

KOALA Tech, a developer of organic semiconductor lasers, raises 400 million JPY

To manufacture and sell samples for mounting study

KOALA Tech Inc. (hereinafter “KOALA Tech”) has raised a total of 400 million yen from Beyond Next Ventures Inc. as the lead investor, and existing investors Sony Innovation Fund, QB Capital, LLC, and Tanaka Ai Holdings, and new investors FFG Venture Business Partners Co., Ltd., Shinsei Corporate Investment Limited related fund, TechAccel Ventures, LLC, and SMBC Venture Capital Co., Ltd.,

With the funds raised this time, we will accelerate the production and sales of samples of organic semiconductor laser diodes for implementation studies, the building of alliances, and the hiring of human resources.

About KOALA Tech’s Business

KOALA Tech is a Kyushu University venture established in March 2019 with the aim of commercializing the world's first Electrically Pumped Organic Semiconductor Laser Diode (OSLD) technology, which was realized at the Kyushu University Research Center for Advanced Organic Optoelectronics.

Aiming at the earliest possible implementation in society, we have been promoting the proof-of-principle (POC) of near-infrared organic semiconductor lasers by using various grant programs including NEDO-STs. In addition to the development of visible and near-infrared organic semiconductor laser diode technology, we are also working on the development of new organic laser materials to extend the lifetime of organic laser devices.

We will realize a laser light source that is highly compatible with organic electronic device platforms, including organic electroluminescent devices (OLEDs), which have attracted attention in recent years as high-definition, flexible displays. This will enable us to provide new solutions to customers in the organic semiconductor device field.

Our aim for this fundraising

1. Manufacture and sale of engineering samples/modules of organic semiconductor lasers

With the aim of expanding business opportunities, we aim to manufacture and sell engineering samples to introduce the technology of organic semiconductor laser diodes to the market. By examining this sample, we will identify and solve problems for implementation and demonstrate the product module supply.

2. Build strategic business alliances.

In February 2021, we signed a joint research and development agreement with Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. on organic semiconductor laser materials. We will continue to build relationships with important partner companies.

(Initiatives with Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.: [PR Times](#))

3. Expanding the target market for OSLD technology

The initial target market for the deployment of OSLD technology is the biometric authentication market using near-infrared lasers. Since it can be directly mounted on OLED displays, which have been dominating the market in recent years, new sensing functions can be added to the displays. Similarly, by supplying the engineering samples mentioned above, we will develop new markets such as the healthcare market in order to expand the applications of a single module.

4. Strengthen recruitment of human resources

We will strengthen our team to better facilitate R&D, intellectual property, and business management.

Awards

[Tech Sirius 2020: Grand Prize](#)

[Mirai 2021 \(Recommended by Fukuoka City\): Best award of Innovative materials • energy • etc. category, and Symbiotic Society Award.](#)

[Photonics Challenge 2021: Observer award](#)

Jean Charles Ribierre, KOALA Tech's CEO, commented:

KOALA Tech is researching and developing the next generation of laser diodes based on organic semiconductors. Our technology has attractive advantages for commercial products in various fields such as biometrics, healthcare, and displays. We believe that the production and sale of engineering samples through this financing round will play an integral role in developing new potential customers and forming strategic business alliances.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all existing and new shareholders who participated in this financing round. We will continue to strengthen our leading position in the organic laser industry and aim to implement this technology in society as soon as possible.

About KOALA Tech

Name: KOALA Tech

Establishment: March 2019

Address: 4-1 Kyudai-Shinmachi, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka

Capital: 299 million JPY

Main business: Development, manufacturing and sales of organic semiconductor laser technology, and provision of services

Number of employees: 9

URL: <https://www.koalatech.co.jp>

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