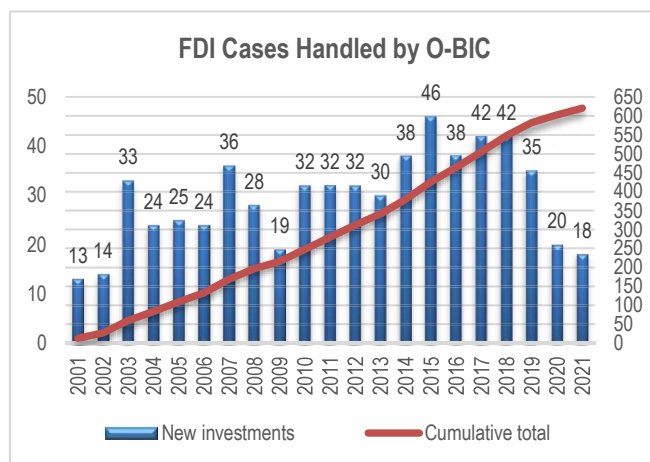


**For Immediate Release**

## **O-BIC Helps 18 New Foreign Companies Invest in Osaka in 2021 Numbers Slightly down Due to Covid-19, but Expectations Grow for Future Investment**

**May 27, 2022—Osaka, Japan—**The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) has announced that it facilitated 18 cases of investment in Osaka by foreign companies in FY2021. This is slightly down year-on-year and reflects the impact of Covid-19. Investment activity struggled as the movement of people from overseas was limited. Almost all investments were fostered and achieved by parties resident in Japan, including business partners and subcontractors. There were also some cases where investment has been postponed due to border controls, as illustrated by the drop in the number of inquiries: 115 in FY2021 down from 176 in FY2020.

By country/region, China (includes) had the highest number of investments, six, down from ten in FY2020. South Korea was second with four (four in FY2020), and Thailand was third with two (none in FY2020). There were investments by one company from each of Israel, Australia, Canada, Norway, the USA, as well as, for the first time in O-BIC's



history, Cambodia. This continues the trend of investment from a diverse range of countries and regions. Osaka will see many large-scale events in the next ten years, such as World Expo 2025 which is to be held in Osaka. O-BIC feels it important to leverage this chance to capture more investment from countries across the globe.

Since its inception in 2001, O-BIC has facilitated investment in Osaka by a total of 621 companies. The top investing countries were China (259 including Hong Kong), Korea (106), and the USA (49), the same top three as in FY2020.

In FY2021, O-BIC studied the 603 companies that invested in Osaka over the 20 years up to FY2020 by checking company registration information among other methods. This survey revealed that 324 companies continue to stay in Osaka, with 251 having withdrawn or moved address out of Osaka. Information could not be confirmed for the remaining 28 companies.

## **Steady Investment from China and South Korea; Investment-Support Organizations, Wholesale and Retail Importers/Exporters Prominent**

There were six investments from China and four from South Korea. These two countries occupied more than half of the 18 total cases. Of the 10 entrants from China and South Korea, four handle consumer goods such as artificial flowers, smartphone cases, and sneakers, and three are electrical/electronic firms that deal in factory automation systems and renewable energy.

Prominent entrants included support bodies, such as an incubator to help South Korean companies enter the Japan market and a company that will aid cross-investment between Japan and Thailand. Beyond the Osaka World Expo in 2025, the cities of Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe were designated as the Keihanshin Global Hub City, making Osaka more attractive for investment.

Despite the slight drop in investors, the seven wholesale/retail importers and exporters were more than the six in FY2020 and about 40% of the total (18). This hints at strong demand for both consumer and industrial goods amid highly-restricted cross-border traffic.

## **Hopes for Relaxed Covid-19 Restrictions**

The number of inquiries—115—was greatly down on FY2020 (176). There was only one secondary investor already in Japan that transferred their Japan address to Osaka or expanded to Osaka, down on FY2020 (5). In contrast, with border controls being revised in Japan and overseas, foreign travel by cabinet ministers, and visits to Japan by foreign dignitaries, we saw face-to-face diplomacy overcoming restrictions and the removal of domestic travel restrictions. With these changes, we expect to see more investors and more inquiries.

## **Major Companies Investing in Osaka in FY2021**

### **Korea Global Partnering Center, Osaka (Chuo Ward, Osaka)**

Parent company: Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, South Korea

URL: <http://kotra.or.jp>

Established: December 2021

Business: Incubator supporting South Korean manufacturers who have already invested or wish to invest in Osaka primarily, or in the Kinki, Chugoku, and Shikoku regions.

