# **News Release**



### INCJ to invest in NejiLaw Inc.

Company commercializing innovative bolts that prevent structural loosening

**Tokyo, July 25, 2014**–Innovation Network Corporation of Japan ('INCJ') announced today its decision to invest in NejiLaw Inc. ('NejiLaw'), a company engaged in the commercialization of bolts that prevent structural loosening. The investment will provide NejiLaw with a maximum of ¥700 million in capital required for future development.

NejiLaw will also receive investment from a fund operated by MUFG Capital Co., Ltd.

Bolts are widely used as essential components for fastening in buildings and other structures, but loosening has been the cause of many related problems. Throughout the history, humans have invented various types of bolts, and have sought to prevent loosening by using the frictional force between the internal and external threads with different designs.

Start-up company NejiLaw has taken a different approach to solving this problem. By joining specially configured right and left nuts to non-spiral bolt threads, NejiLaw has invented 'L/R Neji', the first ever bolt to prevent structural loosening. The company holds more than 50 patents, including for another non-loosening bolt, Zaloc.

The commercialization of non-loosening bolts will not only significantly decrease accidents caused by bolt slack and contribute to public safety and peace of mind, but also reduce maintenance expenses such as those incurred by regular inspections.

In addition to intellectual property related to the design of non-loosening bolts, NejiLaw is also acquiring intellectual property related to the manufacturing and inspection process, while developing mass-production systems for small-sized (M1.4) L/R Neji.

In 2011, NejiLaw won the top prize at the Tokyo Venture Technology Awards and was selected for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's Strategic Infrastructure Technology Improvement Support Project, the following year. NejiLaw is also pursuing joint development with OSG Corporation, a leader in grinding tools and molds for mass production of bolts. NejiLaw has also, recently entered into a joint-research agreement with IHI Corporation in developing mass production systems for an industry-wide demanded medium-sized (M8) L/R bolts.

In addition to in-house manufacturing and sales, NejiLaw also considers strategic licensing and joint venture operations with partners in each product and field, aiming for innovation in non-loosening bolts and in the field of fasteners overall.

INCJ will provide NejiLaw with the funding required for future development and business promotion, while also providing managerial support such as dispatching external directors, strengthening NejiLaw's business development framework, and supporting business partnerships. Through this investment, INCJ contributes to building a safer society and supports industrialization and overseas expansion of ultra-high-performance fastener members developed in Japan.

#### About NejiLaw Inc.

| Established:  | July 2009   |
|---|---|
| Business outline:                                     | Technology development, manufacturing, sales, and |
|   | licensing of bolts and other joining solutions    |
| Headquarters:   | Koto-ku Tokyo                                     |
| Representative Director, President: Hiroshi Michiwaki |   |

#### About Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ)

INCJ was established in July 2009 as a public-private partnership that provides financial, technological and management support for next-generation businesses. INCJ specifically supports those projects that combine technologies and varied expertise across industries and materialize open innovation. INCJ has the capacity to invest up to ¥2 trillion (approx US\$20 billion).

To date, INCJ has invested approximately ¥750 billion in a total of 70 projects and is currently focused on a broad range of areas from green energy, electronics, IT and biotechnology to infrastructure-related sectors such as water supply. INCJ maintains a hands-on approach to investment, engaging in the business development of cutting-edge core technologies through intellectual property funds, expansion of venture companies and aggressive overseas development through initiatives such as restructuring and mergers of tech businesses and acquisitions of foreign companies.

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# [Appendix] INCJ to invest in NejiLaw Inc. Company is commercializing innovative bolts that prevent structural loosening



Target:NejiLaw Inc.Outline:Technology development, manufacture, sales, and licensing of bolts and other joining solutionsInvestment:¥700 million (maximum)



- Eliminate accidents caused by bolt loosening and contribute broadly to public safety, while
  - reducing maintenance expenses such as those incurred by inspections
- Support industrialization and overseas expansion of ultra-high performance fastener innovator of Japan

## Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ)