

**MEMORANDUM OF ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN  
AND  
THE DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL  
STRATEGY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Context**

Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the “UK”) share a strong interest in helping start-ups to expand overseas.

Both countries have a rich and diverse range of support in place to foster an ambitious and innovative culture amongst start-ups, and have much to gain through building links, collaborating and learning from one another’s experiences.

Based on paragraph 27 of the Joint Statement on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”) have reached the following consensus:

**I  
Objective**

The objective of this Memorandum, in line with the respective national legislations and the international agreements subscribed to by both countries, is to facilitate bilateral cooperation for the purposes of fostering the development of the Participants’ respective start-up communities and supporting them to expand internationally.

**II  
Cooperation**

1. The Participants will cooperate in the following areas:
  - a) to establish a working group to progress the commitments set out in this Memorandum, led by the Participants and including key stakeholders, for example, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the UK Department for International Trade, and the UK’s innovation agency (Innovate UK), as

- necessary;
- b) to share best practice and experience on areas of mutual interest to support business growth and promote start-ups; and
  - c) to identify and collaborate on activities that will support UK and Japanese start-ups which include assistance for UK start-ups in accessing the Japanese market and likewise assistance for Japanese start-ups to access the UK market.
2. The Participants will explore, and may jointly decide to take forward, other forms of cooperation to further the objective of this Memorandum.

### III Final Matters

1. This Memorandum is intended to reflect the consensus of the Participants and is not intended to be legally binding.
2. Cooperation under this Memorandum will commence on the day of its signature by the Participants and will continue until either Participant gives 3 months' notice to the other in writing that cooperation under this Memorandum should cease to continue or the Participants jointly decide that it should cease to continue.
3. This Memorandum may be modified by mutual consent upon request by either Participant.
4. Any difference of view or dispute between the Participants concerning the interpretation or application of this Memorandum will be settled amicably through mutual consultation and / or negotiation between the Participants.

Signed in Tokyo and London, July 2021, in the English language.

For the Ministry of Economy,  
Trade and Industry of Japan

For the Department for Business, Energy  
and Industrial Strategy of the United  
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland

HIROSE Naoshi  
Vice-Minister for International Affairs

Sarah MUNBY  
Permanent Under Secretary

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