O-BIC's support: Introduced office, subsidized fees, provided information

### **Hello xLab KK (Kita Ward, Osaka)**

Parent company: Hello xLab, Canada

URL: <https://www.hello-xlab.com>

Established: August 2021  
Capital: ¥4,000,000  
Employees: 3  
Business: Consulting company for user experience (UX) design; graphic design (2D and 3D) for strategic branding and marketing, UI/UX design, and system development if necessary.  
O-BIC's support: Helped set up corporate bank account, introduced accountant and judicial scrivener, provided information

**General Advance Technologies Japan Kabushiki Kaisha (Kita Ward, Osaka)**

Parent company: Shenzhen General Technologies Co., Ltd., China  
Established: August 2021  
Capital: ¥10,000,000  
Employees: 1  
Business: Assembling semiconductor components  
O-BIC's support: Provided information

For inquiries regarding this release, please contact:

Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC)

Email: o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp

### About O-BIC

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) was established in 2001 by the Osaka Prefectural Government, the Osaka Municipal Government, and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) as a one-stop service center to aid foreign companies, diplomatic missions, and business associations to set up in Osaka (Secretariat: International Division, OCCI).

### O-BIC's Activities in FY2021

- O-BIC allied with the Osaka International Business Promotion Center and the Osaka office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to invite foreign investment in Osaka through public-private sector collaboration.
- O-BIC strove to improve Osaka's brand name and spread the word about the region's attractions, with a mind to the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, and made progress despite the ongoing impact of Covid-19 such as border restrictions by moving most activities online. Initiatives included a real-time online meet-and-greet with counterparts in Dubai, where Expo 2020 was being held.
- O-BIC fielded 115 inquiries from overseas companies and assisted those seeking to invest in Osaka through individual consultations and by providing information on how to set up a company.
- To help retain overseas companies already here, we provided information about grants and other support from the national and local governments. We also held the 25th meeting of the Osaka Business Networking Club with the cooperation of the Kansai National Strategic Zone Employment Consultation Center and others. The meeting showcased employment trends in Japan and support measures, and provided information on the FY2021 mid-career employment market, focusing on trends at global companies.
- O-BIC worked on promotions by remotely participating in 17 events in Japan and around the

### Investments Handled by O-BIC

FY	Inquiries	FDIs handled	Support Program* users
2001	300	13	-
2002	273	14	-
2003	164	33	-
2004	141	24	-
2005	158	25	-
2006	175	24	-
2007	139	36	-
2008	117	28	11
2009	137	19	12
2010	101	32	18
2011	123	32	15
2012	94	32	13
2013	97	30	14
2014	113	38	25
2015	137	46	23
2016	118	38	24
2017	135	42	23
2018	167	42	23
2019	193	35	16
2020	176	20	9
2021	115	18	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>239</b>

\*Support Program: an incentive program offered by O-BIC to encourage investment in Osaka by reducing fees required (e.g., for registration), up to a maximum of ¥150,000.

world. Activities with an eye on the post-Covid world included selling the appeal of investing in Osaka and Kansai, showcasing O-BIC's services, and following-up on interest in Osaka shown by foreign companies who participated in the Osaka-Dubai Business Exchange and other events.

**Further Reading**

- (1) List of investments facilitated by O-BIC in FY2021 (in Japanese)
- (2) Matrix of investments facilitated by O-BIC in FY2021
- (3) Investments facilitated by O-BIC from FY2001 to FY2021

## 2021年度O-BIC誘致実績一覧表

No.	企業名	国(地域)	事業内容	業種 (O-BIC分類)
1	株式会社ヴァンシティ・ジャパン	中国	日用品の小売・輸入販売	卸売・小売(輸入)
2	General Advance Technologies Japan株式会社	中国	半導体部品組み立て	製造
3	東立株式会社	中国	国際貿易、旅行業	サービス
4	淑美株式会社	中国	輸入、オンラインショップの経営	卸売・小売(輸入)
5	FEIYUジャパン株式会社	中国	中古ブランド品のライブコマースプラットフォームの運営管理	卸売・小売(輸出)
6	(非公開)	中国	(非公開)	卸売・小売(輸出)
7	株式会社APECジャパン	韓国	電力システム、新再生エネルギー設備の設計、製作およびシステム・エンジニアリング	製造
8	Korea Global Partnering Center 大阪	韓国	韓国企業の日本進出をサポートする韓国企業専門のインキュベーション施設	公的機関
9	合同会社ポム	韓国	飲食店(スイーツカフェ)	サービス
10	株式会社YU TRADING	韓国	靴(スニーカー):アウトレット商品の購入代行業	卸売・小売(輸出)
11	Intellectual Design Group株式会社	タイ	日本企業の対外(東南アジア)進出、タイ企業の対日進出サポート	サービス
12	Regiis株式会社	タイ	飲食業、飲食店の経営	サービス
13	ANAGOG LTD	イスラエル	スマートフォンとAIを用いたマーケティング・行動解析・予測システムの開発	情報・通信
14*	(非公開)	オーストラリア	(非公開)	サービス
15	株式会社Hello xLab	カナダ	デザインコンサルタント	サービス
16	株式会社SpaciaNet Japan	カンボジア	IT関連 BPO事業 (経営資源の観点から戦略的に実施するアウトソーシング)	情報・通信
17	株式会社O. Mustad & Son Japan	ノルウェー	釣具・釣針の輸出入、製造販売卸業	卸売・小売(輸入)
18	株式会社クアドラントジャパン	米国	マグネット部品の販売・輸入	卸売・小売(輸入)

