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Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

JST announces 14 Project Managers selected for the Moonshot Goals 3 of the Moonshot Research and Development Program

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has announced the Project Managers (PMs) selected for the Moonshot Goals 3 handled by JST under the Moonshot Research and Development Program.
The program pursues challenging R&D concepts set by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in order to solve issues facing our future society such as super-aging populations and global warming. Each of the Moonshot Goals has a Program Director (PD), under which PMs formulate an R&D scenario, design a project, and plan and manage the organization of R&D to achieve their respective Moonshot Goals. Open calls were held, and applications were reviewed by PDs in cooperation with external experts.
In Moonshot Goal 3, in response to the change PD, new research and development projects will be launched to ensure the achievement of the goal. Open calls for new projects were held for each Moonshot Goal, and a total of 53 applications were received. Applications were reviewed by PD in cooperation with external experts, after which document and interview screening was conducted to make a final selection of 14 PMs. Under the direction of their PD, selected PMs will refine their plans to achieve their Moonshot Goal so that the R&D will be more effective and efficient. Once they have received PD approval, each PM can begin their R&D project.

For details, please refer to the website below.
https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/index.html

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Contact

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“Empowering Science, Inspiring Futures”

Our world faces unprecedented global challenges — such as climate change, energy crises, and emerging infectious diseases — that demand innovative solutions. JST will rise to these challenges through “Science and Technology,” as a national research and development agency that plays a central role in implementing Japan’s science, technology, and innovation policy. We support fundamental research and startups to create new value, develop R&D strategies, foster the next generation of talent, disseminate vital information, and manage the Japan University Fund. Like a compass guiding ships through turbulent waters, JST will chart the way towards a vibrant and secure future by empowering science through a multifaceted approach.

Appendix 1

Number of applications and selected PMs

Moonshot Goal	Research Category	Application	Selected
Moonshot Goal 3 Realization of AI robots that autonomously learn, adapt to their environment, evolve in intelligence and act alongside human beings, by 2050. (PD: KUNIYOSHI Yasuo)	Integrated Research	11	3
	Specialized Research	23	4
	Elemental Research	19	7
Total		53	14

Appendix 2

Selected PMs and projects

Moonshot Goal 3: Realization of AI robots that autonomously learn, adapt to their environment, evolve in intelligence and act alongside human beings, by 2050.

【Integrated Research】

Project Manager	Affiliation	Project Title
OGATA Tetsuya	Professor, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Waseda University	Smart Robot AIREC that is Close to One Person for a Lifetime
KAWAHARAZUKA Kento	Lecturer, Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Research Center, The University of Tokyo	General-Purpose Autonomous Humanoids Growing through Multi-layered Instruction and Inheritance
HARADA Kensuke	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering Science, The University of Osaka	Integrated Research and Development of Humanoids Capable of Operating in Challenging Environments

【Specialized Research】

Project Manager	Affiliation	Project Title
SAKAINO Sho	Associate Professor, Institute of Systems and Information Engineering, University of Tsukuba	Force Control as a Bridge between the Information World and the Physical World
NOZAKI Takahiro	Associate Professor, Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University	Robotics Platform for Emergent Intelligence Grounded in the Order of Embodied Interactions
HAYASHIBE Mitsuhiro	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University	Neuro-Robotics Pioneering Multimodal AI-Integrated Humanoid in Agriculture
MORIMOTO Jun	Professor, Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University	Creation of Embodied Intelligence through Self-Reinforcing Capability Expansion

【Elemental Research】

Project Manager	Affiliation	Project Title
IIDA Fumiya	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo	Next-Generation Humanoid AI Robots through Whole-Body Tactile Intelligence
KAWAHARA Yoshinobu	Professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, The University of Osaka	Development of Dynamical Representation Learning for Cooperative Stable Motions and a Data-Driven Motion Primitive Generation Framework
TAKEI Kuniharu	Professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Hokkaido University	E-Skin-Integrated Robotic Hand Inspired by Human Tactile Perception and Cognition
TADAKUMA Kenjiro	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering Science, The University of Osaka	Embodied Safety by Robotic Core Elements: Creating Intrinsically Safe Mechanisms by Extracting Principles from the Living Body's Inherent Underactuated Drive Mechanisms
NAKAGAWA Chihiro	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka Metropolitan University	An AI Robot with a High-Efficiency Body for Mobility in Public Spaces
NONAKA Tetsushi	Professor, Graduate School of Human Development and Environment, Kobe University	Learning to Learn: Principles of Active On-Site Learning for General-Purpose Robots
YOSHIMURA Natsue	Professor, School of Computing /Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Science Tokyo	An Elemental Study of Motion Assist Robots Capable of Inferring Human States

* The titles of the projects are subject to change after refinement.
* PMs listed in Japanese syllabary order; affiliations and titles are as of May 2026.

Appendix 3

Experts for the evaluation

Moonshot Goal 3: Realization of AI robots that autonomously learn, adapt to their environment, evolve in intelligence and act alongside human beings, by 2050.

(Honorifics omitted; affiliations and positions are correct as of the end of the selection process)

	Name	Affiliation
Program Director (PD)	KUNIYOSHI Yasuo	Director, Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Research Center of The University of Tokyo / Professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo
External Experts	FUJITA Masahiro *	Representative of MF AI-Robotics Laboratory
	KARASAWA Kaori	Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo
	KONNO Atsushi	Professor, Faculty of Information Science and Technology, Hokkaido University
	HARADA Tatsuya	Professor, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo
	HOSODA Koh	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University
	MURAKAMI Hiroki	Technical Advisor, Corporate Research & Development Division, IHI Corporation
	YOKOI Kazuhito	Director General, Technology and Innovation Strategy Center, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

*Sub Program Director

Annex

Selection Criteria

Our selection was based on the following viewpoints and made in a comprehensive manner.

Purpose and Intent

The project must meet the objectives of the program and be expected to produce the results that the program aims to achieve.

The project must be able to clearly explain a reasonable scenario (hypothesis of success) from the viewpoint of social implementation, including technological aspects and the division of roles between the public and private sectors, toward the achievement of the 2050 goal.

Originality and superiority

The proposal must have originality and superiority based on domestic and international trends, etc.

The project goals and contents (hereinafter referred to as "proposal contents") proposed by the PM must be innovative and expected to have a significant impact on future industry and society.

Goals and Plan

The goals to be achieved during the implementation period, the implementation plan, and the budget plan must be specific and appropriate.

Proposals must be based on more daring ideas and be more challenging than conventional proposals.

Implementation System

The proposal must have an implementation system that is optimized for the execution of the proposed activities.

Proposals must bring together top-level R&D capabilities, knowledge, and ideas from Japan and abroad.

Execution Capability

The proponent must have the necessary track record and ability to assume responsibility for the proposed activities.

The proponent should have a broad human network of relevant researchers and expertise, both domestic and international, to promote cutting-edge research and development.

The proponent should have management and leadership skills to establish an optimal R&D system and review the system flexibly according to the progress, etc.