

Media Release

EditForce completed fund raising by third-party allotment and AMED adopts our program

Fukuoka, Japan, 30 June, 2021 – EditForce Inc. (“EditForce”) has announced that it has raised 500 million yen (approximately 4.51 million US dollars) on June 30, 2021, from MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc.(“MPH”), corporate venture capital (CVC) of Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, etc. by third-party allotment.

For this round, EditForce was funded by not only MPH but FFG Venture Investment Limited Partnership No. 2 and Yoshimei Co., Ltd. and has completed raising a total of 1.3 billion yen (approximately 11.78 million US dollars), together with the financing completed in May, 2021.

Dr. Takashi Ono, President and CEO, said, "We have taken the investment from CVC of the major pharmaceutical company as a certain degree of evaluation of, and interest in, the potential of our technology in the pharmaceutical field." He added, "The support from the investment company of Fukuoka Financial Group Inc. is very encouraging to our company located in Fukuoka. The investment from Yoshimei Co., Ltd. could support future applications of our technology in fields other than drug discovery. "

Furthermore, on 4 June, 2021, a gene therapy development program that applies our proprietary RNA-binding PPR was adopted by Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) in "Project Focused on Developing Key Technology for Discovering and Manufacturing Drugs for Next-Generation Treatment and Diagnosis (development of RNA-targeted drug discovery technology)" (started in FY2021), the title of which is "Therapeutic development of PPR protein targeting toxic RNA" (Research Leader : Dr. Masayuki Nakamori, Associate Professor of Osaka University / Research Collaborator : EditForce). We believe that our technology is expected to possibly contribute to the next generation therapies by AMED.

Utilizing the funds raised this time and the support from AMED over the next five years, we will continue to enhance and strengthen pipelines through alliances with universities and companies in Japan as well as overseas and to promote research and development for the application of PPR platform technology to pharmaceutical products.



About EditForce

EditForce, Inc., a Kyushu University-originated venture company developing a unique DNA / RNA editing technology (PPR platform technology*) was established in May 2015 by KISCO Co., Ltd., and Dr. Takahiro Nakamura, Professor of Kyushu University (former president of EditForce and currently its scientific advisor) and funded by companies and funds that have track records of investing in life sciences and biotechnology. EditForce aims for drug discovery that applies the PPR platform technology through joint research with universities and private companies.

For more information, visit <https://www.editforce.co.jp/>

***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 have similar functions to those of plants. Dr. Takahiro Nakamura and Dr. Yusuke Yagi (CTO, 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 MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc.

MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc. (MPH) is a life sciences venture capital firm based in Boston, USA, investing in innovative companies developing novel therapeutics, platform technologies and vaccines. MPH typically invests in seed and early-stage private companies, and investment is not limited by geographic region. MPH is the corporate venture capital firm of Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma group.

For more information, visit <https://www.mp-healthcare.com/>

About FFG Venture Investment Partnership No.2

FFG Venture Investment Partnership No.2 is a venture capital fund managed by FFG Venture Business Partners Co., Ltd. based in Fukuoka, Japan, a venture investment subsidiary of Fukuoka Financial Group Inc. which operates as a holding company to provide banking and other financial services.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffg-venture.co.jp>



About Yoshimei Co., Ltd.

Yoshimei Co., Ltd. (“Yoshimei”) is a total supplier of building materials, headquartered in Yoshino, Nara, which has a long history of wood production. Since its establishment, Yoshimei has handled various kinds of wood to meet the changing needs of the times. It has cultivated knowledge and experience as a wood professional. While introducing and utilizing the latest technology in production, sales, and quality control, Yoshimei actively invests in start-up companies in various fields to contribute to the advancement of science and technology. With the vision of "Explore trees scientifically" Yoshimei aims to explore the relationship between trees and humans, and advance wood to the next stage.

For more information, visit <https://www.yoshimei.co.jp/>

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