

April 20, 2020

DRONE FUND

Investment in Japan Infrastructure Waymark providing UAV infrastructure inspection solutions across Japan

DRONE FUND announces that DRONE FUND II (Official name; Chiba Dojo Drone Fund II Investment Limited Partnership) managed by Kotaro Chiba and Soki Ohmae in Tokyo, Japan, has invested in Japan Infrastructure Waymark Co. Ltd. (hereinafter JIW) managed by Takumi Shibata in Osaka and Tokyo, Japan.



JIW, as a wholly owned subsidiary of NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE WEST CORPORATION (hereinafter NTT WEST), was established on April 1, 2019, to utilize the operational excellence cultivated within the NTT WEST Group, and to provide efficient infrastructure inspection services with UAVs and AI.

In recent years, improving the efficiency of inspections has become a big challenge for Japanese society as a whole due to the deterioration of public infrastructures and the shortage of labor to maintain them. Today, JIW performs UAV inspection, including Proof of concept, of huge infrastructure equipment across Japan, such as steel towers, bridges,

slopes, solar panels and wind turbines. We, DRONE FUND, has decided to invest in JIW, which will be a leading UAV company within the infrastructure inspection market of Japan, and help to solve our national problems in the near future.

Through this investment, DRONE FUND will strengthen JIW's capabilities by maximizing synergies with our LP and our portfolio companies, and will support JIW in becoming the No.1 drone service provider in the field of infrastructure inspections.

■ About JIW

- Official Name: Japan Infrastructure Waymark Co. Ltd.
- Representative: Takumi Shibata (CEO)
- Founded: April 2019
- Headquarter: 3-8 Bamba-cho, Chuo-ku, Osaka (Ginza B building 3rd floor, 1-6-5 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo)
- Business: Total maintenance services (infrastructure inspection consulting and planning, aerial UAV photography, AI-based inspection diagnostics / reporting support services, drone sales/rental, education/training, insurance agency)
- Website: <https://www.jiw.co.jp/>

■ About DRONE FUND II

DRONE FUND I was established by Kotaro Chiba and Soki Ohmae in June 2017 as a venture capital specializing in drone-related startups. Today, Drone Fund I and II invests in more than 30 startups around the world to further realize a "Drone-based Society" and "Air Mobility Society" and will continue to invest globally.

- Official Name: Chiba Dojo Drone Fund II Investment Limited Partnership
- Managing Company: DRONE FUND Inc.
- Co-representative: Kotaro Chiba, Soki Ohmae
- Established: August 2018
- Business: Investment in drone and air mobility-related startups
- Website: <http://dronefund.vc>

■ INFORMATION

- DRONE FUND public relations: pr@dronefund.vc