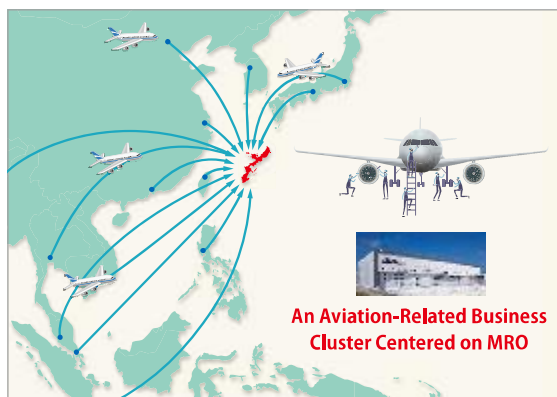


Aviation-Related Business Cluster in Okinawa

(1) An Aviation-Related Business Cluster Centered on MRO

Leveraging its strategic location near Asia, where aviation demand is expected to grow, Okinawa Prefecture aims to establish Japan's first aviation-related business cluster focusing on Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO). As the first step in this initiative, an aircraft maintenance facility was established at Naha Airport and began operations in November 2018, serving as the starting point for the aviation-related business cluster. MRO Japan Co., Ltd., the only specialized aircraft maintenance company in Japan, operates within this facility. As a core company of the aviation-related business cluster that undertakes aircraft maintenance, it has steadily expanded its operations, creating new jobs and having positive economic impacts. With aircraft maintenance at its core, Okinawa Prefecture aims to develop a unique MRO-centered aviation-related business cluster, incorporating the maintenance of equipment and engines, storage and distribution of parts, provision of maintenance-related technical support, and the training of human resources for employment in aviation-related industries.



(2) Progress and Achievements in Establishing the Aviation-Related Business Cluster

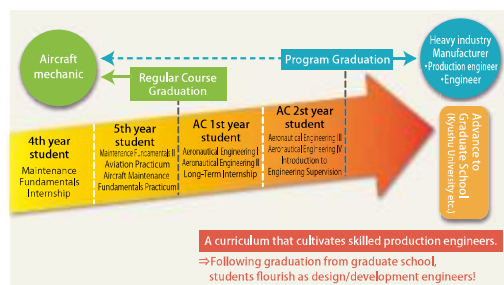
Since the launch of the aircraft maintenance facility, the number of employees in Okinawa's aviation-related industries has grown to approximately 700 as of April 2024, demonstrating the industry's role as a key employer of engineering professionals. The National Institute of Technology, Okinawa College has established an Aviation Engineer Program to develop skilled professionals for the aviation-related industry. Graduates have found employment at airlines, aircraft maintenance companies, and other aviation-related businesses. Additionally, some graduates from local universities and high schools have also secured jobs at maintenance companies. Over the five years since 2019, new demand within the aviation-related business cluster has grown significantly, contributing an estimated 26.6 billion yen in total economic impact. As the core of the cluster, the aircraft maintenance business operator has expanded beyond domestic airline services. In 2022, it obtained aircraft maintenance facility certification from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), enabling it to attract maintenance contracts from international airlines. The company has also diversified its business by entering the leaseback maintenance sector, further solidifying the foundation of the aviation-related business cluster.

■ Achievements of the aviation-related business cluster in Okinawa *as of March 2024



(*1) Cumulative results of cluster companies from 2019 to 2023

■ Outline of Aviation Engineering Program



Source: Website for the Okinawa National College of Technology

(3) Toward a New Stage in the Aviation-Related Business Cluster

Okinawa Prefecture is working to enhance the business environment toward a new stage in the aviation-related business cluster. We aim to further expand the scale of our aircraft maintenance business, including the launch of surveys for the establishment of new hangars, and to expand and add value to our business domain with a cargo plane refurbishment service. In addition, as the potential second core of the cluster, we will begin full-scale studies on attracting companies related to equipment and engine maintenance. With the expansion of the aircraft maintenance business and the maintenance of equipment and engines, new demands are expected to arise. We will actively work on attracting businesses in logistics and parts industries, manufacturing and processing, and BPO in technical fields. For the growth of the cluster, it is essential to secure and develop human resources talented in aviation to support these businesses. In an effort to expand the talent pool in the aviation sector, we will hold joint briefings for aviation-related industries, in collaboration with cluster companies, as well as aviation courses and events in cooperation with educational institutions in Okinawa.



