

## Global Startup Campus (GSC) Initiative Call for Proposals for Partner Entities to implement Pilot Activities

### I. Overview of the Global Startup Campus (GSC) Initiative and the Call for Proposals

- The mission of the Global Startup Campus (GSC) Initiative is to transform Japan's overall innovation ecosystem and build a global hub of world-class innovation ecosystems through collaboration with ambitious researchers, startups, forward-thinking venture capital firms (VCs), accelerators, and companies from both Japan and abroad.
- As set forth to the 'Global Startup Campus Initiative Implementation Policy for Pilot Activities (June 10th, 2025)' (hereinafter "Implementation Policy") and 'Global Startup Campus Initiative Implementation Guidelines for Pilot Activities (June 10th, 2025)' (hereinafter "Implementation Guidelines"), in order to attract outstanding talents and investment from around the world, the initiative shall implement the following as pilot activities **in collaboration with overseas institutions: (1) International Research Programs to attract researchers and investors; (2) Venture Builder Program; (3) Talent Development (Fellowship) Program. These programs aim to develop and refine the initiative toward the realization of the overall vision, while building partnerships with stakeholders.**
- These pilot activities will be implemented while pursuing flexible and continuous improvement by **leveraging domestic and international external experts** with proven track records in deep tech research and venture building support. This includes the integration of mechanisms that **gather and foster groundbreaking ideas from innovative young individuals.**
- To achieve the above objectives using the fund established at the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the Cabinet Office (CAO) is now calling for partner entities to undertake any or all of the programs listed in (1) through (3) above. The details are provided below.

### II. Mission of Partner Entity

#### 1. International Research Program to Attract Researchers and Investors

- The International Research Program is designed to attract the world's most ambitious researchers through collaboration with overseas institutions, under innovative research themes<sup>1</sup> with high social impact set by Venture Directors (VDs)<sup>2</sup> who have experience in research and commercialization in the fields of AI & Robotics, Biotechnology, and Climate Tech.
- Under this program, Partner Entities will be commissioned by JST to perform the following tasks:

<sup>1</sup> Refers to research and development activities based on original ideas and technologies, which have the potential to transform society and the economy through the creation of startups and the formation of new industries, and which possess the following characteristics : (1) Importance (2) Most Unmet (Novelty) (3) IP Defensibility (4) Time-To-Inflection.

<sup>2</sup> While the role is similar to that of a Program Director (PD) in organizations such as ARPA-E in the United States or ARIA in the United Kingdom, the term Venture Director (VD) is used in this call, as the role of a PD in Japan differs and typically does not encompass the responsibilities of promoting research and development aimed at commercialization, which is a key expectation in this initiative.

- (1) **Establishment of Governance Structure:** Partner Entities shall establish and operate appropriate governance structure to facilitate the implementation of tasks described below, which includes setting up advisory bodies within the Partner Entity, such as a Scientific Board composed of external experts like international researchers, founders, and investors, and an Industry Advisor that can provide specialized knowledge from the perspective of commercializing research results.
- (2) **Identification of VDs:** Within six months from the start of the contract, Partner Entities must identify and propose candidates for VDs. These individuals must be discovered and selected based on the following criteria, in consultation with advisory bodies such as Scientific Board and in alignment with the latest global trends in deep tech. VD candidates must meet the following qualifications:
- Experience in commercializing research outcomes
  - The capacity to develop research themes that are among the most ambitious and innovative in the world
  - The capability to effectively manage a diverse portfolio of research projects
  - Experience or potential for engagement in global business environments
  - A commitment to contributing to Japan's innovation ecosystem.
- Note: VDs are responsible for managing research activities toward commercialization of innovative research themes, and are not expected to conduct research themselves as Principal Investigators (PIs)<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) **Securing VD candidates:** Partner Entities must secure approximately 1 to 3 VD candidates per organization. To ensure that selected VD candidates can fully commit to the program, requirements such as full-time employment or residency in Japan will be applied. Once candidates are identified, their names will be submitted to JST. Based on these submissions, CAO will make the final decision on VD appointments. JST will then commission each appointed VD through a separate agreement<sup>4</sup>. The partner entity shall evaluate the VDs, report the results to JST, and take necessary actions accordingly.
- (4) **Support for Workshops and Community Building:** Partner Entities are expected to organize workshops involving relevant domestic and international researchers, VCs, companies, and other stakeholders necessary to develop innovative research theme proposals led by the VDs. They are also expected to support community-building essential for the commercialization of such themes through relevant networking activities.
- (5) **Support for the Formulation of Innovative Research Themes with High Social Impact:** Building on the activities in (4), the entity will support VDs in formulating innovative research themes that reflect global technology and industry trends, incorporate market feedback<sup>5</sup>. The selection of these themes should take into consideration the following perspectives:

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<sup>3</sup> For matters related to intellectual property concerning the VD in their capacity as the project manager, please refer to Section VII.

