



JIC makes LP investment in Kepple Liquidity Fund 2

Tokyo, October 29, 2025 – Japan Investment Corporation (“JIC”) has announced its decision to make an LP investment of JPY3 billion in Kepple Liquidity Fund 2 (“Kepple LF2”), which is managed by Kepple Group, Inc. (“Kepple”).

JIC’s mission is to create a virtuous cycle of risk capital that supports the next generation of domestic industries by providing funds to help companies grow and strengthen their competitiveness through open innovation, promotion of private investment, and the development of investment professionals. To achieve its mission, JIC invests in policy-relevant strategic business areas through LP investments in funds under JIC’s umbrella and in private funds.

About LP investment in Kepple LF2

(1) Current status of investment market

The Japanese market is expected to see an increase in the number of domestic VC funds reaching their maturity dates, and startups that have received investment from these funds are expected to face growing pressure to exit.

In addition to IPO, VCs have several options for exiting from their startup investments, including M&A and secondary transactions, in which a VC transfers their investment to another investor. However, the number of secondary players—whose role is to acquire equity stakes from VCs—remains limited in Japan. Moreover, the supply of private risk capital to secondary funds is also limited, which is one of the reasons why VC funds are forced to pursue relatively small IPOs before their portfolio startups have fully matured and scaled in order to recover their investments within the fund’s lifespan. Consequently, creating secondary players has been an urgent priority for fostering growth opportunities for startups.

(2) About Kepple LF2

Kepple focuses on direct secondary investments, a segment within secondary investment strategies where private capital is particularly scarce. Kepple LF2 targets mid- to late-stage startups and pursues a strategy of acquiring existing shareholder stakes directly through secondary transactions. Kepple LF2 is expected to function as a vehicle for further boosting the growth curve of startups that were previously forced into smaller exits, such as small IPOs.

Through this investment, JIC aims to strengthen investment activities in mid- to late-stage startups through secondary transactions, thereby creating opportunities for domestic startups to achieve sufficient growth and, ultimately, contribute to the creation of unicorns. Development of the secondary market is also expected to contribute to growth of the domestic ecosystem by facilitating the circulation of risk capital, including the creation of new investment opportunities for startups through pre-IPO recovery of funds. Furthermore, through various forms of support for Kepple, including fund management assistance, JIC expects to generate spillover effects in terms of attracting private investment capital and expanded fundraising by institutional investors, thereby contributing to Kepple’s growth as a GP.

Overview of Kepple LF2

Name: Kepple Liquidity Fund 2
Established: June 2025
Duration: 7.5 years (with a possible extension of 2 years)
GP: Kepple Liquidity Fund 2 Limited Liability Partnership

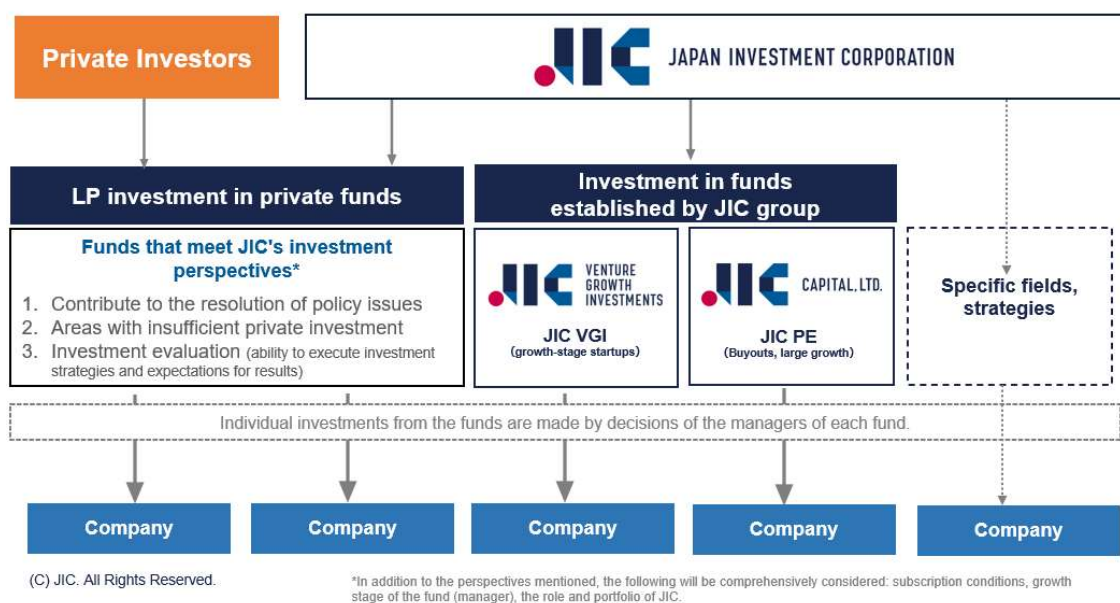
Overview of management company

Name: Kepple Group, Inc.
Established: May 2023
Address: Minato-ku, Tokyo
Representative: Representative Director, CEO, General Partner Takahiro Kanzaki

(Reference) JIC fund investment strategy

JIC's Fund Investment Strategy (overall) 株式会社産業革新投資機構

- JIC aims to provide risk capital to enhance the growth of next-generation companies and competitiveness based on its philosophy and its principle of complementing the private sector.
- JIC's investment strategy includes 1) investment in funds established under JIC's initiative and 2) LP investments in private funds.



(For reference)

Objectives of JIC's LP investments

1. Stimulate the supply of risk capital to help companies grow and to enhance their competitiveness
JIC intends to provide capital to areas that are essential from the perspective of strengthening industrial competitiveness but lack private investment capital (investment strategies, sectors, stages, regions, etc.) with the aim of stimulating private investment capital in the short term and medium-long term.
2. Create diverse investment teams, professionals, and strategies to support a virtuous cycle of risk capital
 - 1) Investment teams
JIC promotes growth of the investee funds as a leader in the intermediary of risk capital provided by institutional investors (pension funds, foreign investors, etc.) towards the establishment of future funds. This will be achieved by expanding experience and track records among its fund investment team (management company) and by further improving its ability to respond to institutional investors.
 - 2) Investment professionals
With the cooperation of industry organizations such as JVCA, institutional investors, and investee managers, JIC supports the research and introduction of best practices of managers and the development of human resources serving as investment professionals.
 - 3) Investment strategy
JIC will add diversity and depth to the market by making an LP investment in funds even for those with strategies that are not common in Japan yet, in response to their fund raising, including at the time of its establishment.

About Japan Investment Corporation (JIC)

Japan Investment Corporation (“JIC”) was established in September 2018 under the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act. JIC’s investment focus areas are creating a virtuous cycle of domestic investment and innovation; creating and fostering startups; leveraging promising untapped management resources lying dormant in local areas, including startups from academia and medium-sized companies; and promoting business restructuring in response to changes in market and business environments. JIC provides risk capital to these areas through funds independently established by JIC and LP investment in private funds to promote open innovation in Japan, strengthen the competitiveness of Japanese industries, and contribute to expansion of Japan’s investment ecosystem.

URL: <https://www.j-ic.co.jp/en/>

Press Contacts

Japan Investment Corporation

Corporate Planning, Communications Group:

Okumura (070-3960-3640), Nonomiya (080-1339-5207), Asada (080-8098-0445)

Tokyo Toranomom Global Square 9F,

1-3-1 Toranomom, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001