



# Tech Startup HOKURIKU (TeSH)

## Startup Ecosystem Initiatives in Hokuriku



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UCHIDA Fumihiko  
Program Head of Directors, Tech Startup HOKURIKU/  
Director, Startup Promotion Office, JAIST

# Keywords for Hokuriku

**Dense** environment features **Niche Top** product lines, covering roughly the same size area as Niigata and Nagano.  
Top economic **Prosperity** and **Well-being** in Japan, with strong **Research Capacities**.

## Niche Top

- Industrial large washing and drying machines (National market share 50%)
- Incinerator for industrial waste (National market share 40%)
- Sushi conveyor belt (National market share 70%)
- Bulldozer (construction and mining equipment (National market share 60%)
- Large-size sightseeing bus (National market share 64%)
- Regenerative medicine cell processing isolator (National market share 90%)
- Radiation shielding door for nuclear power plant (National market share 70%)
- Petroleum underground storage tank (National market share 70%)
- Silicon wafer edge polishing system (Global Market Share 90%)

## Examples of products with top market share in Hokuriku (Source: Hokuriku Economic Federation "Top 150 Shares in Hokuriku")

- High-performance smartphone components with high-speed communication support (Global Market Share 100%)
- Shock sensors for PCs (Global Market Share 100%)
- Camera mounts (Global Market Share 90%)
- Ceramic resonators (Global Market Share 75%)
- CMOS sensor camera module (National market share 90%)
- Resin laminated glass (National market share 70%)
- Bent glass processing (National market share 70%)
- Automatic Packaging Machine (Film Packaging) (National market share 70%)
- Pressure-resistant vinyl hoses (National market share 72%)

## Dense

Fukui 4189km<sup>2</sup>  
Ishikawa 4185km<sup>2</sup>  
Toyama 4247km<sup>2</sup>

Niigata 12583km<sup>2</sup>  
Nagano 13562km<sup>2</sup>

Even Toyama College (Sabae), the furthest away from JAIST and Kanazawa University, takes 1.5 hours by car.

- Full-automatic large tire changer (National market share 100%)
- Duplex Milling Machine (National market share 65%)
- Engine generators (National market share 65%)
- Image scanner (National market share 69%)
- Cables and Wires for wiring in factory and industrial communication cables (National market share 50%)
- Fabric for uniforms (Global Market Share 20%)
- Fabric for Car Seat (National market share 70%)
- Surface treatment of eyeglass frames (National market share 70%)
- High grade eyeglass frames (40 thousand yen or more) (National market share 49.7%)

## Prosperity / Well-being

### Disposable Income Ranking (March 2021 MLIT)

1st: Toyama	465,635
2nd: Fukui	449,794
22nd: Ishikawa	404,794

### Happiness Report 2024 (Japan Research Institute)

1st: Fukui
2nd: Tokyo
3rd: Toyama
4th: Nagano
5th: Ishikawa

## Research Capacity

### ◇Life Science

Molecular Biology and Genetics (Kanazawa Univ. 7th)

Pharmaceutical Science (Univ. of Toyama 7th)

### ◇Technology

Engineering (Univ. of Toyama 4th)

Materials Science (JAIST 5th)

Computer Science

(Kanazawa Univ. 7<sup>th</sup>, Univ. of Toyama 8<sup>th</sup>)

Chemistry (JAIST 5<sup>th</sup>, Kanazawa Univ. 10<sup>th</sup>)

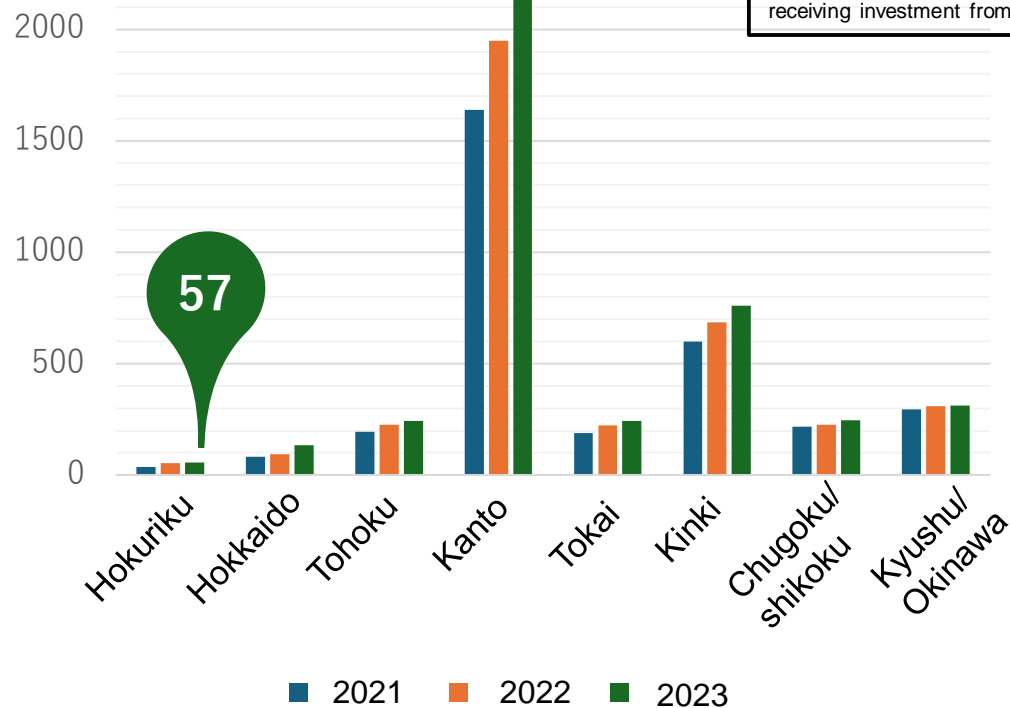
# Current Status of Hokuriku Academic Startups

Leading Region with **Growth Potential** in the Rapidly Expanding University Startups

## Japan

Number of university startups  
by region (2021-2023)

- ① Research Results Venture
- ② Joint Research Venture
- ③ Technology transfer venture
- ④ **Student venture**
- ⑤ Faculty member venture
- ⑥ Related venture: Ventures that have a strong connection with the university, such as receiving investment from it.



Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), "Survey of University Ventures in FY2023", released March 2024

## Hokuriku

Japan 4,288 companies (2023)

Hokuriku: 57 / 4,288 companies

JAIST	15
Univ. of Toyama	11
Univ. of Fukui	8
Kanazawa Univ.	6
Kanazawa Inst. of Tech	6
Kanazawa Med. Univ.	4
Fukui Pref. Univ.	3
Toyama Pref. Univ.	2
Ishikawa Pref. Univ.	1
Fukui College	1

with funding

8 companies  
JAIST: 4  
Kanazawa Univ.: 2  
Kanazawa Inst. of Tech: 1  
Ishikawa Pref. Univ.: 1



# Tech Startup HOKURIKU (TeSH) Start



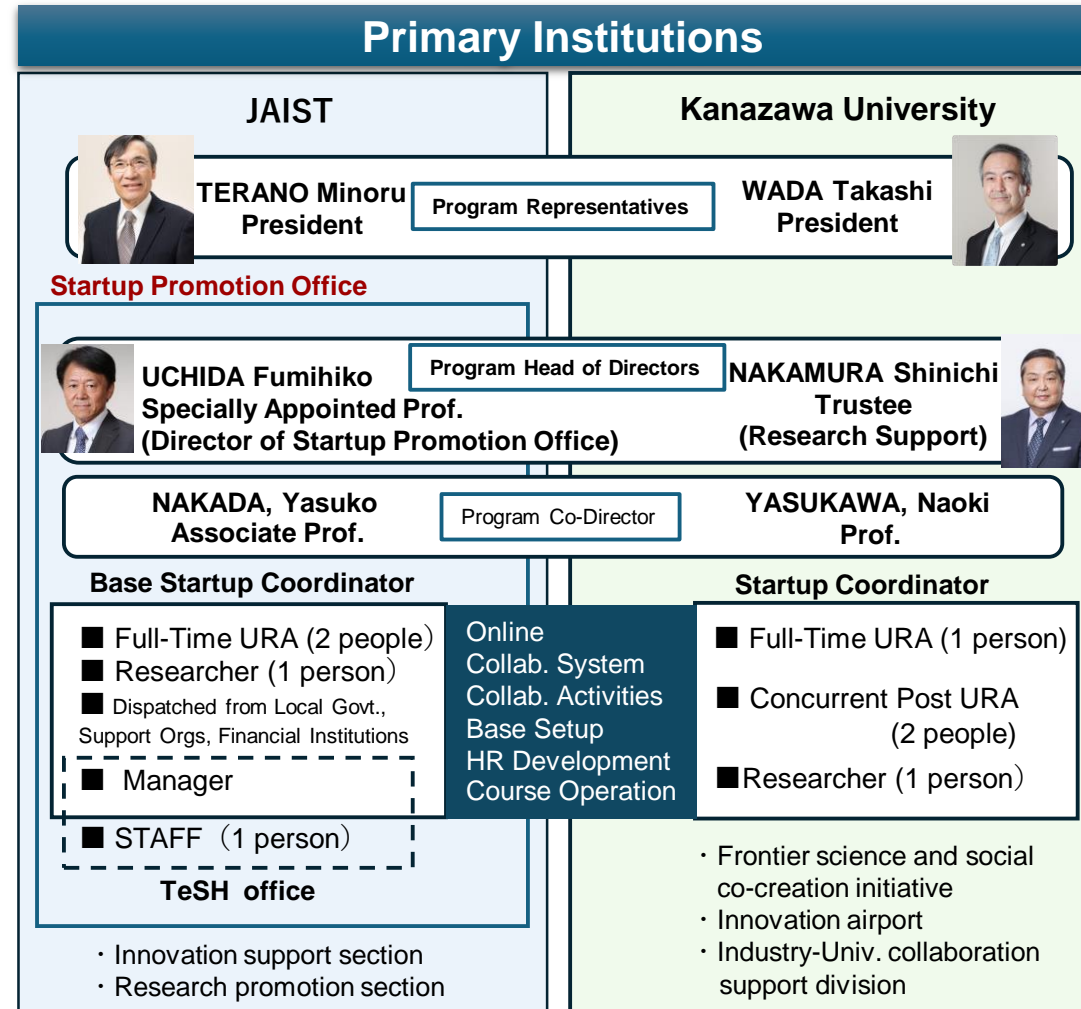
TeSH was selected for Startup Ecosystem Co-Creation Program (February 2024)

New Industry Creation Fund for University Startups (2023-2027)



KPI in 10 years  
(FY2033)

- ① 2 companies exit:  
IPO, M&A, etc.
- ② Total 100 companies,  
Create 20 university  
Startups per year



## Joint Institutions for Creating Startups

Univ. of Toyama  
Toyama Prefectural Univ.  
Toyama College  
Ishikawa Prefectural Univ.  
Komatsu Univ.  
Kanazawa College of Art  
Kanazawa Institute of Tech  
Kanazawa Medical Univ.  
Hokuriku Univ.  
Ishikawa College  
Univ. of Fukui  
Fukui Prefectural Univ.  
Fukui Univ. of Tech  
Fukui College

**13 Universities &  
3 Technical Colleges**

**4 National Universities  
5 Public Universities  
4 Private Universities  
3 Technical Colleges**

## Listed companies in Hokuriku

Hokuriku has been a difficult place to create startups that draw a J-curve and go public in 10 years.

