



EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation

一般財団法人日欧産業協力センター



EU-JAPAN *NEWS*

OCTOBER 2026 | N° 95

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EU-JAPAN CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

"First, I sincerely thank all of you who kindly support our activities.

Today's world is undergoing a period of heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Escalating great-power rivalry, fractured supply chains, and the growing use of trade and technology as tools of coercion are testing the resilience of the rules-based international order that has underpinned prosperity for decades. In such turbulent times, Japan-EU collaboration has never been more essential. As two of the world's leading advocates for open markets, democratic values and multilateral cooperation, Japan and the EU carry a shared responsibility to safeguard economic security and ensure that emerging technologies serve the good of society. Deepening our partnership is a strategic imperative for preserving stability in a fragmented world.

In this context, the EU-Japan Business Round Table continues to demonstrate its enduring value. Year after year, the BRT convenes annual meetings, bringing together business leaders from both regions to exchange candid views, identify shared challenges, and explore practical solutions.

It has become a trusted platform through which the private sector delivers concrete, actionable recommendations to our respective governments. This continuity is itself a testament to the strength of the Japan-EU relationship.

I am also delighted that Japan has become an associated country of Horizon Europe. This landmark step will accelerate the quality and speed of joint research and development, and enable Japan and the EU, through our bilateral partnership, to contribute together to the development of international standards. I look forward with great anticipation to the innovations this new chapter of cooperation will bring.

Through these platforms, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation will continue to foster bilateral economic cooperation, contributing to stable and sustainable global development, including in the Global South, and wider prosperity. Finally, thank you again for your valued participation and continued support for the Centre".



Dr. Nobuhiro Endo is Executive Advisor of NEC Corporation, after serving as President from 2010 and as Chairman of the Board from 2016 to 2022.

Joining NEC in 1981, he built a No. 1 global share business in microwave communications systems, bringing broad international perspective. He has been co-chair of the Japan side of the Japan-EU Business Round Table since November 2022.

NOBUHIRO ENDO, President, EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

IN THIS ISSUE

- > CALL FOR APPLICANTS: DEFENCE AND ROBOTICS MISSIONS, WCM TRAINING, AND VULCANUS IN JAPAN
- > LAUNCH OF THE INVEST IN EU HUB NEWSLETTER
- > JAPAN OFFICIALLY JOINS HORIZON EUROPE
- > YOKOHAMA CITY CIRCULAR PROJECTS
- > BELGIUM STRENGTHENS SECURITY COOPERATION

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
NEWSLETTER HERE



- > JASMINE - JAPAN AND EU SEMICONDUCTORS: MUTUAL INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE
- > TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EVENTS TO BOOST COOPERATION
- > JAPAN ENTRY ACCELERATION PROGRAM
- > GAMING INDUSTRY ON THE MOVE
- > ITALY AND GREECE GO STRONG
- > EEN PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES
- > AND MUCH MORE...

> EU-JAPAN CENTRE'S NEWS

日欧産業協力センターより1-4

> FROM EU/JAPAN AUTHORITIES

欧州委員会/日本政府関係機関より5

> FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

ビジネスコミュニティより6-11

> EEN PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

EENのビジネスパートナー募集情報 ...12

> CALENDAR / カレンダー13

THE EU-JAPAN CENTRE AT CEATEC

The EU-Japan Centre will lead a delegation of 16 innovative European companies from 11 EU Member States to CEATEC 2026, which will take place from 13 to 16 October at Makuhari Messe, Japan.

COME
AND
VISIT US

The participating companies are:

FACIL'iti, GReD, Axelera AI, Durance AI, Druid Software, Scriptide, NATIXAR, Neuralio, Spinnistart, Sparsity Technologies, InnoviGuard, Think Ahead Technologies, RIoT Secure, Softech, Apeiron Intelligence, and Cynteract.



Together, they will showcase a diverse range of European technologies and solutions across sectors including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, 5G, cybersecurity, digital accessibility, infrastructure monitoring, smart mobility, Earth observation, industrial software, and digital health. The mission supports companies willing to expand their presence in Japan; companies will be given the chance to identify potential partners, engage with prospective clients, and explore new business opportunities.

Visitors to CEATEC 2026 are invited to meet the delegation at the EU Pavilion, Global Park, Hall 4, Booth 4H502, and discover some of Europe's most promising digital innovations.

➡ https://www.ceatec.com/nj/exhibitor_detail_en?id=1028

VULCANUS IN JAPAN 2027-28: HOST COMPANY APPLICATIONS

The EU-Japan Centre will open applications on 15 October for companies based in Japan wishing to host participants under the Vulcanus in Japan programme for 2027-2028.

Vulcanus in Japan is an international internship programme for engineering, science and technology students enrolled at European universities. The programme will run from August 2027 to March 2028. Participants complete approximately two months of Japanese language and cultural training (August-September 2027), followed by a six-month internship with a host company in Japan (October 2027-March 2028).

The programme offers host organisations an opportunity to engage with talented European students and benefit from their specialist knowledge, technical skills, and fresh perspectives. Participants can contribute to activities such as research and development, technological innovation and international business initiatives, while supporting talent development and internationalisation within the host organisation.

