4-1 Creation of Innovation

- **Efforts are underway to promote open innovation between overseas and Japanese companies including startups, such as through the Japan Innovation Bridge (J-Bridge) and the Tech Osaka Summit.**
- **Kansai is home to 1,346 innovation-driven companies, and there is active collaboration among industry, academia, and government to build a thriving startup ecosystem. (As of December 2022; Kansai Venture Company List by METI-Kansai**

Various types of startup support

Startup Ecosystem Global City

Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo – Kobe Consortium

https://www.starecokansai.com/

The Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo — Kobe Consortium was selected as a Global Startup Ecosystem Hub City under the Cabinet Office's startup ecosystem strategy in July 2020, and was selected again in June 2025 for the second phase.By building on the region's international recognition, we aim to strengthen connections with global ecosystem stakeholders, build a comparative advantage in three key sectors with strong potential in the Keihanshin region — Bio/Life Sciences, Greentech, and Digital — and develop an ecosystem hub that can compete on a global scale.

Kansai Startup Mashups

J-Startup KANSAI "J-Startup" Kansai Edition - Startup Support Program

https://www.kansai.meti.go.jp/3-3shinki/Startup/J-Startup/startup-kansai.html

This program selects promising startups from Kansai as role models and creates a system to support entrepreneurs through regional collaboration. Strong partnerships between public institutions and private companies offer intensive support to help startups achieve rapid growth.

Number of selected companies: **62** (as of May 2026)

J-Startup KANSAI

J-BRIDGE

Organizer	Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
URL	https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/j-bridge/
Outline	A business platform that fosters international open innovation between Japanese and overseas companies. J-Bridge supports Japanese companies, universities, research institutions, and others in business development and new business creation through alliances with overseas companies—such as business partnerships, technology collaborations, investments, and joint ventures—as well as mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

J-GoodTech

Organizer	Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN （SME SUPPORT JAPAN）
URL	https://jgoodtech.smrj.go.jp/pub/en/
Outline	A business matching website that connects Japanese SMEs with large domestic companies and overseas enterprises. J-GoodTech facilitates the discovery of new business partners and customers, exploration of joint development opportunities, and expansion into new markets and overseas sales channels. Additionally, its special sections provide support for matching in areas such as export/overseas expansion, startups, SDGs/carbon neutrality, and related to the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

Large companies in Kansai welcome collaboration with startups

The Kansai Economic Federation has stated that companies and organizations supporting the declaration will publicly announce their contact points and offer dedicated support to venture companies. This includes providing advice and introducing technology and sales channels as needed when venture companies seek consultation.

"The Declaration of Startup Friendly Kansai"

https://www.kansaidoyukai.or.jp/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/18079df6e390a296c83ef268578cff9f.pdf

4-1 Main Business Matching & Pitch Events in Kansai

Tech Osaka Summit

Organizer	Tech Osaka Summit Organizing Committee (Osaka City, Osaka Business Development Agency, Umekita Future Innovation Organization, Urban Innovation Institute, JETRO Osaka)
Outline	Implementing an impactful annual event that brings together diverse domestic and international stakeholders—including startups, corporations, investors, universities, research institutions, financial institutions, and government bodies—to create opportunities for Osaka–Kansai-based startups to expand globally, accelerate the development of the regional startup ecosystem, and enhance its international presence and branding.

Tech Osaka Summit

https://www.innovation-osaka.jp/tech-osaka-summit/en/

IVS2026 KYOTO

Organizer	IVS KYOTO Organizing Committee (Headline Japan / Kyoto Prefecture / Kyoto City)
Outline	One of the largest international startup conferences in Japan, where entrepreneurs and investors from both Japan and overseas meet to promote the creation of new businesses. The event facilitates direct negotiations for acquiring investments, partnerships, and talent, while also providing opportunities to understand the latest trends in various fields and exchange diverse human resources.

IVS2026

https://www.ivs.events/en/

KGAP+ (Keihanna Global Acceleration Program Plus)

Organizer	Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR)
Outline	A three-month support program for start-up companies in Japan and overseas. Startups nominated by domestic and overseas innovation organizations (partner organizations) participate in this program held twice a year and seek out partners to collaborate on PoC. The total number of participants was 253 companies from 29 countries and regions, with 67% successful matches and a participant satisfaction rate of 4.4/5. Partner organizations also host short-term special programs to help startups not only expand into the Japanese market but also establish a foothold for expansion outside of Japan.

