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Press Release

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Idemitsu Awarded JAXA's "Space Strategy Fund" Grant to Advance Mass-Production Technology for Space-Grade CIGS Solar Cells

Idemitsu Kosan Co.,Ltd. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director , President: Noriaki Sakai; hereinafter referred to as "Idemitsu") has been selected under the "Space Strategy Fund"*¹ administered by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Idemitsu's proposal, titled "Development of High-Efficiency and Mass Production Technologies for [Space-Grade CIGS](#)*² [Solar Cells](#)" (the "Project"), was adopted under JAXA's technology development theme "Development/ Verification of Parts/Components for Establishing Satellites Supply Chain."

The grant for this Project has now been formally approved. Through this Project, Idemitsu will utilize a grant of up to JPY 3 billion*³ to advance technology development aimed at demonstrating and establishing mass-production capabilities for space-grade CIGS solar cells. On June 10, Idemitsu and JAXA held a joint kickoff meeting to confirm the Project's development plan and implementation framework.

*1 Space Strategy Fund: A fund established by JAXA to provide mid- to long-term support for technology development and commercialization initiatives led by private companies, universities, and other organizations in Japan's space sector.

*2 CIGS: A compound semiconductor material composed of copper (Cu), indium (In), gallium (Ga), and selenium (Se).

*3 Maximum funding amount. The amount may change depending on future stage-gate reviews and other factors.

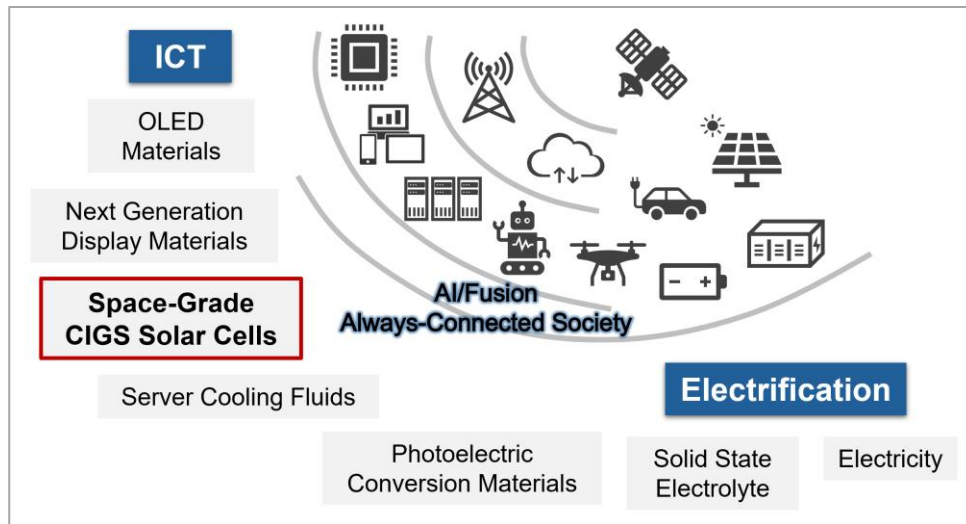


Presentation of the Project Selection Plaque (©JAXA)
Left: Cho, Assistant Program Officer, Space Strategy Fund and Professor, Chiba Institute of Technology
Right: Suzuki, Senior Executive Officer, Head of Innovation Center



Commemorative photo following the kickoff meeting
(Advanced Technology Research Laboratories)

In its [Medium-term Management Plan \(FY2026-2030\)](#), Idemitsu has identified the electrification and ICT convergence domain as one of its growth areas and is advancing the development of material solutions that support these fields. Current initiatives include the research, development, and commercialization of OLED materials, next-generation display materials that enable low power consumption and fast response, server cooling fluids for data centers, photoelectric conversion materials for high-speed communications, and solid electrolytes for all-solid-state lithium-ion batteries expected to deliver long service life, high output, and enhanced safety.



Idemitsu's key technology development themes in the fused field of electrification and ICT

As part of these initiatives, Idemitsu is also exploring opportunities in the space sector. With the expansion of IoT devices and connected mobility, communication networks have been rapidly evolving toward a society in which people and systems are constantly connected. In this context, the importance of space-based infrastructure, including satellites that support such a society, is expected to further increase. Solar cells that provide power to satellites are one of the essential technologies supporting such infrastructure. Leveraging its accumulated expertise in materials science and thin-film technologies, Idemitsu is advancing the development of space-grade CIGS solar cells.

