



AVANT
GROUP

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To whom it may concern,

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**AVANT GROUP and Nomura Strategic Ventures Announce Financing to Support Cynch,
with Participation from DIVA CORPORATION AMERICA**

**- New financing will support Cynch's continued growth in AI-enabled tax and accounting
services for small and medium-sized businesses in the United States-**

AVANT GROUP CORPORATION (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Tetsuji Morikawa; hereinafter "the Company") and Nomura Strategic Ventures, LLC (Head Office: U.S.; CEO: Neeraj Hora; hereinafter "NSV") hereby announce the execution of financing to support Cynch (Head Office: U.S.; CEO: Nigel Duffy; hereinafter "Cynch"), a U.S.-based company applying AI to tax and accounting workflows for small and medium-sized businesses. The company's participation in the transaction was made through DIVA CORPORATION AMERICA (Head Office: California, U.S.; CEO: Tetsuji Morikawa; hereinafter "DCA"), its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary.

【Background of the Investment】

The financing will support Cynch's continued investment in its technology platform, expansion of its service capabilities, and growth of its customer base in the United States.

Cynch is an AI-native tax and accounting firm that combines advanced AI with deep domain expertise and empathetic client delivery. Its quantitative AI reasoning model is auditable, repeatable, and purpose-built for financial services. Cynch serves small businesses, a market increasingly constrained by talent, where efficiency, service quality, and scalability are critical.

DCA's participation in this transaction reflects our interest in emerging models that combine AI, software, and human-centered professional services in critical workflow domains. Through this financing support, AVANT GROUP aims to deepen its understanding of how AI is being applied in tax and accounting workflows, while supporting Cynch's next stage of growth.

Representatives from each company commented on this announcement as follows:

■ Comment from Nigel Duffy, CEO of Cynch

We see a significant underserved market shaped by the 'Silver Tsunami' in the U.S., as small businesses and CPA firms face an accelerating shortage of capacity and limited succession options. Tax is one of the most

critical functions in financial services, where accuracy is non-negotiable. Applying AI in this domain unlocks large productivity gains while improving the quality and scalability of service delivery. With deep expertise across tax, accounting, and AI, Cynch is positioned to disrupt this market.

■ Comment from Neeraj Hora, CEO of NSV

We are excited to facilitate this engagement between AVANT GROUP and Cynch.AI. NSV invests capital and supports the business development objectives of its portfolio companies.

■ Comment from Tetsuji Morikawa, Founder, Chairman & Group CEO of AVANT GROUP

At AVANT GROUP, we believe that one important path for growth in the AI era lies in what we call Inside Professional Services (IPS), a business model that combines deep domain expertise, continuous engagement, and software-enabled services. What Cynch is building strongly resonates with what we envision through IPS: a model where AI and distinctly human service come together in critical workflows. That resonance is what led us to support this transaction through DCA.

【About Cynch, Inc.】

Cynch is a U.S.-based, AI-native company applying advanced AI to tax and accounting workflows for small and medium-sized businesses. By combining software, workflow automation, and deep domain expertise, Cynch improves efficiency, service quality, and scalability in a complex and highly regulated market.

For further information about Cynch, visit <https://www.cynch.ai/>

【About Nomura】

Nomura is a financial services group with an integrated global network. By connecting markets East & West, Nomura services the needs of individuals, institutions, corporates and governments through its four business divisions: Wealth Management, Investment Management, Wholesale (Global Markets and Investment Banking), and Banking. Founded in 1925, the firm is built on a tradition of disciplined entrepreneurship, serving clients with creative solutions and considered thought leadership.

For further information about Nomura, visit <https://www.nomura.com/>

【About Nomura Strategic Ventures, LLC. (NSV)】

NSV is a subsidiary of Nomura Holding America Inc. and manages Nomura Strategic Ventures Fund 1, LP (NSV Fund 1) as well as the investment activities of the Nomura Group's Financial Innovation office in the United States.

【About DIVA CORPORATION AMERICA (DCA)】

DIVA CORPORATION AMERICA (“DCA”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of AVANT GROUP CORPORATION and serves as a vehicle for AVANT GROUP’s corporate investment activities in the United States, including venture investments. By building relationships within the local ecosystem and making selective investments in venture funds and startups, DCA seeks to capture emerging business trends and technology insights in the U.S. market and share those insights across the Avant Group.

【About AVANT GROUP】

AVANT GROUP CORPORATION (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Tetsuji Morikawa; listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Prime Market; Securities code: 3836), which operates as a holding company, contributes to 'management DX' by providing software development, sales and maintenance, as well as software-based consulting and BPO services to enable customers to make timely and appropriate management

decisions and promote management reform based on various types of information, both financial and non-financial.

Corporate website : <https://www.avantgroup.com/en>

The main operating subsidiaries of the Group (all wholly owned) are as follows:

AVANT CORPORATION

Internet Disclosure Co., Ltd.

ZEAL CORPORATION

DIVA CORPORATION

VISTA CORPORATION

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