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/akifumi-morinaka/

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

Future Business Plans

We are committed to bringing our lead products, RN-014 and RN-032, to the market. Following the results of the current Phase II trial of RN-014, we plan to continue clinical development worldwide, including in the United States. Similarly, we intend to enter the US market with RN-032 as soon as possible after completion of clinical trials in Japan. To support these initiatives, we plan to secure funding from global investors in 2025 to ensure that we are well prepared for the clinical trials of RN-014 in the US.



Any-Edge Inc.

About us

With every breath we take, we exhale over 1000 unique molecules. Each molecule tells a story about your health. This is why dogs can smell some diseases like lung cancer. The human nose is not sensitive enough, but our sensor combines with AI to make it possible.
We are creating a point-of-care device for pets.

Our partners/clients

R&D with DogNose sensor technologies, Lakmobile Enterprise

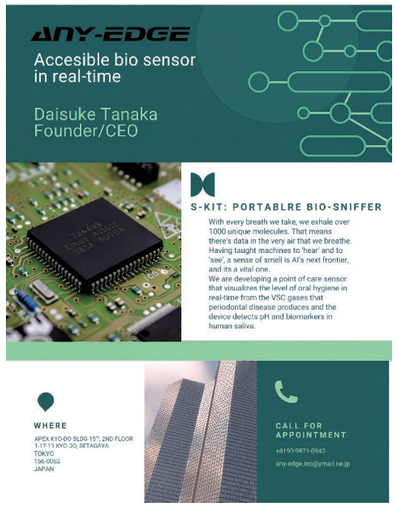
Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

R&D partners

Future Business Plans

Partnership offerings with top-tier academic research institutes and business distributors.

Within the first year of launching our product, we aim to make significant strides in improving oral health awareness and management.
By the fifth year, we envision a profound societal shift towards prioritizing oral health as an integral component of overall well-being. With our technology becoming more widely adopted, we anticipate a significant decline in the prevalence of periodontal disease among the population. This will lead to reduced healthcare costs associated with treating oral health complications and related systemic diseases.



- **CEO:** Daisuke Tanaka (Founder)
- **Established:** 2023
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 2
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://viamonte1114.wixsite.com/website
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/d-tanaka/

elan-able Inc.

About us

Our product uses AI to identify dental implant systems. Currently, there are more than 100 implant systems in the world, but patients do not know which system they are having implants placed in, and there are many cases where compatibility and other problems arise during implanting.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Fundraising

Future Business Plans

In the future, we hope to focus on peri-implantitis, which is currently a problem around the world, to determine the system and suggest treatment methods for peri-implantitis based on radiographic images.

- **CEO:** Masashi Yamamuro
- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** Nagano City, Nagano
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 5
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://www.elan-able.jp/

NINZIA Inc.

About us

We use texture engineering and development binder material for food.

Our partners/clients

Partners: Fukushima Galilei, Fuji Oil, Clients: Hotel New Otani, VCs: Ritsumeikan Social Impact Fund

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

R&D partners

Future Business Plans

Our company specializes in next-generation binding materials. Our flagship product, NINZIA PASTE, is a revolutionary konjac-based paste that enhances versatility in food processing. By combining NINZIA PASTE with other ingredients and applying heat, freezing, or drying, we create a robust gel that supports effective binding and molding, while ensuring resistance to retort processing and freezing.

We develop allergen-free solutions without unnecessary additives like wheat gluten or eggs. By leveraging the natural fiber glucomannan found in konjac, we aim to provide enjoyable, healthy meals for those with dietary restrictions, such as diabetes or allergies.

The molding technology of NINZIA has received high praise in markets such as Dubai in the UAE, the Basque region in Spain, Silicon Valley in the US, and Singapore.

- **CEO:** Masahiro Yoritama
- **Established:** 2016
- **Location:** Kobe City, Hyogo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 20
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://ninzia.jp/en/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/masahiro-yoritama/

PITTAN Inc.

About us

We provide an easy and affordable sweat analysis service for skin and muscle health

Our partners/clients

Raised $1 million in pre-series A funding from Quantum Leap Ventures, Kobe University Capital, Okasan Capital Partners, and Kyoto Capital Partners

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

Future Business Plans

We focus on amino acid analysis to provide personalized wellness solutions in the beauty and fitness sectors. Moving forward, we plan to expand our biomarker analysis to include hormones and vitamins, enabling us to support clinics and eldercare facilities. This evolution aims to broaden our impact, addressing diverse health and wellness needs through innovative, accessible solutions.

- **Co-Founder & CEO:** Kazuya Tsujimoto
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Kobe City, Hyogo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 7
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://www.pittan.life/lang/en
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/yoshi-nishikawa-5576861ba/

Elcyo Co., Ltd.

About us
We manufacture and sell tunable lenses and auto focal glasses.