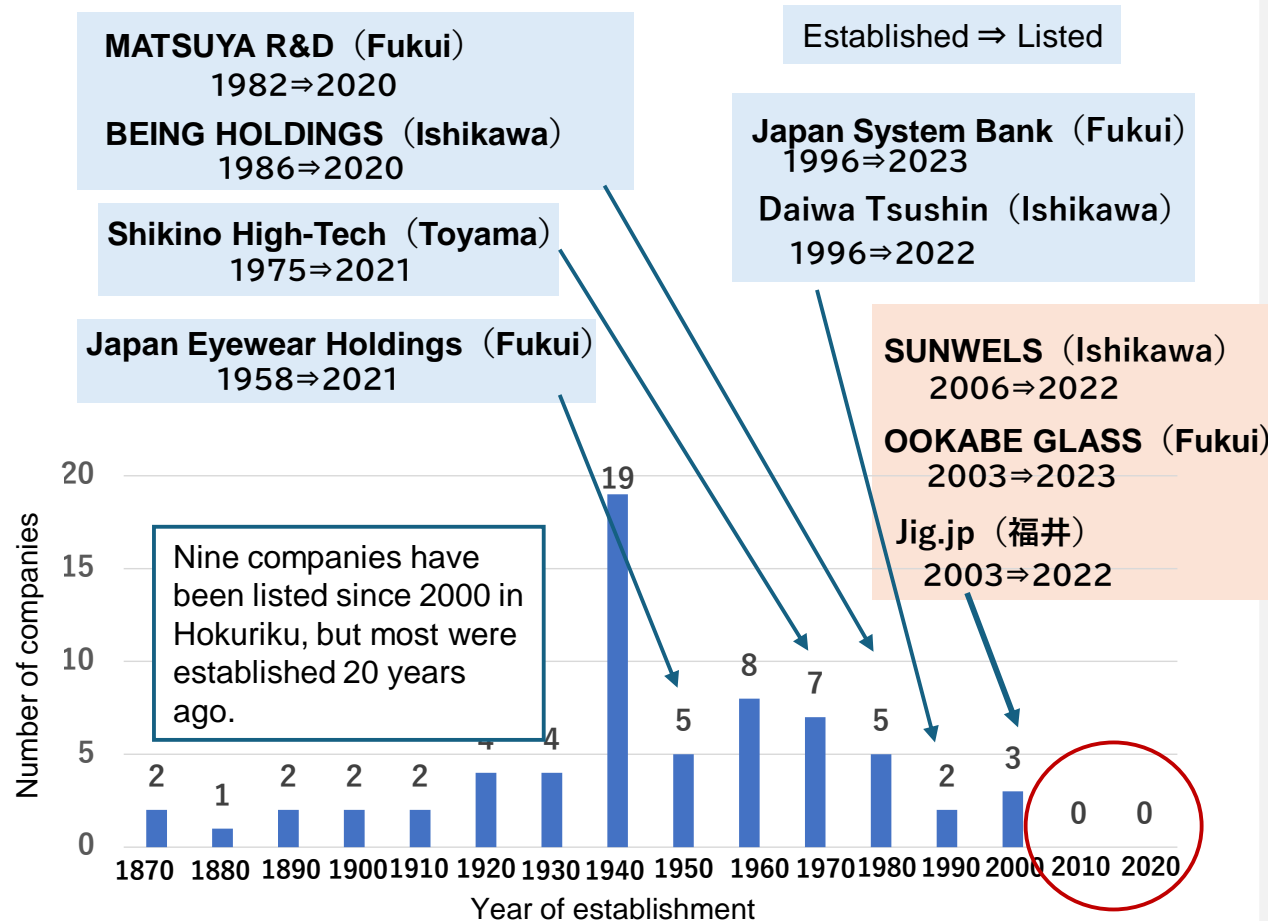


Figure 1: The year of establishment of the 70 companies with headquarters or head office in Hokuriku and the number of companies listed on or after 2020.

## TeSH's Mission

Dramatically improve the quality and quantity of university and technical college startups in Hokuriku.

Create listed companies and companies with top market share from Hokuriku that will take on the world.

Foster startups that will contribute to solving social issues in Japan and the world, starting with solving social issues in Hokuriku.

# Challenges and Initiatives in Hokuriku

## 1. Seeds Discovery

- The current situation is that excellent regional research results are difficult to commercialize.



## 2. Networking

- Collaboration with outside the region
- Limited funding opportunities



- Lack of infrastructure to support startups

## 3. SU Environmental Improvement

## 1. Seeds Discovery

**155 Seeds Discovered**

**123 GAP Fund Applications**

## 2. Network Expansion

**Industry-Government-Academia-Finance  
Collaboration of 95 Organizations,**

**34 of which are VC's**

## 3. SU Environment Improvement

**Intellectual Property**

**Startup Regulations**

### ■ Group I (Innovation)

#### 【Classification】

Institutions with a certain number of university startups, consultation services, intellectual property policies, incubation facilities, etc.