	2019~	2024~	2029~
Aircraft MRO	Aircraft maintenance Aircraft coating	(Scale expanded) (Coating consultation started) EASA certification Leaseback maintenance started Cargo plane (P2F*) refurbishment started	Steady growth as the core of the cluster
Equipment MRO		Feasibility study	Attracted as the second core
Engines MRO			
Logistics and parts	Site location by aircraft maintenance parts and materials distributors	Feasibility study in cooperation with MRO Possibility of a large parts center	
Manufacturing and processing	Generate demand in line with the expansion of MRO	Local manufacturing and processing businesses participate in the aviation sector Attract aviation-related manufacturing and processing businesses from other prefectures	
Technical fields BPO	Maintenance data management	Positive effects on surrounding industries Manufacturer technical service started	
Talent acquisition and development	Aviation Engineer Program	Efforts to expand the base (industry-administration-academia initiative)	Retain human resources to support the cluster

(*) P2F: Passenger to Freight

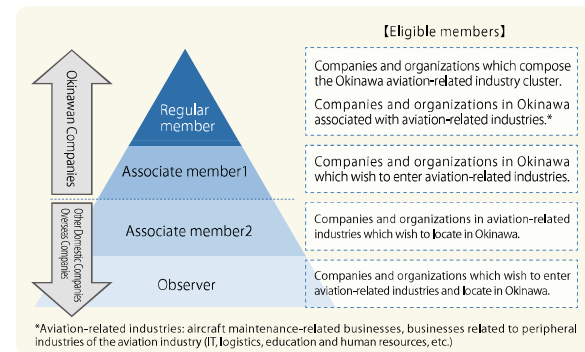
(4) About the Okinawa Aviation Industry Cluster Promotion Association

The Okinawa Aviation Industry Cluster Promotion Association was established with the goal of promoting aviation-related industries in order to create a cluster with a concentration of aviation-related industries and peripheral industries, centered on aircraft maintenance, with 29 members having participated as of the end of December 2024. Through regular information provision and opinion exchange, the Association collaboratively undertakes initiatives for securing and developing aviation talent in Okinawa in response to increasing demand.

Initiatives

- Disseminating information via digital newsletters and websites, etc.
- Productivity improvement through collaboration among companies
- Promotion for public relations and sales channel development
- Measures to secure and develop talented individuals to lead aviation-related industries
- Encouraging companies entering aviation-related industries

Joining this association is free of charge. For details on applying and registered members, please refer to the website on the right (see 2D Code).



The IT Industry



Okinawa IT/DX information website
ResorTech Okinawa

ResorTech Okinawa is a suite of initiatives in Okinawa for social and economic DX to contribute to the realization of a digital society. It spearheads various measures, including the promotion of collaboration between IT and other industries.

The website provides advanced examples and support information useful to local companies promoting DX!

Roles of the website



The website also features the case of MRO Japan Co., Ltd., which has attracted attention for its advanced initiatives utilizing the international logistics hub industrial cluster system.

Read the article →
(Japanese language only)



ResorTech EXPO 2025 in Okinawa Largest IT & DX Trade Fair in Okinawa

An international IT trade fair will be held, bringing together many companies from Japan and overseas to exhibit solutions and to hold business matching opportunities, DX-related seminars, and symposiums.

ResorTech EXPO 2025 in Okinawa
Some scenes at the trade fair

- Participating companies
255 companies and organizations
- Visitors (including online visitors)
17,190 persons
- Sponsors
52 organizations
- Reverse business negotiations
64 cases

Medium- and small-size companies, local governments, and industrial organizations have received suggestions from companies that exhibited in the trade fair!



Next time 2025.11.13 THU >>> 11.14 FRI

ResorTech EXPO in Okinawa Executive Committee Secretariat
(At the IT Innovation and Strategy Center Okinawa)

OKINAWA SUNTORY ARENA

ResorTech EXPO

resortech@isc-okinawa.org



This is a platform that enables the resolution of issues by linking the issues/needs of local industries with IT service providers that provide IT solutions. You can post your issues/needs on the website and receive proposals from IT service providers!



Information gathering
You can search for registered IT solutions and specialized IT service providers based on your needs.

Direct approach to the company
If you find an IT solution or company that matches your interests, you can submit a question or a request for consultation on the website.



