

June 1, 2022
DRONE FUND

Japan's first VC specializing in drone and air mobility DRONE FUND celebrates its 5th anniversary ~Investments in 54 companies in Japan and abroad~

DRONE FUND (HQ: Tokyo, Representatives: Kotaro Chiba and Soki Ohmae) celebrates its 5th anniversary on June 1, 2022. DRONE FUND will continue to accelerate its investment and support activities for startups, working toward the realization of a drone and air mobility-based society.



■ Development of DRONE FUND

In June 2017, DRONE FUND first declared its commitment to promote investment of and support activities for startups in order to realize a "drone-based society." One of the investees of the first fund (total raised: 15.9 billion yen), ACSL, Inc. (formerly known as Autonomous Control Systems Laboratory, Inc.) achieved a listing on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Mothers in December 2018.

The second fund (total raised: 5.2 billion yen), established in August 2018, has promoted investment in and support of activities in the fields of flying vehicles (air mobility) and marine robotics, in addition to continued investment in drones. In order to accelerate industrial strategy and institutional design, a public policy department was formed within the fund.

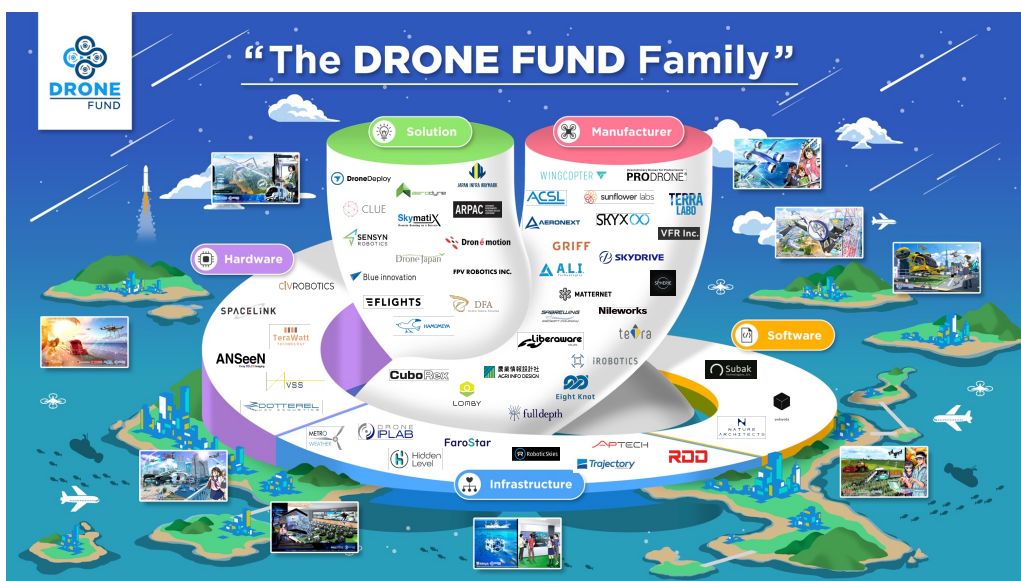
The third fund (total raised: 105.1 billion yen)—the closing of which was announced in May 2022—continues to promote investment and support activities for startups in the fields of aircraft, services, and related technologies with the aim of creating an industrial ecosystem. In April 2022, DRONE FUND announced the appointment of Professor Jun Murai of Keio University as Executive Advisor.

■ The Vision of DRONE FUND

Today, our society faces significant risks, such as demographic change, climate change, aging infrastructure, large-scale disasters, and new infectious diseases. To solve these challenges, we need to implement new technologies and restructure existing social systems.

The Kishida administration of Japan has indicated that it intends to promote the implementation of new technologies, such as drones and delivery robots as part of its Digital Rural City State concept. As for flying cars, momentum is building for their implementation in preparation for the Osaka-Kansai Expo in 2025. Underwater drones are also becoming increasingly important for the development of marine infrastructure.

In order to realize a new society, it is necessary to present a concrete vision and promote the formation of a new and innovative industrial ecosystem and institutional design. We aim to realize sustainable economic growth through our investment and support activities for startups.



■ Comments from Co-Chairs

DRONE FUND Founder and Managing Partner: Kotaro Chiba:



We are very happy to celebrate DRONE FUND's 5th anniversary. While there was some skepticism about a drone-specific venture capital at the beginning of our activities in 2017, we have now firmly established ourselves as the leading venture capital firm in the drone and air mobility space in the world. We are also steadily building a framework for our next activities, including the final close of the third fund announced in March and the appointment of Dr. Murai as executive advisor announced in April.

We hope you will continue to support DRONE FUND as we use drones and other technologies to solve the world's problems.

Co-founder of DRONE FUND • Representative Partner Soki Ohmae:



Thanks to your generous support, DRONE FUND is celebrating its 5th anniversary today. I started out by showing people some of the possibilities through drone video production. Among them, ACSL (then called Autonomous Control Systems Laboratory, Inc.) was listed on the stock exchange in December 2018, and the Japanese domestic market was also beginning to show signs of exciting growth.

The year 2022 is expected to be a historic year in the development of drone and air mobility technology in Japan. It will be the year in which the ban on Level 4 flights is lifted in the Roadmap for the Industrial Revolution in the Skies (*1), and the timing is perfect to mark such an important milestone. As a VC fund, we will continue to support venture companies and contribute to the dawn of a new era in Japan's skies. We look forward to your continued support.

*1 Announced on June 21, 2019 Public-Private Council for Environmental Improvement Related to Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

【DRONE FUND Overview】

Official name : Chiba Dojo Drone Fund I Investment Limited Partnership, Chiba Dojo Drone Fund II Investment Limited Partnership, DRONE FUND III Investment Limited Partnership

Managing company : DRONE FUND Inc.

Representative : Kotaro Chiba, Soki Ohmae

Headquarters : Tokyo, Japan

Established : June 2017 (I), August 2018 (II), May 2020 (III)

Business : Investment and support in drone and air mobility-related startups

Website : <http://dronefund.vc>

【Contact】

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