ENGLISH OVERVIEW

TNP Group Update

July 21 ,2026

279th Business Plan Presentations Held on July 14 2026
Tech Hub Yokohama

1. First Penguins Company / President & Representative Director: Dai Kawasaki

Established: July 2021 | Capital Stock: JPY 38.0 million (approx. USD 234,000)

First Penguins Company developed and operates BUKATOOL for School Life, a platform business to support the retrieval of information generated at the time of payment of various school expenses.

【Feature】In addition to retrieval of information on club expenses and school payments, the platform is equipped with functions for sale of school supplies, and for donations/sponsorship money. It eliminates the work by teachers in the areas of cash management, confirmation of payment, and payment reminders. Besides alleviating the burden of such work, it supports efforts to secure independent financial resources.

【Future developments】The company intends to advance into business that makes extensive use of contents for school functions such as tournaments, by applying the school network and other resources it has acquired through its approaches with BUKATOOL.

【Commentary】After serving as a captain and manager of the rugby team in his college days, Mr. Kawasaki worked in the logistics business at Sumitomo Corporation. He started his own business after acceptance of his proposal in an in-house entrepreneurial program. Although student sports and entertainment constitute a huge market in the United States, the corresponding market in Japan is still undeveloped, and Mr. Kawasaki said that he discerned business opportunities there. The school-related market in Japan has grown by 16 percent over the last 10 years in spite of falling birthrates, and this indicates good marketing prospects. At present, the company is implementing activities for recognition in 143 high schools in Shizuoka Prefecture, and its platform has been introduced into four of the 30 schools to which it made sales approaches. Mr. Kawasaki added that his goal was to increase the number of high schools introducing the platform to 10 this fiscal year and 30 next fiscal year, and that he had listing in mind further in the future.

2. NERON Inc. / President & Representative Director: Yasuhisa Nagasaki

Established: October 2022 | Capital Stock: JPY 5.48 million (approx. USD 33,800)

NERON Inc. is a biotech company engaged in research and development of next-generation healthcare solutions utilizing gut microbiomes. Using an original system for cellular assessment and technology for data analysis, the company is pursuing the development of unique microbiome products through the selection and combination of useful intestinal bacteria that are involved in the production of serotonin and other neurotransmitters.

More specifically, the priority targets in this development are the domains of mental well-being, stress management, appetite control, cognitive functions, and extension of healthy life. In this connection, the company is promoting the buildup of scientific evidence based on industry-academia partnership.

【Commentary】NERON has posted the mission of achieving a well-being society free of worry about disease, and is developing business in health care using gut microbiomes. Focusing on brain-gut interaction, i.e., the ties of mutual influence between the brain and the intestines, it aspires to the solution of health-related issues in society, such as mental health and the lengthening of healthy life. Mr. Nagasaki said that, going forward, it has adopted the policy of beginning with business in low-risk products such as supplements and later entering high value-added fields such as pharmaceuticals.

3. Smart Sensing Corporation / President & Representative Director: Koyu Yamanoi

Established: September 2013 | Capital Stock: JPY 0.3 million (approx. USD 1,850)

Taking a phrase that translates "making customer dreams and comfort a reality with the most advanced technology" as its theme, Smart Sensing Corporation develops sensor and actuator modules to achieve what customers want to see and desire. It has the technical skills required for proof-of-concept prototyping, confirmation of action, and verification to meet the wishes of its customers. Thus far, it has responded to the needs of many customers with these skills. Looking ahead, it is targeting the development of products linked to further contribution to customers and mass production. To this end, it is striving to develop products that can be differentiated from others, through work including technical support beginning from more upstream stages, for the materialization of customer ideas.

【Commentary】Smart Sensing Corporation is promoting business on the fronts of technical consulting to translate ideas into specifications that can be ordered, and manufacturing to assist everything from contracted development to mass production. Recent years have seen the occurrence of many cases of road sinkholes due to superannuated sewerage. For the prevention of such accidents, the company is currently developing a multi-gas sensor module. A single module detects three different kinds of hazardous gases (hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, and methane). Mr. Yamanoi said the company wanted to build a monitoring system that could provide a visual apprehension of safety concerns and enable remote monitoring.

【Closing Remarks by Masatoshi Go, President & CEO of TNP Partners Co., Ltd. / Chairman of MINERVA (NPO for Venture Support)】

By way of reporting on our activities in the first half of this year, I would like to mention the following three points.

1) Together with the ARKAS EOM Group, a worldwide investment management enterprise, TNP Partners established ARKAS TNP Capital Inc., in order to support the development of the global market by Japanese-born deep-tech companies.

2) ARKAS TNP Capital concluded a basic agreement with Yokohama National University concerning activities to support startups.

3) The NPO Venture Support Mechanism MINERVA concluded a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for strategic tie-up with the Korean firm Merry Year Social Company, Inc. (MYSC), and constructed a related setup of cooperation for global action.

We are counting on your continued support in the second half of this year beginning in September.

NPO Venture Support Mechanism MINERVA
TNP Partners / TNP THREADS OF LIGHT