Hybrid BRT Kick-Off Meeting on Friday, 6 November from 16:00 Tokyo / 08:00 Brussels

This 90-minute kick-off meeting, co-hosted by NEC and Merck, will prepare the 2027 annual meeting. A hybrid event, participants can either join the Kick-Off Meeting in-person at NEC HQ or online via Zoom. The event will be followed by a networking reception for on-site participants.

The first part of the meeting will feature exchanges with representatives of the EU and Japanese Authorities who will outline their expectations for the BRT and review recent EU-Japan government-to-government and business-to-government exchanges and preview forthcoming exchanges.

The second part of the meeting will focus on preparations for the BRT's 28th annual meeting.

Meeting timing:	**16:00 to 17:30 in Tokyo** (and a networking reception until 19:30) **08:00 to 09:30 in Brussels**
Locations:	• **NEC Corporation, 7-1, Shiba 5 Chome, Minato, Tokyo, 108-8001** [Location map]. Please use public transportation: Use **Exit A10** of **Mita Station** (Asakusa Line station A10, Mita Line station I04). • **Online via this Zoom link.** Meeting ID: 913 2402 4942 / Passcode: 750280. Please make your login name your 'company name – your first name and FAMILY NAME' (e.g., *"EU-Japan Centre – Simon CRAIG GRAY"*).
Participants:	• Each BRT member company or organisation has decided who its participant(s) will be: BRT Sherpa(s) and/or BRT Principal Member • Representatives of the EU and Japanese Authorities
Questions?	Please contact roundtable@eu-japan.eu

This version of the concept note may not contain the most up-to-date version of the agenda. **You can find the latest version of the agenda online here.**

AGENDA *for the* BRT Kick Off Meeting on 6 November 2026

Tokyo		Brussels
15:30-16:00	Registration at NEC for on-site participants	n/a
15:50-16:00	Login to the Zoom platform (online participants)	07:50-08:00
16:00-17:25	**Kick Off Meeting in NEC HQ's B1F Conference Hall and on Zoom**	08:00-09:25

MC for the meeting and networking reception: Toshiki Shimanouchi (NEC)

Part 1 – Exchanges with the Authorities *(moderated by J. Grossas, Merck)*

16:00-16:05 **Opening remarks** 08:00-08:05

- Hiroyuki Ishii, Director, External Relations Department, NEC Corporation
- Jeremy Grossas, Representative Director & President, Merck Biopharma Japan

16:05-16:30 **Expectations for the BRT & developments from the Authorities** 08:05-08:30

- DG GROW – Fabrice Terrac, Deputy Head of Unit, International Value Chains Unit
- METI – Koichi Sato, Director, Europe Division, Trade Policy Bureau
- DG TRADE – Adeline Hinderer, Minister Counsellor and Head of the Trade Section, Delegation of the European Union to Japan
- MOFA – Takahiro Hanada, Deputy Director-General, Economic Affairs Bureau
- DG CNECT – Peter Fatelnig, Minister Counsellor for Digital Economy Policy, Delegation of the European Union to Japan
- MIC – Eiji Ishida, Director for International Policy Coordination, International Economic Affairs Division, Global Strategy Bureau

16:30-16:40 **Q&A to the Authorities** 08:30-08:40

Part 2 – Preparation for the BRT annual meeting *(moderated by H. Ishii, NEC)*

16:40-17:00 **Updates on the Annual Meeting** 08:40-09:00

Date & venue, schedule / milestones, themes, draft agenda

- Toshiki Shimanouchi, NEC Corporation

17:00-17:15 **Q&A** 08:30-08:40

17:15-17:20 **Comments from the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation** 09:15-09:20

- Yasuo Tanabe, Special Advisor – Japan-side
- Dr. Akihiko "Aki" Tamura, Managing Director – Japan-side
- Manuel Hubert, Managing Director – EU-side

17:20-17:25 **Closing remarks** 09:20-09:25

- Jeremy Grossas, Merck Biopharma Japan
- Hiroyuki Ishii, NEC Corporation

17:30-19:30 **Networking Reception in NEC HQ's 40F Reception Hall** n/a