

Call for proposals on research/seeds for commercialization (pre-“high-cycle” research) in Beyond AI Joint Project of SoftBank and the University of Tokyo

To the University of Tokyo faculty,

Beyond AI Joint Project with SoftBank aims to build an ecosystem for the social implementation and commercialization of research results through the Institute for AI and Beyond.

Currently, the Institute promotes mid-to-long-term (basic research) and “high-cycle” research (applied research), and we aim to contribute to the further development of AI research and a better society in Japan by establishing collaborative innovation partnerships (CIP) and companies to commercialize and implement the results of the “high-cycle” research in society.

To expedite our efforts, the Institute for AI and Beyond has decided to call for proposals for pre-“high-cycle” research / seeds for commercialization.

Accordingly, we eagerly await proposals from interested professors.

Overview of the pre-“high-cycle” research

Research period:	Generally, within 1 year (reported for each year even if crossing over academic years)
Research budget:	Direct costs within 10 million JPY
Application deadline:	Friday, December 23, 2022 (for the three topics listed below) Friday, January 6, 2023 (for topics other than the three listed below)
Misc.:	Acceptance/rejection will be determined based on consultation with the organization and coordination with relevant staff at SoftBank. In pre-“high-cycle” research, you are supposed to undertake a feasibility study aimed at shifting to “high-cycle” research and commercialization

Eligible research domains

Domains with a large target market with AI as a core component of the research.

Primary research topics of interest

This invitation for proposals is predominantly concerned with the following three topics: “Optimizing cell-culture processing,” “Efficient and effective systems for AI staff training,” and “Automating the generation of AI training data.” However, application studies related to other topics are also welcome.

Optimizing cell-culture processing

- AI for the automation of cell-culture processing in the field of regenerative medicine
- The scale of the future market for regenerative medicine products is expected to be 12 trillion JPY by 2030

Efficient and effective systems for AI staff training

- Research on processes for and on the content of staff training for AI
- Sharing real data and content to construct systems for AI learning in a hands-on manner

Automating the generation of AI training data

- Researching methods for automating annotation, a part of the process of training data preparation to create AI models
- Attempting to improve the accuracy of models, shorten runtimes, and optimize costs

For interested professors,

Please send us the required information through the Contact page on the website of the Institute for AI and Beyond ([here](#)). Please choose “Other” as the subject and enter the following message in the message field: “I would like to submit an idea for research/a commercializable technology/seed (pre-“high-cycle” research). Following this, state the name of the research topic you are interested in and your reason for proposing it. If your research topic is not among the following alternatives: “Optimizing cell-culture processing,” “Efficient and effective systems for AI staff training,” or “Automating the generation of AI training data,” please also attach an approximately one-page (A4 size) research overview via the “Attached Documents” field.

Our office will revert back to all faculty members who have contacted us. Later, we will set up meetings with SoftBank as necessary; however, we have planned that only information that can be disclosed without either party being obligated to maintain confidentiality will be shared in the first meeting (i.e., on a non-NDA basis). Please note that we have signed an NDA with SoftBank for the Beyond AI joint project, and we will disclose this agreement at an appropriate time.

Questions?

Please send any queries you may have regarding the invitation for proposals to the following address:

bai.kenkyushien.adm@gs.mail.u-tokyo.ac.jp

(Research Support Team at the Institute for AI and Beyond)