



November 19, 2018

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**Notice of Consolidated Subsidiary World Intec Co., Ltd.**  
**Entering into Joint Research Agreement with the University of Tokyo**

We are pleased to announce that World Intec Co., Ltd. (“World Intec”) (Head office: Fukuoka City, Fukuoka; Representative Director: Eikichi Iida), a consolidated subsidiary of World Holdings Co., Ltd., has entered into a joint research agreement with Yamaguchi Laboratory, Department of Applied Chemistry, School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo.

### **1. Purpose of Joint Research**

In recent years, there has been a growing concern in Japan about a shortage of talent with highly specialized skills in the fields of physics and chemistry, which will restrict the growth potential of manufacturers, thus hurting the country’s international competitiveness. Amid continued competition and innovation in the fast-evolving science and technology landscape, developing human resources in a way that transcends the boundaries of government, industry, and academia has become an urgent task.

Under its social mission of creating platforms for people to lead fulfilling lives, World Intec has provided opportunities to work and grow across a wide range of areas, especially research and development. Notably, World Intec’s R&D business department, established in 2002, has since dispatched research personnel who possess high-level expertise and skills to university laboratories and public/private research institutions, as well as to corporations in various types of industries such as the pharmaceutical, chemical, and material sectors. In this way, the company has contributed to the progress of research and development aimed at the development of new drugs and products, and eventually at the advancement of Japanese’s *monozukuri*, or the Japanese spirit to manufacture excellent products and continually improve them. In pursuit of the ideal group of researchers who pioneer the future with their technical and human skills by continuing to face and overcome new challenges armed with intellectual curiosity, World Intec aims to develop and equip researchers with highly specialized skills through the joint research with the University of Tokyo.

### **2. Summary of the Agreement**

Yamaguchi Laboratory, Department of Applied Chemistry, School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo utilizes its unique technologies to sophisticatedly design nanosized metal oxide (polyoxometalate) catalysts, nanosized metal hydroxide catalysts, and nanosized particle catalysts, with their active site structures controlled on a per-atom/molecule basis. By using these catalysts, the laboratory is working to develop new, one-of-a-kind environment-conscious reactions. In addition to the development of catalysts and reactions, the laboratory’s efforts are also directed at developing molecular materials applicable to next-generation magnetic and optical devices.

In this joint research, World Intec will deploy joint researchers from the R&D business department to support research activities with Yamaguchi Laboratory, thereby leveraging the effect of acquiring synthesis and analytical technologies through practice into our internal training and education.

Moreover, World Intec has prepared a system for its joint researchers to deliver training programs that simulate their hands-on experience at the joint research site by using new analysis equipment and other instruments installed in the company’s educational training laboratory. This system will help the company’s researchers improve their equipment operating skills and knowledge in the state-of-the-art fields of analytical chemistry and chemical synthesis. In the form of industry-university collaboration, World Intec will provide research and development support for Yamaguchi Laboratory and also strive to acquire highly specialized knowledge and train technicians.