Host organisations can tailor internship placements to their specific needs by defining the participant's academic specialisation, department or team assignment, training objectives, and expected responsibilities.

The application deadline is 15 December 2026. We encourage interested companies to submit their applications early.



Contact the Training Programmes and Business Support Services: VinJ@eu-japan.or.jp
Further information and application details are available on the EU-Japan Centre website:

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/host-european-trainee-japan>

2027-2028年度ヴルカヌス・イン・ジャパン受入企業募集

日欧産業協力センターは、2027-2028年度「ヴルカヌス・イン・ジャパン」プログラムの受入企業募集を10月15日より開始します。

ヴルカヌス・イン・ジャパンは、欧州の大学で工学・科学・技術分野を学ぶ学生を対象とした国際研修プログラムです。学生は約2か月間の日本語・日本文化研修を受けた後、日本企業にて約6か月間のインターンシップを行います。

受入企業にとっては、欧州の理工系人材との接点を持ち、学生の専門知識や新たな視点を研究開発・技術開発等に活用するとともに、人材育成、イノベーション、組織の国際化につながる機会となります。

プログラム期間は2027年8月から2028年3月までの8か月間。日本語・日本文化研修は2027年8月から9月、企業研修は同年10月から2028年3月まで実施されます。受入企業の申込締切は2026年12月15日（火）です。受入企業は、自社のニーズに合わせて、学生の専門分野、配属部署、研修テーマ、具体的な業務内容等を設定することができます。

受入れをご検討いただける場合は、ぜひお申込みくださいますようお願い申し上げます。

お問い合わせ先

研修事業・ビジネスサポートサービス担当

VinJ@eu-japan.or.jp

詳細につきましては、以下のリンクの募集案内をご覧ください。

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/vulcanus-in-japan>



APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR **SMART FACTORY & ROBOTICS MISSION 2027**

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation is accepting applications for the Smart Factory & Robotics Business Mission in Japan, taking place in Tokyo from 15 to 19 February 2027.

The mission will bring up to 16 European companies and clusters to Japan to explore business cooperation with Japanese industry in areas such as robotics, industrial automation, IoT, AI-supported production systems, and smart manufacturing.

The programme is linked to Smart Factory Expo 2027, part of Factory Innovation Week at Tokyo Big Sight. Mission participants will exhibit at the joint EU-Japan Centre booth during the exhibition from

17 to 19 February, with opportunities to present their solutions and meet potential Japanese partners.

The mission supports European companies and clusters seeking to build connections in Japan, identify potential partners, and explore future business and innovation partnerships. Before travelling to Japan, participants will also be offered two online training modules, currently scheduled for the mornings of 21 and 22 January 2027.



Applications deadline: 3 November 2026.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/smart-factory-robotics-mission>

WCM MISSION SET TO WELCOME ITS 56TH COHORT IN NAGOYA AS **APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING 2027 ARE OPEN**

This forthcoming mission will bring together 20 entrepreneurs from 17 companies across 10 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, and Spain) all seeking to deepen their understanding of Japanese manufacturing excellence and world-leading operational practices.



During the week-long programme, participants will have the opportunity to observe how Japanese organisations apply lean management, continuous improvement, and shop-floor innovation to achieve sustainable competitive advantage.

This edition is organised in partnership with **Avex Inc.**, a precision manufacturer near Nagoya founded in 1949, a long-standing supplier to Toyota group companies such as Aisin and Daihatsu. Participants will visit sites operated by Avex, Aktio, Nissin Kogyo and Mifune to see TPS, kaizen, IoT-driven improvement and automation in practice.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/world-class-manufacturing-mission-ii>



As preparations for October's mission enter their final phase, the Centre is also looking ahead. Companies that

were unable to apply or secure a place for the autumn programme have now a new opportunity, as recruitment for the 57th edition of the World Class Manufacturing mission is ongoing.

The 57th WCM mission will take place from 1 to 5 March 2027, once again offering European manufacturing professionals a unique opportunity to learn directly from Japanese production leaders. Application deadline: 8 December 2026.

REPORT: CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES IN JAPAN

Japan is striving to lower its CO₂ emissions despite obstacles such as scarce domestic energy resources and a greater reliance on fossil fuels following the Fukushima nuclear accident. To achieve this, the country is increasing investments in renewable energy sources and other low-carbon technologies.

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the market for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage technologies as a key component of Japan's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality. The report examines the current state of relevant technologies, domestic and international applications, ongoing projects, and the applicable legal and regulatory framework. It concludes by assessing market opportunities and challenges and provides recommendations for European companies seeking to enter the Japanese market.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinJapan/library/publication/report-carbon-capture-and-storage-ccs-technologies-japan>

JOIN OUR 2ND DEFENCE MISSION AND PRESENT YOURSELF AT DSEI 2027 JAPAN

The Japanese defence industry is changing rapidly. In April 2026, the Japanese government lifted decades-long restrictions on defence equipment exports, opening up a market that had previously been reserved almost exclusively for domestic suppliers.

