ENGLISH OVERVIEW

TNP Group Update

October 22,2026

YOKOHAMA DEEP TECH GLOBAL BRIDGE 2026

-Japan Deep Tech: Go Global from Yokohama-

On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, we held “YOKOHAMA DEEP TECH GLOBAL BRIDGE 2026 in Yokohama. A total of 108 people participated in the event, both in person and online.
The event featured presentations and explanations from ARKAS EOM（USA）, ARKAS TNP Capital, companies, universities, and the City of Yokohama, each sharing their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for Japanese deep tech to expand into global markets. ARKAS EOM introduced its initiatives to connect Japanese deep tech with global markets. GEXVal Inc. presented its business activities and research and development. Yokohama National University and Yokohama City University shared their efforts to bring deep tech research into practical application and commercialization. The City of Yokohama also expressed its expectations for collaboration toward building a deep tech ecosystem in Yokohama.
We would like to briefly share highlights of the event below.

■ **Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 5:00–6:30 p.m.; networking from 6:30 p.m.
■ **Venue:** TECH HUB YOKOHAMA
■ **Organizer:** ARKAS TNP Capital Co., Ltd. ■ **In Cooperation With:** City of Yokohama, TECH HUB YOKOHAMA

【 **Program** 】
■ **Opening Remarks** Masatoshi Go, Representative Director, ARKAS TNP Capital Inc.
■ **Keynote Address** “ARKAS TNP Ascend Fund I『 INVESTING IN A DEEP TECH-ENABLED FUTURE 』”
Andrew Economos, CEO, ARKAS EOM LLC / Representative Director, ARKAS TNP Capital Inc.
■ **Deep Tech Case** “Toward a Society Where Everyone in Need Can Access the Treatments They Have Been Waiting For”
Juran Kato, Representative Director and Chief Scientific Officer, GEXVal Inc.
■ **Deep Tech Session** “Yokohama National University: Deep Tech Research and Its Implementation in Society”
Yoshiharu Hayashi, Associate Professor, Research Initiative and Promotion Organization, Yokohama National University, Ph.D. in Engineering
■ **Deep Tech Session** “Yokohama City University’s Vision and Expectations for International Initiatives Through the New Fund”
Yoshihiro Ishikawa, President, Yokohama City University
■ **ARKAS TNP Capital × YOKOHAMA: Next Steps**
“The Opportunity and Challenges of ARKAS TNP Capital”
Masatoshi Go, Representative Director, ARKAS TNP Capital Inc.
■ **Message from the City of Yokohama** Tetsushi Kudou, Director General of Economic Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama
■ **Closing Remarks**
■ **Networking**



※*This content was prepared by the Secretariat based on the content of each presentation.*

■ **<u>Opening Remarks: Masatoshi Go, Representative Director, ARKAS TNP Capital Inc.</u>**

Mr. Go, Representative Director of ARKAS TNP Capital, explained the background behind the establishment of ARKAS TNP Capital and its initiatives. ARKAS EOM builds on the activities of the family office and foundations established by the founding family of Mars, a major privately held U.S. company. In collaboration with the University of Oxford, ARKAS EOM aims to address social challenges through technology. In particular, it is working to establish mechanisms that enable deep tech technologies to be adapted to market needs and translated into practical applications in society.
ARKAS TNP Capital was jointly established by ARKAS EOM, which is advancing these initiatives, and TNP Partners, which has a long track record of supporting startups. Mr. Go outlined the company's plan to serve as a platform connecting Japanese deep tech with overseas markets by leveraging ARKAS EOM's methodologies, including “Engineering Mutuality™” and the “Ascend Co-Driver Program.”

■ **<u>Keynote Address: Andrew Economos, CEO, ARKAS EOM LLC / Representative Director, ARKAS TNP Capital Inc.</u>**

Andrew Economos, Founder and Group CEO of ARKAS EOM, discussed the current landscape surrounding Japanese deep tech and the fund’s vision for global expansion. He explained that while Japan has a strong foundation of outstanding researchers and engineers, universities and research institutions, and intellectual property, a “Commercialization Gap” remains between research outcomes and their commercialization and expansion into global markets. To bridge this gap, he introduced “Engineering Mutuality™,” an investment and post-investment business operating system consisting of 17 processes, and the “Ascend Co-Driver Program,” which drives its implementation. These frameworks provide systematic support throughout the entire process, from pre-investment evaluation and post-investment business operations to global commercialization and exit preparation, with the aim of accelerating the commercialization and growth of deep tech businesses. He also explained the strategy of combining TNP Partners’ network of Japanese universities, research institutions, and companies with ARKAS EOM’s capabilities in overseas business development to connect deep tech originating in Japan with global markets. Regarding Yokohama, he highlighted the strengths of the Tokyo–Yokohama technology cluster and the city’s history of developing as a “gateway to the world” since the opening of its port in 1859. He positioned Yokohama as a gateway to global markets for deep tech as well, and expressed his vision of making it a “core and base” for business development. Finally, he emphasized that rather than relocating Japan’s research and development and engineering capabilities overseas, the strategy is to keep these capabilities in Japan while adding the functions needed for global expansion, thereby supporting deep tech companies in reaching global markets from a base in Japan.

