June 2, 2026 CrestecBio Inc.

CrestecBio Secures JPY 250 Million in Seed Round to Develop PolymerTherapeutics Protecting Brain and Organs

Accelerating preparations for clinical trials of CTB211, a neuroprotective drug for ischemic stroke

From left to right: Tetsuro Honda, Director; Aiki Marushima, Representative Director; and Katsutoshi Kobayashi, Director.

TSUKUBA, IBARAKI, JAPAN — CrestecBio Inc. (Headquarters: Tsukuba, Ibaraki; Representative Director/CEO: Aiki Marushima), a biotech startup dedicated to discovering and developing polymer therapeutics (*1) that protect the brain and other vital organs, has raised a total of 250 million yen in its seed funding round, spanning its first and second closings.
The third-party allotment of shares in this round was subscribed to by:

- **Real Tech Fund Investment Limited Partnership No. 4**, managed by UntroD Capital Japan Co., Ltd.
- **Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)**
- **NextG Investment Limited Partnership**, managed by KSP, Inc.
- **NTA Investment Limited Partnership**, managed by Newsight Tech Angels Co., Ltd.

CrestecBio was founded in December 2021 as a spin-off from the University of Tsukuba to transform cutting-edge polymer-based therapeutic research from the university into innovative pharmaceuticals.

Since its inception, the company has expanded its disease pipeline and candidate compounds, focusing primarily on developing neuroprotective therapeutics for ischemic stroke.
With this new capital, CrestecBio will accelerate its non-clinical studies and investigational drug manufacturing preparations. These efforts aim to launch clinical trials for **"CTB211"**, a neuroprotective drug for ischemic stroke that leads the company's business development pipeline.
Furthermore, to strengthen its development framework and corporate governance, CrestecBio transitioned to a company with a Board of Directors as of April 1, 2026. Under this transition, Katsutoshi Kobayashi has been newly appointed to the Board. This establishes a robust new management team alongside Representative Director Aiki Marushima, Director Tetsuro Honda, and Corporate Auditor Mizuho Takeda, solidifying the corporate foundation and further accelerating research and development.

**(1) Polymer Therapeutics:* Pharmaceuticals utilizing polymeric materials that form particle-like micelle structures. The inherent micelle-forming capability of these polymers enhances blood circulation retention, tissue accumulation, and safety, enabling highly efficient elimination of reactive oxygen species (ROS).

Comments from Seed Round Investors

Yoshio Mitsui, Growth Manager, UntroD Capital Japan Co., Ltd.

The widespread adoption of mechanical thrombectomy (EVT) has made it possible to save the lives of many acute ischemic stroke (AIS) patients who previously could not be saved. However, the prevention of reperfusion injury caused by clot removal remains a significant unmet clinical need, and many patients who undergo EVT still suffer from some form of functional disability. Through "CTB211" developed by CrestecBio, we aim to mitigate reperfusion injury associated with the treatment of acute ischemic stroke, which has a profound negative impact on patients, their families, and overall healthcare costs. As investors, we are committed to supporting this endeavor.

Narumi Katori, Startup Investment and Support Office, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Although the mortality rate for acute ischemic stroke (AIS) has decreased since the widespread adoption of endovascular thrombectomy (EVT), the reality is that many patients still suffer from sequelae such as neurological disability caused by reperfusion injury. We expect that "CTB211", which CrestecBio is developing, will reduce the risk of such complications and improve patients' quality of life. Furthermore, the company's drug discovery research utilizes the research and development outcomes of JST's Fusion Oriented Research for disruptive Science and Technology (FOREST) program. As a shareholder, we will support the company so that JST's R&D outcomes can be returned to society through the commercialization of the therapeutics they develop.

Shinichi Narita, Director, KSP, Inc.