Our partners/clients
Seed funding secured from ANRI and Wakasa Life

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
Fundraising

Future Business Plans
We are developing auto focal glasses using liquid crystal lens technology developed at Osaka University.
Our glasses help the elderly with presbyopia and young people concerned about eye strain and myopia by automatically adjusting focus based on what they are viewing.
We have secured patents both in Japan and internationally. While currently focused on developing eyeglass devices, we have a track record of selling lens modules to XR glasses manufacturers.
We plan to raise pre-Series A funding in the first half of 2025 and are particularly interested in CVC investments that offer synergistic opportunities for product co-development and sales channel expansion.

- **CEO:** Sunri Lee
- **Established:** 2019
- **Location:** Kyoto City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 8
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Website:** https://en.elcyo.com/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: http://linkedin.com/company/elcyo-co-ltd

GastroMedica, Inc.

About us
Developing a new dietary solution for the prevention of lifestyle-related diseases.

Our partners/clients
We are collaborating with the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center to conduct clinical research for our product.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
PoC partners

Future Business Plans
We are dedicated to developing meals that prevent lifestyle-related diseases. Our approach combines medical evidence from the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center with culinary expertise from a chef who achieved the world's fastest three-star Michelin rating to propose an entirely new food culture. We aim to develop products that allow people to enjoy delicious meals while maintaining their health. Currently, we are advancing the development of innovative food products and devices while building a system that leverages gut microbiota data to create personalized dietary solutions. If you are interested in our initiatives, please feel free to contact us.

- **CEO:** Shinsaku Nakazawa
- **Established:** 2023
- **Location:** Suita City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 8
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Website:** https://www.ncvc.go.jp/research/system/venture/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/shinsakunakazawa

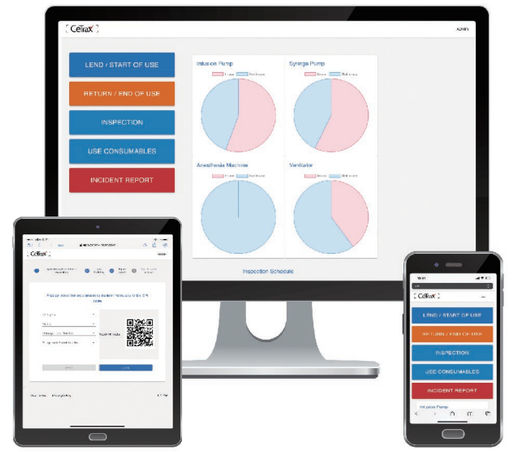
Redge, Inc.

About us
A system for medical equipment management and education based on the expertise and experience of clinical engineering technicians, as well as innovative medical services.

Our partners/clients
Hospitals, DFA Robotics, and KiSHiVR

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
KOLs, experts, and key persons in communities

Future Business Plans
We are developing a medical equipment management education system based on the expertise and experience of Japan's clinical engineering technicians who are specialists in medical devices. This system digitizes the traditionally paper-based management of medical equipment and aims to reduce device failures. We are also utilizing VR systems for educational purposes. The system is already being utilized in hospitals across Japan and has attracted attention in Asia and Africa where we are looking to expand our business.



- **CEO:** Daisuke Inagaki
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Kawasaki City, Kanagawa
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 1
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Website:** https://redge.co.jp/En/home
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/daisuke-inagaki/

Maya-mind

About us
R&D, manufacture, and sale of software medical devices for mental health and wellness

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
R&D partners

Future Business Plans
Confirmatory diagnostics for dementias have always been resource-intensive (Nuclear imaging / Lumbar puncture). Maya-mind's state of the art AI implementation in elucidating behavioral symptoms allows for a highly accurate classification and risk estimation for neuropsychiatric diseases like dementia.
The device's development is currently funded by NEDO and JST grants and is on the regulatory path for a Class 2 SaMD approval from the PMDA. We aim to finish our approval process by 2026 and begin selling the product in Japan, India, and the US.

- **Specially appointed Assistant Professor:** Gajanan Revankar
- **Established:** Not incorporated
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 3
- **Current funding status:** Seed

- **Website:** https://www.maya-mind.com/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/gajanan-revankar

Beyond S Corporation

Beyond S Corp.

About us
Development and sale of healthcare products utilizing conductive natural fibers

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
Fundraising

Future Business Plans
We have developed innovative conductive materials by integrating conductive polymers with Japanese “washi” paper and silk fibers. By leveraging these materials’ load/strain sensing capabilities, we created our flagship product, the “Pelvic Sensing Chair,” which analyzes pelvic posture in just 0.1 second and provides a quantitative “pelvic score.” Our system combines the chair with adjustment tools to create a comprehensive posture feedback solution aimed at reducing back and knee pain. Looking ahead, we plan to expand our technology into beds and shoes, targeting pre-symptomatic prevention, nursing care applications, and elderly monitoring systems. We are expecting to secure pre-series A funding by the end of 2025.

- **CEO:** Keiichi Torimitsu
- **Established:** 2020
- **Location:** Sendai City, Miyagi
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 3
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://beyond-s-corp.com/ENGTEST/

Renato Science, Inc.

