

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications: Strategic Information and  
Communications R&D Promotion Programme (SCOPE)  
Special Entries for Innovative Candidates

## **“INNO-vation” Program**



2020 Application Guidelines

**Executing Agency**

KADOKAWA ASCII Research Laboratories, Inc.

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# I INNO-vation Program

## 1 Message from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

The spectacular discoveries made in this 4th Industrial Revolution's Telecommunication Technology (ICT) are transforming at a breakneck pace. Yet with the current global spread of COVID-19, our continued battle against this virus has brought us to avoid physical contact with one another. This virus has made itself known not only to our country, but to the entire world's population, overturning our everyday lifestyles and pushing us to pursue the new normal. There has been no shortage of lost opportunities and sorrow. However, this new normal has in turn promoted diversification, and that no matter how small, every person in the world has the potential to awaken an industrial or social revolution. Now is precisely the time to think about the next big stride into the future. Calling conventional knowledge into question, breaking through existing barriers, and bringing about change to the industrial structure is essential. The realization of that change is Disruptive Innovation.

In order for disruptive innovation to develop and grow, we require a bedrock on top of which the seeds of inspiration, seen as "unusual" by customary standards, can naturally grow, an environment that accommodates challenges without fear of failure and an acceptance of diversity and the value it brings. This does not mean just pushing Japan's accomplishments into the world, but rather aiming for global development from the onset.

As globally recognized, there is a need to establish an environment in which candidates can feel free to challenge themselves in creating something out of nothing. Their ability to break beyond what AI can achieve and create a new 1 from a state of 0 will open up the future, rather than relying on pre-existing solutions.

In 2014, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (hereinafter referred to as "MIC") established the "INNO-vation" Program to brew a new challenging atmosphere and provide support towards candidates (referred to as "strange or unusual") that could bravely move forward with their wildly peculiar and ambitious ideas to resolve the technological issues facing us today.

As we all endeavor to adjust to this new normal, we are eagerly anticipating applications from new challengers. The MIC will also continue working to find the perfect structure to support world-class changes and fast-moving revolutions in the field of ICT. Together, not only can we challenge ourselves towards something new but also towards creating a better tomorrow for our world.

\*ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology, as defined and used accordingly in Japanese terminology.

\*This program was launched in 2014 on the basis of the recommendations of a report from the Information and Communication Council entitled "The Desired Course of ICT Policies towards Innovation Creation" (interim report: 5 July 2013, final report: 27 June 2013). In the ensuing years, the program is positioned as a key national strategy. As a follow up to 2019's growth strategy (approved on 21 June 2019) the program was included in the Declaration to be the World's Most Advanced Digital Nation (approved on 14 June 2020).

## 2 Open Call for Applicants

### Support for your Disruptive Proposal

#### Disruptive Challenge

**A call for ambitious technological challenges that create a "seed of disruptive innovation" in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) field.**

**As society and industry approach the new normal, a turning point in civilization under the turbulent veil of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in response to the immense change brought about by it, we call upon those who boldly take on new challenges without the fear of failure.**

Challenge Period: Maximum of 1 year.  
There is a possibility of early advancement.

Funding Amount: Maximum of up to ¥3,000,000.

Upon completion of the challenge, those who are certified as "INNOβ" will receive support for global deployment.

See **page 8** for further details

### Awards from our Cooperative Partners

#### Generation Award

**In the ICT field, we award:**

**A small but interesting idea that nobody has conceived before  
Cutting edge technologies, even without knowing the best way to utilize them**

