

Higher integration,
Higher impact.

「Kumamoto Semiconductor Venture Pitch 2026-2027」 Application Guidelines

< Organizer >
Kumamoto Prefecture



< Event Management >
Deloitte Touche Tomatsu LLC

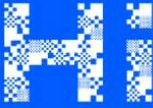


< Cooperation >
Kumamoto Semiconductor
Green Innovation Association
(KSGI)



KSGI

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027



「Kumamoto Semiconductor Venture Pitch 2026-2027」 Application Guidelines

Table of Contents

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Categories
- ▶ Themes
- ▶ Eligibility
- ▶ Evaluation Criteria
- ▶ Evaluation Process, Awards
- ▶ Overall Process
- ▶ Contact Information

Purpose

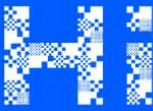
Since the 1960s, Kumamoto Prefecture has developed a significant concentration of semiconductor-related companies. Today, it is one of Japan's leading semiconductor industry hubs, bringing together a diverse range of companies and technologies in areas such as semiconductor devices, manufacturing equipment, materials, and components. In recent years, Kumamoto's semiconductor industry has entered a new phase of growth, driven by increased investment and business expansion by Japanese and international companies, including the establishment of JASM.

At the same time, the environment surrounding the semiconductor industry is undergoing significant change. In addition to improving semiconductor performance and energy efficiency, a broad range of technological innovations is required. These include shortening design and development cycles; improving productivity, quality, and yield in manufacturing operations; advancing packaging technologies and thermal management solutions; and enhancing equipment maintenance and automation to support stable production. Addressing challenges related to the industry's sustainable development is also becoming increasingly important, including the efficient use of water and electricity, the reduction of environmental impact, resource circularity, and the strengthening of supply chain resilience.

To transform these challenges into new opportunities for growth, it is essential to leverage Kumamoto Prefecture's industrial foundation, including its companies, technologies, and human resources. It is also important to create an interconnected ecosystem in which ventures and startups with innovative technologies and businesses, SMEs, universities, and support organizations collaborate effectively. Through joint research, demonstration projects, business partnerships, and other forms of cooperation, this ecosystem can continuously create new businesses and value.

To achieve the vision of **"Kumamoto: Supporting Semiconductor Infrastructure and Continuing to Take on Challenges,"** as set out in the **Kumamoto Semiconductor Industry Promotion Vision**, Kumamoto Prefecture is working to strengthen the semiconductor supply chain, secure and develop semiconductor talent on a stable basis, and build a semiconductor innovation ecosystem.

As part of these initiatives, Kumamoto Prefecture will host the "Kumamoto Semiconductor Venture Pitch 2026-2027," which aims to identify a wide range of innovative technologies, businesses, and ideas that can help address the specific challenges facing the semiconductor industry, and to promote their commercialization and real-world implementation. Through collaboration and partnerships with companies and other organizations in Kumamoto, it also seeks to foster new industries and develop the talent that will shape the future.



Higher integration,
Higher impact.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027

Categories

Category	Eligible Applicants	Number of Finalists
Innovation Business Category	● Companies operating in the semiconductor sector, such as: ✓ Ventures, including SMEs pursuing new business opportunities ✓ Startups ✓ Organizations and individuals seeking to launch a business *Overseas companies are also eligible. ● Students, faculty and staff universities, colleges of technology, and technical high schools in Japan	Approx. 5
Innovation Idea Category	● Students, faculty and staff universities, colleges of technology, and technical high schools in Japan	Approx. 5



Higher integration,
Higher impact.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027

Themes



Higher integration,
Higher impact.

Design and Development Innovation

1 Businesses that aim to enhance semiconductor design and development processes, shorten development cycles, improve performance, or create new semiconductor-related services through semiconductor design, verification, EDA, IP, design automation, and the use of AI.

Examples of eligible areas: (a) Semiconductor, circuit, and chiplet design, (b) EDA, simulation, and design verification, (c) Semiconductor IP and design environments, (d) AI-based design automation and optimization, (e) Fabless semiconductor businesses, contract design services, and design support services

Manufacturing, Inspection, and Equipment Innovation

2 Businesses that aim to improve productivity, quality, yield, and equipment availability at semiconductor manufacturing sites through semiconductor manufacturing, processing, inspection, measurement, analysis, manufacturing equipment, equipment maintenance, material handling, and automation.

Examples of eligible areas: (a) Front-end and back-end semiconductor manufacturing technologies, (b) Manufacturing equipment, inspection and measurement equipment, and analytical, (c) AI-based visual inspection, anomaly detection, and quality control, (d) Robotics, material handling, and automation, (e) Predictive maintenance and equipment management

Materials, Components, and Packaging Innovation

3 Businesses that aim to improve semiconductor performance and reliability, reduce power consumption, or advance manufacturing processes through semiconductor materials, substrates, chemicals, gases, components, consumables, packaging, bonding, heat dissipation, and thermal management.

