

**NEWS RELEASE****FUND RAISING THROUGH THIRD-PARTY ALLOTMENT OF SHARES**

March 22, 2023

EditForce, Inc. (Headquarter: Fukuoka, President and CEO: Takashi Ono) announces that we have raised a total of 1.8 billion yen through a third-party allotment of new shares by March 22, 2023.

In this round of financing participated the Kyushu Regional Recovery Support Fund, which was established by the Regional Economy Revitalization Corporation of Japan ("REVIC") jointly with local financial institutions in the Kyushu region, in addition to the existing shareholders which are The University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners Co., Ltd. ("UTECH"), Newton Biocapital and MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc. which is the corporate venture capital of Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation.

Takashi Ono, President and Representative Director, commented, "We have taken additional investment from existing shareholders as unchanged expectations for our technological potentialities and our further growth." He also stated, "The investment from the fund, which was established for economic recovery and revitalization in the Kyushu region, has made me feel strongly the responsibility and mission as a Fukuoka-based company."

We are a world-class startup company that possesses unique technology editing not only DNA but also RNA. We are currently promoting research and developments by applying this technology to drug discovery. We will continue our efforts to increase and promote our pipelines and to enhance and improve our platform technologies.

**About EditForce:**

EditForce, Inc., a Kyushu University-originated start-up developing a unique DNA/RNA editing technology (PPR platform technology\*) was established in May 2015 by KISCO Co., Ltd. and Prof. Takahiro Nakamura 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 technology through joint research with universities and private companies.

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

**\*Pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR) protein platform technology**

PPR is a protein discovered in plants that regulates gene expression by binding to DNA and RNA in a sequence-specific manner. The PPR proteins are also found in humans and yeasts, and they have similar functions. Professor Takahiro Nakamura and Dr. Yusuke Yagi, CTO of EditForce, have focused on the PPR proteins and elucidated the mechanism that determines sequence specificity, and established a technology for creating various PPR proteins, each of which binds to a specific target DNA or RNA sequence. Furthermore, it is possible to manipulate and modify the target genome and RNA both inside and outside the cell by fusion with effector proteins.

**About the Regional Economic Revitalization Support Corporation (“REVIC”)**

REVIC is a public-private fund established in March 2013 by drastically reorganizing and expanding the functions of the Enterprise Turnaround Initiative Corporation of Japan (ETIC) to contribute to the revitalization of regional economies through the transfer of know-how to regional financial institutions and other entities, as well as promoting the productivity improvement and smooth turnover of regional enterprises and industries. We have established a total of 44 funds (22 under management) with regional financial institutions for a variety of themes that contribute to the revitalization of regional economies, including after-corona and disaster reconstruction support, tourism industry, and university-originated ventures. (As of the end of January 2023)

For more information, see <https://www.revic.co.jp>.

**About NEWTON BIOCAPITAL:**

Newton Biocapital is a venture capital investment fund targeting start-ups engaged in the development of new drugs for chronic diseases. NBC was registered by the Japan Institute of Medical Research and Development (AMED) as a certified venture capitals (“Certified VCs”) in the program “Strengthening Program for Pharmaceutical Startup Ecosystem”, and is the only one, among the eight Certified VCs, that is engaged in investment activities both in Japan and Europe. We are actively involved in the formulation and implementation of clinical development strategies for drug discovery start-ups, such as the optimal



selection of indications, based on our knowledge/experience in drug development. By guiding the clinical development plans of our portfolio companies until the drug is administered to patients and its effectiveness is proven, we will be able to attract more new investments and actively approach potential acquisition opportunities. NBC aims to open the door to technological innovations, revitalize drug discovery ventures, and grow together with these ventures influencing on local communities as well as the global community. For more information, see <https://www.newtonbiocapital.com/ja/>.

#### **About MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc.**

MP Healthcare Venture Management, Inc. (“MPH”) is a Boston-based life sciences venture capital firm in the United States that invests in innovative companies developing new therapies, platform technologies, and vaccines. MPH supports business activities by investing in domestic and overseas seeds and early-stage startups. MPH is Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Group's corporate venture capital.

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

#### **About University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners Co., Ltd. (“UTEK”)**

Established in 2004, the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners, Inc. (UTEK) has been investing in venture capital to cultivate frontiers for resolving global and human issues by returning capital, human resources, and wisdom around science and technology. We have established five funds with a cumulative total of approximately 85 billion yen, and have invested in more than 140 companies, of which 19 have been listed on the stock market and 20 have been engaged in M&A and other activities. In the drug discovery field, we are investing in drug discovery seeds for a wide range of modalities, including gene therapy, cell therapy, protein, nucleic acid, and small molecular entities, as well as ventures with fundamental drug discovery technologies, targeting therapeutic areas where new therapies are awaiting.

For more information, see <https://www.ut-ec.co.jp/>.