This landmark decision was driven by rapid geopolitical change and a strategic push to strengthen Japan's own defence industrial base by expanding the market available to its manufacturers. This shift also reflects a broader change in outlook across Japan's defence community. While the United States remains Japan's closest ally, Tokyo is actively deepening cooperation with the EU and NATO member states — a trend underlined by the first-ever EU-Japan Defence Industrial Dialogue, held in April 2026.

Growing international interest in Japan's defence sector is also visible in the rising popularity of DSEI Japan, the country's only specialised biennial defence exhibition. The 2025 edition drew 474 exhibitors and 13,385 unique visitors from over 63 countries — and organisers expect the 2027 edition to grow even further, to 700 exhibitors and up to 20,000 visitors. A joint pavilion for 16 EU companies. The EU-Japan Centre will organise its 2nd Defence Business Mission Japan in April 2027, giving 16 EU companies the chance



to showcase their solutions to Japan's defence community from the Centre's own joint pavilion. Selected companies will benefit from extensive hands-on support from the Centre's local staff, both before and during the Mission.

Are you developing cutting-edge defence technologies — cybersecurity, drones, laser or satellite communications, radar systems, and beyond? This is your opportunity to connect with potential partners and clients across Japan's fast-opening defence market.

Join our Defence Mission and exhibit at DSEI Japan in April 2027. Application deadline: 18 December 2026

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/defence-mission>



INVEST IN EU HUB LAUNCHES NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The EU-Japan Centre has launched the Invest in EU Hub Newsletter, a new monthly publication in **Japanese** and **English** for Japanese companies and other stakeholders interested in investing and doing business in Europe.



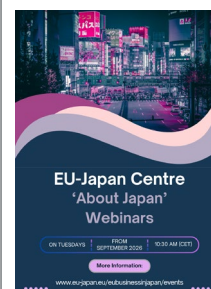
Each edition covers key EU policy and regulatory developments, investment incentives and other public support measures, recent Japanese investment activities in Europe, and relevant events and business opportunities. The newsletter forms part of the Centre's Invest in EU Hub, which helps Japanese companies explore investment opportunities and connect with support programmes and relevant contacts at both EU and Member State level. Readers are invited to explore the first edition and **subscribe here** to receive future issues.

欧州投資ハブ、新たに月刊ニュースレターを創刊

日欧産業協力センターは、欧州への投資やビジネスに関心を持つ日本企業や関係者を対象に、**日本語 / 英語**で発行する月刊「欧州投資ハブ月刊ニュースレター」を創刊しました。各号では、EUの主要な政策・規制動向、投資インセンティブをはじめとする公的支援策、日本企業による最近の欧州での投資動向、関連イベントやビジネス機会などを紹介します。本ニュースレターは、日欧産業協力センターの「欧州投資ハブ」の活動の一環として発行されるもので、日本企業による欧州での投資機会の探索や、EUおよび加盟国レベルの支援プログラム・関係機関との連携を支援します。ぜひ創刊号をご覧ください、今後の号を受け取るために[こちらから](https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/invest-eu-hub)ご登録ください。

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/invest-eu-hub>

UPCOMING “ABOUT JAPAN” WEBINARS: DISCOVER THE JAPANESE MARKET



Are you an EU company or support organization that wants to discover more about the Japanese market?

On Tuesdays, the EU-Japan Centre organizes webinars designed to improve your knowledge of conducting "business in Japan". During the webinars, participants will have the unique opportunity to listen to selected experts who share their knowledge and expertise.

We regularly update our page with our latest confirmed events, so be sure to check back from time to time and never miss an opportunity to join us!

Se also the calendar page of this newsletter.

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinJapan/events>

SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE **ASSOCIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO HORIZON EUROPE**



On 30 July 2026, Mr. Takashi Hamada, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Mission of Japan to the European Union, and Ms. Maria Cristina Russo, Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity and International Cooperation, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, signed the Agreement for the association of the Government of Japan to Horizon Europe, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, in Brussels, Belgium.

It is expected that this association will promote the participation of Japanese companies, universities, and research institutions in international collaborative research networks, particularly in Europe, thereby strengthening Japan's science and technology capabilities.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan ➡ https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_02554.html

JAPAN OFFICIALLY JOINS HORIZON EUROPE

As of 30 July 2026, Japan is officially associated to Horizon Europe. Home to 123 million people, Japan is the most populous country associated to the programme, adding one of the world's most advanced research and innovation ecosystems to Europe's network of scientific cooperation.

The agreement allows Japanese researchers and organisations to take part in Horizon Europe on equal terms with those from EU Member States and other associated countries. They will be able to join and lead international research consortia, receive EU funding, and work alongside top research institutions to help address global challenges.

Research and Innovation cooperation with Japan
Negotiations on Japan's accession were successfully concluded by the European Commission and the Government of Japan in December 2025. Since January 2026, transitional arrangements have already enabled Japanese entities to apply to Horizon Europe Pillar II calls and to be evaluated as prospective beneficiaries. Japan's association marks an important step in the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership and underlines a shared commitment to scientific excellence, innovation, open and rules-based international research cooperation.

The EU and Japan will now further expand cooperation to address shared global challenges, notably in the digital transition, health, and technologies that support climate neutrality.

