

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN THE JAPANESE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

AND

THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, ENERGY AND TOURISM

IN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (hereinafter referred to individually as “a Participant” and collectively as “the Participants”);

Seeking to build on and desiring to further promote the close and friendly relations existing between both countries, and being aware of the rapid expansion of industrial scientific and technological knowledge and of its positive contribution in promoting bilateral and international cooperation;

Wishing to broaden the scope of industrial research, technological and innovation cooperation through the creation of a productive partnership for peaceful purposes and for their mutual benefit; and

Affirming their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in industrial research, technology and innovation;

Have jointly consented to the following:

Item 1

The Participants will foster within the framework of their respective domestic legislation and without prejudice to the rights and obligations emanating from international and domestic legislation binding on them, as well as non-legally binding memoranda, cooperative activities in such areas of industrial research, technology and innovation as may be mutually consented upon for peaceful purposes on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Item 2

Forms of the cooperative activities within this memorandum may include, among others:

- (1) meetings of various forms, such as those of experts, to discuss and exchange information on scientific and technological aspects of general or specific subjects and to identify industrial research, technological and innovation projects as well as programs that may be usefully implemented on a cooperative basis;
- (2) exchange of information on activities, policies, practices, laws and regulations concerning industrial scientific and technological research as well as development and innovation;
- (3) visits and exchanges of scientists, researchers, technical personnel, or other experts;
- (4) implementation of concurred cooperative research, technological and innovation projects and programs within specific fields such as
 - a. joint research by Austrian and Japanese companies,
 - b. support of startups' and companies' internationalization effort, facilitating access to business, as well as know-how, research and technology partnerships, and
 - c. exchange of opinions on hydrogen strategy,
- (5) and other forms of cooperative activities in research, technology and innovation.
- (6) The administration and promotion of the objectives laid down in Item 2 (4)b of this Memorandum include the support to companies intending to invest in Austria and vice versa in Japan as well as to exchange certain information to enable a successful settlement of the respective Japanese or Austrian entities in Austria respectively Japan. Cooperation in this area might refer to the services of Austrian Business Agency and JETRO.

Item 3

- (1) The Participants, their agencies and institutions, will set forth the details and procedures of specific cooperative activities under this memorandum in additional documents.
- (2) Cooperation under this memorandum does not exclude other bilateral or multilateral activities in the fields of industrial research, technology and innovation in which the Participants may participate and does not affect existing consensuses or memoranda in those fields.

Item 4

With regard to the cooperative activities under this memorandum, the Participants may allow the participation of researchers, research organisations, research agencies or companies conducting research in both public and private sectors.

Item 5

- (1) For the purpose of the effective implementation of the cooperation under this memorandum, the Participants will establish a Working Group, which will review and effectively advance the activities and projects between both sides by:
 - a. exchanging information and views on industrial research, technological and innovation issues;
 - b. discussing practical matters necessary to implement cooperative activities described in this memorandum;
 - c. discussing annually areas of cooperative activities under this memorandum;
 - d. discussing any other matters related to the purpose of this memorandum.
- (2) The Working Group will meet alternately in Austria and Japan at a date set by both participants or virtually at a date set by both participants.
- (3) The Working Group Policy Dialogue will be co-chaired by officials at the level of head of division of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Results of the Working Group will be recorded in minutes consented by the participants.

Item 6

- (1) Scientific and technological information of a non-proprietary nature arising from the cooperative activities under this memorandum may be made available to the public by either Participant through customary channels and in line with the normal procedures of the participating agencies.
- (2) The Participants will give due consideration to the protection and the distribution of intellectual property rights or other rights of a proprietary nature resulting from cooperative activities under this memorandum and will consult with each other for this purpose as necessary.

Item 7

Each Participant will bear its own costs and expenses of the implementation of this memorandum in line with its financial and budgetary processes and within the availability of funds.

Item 8

This memorandum does not constitute an international agreement and will not create any legal binding or financial rights or obligations under either international or national law.

Item 9

The Participants will amicably settle any differences arising out of the interpretation or implementation of the Items of this memorandum by consultations through bilateral channels.

Item 10

This memorandum may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants in written form. Such modifications will come into operation on the date of exchange of the written consent.

Item 11

- (1) The memorandum will come into operation on the date of signature.
- (2) This memorandum will remain operative for an initial period of 5 (five) years and will be prolonged automatically for additional 5 (five) years, unless cancelled by either Participant by written notification through bilateral channels. Such notification will become operative six months' after its receipt by the other Participant.
- (3) The cancellation of this memorandum in line with paragraph 2 of this Item will not affect the implementation of projects or programs that have been embarked upon in line with this memorandum prior to the cancellation of this memorandum.

SIGNED at TOKYO, on 21 May 2025

FOR THE JAPANESE MINISTRY OF
ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

FOR THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
ECONOMY, ENERGY AND TOURISM

Mr. OGUSHI Masaki
(State Minister)

Dr. Wolfgang HATTMANNSDORFER
(Federal Minister)