<sup>4</sup> VD candidates employed by the Partner Entity will also be commissioned by JST as JST Venture Directors (VDs). As the VDs are employed by the Partner Entity, JST will not provide any compensation in connection with the commission.

<sup>5</sup> Refers to feedback or evaluations from users, customers, investors, and industry stakeholders regarding the validity, feasibility, and commercial potential of research ideas, technologies, or products.

- Should possess the originality and appeal to transform society and the economy through science by promoting R&D and creating startups- and to attract the world's most ambitious researchers from around the world
  - Should have the potential to generate startups based on scientific research outcomes that can thrive in the global market
  - Should also take into account Japan's strengths and challenges
- (6) **Support for the Call and Selection of Principal Investigators (PIs):** Under the direction of the VD, the Partner Entities are expected to support the call for and selection of Principal Investigators (PIs), which will be conducted by JST. The call will target researchers affiliated with universities, research institutions, and companies (including startups), and will be based on the innovative research themes<sup>67</sup>.
- (7) **Support for Progress Management (Including Evaluation) of Innovative Research Themes:** Partner Entities shall support the progress management of research projects aimed at the commercialization of innovative research themes, as conducted by PIs under the leadership of VDs. This includes assistance with evaluations and other relevant tasks.
- (8) **Support for Commercialization of Research Projects Based on Innovative Research Themes:** Partner Entities shall support VDs in the commercialization of research projects based on innovative research themes.
- (9) **Cooperative Funding with Foreign Public and Non-Profit Organizations that provide Research Funding:** In implementing research activities based on innovative research themes, CAO may, at its discretion, coordinate funding in collaboration with foreign public or non-profit organizations ("foreign partner organizations") that allocate research funding. In such cases, under common VDs and innovative research themes, JST will conduct the open call for proposals, review, and selection of PIs for domestic research projects, while the foreign partner organizations will do the same for overseas research projects. The partner entity is expected to support coordination between JST and the foreign partner organizations.
- **Notes for Program Implementation After Selection**
    - **Selection Process of VDs and Innovative Research Themes:** Based on the criteria above, Partner Entities will select candidates for VDs and innovative research themes and report them to JST. Based on these submissions, CAO will then make the final decisions on the VDs and innovative research themes.<sup>8</sup>
    - **Method for Selecting VD candidates:** Partner Entities are expected to utilize Heilmeyer Questions<sup>9</sup> when selecting for VD candidates.

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<sup>6</sup> The handling of intellectual property rights created as a result of the PI's research shall be governed with the research contract concluded between JST and the institutions to which PIs belong.

<sup>7</sup> To ensure the smooth implementation of research based on innovative research themes, appropriate arrangements shall be made between the Partner Entities and relevant domestic institutions, as necessary.

<sup>8</sup> The handling of intellectual property rights related to the activities of the partner entity and the VD employed by it shall be governed by the business commission contract concluded with JST.

<sup>9</sup> Refers to a basic set of questions used for evaluating and selecting R&D projects in the United States' DARPA and ARPA, and the United Kingdom's ARIA.

- **Eligibility of Principal Investigators (PIs):** In principle, JST will support researchers affiliated with domestic institutions (e.g., domestic universities, research institutes, and companies). However, researchers affiliated with foreign institutions (e.g., overseas universities, research institutes, and companies) may also apply. From the perspective of realizing the GSC Initiative's concept of attracting researchers to Japan, in cases where a foreign researcher is selected, they are encouraged to be affiliated with a domestic research institution and conduct their research in Japan.  
If a foreign researcher conducts research outside Japan, the total amount of research funding allocated to their foreign institution must remain less than 50% of the annual funding allocated to the research project. Furthermore, as the GSC concept aims to foster startups creation and global expansion, it is also encouraged that the PI or their team includes a prospective founder with a doctoral degree.