RENATO SCIENCE

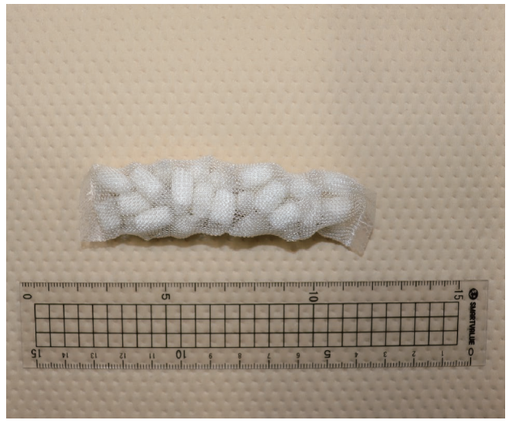
About us
We do research and development of artificial fat tissue constructed with Poly-L-lactic acid (PLLA) mesh, and collagen sponge, which is approved and widely-used as Pernac G Plus in Japan. We are aiming to provide patients requiring breast reconstruction after breast-conserving surgery with the best solutions where current cosmetic repair measures are not satisfactory for them.

Our partners/clients
GUNZE

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
PoC partners

- **CEO:** Yukinori Hasegawa
- **Established:** 2021
- **Location:** Kyoto-City, Kyoto
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 0
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://www.renatoscience.com/index-en.html
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/renatoscience-inc/

Future Business Plans
In the future, using artificial fat, we will conduct a first-in-human trial in 2027 and a corporate trial in 2028 in Japan. As a new artificial fat medical device, we aim to acquire Class IV certification in the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in 2029 and launch it in 2030 in Japan. In 2032, we aim to obtain FDA approval in the US. In 2033, our domestic and overseas sales in the breast reconstruction and breast augmentation market are expected to be approximately $35M/year and $350M/year, respectively.



ARIRGE CO., LTD.

ARIRGE
Address Social Issues Related to Cancer

About us
Provision of information, software, and platform services related to healthcare and medical care

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
R&D partners

Future Business Plans
We are developing a pioneering system that bridges healthcare institutions and businesses to support employees in maintaining their work life while managing illness. As Japan’s first collaborative platform of its kind, we facilitate crucial communication between corporate HR departments and primary care physicians to ensure proper employee support. Our platform also addresses a critical gap in healthcare data by collecting real-world information about patients’ daily health conditions, emotional well-being, and medication side effects outside the hospital setting. Following our planned launch in Japan in 2024, we aim to expand our service internationally.

- **CEO:** Masayuki Morishita
- **Established:** 2024
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 11
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://www.arirge.co.jp/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/masayuki-morishita-1ba960332/

Tiger Corporation

TIGER

About us
We develop a non-powered cold medical specimen transport system, using vacuum insulation technology and vacuum insulated containers developed over 100 years.
We offer an unparalleled lightweight and compact transport system with unrivalled insulation performance.
This system is suitable for transporting blood, urine, cells, and various other medical specimens.

Our partners/clients
Domestic transportation operators, domestic medical device providers

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies
Co-development partners

Future Business Plans
We can design and manufacture containers of various sizes.
We would like to use these containers to establish partnerships with transport and inspection companies involved in medical transport in various countries abroad to create the most appropriate transport system for each country locally.
We are looking for local partners in each country.

- **CEO:** Yoshisato Kikuchi
- **Project Leader:** Norihito Minamimura
- **Established:** 1923
- **Location:** Kadoma City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Medical/Healthcare/Biotechnology
- **Number of employees:** 700
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://www.tiger-corporation.com/en/jpn/

Eight Knot Inc.

About us

Eight Knot Inc. specializes in developing autonomous navigation systems for waterborne mobility, integrating robotics and AI to enable self-navigating boats. Their “AI CAPTAIN” platform offers automated piloting assistance, addressing challenges in maritime industries and creating new business opportunities.

Our partners/clients

We raised Pre-Series A funding from: Spiral Innovation Partners, Inc., ITOCHU Technology Ventures, Inc., QB Capital, LLC and NCB Venture Capital, Oriental Land Innovations Co., Ltd., Kyokuyo Shipyard Corporation, IWAKITEC Co., Ltd., and DRONE FUND Inc.

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

- **CEO:** Yujin Kimura
- **Established:** 2021
- **Location:** Sakai City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Mobility
- **Number of employees:** 20
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://8kt.jp/en

Future Business Plans

Eight Knot Inc. primarily focuses on retrofitting existing boats with its autonomous navigation system, the “AI CAPTAIN” platform. Building on the expertise gained from this core business, the company plans to expand into providing its technology as software solutions to marine equipment and outboard motor manufacturers. This new initiative, set to launch in 2025, aims to target both domestic and international markets. By leveraging its advanced autonomous navigation technologies, Eight Knot seeks to accelerate the adoption of safer and more efficient maritime solutions globally, driving innovation across the maritime industry.

OSINTech Inc.

About us

Rules play an important role in solving social problems. Towards our vision “Our World, Rules by Everybody,” we provide information related to rulemaking through the service RuleWatcher. Using AI, it continuously retrieves/crawls articles related to environmental and social issues. It targets over 1,400 manually-selected primary information sources.