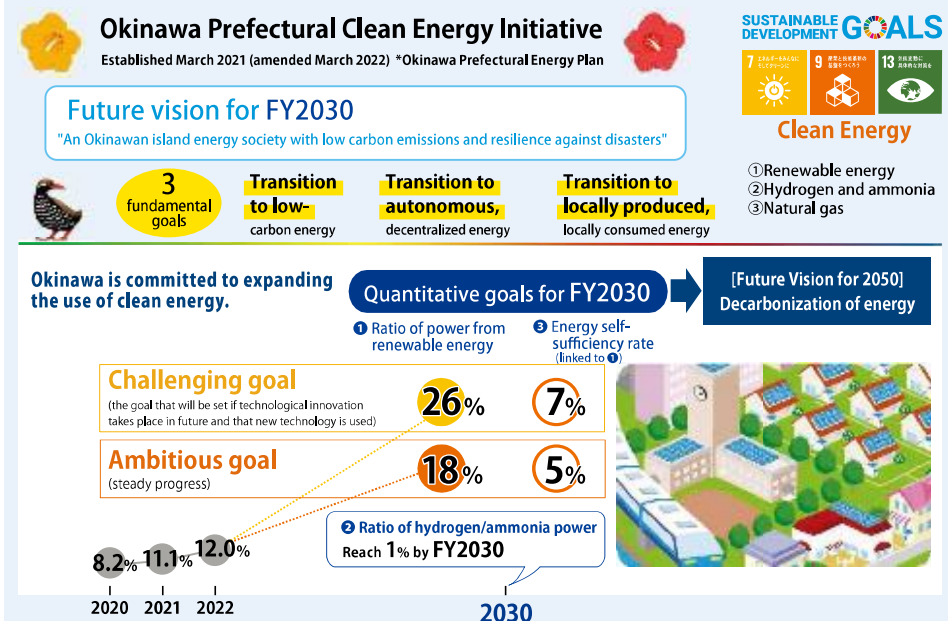
ICT Industry Support Guide

Here you can find helpful information for starting an IT or digital-related business or setting up a new site here, including Okinawa's support systems and extensive infrastructure that supports IT business and industry DX.



Okinawa's Energy Policy for Achieving a Carbon-Free Society by FY2050

To play its part in building a carbon-free society by FY2050, Okinawa is promoting the expansion of clean energy facilities, while encouraging the use of tax incentives, such as the industrial innovation promotion zone system.



Okinawa Prefecture One-Stop Consultation Desk for Clean Energy

Okinawa Prefecture has established a one-stop consultation desk to support the expansion of clean energy in the region. This consultation desk provides information and an advisory service on various support programs, such as subsidies and tax incentives, offered by the national and prefectural governments to those considering the installation of renewable energy facilities. Additionally, it offers consultation and support to local municipalities aiming to increase the adoption of renewable energy.

Okinawa Prefecture One-Stop Consultation Desk for Clean Energy

- Information provision and consultation service on subsidies, etc.**
 - Providing information on subsidies and other support programs offered by the national and prefectural
- Promotion of special tax incentives on renewable energy facilities, etc.**
 - Special tax incentives for renewable energy facilities, etc. (industrial innovation promotion zone system)
 - ◆ Investment tax deduction (up to 15% deducted from corporate tax), etc.
 - ◆ Property tax exemption
- Consultation service and support for local municipalities to expand the introduction of renewable energy**
 - Consultation service and support for local municipalities that aim to expand the introduction of renewable energy

Okinawa Prefecture One-Stop Consultation Desk for Clean Energy

Check the 2D code on the right for contact information and details.



(Japanese language only)

Benefits of introducing renewable energy facilities




Inquiries

Industrial Policy Division TEL +81-98-866-2330 FAX +81-98-866-2440

The Bioindustry

Building a world-class glocal community

Okinawa Biocommunity



Certified by the Cabinet Office in 2022

Incubation facilities


Incubation facilities such as Okinawa Health Biotechnology Research & Development Center and Okinawa Biotechnology Business Support Center carry out cutting-edge research and development using biotechnology.

[Inquiries]

Okinawa BioCommunity office

TEL : +81-98-982-1100

Website : <https://okibic.jp/>



Okinawa Biocommunity office Website

(Japanese language only)

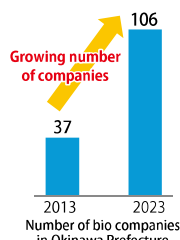
Okinawa's strengths

- As the only prefecture in Japan with a subtropical oceanic climate, Okinawa has among the greatest biodiversity in Japan, particularly in marine life, providing an abundance of resources for the bio industry.
- In cooperation with Biocommunity Kansai (BioK), Fukuoka Bio Community, LINK-J, AIST, and other bio-related organizations in Japan, we provide support for research, technology, and product development, as well as information sharing and business matching through these bio communities.

