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To Members of the Press

Press Release

September 2, 2026
Liberaware Co., Ltd.

Liberaware and NEO Battery Materials Korea Sign Letter of Intent (LOI) for Domestic Production and Joint Commercialization of High-Performance Batteries for Drones

~HINOTATE also participates in the collaborative project to promote the construction of a domestic supply chain for critical components~

Liberaware Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture; CEO: Hongkyu Min; hereinafter "the Company") hereby announces that it has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with NEO Battery Materials Korea Co., Ltd. (Republic of Korea; CEO: Seong-Beom Heo; hereinafter "NBMK"), a Korean subsidiary of the Canadian company NEO Battery Materials Ltd., which develops next-generation battery technologies including silicon anode materials, to build a production system and pursue joint commercialization of high-performance batteries for drones in Japan. The Company's subsidiary, HINOTATE Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; CEO: Kohei Hayashi; hereinafter "HINOTATE"), will participate in the collaborative project based on this partnership.

Through this partnership, we will combine the knowledge of UAS development and social implementation possessed by the Company and HINOTATE with the development and production technologies for high-performance battery materials, electrodes, cells, packs, and BMS possessed by NBMK, to promote the construction of a domestic supply chain for critical components that support the Japan Sovereign UAS Platform.



■ Background

Amidst the increasing severity of natural disasters, aging infrastructure, labor shortages, and security requirements driven by changes in the international situation, the expansion of UAS utilization is expected in a wide range of fields, including disaster prevention and response, critical infrastructure maintenance, and national security.

Furthermore, as the importance of dual-use (military and civilian) technologies in the aerospace and defense sectors grows, it has become critical to establish stable domestic procurement and production bases not only for the UAS themselves but also for the critical components that determine stable operation and performance. Batteries, in particular, are one of the critical components that directly affect a UAS's flight time, cruising range, and payload capacity.

The Company has developed an integrated business model ranging from the research, development, and production of domestic drones capable of operating in special environments—such as indoor, confined, dark, and non-GPS environments—to on-site deployment, operation, maintenance, and data acquisition and analysis. Through these efforts, in addition to UAS development, we have cultivated the social implementation capabilities necessary for continuous operation in actual field environments.

HINOTATE is a subsidiary established by the Company in August 2026 to promote the construction of a domestic dual-use UAS platform capable of being utilized in fields such as disaster prevention and response, critical infrastructure maintenance, and national security, based on the technology and social implementation capabilities cultivated by the Company.

Meanwhile, NBMK is a Korean subsidiary of NEO Battery Materials Ltd., headquartered in Canada. Headquartered in Ansan, South Korea, with battery electrode and battery production facilities in Gimje, NBMK is expanding its development and production system for high-performance batteries, including those for drone and robotics applications, based on next-generation battery technologies such as silicon anode materials. NEO Battery Materials has confirmed in its own tests that its drone batteries utilizing silicon anode technology offer over 50% more capacity and approximately 40% higher energy density compared to conventional commercial drone batteries, and is continuing to advance technical development toward higher performance.

Under these circumstances, we have entered into this Letter of Intent with the aim of building a domestic production and stable supply system for key components that support the Japan Sovereign UAS Platform, by combining the knowledge of UAS development and social implementation possessed by our company and HINOTATE with the technology and production base related to battery materials, electrodes, cells, packs, and BMS possessed by NBMK.

■ Overview of this Partnership

This Letter of Intent aims to link NBMK's battery development and production base in South Korea with the UAS development and social implementation base possessed by our company and HINOTATE in Japan, to examine the possibility of building a production and supply system for high-performance drone batteries in Japan and conducting joint business. Specific investment amounts, production volumes, purchase volumes, technology licenses, and business commencement dates are scheduled to be determined by separate agreements following future business feasibility evaluations and discussions.

Going forward, the three companies will proceed with discussions and examinations primarily on the following matters:
・Production facilities, equipment, land, and production capacity in Japan ・Procurement and supply systems for electrode materials, cell components, BMS, cases, etc. ・Cell assembly, battery pack production, inspection, and quality control systems ・Procurement of materials and supply chain construction within Japan ・Cooperation toward technical support, human resource development, and quality certification acquisition ・Business operation structures such as joint venture companies and investment methods ・Supply systems to domestic and international UAS manufacturers, including Liberaware ・Possibility of future domestic production and supply of major materials and components in Japan

■ **Future Outlook**

Through this partnership, our company and HINOTATE will examine the construction of a domestic production and supply system for batteries that support the performance and stable operation of UAS, and aim to build a development system that optimizes the aircraft and battery as a single unit.