We are pleased to announce our decision to invest in CrestecBio. We share the company's vision of tackling the critical challenge of improving outcomes for patients with ischemic cerebrovascular disease through its unique approach.
CrestecBio's method of delivering drugs to the area distal to a thrombus via catheter is a highly innovative approach grounded in clinical insight in the field of cerebrovascular medicine. Given that poor

prognosis in this area places a significant burden on healthcare resources, we are committed to supporting the company's growth as it works to solve this important problem.

Toru Seo, CEO, Newsight Tech Angels Inc.

We are pleased to announce our follow-on investment concurrent with the conversion of our previous J-KISS investment. The company's business progress and future growth potential are extremely high, demonstrating great expectations for the future.

The company has built a well-balanced team with high expertise in various fields, in addition to a drug discovery approach based on highly unique modalities. The target domain is a market expected to grow significantly in the future, and we believe the company has the potential to be globally competitive. Beyond financial support, we will continue to leverage our expertise and network in drug discovery and development to continuously support the company's business growth and accelerate its research and development efforts.

Comment from CrestecBio Inc.
Aiki Marushima, Representative Director & CEO, CrestecBio Inc.

We are thrilled to announce that CrestecBio has successfully raised a total of JPY 250 million in our seed funding round. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the investors who have supported us, our corporate advisors, and everyone involved in the AMED Medical Startup Support Program (University of Tsukuba base), which served as the catalyst for this fundraising.
As a neurosurgeon and emergency physician, I have been on the front lines treating stroke patients for over 20 years. Even when blood flow is successfully restored through endovascular thrombectomy, I have witnessed countless patients who unfortunately fail to achieve sufficient functional recovery due to subsequent reperfusion injury. This experience instilled in me a profound realization of the critical need for 'treatments that protect the brain.' Through my research at the University of Tsukuba, I became convinced that we could take on the challenge of solving this major issue, which led me to establish CrestecBio.
Utilizing the funds raised in this round, we will further accelerate our non-clinical development, manufacturing preparations, and regulatory compliance efforts toward initiating clinical trials for CTB211, our neuroprotective drug for ischemic stroke. Maximizing my experience as both a clinician and a researcher, we will steadily advance our development to deliver the medications that are truly needed on the medical front lines to our patients.
The polymer macromolecular therapeutics we are developing represent a novel drug discovery modality. With stroke as our breakthrough target, we anticipate expanding its application to various oxidative stress-related diseases in the future. Aiming for the 'Crest' (pinnacle) of 'polymer macromolecular therapeutics protecting the brain and organs,' our entire team remains committed to earnestly pursuing our challenges to meet the expectations and trust placed in us.

About CTB211: A Neuroprotective Drug for Ischemic Stroke

Stroke affects an estimated 300,000 people annually in Japan and 800,000 in the United States. It stands as the third leading cause of death in Japan and the second worldwide.
Since 2015, recanalization therapy (endovascular thrombectomy) has spread rapidly as a highly effective treatment for ischemic stroke. However, despite its capacity to improve patient outcomes, a critical challenge remains: over 50% of patients undergoing this treatment still face poor outcomes, remaining in need of nursing care, becoming bedridden, or resulting in death.

The primary reason recanalization therapy falls short of achieving full efficacy is believed to be **cerebral ischemia-reperfusion injury**, driven by reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated immediately after blood flow is restored. This injury exacerbates cerebral infarction, brain edema, and intracranial hemorrhage. Currently, there are no approved or recognized effective therapeutic drugs to address this issue.

CTB211 is a polymer therapeutics with a micellar structure measuring 20 to 30 nm in particle size. It is designed to protect neurons by scavenging ROS, and its efficacy has already been demonstrated in non-clinical studies. CrestecBio's polymer therapeutics offer prolonged efficacy and high safety profiles within lesions, tissues, and cells. As a platform that protects the brain and organs, this technology holds vast potential for application across a broad spectrum of diseases beyond ischemic stroke.

Corporate Overview
CrestecBio Inc.

- **Headquarters:** 2-5-1 Azuma, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan
- **Representative:** Aiki Marushima, Representative Director & CEO
- **Established:** December 2021
- **Website:** https://crestecbio.com/en/

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