

The launch of the incubation business at iCONM!



From the left in the front row: INOUE Mutsuko (MEXT), KIMURA Hiromichi (Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion), FUKUDA Norihiko (Mayor of Kawasaki City), Johannes Fruehauf (BioLabs, CEO), Susan Chase (BioLabs, Vice President), MIURA Jun (Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion), KATAOKA Kazunori (Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion)

From the left in the back row: ATSUMI Hiroshi (Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion), SUZUKI Tsuyoshi (Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion), SAKAI Shigeki (JST), NOMURA Ryuta (CIEA), OTSUKI Mitsuyasu (Cabinet Office), UCHIDA Satoshi (Crafton Biotechnology), NOGAMI Kenichi (Metcela Inc.)

On June 6th, 2022, Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion (KIIP) launched "iCONM in collaboration with BioLabs" to support life science start-ups at the Innovation Center of NanoMedicine(iCONM) in the King SkyFront. Also, KIIP announced a collaboration and the launch of a new co-working facility in Tonomachi at a ceremony with BioLabs, the premier global operator of co-working laboratory facilities for high potential life science start-ups. KIIP, BioLabs, and the city of Kawasaki also celebrates BioLabs' first step to provide co-working laboratory space in Asia. They are now accepting applications for lab users.

There are many pain-points biotech start-ups face. BioLabs builds ecosystems that empower life science entrepreneurs to focus on innovation, accelerate company growth, and maximize capital efficiency by delivering best-in-class lab space, essential business services, a powerful network of innovators, and connections to experts that offer inspiration and advice. With this unique model, BioLabs empowers entrepreneurs to accelerate their science and have a lasting impact on the world. In addition, the iCONM incubator, in collaboration with BioLabs, is designed to nurture high-potential life science start-ups in the seed to early clinical stages. This new facility leverages the many resources already found at the iCONM research facility, including fully equipped laborato-

ries, beautiful collaboration spaces, and excellent core facilities, such as organic chemistry, biochemical and pharmacological analysis, advanced microscopy, and animal facilities.

Through this collaboration, KIIP will combine the expertise of BioLabs and encourage more innovation. This is a very unique initiative to build the foundation of an ecosystem in collaboration with Kawasaki City. The ecosystem makes it possible for start-ups to easily access global networks from iCONM. At the ceremony,

Dr. Johannes Fruehauf, CEO of BioLabs, emphasized "By working together to support Japanese start-ups and the innovation ecosystem, BioLabs expects iCONM to become a magnet for world-class biotech companies. In addition, I believe our collaboration will have significant impact on Kawasaki by stimulating job growth and continuing to build a vibrant innovation community. We hope our collaboration helps to accelerate the start-up ecosystem in Japan."



As a picture shown above, lab benches are ready-to-use. Also, the benches are equipped with a refrigerator and small several equipment. The other advanced equipment/animal facility in iCONM can be available.

Metcela Inc. completed a fundraising round raising \$14 million

Metcela Inc. (hereinafter Metcela) announced the closing of its \$14 million (1.42 billion JPY) Series C round led by CYBERDYNE Corporation and CEJ Fund. Metcela is developing a combination product of novel cell-based therapy and delivery system, MTC001, for heart failure and MTC001 is currently in Phase 1 clinical trial in Japan.

Metcela acquired all shares of Japan Regenerative Medicine Co., Ltd. (hereinafter JRM) back in April 2022 and merged in June 2022. JRM is also developing an autologous cell-based product, JRM-001, targeting pediatric congenital heart disease and the product is in Phase 3 clinical trial in Japan. The addition of JRM assets and team further strengthens its clinical development capability of Metcela by leveraging the commonalities of the two companies. Metcela is further accelerating and scaling the development of its lead assets and establishing a global ecosystem for the development of autologous regenerative medicine products.



[Click here for Metcela Inc. news release.](#)

JSR Attracts Startups

JSR Corporation announced that the contract with startups at a new research center JSR Bioscience and informatics R&D center (JSR BiRD) which was opened last year were signed for the use of facilities.

The tenants are two companies, these are a healthtech company KINS and AuB Inc. which conducts research on intestinal bacteria. JSR BiRD aims to further accelerate next-generation research and commercialize through joint research by utilizing the characteristics of collaborative research facilities.

[Click here for JSR Corporation news release.](#)

Dr. Danno of Knowledge Palette gave talk at the event

Dr. Danno, Co-founder, Representative Director & CEO outlined the core project of the company at "Startups that go out into the world connected by Tama River Skybridge (Organizer: The Bank of Yokohama, Kiraboshi Bank / Co-organizer: Higashi-Nippon Bank)."

The company aims to overcome intractable diseases by applying the world's most accurate whole gene expression analysis technology. In March, the company was selected for "EY Innovative Startup 2022" (organized by EY Ernst & Young ShinNihon LLC), an award given to startups expected to achieve significant growth in the future, and future development is expected.

[Click here for website of Knowledge Palette.](#)

The 42nd Tonomachi Cafe was held at Haneda Area

On June 8, the 42nd Tonomachi Café was held at KicSpace Haneda. This time, the major initiatives at Haneda area and King SkyFront under the theme of "Healthcare x Digital x Monozukuri" were introduced as a collaborative project with Kiraboshi Bank, Ltd. Mr. SANADA Tomonori, Associate Officer, Deputy Group Manager, Product Planning Group, Robot Division of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. gave a talk on their initiatives at "Future Lab HANEDA" which was opened in HI City this spring and the future of industrial robots. From King SkyFront, Dr. ICHIKI Takanori, Principal Research Scientist/Laboratory Head, Innovation Center of NanoMedicine, gave a presentation on R&D for "home healthcare" and "in-situ testing," for which demand is expected to increase in the future under the title of "Nano-Engineering to Change the Future of Medicine and Drug Discovery." After these talks, the participants saw robots' cooking and pouring drinks. The talks stimulated many questions and interactions even after the scheduled closing time.



Opening of LINK-J Communication Lounge

LINK-J Communication Lounge has opened at Research Gate Building II in King SkyFront. The institutions who are in King SkyFront and the members of LINK-J can use this space for meetings with visitors and social gatherings with colleagues and local institutions. There is a free coffee service, we hope it will be used as a new interacting space in King SkyFront.



The 41st Tonomachi Cafe was also held in June, 2022.

Date of issue: July 2022

Publisher:
TONOMACHI LifeScience Cluster Division,
Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion

Mail : info-ksfcl@kawasaki-net.ne.jp

