

Notice Regarding Foundation of Professional Tech Lab and Professional Tech Fund by Bengo4.com in the Implementation of Professional Tech — For the Proactive Use of New Technologies Typified by ChatGPT —

Bengo4.com, Inc. (Minato-ku, Tokyo; Taichiro Motoe, Representative Director and President) establishes Professional Tech Lab to accelerate the utilization and research of new technology-based services. The Company takes into account the provision of new services beyond the scope of its existing services in cooperation with domestic and overseas business corporations, universities and other research institutions with high technical capabilities in addition to its inhouse engineers and researchers.

At the same time, the Company is founding the Professional Tech Fund to proactively support the funding and growth of entrepreneurs in the professional trade industries and also hold events such as large-scale pitch events for discovering next-generation entrepreneurs.

* To begin, Bengo4.com, Inc. will use its own money to invest in Professional Tech Fund.



* The image is for illustrative purposes only.

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■ What is Professional Tech?

An approach to promoting DX for a broad range of professions including lawyers, tax accountants, medical doctors, patent attorneys, IT engineers, web designers and financial planners. Professional Tech aims to establish a society where more people can rely on professionals safely, securely, and easily more than ever before through the participation of a broader range of professionals and the digital transformation of the unique skills, knowledge and other features of the professions, regardless of whether a job requires a certification.

■ Ongoing research projects

I. Utilization of the ChatGPT service (odds and challenges)

Bengo4.com is engaging in research to explore the potential of AI using GPT-3 and other language models that may be released in the future, such as GPT-3.5, GPT-4, and LaMDA, in the following current services.

i) Legal advice chat:

Bengo4.com makes efficient use of the database of legal advice from over 20,000 attorneys, equivalent to one out of every two attorneys in the country, of record constructed from over a million past consultations via our Minna no Horitsu Sodan, Japan's largest Q&A-based legal aid service, and the need for legal consultations to be understood based on service utilization data from over 10,000,000 users per month. By identifying the situation in an interactive format, the Company considers client variables when answering questions through Minna no Horitsu Sodan or presents helpful information to clients who are at a loss about how to ask questions during their first consultation.

ii) Research tool for specialized legal books:

Bengo4.com effectively uses information from over 1,500 legal books published by 29 publishers in providing Bengo4.com Library and Business Lawyers Library, Japan's largest online library services, and effectively understands research needs by utilizing data from over 5,000 users to understand the theories related to the points in question, to check book abstracts, optimize access to the books being referenced, and increase the efficiency of the legal research conducted by lawyers and legal affairs departments.

3) Contract consultation chat:

Bengo4.com leverages legal agreement data from over 10,000,000 contracts sent through CloudSign, Japan's leading electronic contracting service and the contact data of over 2,300,000 contracting users to guide users regarding the date of a contract's conclusion and the affixing of seals and address their questions about signing contracts.

II. Utilization of Web 3.0 Based on Blockchain Technology

Bengo4.com will continue to research the potential of new services using the Web 3.0-based decentralized autonomous society.

i) Smart contracts:

Automates execution of contracts and secures specific performance to facilitate agreements.

ii) Escrow/ODR:

Provides a service as a reliable third party in the era of smart contracts to mediate transactions that cannot be fully automated and arbitrate disputes.

iii) New transaction format linked to DID (distributed ID):

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Establishes a new transaction format that can secure required characteristics (e.g., qualification information) without disclosing personal information to a trading partner.

■ About Professional Tech Lab

Head: Ritsu Ichihashi (Technical Strategy Office Manager, Bengo4.com, Inc.)

Graduates from The University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Engineering. After graduation, joins Accenture Japan Ltd. to plan new and existing business strategies and marketing strategies and support business reforms as a consultant to the High-tech Business Division, Strategy Group. Joins Bengo4.com, Inc. in January 2014 after starting a business. Appointed head of LegalTech Lab in June 2016. Appointed Technical Strategy Office Manager in April 2020. Appointed Product Supervisor in the CloudSign Business Division in June of the same year.