Examples of eligible areas: (a) Semiconductor materials, alternative materials, and functional materials, (b) Wafers, substrates, chemicals, gases, components, and consumables, (c) Advanced packaging and chiplet integration, (d) Bonding, sealing, heat dissipation, and thermal management, (e) Material evaluation and analysis, recycling, and recycled materials

Other Semiconductor Industry Innovations

4 Businesses that contribute to the development of the semiconductor industry in Kumamoto Prefecture in areas other than those listed above, including the reduction of environmental impact, efficient use of water and electricity, resource circularity, supply chain resilience, and so forth.

For the **Innovation Idea Category**, in addition to Themes 1 through 4 above, applications proposing other new services or business ideas that use semiconductors or leverage semiconductor-related technologies are also eligible.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027

Eligibility

Applicants must meet all the following requirements:

- (1) Applicants must be able to attend the pitch event in person at Kumamoto-Jo Hall on Wednesday, February 17, 2027.
- (2) Applicants must be a legal entity or individual, including students, that falls under one of the categories listed below.
- (3) Except for the Overseas Company below, applicants must be either a legal entity established under the laws of Japan or an individual residing in Japan.

Category	Definition
(a) Large Enterprise	A company that does not qualify as either (b) or (c), as defined below.
(b) Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME)	A company or individual that qualifies as a small or medium-sized enterprise under Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Basic Act of Japan, based on its principal business activities, capital or total investment, and number of regular employees. This includes small enterprises and sole proprietors.
(c) Mid-sized Enterprise	A company with 2,000 or fewer regular employees, excluding SMEs.
(d) Nonprofit and Other Eligible Organizations	An organization established under Japanese law that falls under any of the following categories: a general incorporated association, general incorporated foundation, public interest incorporated association, public interest incorporated foundation, educational corporation, national university corporation, public university corporation, specified nonprofit corporation, or other similar legal entity.
(e) SME Cooperative or Association	An organization established under Japanese law that falls under any of the following categories: a business cooperative, small business cooperative, joint enterprise cooperative, joint business cooperative, trade association, federation of cooperatives, federation of trade associations, or other similar organization.
(f) Startup	An unlisted company, generally established within the past 15 years, that has innovative technology or an innovative business model and aims to achieve rapid and scalable growth.
(g) Individual or Organization Seeking to Start a Business	An individual who has not established a legal entity at the time of application, or an organization or group consisting of multiple individuals, that intends to start a business based on the technology or business plan submitted in the application. This includes students, researchers, individuals employed by a company, and other individuals.
(h) Overseas Company	A foreign legal entity established under the laws of a country other than Japan, or the Japanese branch of such a foreign legal entity.

Disqualification: Both legal entities and individuals will be disqualified if any of the following applies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (i) The application contains false information or material deficiencies. | (iv) The application infringes upon the rights of a third party. |
| (ii) Multiple applications are submitted for this program. | (v) The applicant violates laws, regulations, or public order and morals. |
| (iii) The applicant is found to have ties to organized crime groups or other antisocial forces. | (vi) The organizer determines that the application is significantly inappropriate in light of the purpose of this program. |



Higher integration,
Higher impact.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027

Evaluation Criteria



Higher integration,
Higher impact.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027

Innovation Business Category			Innovation Idea Category		
Core Criteria	① Market Size and Growth Potential (10 pt.)		Is the target market clearly defined, and does the market offer sufficient size and growth potential?	① Potential Impact on Future Society (10 pt.)	Will the idea contribute to the development of the semiconductor industry and help address societal challenges?
	② Technological Novelty and Superiority (20 pt.)		Does the proposal create new value through a distinctive approach or technology?	② Originality of the Idea (20 pt.)	Is the proposed technology clearly defined? Is the idea original and based on a novel concept?
	③ Business Feasibility	Short-term (15 pt.)	Does the proposed value match market needs? Has an initial customer base been identified? Is the proposal supported by a realistic plan and roadmap for commercialization?	③ Feasibility (10 pt.)	Does the proposal present a commercialization strategy and implementation process that take environmental, social, and economic considerations into account?
		Medium- to Long-term (15 pt.)	Are the methods for acquiring prospective customers and business partners, as well as generating revenue, clearly defined? Does the proposal offer prospects for sustainable revenue growth and business expansion?	④ Clarity and Logical Coherence (10 pt.)	Is the proposal presented clearly and organized logically?
	④ Organization (10 pt.)		Does the applicant have the personnel and organizational structure necessary to implement the proposal?	⑤ Contribution to Kumamoto's Appeal (10 pt.)	Will the proposal contribute to enhancing Kumamoto's appeal?
Additional	⑤ Collaboration with Companies in Kumamoto (10 pt.)		Is the proposal expected to generate collaboration or business partnerships with semiconductor-related companies in Kumamoto Prefecture?		