Our partners/clients

Clients portfolio: National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP), RICOH, The Minato Bank, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), Kobe Institute of Computing (KIC), Cabinet Office

- **CEO:** Masato Oda
- **Established:** 2018
- **Location:** Kobe City, Hyogo
- **Business fields:** Information provision
- **Number of employees:** 18
- **Current funding status:** Series A
- **Website:** https://www.osintech.net/en
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/osintech/

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

Think-Tank Partners / Distributor partners and sales reps / Users (Customers)

Future Business Plans

We have recently launched new versions of our information provision service, RuleWatcher. One, characterized by its simple interface and simplified research method, is especially for libraries and school students. The other, suited to complex research, is more for researchers in academic, public, and business sectors.
We will promote these new versions not only inside the country but all over the world, including notably the global south. Meanwhile, we will augment the number of information sources and cover further social and environmental issues in line with global trends and interests.

Chinou Gijutsu Co., Ltd.

About us

We use robotics and AI to solve problems in the automotive, road, construction, social infrastructure, power, oil, and other industries. In addition, our technology is used in addressing disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes, typhoons, and floods.

Our partners/clients

Automobile manufacturers: Four automobile manufacturers utilize image processing AI and abnormality detection.
AI sensors/ Electrical equipment manufacturers and software manufacturers: Utilize image processing AI.
Medical equipment manufacturers: Use image processing AI in medical equipment.
Oil, chemical, and gas companies: Explosion-proof work robots, inspection robots in factories and AI sensors for abnormality detection in factories.
Electric power company: Using robots for work at nuclear power plants.
Highway management company: Jointly developed 3D spatial recognition sensor that detects the position and speed of a moving vehicle 300m away and detects whether the vehicle is moving or not.
Construction company: Provides automated construction machinery for work. Provides AI for automatic blueprint creation.
Transportation company: Jointly developed cargo handling robots for cargo ships.
Disaster response: Many firefighting teams use Fire Fighting robots to save the lives of firefighters and the public during disasters such as wildfires, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods.
Japan’s largest civil engineering consulting firm: Invested in us because of our AI development capabilities in the construction field.

- **CEO/Co-founder:** Dr. Otsu Ryouji
- **Established:** 2007
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Robot (AI / Mobility)
- **Number of employees:** 6
- **Current funding status:** Series B
- **Website:** https://www.chinou.co.jp/en/home/
- **Contact:** LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryojiotsu/

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

KOLs, experts, key persons within communities

Future Business Plans

We have already gained the trust of many prime companies in Japan with our experience in numerous robotics and AI developments.
We would like to sell our systems, which are highly regarded by Japanese companies, overseas.
For this purpose, we are looking for investors, customers, and partners who are willing to sell our systems in their countries.

open-socio.co.

About us

We do satellite data analysis of CO_2 emissions in real time and forecasting of COVID-19 and other diseases.

Our partners/clients

Results presented at JAXA symposium in 2023 and 2024.
https://aerospacebiz.jaxa.jp/jaxa-smash/cubesatlv2023/
https://aerospacebiz.jaxa.jp/jaxa-smash/cubesatlv2024/

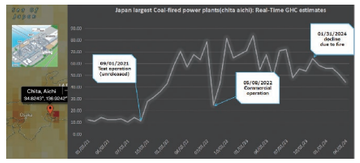
- **CEO:** Akira Yamaguchi
- **Established:** 2010
- **Location:** Tokyo
- **Business fields:** IT/AI/AR & VR
- **Number of employees:** 1
- **Current funding status:** Seed
- **Website:** https://open-socio.themedia.jp/

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

PoC partners

Future Business Plans

Using satellite data with CO_2 emissions data and AI technology, during FY2024 we will conduct a demonstration test of CO_2 emissions monitoring and stock price forecasting. Our aim is to expand to both domestic and international markets within 3 years, with full-scale commercialization by the end of FY2025. This will promote sustainable energy consumption and the distribution of carbon credits, and is expected to improve corporate environmental performance and share price valuation.



Thinker Inc.

Thinker

About us

We are working towards commercialization of a novel robot hand using Pre-Touch sensors. We are engaged in the manufacturing and sales of Pre-Touch sensors and robot hands. Our independently developed sensors (Pre-Touch Sensor TK-01), which quickly measure the posture and position of objects, and the robot hand (Think Hand F), which enables flexible gripping, address the challenges of irregular objects and workpiece misalignment that traditional robots struggle with. By accelerating the automation of tasks typically performed by humans, we aim to solve labor shortages.

Our partners/clients

Our clients are confidential. (We have commercialized our Pre-Touch sensor and, as of December 2024, conducted PoC with over 80 companies, and it has been implemented by 2 companies.) VC: Osaka University Venture Capital, SMBC VC, Mitsubishi UFJ Capital, MIRAIDOOR Co., Ltd., Suneight Investment, Kyoshin Social Capital, Resona Capital

- **Division Manager Global Business Development Division:** Takeshi Fujimoto
- **Established:** 2022
- **Location:** Osaka City, Osaka
- **Business fields:** Sensors, Robot Hands
- **Number of employees:** 11
- **Current funding status:** Series B

- **Website:** https://www.thinker-robotics.co.jp/en/
- **Contact:** Linkedin: https://jp.linkedin.com/company/thinker-robotics
  Website: https://www.thinker-robotics.co.jp/en/contact/

Interest for collaboration and cooperation with overseas companies

We are seeking demonstration partners and are interested in overseas venture capital (VC) opportunities.