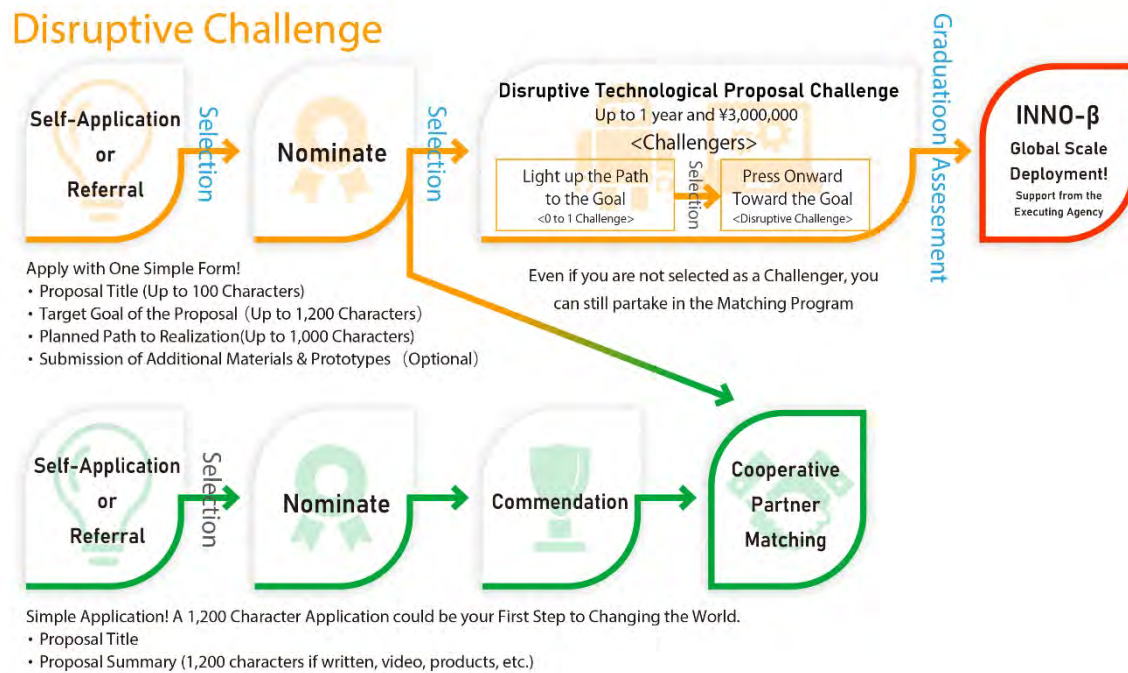
**Discoveries you wish to make reality  
and more!**

The emergence of people and companies, who can use your small, everyday ideas or your peculiar technology in unexpected ways, may be the first step in changing the world.

- From our cooperative partners, there will be Category Award Supplementary Prizes (200,000 yen) and Special Corporate Awards (not set) provided
- Those proposals nominated for the awards (185 from last year) will be given the opportunity to implement their ideas in cooperation with these partnering companies

See **page 13** for further details

Figure 1: Application flow



## Generation Award

### 3 Applicant Requirements

- All ages. Those on Earth with a contact address (citizenship or residency will not be taken into account).
- In the case of self-application: Individuals or groups
- In the case of third party recommendations\*: A person or group who you know personally and wish to nominate on their behalf

\*For privacy reasons, the third party's identity will not be revealed to those who have been nominated by said third party

It is possible to simultaneously apply to both the Disruptive Challenge and the Generation Award.

### 4 Application Period

All given times are in Japan Standard Time (JST)

From **Wednesday, July 1st, 2020** to **6:00 PM Monday, August 31st, 2020**.

### 5 Application Process (How to apply)

Please apply via the application form on the official website. For further information, please refer to the respective sections of each challenge:

<https://www.inno.go.jp/en>

\*Please enter your information to the form as stated in the application's procedure.

\*Additional materials and/or prototypes will be accepted via submission through the application form on the official website and/or mail to the executing agency.  
Please note, additional materials will not be accepted through in-person delivery to the executing agency.

\*For items sent via post, those with a postmark prior to the submission deadline date will be accepted. Please note, as a general rule, submitted documents will not be returned.

\*It is also possible to apply through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) in the Generation Award.



**You must read and understand the application requirements of the category you intend to apply for before submitting your application.**

**Disruptive Challenge**

→ **P.8~12**

**Generation Award**

→ **P.13~15**

## 6 Intellectual Property Protection Policy, etc.

The Disruptive Challenge and the Generation Award each have different policies regarding intellectual property protection. Please be sure to confirm any details about each respective challenge on page 14 before continuing with the application.

## 7 Contact information regarding the INNO-vation program

INNO-vation Program Executing Agency

Kadokawa ASCII Research Laboratories, Inc., INNO-vation Executing Agency

Telephone: (Japan) +81(0)3-5840-7629

Business hours: Monday to Friday (excluding weekends and holidays) 10:00 - 18:00

Email Address: info[at]inno.go.jp (please change [at] to @)

Please also refer to the FAQ page on the INNO-vation official website

INNO-vation official homepage: <https://inno.go.jp/en>

# II “Disruptive Challenge” Category

## 1 Call for Proposals

In the globally unpredictable field of ICT (Information and Communications Technology), where new ideas and technologies are born every day, there is great potential for disruptive creation on a global scale. We aim to support the further development of these technologies by looking for proposals that can boldly take on these challenges and tackle issues with the potential of changing society and global industries without the fear of failure.

Please carefully read and confirm "V Matters of Attention" in full before proceeding with the application.

## 2 Applicant

- A. Those who can propose a path and a vision towards their goal as well as be unafraid of making mistakes in their attempt.
- B. All ages. Those on Earth with a contact address (citizenship or residency will not be taken into account).
- C. In the case of self-application: Individuals or groups

\*In addition, coordinate alongside the executing agency and follow decided activities.