## 2. Venture Builder Program

- The Venture Builder Program aims to promote the commercialization of research outcomes from the deep tech sector, with a global perspective, starting from the research phase. It targets potential founders, including doctoral students and Ph.D. holders affiliated with domestic institutions in Japan.
- Under this program, partner entities will be commissioned by JST to perform the following tasks:
  - (1) **Selection of Target Participants:** Identify and select founders and prospective founders with the potential to launch startups capable of significant global growth in deep tech fields through an open call. As a guideline, each partner entity is expected to support one cohort of approximately 10 to 30 individuals per year<sup>10</sup>.
  - (2) **Provision of Management Expertise:** Partner Entities will provide participants with business know-how, including financial and capital strategies, organizational design, and market research.
  - (3) **Mentorship and Community-building Support:** A mentor pool will be developed, consisting of individuals with experience in founding, fundraising, and scaling deep tech startups in global markets. Selected mentors from this pool will provide mentorship to participants. Additionally, Partner Entities will support for peer-to-peer community building among the participants and existing deep tech startup founders.
  - (4) **Support Across Commercialization Processes:** Partner Entities may provide “development support” to prospective founders affiliated with domestic institutions or startups registered in Japan. This support may include hypothesis testing, market research, international patent filing, financial and capital strategies, organizational design, and administrative procedures.
  - (5) **Access to Global Investors and Corporate Networks:** Partner Entities will offer opportunities for founders and prospective founders to connect with forward-thinking investors such as overseas venture capitalists (VCs), as well as potential corporate partners.
  - (6) **Intellectual Property Strategy and Protection Support:** Partner Entities will support the development of intellectual property strategies and the securing of IP rights for commercialization of research outcomes generated by founders and perspective founders.

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<sup>10</sup> Refers to a group of participants selected during the same period who go through the same program together.

- In this context, not only to the outcomes generated from the International Research Program but also those produced by domestic universities, incorporated administrative agencies, funding agencies, and Startup Ecosystem Hub Cities will be eligible for support.
- In implementing this program, measurable indicators such as company establishment, fundraising achievements, and progress in intellectual property development must be specified.

### 3. Talent Development (Fellowship) Program

- The Talent Development (Fellowship) Program is designed to foster innovation ecosystems by nurturing young researchers with strong entrepreneurial mindset and attracting researchers with a high motivation to engage in Japan's innovation ecosystem.
- Under this program, Partner Entities will be commissioned by JST to perform the following tasks:
  - (1) **Inviting Foreign Researchers to Japan:** Partner Entities will invite researchers affiliated with foreign institutions to conduct research at domestic institutions or laboratories. Specific tasks include:
    - Designing the selection process, criteria, and structure for selecting foreign researchers
    - Recruiting and selecting foreign researchers, including due diligence to ensure research security<sup>11</sup>
    - Selecting and contracting with host institutions in Japan
    - Matching foreign researchers with host institutions, including support for coordinating hosting conditions
    - Providing salary and other related payments to invited researchers
    - Providing necessary support for the domestic hosting of foreign researchers, including travel arrangements to Japan and other necessary arrangements for inviting foreign researchers.

Each partner entity is expected to host approximately 5 to 10 researchers over a period of three years. The duration of each researcher's stay in Japan shall be no less than one year and no more than three years. Additionally, the invited foreign researchers must meet the following criteria:

- Possess an entrepreneurial spirit and have a strong motivation toward the commercialization of their research
- Demonstrate outstanding research achievements
- Show a strong willingness to contribute to the development of Japan's innovation ecosystem

Furthermore, collaboration with institutions selected under the Global Startup Campus Initiative: International Joint Research Fellowship Program [Inbound Host Institution Call] (GP-ONE), implemented by CAO and JST to comprehensively support the invitation and hosting foreign researchers, is encouraged. (Approximately **5 institutions** are expected to be selected).

- (2) **Outbound Dispatch of Domestic Researchers:** Researchers affiliated with domestic institutions (who have obtained their degrees at domestic institutions) will be dispatched to research centers or laboratories at foreign institutions. Specific tasks include:
  - Designing the selection process, criteria, and structure for selecting domestic researchers
  - Recruiting and selecting domestic researchers through an open call

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<sup>11</sup> Summary of research security check: In matching overseas researchers with host institutions, the partner entity shall obtain and provide the information on overseas researchers that the domestic host institution needs. Please refer to Section VII

- Selecting and contracting with foreign host institutions as host destinations
- Matching domestic researchers with host institutions abroad
- Providing salary and other related payments to researchers dispatched abroad
- Providing necessary support for dispatching domestic researchers abroad

Each partner entity is expected to dispatch approximately 5 to 10 researchers over a period of three years. The duration of each assignment shall be no less than one year and no more than three years.

- (3) **Entrepreneurial Education and Commercialization Support:** For researchers participating in the above activities (1) and (2), partner entities will provide programs for breakthrough entrepreneurial development and support for commercialization of research outcomes. This includes support for company formations, IP commercialization, sustainable networking, among others. In selecting researchers for inbound or outbound participation, attention should be given to their motivation and track record regarding research commercialization.

