

Ministries approve Osaka University's 10 billion in VC investment

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The Ministries of Economy, Trade and Industry and Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology announced on the 8th that Osaka University has been approved to invest 10 billion yen in university venture capital (VC). The enforcement of the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act in 2014 made it possible for national universities to establish VCs. This is the first undertaking under this new policy wherein a university will be creating new businesses based on their research findings.

Osaka University plans to invest in ventures involved in regenerative medicine, information and communication technology, and manufacturing. It is also calling for private investments.

The University was approved for VC establishment in 2014, but required authorization from the country regarding their investment plans. Investments will be finalized by the end of June through consultation between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Tohoku University is also slated for VC approval by late June, while Kyoto University aims to be approved by early July. Tokyo University is continuing preparations for VC establishment, and the government plans to contribute a total of 100 billion yen to the 4 universities.