#### 【Mission】

Create themes that will lead to startups from the multiple GAP Fund themes actively proposed each year.

JAIST  
Kanazawa University  
Univ. of Toyama  
Univ. of Fukui

Faculty: 3,085, Master: 3,729, Doctor: 1,917

### ■ Group B (Breakthrough)

#### 【Classification】

Institutions with a small number of university startups.

#### 【Mission】

Strengthen the discovery of startup seeds and propose at least one GAP Fund theme each year.

Kanazawa Institute of Tech  
Kanazawa Medical Univ.  
Toyama Prefectural Univ.  
Ishikawa Prefectural Univ.  
Fukui Prefectural Univ.  
Fukui College  
Fukui University of Tech

Faculty: 1,367, Master: 883, Doctor: 75

### ■ Group T (Transformation)

#### 【Classification】

Institutions with no startup experience or have not developed a startup environment, including consultation services and incubation facilities.

#### 【Mission】

Promote the development of the startup environment and propose a GAP Fund theme on or after FY2025.

Komatsu Univ.  
Hokuriku Univ.  
Toyama College  
Ishikawa College  
Kanazawa College of art

Faculty: 438, Master: 23



① **Classify into 3 Groups** ② **Submit Entry Form** ③ **TeSH Mentors' Application Advice** to Group B and T Applicants

①

**Group I  
(Innovation)**  
Substantial Experience

JAIST  
Kanazawa University  
Univ. of Toyama  
Univ. of Fukui

**Group B  
(Breakthrough)**  
Some Experience

Kanazawa Institute of Tech  
Kanazawa Medical Univ.  
Toyama Prefectural Univ.  
Ishikawa Prefectural Univ.  
Fukui Prefectural Univ.  
Fukui College  
Fukui University of Tech

**Group T  
(Transformation)**  
No Experience

Komatsu Univ.  
Hokuriku Univ.  
Toyama College  
Ishikawa College  
Kanazawa College of art

②

ENTRY FORM (Submit cover page + 1 summary)

SU Coordinator (TeSH)

③ Application Advice

SU Coordinator (TeSH)  
+  
Mentor (TeSH)

③ Application Advice

SU Coordinator (TeSH)  
+  
Mentor (TeSH)

APPLICATION

SCREENING

ADOPTION

STEP1

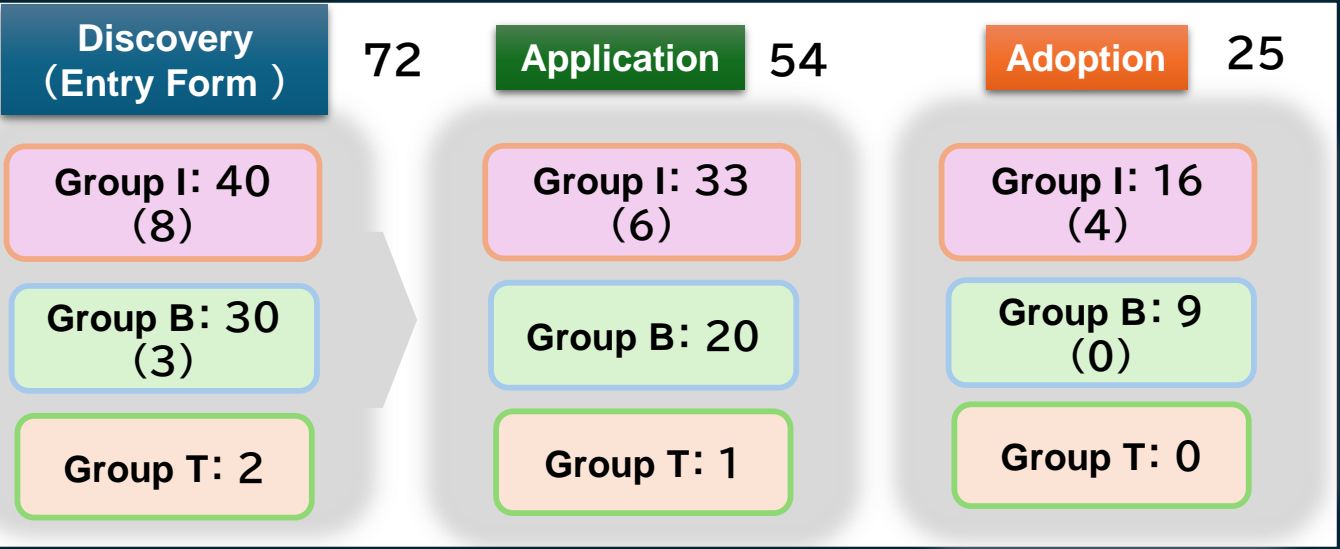
SU Coordinator (TeSH)  
+  
Mentor (TeSH)  
+  
Commercialization  
Promotion Organizations

Mentor (TeSH)

