IKMP Intro

Invest KOREA Market Place (IKMP) is a project designed to help discover and support new investment projects for Korean SMEs, start-ups and local governments seeking foreign investment. Invest KOREA aims to use the IKMP platform to promote the globalization of Korean companies and institutions by utilizing KOTRA’s 36 overseas offices devoted to attracting foreign investment.

Every year in March, June and September, the project notice is available on KOTRA’s website at www.kotra.or.kr. Additionally, project information detailing investment opportunities in Korea is available on the Invest KOREA website at www.investkorea.org.

Investment Opportunities

Below are two Korean companies currently available to receive foreign investment.

(some information remains confidential)

1. Bio-healthcare Company: Cooling Anesthesia

**Investment Highlights:** Population ageing and the rise in diabetes cases have led to an increased number of patients suffering from diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic retinopathy. This has consequently resulted in increasing demand for intravitreal injection therapy (IVT), a procedure to place anti-VEGF medications directly into the eyes. The company possesses the world’s first rapid and accurate cell cooling technology. The chemical-free anesthesia technology is designed for the pre-cooling of tissues through accurate temperature control, thus eliminating side effects caused by chemicals.

**Company Profile:** The company was founded in January 2016, and has applied for 21 patents in Korea and four in the U.S., including four PCT international applications. The company has already received investment from various private investors, and has won prize money at the U-Star of the Center for Creative Economy and Innovation, and was the winner at the Visiting IR held in the Busan-Ulsan region by the Ministry of SMEs and Startups.

**Investment Requirements:**

- Investment method: Minority (financial investment)
- Amount: USD 1 million
- Region: All available (preferably USA and Switzerland)


**Investment Highlights:** Currently, the methods for treating a spinal cord injury consists of surgery intended to relieve disorders caused by nerve injuries, steroidal anti-inflammatory drug treatment, and rehabilitation exercises. There is a high need for the development of therapeutic methods to effectively recover and protect spinal nerves. The company only focuses on neurotization for treatment, using a hydrogel for neurotization, which can be implanted to the spinal cord non-invasively. It is applied to the affected area of a patient with an acute spinal cord injury to create environments for neurotization. The goal is to fundamentally treat spinal cord injuries by inducing the neurotization of damaged neurons.

**Company Profile:** The company was founded in November 2017 and has a pending local patent and PTC application related to a hydrogel. It has already received KRW 100 million worth of private investment. The company received an award from the Ministry of SMEs and Startups and was selected for the Tech Incubator Program for Startups. It also won a prize for excellence at the Hyundai Heavy Industries technology competition.

**Investment Requirements:**

- Investment method: Minority (financial investment)
- Amount: USD 2 million
- Region: Europe and USA

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