

Press Release



ASKA Pharmaceutical and Future Venture Capital Co-found a Corporate Venture Capital Fund

TOKYO, April 3, 2023 - ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo/ President, Representative Director: Sohta Yamaguchi, hereinafter referred to as “ASKA”), a subsidiary of ASKA Pharmaceutical Holdings Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo/ President, Representative Director: Takashi Yamaguchi, hereinafter referred to as “the Company”) and Future Venture Capital Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Kyoto-shi, Kyoto/ President: Will Kim, hereinafter referred to as “FVC”) are pleased to announce that they have jointly established a corporate venture capital (CVC) fund, ASKA Innovation Investment Limited Partnership (ASKA Innovation Fund, hereinafter referred to as “the Fund”).

Based on its corporate philosophy “contribute toward the improvement of people's health and progress in society through the development of innovative products,” the Company develops pharmaceutical, animal health, and testing businesses by leveraging its knowledge and expertise in the field of hormones. Under its medium-term management plan 2025 “become a total healthcare company with a strong foundation as a specialty pharma company,” the Company is engaged in business activities to contribute to solving women's health issues as a leading company in the field of obstetrics and gynecology in particular.

The Fund aims to create new value by accelerating open innovation between ASKA and Group companies, ventures and startups to solve women's health issues.

By establishing this fund in the form of a two-person partnership and outsourcing each procedure related to venture investment to FVC, this will allow ASKA to concentrate on collaboration with the investment targets and speed up investment decision making.

ASKA plans to invest 1 billion yen over the next five years in promising startups in the areas of women's health, pharmaceutical research, digital medicine, animal health, and diagnostics.

The Company aims to become a total healthcare company with a strong foundation as a specialty pharma by leveraging FVC's wealth of knowledge, experience in CVC, and ability to find projects through its nationwide network.

【Overview of the Fund】

Fund name	ASKA Innovation Investment Limited Partnership
Common name	ASKA Innovation Fund
Financiers	ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Limited Partner: LP) Future Venture Capital Co., Ltd. (General Partner: GP)
Operating company	Future Venture Capital Co., Ltd.
Date of Establishment	March 31, 2023
Fund scale	1 billion yen
Operation period	10 years
Investment targets	Women's health issue solutions, pharmaceutical research, digital medicine, animal health and diagnostics <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Startups aiming to solve issues related to menstruation, infertility, and menopause.2. Startups researching novel modalities and drug delivery in pharmaceutical research3. Startups developing new digital health and apps4. Startups in the animal health and diagnostics business

About ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Since its foundation in 1920, ASKA has concentrated its management resources in three core areas: internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and urology, based on its corporate philosophy “Contribute toward the improvement of people’s health and progress in medicine through the development of innovative products.” In addition, ASKA has been actively engaged in the development of new drugs to solve medical needs. For more information, please visit the ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. website at <https://www.aska-pharma.co.jp/english>

About Future Venture Capital Co., Ltd.

In addition to investing in the “Regional Revitalization Fund” to support regional venture companies and the “CVC Fund” to promote open innovation of business companies, we also invest in startups regardless of region. For long-term business succession, we provide support such as business development, human resource development, and business consulting.

Website: <https://www.fvc.co.jp/>

Inquiries

ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Corporate Planning Department

Tel: +81-3-5484-8366

Email: kouhou@aska-pharma.co.jp

Future Venture Capital Co., Ltd.

East Japan Investment Department

Tel: +81-75-257-6656

Email: fvc-pr_tokyo@fvc.co.jp