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## **INCJ to make additional investment in Megakaryon Corporation** **A venture company aiming for the commercialization of iPS cell-derived platelet preparations**

- Preparation for the clinical trial stage for the development of Megakaryon's iPS cell-derived platelet preparations
- Continuous support for open innovation by Megakaryon and its joint development partners
- Companies conducting joint research co-invest in Megakaryon, in addition to the new VC

**Tokyo, December 25, 2017** – Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ) announced today its decision to make an additional investment in Megakaryon Corporation (Megakaryon), a venture company aiming to commercialize platelet preparations for clinical application using technology for creating platelets from iPS cells. Due to Megakaryon's business progress, INCJ decided to make an additional investment of JPY1.1 billion through a third-party allocation of additional shares. Through this round of Series-C financing, Megakaryon raised a total of JPY3.7 billion. The new co-investors, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc., Shinsei Corporate Investment and Shiga Bank Growth Fund also invest in series-C financing, in addition to existing shareholders.

Platelet preparations are a standard medical practice used in Thrombocytopenia and Hemorrhagic disease resulting from chemotherapy, and with a market scale of JPY400 billion in Japan, the US and Europe, there is now extremely high social demand for stable supply. Blood products are produced based on blood donations, and in Japan, where there is an aging and declining population, there is expected to be shortage of 850,000 blood donors by 2027. Compared to red blood cells and blood plasma, blood platelets in particular, which cannot be frozen, have an extremely short preservation life of four days, and therefore meticulous care is required in supply and demand adjustment. There are fears of even greater pressure on demand into the future with the further advancement of our aging society.

Megakaryon was established in 2011 to aim to produce platelets from iPS cells and commercialize platelet preparations from human iPS Cells. Because they are not blood-based, planned stable supplies become possible, and blood products can be supplied without the danger of pathogenic contamination.

INCJ is the lead investor in Megakaryon, providing Series-A financing of JPY1 billion in August 2013 and Series-B financing of JPY1.69 billion in March 2015. Megakaryon has steadily progressed with its strategy by creating clinical trials, securing mass production, consulting with regulatory agencies, and obtaining a business license as well as closely collaborating with subcontractors, and conducting joint research with Japanese businesses. Based on these achievements, Series-C financing will focus on the development

of manufacturing technologies to reduce their costs, clinical trials and clinical trial production in Japan and the US for the commercialization in the future.

This project is a collaboration between Japan's industry, academia and government with the aim to become a world leader in the research and development of iPS cells and bring innovative solutions to blood transfusion medical care infrastructure in Japan and around the world. INCJ's support is not only the supply of funding to initiate Japan's bio-ventures; but also contribution for the revitalization of Japan's life science industry, including the improvement of the business environment to promote the commercialization of iPS cells.

### **About Megakaryon Corporation**

Established: September 2011  
Headquarters: Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture  
Representative: Genjiro Miwa, President and CEO  
Business Outline: Production of high quality platelets and red blood cells to develop stable and highly secure blood supply  
URL <http://www.megakaryon.com/en/>

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

INCJ was established in July 2009 as a public-private investment company 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 JPY2 trillion (approx. US\$20 billion). INCJ's management team is drawn from the private sector with diverse experience in investment, technologies and management. Through its Innovation Network Committee, INCJ assesses investment opportunities that contribute to industrial innovation in Japan in line with criteria set by the government.

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