

Media Release

EditForce completed fund raising by third-party allotment

Fukuoka, Japan, 7 May, 2021 – EditForce Inc. (“EditForce”) has announced that it has raised 800 million yen (approximately 7.27 million US dollars) by May 7, 2021, from the lead investor NEWTON BIOCAPITAL as well as other new and existing investors by third-party allotment.

EditForce, a venture company with a unique DNA/RNA editing technology, was founded by KISCO LTD. and Takahiro Nakamura, PhD, Professor, Kyusyu University in 2015, following additional supports by The University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners Co., Ltd. (UTEC) and QB Capital, LLC. EditForce has developed its proprietary pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR) protein platform technology, which enables editing not only DNA but also RNA, expecting a wide range of applications. The PPR technology can also be differentiated from other DNA/RNA editing technology IPs because of its different mode of action. EditForce has decided to make its efforts focused on the pharmaceutical field since 2017 and raised additional supports by the investments from ITOCHU Technology Ventures, Inc. (ITV), NEWTON BIOCAPITAL, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and K4 Ventures GK by 2019 to develop novel drug candidates with the PPR technology through multiple alliances with the companies including pharmaceutical companies,.

For this round, EditForce has raised funds from Global Brain and KDDI funds, in addition to NEWTON BIOCAPITAL (lead investor), UTEC, and ITV. By taking full advantage of the broad networks and deep expertise owned by these corporations, EditForce continues to make endeavors to successfully apply the unique PPR technology worldwide in pharmaceutical fields.

Investors:

- NEWTON BIOCAPITAL
- Global Brain Corporation
- KDDI Corporation
- The University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners
- ITOCHU Technology Ventures, Inc.

About EditForce:

It is a venture company that is developing a PPR protein platform technology as the DNA/RNA editing tool.

<u>Headquarters:</u>	Fukuoka Tenjin Fukoku Seimei Bldg., 4th Fl. 1-9-17 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 810-0001, Japan
<u>Capital:</u>	JPY489,999,240 as of May 7, 2021
<u>President:</u>	Takashi Ono
<u>Board of Directors:</u>	Hisako Ootoshi (Board of directors, CFO) Yusuke Yagi (Board of directors. CTO) Osamu Nakanishi (Board of directors, CSO) Atsushi Usami (Partner and Board Director, The University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners Co., Ltd.) Teruyuki Fukuda (Director & Executive Officer, KISCO LTD.) Koji Abe (Vice President, ITOCHU Technology Ventures, Inc.) Toshiyuki Mori (Representative Partner, TM Partners LLC) Yao Li (Investment Director, NEWTON BIOCAPITAL PARTNERS)
<u>Audit and Supervisory Board:</u>	Yasushi Kojima, Statutory Auditor Tomotaka Goji (Managing Partner and President, The University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners Co., Ltd.) Yasunobu Akimitsu (General Manager, Finance and Accounting Dept., KISCO LTD.)

About PPR platform technology:

PPR is a protein that was discovered in plants, which regulates the gene expression by binding RNA or DNA in a sequence-specific manner. PPR proteins are also found in humans and yeasts, and they have similar functions to those of plants. Dr. Takahiro Nakamura (Professor, Kyushu University, and the advisor of EditForce) and Dr. Yusuke Yagi (CSO, EditForce) focused on the PPR proteins and elucidated the recognition mode of RNA/DNA by PPR proteins. This elucidation paves the way to a new technology for the rational design of artificial PPR proteins targeted to specific RNA/DNA sequences. Versatile DNA/RNA editing tools can be created by integrating the PPR protein with various enzymes.

About KISCO LTD.:

Tokyo, Japan; Takekazu Kishimoto, President

Since its founding in 1921, KISCO LTD. is a specialized trading and business developing company that offering solutions meet customers' needs with a wide range of fields such as chemicals, synthetic resins, electronics materials, packaging materials and biotechnology.

We have trading offices and manufacturing bases in Japan, China, Asia, Americas and Europe,

aiming for existence that plays a role as a bridge between advanced materials and customers, and has expanded the scope of our activity areas.

For more information on KISCO Corporation, please visit our web site. <https://www.kisco-net.com/>

About The University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners (UTEC):

Tokyo, Japan; Tomotaka Goji, Managing Partner and President

Since its inception in 2004, The University of Tokyo Edge Capital (UTEC) has conducted venture capital investments pioneering frontiers to solve global issues of humankind, by bringing capital, talent and knowledge, around science and technology. With our latest fund UTEC 4 Limited Partnership founded with the commitment of approx. JPY 24.2 billion in April 2018, we have founded four funds totaling approx. JPY 54.3 billion. We have invested in 114 start-ups, 13 of which went public and 12 were acquired in M&A transactions. On May 7, 2021, UTEC launched UTEC 5 Limited Partnership (UTEC 5) and closed its first round. UTEC 5 is expected to exceed JPY 30 billion in total by June 2021, making it the largest venture capital fund in Japan in science and technology fields as of today. The aggregated amount of assets under management from UTEC 1 to UTEC 5 will amount to approximately JPY 85 billion.