### III. Project Scale

- The anticipated number of Partner Entities to be selected for each program is as follows:
  - (1) International Research Program to Attract Researchers and Investors: Approximately 1–2 entities
  - (2) Venture Builder Program: Approximately 1–2 entities
  - (3) Talent Development (Fellowship) Program: Approximately 1–2 entities
- The maximum amount of commissioned expenses for each program is as follows. Note that if multiple entities are selected under a single program, the total amount will be allocated among them:
  - (1) **International Research Program to Attract Researchers and Investors:** Up to JPY 1.5 billion per partner entity over 3 years<sup>12</sup>
    - Target fields: AI & Robotics, Biotechnology, Climate Tech, etc.
    - Number of VDs: Approximately 1–3 (with about 1 to 2 VDs per field)
  - (2) **Venture Builder Program:** Up to 1.5 billion yen per entity over 3 years<sup>13</sup>
  - (3) **Talent Development (Fellowship) Program:** Up to 800 million yen per entity over 3 years<sup>16</sup>
- In implementing each program, eligible expenses are specified in the accompanying document.
- In the International Research Program to Attract Researchers and Investors, under the leadership of the VD, JST will collaborate with the Partner Entities to conduct an open call and select Principal Investigators (PIs). JST will then enter into a commissioned research

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<sup>12</sup> In addition to the commissioned expenses disbursed to the Partner Entities, JST will directly provide research funding to the institutions to which the selected PIs belong. The total amount of research funding per Partner Entity is expected to be approximately JPY 9 billion over three years. After the VDs are appointed, they will be requested to propose a funding allocation plan, including the number of PIs to be selected and the budget amount per PI.

<sup>13</sup> If deployment support is provided, its cost will be included within the operational budget. In cases of subcontracting, the total subcontracted amount must not exceed 50% of the total contract value.

contract with the institutions to which the selected PIs belong and disburse research funds directly to those institutions.

- For all three programs, proposals that suggest starting on a small scale and scaling up based on demonstrated effectiveness (with clearly defined milestones) will be positively evaluated, regardless of the upper limits of support.
- Milestones should be incorporated into the schedule, and the continuation of the contract period and contents will depend on the achievement of those milestones.
- The implementation period for each program shall be up to three years, with the contract period extending until the end of FY2028, including preparation phase.

## **IV. Application**

### **1. Eligibility Requirements for the applying entity**

- Only proposals from entities that meet all (a) ~ (d) of the following conditions will be reviewed. Proposals from entities that fail to meet any of these conditions will not be considered:
  - (a) The entity must not fall under the provisions of Articles 70 and 71 of the Cabinet Order on Budget, Settlement of Accounts, and Accounting (Imperial Ordinance No. 165 of 1947).
  - (b) The entity must not be under transaction suspension by CAO, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), or JST during the application period.
  - (c) The entity must hold Unified Qualification for Participation in Tenders (FY2025–2027) issued by CAO, with a rating of A, B, C, or D in the category of “Provision of Services”, and must be qualified to participate in tenders in the Kanto-Koshinetsu region.<sup>14</sup>
  - (d) The applicant must already have or be planning to establish a corporate entity or branch office in Japan after selection<sup>15</sup>.

### **2. Application Unit**

- For the programs described in Section II 1.-3., the same organization may apply for multiple programs, provided that a separate proposal is submitted for each.
- Joint proposals by multiple institutions that meet all the requirements listed in Section IV.I (a)–(d) are also permitted. In such cases, a representative of the joint proposal must be designated to take responsibility for overall decision-making and operational management, and that representative shall submit the proposal. Please also refer to Section VII: Notes.

### **3. Special Notes**

- Under the mission of the GSC Initiative, proposals that involve partial modifications to the operational role of the partner entities in the above-mentioned programs may also be approved in accordance with the Implementation Policy and the Implementation Guideline.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.p-portal.go.jp/pps-web-biz/geps-chotatujocho/resources/app/html/shikaku.html>

<sup>15</sup> In cases where the applicant entity has already established a corporate entity in Japan at the time of contract execution, the agreement shall be concluded with that entity. If a corporate entity has not yet been established in Japan at the time of the contract execution, it is recommended that the contractual position of the applicant under the contract be transferred to the newly established entity as soon as it is set up (ideally within one year after selection).

- The operations entrusted to the Partner Entities represent only part of the overall GSC initiative. The overall governance including program design, the implementation of operations and management of the organizational structure will be led by CAO.
- Partner Entities will be requested to execute operations promptly; therefore, entities with slow internal decision-making, or unclear founder engagement need not apply.
- The pilot activities are part of a long-term effort to transform Japan's innovation ecosystem into one of the world's best. Accordingly, long-term collaboration by the Partner Entities is expected across the broader GSC initiative. In particular, they are expected to cooperate in the preparatory discussions led by CAO and JST for the establishment of the GSC Operating Entity (tentative name), drawing on the insights and experiences gained through this pilot activities.

