

The OCCI to Sign MOU with MedTech Actuator (Australia)
**To Build a Commercialization Ecosystem as Legacy of
Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai!**
**Osaka as hub for Japan and East Asia, more intensive support
for medical and health startups**

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On **Friday, March 15**, the **Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)** is going to **sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with **MedTech Actuator** headquartered in Melbourne, Australia to further expand their partnership. MedTech Actuator is a global accelerator supporting startups in the medical, biotech and health fields. As Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai approaches, medical and health businesses are drawing more attention, and there will be an increasing number of opportunities for startups to gather in Osaka. Amid such situation, recognizing Osaka as a hub for Japan and East Asia, both sides will work together to **build an ecosystem for startups in the medical and health fields, which will then last as legacy of the expo**, by using MedTech Actuator's expertise on startup acceleration and OCCI's experiences and networks across Japan in promoting medical-engineering collaboration and commercialization. The partnership will provide programs for commercialization in Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne, etc. to support startups from Japan and other countries. **MedTech Actuator will also prepare for opening of their base in Osaka, where an international pitch competition in medical and health is planned to take place for the first time in 2025.**

◆ Memorandum of Understanding

● Signing Ceremony and Press Conference

Date & Time: Friday, March 15, 2024, from 3:05 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: OCCI 4F Special Conference Room

Signer: - Mr. Gyo Sagara, Vice chairperson, the OCCI (President, Representative Director, and CEO, ONO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.)

- Dr. Buzz Palmer, CEO, MedTech Actuator

● Summary of the MOU

The OCCI and MedTech Actuator agree to cooperate and complement each other and jointly work to discover startups across the Asia-Pacific region and other regions of the world and support them to accelerate commercialization in global markets by making the most of medical and health support programs that each party has.

● Significance of the MOU

Startups in medical and health will receive support to determine their best exit strategy looking across global markets, thereby growing up to be a globally competitive company. Osaka will work as a hub for Japan and East Asia, and a global startup support ecosystem is expected to be built in the future through reinforced networks of ecosystem hubs located the world.

◆ MedTech Actuator

A nonprofit organization that globally supports startups in the medical and health fields. Headquartered in Australia, MedTech Actuator has profound expertise and networks to provide startups with the best exit strategy in global markets. They have supported 200+ health startups, raised more than \$750 million and placed 20 products/services in the market.

◆ Support Programs for Startups in Japan

● ORIGIN: Education and pitch program for early-stage startups including those in idea-stage

● GLOBAL NAVIGATOR: Program that helps small and medium-sized companies aiming to expand their business overseas