KGAP+
Keihanna Global Acceleration Program Plus

https://www.kgap.jp/

Global Startup EXPO 2026

Organizer	Global Startup EXPO 2026 Organizing Committee (Osaka Prefecture / Osaka City / Kyoto Prefecture / Kyoto City / Hyogo Prefecture / Kobe City / Kansai Economic Federation / Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry / Kansai Association of Corporate Executives / Osaka Business Development Agency / Kansai Innovation Initiative [Urban Innovation Institute])
Outline	Global Startup EXPO is a world-leading international deep tech event centered on social implementation, showcasing cutting-edge startups from Japan and around the world while bringing together global startup ecosystems. Startups, corporations, investors, researchers, and government stakeholders from across the globe gather in Osaka to connect technology, capital, and markets—advancing innovation from demonstration to commercialization and ultimately industrialization. Its mission is to advance deep tech into industry, together with the world—starting from Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

GLOBAL STARTUP EXPO2026

https://global-startup-expo.com/en/

4-2 Life Science and Biotechnology Innovation

- **Since Kansai has long been a center of medicine, it is home to many pharmaceutical company headquarters, foreign-affiliated companies, and medical equipment manufacturers closely working with each other.**
- **Institutions related to life science and biotechnology are concentrated in Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe.**
- **Leading research, such as on iPS cells, as well as active efforts toward practical application and industrialization, are underway.**

Concentration of Leading Industry-Academia Collaboration and a Robust Platform for Life Sciences and Biotechnology

○Biomanufacturing

Technologies to produce substances from microorganisms and cells using genetic engineering are expected to contribute to solving social challenges.

■Biocommunity Kansai （BiocK）

BiocK aims to build the ultimate ecosystem in the bio-industry based in Kansai.

○Medical Device

Numerous universities and research institutions in the medical field are concentrated in Kansai, and there are also many small and medium-sized enterprises with manufacturing technical expertise in various fields.

■Kansai Medical Device Industry Support Network（KMSN）

17 industrial support organizations in Kansai assist companies entering the medical device industry and developing new medical devices.

○Regenerative Medicine

At institutes such as the Kyoto University iPS Cell Research Institute (CiRA), the University of Osaka, and Kobe University, world-leading research and efforts toward the industrialization of regenerative medicine are underway.

Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University（CiRA）

■Nakanoshima Qross

Gathers medical institutions, companies, startups, and support organizations under one roof to expedite the practical application and industrialization of cutting-edge future medicine, including regenerative medicine.

■KRIC: Kansai Regenerative medicine Industrial Consortium

KRIC supports corporate collaboration to accelerate the realization of regenerative medicine.

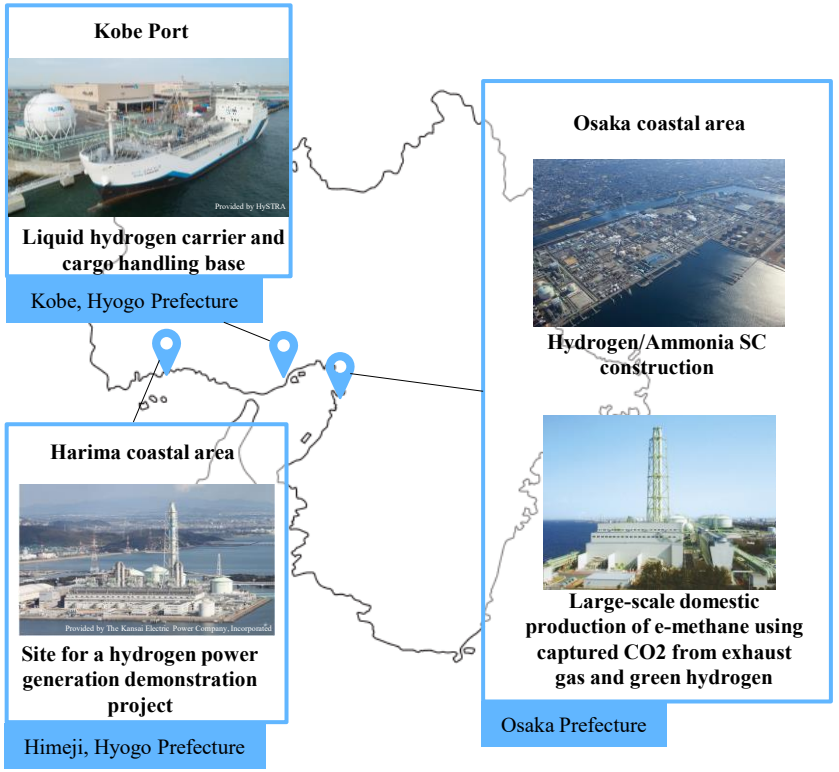
A large cluster of pharmaceutical company headquarters		Concentration of research and development bases and core institutions
Sumitomo Pharma	Sumitomo Pharma Co., Ltd.	Kansai Branch of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA)
SHIONOGI	Shionogi & Co., Ltd.	Kansai Branch of Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development（AMED）
KOBAYASHI / Tanabe Pharma		Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University
Takeda	Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited	Saito（International Culture Park）<Life Science Park>
ono	ONO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.	KOBE Biomedical Innovation Cluster
FUSO Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd.		RIKEN
Santen	Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	