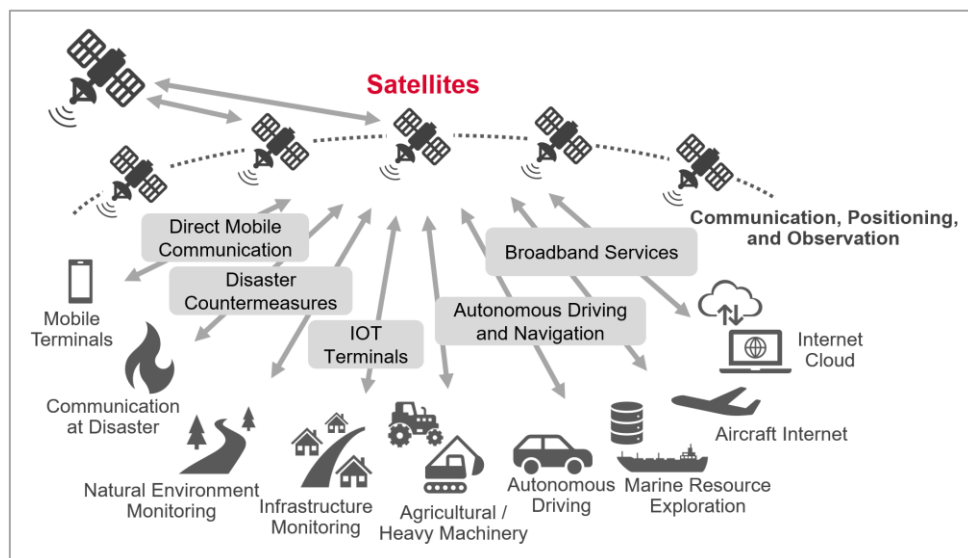


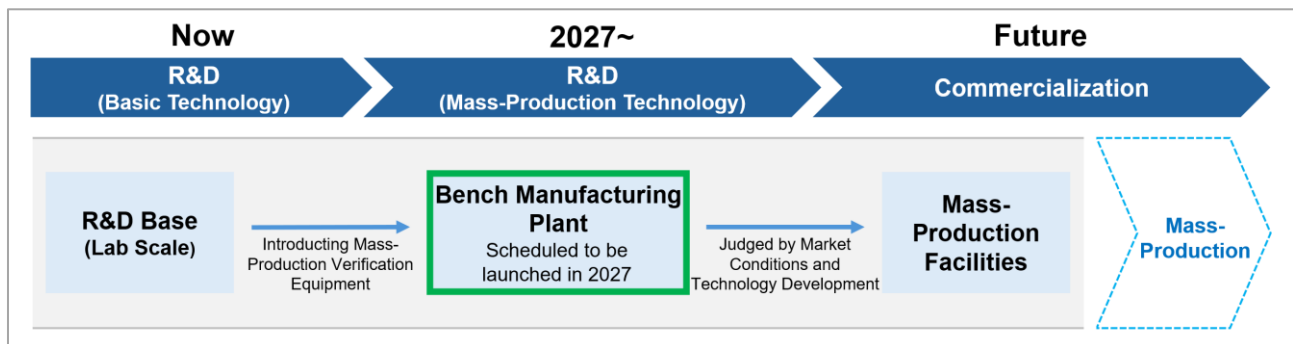
Illustration of an always-connected society enabled by the expanding use of satellites

Through this Project, Idemitsu will use the Space Strategy Fund grant to advance the following technology development activities in stages:

1. Development of lightweight, high-efficiency CIGS solar cells suitable for space applications, and related process technology.
2. Construction and launch of a bench manufacturing plant based on these process technologies developed in this Project (to be located in the R&D base within Advanced Technology Research Laboratories in Sodegaura, Chiba Prefecture; scheduled to begin operation in 2027).
3. Demonstration of continuous production using the bench manufacturing plant.

Idemitsu will consider establishing mass-production facilities based on market conditions and the progress of technology development, aiming to commercialize space-grade CIGS solar cells. By enabling the stable supply of this technology, Idemitsu seeks to contribute to the advancement of next-generation communications infrastructure and sustainable space development.

Idemitsu also aims to establish space-grade CIGS solar cells as a new pillar of its business, supporting long-term growth and sustainable value creation, while contributing to the supply chain supporting the global space industry.



Business roadmap of Idemitsu's space-grade CIGS solar cells

[Reference]

- [Idemitsu's space-grade CIGS solar cells](#)

Conventional solar cells used in space face several challenges, including degradation caused by intense radiation, high manufacturing costs, extensive use of rare metals, and limited production capacity due to the manufacturing process that requires long time. Idemitsu's CIGS technology offers strong resistance to radiation, which can contribute to longer operational lifetimes, while also reducing the amount of rare metals required. In addition, by leveraging its proprietary manufacturing technology, Idemitsu expects to achieve high production capacity while maintaining cost competitiveness.

- [Employee Interview \(JAXA × Idemitsu Innovation Strategy Department / Advanced Technology Research Laboratories\)](#)

Focusing on the in-orbit demonstration of next-generation space solar cells currently being conducted aboard JAXA's new space station resupply vehicle HTV-X1, a JAXA researcher and Idemitsu engineers share insights into the background of the technology development and discuss their perspectives on the future potential of the space business.

- Information: [Idemitsu to Establish Bench Manufacturing Plant for Space-Grade CIGS Solar Cells; Project Selected for JAXA's "Space Strategy Fund" \(April 22, 2026\)](#)

- Press release: [Idemitsu Kosan's CIGS Solar Cell for Space Application has been installed on JAXA's new space station resupply vehicle HTV-X1's SDX demonstration system \(October 17, 2025\)](#)