\*In the event you are selected, your name (or nickname), residing location, and proposal name will be announced on the official website.

\*You must abide by Japanese law. Those without Japanese residency or citizenship will not be bound by the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act Article 17 (the Japanese equivalent of the Bayh-Dole Act).

## 3 Challenge Support/Funding Amount

### **Maximum ¥3,000,000.**

\* The executing agency will handle any cumbersome paperwork for the administration and will create an environment in which, as much as possible, successful participants will be able to concentrate fully on the technical challenges. As such, no funding will be paid in cash.

\* Budget for personnel salaries shall be calculated on the basis of the income recorded in the previous year of the recipient.

\* Depending on the selection, the maximum support/funding amount may be ¥1,000,000. Please see section II-6: Selection Process for details.

## 4. Challenge Period

A made-to-order system for each challenger, maximum of one year. You may take a graduation assessment at any point during the initial 12-month period. Graduates (INNO-β) will receive various levels of global-scale support.

## 5 Application Procedure and Contents

To apply, please use the form accessible from the official website.

Official website: <https://www.inno.go.jp/en/>

Please ensure that you provide all the following information:

- Name of the technological proposal (up to 100 characters)
- The target goal of the proposal (up to 1200 characters)
- Path to realization and implementation (up to 2,000 characters)
- Additional materials and prototypes may also be submitted (optional)

\*Supplementary documentation, prototypes, and other supporting documents can be submitted as part of the application either by attaching such material to the online application form or by mail to the executing agency



of the program. Please note, additional materials will not be accepted through in-person delivery to the executing agency.

\* Items delivered by post will be accepted provided they have been postmarked prior to the deadline or are marked as having been received by the courier prior to the deadline. Please note, as a general rule, submitted documents will not be returned.

## 6 Selection

- Following the confirmation of the format by the executing agency, the screening shall be implemented by our INNO-vation Program Cooperative Partners.

- Evaluations will be based solely on the contents of the proposal (gender, age, background, and other accomplishments will not be considered).

\*In the past, there have been applications ranging from 5 to 86 years old.

- Evaluations are absolute, and there is no predetermined number of adoptions.
- Proposals that awaken global-scale disruptive innovations are not created based on existing value or with evaluations in mind, but rather they are based on the intuition of those who know about what it takes to be an "unusual person" with ideas that will shake up society: our supervisors.
- The process from application to graduation (becoming an INNO-β) is displayed in Figure 2. There are limits to the time period and costs (maximum of one year and ¥3,000,000, respectively), but **as this is a made-to-order system, you are free to set your own time period and costs within those limitations. The executing agency will support you.**

- The challenge is laid out as a 2-step process.

- **0 to 1 Challenge:**

- The 0 to 1 Challenge is an opportunity to put your ideas to the test and experiment without fear of failure. The "Ambitious Technical Goal" presents a fearless opportunity to light up the pathway towards realization.

