

TSUNAMI Newsletter -- June 2011

We would like to express our sincere condolences to all of those who suffered damage and loss as a result of the tsunami which wreaked such tremendous destruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11 (Fri.). Effective July 2011, the TNP Group will make the following changes of name. * Current: TSUNAMI Network Partners Corporation- After the change: TNP Partners Corporation, * TSUNAMI On The Road Corporation - After the change: TNP On The Road Corporation, * Current: NPO Venture Support Mechanism TSUNAMI - After the change: NPO Venture Support Mechanism MINERVA --- Minerva was the Roman goddess of wisdom and the arts, and the name is fitting one for our objective of helping to build societies striking a proper balance between nature on the one hand and science and technology on the other, by cherishing nature's bounty, pooling human wisdom, and promoting technological innovation. Beginning with the next installment, the meeting for presentation of business plans will be called the "MINERVA Business Plan Presentation Meeting". We are counting on your continued support.

137th Business Plan Presentations Held on June 8, 2011 at Iwasaki Gakuen in Yokohama

1. Blast Inc.

<http://www.blst.co.jp/> (Japanese)

President (Mr. Isao Shimosaki)

Established in April 1998

Capital stock: USD442,300

The major product of Blast Inc. is a glass heater that heats to temperatures as high as 500 degrees (centigrade) while remaining transparent. The company has put together a series of pipe and panel types, which it sells as laboratory equipment. It also produces made-to-order units for integration with the heaters, and has acquired a mass-production capability in recent years. The glass heaters retain their transparency even during heating, and are utilized in laboratories for heating applications that require visibility. Because they radiate strong far-infrared rays, they are also used for drying processes in factories. As compared to Nichrome wire or other metal heaters, they deliver the same amount of heat at from one-fourth to one-third of the electrical power. This is behind the increase in inquiries about them as energy-saving devices. The company is also developing products in the bio field, in areas such as cell culture and genetic analysis, and is striving to build high-return business..

[Re-Cap] Besides panel-type glass heaters, Blast is developing pipe types and types with special shapes. In addition, it is receiving many orders for customized models for use in laboratories. It reportedly has the know-how needed for vapor deposition processes. The circle of application for its products, which retain the glass properties of transparency, resistance to chemicals, and resistance to warping, may be expected to widen in various fields, including chemicals, manufacturing, and medical services. Blast Inc. is hoping to acquire channels for sales to original equipment manufacturing (OEM) suppliers and purchasers of plant facilities.



Mr. Shimosaki

2. FK Opt Labo Co., Ltd.

<http://www.fk-opt-labo.co.jp> (Japanese)

President (Mr. Akio Tokuda)

Established in November 1990

Capital stock: USD249,200



Mr. Tokuda

FK Opt Labo Co., Ltd. developed transmissive phase-shift laser microscopes. Its new model, which ranks above the conventional optical microscopes, performs both high-speed and quantified measurements of refraction index distribution and structure in respect of thickness, and makes subjects visible in three dimensions. The company is pursuing a program of development together with the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) of Kyoto University and Hokkaido University for application of this capability to identify cancerous cells in groups of live cultured cells of an individual, for use in regenerative medicine. In the first test, its microscope was given high marks for its power to detect cancerous cells. Succeeding tests are scheduled to gauge its detection powers for various types of cancer.

[Re-Cap] FK Opt Labo develops and sells measurement devices for laboratories and various products. Its presentation this time dealt with its phase-shift laser interference microscopes. It is likewise taking part in the project for assessment technology aimed at early utilization of regenerative medicine led by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). Its microscope enables comparison and identification of phase differences between cancerous cells and normal cells. As such, it could very well have a substantial impact in the regenerative medicine market as the project begins to bear fruit. The company impressed the audience as one that will play a role in the eradication of cancer.

3. Growing Japan Co., Ltd.

<http://growingjapan.com/> (Japanese)

President (Mr. Tadahiro Yamaguchi , Presented by Ms. Fumi Ito/Director)

Established in September 2008

Capital stock: USD122,100

Growing Japan Co., Ltd. produces fuels by blending waste cooking oil into heavy oil and kerosene, and sells them to lodging facilities, spas, farms (plastic greenhouses), and dry cleaning stores, mainly for use in boilers. Besides the pronounced recycling benefit due to the use of waste vegetable oil used for cooking, its product features less of a reduction in calorific value than emulsion fuels, which helps to lower costs, and the ability to lower CO2 emissions in line with the carbon-neutral concept. In addition to waste cooking oil, it is working to transform calorie-bearing waste from manufacturing processes into fuel.

[Re-Cap] Growing Japan made a strong impression with its corporate stance of business development based on the larger ideal of contribution to society through provision of fuels that curtail both CO2 emissions and costs. Enabling procurement of fuels only in the necessary amounts and at the necessary times similarly makes good sense and matches the needs of contemporary firms. It is targeting the markets associated with cost reduction (manufacturing plants, hotels, Japanese-style inns, plastic greenhouses, etc.), CO2 reduction (large manufacturers, trading firms, etc.), and recycling (food product manufacturers, supermarkets, etc.). Parties who know of firms that would make excellent business partners are urged to contact Growing Japan.



Ms. Ito

This installment of the meeting again attracted a large number of participants, and we are grateful to all for coming. It was also nice to see plenty of animated conversation at the meeting for exchange of business cards. In some cases, business talks with the presenting firms make progress starting right at the venue. At such times, we realize that the presentation meetings are worthwhile, and feel glad that we hold them.

NPO Venture Support Mechanism TSUNAMI
(TEL 81-45-470-8668 Yokohama, JAPAN)
TSUNAMI Network Partners/
TSUNAMI On The Road (TEL 81-45-470-8088)