Cooperation

Measures



- Holds and participates in information sharing events for bio-related companies, universities, research institutes, etc.
- Information sharing at exhibitions in other prefectures (BioJapan, etc.)
- Specialized support from experts in the bio field (advisors available)
- Training and hands-on experience for local students (for securing and developing human resources)



Growing number of companies



2013: 37
2023: 106

Number of bio companies in Okinawa Prefecture

Networking for collaboration

Information sharing at exhibitions

Developing bio talent to lead the future

Okinawa Health Biotechnology Research & Development Center

Initiatives to promote bio industry

Support and personnel development for research, development, commercialization, etc.

[Inquiries] Manufacturing Promotion Division, Department of Commerce, Industry and Labor

TEL: +81-98-866-2337

Research, development and business support

- Initiatives to promote commercialization in the bio industry

Support (subsidies) for research and development by current and prospective bio companies

- Bio-Related Industry Promotion Support Project

Support for matching through bio communities and solving problems (fund procurement, sales route discovery, etc.)

Development of advanced personnel for the bio field

Health and Medical data science personnel training project

Bio-Informatics personnel training program (29 classes in 2023) was provided to cultivate individuals capable of actively participating in drug discovery, commercialization of health food, and many other fields.

■ Target: Working adults, researchers, and students in Okinawa Prefecture

Bio-informatics personnel training courses

- Introductory course: Data processing and statistics analyses using Excel
- Intermediate course: Learn about cases and applied technology of bio-informatics
- Advanced course: Aiming to pass the certification exam for bioinformatics engineers

Health foods

[Inquiries] Okinawa Prefecture Health Industry Association



TEL: +81-98-975-6230

Website: <http://www.kenshoku-oki.com/>

Platform to support companies in strengthening their brand power

This platform helps health food companies in Okinawa to find strategic, cross-sectional solutions to issues they face in areas such as functionality research, marketing, product development and exploring sales routes.

WELLNESS OKINAWA JAPAN (WOJ): A proprietary certification system

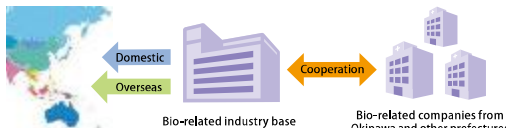
To qualify for this certification, the certifying body must be satisfied that the product has functional value, is safe, and possesses emotional value unique to Okinawa.

Establishing a base for bio-related industries

- With a geographical advantage due to its location in the heart of Asia, Okinawa Prefecture attracts attention as a business base ideally situated for expanding into Asia. It is expected to become the center for a growing number bio industries with increasing demand in the future.
- To support the growth of bio businesses in Okinawa from research and development to commercialization, we are establishing a new industrial base for manufacturing and related services.

[Inquiries] Manufacturing Promotion Division, Department of Commerce, Industry and Labor

TEL: +81-98-866-2337











Domestic Cooperation Overseas

Bio-related industry base

Bio-related companies from Okinawa and other prefectures

The Research Institutes

Okinawan research institutes such as the Okinawa Industrial Technology Center and the Okinawa Biotechnology Business Support Center are located in the Uruma/Okinawa district, an international logistics hub. Various other research institutes are located within the University of the Ryukyus, which is within a 30-minute drive. We support businesses in the area through applied research, human resources training, and the provisions of scientific and technological information based on an organic collaboration with the institutions.