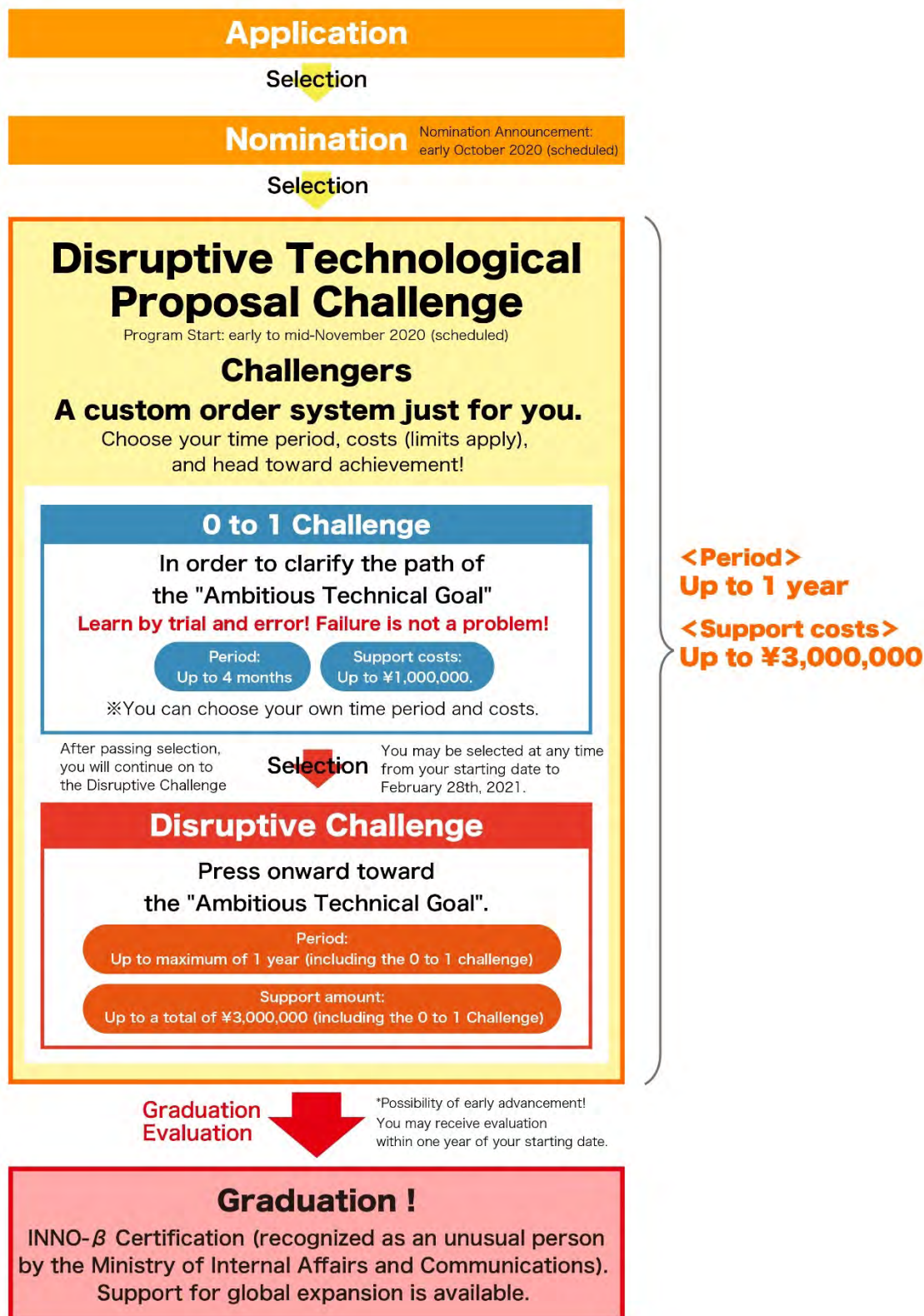
- Freely set your own time period and budget (time period up to 4 months; budget up to ¥1,000,000) and set your sights toward the Disruptive Challenge. Through appropriate self-assessment and sound level of judgment, you may submit a request to the executing agency for advancement to the Disruptive Challenge at any time. Upon passing the selection, you may advance to the Disruptive Challenge.

- **Disruptive Challenge:**

- Press onward toward your "Ambitious Technical Goal". The 0 to 1 Challenge's time period and support budget are deducted from the overall time and budget limit of one year and ¥3,000,000, respectively. (For example, the earlier the 0 to 1 Challenge is completed, the longer the time period for the Disruptive Challenge becomes.) You will be able to take a graduation examination.

Completing a proposal does not guarantee selection to be a Challenger. Those who are not selected to be a Challenger by the selection process will have matching opportunities with our Cooperative Partners. Please see section III-7: Matching with Our Cooperative Partners for details.

Figure 2: Process from Application to Graduation





## 7a Supervisors

 <p><b>Gaku Ueda</b> CEO, MODE Inc.,</p>	 <p><b>Erika Ogawa</b> Former Representative, Guinness World Records Japan President &amp; CEO - "Takumi- Nippon" Project</p>	 <p><b>Tetsuya Kawanishi</b> Professor, School of Fundamental Science and Engineering, Department of Electronic and Physical Systems, University of Waseda</p>
 <p><b>Youichi Sato</b> General Manager, TikTok Japan, ByteDance Corporation</p>	 <p><b>Katsuya Takasu</b> Chairman, Medical Corporation Fukushi Kai, Takasu Hospital, Takasu Clinic</p>	 <p><b>Tomotaka Takahashi</b> CEO, Robo Garage Co. Ltd.</p>
 <p><b>Hiroshi Harada</b> Professor, Department of Communication and Computer Engineering, University of Kyoto</p>	 <p><b>Tomoe Makino</b> General Manager Japan, Trip Advisor LLC</p>	 <p><b>Yukihiro Matsumoto</b> Chairman, Ruby Association</p>

## 7b Advisors

 <p><b>Adam D'Angelo</b> Quora Founder and CEO, Former Facebook CTO</p>	 <p><b>Joichi Ito</b> Venture Capitalist</p>	 <p><b>Shinichi Nakasuka</b> Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo</p>
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 <p><b>Hitoshi Tonomura</b> First Compass Group General Partner, Scrum Ventures Advisor, Former Evernote Japan President</p>	 <p><b>Takashi Miike</b> Filmmaker</p>
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## 8 Joining the INNO-Masters After Graduation

Upon being authorized for graduation, you will then be recognized as an INNO-β (official recognition from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications as an unusual person) and will join the INNO-Masters.

