

INCJ sells holding in Nextremer

Tokyo, April 1, 2022 — The Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (“INCJ”) has announced that it has completed the transfer of its entire shareholding in Nextremer Co., Ltd. (“Nextremer”) to Mizuho Growth Support No. 4 Investment Fund, which is managed by Mizuho Capital Partners, (“Mizuho Capital”).

About Nextremer

Established: October 2012
Headquarters: Nankoku City, Kochi
Representative: Hisahiro Mukai, President & CEO
Business outline: AI solution business
URL: <https://www.nextremer.com/en>

About Mizuho Capital Co., Ltd.

Established: July 27, 1983
Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Representative: Yusuke Omachi, President
Business outline: Acquisition and holding of securities, operation and management of investment partnership assets
URL: https://www.mizuho-vc.co.jp/english_info/index.html

About INCJ, Ltd.

INCJ, Ltd. was established in September 2018 via company split from Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ). INCJ was established in July 2009 with the aim of overcoming boundaries between companies and industries, creating and nurturing key industries via open innovation for the prosperity of future generations. Following revisions to its governing law—the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act—the continuing company changed its name to Japan Investment Corporation (JIC) and began new activities. INCJ, Ltd. is mandated until March 2025 to pursue the activities of the original Innovation Network Corporation of Japan, engaging in “Value Up” initiatives at portfolio companies, making additional and milestone investments, and developing exit strategies from investments in portfolio companies.

URL: <http://www.incj.co.jp/english/>

Appendix

About Nextremer

Established: October 2012
Headquarters: Nankoku City, Kochi
Representative: Hisahiro Mukai, President & CEO
Business outline: AI solution business
URL: <https://www.nextremer.com/en>

Overview of investment

Announcement date: August 8, 2017
Authorized investment: 500 million JPY (maximum)
Amount invested: 400 million JPY (2017), 100 million JPY (2020)

- Press releases:

INCJ and The Bank of Kochi to invest in Nextremer,
a venture company developing AI dialogue systems

<https://www.incj.co.jp/english/newsroom/upload/docs/1502159909.en.pdf>

1. Background of investment

Nextremer is a startup company established in 2012, which has been developing AI dialogue systems and providing services using these systems. INCJ invested 400 million JPY in Nextremer in 2017 after determining that Nextremer's efforts were a challenge to implement AI-based dialogue systems in society and could contribute to regional revitalization through the maintenance and improvement of the labor force and productivity in an aging society with a declining birthrate.

Nextremer is based in and has subsidiaries in Kochi Prefecture and is expected to contribute to promoting industrial revitalization in the prefecture by expanding the employment of young people.

2. Business progress

Since INCJ's initial investment, Nextremer has strengthened its corporate governance and developed its business, building a strong R&D track record and increasing its competitive advantage by gaining significant industry knowledge, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

INCJ made an additional investment of 100 million JPY in 2020 to support Nextremer's efforts in strengthening new business operations with a focus on its research business.

3. Reason for exit

Mizuho Capital is an investment fund management company that works to promote and

support industrial revitalization. INCJ concluded that the participation of Mizuho Growth Support No. 4 Investment Fund, managed by Mizuho Capital, would be ideal for further promoting Nextremer's business ventures and decided to transfer its entire shareholding to Mizuho Capital Support No.4 Investment Fund.

Press Contacts

Japan Investment Corporation

Corporate Planning, Communications Group: Irie, Nonomiya

Tokyo Toranomon Global Square 9F,

1-3-1 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001

Tel. (03) 5532-7086