

Press Release



ASKA Pharmaceutical Invests in NEXTBLUE Fund 2, a Fund Specializing in the Realm of Women's Wellbeing

TOKYO, January 18, 2024 – ASKA Pharmaceutical Holdings Co., Ltd. (TSE:4886, hereinafter “the Company”) announced that ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo/ President, Representative Director: Sohta Yamaguchi, hereinafter “ASKA”), a subsidiary of the Company, has signed an agreement regarding investment with NEXTBLUE Fund 2 Investment Limited Partnership (Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo/ Representative Partners: Kanako Inoue, Yuichi Kori, and Vincent Tan, hereinafter “NEXTBLUE Fund 2”), the first fund in Asia dedicated to supporting female founders in the realm of well-being.

The policy of NEXTBLUE Fund 2 is to invest in early and mid-stage startups in the area of women's wellbeing, with a focus on the Internet and mobile devices. The fund aims to enhance women's well-being by realizing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging with investment returns and investor support.

With the corporate philosophy: “Contribute toward the improvement of people's health and progress in society through the development of innovative products,” the Company is developing pharmaceutical, animal health, and testing businesses by leveraging its knowledge and expertise in hormones. Under its Medium-Term Management Plan 2025, the Company aims to become a “Total Healthcare Company with a Strong Foundation as a Specialty Pharma Company” and, as a leading company in the field of obstetrics and gynecology in particular, is promoting various initiatives to contribute to solving women's health issues.

By co-creating with promising startups that aim to promote women's wellbeing through investment in NEXTBLUE Fund 2 and accelerating open innovation, ASKA aims to create new value in the field of around-the-pill (peripheral area of prescription drugs). ASKA will contribute to society by working on “Femtech,” a technology-based solution to women's health issues, educational services for women, and support for reskilling (re-learning), aiming to build a society where women can shine even brighter.

【Overview of NEXTBLUE Fund 2 Investment Limited Partnership】

Name	NEXTBLUE Fund 2 Investment Limited Partnership (LPS)
General Partners (GPs)	NEXTBLUE Fund 2 Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Members: Kanako Inoue, Yuichi Kori, Vincent Tan
Location	xBridge-Global 2F, 3-1-3 Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
Establishment	July 11, 2023
Business	Investing in Japanese startups, Supporting Japanese startups with their international expansion (with a specific focus in Europe), Investing in Global startups with a focus on Europe, and Supporting European startups with their Japan entry and expansion
URL	https://nextblue.com/

About ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Since its founding in 1920, ASKA has concentrated its corporate philosophy: “Contribute toward the improvement of people’s health and progress in medicine through the development of innovative products,” by concentrating its management resources in three key therapeutic areas: internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and urology, and actively developing pharmaceuticals with a focus on new drugs to solve medical needs.

Official website: <https://www.aska-pharma.co.jp/english/>

Media Contacts

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