About Newton Biocapital:

Brussels, Belgium; Alain Parthoens, Managing Partner

Newton Biocapital is a Venture Capital Fund incorporated in Belgium, focused on financing biotech and life science projects in the "core of Europe" (B, NL, D, F) and Japan for the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases. The fund's approach as lead investor is to support promising start-up projects as well as neglected or undervalued late-stage projects, in order to mitigate the risks and to create investor value. The leadership team consists of specialists with long-standing management and investor experience who coach bio-entrepreneurs through the development stages of their projects. Newton Biocapital's mission is to generate substantial financial and societal value by providing innovative, breakthrough, and affordable solutions to patients

For more information on Newton Biocapital, please visit our web site. <https://www.newtonbiocapital.com/>

About ITOCHU Technology Ventures, Inc.:

Tokyo, Japan; Shinzo Nakano, President & CEO/Partner

ITOCHU Technology Ventures, Inc. (ITV) has been engaged in investments in venture companies as well as assisting them with solution to carry out its primary mission of fostering innovative technology venture companies to become a part of the de fact standard in the next

generation. Since its establishment in 2000, ITV has been launching five consecutive venture funds and investing more than 160 companies. ITV's investment areas include ICT, finance, infrastructure and energy, agriculture, healthcare and medicine, education, social services for the consumer sector. With its focus on Japan, ITV also invests in potentially prominent foreign companies that create advanced and innovative services or technologies.

About Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST):

Saitama, Japan; Michinari Hamaguchi, President

JST is an organization that leads Japan's science and technology (S&T) development as an innovation navigator. JST aim to contribute to the lives of people and the achievement of a sustainable society by promoting S&T for the purpose of opening up opportunities in innovation. Since its foundation, JST's many outstanding achievements accomplished in collaboration with the government, universities, the industrial sector and public have been earned global recognition. This is the investment program "SUCCESS" for start-ups putting JST-funded R&Ds into practical application.

www.jst.go.jp/EN/index.html

About K4 Ventures (The Kansai Electric Power Group):

Osaka, Japan; Takashi Morimoto, Chief Executive Officer

K4 Ventures Good Kaisha (K4 Ventures) is a corporate venture capital firm of The Kansai Electric Power Group Company. K4 Ventures invests in venture companies that (1) have potential to grow through collaboration belong to the energy-related industry, telecommunications industry, and real estate and social life industry, or (2) have innovative technologies/visions to provide solutions for customers or world-wide issues, beyond the short-term collaboration. K4 Ventures supports the growth of outstanding venture companies as their partner and promotes collaborations among companies to obtain a synergistic effect. The mission of K4 Ventures is to provide fast, innovative solutions for energy, environmental, and food-supply issues.

About QB Capital, LLC:

Fukuoka, Japan; Tsuyoshi Sakamoto, Managing Partner, Takashi Hondo, Managing Partner

QB Capital, LLC manages the first "industry-academia collaboration" fund established in Kyushu area. QB Capital, LLC invests in research seeds and seed- to early-stage ventures, based on research seeds from universities mainly in Kyushu area. Furthermore, QB Capital, LLC supports the establishment of these venture companies. QB Capital, LLC tackles the development of an innovative industry in Kyushu area and its use in society, by providing "seamless hands-on" support from beginning to growing-stage of these companies.



About Global Brain Corporation:

Global Brain was established in 1998 and is a venture capital firm based in Tokyo with offices in San Francisco, London, Seoul, Singapore and Jakarta. The total asset under management is over \$1.5B. Global Brain has invested in 200+ startups from seed/early to pre-IPO startups and achieved 21 IPOs and 51 M&As as a result of providing hands-on support services and resources to its portfolio startups as of April, 2021.

About KDDI Open Innovation Fund III:

KDDI Open Innovation Fund, established in 2012, is the corporate venture fund to support Japanese and overseas promising ventures with operation by KDDI Corporation and Global Brain. KDDI Open Innovation Fund III, the size of which amounts to JPY 20 billion was established in 2018, specializes in investing in entertainment, home, IoT, big data and FinTech. KDDI Open Innovation Fund III actively invests in start-ups and support their business to create innovation.

For the track record, see <https://www.kddi.com/english/open-innovation-program/koif/portfolio/>

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