

AirMembrane, which develops mass production technology for high-quality single-layer graphene, raises 100 million yen in seed round

August 23, 2024



AirMembrane Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture / hereinafter referred to as AirMembrane) is a subsidiary of Global Brain Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Representative Director and President Yasuhiko Yurimoto / hereinafter referred to as Global Brain), which is a Shinhan Venture Investment. Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Seoul, South Korea, CEO Donghyun Lee / "Shinhan-GB Future Flow Investment Limited Partnership" (hereinafter referred to as "SHGB") jointly operated with Shinhan Venture Investment (hereinafter referred to as "Shinhan Venture Investment"), "Central Japan Seed Fund" (Headquarters: Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, General Partner: Go Fujita), Hitonari Ito, (hereinafter referred to as CJS)), we are pleased to announce that we have raised a seed round of 100 million yen through a third-party allotment of capital.

About AirMembrane Co., Ltd.

AirMembrane Co., Ltd. was founded in 2017 based on the results of graphene research at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). Graphene is a single-layer carbon allotrope in which carbon atoms are arranged in a planar manner, and its excellent conductivity and responsiveness are expected to be applied to next-generation devices. However, high-quality single-layer graphene has not yet been used as an industrial material due to the difficulty of its production. AirMembrane is taking on this challenge and developing mass production technology that dramatically improves the quality and production efficiency of graphene production. Our single-layer graphene film can be transferred to a wide range of substrates that other companies cannot handle, and is expected to be applied in advanced technology fields such as transparent electrode films and ultra-sensitive sensors.

Future Outlook

With the funds raised in this round, AirMembrane plans to improve its mass production technology for high-quality single-layer graphene and promote the recruitment of personnel to expand the company's products. In addition, we will accelerate our expansion into overseas markets, including the United States, in addition to the domestic market, and aim to become a leading company in the global graphene market.

Comments from each investor

Yasuhiko Yurimoto, CEO of Global Brain Corporation

We are very pleased to partner with AirMembrane. Our decision to invest in the company is driven by our strong appreciation for its achievement in partially completing the mass production of high-quality single-layer graphene and its ongoing development of a unique technology that will successfully realize both mass production and high quality—something no other company has ever been able to accomplish. We will provide multifaceted support to AirMembrane to further accelerate the growth of its business.

Central Japan Seed Fund General Partner Hitoshi Ito, Growth Partner/Capitalist Yuya Matsubuchi

We are pleased to announce that CJS has invested in AirMembrane, led by Mr. Hasegawa, a leading authority in graphene research. Mr. Hasegawa has accumulated over 20 years of research and development experience, including his time at The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), resulting in advanced technologies for the practical application and mass production of graphene.

We are confident that this technology, which has already garnered significant interest both domestically and internationally, will grow into a "Japanese technology that soars on the global stage." Furthermore, we are excited about the broad range of potential applications for graphene enabled by this technology.

At CJS, we believe that enabling technologies like graphene are essential for driving technological innovation. We are committed to fully supporting the creation of innovations in the manufacturing industry and addressing its challenges.

Comment from AirMembrane Representative Director and President Masataka Hasegawa

We are very honored to receive this funding. Using this funding, we will maximize the potential of graphene, an innovative material, and work to establish it as an industrial material and promote commercialization. We are also looking for people who share our mission of "Making the dream of graphene come true" and who can work with us to boost business and industry, so please feel free to contact us.

Company Profile

AirMembrane Co., Ltd.

Representative: Representative Director/President Masataka Hasegawa

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URL: <https://www.airmembrane.co.jp>

Established: July 2017

Business content: Synthesis, research and development, commercialization, and sales of graphene and two-dimensional materials, as well as technology and application development consulting services