

October 14, 2022
NOK Corporation

First investment in a venture capital fund; accelerating new business creation

NOK Invests in the UMI III Fund

Strengthening ties with ventures and academia in the materials and chemical areas

NOK Corporation (Head office: Shibadai-mon, Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and Chief Executive Officer: Masao Tsuru; hereinafter, “NOK”) has invested in the UMI III Investment Limited Partnership (UMI III Fund), established on October 7, 2022 by Universal Materials Incubator Co., Ltd. (Head office: Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Managing Partner: Shosuke Kiba; hereinafter, “UMI”) to invest in the materials and chemical industries. NOK’s investment commitment, its first in a venture capital fund, is 500 million yen.

Since its founding, NOK has continued to refine its R&D in organic chemistry to contribute to the evolution of motorization, and has facilities capable of stable mass production. NOK has decided to provide support by investing in the UMI III Fund, which invests in the materials and chemical industries, NOK’s focus area, in order to deepen collaboration with technologies and businesses that have significant synergy effects with NOK’s technologies and facilities. The company views its investment in the Fund as the first step in accelerating new business creation. NOK will promote open innovation and contribute to the development of the mobility, electronics, and chemical fields with the aim of achieving continuous business growth on a global scale.

■ Outline of the UMI III Fund

- Name: UMI III Investment Limited Partnership
- Established: October 7, 2022
- Investment period: 10 years
- Investment areas: Businesses in the environment and energy, food and agriculture, life science, electronics and information, and mobility fields, which derive their competitiveness from technologies related to materials and chemicals; and common fundamental technologies for development in the materials and chemical fields

Continuing from the UMI I Fund and the UMI II Fund, the UMI III Fund aims to establish a new business creation platform in the materials and chemical industries. The UMI III Fund in particular is expected to promote innovation across industries, as it plans to establish a UMI decarbonization fund as a sister fund to strengthen investment in technologies and businesses in the decarbonization field and encourage the participation of business enterprises outside the materials and chemical industries. UMI, which became a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) in June 2021, promotes investment activities that take ESG issues into consideration, and aims to create new businesses globally in its key areas of Japan and Asia.

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■ NOK Corporation

Business Lines: Manufacturing, importing, and selling seal products, industrial mechanical parts, hydraulic equipment, nuclear power equipment, synthetic chemical products, and electronic and various other products; installation work and others.

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