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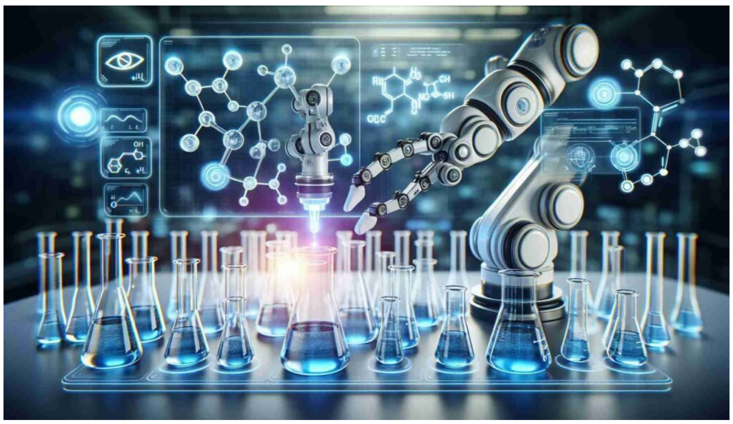
Japan-based Tohoâ??s VC Arm makes investment in American startup Metaphore Biotech

April 8, 2026 | News

Metaphore possesses a next-generation platform that enhances drug discovery utilising AI technology



Japan-based TOHO HOLDINGS has invested in US-based Metaphore Biotechnologies, Inc. through the CVC Fund "TOHO Ventures".

Metaphore is a next-generation antibody drug discovery company founded by Flagship Pioneering in the US. Metaphore's proprietary AI drug discovery platform, "MIMICTM," distinguishes itself from traditional structure- dependent approaches by designing antibodies starting from biological "functions."

The platform performs integrated AI analysis of large-scale functional data obtained from live cells alongside dynamic protein interaction information. This unique approach enables the creation of agonist and multi-functional antibodies, which have historically been difficult to design using structural data alone.

With its core strengths in molecular optimisation speed and high- potency design capabilities, Metaphore is currently advancing a pipeline with multiple programs in disease areas with high unmet medical needs, aiming to create the next generation of antibody therapeutics.

The Fund primarily invests in advanced overseas startups, focusing on drug discovery and biotechnology sectors and digital health transformation. It will focus on supporting next-generation platforms that dramatically enhance drug discovery productivity through technological innovations in AI, data science, and cellular and genetic engineering, as well as new modalities enabling fundamental disease treatment.

Furthermore, the Fund will actively leverage TOHO HOLDINGS' assets, including its pharmaceutical distribution network, dispensing pharmacy channels, and manufacturing and data infrastructure, to operate as a collaborative CVC that facilitates the commercialization and societal implementation of portfolio companies' businesses.