Japan's association covers Horizon Europe Pillar II, which has a budget of €52.4 billion. This pillar funds multinational research and innovation projects addressing major societal challenges related to climate, energy, health and the digital economy. Japan will also contribute financially to the programme's budget covering for the participation of Japanese entities.

In addition, Japanese participants will continue to have access to other parts of Horizon Europe that are open to third countries, including the **Excellent Science pillar**, the **Innovative Europe pillar** and the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**, which support doctoral education, postdoctoral training and international research collaboration.

Source: European Commission ➡ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1705

VISIT OF BELGIAN DEFENCE MINISTER REINFORCES SECURITY COOPERATION WITH JAPAN

From 31 August till 2 September, Theo Francken, Minister of Defence and Foreign Trade of Belgium, visited Japan. He was the first Belgian Defence Minister to do so, sending a clear signal that Belgium is ready to strengthen cooperation with Japan in the security field.



First of all, Minister Francken opened a new post of Defence Attaché at the Belgian Embassy in Tokyo. The move aims to significantly improve the capacity to collaborate with Japan.

Another important aspect of the visit was industrial cooperation. Japanese defence industry is opening up and shows impressive know-how with high-quality products, both from established industrial players as from upcoming high-tech startups.

Minister Francken's programme reflected those elements. He had a productive and warm exchange with Japan's Defence Minister Koizumi on these issues. During a meeting with METI State Minister Ino, they discussed economic cooperation, including on critical raw materials. Furthermore, the Belgian Embassy together with its regions Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels, organised a seminar with Japanese businesses to present the Belgian defence industry.

Source: Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Tokyo ➡ <https://www.mod.go.jp/en/article/2026/08/4df5495addfd4eface0952475c966830f48167c0.html>

EUROPE SUPPORTS YOKOHAMA'S EFFORTS TO SPREAD CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ASIA

The City of Yokohama and ICLEI Japan jointly hosted the Asia-Pacific Circular Cities Forum (APCC-Forum). Participants included cities across Asia advancing a circular economy, 52 local governments and organizations from Japan and abroad, and other stakeholders.



In about 15 sessions, participants discussed the transition toward circular cities in Asia. In addition, businesses and students also took part, and there was a showcase of ongoing circular activities. The change of the conference's name, formerly the Asia Smart City Conference, not only highlighted Yokohama as Asia's leading circular city, but also demonstrated the ambition to broaden the network and exchange knowledge in the whole Asia Pacific region.

But Yokohama is striving to connect even further: As the city had requested support from European entities for the initiation of Europe's Circular Cities Declaration's sister initiative, the Asia Circular Cities Declaration last year, it now welcomed Mike Josef, Lord Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main in Germany as a representative of one of the leading cities of the European Circular Cities Declaration.

The Mayor of Yokohama's German partner city expressed his support for the Asian Circular Cities Declaration as a bridge between Europe and Asia. He also shared Frankfurt's current initiatives aimed at achieving zero waste as best practice for the other participating countries.

With 17 new signatory cities the Asia Circular Cities Declaration has expanded from 26 cities in 7 countries, representing a combined population of more than 57 million, to 43 cities in 11 countries, representing a combined population of more than 82 million.

Yokohama will continue to support the development of the circular economy in Asia, also by seeking further support from European municipalities and organizations, as everyone is aware that the current global challenges can only be overcome together.

Source: The City of Yokohama Europe Representative Office ➡ <https://apcc.city.yokohama.lg.jp/en/index.html>

BUILDING THE BRIDGE: EU-JAPAN SEMICONDUCTOR PARTNERSHIP AT SEMICON JAPAN

Spotlight on global collaboration: EU-Japan semiconductor partnership



The Horizon Europe Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips JU) project JASMINE (Japan and EU Semiconductors: Mutual Innovation & Excellence) is strengthening strategic cooperation between Europe and Japan across the semiconductor value chain. By bringing together leading research organisations, industry, policymakers, and innovation stakeholders, JASMINE aims to establish a long-term framework for collaboration that enhances competitiveness, resilience, and technological excellence.

Aligned with the objectives of the European Chips Act and Japan's semiconductor strategy, JASMINE leverages the complementary strengths of both regions. Europe offers world-class capabilities in semiconductor research, pilot-line infrastructure, photonics, and advanced manufacturing, while Japan contributes global leadership in semiconductor

materials, manufacturing equipment, packaging technologies, and supply-chain components.

JASMINE focuses on four key priorities:

- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Mapping strategic dependencies and opportunities to strengthen economic security and diversify supply chains.
- **Joint Research & Innovation:** Promoting collaboration in advanced logic, photonics, power electronics, advanced packaging, and emerging semiconductor technologies.
- **Sustainable Manufacturing:** Supporting the harmonisation of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodologies and sustainability practices.
- **Talent Development:** Encouraging mobility and cooperation between academia and industry to address critical skills shortages.

At SEMICON Japan, 9-11 December 2026 - booth number E7944, JASMINE will provide a platform for dialogue and partnership between European and Japanese stakeholders. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore initial findings from EU-Japan supply-chain analyses, participate in networking and matchmaking activities, and discuss future collaborative research and funding initiatives.

