Start in Kobe. Innovate in Kobe.

KOBE Biomedical Innovation Cluster

Business Launch Support Guide
KOBE Biomedical Innovation Cluster

The City of Kobe launched the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster (KBIC) as a recovery project to rebuild the economy of Kobe, which was severely damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that occurred on January 17, 1995. Since 1998, the City of Kobe has developed an R&D hub for advanced medical technology on Port Island, an artificial island, and through collaboration among industries, universities and the governmental and medical sectors, it has built up a cluster of medical-related industries that will be the growth engine for the life sciences industry in the 21st century. To date, it has grown to become Japan’s largest biomedical cluster with a concentration of about 370 cutting-edge research institutes, highly specialized hospitals, medical-related companies and universities.

Clusters Aimed at Creating Innovation

A concentration of about 370 companies and organizations

- Research institutes, hospitals, and companies are concentrated in a compact area, creating a variety of innovations through collaboration
- A concentration of contract research organizations, contract testing organizations, CROs, CMOs, and animal breeding and experimentation facilities to respond to a variety of research and development needs
- The Translational Research Informatics Center (TRI) supports clinical research and collaborates with eight highly specialized hospital clusters to create an environment conducive to clinical research

Full support system

- Expanding support for startups by providing, among others, various incubation facilities and acceleration programs
- Kobe City staff, together with dedicated coordinators, provide support for the commercialization for expanding businesses and support for individual company matching
- PMDA Pharmaceutical Affairs Strategic Consultation is available

Company and Organization

Number of employees: About 12,400 (Mar. 2022)

Breakdown of companies/organizations

- IT & software 5.1%
- Medical institutions 3.5%
- Logistics 1.9%
- Other 7.3%
- R&D support 14.3%
- Medical devices 23.0%
- Universities & Academic groups 5.2%
- Pharmaceutical / Biotechnology 29.8%
- Nursing care & rehabilitation 3.8%
- Healthcare 10.0%
- Regenerative medicine 7.0%
- Other 7.3%

List of foreign companies

United States
-Nihon Medi-Physics, Bay Biosciences, Johnson & Johnson, Progenicyte Japan, Sinco Japan, IQVIA Services Japan, Integra Japan, NEI Japan

Germany
-Nippon Bühlering Ingelheim, Siemens Japan, Bayer Yakuhin, Dürr Dental Japan, provitro AG

France
-TeaBing Therapeutics Japan

China
-BGI Japan, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR MEDICAL INNOVATION, HOKIO INNOVATION CENTER, Biser LifeScience Japan

Belgium
-ISIP Technologies, Spain

Igencia Japan, Switzerland
-SKANJAPAN, Electrosuisse Japan, Ducampo Pharma

Italy
-Coper Japan, United Kingdom

United Kingdom, Singapore
-Specilite, Singapore

Accesso-2 Healthcare Japan, Korea, Suzenom Japan
Total support from the idea stage to commercialization

One-stop support
A dedicated coordinator serves as a guide to provide comprehensive support for the market research, R&D, pharmaceutical affairs, and developing sales channels.

KBIC One-stop support
Dedicated coordinators offer consultations about, among other things, the practical application and commercialization of your R&D seeds.

Cooperation/consultation desk with medical institutions
A consultation/consultation desk for companies, research institutes, and universities for collaboration with medical institutions located at KBIC. Consultations about clinical trials, clinical research, and joint R&D.

Accompanied support by dedicated coordinators
- Pharmaceutical
- Medical devices
- Healthcare
- Startups
- International expansion
- Industry-university cooperation

Unfamiliar with the rules because no connections in the medical community
No marketing capability at clinical environment
Consulting party/companies/organizations
- Pharma participating companies
- Medical device-related companies
- Pharma & regenerative medicine-related companies
- Clinicians & researchers

Market research
Seeds & needs matching

PMDA Strategic Consultation & Cooperation Center
- Regulatory science strategic consultation by PMDA staff
- Conduct comprehensive regulatory science consultation
- Pre-consultation handling of various issues and topics

Development & Testing

Enhanced Business Environment ~Initiatives at KBIC to support commercialization~

Platform to Promote Medical Device Commercialization
- Support for development projects (accompanied or spot consultations)
- Medical device business seminars etc.

HBI Innovation Program
- Advice on development and improvement
- Matching companies and researchers
- Healthcare citizen support system

Nursing-care technology implementation promotion project
Support towards the development of new products by technology companies working in the field of nursing care. Operation of consultation centers to facilitate the introduction of nursing care robots, ICT equipment, and other technological innovations at various nursing-care facilities within Kobe.

Kobe Research Complex Program
The aim is to create a healthcare ecosystem in Kobe by gathering healthcare seeds and needs from across the country with a focus on the “Health Function” and “Data Hub” projects, and supporting companies’ commercialization through joint creation among industry-university-government-funded projects.

Research Hospital
Kobe University International Clinical Cancer Research Center (ICCRC)
As a place for joint research between medical professionals and companies/researchers, this research base can be used as a base for developing new medical devices by both large companies and start-up companies.

Industrial Use of the Supercomputer (Fugaku, FOCUS)
Achieving simulation of innovative medical technology by promoting spread of large-scale, high-accuracy analysis and technology advancement.

Bioresource Center, Kobe University Hospital
Creates evidence for the development of therapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices through the use of bioresources (human specimens + clinical information).

Business Support for Startups
Provide optimal support for your startup needs.