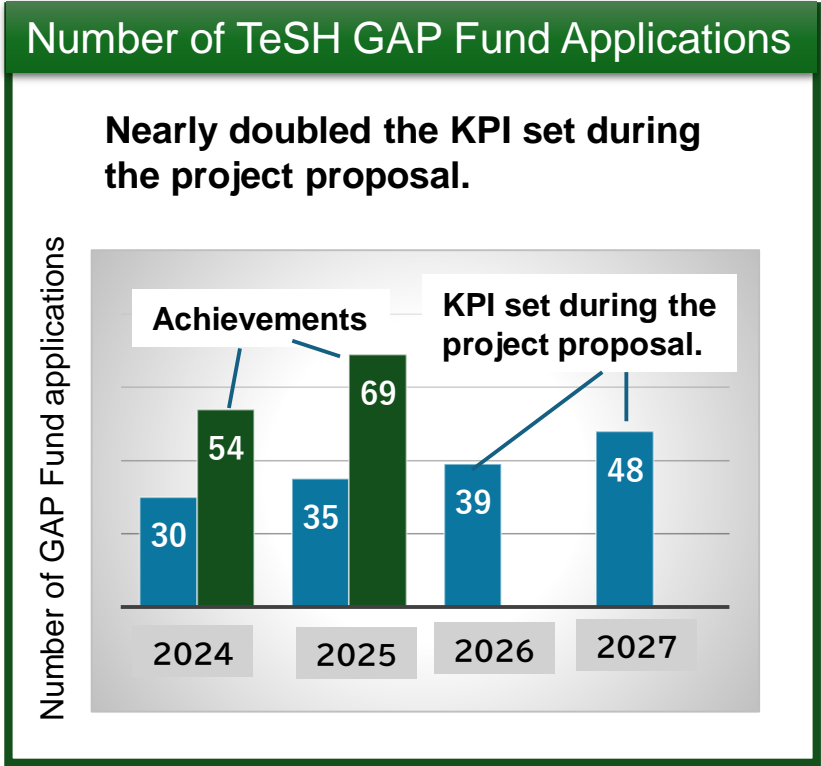
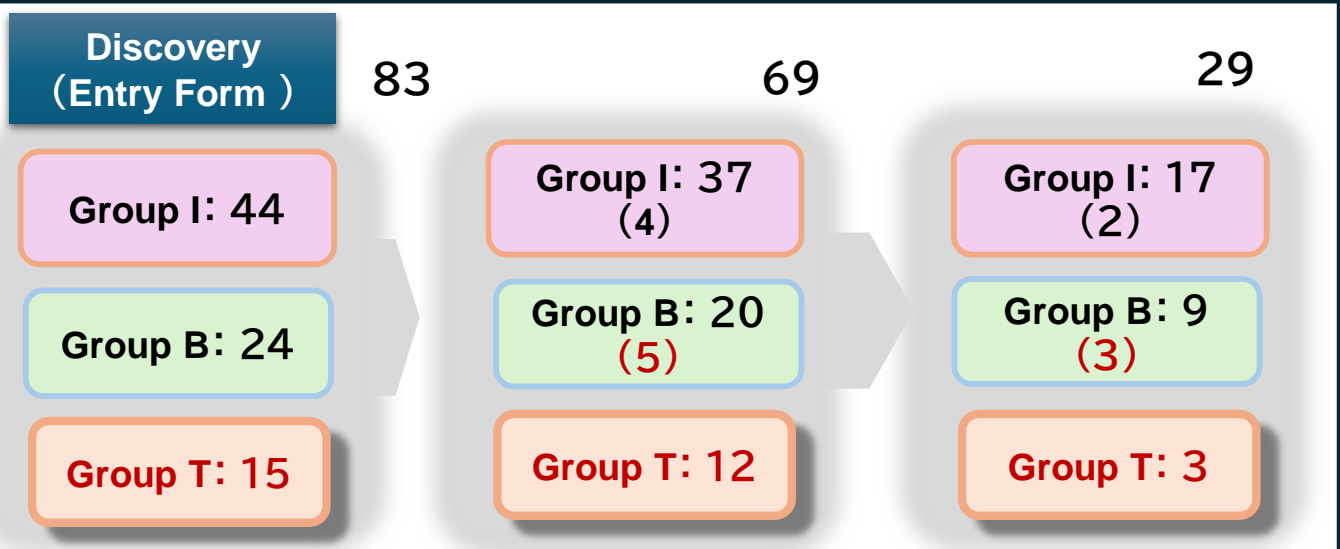
- Financial institution background
- In charge of Private Community Relations
- Experienced in private-sector commercialization
- Business manager
- Entrepreneurial experience
- Head of University Startup Division

155 Seeds were discovered, and from 123 applications, 54 were adopted for the program.

FY2024



FY2025



( )STEP2: Up to 60 million yen for 3 years  
Others: STEP1: 5 million yen / year

## 2. NW Expansion

# Industry-Government-Academia-Finance Collaboration of 95 Organizations



(As of May 20, 2025)