Through its workshop and exhibition activities, JASMINE will connect industry leaders, researchers, pilot-line representatives, and policymakers, helping to accelerate innovation and bring new semiconductor technologies closer to market. By fostering stronger links between Europe and Japan, JASMINE is contributing to a more resilient, sustainable, and globally competitive semiconductor ecosystem for the future.

Source: Tyndall National Institute – JASMINE's coordinator ➡ <https://www.jasmine-chips.eu/>

THREE YEARS ON: THE UNITARY PATENT CONTINUES TO GROW

Once the European Patent Office (EPO) has granted a European patent, one request gives patent owners one patent covering 18 EU Member States, a market of 350 million consumers and around 80% of the EU's economy (see map of territory covered).



Over 100 000 registrations since June 2023 confirm growing trust: in the first half of 2026, around 30% of European patents granted and 11% of those of Japanese proprietors became Unitary Patents, up from nearly 10% in 2025.

With the Unitary Patent, the EPO remains a one-stop shop for the patent's life. One annual renewal fee in Euros replaces 18 national payments with one single procedure. There are no further steps before national patent offices, so also translation, publication and local agent costs largely disappear. (see [Cost of a Unitary Patent](#)). Patent owners prepared to license their invention to interested parties can also reduce renewal fees by 15%.



Japanese businesses can thus secure simple and predictable protection across a territory covering Japan's five largest EU export markets, particularly benefiting SMEs. The Unitary Patent also simplifies enforcement. Instead of parallel national cases, patent owners can use the [Unified Patent Court](#) to obtain one decision covering all 18 states.

Its multinational panels include legally and technically qualified judges, and its growing case law, largely aligned with the EPO Boards of Appeal, provides legal certainty. Since May 2026, the [Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre](#) has offered confidential out-of-court procedures.

The EPO supports Japanese users through webinars, seminars, and conferences organised with local partners and [online information](#), [statistics](#) and Japanese materials for [businesses](#), [investors](#) and [patent professionals](#) planning their European patent strategy.

Source: EPO ➡ <https://www.epo.org/en>

KYOTO CITY MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE AT GAMESCOM

In August, Kyoto City took part in gamescom 2026, the world's largest event for computer and video games, for the first time. This marked an important first step toward building networks with stakeholders in Europe's gaming and creative industries and promoting Kyoto's business environment.



On the opening day, Kyoto City attended the official reception hosted by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the City of Cologne, and KölnBusiness. The reception took place aboard a vessel on the Rhine River, with Cologne Cathedral, one of the city's most iconic landmarks, providing a stunning backdrop.

The invitation-only event brought together approximately 1,000 participants, including government officials, executives from leading game companies, global enterprises, and representatives of the creative industries.

The reception provided an excellent opportunity to promote Kyoto's business environment, build networks with industry and public-sector partners, and explore opportunities for future business exchanges and investment attraction. As Kyoto City's first participation in gamescom, it also served as a valuable opportunity to raise the city's profile as a hub for content-related industries.

During the exhibition period, Kyoto City attended the exhibition and related networking events, connecting with companies and organizations in the gaming and creative industries.

Kyoto is widely known for its rich cultural heritage, but it is also home to a vibrant content industry, including gaming, anime, and manga-related businesses. The city hosts events such as BitSummit, one of Japan's largest independent game festivals, and KYOMAF (Kyoto International Manga Anime Fair), which attract a diverse range of creators and companies. Through its participation in gamescom, Kyoto City was able to introduce its business environment and its thriving content industry while expanding its network with companies and related organizations. The event provided a valuable opportunity to explore possibilities for future business exchanges and investment attraction. It also marked a meaningful first step toward building new relationships with stakeholders across the global gaming and creative industries.

Source: City of Kyoto, Business Attraction Promotion Office ➡ <https://investkyoto.city.kyoto.lg.jp>

ELEVEN ITALIAN STUDIOS JOINED TOKYO GAME SHOW

Italy returned to Tokyo Game Show 2026 for the third consecutive year, with its largest presence to date.

From 17 to 21 September 2026, eleven Italian studios and publishers exhibited at Makuhari Messe in a 144-square-metre national pavilion organised by the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) together with IIDEA, the Italian Interactive Digital Entertainment Association. The pavilion gave the participating companies — most of them small and medium-sized independent developers — a shared platform to present their titles to Japanese publishers, platform holders, distributors and international press. The first two days were reserved for business visitors, while the remaining three opened the halls to the general public.



Alongside the exhibition, the ITA Tokyo Office hosted a networking reception in Shibuya on 18 September, bringing the Italian delegation together with Japanese industry representatives, associations, and media. Each exhibiting company introduced its work before the floor opened to informal exchange.

A digital catalogue published for the occasion collects the profiles of the eleven exhibitors and remains available online.

Japan is among the most sought-after markets for European developers. Initiatives of this kind are intended to shorten that distance, giving smaller European studios direct access to counterparts that would otherwise remain out of reach.

Source: Italian Trade Agency, Tokyo Office ➡ <https://italy-pavilion-tgs2026.ice-tokyo.or.jp>

JEAP 2026 OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE COMPANIES

JEAP - Japan Entry Acceleration Program 2026, supported by the Forum for Innovative Regenerative Medicine (FIRM), provides the network, insights, and resources needed to accelerate business growth in Japan, one of the world's most advanced healthcare and life sciences markets.