Medical equipment manufacturers concentrated in this area		A large cluster of pharmaceutical company headquarters	
NIPRO	NIPRO CORPORATION	AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca K.K.
OMRON	OMRON Corporation	Lilly A MEDICINE COMPANY	Eli Lilly Japan K.K.
SHIMADZU	SHIMADZU CORPORATION	BAYER	Bayer Yakuhin, Ltd.
sysmex	SYSMEX CORPORATION	ICON	ICON

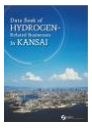
4-3 Green Innovation (Hydrogen and its derivatives)

- Kansai is home to many manufacturing companies, including heavy industries in port areas, and has high potential for the demand and supply of hydrogen and its derivatives.
- Various companies in Kansai are developing technologies in the hydrogen-related field by using their core technologies and are leading the country in many demonstration projects.

Port areas in Kansai working toward carbon neutrality



Data Book of HYDROGEN-Related Businesses in KANSAI



We have compiled a data book presenting Kansai-based companies that are actively engaged in hydrogen-related businesses and challenges.

https://www.kansai.meti.go.jp/5-1shiene/smart_energy_initiative/hydrogen_data/english/r7_h2data_en_overall.pdf

(PDF booklet)

Current projects for public implementation of hydrogen and its derivatives in various parts of Kansai

The world's first facility capable of consistently validating technologies from hydrogen production to power generation is now in operation

○Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Takasago City, Hyogo Prefecture

In order to achieve the early commercialization of hydrogen power generation, MHI has established the Takasago Hydrogen Park within its Takasago Machinery Works, where development, design, manufacturing, and validation facilities are located. The park is the world's first facility for consistently validating technologies from hydrogen production to power generation, in which hydrogen production tests and hydrogen power generation tests at a large-scale validation facility are currently conducted.

Demonstration of an international liquid hydrogen supply chain model

○Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. × Iwatani Corporation Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture

The CO_2-free Hydrogen Energy Supply-chain Technology Research Association (HySTRA) has successfully conducted a technology demonstration using the world's first liquid hydrogen carrier "Suiso Frontier" to transport liquid hydrogen, including hydrogen derived from brown coal, from Australia to Japan, and unload it at the liquid hydrogen cargo handling terminal "Hy touch Kobe" (Kobe City).

Japan's first commercial liquid hydrogen production plant

○Hydro Edge Co., Ltd. Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture

Hydro Edge began commercial operation in 2006 as Japan's first commercial liquid hydrogen production plant, contributing to a stable supply of liquid hydrogen in the country. Expansion work was carried out in 2020, and the plant's annual liquid hydrogen production capacity has reached 60 million m^3, making it the largest plant of its kind in Japan.

Demonstration of "Panasonic HX", Energy Solution using hydrogen

○Panasonic Electric Works Co., Ltd., Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture

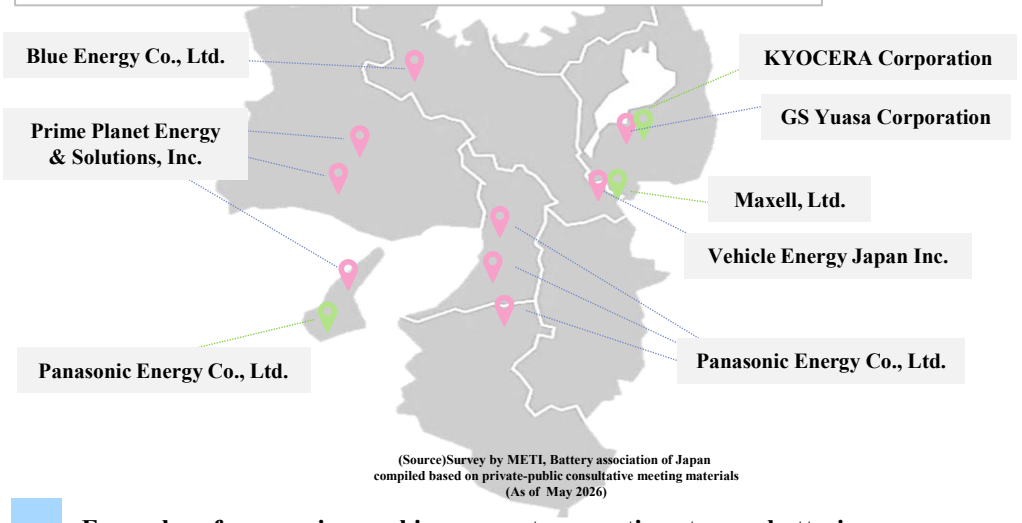
"Panasonic HX Kusatsu" is a demonstration facility for its hydrogen energy solution "Panasonic HX", which aims to operate a fuel cell plant using 100% renewable energy with a self-generation system. It combines 94 pure hydrogen fuel cell generators (approx. 495kW) and photovoltaic generators (approx. 570kW) along with lithium-ion storage batteries (approx. 1.1 MWh) and a proprietary EMS. It has been in operation since April 15, 2022.

4-4 Green Innovation（Storage Batteries）

- Kansai is a major base for development and production in storage battery industries such as lithium-ion batteries and redox flow batteries using vanadium.
- Battery manufacturers, manufacturing equipment makers, and material suppliers are concentrated in the region, accounting for over 40% of the national market share.

Many lithium-ion battery production bases are located in Kansai!

Automotive (and consumer/industrial, etc.) Lithium-ion battery production base
Consumer/Industrial Lithium-ion battery production base



(Source)Survey by METI, Battery association of Japan
compiled based on private-public consultative meeting materials
(As of May 2026)

Examples of companies working on next-generation storage batteries

Panasonic

▲Scheduled to be produced at Wakayama Plant

A new production facility for next-generation automobile lithium-ion batteries (4680) has been set up at the Wakayama plant, and preparations for mass production are now complete.

SUMITOMO ELECTRIC

Long-life, High-safety Storage Battery “Redox Flow Battery”

The company develops and manufactures Redox Flow Battery, which stabilize the power grid, achieve load leveling through power peak shifting, and enhance power resilience, all of which are necessary to expand the introduction of renewable energy.

Evaluation and Testing Facilities Supporting the Kansai Battery Industry

Evaluation and testing facilities are available to support all stages of the battery industry, from the research phase to the product phase.

LIBTEC

Consortium for Lithium-Ion Battery Technology and Evaluation Research Center (LIBTEC)

▲Equipped with prototype and evaluation equipment

LIBTEC Director-General
Dr. Yoshino Akira

・2019 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry
・Graduated from the Graduate Schools of Engineering at Kyoto University and the University of Osaka
・Honorary Fellow, Asahi Kasei Corporation

To assist companies in developing new materials for lithium-ion batteries, the consortium creates standard battery models in line with battery market trends, develops material evaluation methods, and performs evaluation analysis.
40 companies, including battery manufacturers, material chemical companies, and automotive companies, are involved as members.

nite National Institute of Technology and Evaluation

National LABoratory for advanced energy storage technologies （NLAB）

World‘s Largest Thermostatic
"Large Storage Battery System Test and Evaluation Facility"
Compatible with container-sized storage battery systems

※MIDDLE ：Multiple Innovation-Directive Development and Leading-edge Evaluation

The NLAB, located in Suminoe-ku, Osaka, can safely handle combustion, explosion, and toxic gases generated during the testing of lithium-ion batteries, allowing the testing and evaluation of large storage battery systems to be conducted in its indoor testing facility, regardless of weather conditions.
Various tests, including seismic, transportation vibration, crush, and drop tests, can also be conducted.
Additionally, a new advanced technology evaluation and experimental facility (NLAB MIDDLE Chamber) for next-generation batteries, such as solid-state batteries, has been established.
Testing services commenced in October of 2024.
This enables the proactive acceptance of safety testing for all-solid-state batteries, which are expected to be used in applications such as automobiles in the future.

