

FEATURES

Japanese Small and Medium Enterprises Leading the World



Above left: The CD Dryer, a conductive heat transfer drying device by NISHIMURA WORKS Co., Ltd. Above right: Components featuring mirror surfaces realized with original ultra-precision polishing technology

Middle left: This ultra-lightweight and extremely thin fabric, developed by Amaike LLC, is known in Japan as 'Tennyō no Hagoromo' (feathered robe of a heavenly maiden) and internationally as 'Amaike Super Organza.' Middle right: A palm-sized indoor inspection drone

Below left: Heat resistant barcode label with QR codes used by Godo Steel, Ltd. Osaka Works Below right: The Kuroshio Sea tank at Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium features a large acrylic panel for viewing.

Many Japanese small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are developing world-leading technologies. Many of these companies are discovering potential needs from an SME perspective and making their presence felt in low-volume product and niche markets. These one-of-a-kind companies and startups are using advanced technology to meet the customer's needs of around the world. This issue of *Highlighting Japan* introduces a number of Japanese SMEs that have unique technological capabilities they are proud to offer to the world. Included are companies offering precision polishing technology used in space development, a palm-sized lightweight drone with an expanding range of applications from facility inspections to disaster damage situation checks, and one of the world's lightest ultra-thin textile materials.