Technical advisor: Katsuya Uenoyama, Founder and Representative Director of PKSHA Technology

Engages in BI business at the Tokyo/Seoul office of a large-scale foreign consulting firm. Then participates in the opening of the Silicon Valley, USA office of a large-scale Internet business for the large-scale analysis of web product log data. After acquiring a PhD degree in machine learning as a member of Matsuo Lab, establishes PKSHA Technology Inc. in 2012. Following an assistant professor at Matsuo Lab, becomes Representative Director of PKSHA Technology Inc., a position he currently holds. Chosen as one of the Young Global Leaders at the World Economic Forum (Davos) in 2020. Becomes an outside director of Bengo4.com in June 2021.

■ About Professional Tech Fund

Provides talent support and business support to entrepreneurs and start-ups in professional trade industries in addition to investing with its own funds. Professional Tech Fund will support entrepreneurs and start-ups capable of providing new added value to society by enabling professional trade industries including lawyers, tax accountants, medical doctors, patent attorneys, IT engineers, web designers, and financial planners to leverage ChatGPT and other new technologies. Pitch events are planned to source next-generation entrepreneurs and business ideas.

■ About ChatGPT

ChatGPT is a specialized interactive AI model released by OpenAI last November. It has attracted attention and it gained a million users in just the first five days after its release because of its natural responses and general versatility.

ChatGPT has been controlled to prevent the output of harmful information and enables responses that sound natural to a human as a result of training using Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) based on the GPT-3.5 language model.

- Statement from Taichiro Motoe, Representative Director and President

The impact of ChatGPT and the excitement about its creation is equal to that of the Internet to me. Doubtless, society will dramatically evolve as a result of the fusion of AI technology and professional trade industries. However, it seems there are still many issues with the technology that makes AI think about (re-edit and reconstruct) and provide solutions based on information that exists on the Internet. Let me take the example of lawyers to enable you to imagine the situation. Can you be an efficient lawyer if you have understood the Complete Book of the Six Codes and learned all of the legal precedents? Not necessarily. What kind of knowledge/skill should you provide to whom with what purpose? Surprisingly, experience, context, and

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something like senses matter the most (I imagine that AI will play a role sometime soon though.). At any rate, as far as advanced expertise is concerned, value does not lie in the information itself, but the way it is used (for whom it is used and how it is used) is extremely important. What if anyone is able to retrieve the information they need using a chatbot? That would be such a wonderful world! As such, we should rush to address the problems and issues lurking within these innovative technologies, understand them precisely, and encourage their utilization. We would like to use this lab, as a starting point for creating the value that more people need in ways that enable them to use technology securely, safely and easily.

- Statement from Technical Advisor Katsuya Uenoyama, Founder and Representative Director of PKSHA Technology Inc.

To convert advanced technologies such as large language models (LLM) into products, you need high-level engineering methods and methodologies as well as an understanding of deep learning technology and LLMs. It is relatively highly likely that there will be interesting applications in professional trade industries in particular. In this context, we are pleased to give technical support for the acceleration of the realization of our mission, “Helping Specialists to be Closer,” through this initiative.

■ About Bengo4.com

Head office	Kurosaki Building, 1-4 Roppongi 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Date of establishment	July 4, 2005
Share capital	453 million yen (as of end of December 2022)
Representative	Taichiro Motoe, Representative Director and President
Listed exchange	listed on the Growth Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange
Business	Under the corporate mission of “Helping Specialists to be Closer,” we provide Bengo4.com, Business Lawyers, and Zeiri4.com as portal sites that connect people with professionals, and CloudSign, which is a cloud-based contract management platform in order to build a society where people worldwide can make use of “the wisdom to live,” or in other words “intellectual intelligence,” more freely and to create a society where people can live happily.
URL	https://www.bengo4.com/corporate/