Focused support in the early stages
Seed Early Expansion Later

People
Human Resources Development
- Accompanied support by coordinators
- Networking
- Incubation Lab (CLJ, 2nd Fl.)
- Activity Base
- Lab
- Sales
- Drug approval application
- Manufacturing

Lab
- Supercomputer (Fugaku, FOCUS)
- Incubation Lab (CLJ, 2nd Fl.)
- Bioresource Center (KRE, 1st Fl.)

Money
- Kobe Life Science Gap Fund
- Kobe Medtech Grand Prix KOBE

Supports
- Subsidies
- Funding procurement support
- Introduction of VCs and financial institutions
- Promotion project
- Up to ¥5 million/per matter
- (100% subsidy)

Subsidies
- Kobe Life Science Gap Fund
- Kobe Medtech Grand Prix KOBE

Activities
- Incubation Lab (CLJ, 2nd Fl.)
- Activity Base
- Lab
- Sales
- Drug approval application
- Manufacturing

GOAL
Accompanied support by dedicated coordinators

Enhanced Business Environment ~Initiatives at KBIC to support commercialization~
Incentives for Expansion

Expanding Business Network
In addition to field-specific study sessions, we promote business matching through field-specific cluster exchange meetings where researchers and companies present their work.

Sample calculation
If renting a lab (taxes excluded)

### Monthly Rent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual monthly rent</th>
<th>¥138,600</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¥91,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>¥47,250</td>
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### Subsidy

Saves in 3 years!

| ¥1,701,000 |

KOBE Biomedical Innovation Cluster Rental Office and Lab Rent Subsidy System

3-year rent subsidy up to 50%
(Maximum amount: ¥1,500/m², ¥2 million/ per year)

* Does not apply to large companies

### Kobe City

- 3-year rent subsidy up to 25%, -5 years for 1500m²+ (Maximum amount: ¥1,500/m², ¥10 million/per year)
- Subsidy of up to ¥1.2 million/per employee (maximum ¥100 million)
  *Requirement of 5+ regular employees

### Hyogo Prefecture

- 3-year rent subsidy up to 25%
  *(Maximum amount: ¥750/m², ¥1 million/per year)
- For 10+ new regular employees, 1,500/m², ¥10 million/per year

### Shared laboratory / shared office usage feed subsidy system

- Subsidies of up to 50% for desk/bench usage fees for 2 years (Amount limit: 1 million/year)
  *Applicable facilities: Startup creative lab, Bayer Pharmaceutical CoLaborator Kobe

### Support System for Foreign and Foreign-affiliated Companies that expand worldwide

- 3-year rent subsidy up to 50%
  *(Maximum amount: ¥1,500/m², ¥2 million/ per year)
- 5-years for 1500m²+ (Maximum amount: ¥1,500/m², ¥10 million/per year)

### Shared laboratory / shared office usage feed subsidy system

- 3-year rent subsidy up to 50%
- Subsidy of up to ¥1.2 million/per employee (maximum ¥100 million)
  *Requirement of 5+ regular employees

### Startup Subsidy System

- Eligibility: Startup to establish a new office in the city
- 3-year subsidy up to ¥10 million for office rent, office maintenance expenses, telecommunication fees, and HR costs

### Building Acquisition Subsidy System

- Up to 4% of building acquisition costs (maximum amount: 20% of current taxes)
- Employment subsidy (¥300,000/per person) (maximum amount: 20% of current taxes)
  *Subsidy conditions: Increase of regular employees by 5+ (for SMEs, 1+),
  *Above subsidies cannot be used together (selection required)

### R&D Subsidies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KBIC R&amp;D Subsidies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Joint research and joint enterprise structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Young researcher support program</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3) Clinical research promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Kobe life science GAP fund</td>
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</tbody>
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### Support for HR Recruitment

**HR ecosystem business**

- Supporting corporate recruitment activities by disseminating information geared for job seekers, holding job hunting events that bring in many different companies and organizations, and exchanging information
- In 5 years of recruitment support, about 90 companies have participated, and we have contributed to the hiring of new employees
Excellent location to connect nationwide and the world

70 minutes to Haneda Airport in Tokyo from KBIC, and only 12 minutes to Sannomiya, the center of Kobe.

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Living in Kobe

Kobe offers both the convenience of a city and the richness of nature. In this special city, you can enjoy both work and your lifestyle to the fullest.

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Kobe Airport to 13 Cities

- Haneda (Tokyo) about 65min.
- New Chitose about 110min.
- Sendai about 80min.
- Naha about 120min.
- Nagasaki about 70min.
- Matsumoto about 60min.

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Quality of Living City Ranking

2nd in Asia 1st in Japan

Results of Critical Care and Emergency Medical Center
Kobe City Medical Center General Hospital
298 facilities nationwide Ranked 1st for 8 consecutive years
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Critical Care and Emergency Medical Center Evaluation (FY 2021)

Park Area per Citizen
(excluding green spaces)

Rank 1st among major cities in Japan
2020 edition Comparative Statistical Chronology of Major Cities

Sophisticated Designed City Ranking

Ranked 1st among 1000 municipalities nationwide
Brand Research Institute and Regional Brand Survey 2018

Degree of Desirability for Living

Ranked 2nd among 1000 municipalities nationwide
Brand Research Institute and Regional Brand Survey 2020

Raising Children in Kobe is Enjoyable

Rank 3rd among major cities in Japan
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology School Basic Survey for 2020

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TASTE

SSENSE

LIVE

WALK

MOVE

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If you are interested in expanding to KBIC, please contact or check our website.

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The latest information is now available on our website!

KBIC’s official website

Scan here to subscribe to our E-newsletter
(E-newsletter is only available in Japanese)
It provides information about KBIC.

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