Evaluation Process

■ Document Screening

- ✓ A preliminary evaluation will be conducted based on the application documents to select the finalists.
- ✓ Finalists will receive mentoring and advisory support from consultants.

■ Final Evaluation

- ✓ Finalists will deliver presentations at the pitch event to be held at Kumamoto-Jo Hall on Wednesday, February 17, 2027, and the award recipients will be selected accordingly.

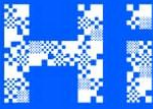


Awards

Details are currently under consideration. The table below shows the results from the previous year.

Category	Award	Number of Recipients	Prize
Innovation Business Category (Business Plan Category in the previous year)	Grand Prize	1	JPY 500,000
	Excellence Award	1	JPY 200,000
	Special Award	4	JPY 50,000 each
Innovation Idea Category (Student Idea Category in the previous year)	Grand Prize	1	JPY 100,000
	Excellence Award	1	JPY 50,000
	Special Award	3	JPY 30,000 each

Overall Process



Higher integration,
Higher impact.

01

Application

Please review the application guidelines and submit the designated application documents. We look forward to receiving applications from a wide range of applicants.

Application period: Tuesday, September 1 to Friday, October 30, 2026

02

Preliminary Screening

Applications will be evaluated based on the submitted documents. Applicants who pass the preliminary screening will proceed to Step 3: Mentoring Support for Finalists.

Notification of results: Applicants will be notified by email in late November 2026.

03

Mentoring Support for Finalists

Finalists will participate in approximately two individual online mentoring sessions with consultants from a variety of professional backgrounds, as well as a group seminar, to further develop and refine the plans or ideas selected through the preliminary screening.

Individual Mentoring : (1st) December, 2026 (2nd) January, 2027

Group Seminar : December, 2026

04

Pitch Event

Finalists will present their refined business plans or ideas to the judges and a general audience. Award recipients will be selected based on the judges' evaluations.

Date and venue: Wednesday, February 17, 2027, at Kumamoto-Jo Hall

05

Matching Support

Companies or other organizations, whose businesses are relevant to business plans or technologies of the finalists, will be encouraged to participate in the pitch event.

The program will also support subsequent business matching through networking and other opportunities.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027

Application Process

Please complete the following two steps to apply.

Application Period: Tuesday, September 1 ~ Friday, October 30, 2026

1

Complete the Entry Form

Please enter the required applicant information in the entry form below:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/4KHQAXuqa0>

Entry Form Deadline: Friday, October 23, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. JST

2

Submit the Application Documents

Fill out all required sections of the application documents and submit the documents(*) by email to the Secretariat (kumamoto-svp@tohatsu.co.jp)

Submission Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. JST

*The application documents will be sent by the Secretariat to the email address entered in the entry form. Documents will be sent on a rolling basis beginning Monday, September 14. Please allow up to three business days for delivery.

*Applicants may also submit supplementary materials in PDF format.

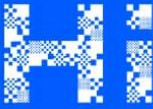


Higher integration,
Higher impact.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027

Important Notes

- ✓ We are unable to respond to inquiries regarding the status or results of the evaluation process.
- ✓ Depending on the evaluation results, no applicants might be selected as finalists or award recipients.
- ✓ Submitted application documents and reference materials will not be returned.
- ✓ Information and images included in the application documents may be used by the organizer for promotional activities for related events.
- ✓ Finalists and award recipients and may receive information from Kumamoto Prefecture about related events and other activities.
- ✓ Copyright in submitted works will remain with the respective individuals or organizations, whereas to the extent necessary for the operation of this program, certain rights may belong to the organizer.
- ✓ **Application documents must be submitted in either Japanese or English.**
Finalists must also deliver their pitches in either Japanese or English.
- ✓ **Students must obtain approval from the laboratory, department, or other relevant organization, where they belong before applying.**
- ✓ **Applicants who pass the preliminary screening must attend the pitch event in person on Wednesday, February 17, 2027.**
- ✓ If an applicant passes the preliminary screening, the name of the applicant and the title of the proposed plan will be published through the promotional channels used for this program. Also, the pitch event following the preliminary screening is expected to be attended by an unspecified number of people, and finalists will present their business plans or ideas. The pitch event may also be streamed online.
Applicants should understand how application information will be handled in this program and exercise due care to ensure that any information they do not wish to disclose is not included in their applications or presentations.



Higher integration,
Higher impact.

Kumamoto
Semiconductor
Venture Pitch
2026-2027



Contact Information

Kumamoto Semiconductor Venture Pitch 2026-2027 Secretariat
(c/o Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu LLC)

📍 4-2, Tenjin 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka
810-0001, Japan

✉ kumamoto-svp@tohatsu.co.jp

Inquiries are accepted by email only. Our office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. JST on weekdays.

Please note that we are unable to respond to inquiries regarding the status or results of the evaluation process.



Higher integration,
Higher impact.