## V. Selection

### 1. Selection Method

- For the implementation of each program, CAO will designate the Partner Entities based on deliberations by the Steering Committee established within CAO.
- The selection process will consist of a primary screening based on written application. Applicants who pass the primary screening may be invited to participate in an interview (in principle, conducted online) if deemed necessary.

### 2. Selection Criteria

- Proposals are expected to align with the principals of being startup-first, globally ambitious, founder-driven.
- The Steering Committee established within CAO will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:
  - (a) **Proposal Overview**
    - Understanding of key issues
    - Specificity and clarity of the proposed activities
    - Expected outcomes and impact
  - (b) **Track Record of the Applicant Related to the Proposed Program**
    - Experience and achievements in the deep tech sector (at the organizational and individual staff levels, both domestically and internationally, including funding sources for past programs), and international competitiveness
    - **(1) International Research Program to Attract Researchers and Investors:** Experience in identifying VD-equivalent personnel, setting research themes, and conducting research and commercialization in international programs such as ARPA and ARIA
    - **(2) Venture Builder Program for Commercialization:** Track record of providing support pre-startup researchers with business know-how and networks as well as support



for PhD-CEOs<sup>16</sup>, resulting in producing unicorn startups with large-scale fundraising (valued at over JPY 10 billion)

- **(3) Talent Development (Fellowship) Program:** Experience in partnerships with overseas universities, and in hosting entrepreneurial-minded foreign researchers in Japan and dispatching domestic researchers abroad.

**(c) Background and Methodology of the Proposal**

- Understanding of current landscape
- Evaluation methods
- Originality, innovativeness, and flexibility
- Risk assessment and mitigation strategies

**(d) Timeline and Clearly Defined Milestones and Stage Gates**

**(e) Contribution to and Impact on Japan's Innovation Ecosystem and the GSC Initiative**

- The applicant's existing relationship with Japan
  - List of overseas top-tier investors who can be introduced to startups created through the program.
  - Support for Japanese founders (PhD-CEOs) and startups to enter overseas markets.
  - Other impacts on Japan's innovation ecosystem and the GSC Initiative through program implementation (including long-term strategic value)
- Proposals demonstrating fluency with venture building and showcase concrete outcomes—startup creation, IP commercialization, fundraising team formation—alignment with the GSC mission and their long-term strategic value will be positively evaluated.

Proposals that actively promote collaboration among I. International Research Program; II. Venture Builder Program; III. Talent Development (Fellowship) Programs will also be positively evaluated.

### 3. Selection Schedule

Call for Proposals Open:	Tuesday, July 15, 2025 (Japan Standard Time)
Application Deadline:	Friday, August 22, 2025 (Japan Standard Time)
Review Period:	August to September 2025
Contract with JST and Program Implementation:	From September 2025 onward, in sequence

### 4. Submission Materials

- Submit the forms below:
  - (1) Application form (A4 or Letter size, up to 5 pages)<sup>17</sup>
  - (2) Budget form
  - (3) Milestone form.
- All submitted documents must be prepared in English.

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<sup>16</sup> Refers to a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who holds a Ph.D. and has deep expertise in deep tech.

<sup>17</sup> If necessary, supplementary materials can be attached separately from the proposal.

## **5. Announcement of Selection Results and Contracting**

- The names of applicants will be published on the Cabinet Office website after the review is completed.
- Entities selected as Partners by CAO will enter into a commissioned contract with JST for the relevant program.<sup>18</sup> Contract terms may be written in Japanese. The work plan must be prepared in English as the primary language, with a Japanese translation as a secondary reference. A detailed template will be published on the website at a later date.
- Furthermore, all contractual transactions shall be conducted in Japanese yen.
- Once the GSC Operating Entity (tentative name) is established, the applicant shall agree in advance that JST's contractual position will be transferred to the GSC Operating Entity.

## **6. Submission**

- Submit documents via email:  
<E-mail:[gsuc.h8k@cas.go.jp](mailto:gsuc.h8k@cas.go.jp)>

## **7. Exclusion of Conflicted Parties**

- During the review process, any Steering Committee member who has a conflict of interest with an applicant will not participate in the review of that applicant.
- If an applicant is found to have influenced Steering Committee members regarding evaluation or selection during the period from the start of the call to the final decision, and such actions are deemed to compromise the fairness, transparency, or competitiveness of the selection process, the applicant may be excluded from the review or disqualified. Even if such circumstances are identified after the selection of the contractor, the contract shall be terminated.

# **VI. Evaluation**

## **1. Reporting and Evaluation**

- The Partner Entity must report the program's progress to JST at each milestone.
- Based on these reports, CAO will evaluate each Partner Entity through deliberations by the Steering Committee, and share the results with JST, while taking necessary action

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<sup>18</sup> Documents submitted at the time of application will be shared with JST for contract administration purposes. The partner entity will be subject to inspection by JST every fiscal year (April to March). Additionally, there may be accounting inspections conducted by the Board of Audit.