\* 二次進出企業

卸売・小売分野の輸出入企業

(参考) 進出企業の投資金額(登記資本金ベース) 総額:約6,500万円

進出企業の雇用人数 総計:24人 (2022.3.31時点 O-BIC調べ)

**Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC)**  
**Matrix of investments facilitated by O-BIC in FY2021**  
 (April, 2021 – March, 2022)

Cases of New Entry : 18

※Figures in brackets ( ) =FY20

Country/Region	Industry	Manufacturing	R&D	Wholesale and Retail (Export)	Wholesale and Retail (Import)	Finance and Insurance	Transportation	Information and Communications	Service	Public Agencies/Organizations	TOTAL
Asia	China	1 (2)		2 (1)	2 (2)				1 (3)		6 (8)
	Hong Kong			(1)	(1)						0 (2)
	Korea	1		1 (1)					1 (3)	1	4 (4)
	Thailand								2		2 (0)
	Cambodia							1			1 (0)
	Singapore	(1)									0 (1)
	Asia/Total	2 (3)	0 (0)	3 (3)	2 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	4 (6)	1 (0)	13 (15)
Oceania	Australia	(1)							1		1 (1)
	Oceania/Total	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
North America	USA				1				(1)		1 (1)
	Canada								1		1 (0)
	N.A./Total	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	2 (1)
Europe	Norway				1						1 (0)
	Germany								(1)		0 (1)
	Italy								(1)		0 (1)
	Spain							(1)			0 (1)
	EU/Total	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (2)	0 (0)	1 (3)
Middle East	Israel							1			1 (0)
	M.E./Total	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 (4)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>3 (3)</b>	<b>4 (3)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>0 (0)</b>	<b>2 (1)</b>	<b>6 (9)</b>	<b>1 (0)</b>	<b>18 (20)</b>	

**Investments Facilitated by O-BIC from FY2001 to FY2021**  
(April 2001 - March 2022)

Country /Region	Industry										Total	
		Manufacturing	R&D	Wholesale and Retail (Export)	Wholesale and Retail (Import)	Finance and Insurance	Transportation	Information and Communication	Service	Public agencies/ organizations		Others
<b>Asia</b>												
	China	7	6	47	78	3	15	12	48	17		233
	Korea	2	1	12	45	2	1	9	30	4		106
	Taiwan		1	3	20			1	8			33
	Hong Kong	2		7	9			3	5			26
	Shingapore	2			6		2	2	6			18
	India				5			6	4			15
	Thailand			1	1				5			7
	Vietnam				1			1	4	1		7
	Indonesia			1	1	1	1					4
	Myanmar				1			1	1			3
	Mongolia				1					2		3
	Malaysia						1		1			2
	Cambodia							1				1
	Sri Lanka				1							1
	Pakistan									1		1
	Philippines			1								1
	Hong Kong/Singapore								1			1
	<b>Asia/Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>462</b>
<b>Oceania</b>												
	Australia	1			2			3	4			10
	New Zealand				1			1				2
	<b>Oceania Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>North America</b>												
	USA	2	2	2	20			4	18	1		49
	Canada				3	1		1	4	1		10
	<b>North America Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>South America</b>												
	Chile								1			1
	<b>South America Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Europe</b>												
	UK		1		4	2		3	10		1	21
	Germany	2	1		7				5			15
	France	1	1		5	3			2			12
	Switzerland				5				1			6
	Italy				1			1	1	2		5
	Spain				3			1				4
	Denmark				3							3
	Netherlands				1				1			2
	Sweden	1			1							2
	The Czech Republic				1			1				2
	Norway				1			1				2
	Belgium				1	1						2
	Portugal				2							2
	Ireland							1				1
	Slovakia									1		1
	Finland				1							1
	Poland									1		1
	Malta					1						1
	Russia				1							1
	<b>Europe Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Middle East</b>												
	Israel							1		1		2
	<b>Middle East Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Africa</b>												
	Cote d'Ivoire			1								1
	<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>621</b>