Gellycle Co., Ltd.

Company Description

Gellycle Co., Ltd. is a cutting-edge biotechnology startup originating from the University of Tokyo. It was founded to commercialize "Tetra-PEG gel" (Tetra-gel), a revolutionary hydrogel technology platform developed by Professor Takamasa Sakai and his team at the Graduate School of Engineering.

Traditional hydrogels have historically been limited by their inhomogeneous molecular structures, which make their physical properties unpredictable and difficult to control. In contrast, Gellycle's Tetra-gel possesses a remarkably uniform network structure. This breakthrough allows for the precise, mathematical control of various properties—such as solidification time, elasticity, biodegradation rate, and swelling ratio—enabling the material to be customized for specific medical and industrial applications. This world-leading "Gel Control Technology" serves as the core foundation of the company's competitive advantage.

The company's primary mission is to pioneer "Gel Medicine." By leveraging the high biocompatibility of hydrogels and the ability to administer them via simple injection, Gellycle aims to create a world where diseases can be treated minimally invasively. Their current research and development pipeline includes a wide array of medical devices and pharmaceuticals, such as next-generation hemostatic agents, adhesion barriers, nerve regeneration materials, and sophisticated drug delivery systems (DDS) capable of controlled release.

Distinct from many high-risk, single-product biotech startups, Gellycle operates on a "Platform-based Alliance Model." By positioning Tetra-gel as a versatile technological platform, they form strategic partnerships with leading corporations across various industries. To date, the company has entered into joint development and consulting agreements with prominent firms such as Maruishi Pharmaceutical, Earth Corporation, Sanyo Chemical Industries, and Morinaga & Co. This collaborative approach allows Gellycle to mitigate risk while simultaneously expanding its reach into non-medical sectors, including agriculture (e.g., soil water-retention materials) and industrial applications (e.g., advanced electrode components).

Another defining characteristic of Gellycle is its unique financial strategy. The company prioritizes steady, sustainable growth by relying on government subsidies, research grants, and alliance-driven funding rather than heavy dependence on venture capital. This disciplined management style has garnered significant attention and respect within the global startup ecosystem. Gellycle has received numerous accolades, including winning the Real Tech Catapult at ICC Summit KYOTO 2021, being selected for the prestigious J-Startup program by the Japanese government, and participating in the Berkeley SkyDeck accelerator in the United States.

With a vision to "improve the QOL of patients worldwide through the best gel technology," Gellycle is not merely a research entity but a transformative force. Their ultimate goal is to solve long-standing unmet medical needs and drive innovation across global industries, proving that a single, well-controlled material can change the future of medicine and society.

Company Details

Head Office
Japan

Main Business
東京大学発の革新的ハイドロゲル技術「Tetra-PEGゲル（テトラゲル）」を用いた医療機器・医薬品（Gel Medicine）、および工業・農業用製品の研究開発・製造・販売。

President
増井 公祐

Established
2018年8月1日

Capital
非公開（※外部資本に頼らず、共同開発支援金や助成金等で運営する独自の経営スタイルが特徴です）

Number of Employees
1 - 10

URL
https://gellycle.com/

Offices

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