■ **Deep Tech Case: Juran Kato, Representative Director and Chief Scientific Officer, GEXVal Inc.**

GEXVal Inc. is a drug discovery company established as a spin-off from Takeda Pharmaceutical Company. The company focuses on rare diseases and diseases with limited treatment options. Its business model involves acquiring drug candidates that have remained undeveloped within pharmaceutical companies, advancing them from early-stage development through proof of concept (POC), and then pursuing licensing agreements or mergers and acquisitions (M&A). The company was founded with the desire to deliver medicines to children suffering from rare diseases. Subsequently, as common mechanisms were identified between rare diseases affecting children and conditions such as dementia in adults, the company began pursuing a strategy of developing a single asset across multiple disease areas.
Its lead asset, GXV-001, has received Orphan Drug Designation in the United States. The company has also completed consultations with regulatory authorities in Japan and Europe, progressing preparations for global clinical development. In addition, GEXVal uses its proprietary AI technology to identify new drug candidates. Going forward, the company aims to raise funds to accelerate clinical development and pursue a global exit. It also plans to establish proof of concept across multiple disease areas and pursue licensing agreements or M&A with major pharmaceutical companies to drive business growth.

■ **Deep Tech Session: Yoshiharu Hayashi, Associate Professor, Research Initiative and Promotion Organization, Yokohama National University, Ph.D. in Engineering**

As part of its industry-academia-government collaboration initiatives, Yokohama National University promotes joint research with companies, startup support, and intellectual property management. Although the university has so far produced only 19 university-born startups, companies attracting attention in the deep tech field, such as LQUOM and ElectroFluxion, have emerged from the university. At the same time, researchers face several challenges, including limited opportunities to connect with venture capitalists (VCs) and business management professionals, difficulties in securing research funding, and the fact that entrepreneurship is not always recognized as a viable career path for early-career researchers. In this context, Mr. Hayashi emphasized the importance of viewing entrepreneurship not merely as a means of achieving significant financial success, but also as one way to sustain and advance research and translate its outcomes into practical applications in society. Through the basic agreement signed with ARKAS TNP Capital in July 2026, the university aims to further expand its startup creation ecosystem by providing ongoing, hands-on support to researchers, leveraging insights from overseas university-born startups, and supporting entrepreneurship among graduate students in the deep tech field.

■ **Deep Tech Session: Yoshihiro Ishikawa, President, Yokohama City University**

President Yoshihiro Ishikawa of Yokohama City University spoke about the importance of translating university research outcomes into practical applications in society and fostering collaboration with local communities and businesses. He explained that while universities have traditionally tended to place emphasis on research achievements such as academic papers, it is increasingly important to work with local businesses, municipal governments, and other stakeholders to ensure that research outcomes benefit society. He also introduced the university's Social Collaboration Center, which actively promotes industry-academia-government collaboration and partnerships with other universities. Furthermore, he presented an example of a smart ring developed through medical-engineering collaboration with Yokohama National University, explaining that mechanisms are needed to provide ongoing support to researchers and guide their research outcomes through to commercialization in order to bring deep tech innovations originating at universities into practical use.
Finally, he expressed his expectations that ARKAS TNP Capital would leverage its international network and expertise in providing support to identify promising research seeds at universities, including Yokohama City University and Yokohama National University, and help translate them into practical applications in society.

■ **ARKAS TNP Capital× YOKOHAMA: Next Steps — Masatoshi Go, Representative Director, ARKAS TNP Capital Inc.**

Mr. Go explained that ARKAS TNP Capital aims not simply to introduce overseas growth-support methodologies into Japan, but to combine the expertise and networks of ARKAS EOM and TNP Partners and put into practice, on the ground, an approach to growth support tailored to Japanese deep tech. He emphasized that the challenge lies not merely in introducing methodologies, but in implementing them in practice and translating them into tangible results. Behind this approach is the recognition that, although Japan possesses technologies that can compete on the global stage, people, capital, technology, and markets are not yet circulating effectively enough. He expressed his belief that an ecosystem is fundamentally about "circulation." Commercializing technologies that remain untapped within universities, helping companies grow, and then reinvesting the resulting value back into society in the form of people, capital, and technology will drive Japan's next stage of growth. To achieve this, he explained that ARKAS TNP Capital intends to make use of TECH HUB YOKOHAMA as a hub to connect universities, companies, startups, investors, and other stakeholders, putting its approach into practice and fostering this cycle of "circulation" around deep tech.

■ **Message from the City of Yokohama: Tetsushi Kudou, Director General of Economic Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama**

Mr. Kudou, Director General of the Economic Affairs Bureau of the City of Yokohama, spoke about the role of local government in fostering the growth of deep tech and the city's expectations for ARKAS TNP Capital. He emphasized the importance of creating an environment that enables companies, startups, universities, and other stakeholders to leverage their technologies and networks to expand their activities and achieve growth. He also noted that while Yokohama is home to a large concentration of companies, access to venture capital (VC) funding remains a challenge for the local ecosystem. In this context, he expressed his expectations that ARKAS TNP Capital's initiatives would help address part of this challenge. Furthermore, he conveyed the city's commitment to continuing its support for the development of a deep tech ecosystem that connects Yokohama with the world and brings global opportunities to Yokohama, while leveraging TECH HUB YOKOHAMA as a hub for sharing information and fostering growth.

【Impressions】 At this event, we heard perspectives from companies, universities, and local government on how to identify promising deep tech research seeds that remain untapped within universities and translate them into practical applications in society and commercialization. Commercializing deep tech requires not only technological capabilities but also continuous support that brings together the various elements essential for business growth, including intellectual property, operation, and capital. The event provided an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of efforts to connect Japan's outstanding deep tech technologies with global markets by combining ARKAS EOM's expertise in deep tech support and global network with the TNP Group's experience in investment and business support developed in Japan.
We welcome inquiries from companies, universities, and research institutions interested in deep tech commercialization and international expansion.

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