	Name	Location	Main Business or Area of Research	TEL	QR
Okinawa	Okinawa Industrial Technology Center	Uruma City	Providing various technical services to support the resolution of technical issues and product development for companies located in Okinawa. Conducts experimental research for chemistry, food, ceramics, and machinery and metals.	+81-98-929-0111	 (Japanese language only)
	Okinawa Mold Technology Institute		Trains engineers, provides equipment, and conducts experimental research relating to molds	+81-98-929-0280	 (Japanese language only)
	Okinawa Health Biotechnology Research & Development Center		Incubation facility where companies can utilize research equipment to conduct bio health related research Helping to turn research results using biotechnology into businesses and products.	+81-98-923-1768	 (Japanese language only)
	Okinawa Biotechnology Business Support Center			+81-98-934-8435	 (Japanese language only)
	Okinawa Life Science Research Center		Conducts advanced research and development for pharmaceuticals and food with health-promoting benefits, utilizing the regional characteristics and biological resources of Okinawa (Satisfies physical containment (P2) safety requirements)	+81-98-982-1060	 (Japanese language only)
University of the Ryukyus	Molecular Life Science Research Facility	Nishihara Town	Functional Genomics; Molecular Biotechnology; Environmental and Biological Information; Vaccinology and Vaccine Immunology; and Molecular Microbiology	+81-98-895-8943	 (Japanese language only)
	Research Facility Center		Research and development, and collection and provision of information on analytics/measurement technologies	+81-98-895-8967	 (Japanese language only)
	University of the Ryukyus Center for the Promotion of Industry-Academic-Government Collaborations		The University of the Ryukyus research activities include supporting research and development with non-affiliated institutions outside the university, supporting the protection and utilization of intellectual property, and supporting enterprise.	+81-98-895-8031 +81-98-895-8597	 (Japanese language only)

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST)

The Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University is a graduate university offering world-class research and educational standards in the field of natural sciences.

For educational and research activities, interdisciplinary research projects that combine the fields of neuroscience, molecular, cellular, and developmental biology; mathematical and computational sciences; environmental and ecological sciences; physics; chemistry, and engineering and applied science are being carried out. It is anticipated that a cluster of intellectual industries will be formed around the facility by attracting corporate research institutes and venture companies.



National Institute of Technology, Okinawa College

The National Institute of Technology, Okinawa College (NIT Okinawa) comprises four departments: Mechanical Systems Engineering, Information and Communications Systems Engineering, Media Information Engineering, and Bioresources Engineering. Through five years of consistent education, the college nurtures creative and practical engineers who can contribute to society with a highly humane, ethical, and international outlook in addition to expertise and technical training.

With its solid educational system, NIT Okinawa is contributing to industrial growth in Okinawa through training programs and technology exchange/consultation opportunities in collaboration with local governments and industries.



■ Details regarding incubation facilities, etc.



Okinawa Health Biotechnology Research & Development Center

The Okinawa Health Biotechnology Research & Development Center is an incubation facility that conducts research and development regarding health foods and pharmaceutical drugs, with the purpose of promoting industrial development in Okinawa.

Rental lab	Area (m ²): 20.32m ² ~167.74m ²	Inquiries: +81-98-934-8435 Tenancy period: 5 years in principle
	Rent (monthly): ¥2,200 per m ²	
	Number of rooms: 16	

Main support

- Explanations on operating equipment, technical consultations
- Advice on development of health food products and technical elements of ingredient analysis
- Support for commercialization, advice on product development

Main machinery and instruments



(Japanese language only)

Okinawa Health Biotechnology Research & Development Center offers a variety of equipment that organizations can use to carry out research and development or improve their production technology. (Tax exemption for machine usage fees available)

Analysis instruments	Nuclear magnetic resonance apparatus, liquid chromatography quadrupole mass spectrometer, gas chromatography-mass spectrometer, time-of-flight tandem mass spectrometer, DNA sequencer, amino acid analyzer, etc.
Proof-of-concept equipment	Jar fermenter (90L, 600L), disk-type centrifugal separator, sterilizer, powder sterilization device, coarse grinder, pneumatic pulverizer, fine grinder, low-temperature dryer, etc.



Okinawa Bio Industries Center

Okinawa Bio Industries Center is a post incubation facility that offers support to businesses that are approaching the commercialization of research development and research results made using biotechnology, and we aim to further develop biotechnology related industries in Okinawa.

Rental lab	Area (m ²): 34m ² ~232m ²	Inquiries: +81-98-923-1768 Tenancy period: no limit
	Rent (monthly): ¥2,400 per m ²	
	Number of rooms: 31	

Main support

- Okinawa Bio Industries Center provides various forms of support through its industry-academia-government collaboration network.
- Advice from experts about matters such as practical use and exploration of sales routes

Use of equipment

Okinawa Health Biotechnology Research & Development Center has analysis equipment on site for organizations to use. (Organizations may be eligible for a fee reduction or exemption.)



Okinawa Life Science Research Center

The Okinawa Life Science Research Center is a rental lab with the purpose of promoting and industrializing Okinawan technology in bio/life sciences that coordinates research and development with venture enterprises and research institutions, that has is the first P2 level facility for commercialization in the prefecture.

