

June 28, 2018

MEDIA ALERT

***Five Japanese Start-up Companies To Be Featured At
Eighth Annual Japan-US Innovation Awards Symposium at Stanford***

San Francisco, CA – The Japan – U.S. Innovation Awards Program proudly announces five Japanese startup companies to be featured in the **2018 Innovation Showcase**, as part of the **Japan-U.S. Innovation Awards Symposium at Stanford University on Friday, July 13, 2018**.

The **Innovation Showcase** recognizes young, rapidly growing companies founded in Japan around exciting technologies and highly innovative business ideas having the potential for major worldwide impact. These companies were selected from a highly competitive field of candidates demonstrating outstanding promise and success in gaining international traction.

The following **top executives of the 2018 Innovation Showcase Companies** will participate in this year's **Japan-U.S. Innovation Awards Symposium**. The Japan – U.S Innovation Awards is organized by the **Japan Society of Northern California** in cooperation with the **Stanford University US-Asia Technology Management Center**.

- **ABEJA, Inc.** <https://abejainc.com>
Takanori Ogata, Co-Founder & Chief Research Officer
ABEJA enables firms to carry out sophisticated analyses with accumulated data using a platform that integrates state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence technologies, including IoT and deep learning.
- **Astroscale Pte, Ltd** <http://astroscale.com>
Chris Blackerby, COO
Astroscale, the first private company to develop solutions to mitigate the hazardous build-up of debris in space, has a mission to secure long-term spaceflight safety and orbital environmental sustainability for the benefit of future generations.
- **Infostellar Inc.** <https://www.infostellar.net>
Dr. Naomi Kurahara, Co-Founder & CEO
Infostellar develops and maintains a ground services solution for satellite antennas that connects ground stations around the world in a shared network, while managing the various processes required to match satellites with appropriate antennas and deliver data securely.
- **ispace inc.** <https://ispace-inc.com>
Takashi Hakamada, Founder & CEO
ispace is a private lunar exploration company centered on micro-robotics whose vision is to expand our living sphere and help create a sustainable world where the Earth and Moon are one ecosystem.

- **LPixel Inc.** <https://lpixel.net>

Yuki Shimahara, Founder & CEO

LPixel is a leader in advanced image analysis and processing technology encompassing the life science field, and is dedicated to offering research facilities and medical institutions top-tier image analysis and medical diagnosis technologies, both of which are powered by AI.

Each senior executive will share the story of the company's innovation and subsequent progress in a panel discussion to be moderated by **Ken Yasunaga**, Managing Director, **Innovation Network Corporate of Japan**. The Innovation Showcase is also arranging connections for the featured companies with Bay Area experts in strategic startup growth.

According to Awards Program Steering Committee Chair, **Richard Dasher**, "Every year we are seeing more and more impressive startups in Japan and this year was no exception. The companies selected for the 2018 Innovation Showcase underscore the broad range of technology-intensive innovation underway in Japan today, including space-related services, big data, life sciences, and IoT. We are proud to play a part in helping bring these exciting, dynamic young companies to the heart of Silicon Valley."

The **2018 Japan-U.S. Innovation Awards Symposium** also will include awards for three Emerging Leader companies, **Foghorn Systems, Inc.** and **WeWork** from the US and **MUJIN, Inc.** from Japan. **Dr. Yoky Matsuoka**, Chief Technology Officer at Nest, will deliver keynote remarks.

Symposium attendees will be able to see first-hand the exciting products and services offered by each Showcase company in a variety of exhibits. There will also be **unmatched opportunity to network** with thought-leaders who are active at the intersection of Japanese creativity and Silicon Valley entrepreneurship and innovation.

Now in its eighth year, the **2018 Japan-U.S. Innovation Awards Symposium** will be held **July 13, 2018** at the **Stanford University Arrillaga Alumni Center** from **1:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Additional information and registration is available at: <http://www.usjinnovate.org>.

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