

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of
the Land North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany
and
the Osaka Prefecture in Japan
concerning
Cooperation in the Hydrogen/Fuel Cell and Battery-related Fields

This Memorandum of Understanding represents the common understanding of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany and the Osaka Prefecture in Japan, hereinafter individually referred to as a “Side” and collectively referred to as the “Sides”. Based on the discussions held between the Sides in the Land North Rhine-Westphalia in November 2017 regarding the hydrogen/fuel cell and battery-related industries, and the business matchmaking event conducted between Osaka and German companies in the same Land in February 2018, the Sides have decided to work together cooperatively in the following activities for the purpose of strengthening partnerships to promote inter-business cooperation, develop regional industries, and contribute to the creation of a low-carbon society.

1. ACTIVITIES

The Sides will work together and in cooperation with research institutions and related organizations of both regions. They thereby intend to implement the following activities in order to create new business opportunities for companies, mainly small and medium-sized companies, from their respective regions involved in the hydrogen/fuel cell and battery-related fields:

- 1) Exchanging information about current interest and needs concerning products, technologies, and services of the companies in both regions, and collecting and distributing information regarding related business seeds;
- 2) Planning and implementing business exchange and meeting events for the companies in both regions, such as business matchmaking events, seminars, and company visits;

3) Sharing information about scheduled business matchmaking events and trade fairs of related industries held in both regions, with the hosting Side providing as much assistance as possible;

4) In the case that a company from one Side is to invest in the other Side's region, providing as much support as possible through avenues such as consultation and introduction of appropriate related organizations.

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

All coordination and information exchange activities outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding will be undertaken by the following organizations:

-For the Land North Rhine-Westphalia: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and NRW.International GmbH

Furthermore, NRW.INVEST GmbH and NRW Japan K.K. will provide assistance to companies from Osaka Prefecture interested in investing in North Rhine-Westphalia.

-For the Osaka Prefecture: Growth Industry Promotion Office, Department of Commerce, Industry and Labor, Osaka Prefectural Government.

3. DURATION OF OPERATION

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into operation on the date of signature and will initially be applied for three years. Its application will be extended under the same conditions unless one of the Sides informs the other Side of its intention to discontinue the cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding. It should do so with at least six months written notice.

4. FINAL PROVISIONS

1) The intention of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen cooperation between the Sides for the purpose of promoting mutual corporate exchanges and new businesses opportunities.

- 2) This Memorandum is not legally binding and does not constitute any financial commitment by either Side.
- 3) Any unspecified matters or differences that arise with respect to the implementation and the interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled through consultations between the Sides.
- 4) This Memorandum of Understanding does not eliminate pre-existing arrangements or Memoranda of Understandings between the Sides or other ministries and agencies of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia or the Osaka Prefecture.
- 5) Each Side will conduct the cooperative activities outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding at their discretion and subject to the availability of funds and personnel.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on October 19, 2018 in Osaka in duplicate in the English language.

For the Osaka Prefecture

For the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation,
Digitalization and Energy of the Land of North Rhine-
Westphalia

JUN ARAI
Vice Governor

ANDREAS PINKWART
Minister