Designed for innovative global companies, the programme offers a unique opportunity to explore the Japanese market and build meaningful connections with key stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem. Through tailored mentorship, business matching support, site visits, and a final Demo Day, selected companies will gain access to leading KOLs, CDMOs, pharmaceutical companies, and investors while developing practical insights into market entry, partnership development, and regulatory considerations for business expansion in Japan.

For companies looking to expand their presence in Asia and engage with potential partners in Japan, JEAP 2026 offers an ideal platform to establish a foothold in Japan and accelerate participants growth across the Asia-Pacific region.

Application deadline: 16 October 2026.

Source: JETRO ➡ <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/newsroom/2026/596d2181915cac22.html>



TECHBIZKON X: MEET HIGH-POTENTIAL LIFETECH STARTUPS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN

9 OCTOBER 2026, TOKYO, JAPAN

The international Startup Fair "TechBIZKON" celebrates its 10-year anniversary!

TechBIZKON X: LifeTECH+ Innovations for a Better Life will take place on 9 October 2026 at Tokyo Innovation Base (TiB) in Tokyo. The tenth edition of the Europe-Japan startup event will bring together more than 30 startups from Germany, Austria, Belgium/Flanders, Switzerland, and Japan with corporates, investors, and ecosystem stakeholders.

The 2026 edition focuses on health and wellbeing, longevity and AgeTech, CareTech, MedTech, Biotech, pharmaceuticals, regenerative medicine, disability inclusion, and cross-industry digital innovation. Participating startups are largely later-stage companies, many already conducting proof-of-concept projects or selling solutions internationally and

seeking business and investment partners in Japan.

The programme includes a panel discussion on LifeTech trends in Europe and Japan, 14 startup pitches, an award ceremony and an evening networking reception. Participants can also arrange individual meetings with startups through the event platform.

Source: German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan - AHK Japan ➡ <https://www.techbizkon.com/techbizkon-x-2026.html>



MEDIET JAPAN 2026: HOW ITALY AND JAPAN RETHINK LONGEVITY

16-17 OCTOBER 2026, TOKYO, JAPAN

"How can we live a longer and healthier life, and what does Italy have to say about it?" On 16-17 October 2026, MeDiet Japan brings this question to the International Conference Hall of the United Nations University in Shibuya, Tokyo.

A project of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ICCJ), under the patronage of the Italian Embassy, the conference gathers world authorities in nutrition, lifestyle medicine, geroscience, biotech, genetics, and sport to tackle ageing from every angle. Its core theme is an encounter between two of the world's great food cultures: the Mediterranean diet and Japanese cuisine, as complementary paths to healthy longevity.

The line-up includes Dr. Valter Longo (Italy/US), creator of the fasting-mimicking diet; Prof. Maria A. Blasco (Spain), a leading authority on telomeres and cellular ageing; Dr. Brian Kennedy (US/Singapore), a pioneer in translating longevity science into clinical practice; and Dr. Satoru Yamada (Japan), an expert in clinical nutrition and the "locabo" approach to metabolic disease.

Day 1 unfolds through four panels: on the science of longevity (brain, sleep, genes, social bonds); nutrition, fasting and the microbiome; ikigai, moai and community; and movement and the biology of ageing, with simultaneous English-Japanese interpretation.

Day 2 turns theory into practice through hands-on seminars and cooking shows: yoga and vitality, measuring biological age, frailty prevention, Japanese vegan cuisine, and an olive oil session on good fats.

Source: Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan ➡ <https://mediet.jp/>

HELSINKI INNOVATION FORUM: **STRENGTHENING JAPAN-FINLAND COLLABORATION**

14 OCTOBER 2026, TOKYO, JAPAN

Helsinki Innovation Forum, hosted by Helsinki Partners and co-hosted by JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), connects Japanese companies with Helsinki's leading research, innovation, and startup ecosystem, showcasing collaboration opportunities in deep tech, digital solutions, and sustainable innovation.

The event opens with a welcome remark from the Mayor of Helsinki and JETRO, and features presentations from key innovation organizations, research institutions and ecosystem enablers. Participants will gain insights into Helsinki's innovation landscape and explore practical pathways for collaboration with Finnish partners.



The programme includes:

- Welcome remark by the City of Helsinki and JETRO
- Introduction to Helsinki Innovation Landscape
- Panel discussion featuring representatives from the University of Helsinki, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, City of Helsinki, moderated by Helsinki Partners
- Networking lunch with representatives from Helsinki's innovation ecosystem

*Programme details are subject to change

The forum offers a valuable opportunity for Japanese companies to engage directly with Helsinki's innovation leaders, discover emerging technologies and explore future collaboration opportunities across research, business, and startup communities.

Source: Pasona

➡ <https://luma.com/mpit0fe1>

CONNECTING JAPAN AND THE RHINE-NECKAR METROPOLITAN REGION

23 OCTOBER 2026, SPEYER, GERMANY

This event series was initiated in 2024 by the German-Japanese Society Vorderpfalz (DJG), WES Wirtschaftsförderungs- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft Speyer, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce for the Palatinate (IHK Pfalz), and the Japanese-German Business Association (DJW).