Future Business Plans

Thinker aims to create a society where humans and robots can truly cooperate. Utilizing next-generation technology of the “Pre-Touch Sensor” powered by edge AI and infrared, we have been working to democratize robot hands.

We will expand our efforts not only in the manufacturing industry, which is our strength, but also in the distribution industry by introducing dexterous robots with robot hands. We plan to expand our domestic implementation cases to overseas in the future.

The Global Startup Acceleration Program

In addition! Other Kansai startup information!
JETRO supported other Start up in the Kansai region. The Global Startup Acceleration Program (GSAP) worked with the world’s top accelerators to provide practical skills and resources to help startups expand into overseas markets!

Attention!!
Here are the 43 participating companies from Kansai Startup !!
https://www5.jetro.go.jp/newsletter/osd/2024/kansaigsap.pdf

Program participants received extensive support from the world's top accelerators in raising capital, developing sales channels, and building business alliances. In addition, networking relationships were established with prominent mentors and investors. If you are interested in this company, please contact JETRO !!

Site Info
2024 https://www.jetro.go.jp/news/releases/2024/c0798b546c5eddf4.html
2023 https://www.jetro.go.jp/news/releases/2023/0583d34d91103c3d.html
2022 https://www.jetro.go.jp/news/releases/2022/4fcd93c5b06cc9b1.html#:~:text=%E5%85%A8%E5%9B%BD8%E3%82%AB%E6%89%80%E3%81%AE%E3%82%B9%E3%82%BF,%E3%81%8C%E7%A2%BA%E5%AE%9A%E3%81%97%E3%81%BE%E3%81%97%E3%81%9F%E3%80%82

Empowering Innovation: Startup Support Ecosystem

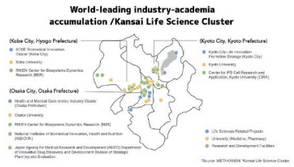
Behind every successful startup is a network of support that fosters growth and innovation. In Kansai, a diverse range of organizations—including local governments, accelerators, and others—play a pivotal role in nurturing the entrepreneurial ecosystem. These institutions provide vital resources such as funding, mentorship, coworking spaces, and connections to industry leaders. By bridging the gap between startups and global markets, they help transform groundbreaking ideas into impactful businesses. This section introduces the key players in Japan’s startup support landscape, highlighting their initiatives and how they empower entrepreneurs to thrive on both domestic and international stages.

Osaka startup Ecosystem

Osaka Startup Ecosystem

On July 14, 2020, the Osaka Startup Ecosystem Consortium, in collaboration with the Kyoto, Hyogo – Kobe Consortiums, was selected as a Global Startup City under the Cabinet Office strategy of “Beyond Limits. Unlock Our Potential.” Moving forward, the Kansai region will strive to create a world-class startup ecosystem where the strengths of the Kansai region, particularly in the life sciences, can be leveraged with government support.

Kansai Life Science Cluster



https://www.kansai.meti.go.jp/3-1toukou/_INVEST_support_eng/lifescience/2020lifescience_en.pdf

With the upcoming Osaka-Kansai World Exposition, Osaka’s enthusiasm is growing, especially in the medical industry. The relationship between Osaka Prefecture and the medical and health industries runs deep — to the extent that the theme of the Expo is “Healthcare”. The Kansai area has long been known as a town of medicine, with many pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers, both foreign and domestic, located there. There are also world-leading research centers, such as those conducting renowned clinical research and trials applying iPS cell technology, and their drive toward the practical application and industrialization of their research results is well-known.

Japan’s Manufacturing Hub

Night view of factories in the Osaka Sakai Senboku Waterfront Industrial Zone
©OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU

Osaka is renowned for its long and storied manufacturing industry, having thrived as a commercial and industrial hub since the Edo period. Osaka features a diverse industrial cluster that encompasses everything from raw material processing to cutting-edge manufacturing, enabling both vertical and horizontal integration. The presence of companies across multiple sectors, including machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and precision instruments, promotes technological innovation.
Building upon manufacturing technologies developed over years of experience, an increasing number of startups have recently been active in the field of climate-tech, developing new materials and clean energy.

The Academic Spinout Hotspot

Based on the 2023 Survey on University-Developed Venture Businesses, Osaka University ranked first in Japan in its increase of academic startups from the previous year (61 companies), while the total number of academic startups based in the Kansai region rose to 761 in FY2023, an increase of approximately 85% over the previous five years. A comprehensive support system is in place to assist with the scale-up of startups from the research stage at universities to the early stage after founding in Osaka.
The Kansai Startup Academia Coalition (KSAC) brings together over 70 organizations from academia, industry, finance, and local government. This collaboration aims to facilitate the flow of talent, research, and funding to support entrepreneurship and university-launched startups.

https://ksac.site/en/
Osaka tailored support systems cater to the diverse needs of entrepreneurs at different stages of their startup journey, reflecting a commitment to nurturing a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Startup Companies Exhibiting at Osaka Expo

The Osaka Health Care Pavilion at the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo, a joint Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City initiative, will host the startup-focused ‘Reborn Challenge.’ Organized by startup support institute Osaka Innovation Hub (OIH), the Reborn Challenge will bring 28 companies and two corporate groups in the healthcare and carbon-neutral fields to the 2025 Expo, providing them with valuable opportunities to display their technology to the public through interactive exhibits.