16 Participating Universities and Technical Colleges	2 Universities	JAIST, Kanazawa University
	11 Universities, 3 Technical Colleges	Univ. of Toyama, Univ. of Fukui, Toyama Prefectural Univ., Komatsu Univ., Ishikawa Prefectural Univ., Kanazawa College of Art, Fukui Prefectural Univ., Kanazawa Institute of Tech, Kanazawa Medical Univ., Hokuriku Univ., Fukui Univ. of Tech, Toyama College, Ishikawa College, Fukui College
46 Cooperative Organizations	Prefecture, Municipality, etc. 7 Organizations	Toyama Prefectural Govt., Ishikawa Prefectural Govt., Fukui Prefectural Govt., Toyama New Industry Organization, ISICO, Fukui Industrial Support Center, Kaga City
	6 Economic Organizations	Hokuriku Economic Federation, SME SUPPORT JAPAN, Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry-Electricity and Gas Business Hokuriku Branch, Hokuriku Industrial Advancement Center
	Finance, 9 Organizations	HOKURIKU BANK, BANK of Toyama, First Bank of Toyama, DBJ Hokuriku Branch, Fukui Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, SMBC, SMBC Venture Capital, JP Bank
	20 Private Companies	NIHONKAI Lab., KDDI, Asian Bridge, HOKURYO DENKO, BEING HOLDINGS, I-O DATA, ACTREE, HOKUDEN Business Investment, MEDIPAL HOLDINGS, KIYOKAWA Plating Industry, TATEYAMA KAGAKU, NICCA CHEMICAL, Sugino Machine, KEC, SHIBUYA CORPORATION, Relic, NAKATEC, INTEC, TAKAMAZ Machinery, NTT DATA HOKURIKU, Komatsu NTC
	Others, 4 Organizations	JETRO Kanazawa, JETRO Toyama, JETRO Fukui, Mitsubishi Research Institute
33 Commercialization Promotion Organizations	1 VC, Kanazawa University	Vision Incubate
	5 VCs, CVCs, Hokuriku	Hokuhoku Financial Group, Fukui C&C, QR INVESTMENT, Carbon Ventures, HED
	25 VCs, Outside of Hokuriku	KSP, U TOKYO IPC, INCUBATE FUND, Beyond Next Ventures, JAFECO, ANRI, SAMURAI INCUBATE, Fast Track Initiative, QB Capital, Bio-Sight Capital, DEFTA Capital, MIRAIISOZO INVESTMENT, Mitsubishi UFJ Capital, HACK VENTURES, AN Ventures, UntroD Capital Japan, SBI Investment, Quantum Leaps Ventures, PARTNERS FUND, Genesis Ventures, Inc., 地域と人と未来, D4V, Keio Innovation Initiative, DCI Partners, Taiho Innovations
	2 Private Accelerators	RICH, Sojitz Institute of Innovations Technologies

Matching Session in Kanazawa (Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

### TeSH GAP Fund Premium Session 2024



ANA Crowne Plaza Kanazawa

34 Venture Capitalists

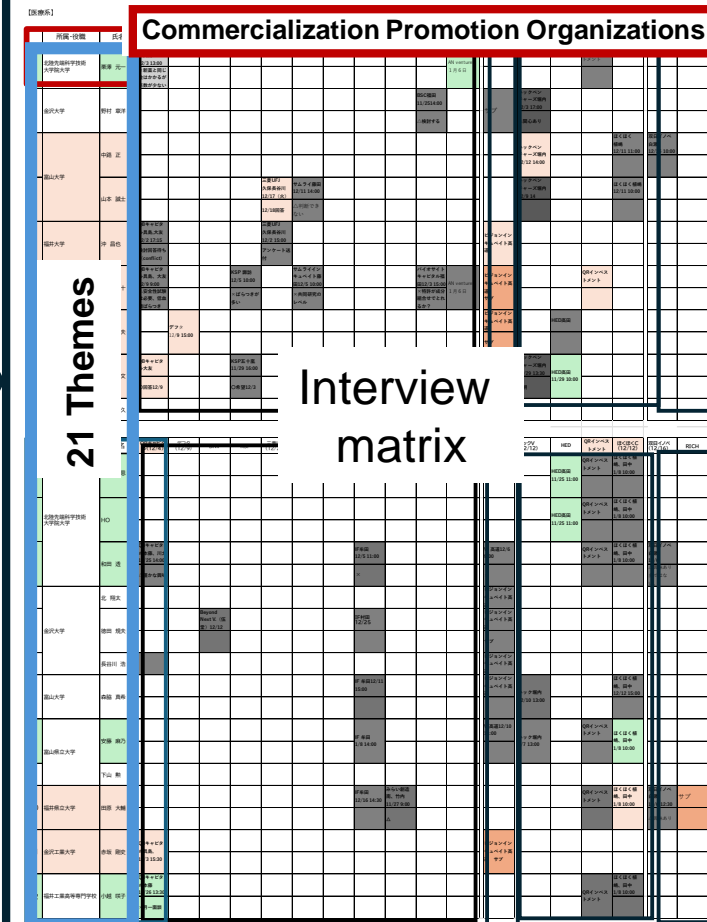
- S, A, B, C grades
- Comments
- Questionnaire for Interview requests

Adopted 21 Themes for TeSH STEP1

Interview Requests

### Individual Matching

TeSH conducts individual interviews as the owner (1 hour x 46 times)