In 2025, the Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar - an alliance of partners from business, science and politics - joined as organizing partner as well. The aim is to promote German-Japanese exchange on a local level in the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region. The Rhine Neckar metropolitan region stands as one of Germany's most vital economic hubs driven by advanced manufacturing, cutting edge life sciences, automotive suppliers, and digital tech firms.

Its excellent infrastructure, rich network of innovation, and cross-cluster cooperations make it a cornerstone of Germany's economy – and an ideal gateway for German Japanese business collaboration. In this third event organizers will explore the topic of opportunities for German and Japanese companies in the security and defence sector, inviting company representatives to share their experience in bilateral collaboration.

Source: DJW ➡ <https://www.djw.de/de/veranstaltungen/djw-veranstaltungen/rhein-neckar-business-talks-2026>

JFR 2026: **30TH FRANCOPHONE RESEARCH DAYS**

11-12 DECEMBER, TOKYO, JAPAN

Sciencescope, the association of French-speaking students and researchers in Japan, will organize the “Journées Francophones de la Recherche” on the 11-12 December in Tokyo.

This year, the event will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the JFR, an annual gathering that has become a landmark event for the French-speaking scientific community in Japan. Since 1997, the JFR has brought together French-speaking researchers and students based in Japan, spanning all disciplines and nationalities, on an annual basis.

Source: Sciencescope ➡ <https://www.sciencescope.org/events-2/jfr/jfr2026/>

FEEL THE YARN - WORKSHOP FILATI TOKYO: WHERE THE LATEST ITALIAN YARN COLLECTIONS ARE SHOWCASED

20-21 OCTOBER 2026, TOKYO, JAPAN

Feel the Yarn - Workshop Filati Tokyo, the Italian yarn trade exhibition in Japan dedicated exclusively to Italian yarns, will be held on 20-21 October 2026 at SPIRAL HALL in Tokyo.

A total of 29 Italian exhibitors will present their latest collections for Fall/Winter 2027-28. This trade exhibition is made possible through a collaboration with Consorzio Promozione Filati (CPF / Yarns Promotion Consortium), an organization comprising manufacturers of knitwear and hand-knitting yarns. Entry is reserved for buyers and press only. The organizers are expecting more than 200 visitors.

Source: Italian Trade Agency, Tokyo Office

➡ <https://ice-tokyo.or.jp/events/workshop-filati-tokyo-italian-yarn-collections-fw27-28>



ITALIAN WINE PROMOTION IN JAPAN- BORSA VINI 2026

9-10 NOVEMBER 2026, TOKYO, JAPAN

Borsa Vini is one of the annual events organized by the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) - Tokyo Office. The workshop includes wine tastings and free B2B meetings between Italian wineries and Japanese professionals.



This edition of Borsa Vini will also be held in two cities, Osaka (November 9) and Tokyo (November 10).

Around 60 Italian companies will participate, presenting over 200 kinds of Italian wines and spirits.

During the event, the ITA Tokyo Office will organize various masterclasses focused on the wines and spirits presented by the Italian exhibitors.

The event will provide an opportunity for Japanese industry professionals and Italian producers to exchange the latest information on Italian products and establish direct contacts.

Source: Italian Trade Agency, Tokyo Office ➡ <https://BorsaVini.ice-tokyo.or.jp/2026>

GREEK NATIONAL PAVILION AT TOURISM EXPO JAPAN

Greece participated at Tourism Expo Japan 2026, at Tokyo Big Sight 24-27 September 2026, with a National Pavilion.

The Greek National Pavilion was organized by the Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO), the official tourism promotion agency under the Ministry of Tourism, responsible for promoting Greece as a leading international travel destination.

As in previous editions of Tourism Expo Japan, the Greek National Pavilion once again brought together a range of co-exhibitors, from Greek travel agencies — Amphitryon Japan, La Greca Travel Service, Siva Travel Services, BlueMed Holidays, and Cullinan Japan — to other tourism-related organizations, including the Tourism Committee of Santorini Island, AEGEAN Airlines (Greece's leading airline), and Celestyal Cruises (representing the cruise industry). Together, they offered visitors and industry professionals the opportunity to discover the diversity of Greece's tourism offering and explore the full range of travel experiences provided at national level.



Source: Embassy of Greece in Japan ➡ <https://www2.t-expo.jp/exhibitors/view/en/49665/BtoC>

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

JAPANESE COMPANIES LOOKING FOR PARTNERS IN THE EU ➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/een/opportunities>

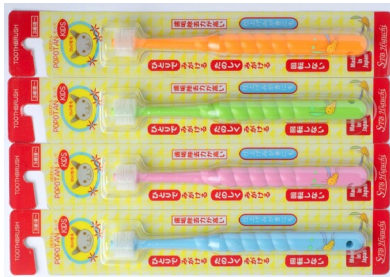


REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTORS

Sector: healthcare

A Japanese SME is looking for partners to introduce its 360° cylindrical toothbrush in the EU

