

31 MARCH 2017

Bpifrance and SMRJ, the Japanese SME development agency, announce the opening of a EuroQuity community connecting French and Japanese growth companies

Bpifrance and SMRJ (Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation), the Japanese SME development agency, are opening Bpifrance's EuroQuity networking platform to members of the J-GoodTech digital service, which brings together 4,000 Japanese growth companies. This partnership aims to increase the visibility of and interactions (business collaboration, product development, business partnerships, etc.) between French and Japanese companies. 62 Japanese companies have already joined EuroQuity and 500 more companies are expected to do so in the coming weeks.

This development follows the 6 December 2016 signature by Pascal Lagarde, Executive Director of Bpifrance in charge of International Affairs, Strategy, Studies and Development, and Shinichi Murai, Director General of SMRJ, of a cooperation agreement during the France-Japan Innovation Forum in Osaka.

Pascal Lagarde considers it makes a significant contribution to the development of Bpifrance's support services by putting French companies in contact with other internationally based growth companies: *"it is a tremendous advantage for our companies to be put in contact with the top Japanese companies selected by our Japanese colleagues."*

The EuroQuity networking platform is a free service operated by Bpifrance, the aim of which is to draw attention to the companies and connect investors and development partners, in particular investors. In 2016, EuroQuity had 2,750 companies, 650 investors, and 450 support structures in its portfolio. 6,000 users regularly connected to the platform to make connections through the more than 10,000 messages exchanged. 23% of the platform's users come from countries other than France.

Shinichi Murai, Director General of SMRJ says: *"Currently, we are aggressively promoting business matching between Japan's SMEs and companies worldwide. Through the release of J-GoodTech community within EuroQuity, we will expedite partnerships between our SMEs and companies across Europe and more. We will continue to support new market expansion for Japan's SMEs and further invigoration of European companies."*

Discover the Japanese companies in the J-GoodTech community on EuroQuity.



J-GoodTech

J-GoodTech is a free service connecting innovative Japanese companies with the best global companies. The service was designed as a strategic tool to highlight the potential of these companies and provide expert intermediary services to its Japanese members.

EuroQuity

EuroQuity is a free service operated by Bpifrance with the aim of creating a qualified professional network of investors and entrepreneurs.

The digital platform enables companies to draw attention to their business and connects growth companies with development partners, in particular investors, in France and internationally.

SMRJ

SMRJ, Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, is a governmental organization responsible to the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry which promotes innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises in Japan and internationally. SMRJ provides support tailored to the individual needs of SMEs in conjunction with other government agencies, SME support organizations, financial institutions, and research institutes.

About Bpifrance

Bpifrance, a subsidiary of Caisse des Dépôts and the French State, is a trusted partner of entrepreneurs which provides companies with credit, collateral and equity financing support - from start up through to stock exchange listing.

In partnership with Business France, **Bpifrance** also provides guidance and enhanced support services for innovation, external growth, and export.

Bpifrance offers companies a range of financing for each key stage in their development, and an offer adapted to regional particularities.

With 47 regional offices (90% of decisions are made regionally), **Bpifrance** offers entrepreneurs a tool for economic competitiveness. **Bpifrance** works in support of the public policies pursued nationally and regionally by the French government, to meet three objectives:

- support the growth of businesses
- prepare for future competitiveness
- contribute to the development of an ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship.

With **Bpifrance**, companies benefit from a strong and effective local contact able to meet all their financial, innovation and investment needs.

Further information: www.bpifrance.fr – Follow us on Twitter: @bpifrance

Press contact:

Bpifrance

Nicolas Jehly

Tel: 01 41 79 95 12

Email: nicolas.jehly@bpifrance.fr