



News Release

Notice of Capital Increase through Third-Party Allotment (Series C-2 Financing)

KOBE, Japan, March 2, 2023 - Synplogen Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Nada-ku, Kobe; President and CEO, Representative Director: Kazuhiko Yamamoto; hereinafter referred to as "Synplogen"), a biotech startup spun out of Kobe University, announces that it raised JPY 921.6 million in Series C-2 financing on February 28, 2023, through a third-party allotment of new shares to FUJIFILM Corporation (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO, Representative Director: Teiichi Goto) as a lead investor, with Sojitz Corporation (Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO, Representative Director: Masayoshi Fujimoto), KUC1 Investment Limited Partnership (managed by Kobe University Capital, Inc.), Kansai Innovation Network Investment Limited Partnership (managed by Senshu Ikeda Capital Co. Ltd.), KIFF Co., Ltd. (Head office: Kita-ku, Osaka; Representative Director: Yoshitaka Eguchi) and Minato Growth Enterprise Mirai Fund No. 2 Investment Limited Partnership (managed by Minato Capital Co., Ltd.) as underwriters.

This Series C-2 financing follows the most recent financing of JPY 537.6 million on December 9, 2022 (Series C-1 financing), and the company completed a total of JPY 1,459.2 million in Series C financing.

Synplogen provides high-quality, cost-effective Gene Therapy Biofoundry services, utilizing its proprietary ultra-long and complex DNA synthesis technology. Specifically, the company provides one-stop solution services at its own R&D center in Kobe, ranging from DNA synthesis and plasmid DNA mass preparation, to viral vector design and development, production process development, characterization and quality testing, and technology transfer to GMP-compliant manufacturing facilities.

The funds raised will be used effectively to promote the company's growth strategy, including capital investment in state-of-the-art research equipment at its R&D center and an increase in R&D staff. Firstly, by expanding the functions of Gene Therapy Biofoundry services and further strengthening the manufacturing infrastructure for gene therapy products, Synplogen will contribute to the early entry into clinical trials of gene therapy products and their early commercialization, which pharmaceutical companies and drug discovery startups are striving to develop. In the mid-to-long term, Synplogen aims to contribute to the realization of bio-economy that aims for sustainable economic growth by providing DNA synthesis and DNA library construction services to customers in diverse industrial fields, using its proprietary DNA synthesis technologies, OGAB® method and Combi-OGAB™ method.

About Synplogen

Synplogen Co., Ltd. is a synthetic biology startup company founded in 2017 and originated from Kobe University. Utilizing its proprietary DNA synthesis technologies, "OGAB® method" and "Combi-OGAB™ method", the company is capable of synthesizing ultra-long and complex DNA and constructing DNA libraries with various combinations. We also provide one-stop solution services from design, development, analysis to technology transfer of high-quality, cost-effective viral vectors for gene therapy at our R&D Center in Kobe, as a biofoundry specializing in gene therapy.

Head Office: 1-1 Rokkodai-cho Nada-ku, Kobe Japan
Established: February 2017
Representative: Kazuhiko Yamamoto, President and CEO, Representative Director
Capital: JPY 3,247.28 million (including capital reserve)
Business: Custom DNA synthesis and Gene Therapy Biofoundry services
URL: <https://www.synplogen.com/>

About FUJIFILM Corporation

Head Office: 9-7-3 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Established: October 2006
Representative: Teiichi Goto, President and CEO, Representative Director
Capital: JPY 40 billion
Business: Healthcare, Materials, and Imaging
URL: <https://www.fujifilm.com/jp/ja>

About Sojitz Corporation

Head Office: 1-1, Uchisaiwai-cho 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Established: April 2003
Representative: Masayoshi Fujimoto, President and CEO, Representative Director
Capital: JPY 160.3 billion
Business: General trading company
URL: <https://www.sojitz.com/en/>

About Kobe University Capital, Inc.

Head Office: 1-1 Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe, Hyogo
Established: October 2021
Representative: Masahiro Yamaguchi, Representative Director
Business: Management of venture capital funds
URL: <https://kuc.vc/>

About Senshu Ikeda Capital Co., Ltd.

Head Office: 18-14 Chayamachi, Kita-ku, Osaka City, Osaka
Established: March 1989
Representative: Koh Tanaka, Representative Director
Capital: JPY 90 million
Business: Investment and consulting services
URL: <https://www.si-cap.jp/index.html>

About KIFF Co., Ltd.

Head Office: 7-16 Nozaki-cho, Kita-ku, Osaka City, Osaka
Representative: Yoshitaka Eguchi, Representative Director
(President and CEO of Kansai Felt Fabric Co. Ltd.)
URL: <http://www.kansaifelt.com/kiff>

About Minato Capital Co., Ltd.

Head Office: 2-1-2 Tamondori, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo
Established: June 2000
Representative: Katsuji Yamashita, Representative Director
Capital: JPY 250 million
Business: Investment and consulting services
URL: <https://www.minatobk.co.jp/group/minatocp/>

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