4-5 Food Innovation (Food Tech)

- **Kansai has long served as a central region of Japan, fostering a rich food culture and a robust food industry throughout its history. Building on this strong foundation, the region also offers a highly favorable environment for the development of the food-tech sector.**
- **Furthermore, the region benefits from the presence of academic institutions and research organizations that contribute to the advancement of the food-tech sector. There is also active open innovation across diverse players and industries.**

A concentration of companies with advanced technologies and academia that generates cutting-edge innovations

As the food-related supply chain continues to grow, many companies and startups with advanced food-tech capabilities are also active. Kansai has a strong concentration of universities and research institutes that create advanced technologies. These cutting-edge technologies are also being applied to the food industry.

Pharma Foods International Co., Ltd.

An upcycling technology producing unprecedented new value from familiar food ingredients

Symbiobe Inc.

A biomanufacturing technology that turns air into resources through the power of microorganisms

OOYOO Ltd.

A sustainable, clean CO2 separation membrane technology acting as a basis for future devices and can also be applied to the food industry

Hutzper Inc.

High-precision AI solutions that turn cutting-edge technology into reliable labor sources

NINZIA Inc.

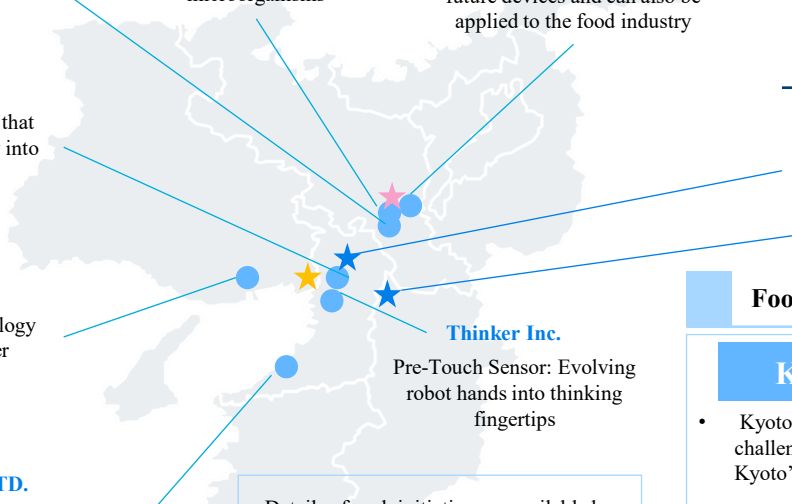
Texture and binding technology using konjac dietary fiber

Thinker Inc.

Pre-Touch Sensor: Evolving robot hands into thinking fingertips

FUJI OIL CO., LTD.

MIRACORE®–technology that makes plant-based foods as satisfying as animal-based foods



Details of each initiative are available here.

https://www.kansai.meti.go.jp/3-1toukou/_INVEST_support_eng/2025invest_eng/2025_english_foodtech.pdf

Corporate-led open innovation hubs

★ MILAB（FUKUSHIMA GALILEI CO. LTD.）

An open innovation hub for food that co-creates with external partners. Equipped with a variety of kitchen facilities and incubation functions for startups, it promotes joint events and the creation of new technologies and ideas.

★ KYOLABS（Shimadzu Corporation）

A co-creation hub in the healthcare field. Its research areas include technologies supporting food, and by working with external partners using analytical instruments, the hub promotes innovative product development and the solution of social challenges.

Industry-academia collaboration

Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Osaka
MATSUSAKI LAB.

"Consortium for Future Innovation by Cultured Meat"

Nara Institute of Science and Technology
Strategic Initiative for Research and Innovation
Laboratory of Fermentation Science (Prof. Hiroshi Takagi Group)

"Product Development Using Yeast"

Food tech exhibitions organized by local governments

KYOTO FOOD TECH EXPO（Kyoto Pref.）

- Kyoto Food Tech Expo is an exhibition and networking event that aims to address challenges and promote the development of food-related industries by combining Kyoto's traditional food culture and ingredients with cutting-edge technologies.
- During the event, there are exhibitions of technologies and services by companies and universities, as well as seminars, startup pitches, and business matching sessions.
- Stakeholders from across the agri-food sector—**from production and processing to distribution and sales**—come together to connect research outputs with consumer needs, aiming to achieve social implementation such as the creation of new products and services.