

EU BUSINESS HUB @ WORLD HEALTH EXPO 2026

30 June – 04 July 2026

BUSINESS MISSION OVERVIEW

The EU Business Hub programme will select and support up to **50 European SMEs and start-ups** in the healthcare and medical equipment sector to attend the World Health Expo 2026, in Japan at INTEX Osaka. The 2025 Japan Health (WHX's predecessor) exhibition hosted 425 exhibiting companies and almost 10,000 visitors, making it one of Japan's leading healthcare and medical technology events.

The EU Business Hub will provide the **EU Pavilion** at the exhibition, a valuable platform for companies to showcase their products and services, demonstrations, networking, and customer acquisition. This business mission will take place **from June 30 to July 4, 2026**, and provides an excellent opportunity for networking and connecting with potential Japanese business partners and industry leaders. Many Japanese corporations send representatives and have exhibition booths at the World Health Expo. At the EU Pavilion, a dedicated team of business coaching staff and professional interpreters will be available to promote European companies' products and technologies, assuring maximum exposure to exhibition visitors. A networking event during the mission will increase the opportunities to connect with potential business partners and clients.

This business mission presents **a unique opportunity** for European SMEs and startups to establish valuable contacts, exhibit their solutions at the EU pavilion, build long-lasting relationships with Japanese enterprises and explore new business avenues together.



TARGET AUDIENCE

European SMEs involved in the medical and healthcare equipment sector, including technologies, such as:

- ▶ Medical equipment
- ▶ AI applications in healthcare
- ▶ Imaging and diagnostics
- ▶ ICT for healthcare
- ▶ Disposables and consumer goods
- ▶ Regenerative medicine and tissue engineering
- ▶ Digital health
- ▶ Nanotechnology in healthcare
- ▶ Assistive technologies
- ▶ Telemedicine and remote health monitoring

Japanese Business Operators, notably buyers, distributors and R&D partners in public and private sectors, and Japanese investors.

OVERVIEW OF THE BUSINESS MISSION

The business mission to Osaka will last five days in total, including three days of exhibiting, business matchmaking and networking at WHX, as well as sector insights and a study tour.

The business mission agenda is as follows:

Day 1

Arrival in Osaka and welcome gathering.

Day 2

Briefing and lecture session with sectoral experts, matching event or site visit.

Day 3-5

Exhibition, networking and business match-making sessions at the World Health Expo.



SERVICES/BENEFITS THE EU PARTICIPANTS WILL BE RECEIVING



Business matchmaking

resulting in pre-arranged in-person meetings with carefully selected Japanese companies.



Market intelligence

including sectoral briefings providing valuable insights about the Japanese market and potential opportunities.



Cultural and linguistic

support such as briefings on doing business in Japan, and support for interpretation and translation.



Financial support

up to €1000 to benefit from a menu of additional customised services co-funded by the project (e.g. translation, printing, legal advice).



Hotel accommodation

(Grand Prince Hotel Osaka Bay) for four nights – in total, up to €1000 for accommodation is covered by the programme.



Coverage of the exhibition fee

at the World Health Expo.

KEY MARKET INSIGHTS

Participating in the EU Business Hub @ World Health Expo 2026 represents **a unique opportunity for European SMEs:**

The Japanese medical device market is the third largest globally with a total revenue of **EUR 35 billion in 2024**, with a projected **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6% within the next decade**.

Japanese medical device manufacturers are slowly expanding their share of overseas sales, and the Japanese government is increasingly investing in the digitalisation of the medical device manufacturing process. Both trends present **opportunities for overseas medical device manufacturers**, especially those involved in manufacturing AI-powered medical devices and Software as a Medical Device (SaMD), to collaborate with Japanese firms.

Medical devices in Japan are regulated under the **"Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices" (PMD Act)**, primarily by 2 organisations: the **Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)** and the **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA)**.

Overseas medical device start-ups expanding into Japan, tend to be from other Asian countries such as South Korea and Taiwan, but start-ups from Europe and the US tend to access the Japanese market by **forming partnerships with major Japanese manufacturers**, as well as medical device distributors, to act as channels to sell their products in Japan.

Most major Japanese medical device manufacturers have had **business alliances with overseas companies, particularly from Europe**, for joint research and the sale of overseas medical devices in Japan.

Japan's **high dependency on import of medical devices**, up to 90% for certain medical device categories, can be a significant supply chain vulnerability.

The Japanese government is attempting to resolve the above challenges by **offering subsidies for start-ups and SMEs planning to enter the market**, as well as **streamlining the process of creating a medical device-related startup** and providing consultation services related to SaMD regulations.

Discover the business mission and apply

BY 24 MARCH 2026

Find out more

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