Behind the creation of unique startups in Osaka is ample support from academia and government partnerships

Come See Osaka’s Innovations EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

World Expo 2025 will be held in Osaka, Kansai, Japan, with the theme, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives.”
Schedule: 184 days from April 13 to October 13, 2025
Venue: Yumeshima, Osaka

OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN EXPO 2025 Towards a brighter future for all
Period Sunday, 13 April to Monday, 13 October 2025
Venue Yumeshima Island, Osaka City

https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/

HACK OSAKA

The international innovation conference ‘Hack Osaka,’ held annually in Osaka, is now in its 12th year. It is one of the largest innovation festivals in Kansai, bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, corporations, students, and local governments from across the globe.

https://www.innovation-osaka.jp/hackosaka/en/index.html/

Kobe/Hyogo startup Ecosystem

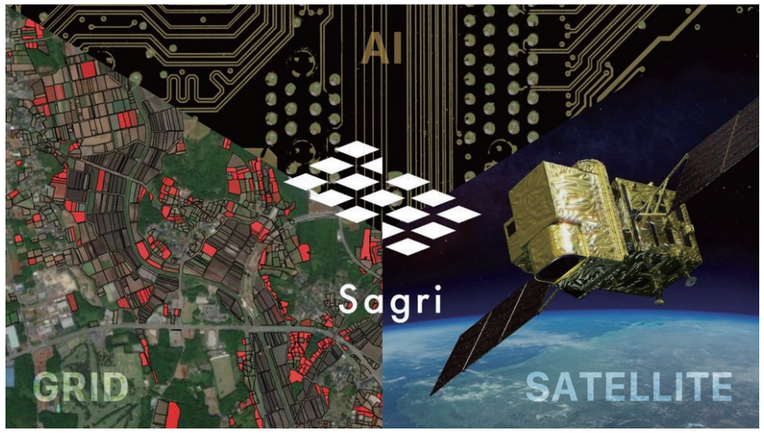
Hyogo, home to Kobe-an international startup hub-stretches from the Japan Sea to the Pacific Ocean via Awaji island. It features diverse communities, from urban cities to rural villages. Kobe, nestled between the sea and mountains, blends natural beauty with urban convenience. As a historic port city, Kobe has a long history of welcoming international cultures, making it a foreigner-friendly city that embraces diversity and fosters innovation. We offer intensive programs to help foreign startups connect with potential local partners to facilitate partnerships and PoC projects.

The “Kobe Global Startup Support” program provides tailored assistance to help foreign startups establish their businesses in Japan, offering services such as customized business matching, fundraising support, and administrative assistance. Our flagship initiative is the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster (KBIC), one of Japan’s largest life science hubs. With over 350 organizations, including research institutes, hospitals, and life science companies, KBIC provides exceptional opportunities for HealthTech startups to collaborate and innovate. Our dynamic ecosystem, extensive networks, and tailored support make it an ideal destination for startups seeking growth in Japan. Join our thriving ecosystem and drive innovation for the future!

Kobe/Hyogo startup

Sagri Co., Ltd

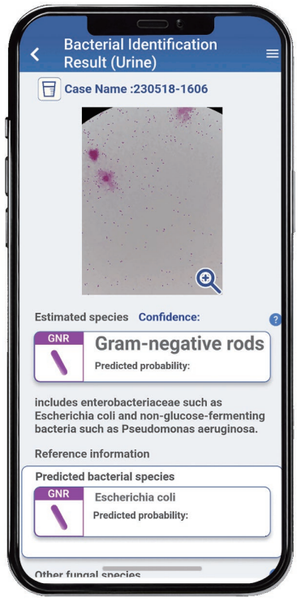
Sagri Co., Ltd, founded in 2018 in Tamba, Hyogo, Japan, leverages satellite data and AI to drive agricultural development and promote a decarbonized society.
To address global challenges like food security and climate change, Sagri offers its “Sagri” farming app to farmers and cooperatives worldwide.



The company specializes in patented technologies, including soil analysis using satellite data and AI-powered polygon mapping for automatic agricultural plot formation. Sagri also collaborates with major corporations in the agriculture and food sectors to advance carbon inset programs, visualizing Scope 3 emissions from farmland. Additionally, it was recognized as a best practice company for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai.
Sagri awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize at the 6th Space Development and Utilization Grand Prize.

Kobe/Hyogo startup

CarbGeM Inc.