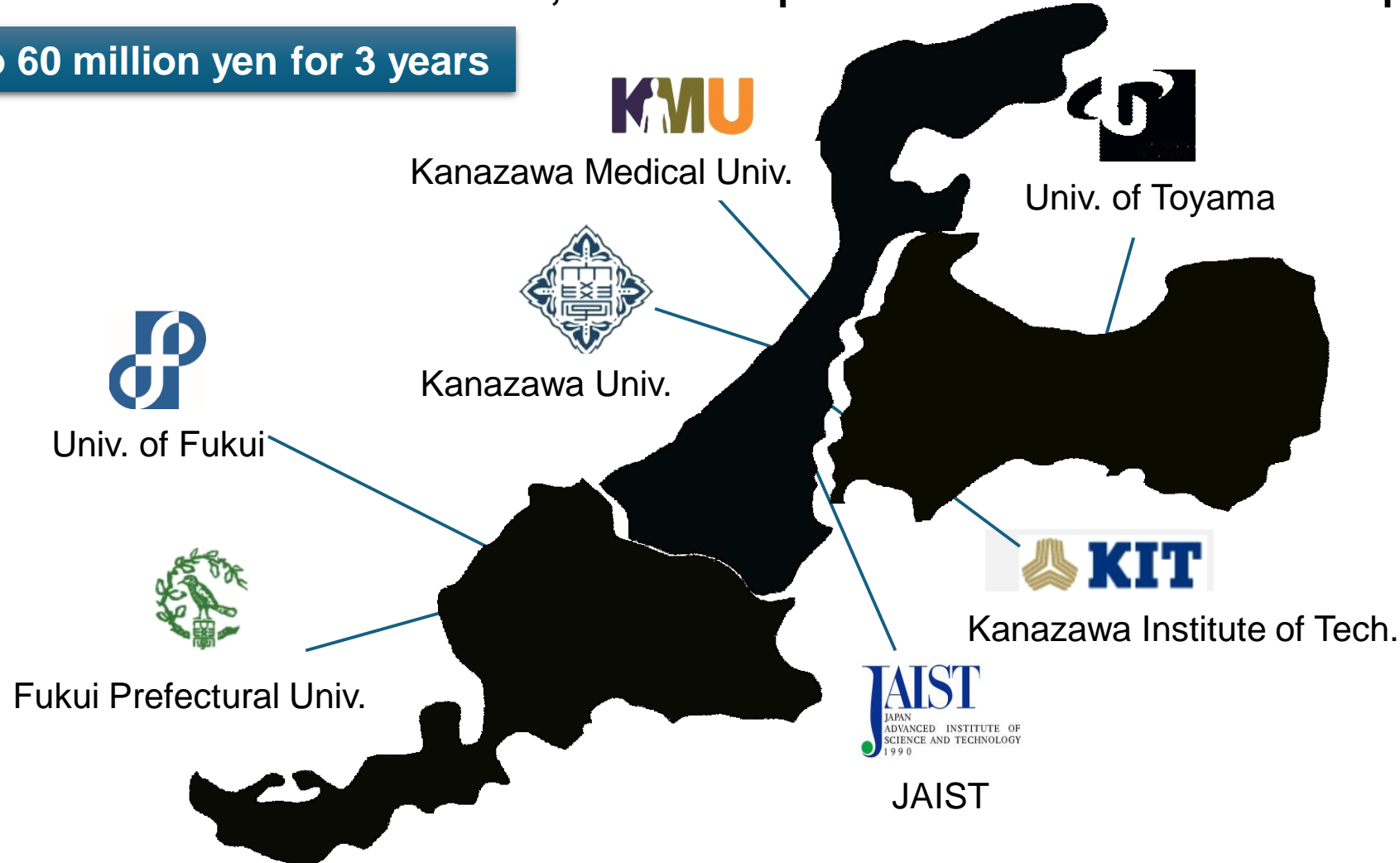


Through the stages, jointly apply for FY2025 STEP2



Excellent seeds exist throughout Hokuriku universities, and through the TeSH program, these seeds have been discovered, and start-up initiatives have become widespread.

**STEP2: Up to 60 million yen for 3 years**



# Initiatives on and after FY2025

**FY2024**



☐ Establishment of a seed discovery system for 13 universities and 3 tech colleges in Hokuriku

☐ Establishment of an industry-government-academia collaboration system of 95 organizations

**FY2025**



☐ Create a group of companies that will lead the next generation of industries.

**1. Startup Boost Program from Hokuriku Academia**

☐ Look ahead to the global market and develop a local support system.

**2. Hokuriku Interdisciplinary Fes.**

☐ Build a “Bridge of Knowledge” between the region and the world.