Rental lab	Area (m ²): 60.75m ² ~243m ²	Inquiries: +81-98-982-1060 Tenancy period: less than 1 year (renewable)
	Rent (monthly): ¥2,404 per m ²	
	Number of rooms: 16	

Main support

- Support for entrepreneurs**
 - Okinawa Life Science Research Center provides various forms of support for companies relocating to Okinawa, including support for entrepreneurs who have relocated to Okinawa, support for promotional activities, and matching with potential partners.
- Support for companies**
 - 25% reduction of room rate for small and medium enterprises that have been in business for less than five years. *Conditions apply

Use of equipment

Automated incubators, thermostatic shaking incubators, high-speed refrigerated centrifuges, centrifugal evaporators, microchip electrophoresis equipment, quadrupole mass spectrometers, Benchtop lyophilizers (large and small), thermal cyclers, digital PCR, next-generation sequencer systems, animal testing facilities (with individual animal breeding control units), etc.



Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST)

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (hereinafter referred to as OIST) aims to contribute to Okinawa's autonomous development and improving global science and technology through the implementation of internationally exceptional education and research regarding science and technology.

The OIST Innovation Incubator, located in the R&D zone on campus, is a facility for R&D startups. It is open to startups as well as companies that seek collaboration with OIST.

Rental lab	Rent (monthly): ¥7,080~84,000	Inquiries: incubator-help@oist.jp *You can rent by room, or by desk or bench *Membership fees not included *Organizations must sign up for membership to use the equipment.

Facility/service fee list

Type	Monthly
Exclusive desk	¥ 7,080
Exclusive office (20m ²)	¥ 51,200
Lab bench	¥ 22,200
Exclusive lab (25m ²)	¥ 84,000
Membership fee (per individual)	¥ 2,500



OIST website

※Please check the OIST website for the latest information on rents for the new incubation facility.

To be completed in spring 2025

Please check the OIST website for the latest information.

[New incubation facility]



Conceptual image

■ Shared facilities and equipment

- Shared research equipment (refrigerators, culturing equipment, centrifugal separators)
- Meeting rooms for up to 8 people (Zoom conference equipment, projector, screen)
- Event space for up to 25 people (40m²)
- Conference rooms in OIST Conference Center Access to event space (additional usage fee applies)
- Wi-Fi, multifunction printers ● Soundproofed phone booths ● Shared kitchen
- Parking area

■ Services for members

- Access to members' and investors' network
- Participation in entrepreneur development events held by OIST
- Access to the café and convenience store on campus
- Access to OIST's shared equipment (additional usage fee applies)
- Registration
- Posting on OIST website
- Access to experts for patenting, funding and staffing

University of the Ryukyus Center for the Promotion of Industry-Academic-Government Collaborations

University of the Ryukyus' research activities include support for research and development by outside organizations (such as those in the private sector), support for protection and use of intellectual property, and support for companies. The purpose of this work is to contribute to regional development and vitalization of the university's education, research and development activities.

[Fees, etc.]

- ① Use of the building for industry-academia-government collaborations:
 - 1,570 yen per m² per month (including utilities)
 - Office area only: 12 rooms, 17-66m² Laboratories: 2 rooms, 10.5m², 21m²
- ② General regional revitalization research building:
 - 1,620 yen per m² per month (excluding utilities) Office area only: 11 rooms, 21-42m²
 - Laboratories: 2 rooms, 20m², 41m²

Both buildings are for industry-academia-government collaboration activities conducted at University of the Ryukyus, and are available for joint research between outside organizations such as private companies and faculty and other parties affiliated with the university (including students) or for application of research results.

*Application period for FY2025 has closed.



Your Guide to Business in Okinawa - All in This Book.

Okinawa Prefectural Government offices outside Okinawa prefecture

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(Japanese language only)

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Nagoya Information Center

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The official social media account of the business
facility promotion division



Okinawa Prefectural Government offices overseas



(Japanese language only)

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Okinawa Prefecture Department of Commerce, Industry and Labor, IndustrialSite Promotion Division

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E-mail:indus-pr@pref.okinawa.lg.jp

[https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/kensei/
kencho/1000011/1017705/1017714.html](https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/kensei/kencho/1000011/1017705/1017714.html)



(Japanese language only)



SDGs are promoted in Okinawa Prefecture.

March 2025