



## **Thyas Co. Ltd., a Kyoto University spin-off, Closes JPY 2.1B Series B Financing from Eight Roads Ventures/F-Prime to Develop Novel iPSC-derived Immune Cell Platform**

*— Financing supports advancement of development for various immune cell therapy platforms, including T cells, NK cells, and other immune cells, derived from hypoimmunogenic iPSC, and establishment of a bridgehead in the U.S.A. for global expansion —*

*Kyoto, Japan, February 21, 2022—* Thyas Co. Ltd., a Kyoto-based biotechnology company developing induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived immune cell therapies for cancer and infectious diseases, announced today the closing of JPY 2.1B Series B financing. The financing was co-led by Eight Roads Ventures Japan and F-Prime Capital Partners, the world's leading healthcare investor group, with follow-on participation by D3 LLC, a Japanese investor specialized in the bio-healthcare field.

Thyas, a Kyoto University spin-off, is pioneering producing iPS cell-derived T cells for the treatment of cancers and infectious diseases. In recent years, autologous CAR-T therapies have demonstrated remarkable efficacy. However, many challenges still remain for the production of sufficient numbers for clinical and commercial operations since quantity and quality of patient-derived T cells vary. Thyas' technology, originated by Dr. Shin Kaneko, a professor at the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA), Kyoto University, Japan, makes it possible to manufacture a large number of iPSC-derived immune cells with potent cytotoxicity and large proliferative capacity, which demonstrate significant efficacy and persistency in vivo. The therapeutic benefits are expected to be treating patients with no/few or exhausted immune cells, breaking through an immunosuppressive microenvironment with large numbers of immune cells, and completely removing cancer cells. Thyas is one of a few companies in the world that successfully established robust differentiation technologies to generate potent CD8ab expressing killer T cells, which have strong avidity to target tumor cells and enhanced migratory activities into tumor sites.

Proceeds from the financing will support the continuing development of iPSC-derived killer T cells, iPSC-derived CAR-NK cells recently-added to its portfolio of product candidates, and other exploratory-stage iPSC-derived immune cells. Thyas also initiates development of the next generation products from hypoimmunogenic iPSC. The financing and other supports from F-Prime and Eight Roads will also enable Thyas to expand its team to support the company's future growth, including establishment of operations in the U.S.A, where Thyas seeks candidates of executives, Sr./Jr. scientists, medical experts, and other experts in the field. Meanwhile, the Kyoto site continues to expand its R&D capacities. F-Prime and Eight Roads will give Thyas strategic advices for the company's growth and proactive support for syndicating next financing rounds.



“We are gratified to share with this exceptional investor group our vision that we bring the novel cell therapies to patients to cure solid cancers,” said Yasumichi Hitoshi, President and Chief Executive Officer of Thyas. “With help from F-Prime and Eight Roads, we can leverage the most advanced iPSC-to-immune cell differentiation technologies stemmed from our geographical advantages, i.e. Kyoto University, the Mecca of iPS Cell research, and combine them with the world’s topmost biotech infrastructure and a talent pool in the U.S.A. We are going to be a genuine international company.”

#### **About Thyas Co. Ltd.**

Founded in 2015, Thyas is a Kyoto University spinoff that promotes R&D for the clinical application of iPSC cell-derived immune cells based on the researches by Dr. Shin Kaneko at the Center for iPSC Cell Research and Application (CiRA), Kyoto University. Dr. Kaneko, the founder of Thyas, is the world’s first scientist to demonstrate T cell differentiation from human iPSC and in vitro/in vivo efficacy in 2013. Thyas is the pioneer of iPSC-to-T-cell differentiation technologies in the world, and the platformer to produce various immune cells to transduce any TCRs or CARs of interest. Thyas is looking for talented people worldwide to join its endeavor to make solid cancers curable diseases.

URL: <https://thyas.co.jp/en>

Careers: <https://thyas.co.jp/en/join/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/thyas/jobs>

#### **About Eight Roads Ventures**

Eight Roads Ventures is a global investment firm backed by Fidelity. Eight Roads Ventures invests in high-quality, high-growth companies in Asia, Europe, Israel, and the US, focusing on healthcare, technology, and consumers. Eight Roads is committed to making the companies it invests in leaders in their industries through access to patient capital, a robust network of resources, and a team of investment professionals with a proven track record of success.

URL: <https://eightroads.com/en/>

#### **About F-Prime Capital Partners**

F-Prime Capital is a global venture capital firm investing in healthcare and technology. For the past 50 years, our independent venture capital group has had the privilege of backing great entrepreneurs building groundbreaking companies. With over two billion dollars under management and a global portfolio of more than 200 companies, we champion those dedicated to creating positive change in the world. F-Prime is headquartered in Cambridge, MA, with offices in London, UK and San Francisco, CA.

URL: <https://fprimecapital.com/>



**About D3 LLC.**

D3 LLC is a Japanese investment and consulting firm specializing in the healthcare domain. With the mission of "contributing to the global health from Japan," D3 LLC not only provides funding for promising scientific and technological discovery or business ideas, but also works closely with entrepreneurs to develop impactful products and services and build vital business models to deploy them globally. D3 LLCs' professionals are with both business and science acumen and global networks to enable the mission.

URL: <https://www.d3growth.com>

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