

Selection of Operating Support Entities for Global Startup Campus (GSC) Initiative Pilot Activities

September 30, 2025

Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat

Press Release

We are pleased to announce the selection of prospective awardees of external entities (Operating Support Entities) that will play a key role in supporting the implementation of the Global Startup Campus (GSC) Initiative Pilot Activities.

Additionally, we have selected host institutions that will accept international researchers for the Talent Development (Fellowship) Program.

The mission of the Global Startup Campus (GSC) initiative is to transform Japan's 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.

To implement (1) International Research Program, which aims to attract researchers and investors, (2) Venture Builder Program and (3) Talent Development Program as the pilot activities of this initiative, we conducted a public call for proposals from external entities to support these programs from July 15 to August 22, 2025, resulting in a total of 36 submissions. Similarly, a call for host institutions that accept international researchers was held during the same period, receiving proposals from nine institutions.

Following a review by external experts on the Steering Committee, which advises on the overall operation of the pilot activities, five groups were selected as the prospective awardees of Operating Support Entities, and five universities were selected as the host institutions.

We will process the contracting procedures with those entities and institutions and vigorously promote the pilot activities of the GSC Initiative, cooperating with relevant ministries.

1 . Selected Prospective Awardees (Operating Support Entities)

① Cameron Teitelman, Inc. (Db. Nexus Events) and Start X

Selected Programs: Venture Builder Program and Talent Development Program



② Renaissance Philanthropy

Selected Program: International Research Program



③ SRI International

Selected Programs: International Research Program and Venture Builder Program



④ Stellar Science Foundation, LINK-J and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)

Selected Programs: International Research Program and Talent Development Program



⑤ UTokyo Innovation Platform Co., Ltd., Hakuodo Inc., Activate, Engine

Ventures, Prod, Imperial College London and National University of Singapore
Selected Programs: Venture Builder Program and Talent Development Program



Note: Underlined names indicate the lead proposer.

2 . Selected Host Institutions for Talent Development (Fellowship)

Program

① Hokkaido University

[Project Title] International Collaborative Climate Tech & AI-Based Mining Startup Incubation Program: Tackling Global Challenges from the Stratosphere to the Subsurface



② Tohoku University

[Project Title] Tohoku University Climate Deep Tech Fellowship Transformative Project



③ The University of Tokyo

[Project Title] Social implementation of deep tech originating in Asia utilizing satellite remote sensing and the formation of an innovation ecosystem



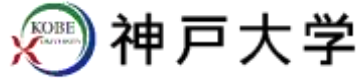
④ Kyoto University

[Project Title] Venture Studio Challenge for Kyoto University Startup Ecosystem



⑤ Kobe University

[Project Title] MedLeap: Kobe's Global Startup Hub for Medical Innovation



Contact Information

Cabinet Office, Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat

Innovation Division: Tsuwaki, Ito, Nishida, Akita

Phone: +81-3-3581-0161 (Direct Line)



① Cameron Teitelman, Inc. (Db. Nexus Events), Start X

Venture Builder

Talent Development

- A proposal by StartX, Stanford's entrepreneurial community and startup accelerator, and Cameron Teitelman, Inc. (Db. Nexus Events), headed by the founder of StartX and Nexus Events, aims to support the scale-up of research-based startups through the formation of a peer-to-peer network of founders between Japan and the U.S., educational programming and mentorship. This targets researchers, PhDs, Professors who are aspiring founders, in conjunction with talent development initiatives.



② Renaissance Philanthropy

International Research

- A nonprofit dedicated to enabling ambitious science, technology, and innovation globally.
- The organization is partnering with ARIA (UK) and SPRIND (Germany) to train visionary science leaders and accelerate the translation of science, building on the team's experience of programming ~\$1Bn of DARPA programs.



③ SRI International

International Research

Venture Builder

- A U.S.-based nonprofit research and development organization with a strong track record of collaborations with governments and companies and startup creation, including in Japan over the past 60 years.
- Also, advises and supports clients in the commercialization of deep tech research, building on its experience collaborating with U.S. agencies such as DARPA, ARPA-E, and ARPA-H.



④ Stellar Science Foundation, LINK-J, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)

International Research

Talent Development

- A joint effort between Stellar Science Foundation (SS-F), which drives cutting-edge research support in Japan; LINK-J, home to Japan's largest life-sciences community; and the US-based philanthropic Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), dedicated to curing, preventing, or managing all diseases.
- Leveraging CZI's global network—including partnerships with nine leading U.S. universities—the initiative advances bio and AI research models centered on Venture Director (VD) led projects, and runs fellowship programs to cultivate the next generation of scientific talent.

⑤ UTokyo Innovation Platform Co., Ltd., Hakuhodo Inc., Activate, Engine Ventures, Prod, Imperial College London and National University of Singapore

Venture Builder

Talent Development

- The Venture Builder Program nurtures PhD entrepreneurs and helps them create successful startups. It is led by MIT spinout Engine Ventures and Activate, along with Imperial College London and the National University of Singapore.
- Through the Talent Development Program, PROD transforms undergraduate and master's students into entrepreneurs, while the Fellowship Program enables U.S. venture capital firms to train young professionals as fellows, preparing them to become global innovators.
- Both programs are fully coordinated and supported by UTokyo IPC and Hakuhodo.





① Hokkaido University (2 persons)

[Project Title] International Collaborative Climate Tech & AI-Based Mining Startup Incubation Program: Tackling Global Challenges from the Stratosphere to the Subsurface



② Tohoku University (1 person)

[Project Title] Tohoku University Climate Deep Tech Fellowship Transformative Project



③ The University of Tokyo (2 persons)

[Project Title] Social implementation of deep tech originating in Asia utilizing satellite remote sensing and the formation of an innovation ecosystem



④ Kyoto University (1 person)

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⑤ Kobe University (2 persons)

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