Moving forward, while taking into account market formation, demand trends, domestic production systems, and support systems from the government and local public entities, we will discuss and examine with the three companies the possibility of domestic production and supply in Japan, including electrodes and other major materials and components, if business feasibility is confirmed, in addition to supply utilizing NBMK's production base in Gimje, South Korea.

■ **Positioning of this Partnership in our Growth Strategy**

Our Group is promoting the construction of a "Japan Sovereign UAS Platform" as one of our growth strategies, while expanding the UAS technology and social implementation capabilities cultivated in industrial infrastructure inspection to areas such as disaster prevention and response, critical infrastructure maintenance, and national security.

This partnership is an initiative to build a domestic production and supply system for batteries, which are key components of UAS, toward the realization of that goal. We will continue to strengthen our domestic foundation in each area of aircraft, key components, production, and operation, and aim to build a stable development, production, and supply system for domestic UAS.

Although we expect the impact of this matter on our consolidated financial results for the current fiscal year to be minor, we believe that it will contribute to the promotion of our Group's growth strategy and the enhancement of corporate value in the medium to long term. We will promptly announce any matters that should be disclosed in the future.

▼ **About Liberaware Co., Ltd.**

Liberaware Co., Ltd. has the mission of "Create a society where safety is accessible to all." We develop world-class, smallest-class drones specialized for inspection and measurement in "narrow, dark, and dangerous" "indoor spaces," which are rare globally, and provide infrastructure inspection and maintenance solutions by analyzing the image data collected by these drones and providing it to customers. We will continue to strive to "Making invisible risks visible," which is also our vision, and deliver a safe and peaceful society to people.

Company Name: Liberaware Co., Ltd.
Representative: Hongkyu Min
Location: 3-3-1 Chuo, Chuo-ku, Chiba City, Chiba
Established: August 22, 2016
Business Description:
・Drone Business: Survey, inspection, and surveying services using drones, etc., sales and rental services of in-house developed drones, etc.
rental services
・Digital Twin Business: Image processing and data analysis services of data acquired by drones, etc., and license provision of the company's image
processing technology
・Solution Development Business: Contract development business providing a wide range of solutions from hardware to software
URL: https://liberaware.co.jp/
X Account: https://x.com/liberaware

▼ **About HINOTATE Co., Ltd.**

HINOTATE Co., Ltd. is a company that inherits the philosophy of "keeping people out of dangerous places" cultivated by its parent company, Liberaware Co., Ltd., and transforms domestic UAS and robotics into a force that protects society.

Company Name: HINOTATE Co., Ltd.
Representative: Kohei Hayashi
Location: 2F Yasukuni Gaien Building, 3-8-10 Kudan-minami, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Established: August 21, 2026
Business Description:
・Research, development, design, manufacturing, sales, operational support, and maintenance of domestic dual-use UAS and related solutions
・Research, development, and provision of unmanned systems and related software/systems utilizing physical AI and other artificial intelligence technologies
・Construction of domestic supply chains including components for unmanned systems, and collaboration with related companies and organizations
・Development, operation, and provision of various services for unmanned systems in fields with high public interest, such as disaster prevention and response, critical infrastructure maintenance, and national security.
URL:https://www.hinotate.com/

▼About NEO Battery Materials Korea Co., Ltd.
NEO Battery Materials Korea Co., Ltd. (NBMK) is the Korean subsidiary of Canada's NEO Battery Materials Ltd. Based on next-generation battery technology, including silicon anode materials, the company promotes the development and commercialization of electrodes, cells, battery packs, and BMS, and is working to build high-performance battery solutions, including those for drone and defense applications.
Company Name: NEO Battery Materials Korea Co., Ltd. (NBMK)
Representative: Spencer Sungbum Huh
Location: Korea Head Office - #819, Grand City Signature Tower, 15, Haeyang 3-ro, Sangnok-gu, Ansan-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea
Production Plant: 170, Jayumuyeok-ro, Baeksan-myeon, Gimje-si, Jeonbuk State, Republic of Korea
Business Description: Research, development, manufacturing, and commercialization of silicon anode materials, electrodes, cells, battery packs, and BMS; development of high-performance battery solutions for drone and defense applications
URL:https://www.neobatterymaterials.com/

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