



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation
Tokyo Regional Office
July 4, 2014

High-Risk & High-Impact Program in Japan: ImPACT

Japan has been discussing creation of a program in the past year that succeeds the previous 5-year program known as “Funding Program for World-leading Innovative R&D on Science and Technology (FIRST).” The FIRST program provided 30 researchers in frontier fields with about \$30 million each for 5 years during JFY2009-2013. Given the success of the program, a subsequent program was expected to be created.

The structure for the new program models that of the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) system that focuses funding for high-risk and high-impact projects. The DARPA system selects program officers who plan, implement, and oversee the comprehensive research stages from fundamental through commercialization.

The new 5-year program is called “Impulsing PARadigm Change through disruptive Technologies (ImPACT)” and was established in the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI). The program’s budget is Yen 55 billion (\$550 million) to fund 12 projects for 5 years (JFY2014-2018). Its funding source is the JFY2013 supplemental budget.

CSTI established 5 critical research areas for the ImPACT program: New Value Creation, Innovative Technologies for Energy-saving Society, Smart Community that Connects Human Beings and Society, Healthy and Long Life, and Minimization of Disaster, and solicited the program.

The solicitation of the program resulted in 180 applications, out of which CSTI selected 12 high-risk and high impact projects (success rate of 6.7%) appearing in the table below. The budget provided to each project is not known yet. CSTI delegates the administration of ImPACT program to the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

Program Manager	Affiliation	Project*
Kozo ITOH	Univ. of Tokyo	“Flexible Tough Polymer” with Super Thin Film and Excessive Strengths
Keisuke GODA	Univ. of Tokyo	New Value Creation by Serendipity Planning
Yuji SANO	Toshiba	Safe, Secure and Aged Society with Ubiquitous Power Laser
Masashi SAHASHI	Tohoku Univ.	Ecological IT equipment that has long life without batteries
Yoshiyuki SANKAI	Univ. of Tsukuba	Innovative Cybernic System to Realize Zero Heavy-nursing-care Society
Takane SUZUKI	Kojima Press Ind. Co.	Materials Industry Innovation by Super highly-functional-structure Protein
Satoshi TADOKORO	Tohoku Univ.	Tough Robotics Challenge
Reiko FUJITA	Toshiba	Recycling of High-level Radioactive Wastes by Nuclear Transformation
Reiko MIYATA	Nagoya Univ.	Ultra-high speed and Multiplexed Sensing System beyond Evolution for the Detection of Extremely Small Amounts of Substances
Takayuki YAGI	Canon. Co.	New Industry Creation by Innovative Visualization Technology
Yoshinori YAMAKAWA	NTT Data Mgt. Co.	Energetic life by visualization and control of brain information
Yoshihisa YAMAMOTO	Nat. Inst. of Informatics	Highly intelligent social base by quantum-networking quantum artificial brain

*Project names are informal provisional translation.