## **VII. Points to Note**

### **1. Points to Note Regarding the Management of Intellectual Property Rights**

- In principle, the intellectual property rights arising from this open call projects shall belong to JST.<sup>19</sup>
- When using copyrighted works, photographs of individuals, etc., that the contractor (partner entity) already possesses or that third parties have rights to, strict attention must be paid to copyrights, portrait rights, etc. All procedures, including the burden of costs related to the use of such works, must be carried out in the execution of the contracted work, and measures must be taken to ensure that there are no obstacles to the use by CAO or JST, and that the relevant parties do not exercise their moral rights of authorship.
- In the event of a dispute concerning copyright infringement with a third party in relation to this open call projects, the contractor shall handle all such disputes at their own responsibility and expense, except in cases where the dispute is solely attributable to CAO or JST.

### **2. Notes on Joint Proposals**

- When submitting a joint proposal by multiple parties, please pay attention to the following requirements:
  - Designate a representative for the joint proposal who will be responsible for overall decision-making and operational management. This representative shall submit the proposal.
  - An agreement outlining the formation and operation of the joint proposal structure must be prepared among the participating entities and included in the proposal documents.

### **3. Points to Note Regarding Subcontracting**

- The contractor (partner entity) of this open call projects cannot subcontract all or the main part of the contracted work to a third party (including subsidiaries as defined in Article 2, Item 3 of the Companies Act). However, subcontracting of some parts of the work that are not the main parts (highly specialized work) is allowed. In such cases, the proportion of the subcontract amount to the contract amount of this open call projects must be less than 50%.
- The contractor must take necessary measures to ensure that the subcontractor also bears the contractor's obligations regarding intellectual property rights, information security (confidentiality and compliance), governance, etc. The contractor is ultimately responsible for the actions of the subcontractor, including the submission and management of evidence documents required for investigations conducted by the client after the completion of the work.
- When subcontracting, the contractor must select a subcontractor that does not pose any security issues.

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<sup>19</sup> Although the VD is not a research implementer, they may contribute to the creation of intellectual property such as patents through research and commercialization management and may be listed as a co-inventor. Therefore, the handling of intellectual property rights of the VD and their employer, the partner entity, shall be defined in the service agreement.

- The contractor must not subcontract to antisocial forces such as organized crime groups, members of organized crime groups, or groups engaged in social or political movements.

#### **4. Ensuring Research Integrity and Research Security in Response to New Risks Associated with the Internationalization and Openness of Research Activities**

- To promote the creation of science, technology, and innovation in our country, it is essential to strongly advance international collaborative research with diverse partners, with open science as the fundamental principle. At the same time, in recent years, new risks associated with the internationalization and openness of research activities have raised concerns that the values underpinning the research environment, such as openness and transparency, may be compromised. There is also a danger that researchers may unintentionally fall into conflicts of interest or conflicts of responsibility. In this context, it has become indispensable for our country to build a research environment that is internationally reliable, while protecting the values that underpin the research environment, and advancing necessary international cooperation and exchanges.
- Therefore, universities and research institutions must autonomously ensure the integrity and fairness of research (research integrity) by establishing relevant regulations and management systems, including addressing conflicts of interest and conflicts of responsibility, based on the "Policy on Ensuring Research Integrity in Response to New Risks Associated with the Internationalization and Openness of Research Activities" (decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on April 27, 2021).
- In the "Specific Measures for Ensuring Research Security at Universities and Related Institutions"<sup>20</sup> (Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, December 18, 2024), it is emphasized that ensuring research security is necessary not only to meet the demands of our country's economic security but also to protect an open research environment based on common values such as academic freedom, independence, openness, reciprocity, and transparency, and to promote international collaboration at universities and related institutions. The efforts to ensure research security are not aimed at achieving zero risk or imposing broad restrictions on research but are intended to advance research and international collaboration with integrity and transparency while appropriately mitigating risks that may arise. Additionally, CAO is progressing with the examination of the "Procedure for Preventing the Leakage of Important Technologies."
- Given this situation, the talent development (fellowship) program etc. of this open call projects requires domestic host institutions to conduct due diligence on incoming foreign researchers and implement appropriate risk management. In this regard, the partner entity responsible for the talent development (fellowship) program will assist domestic research institutions in conducting due diligence when matching domestic host institutions with foreign researchers.

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<sup>20</sup> Specific Measures for Ensuring Research Security at Universities and Related Institutions (Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, December 18, 2024)  
[https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20241219-mxt\\_kagoku-000039301\\_2-1rrr.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20241219-mxt_kagoku-000039301_2-1rrr.pdf)

- The partner entity will obtain and provide the following information to domestic host institutions regarding foreign researchers they wish to host:

Does any of the overseas researchers fall under any of the following categories?

