

Joint Statement of Intent on 【Japanese – French】 cooperation for startups and innovation

On 1st April 2026, on the occasion of the official visit of the President of the French Republic to Japan, Mr. AKAZAWA Ryosei and Mr. Roland LESCURE exchanged views on Japanese- French bilateral cooperation in the field of startups and innovation.

- 1) They reconfirmed their intention to promote exchanges, cooperation, partnerships and joint projects in the field of startups, as mentioned in joint statement in 2024, signed by Mr. IWATA Kazuchika, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and Ms. Marina FERRARI, Secretary of State for Digital Affairs of the French Republic.
- 2) They confirmed the importance of cooperation in the field of innovation as well as the importance of promoting commercial relations both in Japan and in France.

Since the joint statement of 2024, cooperation between Japan and France in the field of startups has steadily deepened, as evidenced by the following initiatives:

- The convening of the Digital Working Group under the Industrial Cooperation Committee ongoing between the French Directory General of Enterprises and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in April and November 2025.
- The renewal for the secondment of the French International Technical Expert to METI for 2 more years, lasting until March 2027.
- The partnership between SusHiTech Tokyo and VIVA Technology.
- The hosting of one of the largest J-StarX programs at HEC incubator within Station F.

Building upon these achievements and with a view to further strengthening our mutual engagement regarding economic sovereignty, they propose to add the following initiatives:

- Cooperation between the Global Startup EXPO and VIVA Technology.
- Partnership initiative between J-Startup and French Tech to accelerate startup growth in the other country and foster cross-border innovation.
- Promoting the exchange of good practices and startup collaboration aimed at fostering innovation in the dual-use domain.

Signed in Tokyo, 1st April 2026

AKAZAWA Ryosei
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of
Japan

Roland LESCURE
Minister of Economy, Finance, Industry,
Energy, and Digital Sovereignty of the French
Republic