The INNO-Masters are a group of individuals that receive global-scale support for their activities. It is an initiative to support the relentless INNO-β, those who continue to follow their remarkable "Ambitious Technical Goal" and dream of one day changing the world.

To provide global scale transmission support for INNO-β technology and information, support will be provided focused around professionally made videos, mass/social media transmission, international exhibitions, offers from organizations, and legal/financial/intellectual property rights support. In this era of a "new normal", INNO-βs will receive various kinds of support to promote global scale activities.

Once you are an INNO-β, you're an INNO-β for life.

### Example of INNO-Masters Support

Global-scale transmission support	Professionally made promotional videos, as well as mass and social media support. Let's reach out to 1 million unique users together!
International exhibition support	Support with presenting at international exhibitions; overseas cooperation from our cooperative partners.
Professional support (intellectual property rights and patents)	Support from legal, financial, and intellectual property experts and enterprises.

### III “Generation Award” Category

#### 1 Objective

##### I. Generation Award

Call for your small ideas, techniques, and discoveries that have the potential to take a leap forward in unexpected ways as evaluated by our cooperative partners.

We are accepting applications in the ICT field for:

- A small but interesting idea that nobody has conceived before
- Cutting edge technologies, even without knowing the best way to utilize them
- Discoveries you wish to make reality

Please be sure to confirm section V : Matters of Attention before continuing with the application.

#### 2 Applicant

- All ages. Those on Earth with a contact address (citizenship or residency will not be taken into account).
- In the case of self-application: Individuals or groups
- In the case of third party recommendations\*: A person or group who you know personally and wish to nominate on their behalf

\*For privacy reasons, the third party's identity will not be revealed to those who have been nominated by said third party

\*It is possible to simultaneously apply to both the Disruptive Challenge and the Generation Award.

#### 3 Implementation Schedule

All times given are in Japan Standard Time (JST)

<b>Screening by our Cooperative Partners</b>	Late September-early October 2020
<b>Notification of Nomination</b>	Late October-early November 2020 (scheduled)
<b>Award Ceremony and Matching Event with our Cooperative Partners</b>	Late November-early December 2020 (scheduled)

\*All scheduled dates are subject to change. Please check the official website for further details.

#### 4 Award

The nominees for the Generation Award will be selected from the submitted proposals. Recipients of the Generation Award will be selected from these nominees. In addition, corporate prizes may be awarded to any proposal that the cooperative partners wish to support.

### Category Awards

Awards will be provided for the ideas/technologies/inventions that supersede the "five senses of animals" or the "four dimensions of space and time".

Examples of these unorthodox awards are as follows:

"Isn't this awesome!?", "Check out my discovery!", "I made this!", "Unexpected, isn't it?", "Super convenient!", "Dishing out the flavor", "Conveying a fresh, new way to see!", "Conveying a fresh, new way to hear!", "Bringing in the fun!", "Sending a message through smell!", "Sending a message through emotions!", "I made it this small/light!", "Opening up the new era into space!", "Connecting together after COVID-19: anytime, anywhere, with anyone while maintaining social distancing", etc.

We eagerly await your unbound, unconventional ideas!

Those who are selected for a category award will also be awarded an additional ¥200,000 (two-hundred thousand Japanese Yen) as a congratulatory gift. Furthermore, those selected for corporate prizes may also be awarded a personal congratulatory gift.

## 5 Application Details

To apply, please use the form accessible from the official website. Please ensure that you provide all the following information:

- Proposal title (up to 100 characters)
- Summary of the proposal (up to 1200 characters if written, videos, products, etc.)

<https://inno.go.jp/en>

- Supplementary documentation, prototypes, and other supporting materials may be submitted as part of your application (optional).

\*Supplementary documentation, prototypes, and other supporting documents can be submitted as part of the application either by attaching such material to the online application form or by mail to the executing agency of the program. Additional materials will not be accepted through in-person delivery to the executing agency.

\* Items delivered by post will be accepted provided they have been postmarked prior to the deadline or are marked as having been received by the courier prior to the deadline. Please note, as a general rule, submitted documents will not be returned.

## 6 Applying via Social Media

You may send your application via Facebook, Instagram, LINE, and Twitter. For applications using Social Media, please do so via the following URLs:

### Facebook

Please apply through Facebook Messenger.