CarbGeM Inc.: Advancing Life Sciences with AI and Biotechnology

Headquartered in Tokyo with operational locations in Kobe and Boston, CarbGeM is a Japan-based startup addressing global challenges in life sciences by integrating cutting-edge biology and digital technologies. Backed by government grants, we drive breakthroughs in diagnostics, drug discovery, and quality control across healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and industrial sectors. Our technologies include PoCGS®, the Bacterial Growth Monitor, and BiTTE®, a Japanese government-approved AI-powered software medical device for rapid and accurate microbial analysis. These solutions empower automation, standardization, and collaboration across diverse fields. Tackling critical issues like antimicrobial resistance (AMR), we contribute to sustainable innovation while improving efficiency and reproducibility. As we expand globally, CarbGeM seeks credible partners to shape the future of life sciences.

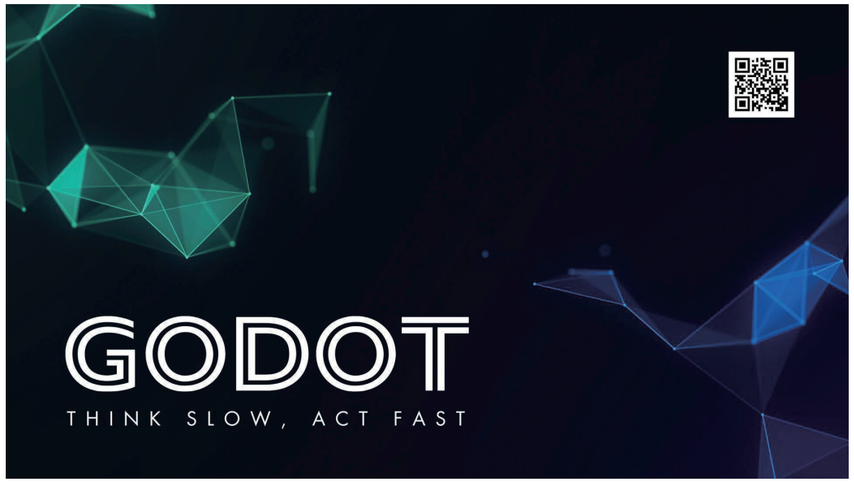
https://www.innovation-osaka.jp/hackosaka/en/index.html/

Acall

At Acall, we envision a world where individuals design fulfilling “life” and “work”, seamlessly connecting personal aspirations with professional goals. As a leader in “work-tech,” we leverage innovative technologies and expert insights to redefine modern workplaces. Our two flagship solutions are Facility Experience (FX) products, enhancing work environments with smart, adaptive tools, and People Experience (PX) services, which foster collaboration, relationships, and organizational success. These solutions empower companies to embrace flexibility, adapt to evolving workstyles, and thrive in dynamic industries. Through advanced software, tailored coaching, and consulting, we unlock the potential of individuals and teams, driving innovation and productivity. Committed to sustainable growth and inclusivity, we help organizations and people succeed together in a rapidly changing world.

Godot Inc.

Godot is revolutionizing human augmentation and behavioral design on a global scale. Our cutting-edge AI agents, powered by patented cognitive and behavioral analysis technologies, unlock human potential by identifying and addressing cognitive biases and behavioral gaps. These hyper-personalized agents inspire transformative behaviors—from prioritizing preventive care like medical checkups to embracing healthier lifestyles. By delivering swift, evidence-based interventions, Godot’s platform not only redefines preventive healthcare but also generates impressive ROI and optimizes healthcare costs. Our innovative solutions empower employers, insurers, and organizations worldwide to cultivate well-being, productivity, and resilience across their communities. With Godot, we’re not just enhancing lives—we’re shaping a healthier, brighter future for all.



Kyoto startup Ecosystem

In Kyoto, over a millennium of rich history has cultivated and refined Japan’s deep traditional culture, including tea ceremonies, flower arrangement, traditional performing arts, craftsmanship, kimono-making, and Kyoto cuisine. Many international innovators are said to have found inspiration for their groundbreaking innovations in Kyoto’s culture.

The industries nurtured in Kyoto throughout its history, beginning with the Heian period, have consistently sought “new” and “better” ideas, driving innovation and evolving into cutting-edge industries. Examples include:
- From Buddhist altars and religious items to precision instruments
- From pottery such as Kiyomizu ware and Kyoto ware to ceramics
- From playing cards to video games
- From sake brewing to pharmaceuticals and biotechnology

Through this evolution, Kyoto has built a foundation of over 1,200 years of accumulated knowledge, fostering some of the world’s leading global technology companies.

Business Environment

Kyoto is not just a tourist city; it is one of Japan’s leading “Cities of Manufacturing.” Throughout its long history, the city has evolved traditional technologies into high-tech industries while preserving long-established industries based on artisan skills, creating numerous global companies. The city is home to many universities, including Kyoto University, and is an academic city with one in ten residents being a university student. Kyoto University has produced countless talents, including many Japanese Nobel laureates, leading some companies to establish businesses in Kyoto to access this pool of excellent human resources. Recently, many support centers for startup businesses have launched in succession, and both the government and private companies have enhanced acceleration programs for startups, furthering innovation and industrial revitalization.

