

September 8, 2021
Cool Japan Fund
(Cool Japan Fund Inc.)

Additional Support for Spiber, a Business Using Sustainable Material

The Cool Japan Fund has decided to invest a total of 11 billion yen (of which 10 billion yen is underwritten) to Spiber Inc. (headquarters in Tsuruoka City, Yamagata, Director and Representative Executive Officer: Kazuhide Sekiyama, hereinafter, "Spiber"), which is a venture company that develops and produces synthetic protein material, to provide additional support for their growth capital to start mass production in the United States.

Brewed Protein™, which is the synthetic protein material that Spiber develops and produces, is based on the genetic information of spiderweb and can be processed into fibers and a variety of materials. It is garnering attention as a next-generation sustainable material that does not rely on oil. The Cool Japan Fund invested in Spiber in 2018 so that they could introduce the global fashion and apparel market to manufacturing that uses this new material from Japan.

Since then, Spiber has launched products jointly developed with Goldwin Inc., who owns the brand The North Face, as well as collaborated with the world-famous designer brands sacai and Yuima Nakazato. Moreover, they are working together with the major US grain company Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) since October 2020 to build a full-scale mass production system on a global level, commencing trial operations of a mass production plant in Thailand in March 2021 and planning to start mass production before the end of the year.

This underwriting of 10 billion yen from the Cool Japan Fund is part of the total funding of 34.4 billion yen to Spiber, and the US investment fund Carlyle Group as well as Fidelity International, Baillie Gifford, and others are investing at the same time. The funds will be used to construct the US mass production plant, which they are building together with ADM, as well as for R&D and spinning facilities. With this, Spiber is steadily moving toward large-

scale mass production with the intention to transition from the commercialization stage to the mass production stage, which is considered a major challenge in the growth process of venture businesses.

With this investment, the Cool Japan Fund aims to provide consumers around the world with products that use this sustainable material from Japan, thereby contributing to the fashion and apparel industry that faces "sustainability" as one of its key challenges.

Reference: Press release from the Cool Japan Fund (November 28, 2018)

"Investing in an apparel industry that uses a next-generation fiber material from Japan"

https://www.cj-fund.co.jp/files/press_181128-1.pdf

*Following discussions with existing shareholders, it was decided that 1 billion yen of the 11 billion yen investment will be used to purchase shares.

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