<https://www.facebook.com/innovationprojecten/>



### Instagram

Please follow the following account and apply via Direct Message.

[https://www.instagram.com/innovation\\_project\\_en/](https://www.instagram.com/innovation_project_en/)



### LINE

Please add the following account as a friend and apply via LINE message.  
(Japanese account only)

[http://line.me/ti/p/@inno\\_project](http://line.me/ti/p/@inno_project)



### Twitter

Please follow the following account and apply via Direct Message.

[https://twitter.com/Inno\\_project\\_en](https://twitter.com/Inno_project_en)



## 7 Matching with our Cooperative Partners

In the event that our cooperative partners discover a matching proposal during the Generation Award screening process, their requests will be notified to the executing agency following the screening process. Following this process, the executing agency will contact the applicant, and if the applicant so desires, matching between the company and the applicant will be arranged.

## 8 Selection and Announcement of Results

Following the confirmation of the format by the executing agency, the screening shall be implemented by our INNO-vation Program Cooperative Partners. The evaluation will be based solely on the contents of the proposal (gender, age, background, and accomplishments will not be considered). Method of application (Application form or through social media) will also have no impact on evaluation.

The name, residing prefecture (or residence), and proposal title of the nominees and award winners shall be announced via the official website following the screening process.

Any applicants who have not passed the screening process shall not be notified.



## IV Handling of Personal Information

“Personal Information” refers to addresses, names, telephone numbers, email addresses, or any other information that can be identified as a specific individual (or easily compared with other information to identify an individual).

Any personal information received and handled at the time of the application will be handled in accordance with the “Personal Information Protection Policy” of KADOKAWA ASCII Research Laboratories, Inc.

a. Purpose and use of submitted personal information.

- a. For notification of passing and selection into the program.
- b. For confirmation of inquiries and subsequent communication.
- c. For contact in any events related to this program.

b. Management of personal information provided at the time of application.

- a. Strict security measures will be implemented in order to prevent any unauthorized access, loss, leaks, tampering, etc. of information.
- b. At the time of inputting any personal information, data encryption technology is used in order to protect this information during communication.
- c. Personal information acquired by the executing agency throughout the application will not be used for any other purpose without prior consent unless required by law.

### Inquiries about personal information handling; complaints/consultation desk

For matters related to the disclosure, correction, suspension of use, etc. of personal information, please contact the following:

Company name: KADOKAWA ASCII Research Laboratories, Inc.

Address : 2F, KS Building, 1-17-8 Nishikata, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0024, Japan

Telephone: +81(0)3-5840-7800 (Japan), FAX: +81(0)3-5840-7812

Email Address: info[at]lab-kadokawa.com (Please replace [at] with @)

The person in charge of personal information: Eiji Yoshikawa

The “Personal Information Protection Policy” of the executing agency is disclosed below:

URL: <https://www.lab-kadokawa.com/privacy>



## V Matters of Attention (Please Read)

### 1. Regarding the Handling of Contracts and Intellectual Property Rights

The handling of contracts and intellectual property rights within the INNO-vation program is as written below.

#### **Disruptive Challenge**

To successfully apply for the Disruptive Challenge, applicants must meet the following requirements.

#### 1. Time of Application

a. According to Security Export Control\*, in order to handle technology leaks overseas, there must be no concerns with the following points:

- The applicant is not on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) End User List.
- The applicant is in agreement with the multilateral export control regime.
- The applicant can conduct activities in accordance with Security Export Control's Sensitive Technology Guidance.
- The applicant must behave in a just and ethical manner, be credible in society and must not oppose market economy rules or have compromised freedom.

#### *(Reference)*

Security Export Control (part of the multilateral export control regime)

<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/link.html>

End User List

<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law05.html#user-list>

Security Export Control's Sensitive Technology Guidance

[https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law\\_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota\\_jishukanri03.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03.pdf)

b. The applicant must not be a member of any criminal organization or take part in activities with criminal organizations.

c. If the applicant who has passed the screening committee is a minor (under 20 years old), he/she must fulfill a contract with their legal guardian. If an arrangement is required with the legal guardian for obtaining such consent, the executing agency of this program will provide support.

\*The Security Export Control refers to regulations concerning weapons, military-grade equipment, technology and/or intellectual property rights that may be used by nations or terrorists to cause harm to the national security of Japan.

If the executing agency determines that an application does not fit the requirements needed to fulfill a contract, the challenge may not be accepted, regardless of evaluation.