Global Startup Conference

We have successfully hosted “IVS KYOTO,” one of the largest startup conferences in Asia, in Kyoto for two consecutive years. In 2024, the event attracted 12,000 participants and featured over 300 side events, highlighting the growing attention on Kyoto’s startup ecosystem. In 2025, the conference will take place in July at Miyako Messe.

Industrial Cluster Information

1. IT & Life Sciences

Many global companies with advanced technologies have gathered in Kyoto, accelerating cutting-edge ICT research utilizing IoT and AI. Research on iPS cells developed in 2006 for medical care such as regenerative medicine and drug discovery continues to progress at the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University (CiRA), headed by Shinya Yamanaka M.D., Ph.D. and others. The support provided through industry-academia-government collaboration in creating innovation, R&D, and business offers a significant advantage for developing businesses in Kyoto. The city’s high student-to-population ratio is another attractive element from a human resource acquisition perspective.

2. Inbound Tourism

Kyoto is a popular tourist destination both domestically and internationally and is consistently ranked among the top destinations in various travel magazine surveys. This creates a strong demand for new mobility technologies and services to better manage tourist flow. Kyoto is also known as the “Holy Ground of Gaming.” The world-renowned Nintendo has its headquarters there, and BitSummit, Japan’s leading indie games festival—an event during which communities of gamers and programmers facilitate international exchange—is held there annually.

3. Smart Cities (AI, IoT, Robotics, Mobility, etc.)

The Keihanna Science City (officially known as the Kansai Science City) located in southern Kyoto Prefecture, adjacent to Osaka and Nara, houses 146 research facilities and R&D-oriented industrial facilities. They conduct demonstration and implementation tests focusing on AI, IoT, robotics and mobility to realize a smart city in collaboration with industry, government, academia, and neighboring residents. Located within the city, the Keihanna Open Innovation Center @KYOTO promotes advanced R&D, using ICT as its foundation to drive innovation in various areas including energy, health care, and infrastructure. The Keihanna Robotics Engineering Center serves as a new base for venture businesses and research institutes, supporting the development and implementation of next-generation robotics technologies. The Kyoto Smart City Expo, an international event held here, collaborates with Barcelona, Spain, a pioneer among smart cities, attracting many Japanese and overseas ICT companies.

MEDTECH ACTUATOR

https://medtechactuator.com/

MedTech Actuator, established in Melbourne, Australia in 2018, is dedicated to supporting the creation, acceleration, and global expansion of MedTech, HealthTech, and BioTech startups. Through an extensive network of 150+ partners, including venture capitalists, multi-national corporations, service providers, and medical and research institutions, are changing the face of healthcare globally.

Since 2022, JETRO has collaborated with MedTech Actuator to implement two programs targeting early-stage startups: “Origin 2022-2024” and “Global Navigator 2022.” Through these joint initiatives, JETRO and MedTech Actuator have supported 58 startups across Japan. In 2024, JETRO introduced a new nine-month acceleration program with MedTech Actuator called “J-StarX HealthTech Gateway General in APAC/Europe course,” selecting 20 startups for the inaugural cohort. This program aims to provide long-term support to Japanese innovators, equipping founders with essential knowledge and networks.

MedTech Actuator facilitates connections within the fragmented healthcare ecosystem to empower founders in building their success stories. Since its inception, MedTech Actuator has supported more than 500 startups with global commercialisation and capital raising, and provided training and mentoring to 5,000 physicians, engineers, inventors, and researchers commercialising health technologies. With offices in Melbourne, Australia, Singapore, and the newly established Osaka, Japan, MedTech Actuator delivers programs supporting companies in multiple markets including, India, South Korea, Vietnam, Spain, and the United Kingdom, that

Demo Day for “J-StarX HealthTech Gateway General in the APAC/Europe” will take place on June 24th, 2025, in Osaka City. To participate in Demo Day, please reserve your seat from the event page.

Finding startups in the medical and healthcare sectors that aim for global expansion and adapt to complex industry and regulatory structures has been particularly challenging. However, with the dedicated support from MedTech Actuator, some startups are planning to conduct clinical trials in Australia as a first step towards expanding into major markets.

In September 2024, MedTech Actuator established its third office in Osaka after Melbourne, Australia, and Singapore. With a new office in the heart of the medical industry in Japan, MedTech Actuator provides further support to Japanese startups and overseas startups looking for opportunities in Japan.

Dealroom, Explore the Kansai Startup Ecosystem

Want to learn more about the startup ecosystem in Kansai? We have prepared a database for you on Dealroom. Discover more startups and ecosystem partners by scanning the QR code below:
https://kansai.dealroom.co/intro

Dealroom is an international tool used worldwide to visualize startup information from all angles, including industry, growth stage, and funding status. Through this global platform, Kansai Startup Mashups aims to connect startups in the Kansai area with overseas investors, companies working on new business development, and local governments considering collaborations with startups.

What information can you find on Dealroom?

- A list of startups in the Kansai region
- Each company’s business description, growth stage, and funding status
- Up to date investment trends and ecosystem insights

Leverage Dealroom as your first step to expanding your possibilities in Kansai.