November 10, 2025
Meidensha Corporation

Hiroshima CSV Lab, Kitahiroshima Town sign comprehensive partnership agreement

Industry-government-academia-community collaboration to tackle social challenges through micro-hydropower

Hiroshima CSV (Creating Shared Value) Lab, for which Meidensha is a core member, has signed a comprehensive partnership agreement with Kitahiroshima Town, Hiroshima Prefecture, to collaborate on research and development that uses micro-hydropower generation as a starting point for co-creating value for the future. The ultimate objective is to bring community revitalization models that harness micro-hydropower into practical operation at an early date.

Hiroshima CSV Lab is engaged in value co-creation and social innovation, using micro-hydropower as a starting point. It comprises four core members — the Hiroshima Prefectural Government, the Keio Research Institute at SFC, Meidensha, and EAML Engineering Ltd. — along with 11 supporting companies and organizations. Since its launch on March 25, 2024, the Lab has been studying and planning community revitalization models that address social challenges through micro-hydropower.

Under the partnership agreement, Hiroshima CSV Lab and Kitahiroshima Town will work closely to put these models into practical use and accelerate related activities. Meidensha will dispatch a core researcher to the Kitahiroshima municipal government to lead local implementation.

In May 2025, Kitahiroshima Town was selected for the Ministry of the Environment's Sixth Round of Decarbonization Leading Areas under the theme "Building a community in symbiosis with water: micro-hydropower development led by a town-prefecture partnership (tentative translation)." Through a local energy company, the project plans to sell electricity generated by repowering an existing plant and from two new generators. The proceeds will be used to improve and expand services at child-rearing-related facilities.

Moreover, another new power project will be developed to explore regional models that

link hydropower, welfare, and commerce for practical application. The acquired knowledge and know-how will be made open source to share and roll out the know-how widely across Japan.

In line with these efforts, Hiroshima CSV Lab will promote implementation under the partnership agreement, second core researchers, and share and roll out the knowledge and know-how gained through the hydropower information platform being considered by the Lab. By advancing hydropower generation through the effective use of regional resources, the Lab will accelerate the realization of net-zero carbon emissions and establish models for regional revitalization.

■ About the signing of the partnership agreement

(1) Date of conclusion: November 7, 2025

(2) Purpose: Under a close partnership, Hiroshima CSV Lab and Kitahiroshima Town will cooperate to plan and promote a social system based on value co-creation, using micro-hydropower as a starting point. The aim is to help build a vibrant regional community, cultivate human resources who will lead future society, and promote practical studies, among other goals.

(3) Areas of cooperation:

1. Accelerating the achievement of net-zero carbon emissions by promoting micro-hydropower plants that make effective use of Kitahiroshima Town's regional resources.
2. Planning and promoting a social system through value co-creation, using micro-hydropower in Kitahiroshima Town as a starting point.
3. Promoting projects to position Kitahiroshima Town as a decarbonization leading area.
4. Utilizing both parties' intellectual, human, and material resources.
5. Other areas necessary to achieve the purpose of this agreement.

At the signing ceremony
(front row from left): Hiroshima CSV Director Katsumasa Yamaguchi; Kitahiroshima Mayor Hiroshi Mino; Keio University Professor Masatoshi Tamamura
(back row from left): Tsutomu Tanaka, a core researcher at Hiroshima CSV Lab; Meidensha Managing Executive Officer Shinichiro Kon; Seiji Okada, chief of Environmental Affairs at the Environment and Citizens Affairs Bureau of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government; Hironaga Tanaka, a core researcher at the Hiroshima Prefectural Government

■ About Hiroshima CSV Lab

Hilly and mountainous areas of Hiroshima Prefecture face a range of challenges, including economic decline from depopulation, more frequent and severe natural disasters, aging infrastructure, and increasing physical and mental frailty among older residents.

The Lab leverages untapped micro-hydropower resources in the region. By addressing social issues through the connections that form among communities and various stakeholders around sustainable energy supply and use, participants aim for mutually beneficial outcomes while developing and piloting a local social system to revitalize communities.

Going forward, the Lab will work to revitalize hilly and mountainous areas in Hiroshima Prefecture and other parts of Japan by sharing projects results with regions facing similar challenges. It is also committed to contributing to global anti-

climate-change efforts through the frameworks researched and developed in Hiroshima Prefecture.

One specific initiative is to develop hydropower resources in Shobara and Hatsukaichi cities and Kitahiroshima Town in Hiroshima Prefecture and use the locally generated electricity. The Lab will study, explore, and implement policies through industry-academia-government-community collaboration to address regional issues and accelerate practical adoption of results.

Hiroshima CSV Lab members (Japanese alphabetic order, as of April 24, 2025)

EAML Engineering Ltd.; Eikei University of Hiroshima; Enecom, Inc.; Keio Research Institute at SFC; Kitahiroshima Town Government; JA Hiroshima; Shobara City Government; Chugoku Electric Power Co., Inc.; Hatsukaichi City Government; Hirogin Holdings, Inc.; Hiroshima Prefectural Government; Fujita Corporation; Mazda Motor Corporation; Meidensha Corporation; and Yaesudenki Co., Ltd