## 2. After Being Selected as a Challenger

- a. If an applicant is selected as a Challenger, each Challenger will work with the executing agency to manage confidentiality and intellectual property and enter into a Disruptive Challenge contract which will specify the various necessary rules and regulations.
- b. Japanese law must be obeyed. Patents and intellectual property rights born of this program will be based on each section's individual contract, and in accordance with Industrial Technology Enhancement Act Article 17 (the Japanese equivalent of the Bayh-Dole Act), rights for inventions or discoveries will belong to the inventor. Furthermore, it is important to note that even if the applicant(s) that pass the screening process are currently affiliated with an organization or institution, the deliverables shall not become the property of said organization or institution. Those without Japanese residency or citizenship will not be bound by the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act Article 17 (the Japanese equivalent of the Bayh-Dole Act).
- c. As stated in subsection b, because the intellectual property rights belong to the Challenger, please consult with the executing agency as soon as possible to discuss gaining possession of said intellectual property rights. The executing agency's patent attorney will provide support with the procedures.
- d. If the achievements made in this program are discovered to be in relation to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or if the developer is discovered to be in a part of any terrorist organization in accordance with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, support may be cancelled and appropriate measures may be taken.
- e. Concerning the aforementioned intellectual property rights, the applicant holds a responsibility to attain prior approval when transferring or implementing property rights, and bears a responsibility to file the proper reports with regard to applications, implementation, registration, abandonment, etc.

## Generation Award

To successfully apply for the Generation Award, applicants must meet the following requirements.

### 1. Time of Application

- a. According to Security Export Control\*, in order to handle technology leaks overseas, there must be no concerns with the following points:
  - The applicant is not on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) End User List.
  - The applicant is in agreement with the multilateral export control regime.
  - The applicant can conduct activities in accordance with Security Export Control's Sensitive Technology Guidance.
  - The applicant must behave in a just and ethical manner, be credible in society and must not oppose market economy rules or have compromised freedom.

### *(Reference)*

Security Export Control (part of the multilateral export control regime)

<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/link.html>

End User List

<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law05.html#user-list>

## Security Export Control's Sensitive Technology Guidance

[https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law\\_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota\\_jishukanri03.pdf](https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/ampo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03.pdf)

- b. The applicant must not be the developer of any weapon of mass destruction (WMD) or a member of a terrorist organization. Applicants must take proper precautions not to develop anything that could be converted for military use, in accordance with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act.
- c. The applicant must not be a member of any criminal organization or take part in activities with criminal organizations.
- d. So that cooperating businesses may fully provide support, all patents and intellectual property is designated to belong to the developer.
- e. Since the application contents are to be disclosed to our cooperative partners, it is strongly recommended to not apply in the event that the applicant wishes to keep their contents confidential.

\*The Security Export Control refers to regulations concerning weapons, military-grade equipment, technology and/or intellectual property rights that may be used by nations or terrorists to cause harm to the national security of Japan.

## 2. After Application

- a. Awarded proposals will be revoked if discovered to not be in compliance with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act.
- b. If the applicant who has passed the screening committee is a minor (under 20 years old), he/she must fulfil a contract with their legal guardian. If an arrangement is required with the legal guardian for obtaining such consent, the executing agency of this program will provide support.

## 2. Confidentiality

Applicants in all sections of the INNO-vation Program must be aware of responsibilities regarding confidentiality.

### **Disruptive Challenge**

#### 1. Confidentiality of Proposal Contents until Passing the Evaluation Process

With the exception of the information contained in Section III-8: Announcement of the Screening Process and Results, no information relating to the ideas submitted in applications, including information relating to the assessment of said ideas, will be disclosed under any circumstances.

#### 2. Confidentiality Obligations of Applicants Passing the Evaluation Process

Applicants passing the screening process are forbidden to disclose or leak any information to any third party or use the information for any purpose other than the program itself with regard to any

confidential information, e.g., corporate information, which the applicants may come to learn through this program.

## **Generation Award**

### **1. Confidentiality of Proposal Contents until Selection of the Generation Award**

Excluding details outlined in "Ⅲ 8 Selection and Announcement of Results", we will not disclose any information regarding the proposals, including evaluation-related information.

### **2. Confidentiality Requirements for those who Pass the Screening Process**

Under no circumstances are successful applicants allowed to disclose or leak any confidential information obtained through this program, nor are they allowed to use this gathered information for any reason other than this program.

### **3. Regarding the Protection of Human Rights and Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

Upon application into the INNO-vation Program, the applying party's agreement and cooperation must be given toward the handling of personal information, bioethics and general safety. There may be additional legal procedures necessary, including procedures involving domestic and foreign ethics committees. In these instances, please promptly consult with the executing agency and comply with applicable procedures. In the event that any activities or implementation will be conducted in or with an organization outside of Japan, please confirm the laws and regulations of the respective country prior to any activity. Please consult with the executing agency's attorney to resolve any unclear items.

