

The Tokyo One-Stop Business Establishment Center (TOSBEC) is a one-stop consultation service that can help you to complete all the administrative procedures required to start your business in Japan. It is jointly administered by the Japanese government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and has the main office in Akasaka and satellite centers in Shibuya and Yurakucho. In this edition, we interviewed Dr. Greg Gutmann, Founder & CEO of Gutmann Lab Inc., who develops solutions to complex scientific problems by using cutting-edge technologies such as AI and VR.

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User Relay Interview.....



From Academia to the Business World

I went to a liberal arts school in Ohio, where I ended up majoring in East Asian Studies and learning Japanese, in addition to Computer Science. Those studies took me to Nagoya for six months, my first time in Japan.

After my undergraduate studies, I interned at NASA before returning to Japan, where I obtained my PhD and stayed on as an assistant professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology. There, my goal was to build a molecular simulation system that could run interactively in VR even at massive scales. Nothing like the underlying system existed, so I had to create everything from scratch. Along the way, I wrote many research papers, but to me those were milestones. The real value was the platform I was building. One place we used it publicly was at Miraikan in Tokyo. For children, I made a version with hand tracking on a TV screen instead of a headset. They were so engaged manipulating the molecules that they kept asking questions about what they were looking at. Hopefully, someone will one day use the platform directly, or build on what I learned to make something even better.

Working in Japan with a Lot of Freedom

My original plan was to spend two years in Japan and then return to America. But my master's led to a PhD, and then to becoming an assistant professor. At any point I could have moved back, but I kept picking paths that were in Japan. Still, I felt that working within Japan's traditional business culture would not be the best fit for me. I wanted to find a way to live and work with a lot of freedom. Many of my professors were also involved in business and other activities outside academia. Through them, I was able to gain firsthand experience of how business works in Japan. I realized that starting my own company could provide me with the freedom and structure to continue pursuing my ideas.

I started seriously planning my own business in late 2025, around the time my first customer came into sight. Shortly before, I had also obtained permanent residency in Japan, so I could have made the jump right away. But I had a good job at the time, and I did not want to leave it until I was sure my company could start on solid ground. That point came in early 2026.

Consultation and introductory sessions are held as needed. Now accepting participants!

Available to everyone, free of charge!



Gutmann Lab Inc.
Founder & CEO: Greg Gutmann

Originally from Ohio, USA, Dr. Gutmann earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Tokyo Institute of Technology (now Institute of Science Tokyo). After working as an assistant professor, he founded

Gutmann Lab Inc. in Minato-ku, Tokyo in March 2026 to apply his research expertise to real-world challenges.

Website: <https://gutmannlab.com/>

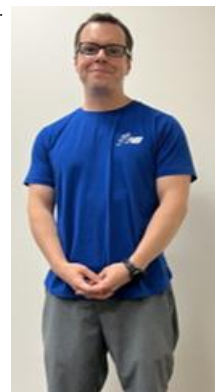
Many Resources and Networks in Tokyo

While attending many conferences in Tokyo, I came to appreciate its easy access to events, networking opportunities, and wealth of resources. Through meetup groups, I also met people who had already started companies, making those opportunities especially valuable to me. These connections, along with startup support from organizations such as TOSBEC, were important reasons for establishing my KK (Kabushiki Kaisha, a Japanese corporation) in Minato-ku, Tokyo, in March 2026.

Currently, my main customer is in the U.S. I expect that work to expand and am considering hiring additional engineers early next year to support it. I have also started an internal AI project and am advising a company in Japan's infrastructure sector on AI, which may lead to future business opportunities. Our Tokyo location provides a central, easily accessible base for the interviews and client meetings I plan to hold as the company grows.

Finding TOSBEC Through a Tokyo Meetup

I attended meetup groups, where I met other international residents, and that eventually led me to TOSBEC. Starting a company in Japan involves a lot of paperwork. The diagram on the TOSBEC website made the process much easier to understand and visualize. I used AI to complete as much of the paperwork as I could on my own. Then I came to TOSBEC, where the staff carefully reviewed my documents. I was able to submit my application with confidence.

**One point of advice from me**

Now that AI can amplify what one person can do, it is easier than ever for individuals and small teams to start their own company. Try to figure out your goal, use the help around you, such as TOSBEC, and take on the challenge of starting your own business.

【Tokyo One-Stop Business Establishment Center】

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