



April 8, 2019

OriCiro Launches with \$3.6 Million Series A Financing

OriCiro Genomics, which will provide the next generation DNA technology for synthetic biology, was launched today with \$3.6 million in series A financing from The University of Tokyo Edge Capital (UTEK).

OriCiro focuses on the development and commercialization of cell-free synthesis and amplification technologies of large DNA molecules. One of the company's proprietary technologies enables cell-free amplification of large DNA molecules, an efficient and easy-to-operate approach that aims to replace conventional E. coli cloning. It can not only streamline current research processes but also widen the scope of genomics research significantly. In addition to the amplification technology, the company owns a suite of genome manipulation technologies including the assembly of DNA fragments and genome editing.

The company was established based on the innovative technologies invented by Dr. Masayuki Su'etsugu, an associate professor of Rikkyo University and the CSO of the company. OriCiro will be led by Seiji Hirasaki as the CEO, former COO of AnGes, a Japan-based gene therapy company, and will be headquartered in Tokyo.

Synthetic biology, an emerging field in life sciences in which new medicines and useful proteins are produced more efficiently by modified and/or synthesized genomes, is developing rapidly worldwide with ever-increasing industrial applications. OriCiro's technologies have potential markets in a variety of industrial sectors including the pharmaceutical, diagnostic, food and agricultural sectors, it being a powerful tool for research and development aimed at unlocking the possibility of synthetic biology.