Profile ID: **BOJP20260617003**



REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTORS

Sector: optical instruments

A Japanese manufacturer of optical measuring instruments is looking for EU partners

Profile ID: **BOJP20260906001**

REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTORS

Sector: laboratory equipment

100 years old Japanese SME is looking for EU distributors for high-tech optical instruments and microscopes

Profile ID: **BOJP20250613002**

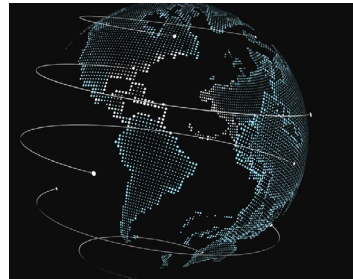


REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTORS

Sector: art and crafts

A Japanese company offers premium hand-crafted stationery products

Profile ID: **BOJP20250725008**



SERVICES OFFERED

Sector: aerospace

A Japanese company offers international project opportunities to EU companies in space operations and ground segment infrastructure

Profile ID: **BOJP20260904004**

SERVICES OFFERED

Sector: media

A Japanese creative media agency is offering its services to EU importers and distributors selling Japanese goods in Europe

Profile ID: **BOJP20260914001**

LICENSING OFFER

Sector: AI

Japanese company with generative AI technology to support customer satisfaction is looking for partners in the EU

Profile ID: **BOJP20250618001**

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK EVENTS

B2B OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU AND JAPANESE SMES ➔ <https://een.ec.europa.eu/events>



DEICY 2026

3-10 November 2026, hybrid, Warsaw, Poland

Sectors: ICT, digital

Registration deadline: 10 November 2026

The EEN partner University of Warsaw is organizing an hybrid B2B event with workshops sessions within the frame of DEICY 2026 Digital Economy, Internet of Things, Cybersecurity. The goal of this international brokerage event is to create a strong network of research and development institutions, business and industry partners for better knowledge and understanding of the digital transformation in areas such as digital economy & society, artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, industry 4.0, cybersecurity, internet of things...



MEDICA HEALTHCARE BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

16-29 November 2026, hybrid, Dusseldorf, Germany

Sectors: Healthcare, medical devices

Registration deadline: 29 November 2026

During MEDICA, the global No. 1 meeting place for the medical sector, EEN partner ZENIT GmbH will organise an international brokerage Event with hybrid format. The aim is to assist enterprises, universities, and research institutions in finding partners in Europe for product development, manufacturing and licensing agreements, joint ventures or other types of partnership.

➔ <https://www.b2match.com/e/deicy-2026-digital-economy-iot>

➔ <https://www.b2match.com/e/medica-healthcare-brokerage-event-2026>

DATE/LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACTS
13 October 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 272: First Meetings and Sales - Building Trust and Presenting Your Business	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinJapan/events
13-16 October 2026 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Digital Business Mission	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/digital-mission
19-23 October 2026 Nagoya, Japan	TRAINING MISSION World Class Manufacturing I	https://www.eu-japan.eu/world-class-manufacturing
27 October 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 273: Cybersecurity Market in Japan	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinJapan/events
17 November 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 274: Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinJapan/events
24 November 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 275: Negotiation and Closing - From Agreement to Long-term Partnership	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinJapan/events
1 December 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 276: Waste Management in Japan, opportunities for EU SMEs	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinJapan/events
14-18 December 2026 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Nanotech Business Mission	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/nanotech-mission
16-19 February 2027 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Smart Factory & Robotics Business Mission Application deadline: 3 November 2026	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/smartfactory-robotics-mission
1-5 March 2027 Nagoya, Japan	TRAINING MISSION World Class Manufacturing II Application deadline: 8 December 2026	https://www.eu-japan.eu/world-class-manufacturing
17-19 March 2027 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Space Business Mission Application deadline: 15 November 2026	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/space-mission
23-26 Mar 2027 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Green Business Mission Application deadline: 24 November 2026	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/green-mission
27-30 April 2027 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Defence Business Mission Application deadline: 18 December 2026	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/defence-mission



EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation
一般財団法人日欧産業協力センター

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation was established in 1987 as a core organization to implement industrial cooperation between the EU and Japan. It aims at promoting all forms of industrial, trade and investment cooperation between the EU and Japan and at improving EU and Japanese companies' competitiveness and cooperation by facilitating exchanges of experience and know-how between EU and Japanese businesses.

This quarterly newsletter is produced by the EU-based office of the EU-Japan Centre, and is intended to provide EU/Japan-related news.

ANY EU-JAPAN-RELATED NEWS?

Feel free to contact us if you would like your EU-Japan-related news/event to be announced in our forthcoming newsletter : newsletter@eu-japan.eu

HEAD OFFICE IN JAPAN

Shirokane-Takanawa Station bldg 4F
1-27-6 Shirokane, Minato-ku
Tokyo 108-0072, Japan
T +81 3 6408 0281
inquiries@eu-japan.or.jp

OFFICE IN THE EU

Rue Marie de Bourgogne 52
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 2 282 00 40
office@eu-japan.eu



SUBSCRIBE HERE

www.eu-japan.eu

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation is co-funded by the European Union and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, the METI or the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). Neither the European Union nor METI, nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

