

FY 2024 Venture Ecosystem Enhancement Project for Drug Discovery/Certification of Venture Capital (Part 4)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

No.	Question	Answer (AMED)	Date of Publication
1. Outline of Business and Public Offering			
1-1	Is there an annual call for registered VCs?	It is scheduled to be carried out periodically several times a year.	Oct. 6. 2023
1-2	Is it possible to continue after the registration period ends?	An evaluation will be conducted in the second fiscal year after the registration to confirm whether the registration can be renewed. If the renewal is approved, the registration can be renewed for two more fiscal years. There is no limit to the number of renewals.	Oct. 6. 2023
1-3	After the registration period ends, it says that you can continue your activities as a certified VC only for on-going project. Is it possible to apply for a new drug discovery venture?	You cannot apply for a new drug discovery venture after the registration period.	Oct. 6. 2023
1-4	In the case of a joint investment in a drug discovery venture, is the investment of an investor other than an registered VC also counted in the amount of investment by the registered VC that forms the basis for the AMED grant?	Investments made by investors other than registered VCs are not counted. Note that you can choose whether or not to count the investment amount of the follower's registered VC.	Feb. 10. 2023
2. Application Requirements, Compliance, etc.			
2-1	The investment function and the commercialization support function are carried out by two companies. Can I apply?	Please check the instructions ※ in the Application Guidelines 2.1 and consult us before applying.	Oct. 6. 2023
2-2	Regarding the payment obligation, it says "if the shares are sold within one year after receiving the grant decision." At what point do you count the year as a starting point?	In the case of the first grant decision, the starting point is when the first grant decision is made after the drug discovery venture is adopted. In the case of the second and subsequent grant decisions, when a new grant decision is received from AMED after passing through the stage gate.	Feb. 10. 2023
2-3	Is the payment obligation for proceeds also imposed on the follower registered VC?	If amount of investment by follower registered VC is included in the total certified VC contribution amount, which is the basis for calculating the subsidy amount, then yes.	Feb. 10. 2023
2-4	If a payment obligation for proceeds is imposed on a follower registered VC, will the registration be revoked?	No, it won't be revoked.	Feb. 10. 2023
2-5	What is "especially high-quality support for drug discovery startups" in mandatory requirements (1)?	This refers to achieving a very high rating in the four evaluation items listed in the Application Guidelines 4.2.2.	Mar. 2. 2023
2-6	What type of person qualifies as a "hands-on member who provides expert advice on investment decisions" in the mandatory requirements (4) and (5)?	A person who is as a key member of your company, equivalent to a member who makes investment decisions, giving advice to members who make investment decisions and providing hands-on experience.	Mar. 2. 2023
2-7	What does "Global Experience" refer to in mandatory requirements (5) "Experience in conducting global clinical trials, hands-on support for global clinical trials, etc."?	It refers to experiences in countries other than Japan. The examination will be conducted with the United States in particular in mind.	Mar. 2. 2023
2-8	Is there a definition of lead in "Lead Registered VC"?	In this project, "Lead Registered VC" is defined as the largest investor in a single funding round (excluding operating companies such as pharmaceutical companies) and one who plays a leading role in fundraising and hands-on activities. A person who is not the largest investor may be accepted as the lead. If applicable, please fill out the application form (Attachment _2a) Remarks on the investment record as to the reason why you can determine that you are participating as a lead.	Oct. 6. 2023
2-9	Does the applicant company need to be a Japanese corporation with regard to the corporate profile attached to the application form (Attachment _1)?	You do not need to be a Japanese corporation if you can perform your business as a registered VC in accordance with the application guidelines and the certification agreement.	May 20. 2024
2-10	Can a CVC, which is an affiliate of a pharmaceutical company, also apply?	Pharmaceutical companies CVC can also apply. However, you do not meet the application requirements if both of the following are true: - CVC's investment decisions are made by corporations (operating companies (e.g., pharmaceutical companies)) that is not primarily engaged in investment operations. - CVC investments are made from the balance sheets of operating companies (e.g. pharmaceutical companies).	May 20. 2024

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3. Examination Method, Schedule, etc.			
3-1	Is the date of the hearing examination (interview examination) adjustable?	The date of the hearing examination (interview examination) is not adjustable.	Feb. 10. 2023
3-2	Can I participate in the hearing examination online?	We will contact you if you are eligible for the hearing examination.	Feb. 10. 2023
3-3	What level of decision-making does the mandatory requirement "investment decision-making" refer to?	We assume that decisions are made by responsible parties such as general partners and partners.	Feb. 10. 2023
3-4	Regarding the mandatory requirements (1) "At least 1/3 is invested in the drug discovery field," what are the drug discovery fields covered by 1/3?	In addition to the development of pharmaceuticals and regenerative medicine products, this program covers the development of technologies related to drug discovery, including technologies for creating seeds for pharmaceuticals and regenerative medicine products (drug discovery platform technologies). The following examples are not applicable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical devices/Medical technologies • DTx(therapeutic apps, VR) • Research reagent development, Analysis services, and Contracted non-clinical testing • Laboratory test • Diagnostic drug development • AI etc.	Feb. 10. 2023
3-5	Is the definition of "drug discovery field" in "investment of 1/3 or more in drug discovery field" the same as that in "fund dedicated to investment in drug discovery field" in the mandatory requirements (1)?	Yes, it's the same.	Feb. 10. 2023
3-6	What is the definition of a fund that specializes in investing in drug discovery?	As a basic idea, we envision our fund as one in which 100% of the funds used to invest in start-up companies are in the field of drug discovery. However, we will make a comprehensive judgment, including the members who manage the fund.	Feb. 10. 2023
3-7	Does a "fund dedicated to investing in the drug discovery field" include funds whose investment period has expired?	Included.	Feb. 10. 2023
3-8	Are there any "fund" requirements for "newly created VC or fund"?	The fund in "newly formed VC or fund" must be "a fund dedicated to making investments in the drug discovery field."	Feb. 10. 2023
4. Application Procedures, etc.			
4-1	Is it possible to replace the proposal document?	You can change it before the deadline. We do not accept replacements after the deadline.	Feb. 10. 2023
4-2	Do I need to send a separate email for the declaration of intent to apply and the inquiry?	Please send them in separate emails, each with the subject line stated in the application guidelines.	Feb. 10. 2023
4-3	What should I do if I don't receive an email accepting my application?	If you do not receive an email one week after the closing date, please contact us by email.	Feb. 10. 2023
4-4	Can I apply in English (or another language)?	Please submit the application form and application form attachment 1~7 in Japanese or English. If you use a foreign language in other proposal documents, please use English.	Oct. 6. 2023
4-5	On the mandatory requirements confirmation sheet attached to the application form, do you select one of the mandatory requirements (1) or can you select more than one?	For (1)-a, (1)-b, and (1)-c, please select the appropriate one.	Mar. 2. 2023
5. Other			
5-1	When is the public call for proposals from pharmaceutical startups?	It is scheduled to be carried out periodically several times a year.	Oct. 6. 2023