1. Whether the foreign researcher falls under the "specific category" in security trade control.
2. Whether the foreign researcher is affiliated with, engaged in joint research or contracted research with, has co-authored papers with, or has made joint presentations at conferences with institutions listed in the Foreign User List of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry or the U.S. Consolidated Screening List.
3. Whether the foreign researcher has engaged in activities that pose problems from the perspective of economic security or security.

## **5. Measures for Researchers with Restricted Application and Participation Eligibility in Other Competitive Research Funding Programs**

- Researchers who have been restricted due to improper use of research funds in other competitive research funding programs, including those of other ministries, will have their eligibility to participate in each program of this open call projects restricted during the period of restriction in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Proper Execution of Competitive Research Funds<sup>21</sup>" [Agreement of the Liaison Council of Relevant Ministries and Agencies on Competitive Research Funds (Revised on December 17, 2021)].
- "Other competitive research funding programs" include not only currently ongoing programs but also programs that will start accepting applications from FY2025 onwards. Programs that ended before FY2024 are also included. For specific programs that are currently subject to restrictions, please refer to the following website.

## **6. Measures in Case of Violation of Relevant Laws and Regulations**

- When implementing each program, if there is a violation of relevant laws, guidelines, etc., the violator will be subject to penalties and sanctions based on those laws and guidelines. Additionally, the execution of grants may be suspended, and the grants may need to be returned.

## **7. Security Trade Control (Measures Against Overseas Technology Leakage)**

- Research institutions conduct research on many cutting-edge technologies. Particularly in universities, the increase in internationalization has led to a rise in the number of international students and foreign researchers, increasing the risk of leakage of advanced technologies, research materials, and equipment, which could be misused for the development and

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<sup>21</sup> Competitive research funding programs <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/>

manufacturing of weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, research institutions are required to take organizational measures to ensure that research results that could be diverted for military use do not fall into the hands of developers of weapons of mass destruction or terrorist groups.

- In Japan, export controls are conducted based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949) (hereinafter referred to as the "Foreign Exchange Act")<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, when exporting (providing) goods or technologies regulated by the Foreign Exchange Act, it is necessary to obtain permission from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in principle. Please comply with the Foreign Exchange Act and other national laws, guidelines, and notifications. If research is conducted in violation of relevant laws and guidelines, in addition to legal penalties, the distribution of research funds may be suspended, or the decision to allocate research funds may be canceled.
- Not only the export of goods but also the provision of technology is subject to the Foreign Exchange Act. Prior permission is required when providing list-controlled technology to non-residents (including residents who fall under specific categories<sup>23</sup>) or when providing it abroad. The provision of technology includes not only the provision of technical information such as blueprints, specifications, manuals, samples, and prototypes on paper, by email, or on storage media such as CDs, DVDs, and USB memory, but also the provision of operational knowledge through technical guidance and skills training, and technical support at seminars.
- Additionally, the acceptance of international students and activities such as joint research may involve the exchange of technologies subject to the Foreign Exchange Act. Please note that the provision of technologies obtained through this project, or technologies already possessed and utilized through this project may also be subject to regulation.
- Furthermore, students receiving study abroad funding from foreign governments may be subject to export control under the Foreign Exchange Act as residents falling under specific categories, even if they are residents. Therefore, it is necessary for the host institution to appropriately understand the scholarship status of international students.

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<sup>22</sup>Currently, Japan's security export control system consists of two main regulations based on international agreements: (1) the list control system, which requires permission from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry for the export (provision) of goods (technologies) with certain specifications and functions, such as carbon fibers and numerically controlled machine tools, and (2) the catch-all control system, which requires permission from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry for the export (provision) of goods (technologies) not covered by the list control system if certain conditions (use requirements, end-user requirements, or inform requirements) are met.

<sup>23</sup> Specific categories refer to types of residents who are strongly influenced by non-residents, as defined in Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and Article 17, Paragraph 2 of the Foreign Exchange Order, specifically the designated categories stipulated in 1. 3.(1) ~ (3).

- When exporting list-controlled goods or providing list-controlled technology abroad based on the Foreign Exchange Act, it is necessary to establish a security trade control system<sup>24</sup>. Therefore, by the time of contract conclusion, it may be necessary to confirm whether the provision of goods or technologies subject to export control under the Foreign Exchange Act is planned and, if so, whether a management system is in place. If there is an intention to provide such goods or technologies and no management system is in place, the establishment of a system is required by the time of provision or the end of this project, whichever comes first. The status of this confirmation may be reported to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry upon request.
- If a violation of the Foreign Exchange Act regulations is found regarding the technologies obtained through this project, the contract may be partially or entirely terminated.

