

## **INCJ to invest in LinkWiz, Inc.**

- INCJ to invest in venture company that develops software realizing industrial robot intelligence
- LinkWiz has a unique algorithm that makes autonomous control of industrial robots possible
- Supports the introduction of industrial robots in SMEs with labor shortages

**Tokyo, January 17, 2017** – Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ) announced today its decision to invest in LinkWiz Inc. (LinkWiz), a company that develops and sells 3D control system software to realize industrial robot intelligence. INCJ will invest up to 400 million JPY to support their business development. SMBC Venture Capital Co., Ltd. will also invest in LinkWiz.

Currently, industrial robots are used in a number of production sites, however they are used primarily for mass production systems and for simple repetitive tasks – since robots must be taught motions beforehand, it would otherwise require a continuous cost. As a result, the use of industrial robots in SME's with labor shortages has been limited and large corporations are the primary targets.

LinkWiz was established in 2015 to develop and sell control software to improve the usability of industrial robots and its intelligence. LinkWiz' control software is equipped with shape processing AI and a unique shape recognition algorithm. Its strengths are in its 3D measurement, analysis and control, optimized for industrial robots. The specific characteristics are as follows:

1. 2D laser sensor and shape analysis program can reduce significantly the prior education for the robot
2. High quality work can be achieved by shape confirmation of each object and completing independent measurement errors
3. Ease of implementation as the software can be combined with robot sensors from any manufacturers

LinkWiz has already delivered customized products to major automobile manufacturers, such as welding position correcting robot systems and product inspection software. In the future, LinkWiz will develop basic software packages for general use and will also develop a simplified software package for SMEs in order to introduce industrial robots to SMEs that

have previously found it difficult. LinkWiz will also work with large corporations in various fields to implement Industry 4.0 at manufacturing sites.

As the introduction of industrial robots becomes easier, INCJ expects that this can support the elimination of serious labor shortage issues at manufacturing sites for SMEs as well as increasing efficiency and adding value to production lines. LinkWiz aims to create a production process data cloud to not only improve production process at the factory, but also make a positive impact on corporate management strategies such as product design and parts procurement, implementing Industry 4.0. As a result, INCJ has decided to provide both funding and hands-on support to LinkWiz.

### **About LinkWiz, Inc.**

Established	March 2015
Business Outline	Development and sale of intelligent robot system software Technical Consulting
Headquarters	Hamamatsu, Shizuoka
CEO	Go Fukino
URL	<a href="http://linkwiz.co.jp">http://linkwiz.co.jp</a>

### **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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# Appendix

## INCJ to invest in LinkWiz, Inc.

Company develops and sells 3D control system software to realize industrial robot intelligence



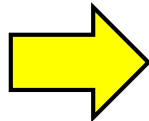
**Target:** LinkWiz, Inc.

**Business Outline:** Development and sale of 3D control software

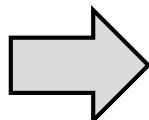
**Authorized Investment:** 400 million JPY (maximum)

**Date of Announcement:** January 17, 2017

Investment  
Dispatch of external  
directors  
Management Support



Investment  
Business Support



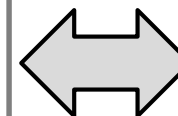
Business Outline	Main Product Features
Development of an intelligent robot system for robot intelligence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Independent completion of measurement errors (High quality work without requiring correction teaching)</li><li>2 Combinations possible with any robot sensor (Easy to install as it can be retrofitted)</li></ol>

Technical Characteristics (strengths) : Unique shape analysis and control program		
Shape recognition	Shape Analysis	Line of flow analysis

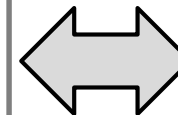
- 3D measurement, analysis and control
- Shape processing AI and shape recognition algorithm

Development  
partnership



Automobile manufacturer,  
Industrial robot manufacturer  
Inspection equipment  
manufacturer, etc.

Sales partnership



System Integrator etc.

- Contribute towards solving societal issues such as labor shortages at production sites through an automation + intelligence approach
- Pioneering Industry 4.0 by introducing next-generation technology that can be used in practice at production sites
- Rapidly progress manufacturing in Japan through supporting the introduction of industrial robots in SMEs