Particularly with life science research, laws and regulations may have been amended amongst various ministries, so please make sure to confirm the latest version of the law. If any activities are found not to be in compliance with any law or regulation, the selection results may be invalidated. Please refer to the bioethical and safety security measures as set forth by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) at the website below.

● LifeSciences Plaza, "Ethics and Safety Initiatives".

<http://www.lifescience.mext.go.jp/bioethics/index.html> (Japanese only)

If the applicant's proposal requires consent/cooperation of other parties, it is important to ensure that appropriate measures for the protection of human rights are taken, i.e., do not engage in unethical behaviors.

### **4. Requirements for Passing Selection in Each Department**

The essential conditions for passing the selection of each department are as follows.

#### **General Matters**

- If an interview is to be scheduled after the screening process or after receiving an award, the applicants must be able to attend. In such cases, the transportation costs shall be covered by the executing agency of this program.

- If an interview is to be scheduled as part of the screening processes of each department, the applicants must be willing to attend meetings related to this program.
- If an applicant is affiliated with an organization, such as a corporation, written consent from the affiliated organization must be submitted after passing the screening committee or receiving an award. If an arrangement is required with the affiliated organization for the submission of a document of consent, the executing agency of this program will provide support.
- In the event you are selected as a nominee, challenger, or award winner, you agree to your name (or nickname), residing location, and proposal title being announced on the official website.

### **Disruptive Challenge**

- Applicants must be the originators of the technical proposal and must be the person who intends to achieve the resolution of the proposal independently. If the proposal is to be implemented within a group, the roles and responsibilities must not overlap.
- Applicants must be able to take all necessary steps towards the achievement of their target goals throughout the entire period of the challenge.

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- Must be the originator or the originating group of the proposal.
- Rights regarding the application contents (including additional reference materials) shall be managed as they belong to the applicant or originator. However, due to the possibility of our cooperative partners considering and/or researching similar ideas, technologies, or proposals, if the applicant prefers their content to be absolutely confidential it is recommended to avoid applying.

## **5. Points to Note Regarding Selection, etc.**

### **General Matters**

#### **1. Regarding the Originality of the Contents of the Application**

For the entire period of this program, it is strictly forbidden to plagiarize or infringe upon the ideas or intellectual property of third parties. Applicants must be aware, from the beginning of the application process, of the need to be duly vigilant with regard to any plagiarism and infringement of the ideas and intellectual property of third parties.

#### **2. Handling of Malpractice**

“Malpractice”, as defined by this program, refers to any and all acts that infringe upon general laws and regulations. For example, using goods supplied for the purpose of the technical proposal for any other purpose than the stated technical proposal would constitute malpractice.

This program forms part of the competitive funding system operated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan. Measures for dealing with malpractice are disclosed in the “Policy regarding the Appropriate Implementation of Competitive Funding”. Applicants must read and understand this policy prior to submitting any application.

[Reference] Policy regarding the Appropriate Implementation of Competitive Funding

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/shishin1.pdf>

### 3. Obligation to Participate in Follow-up Inquiries

In order to continuously improve the program for the future, we shall implement inquiries on the status and situation of the applicants who have passed the screening process (at the point of the program and approximately 10 years later). Applicants who pass the screening are expected to cooperate with these inquiries.

In addition, Award winners will be surveyed following commendation. We kindly request that these winners participate in follow-up inquiries.

## **Disruptive Challenge**

### 1. Matching with our Cooperative Partners

All applicants who do not pass the screening process (Challengers) shall be eligible to apply to the Cooperative Partners Program. However, from the perspective of protecting the applicants' intellectual property, it should be noted that any participation in the program assumes the applicant has agreed to and will adhere to the cautionary guidelines set out in the application form.

### 2. Regarding Selection

- The nominees who have passed the screening process shall be contacted by the executing agency of this program regarding whether or not they desire to participate in the screening process.
- Supervisors will not intervene in the program proposals/challenges.
- Evaluation criteria are as follows:
  - Originality: if the applicant demonstrates ideas and characteristics befitting a person capable of taking on the disruptive technical challenges.
  - Self-Determination: if the applicant possesses strong and determinative attributes that do not expect justification from others
  - Clarity and Understanding: if the applicant has a clear understanding of the problems, solutions, and possibilities.
  - Indomitable Will: If the applicant possesses the indomitable will

## **Generation Award**

### 1. Award Implementation

- The executing agency will not disclose personal information without the permission of the applicant.
- Applicants cannot directly or indirectly negotiate (such as through the executing agency) with cooperating companies through this program
- After selecting the Generation Award, the Cooperative Partners may continue to review the proposals even after the award announcement.