## 8. Method and Structure of Implementation

- In conducting this program, the partner entities shall make sufficient coordination with CAO and JST in addition to following the instructions from CAO or JST and report the progress of the project at least once a month.
- the partner entities shall secure an appropriate number of personnel with appropriate knowledge and skills for the implementation of the project and those who can collaborate with external parties, taking into consideration the task content and task schedule. The core person (leader) in charge of the work shall be an excellent person with abundant knowledge and investigative ability, and any changes to this person shall be approved by the client. In addition, the personnel plan shall take into consideration securing of resources during program periods when the work is temporarily concentrated.
- In particular, since this project includes interaction with overseas universities, etc., a global team that has a global base and is capable of coordination in English shall be established.
- The partner entities shall establish a system that enables CAO and JST to contact the partner entities smoothly. The partner entities can contact CAO, etc. when necessary and can respond

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<sup>24</sup>Exporters are obligated to comply with the "Exporter Compliance Standards" stipulated in Article 55-10, Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange Act. The security trade control system here refers to the internal management system of the organization to prevent illegal exports by appropriately exporting list-controlled goods or providing list-controlled technology abroad, based on the "Exporter Compliance Standards."

Details on security trade control are available on the websites of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and other organizations. For more information, please refer to the following:

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Security Trade Control (General) <https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/>
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Security Trade Control Handbook <https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/seminer/shiryo/handbook.pdf>
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: Guidance on Sensitive Technology Management for Security Trade (For Universities and Research Institutions) [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law\\_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota\\_jishukanri03.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03.pdf)
- Center for Information on Security Trade Control <https://www.cistec.or.jp/index.html>
- Transactions or Acts Requiring Permission for the Provision of Technology Based on Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and Article 17, Paragraph 2 of the Foreign Exchange Order [https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law\\_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu\\_tutatu.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu_tutatu.pdf)

promptly. In addition, the partner entities shall establish a system to promptly report or consult with CAO etc. in the event of any problems.

- If requested by CAO, etc., the partner entities shall report on the progress of the project at meetings of relevant ministries and agencies, expert meetings, etc., and appropriately reflect the points raised at such meetings in the project after consultation with CAO or JST, in an effort to implement the project effectively.

## **9. Information Management**

- The handling and preservation of personal information in this project shall comply with the Personal Information Protection Law and other laws and regulations in Japan, and shall appropriately follow instructions from CAO or JST.
- After the execution of the contract, a list of persons handling information related to this work shall be submitted for approval by CAO or JST.
- Providing information to parties other than the above list is a serious breach of contract, and information obtained in the course of the project shall not be disclosed, leaked, or used for purposes other than this project.
- The partner entities shall obtain the prior approval of CAO or JST, when using by itself or disclosing to a third party all information obtained in the course of the contract.
- The handling of information provided by CAO or JST, shall be in accordance with the their instructions.
- When communicating with related parties, using communication tools, appropriate settings (e.g., BCC in the case of e-mail) must be made so that the information of other recipients cannot be viewed, and multiple employees must confirm that the recipients are properly addressed, etc. when sending information, etc. (including information other than personal information of other recipients). In addition to the above, the following measures should be taken to prevent the leakage of personal information, etc. (including information other than the personal information of other recipients).
- In the event of an incident or potential incident of information leakage, etc., promptly report the incident to CAO or JST and the relevant departments.
- Upon request from CAO or JST, the implementation status of information management, etc., shall be audited without delay.
- If CAO or JST confirm, based on the information provided above, that the implementation of the information security measures is insufficient, the partner entities shall take necessary measures based on the instructions from CAO or JST.
- After the performance of the contract, the partner entities shall take necessary measures for improvement based on the instructions for improvement from CAO or JST.
- After the performance of the contract, the partner entities shall return or delete the non-public information handled to the client, and obtain the confirmation of CAO or JST.



- The partner entities shall continue to undergo audits and investigations as necessary for the preservation of information after the completion of the contract.

## **10. Other Notes**

- If there are any matters not specified in this call for proposals or if any questions arise regarding the job of the services, the partner entities shall consult with CAO or JST.
- In the event of any matter not stipulated in this call for proposals that is necessary for the performance of the services, CAO, JST, and the partner entities shall consult with each other in good faith to reach a solution. The results of such discussions shall be documented in the form of instructions, requests, communications, agreements, etc. between CAO, JST, and the partner entities.
- In implementing this project, efforts shall be made to implement measures to promote work-life balance, etc.
- In implementing this project, consideration shall be given to reducing environmental impact, such as by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, etc.