

February 9, 2018

Corporate Name: TechnoPro Holdings, Inc.

Representative: Yasuji Nishio, President, Representative Director & CEO

TechnoPro Group to Invest in *Drone Fund*, Japan's First Fund Specializing in Drone Startups

TechnoPro Holdings, Inc. has announced that the company invested in *Drone Fund* (official name: Chiba Drone Investment Limited Partnership), managed by Kamakura Investment.

Analysts forecast the Japanese market for businesses using drones to grow to ¥140 billion by the year 2022 (see note). These businesses include transportation, construction and civil engineering, agriculture, crime prevention, and more. Japan is home to numerous venture companies engaged in drone-related technological development. These technologies include everything from airframes, sensors, communications modules and other hardware to control systems, autonomous navigation programs, image analysis, and other software.

(Note) Source: *Drone Business Survey 2017*, Impress Corporation



The Drone Fund was established to foster startup companies in this promising Japanese sector, which has the potential to compete globally. The fund is one of the very few in the world specializing in drone startups. Mr. Kotaro Chiba is the general partner of the Drone Fund. Chiba is a drone specialist licensed with comprehensive flight permission by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and has more than 140 hours of drone flight experience across more than 20 different models. He has invested personally in nearly 70 startup funds in Japan and overseas.

The TechnoPro Group is Japan's largest technology-focused staffing and services provider supporting the design development efforts of customers across a variety of industrial fields, including automobiles, aerospace, information communications, and construction. The number of products requiring organic coordination among a wide range of hardware devices and software has risen dramatically in recent years. In response, customers require an increasingly advanced level of technical skills from engineering services companies. The TechnoPro Group is involved in a variety of initiatives to support leading-edge technological training for engineers and to win advanced development projects, ensuring the company's capacity to offer high value-added services to customers. Given this environment, the TechnoPro Group will be placing greater emphasis on investments in leading-edge control technologies, AI and Deep Learning, IoT, image analysis, and airframe development in the drone market. Accordingly, the TechnoPro Group chose to participate in the Drone Fund, which is invested in numerous startups with strengths in these particular technological fields, to gain access to these advanced technologies. This will allow the company to contribute in a significant way to improving the technology-related added value of the engineers and researchers employed by the group.

TechnoPro Design Company will be in charge of managing and developing business opportunities from this investment. The company is the largest in-house company of TechnoPro, Inc., a consolidated subsidiary of TechnoPro Holdings, Inc. TechnoPro Design Company provides specialized services related to machinery, electrical/electronics, embedded controls, and other technical design development for customers in the automobile, transportation equipment, industrial machinery and robotics, medical devices, and information equipment industries.

[About Drone Fund]

Working Name: Drone Fund

Official Name: Chiba Drone Investment Limited Partnership

Applicant for Specially Permitted business for Qualified Institutional Investor:

Kotaro Chiba, Kamakura Investment

Address: 5-13-1 9F Shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Email: pr@dronefund.vc

Website: <http://dronefund.vc>



[About TechnoPro Design Company] <http://www.technopro.com/design/>

TechnoPro Design Company is the largest in-house company of technical staffing services company TechnoPro, Inc. As of June 2017, TechnoPro Design boasts 6,167 full-time professionals with skills in machinery, electrical/electronic engineering, embedded controller, and other fields. The company serves research and development and design development needs at more than 700 clients, including major firms in manufacturing and the information industry.

[About TechnoPro Holdings] <http://www.technoproholdings.com/>

TechnoPro Group is Japan's largest technology-focused staffing and service provider, with more than 130 locations in Japan and 14,346 engineers and researchers (as of June 2017). The company is recognized for its expertise across a broad range of specialties, covering nearly every area of technology considered necessary in Japanese industry. These fields include machinery, electrical/electronic engineering, information systems, chemistry, biotechnology, medicine, construction, and civil engineering. The company provides a variety technology-based services to more than 1,800 companies, universities, and research institutions in Japan and overseas.

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