**3. CIC Cambridge “HOKURIKU Startup Night”**

**FY2026**

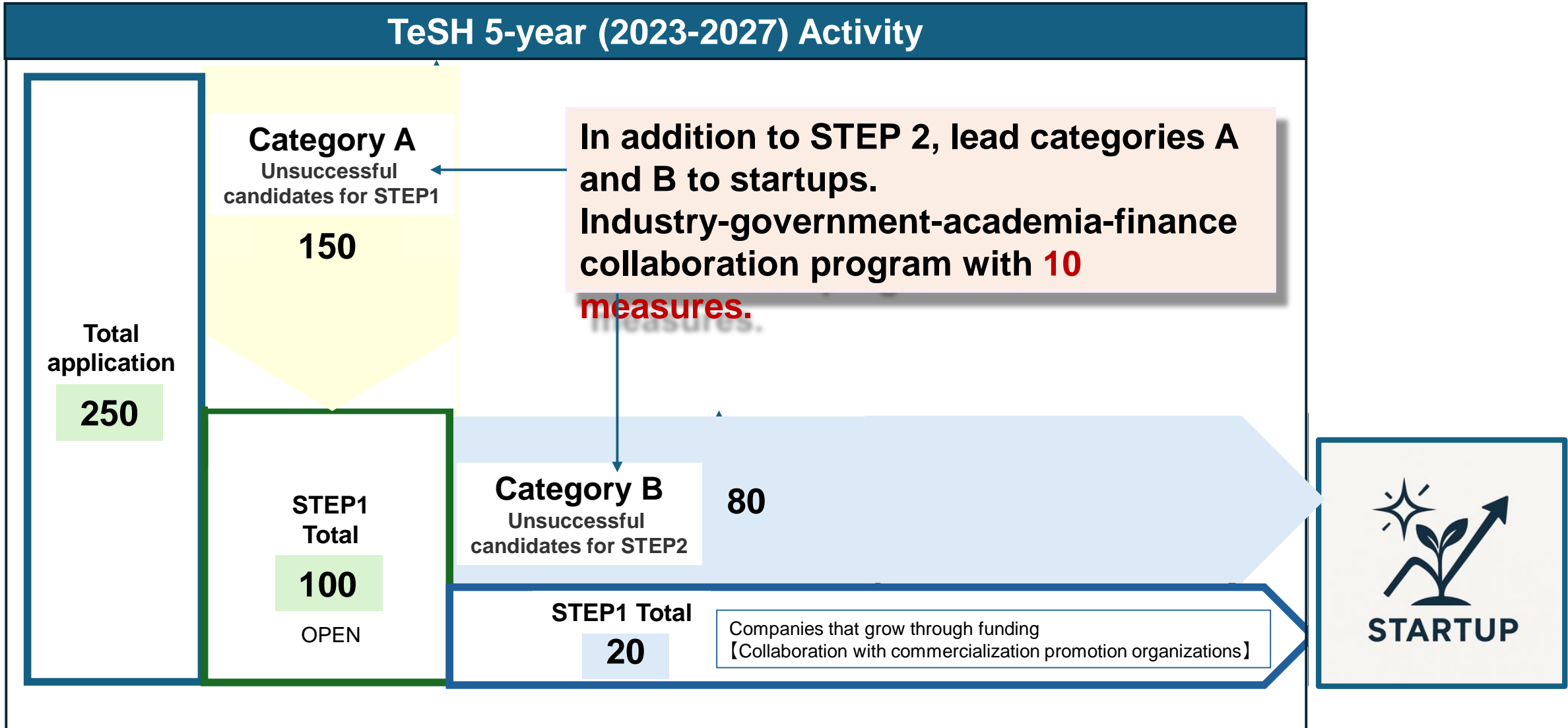
**Breakthrough**

**FY2027**

**Established**

# □ Create a group of companies that will lead the next generation of industries.

## 1. Startup Boost Program from Hokuriku Academia



# ☐ Look ahead to the global market and develop a local support system.

## 2. Hokuriku Interdisciplinary Fes.

### <Overview>

- Hold events with key stakeholders in each prefecture in turn. (2025 Toyama Fes., Fukui Fes.)
- Promote TeSH in each prefecture to raise awareness and expand the local supporter base.
- Establishment of a support system for the global market in collaboration with JETRO.

### <Details>

- Promote TeSH through seminars, talk sessions, and pitches as an opportunity to collaborate and share information with SU support organizations in each prefecture.



### <management>

Organizer: TeSH, Universities and Tech colleges  
Collaboration: TeSH + Prefecture + Industry + JETRO etc.

Venue: Each event venue

Details: Guests from top startups,  
Prefecture + TeSH Collaborative measures  
Pickup seeds



Regional Alumni  
Networking  
Angel creation, etc.



# ☐ Build a “Bridge of Knowledge” between the region and the world.

## 3. CIC Cambridge “HOKURIKU Startup Night”

### < Overview>

- International SU community collaboration (promotion of PMF on a global level)

### < Details>

- Dispatch selected successful candidates, etc. to broaden international perspectives through pitching events, etc.
- Participate in Thursday Night, held every Thursday, and collaborate with local consulates and the Japanese community.





## Events in Fukui and Toyama

### Purpose

- ① Boost the morale of each institution through the participation of all presidents and principals.
- ② Establish a local industry-government-academia-finance collaboration system.
- ③ Discover young seeds.
- ④ Rebuild the Alumni network.

### program

- ◆ Remarks from all presidents and principals
- ◆ Introduction of local startup cases
- ◆ Introduction of industry, government, finance and JETRO activities
- ◆ Introduction of TeSH-adopted research themes
- ◆ 5 Seeds pitches from each institution
- Networking: Awards for excellent pitches

# FUKUI Interdisciplinary Fes.

2025

~From Hokuriku to the World~

Create Startups that Collaborate with Industry,  
Government, Academia and Finance



**Monday, August 25, 2025**

**13:00 - 17:00**

(Networking 17:00 -18:00)

**Venue: Hotel Fujita Fukui**

Organizer: Tech Startup HOKURIKU(TeSH)



# TOYAMA Intardisciplinary Fes.

Startup Ecosystem Co-Creation Program  
From Toyama Academia to the World



**Friday, September 26, 2025**

**13:00 - 17:00** (Networking 17:00 -18:00)

**Venue: ANA Crowne Plaza Toyama**

Organizer: Tech Startup HOKURIKU(TeSH)





Thank you for your attention!

**June 20, 2025**

**UCHIDA Fumihiko**

**Program Head of Directors, Tech Startup HOKURIKU/  
Director, Startup Promotion Office, JAIST**

# Tech Startup HOKURIKU **DEMO DAY**

**Friday, November 14, 2025**

**10:00 - 17:00**

**Venue: ANA Crowne Plaza Kanazawa 3F**

**Keynote Speaker: TAJIMA Soichi**

Chairman of the Japanese Venture  
Capital Association (JVCA),  
CEO, Genesis Ventures

**Organizer: Tech Startup HOKURIKU(TeSH)**

