

The 7th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan and Impact on IP

A. Summary of the 7th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan, for the five years 2026-2030

Key Goals and Targets

- **Plan Period:** FY2026–FY2030 (5-year plan).
 - **Research & Development Investment:**
 - **Government Investment:** Target of **60 trillion yen** over 5 years (doubled compared to the previous period's target).
 - **Public-Private Total Investment:** Target of **180 trillion yen**.
 - **Academic Ranking Goal:** Elevate Japan's top-tier research paper rank from 13th (2021–2023 average) to **top 3 globally within 10 years**.
 - **Core Philosophy:** Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policy at the heart of national strategy is to establish a "New Technology-based Nation" and rebuild Japan's research capabilities.
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The Six Core Pillars

1. **Reinventing Science as the Foundation of Knowledge**
 - Substantially expand Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Kakenhi) and reduce administrative burdens on researchers.
 - Promote the integration of AI into scientific research ("**AI for Science**") and advance AI research itself.
 - Secure fundamental funds (such as operational subsidies for national university corporations) and foster world-class research university clusters.
2. **Strategic Prioritization of Technology Domains**
 - Focus government resources on **17 Critical Emerging/Foundational Technology Areas** (including shipbuilding, aviation, cybersecurity, GX, advanced medicine, disaster prevention, space, etc.).
 - Designate **6** specific domains as **National Strategic Technology Areas**: AI & Advanced Robotics, Quantum Technology, Semiconductors & Communications, Bio/Healthcare, Fusion Energy, and Space.
3. **Organic Collaboration Between STI and National Security**
 - Promote **dual-use** technologies through industry-academia-government

collaboration.

- Enhance economic security measures, establish tech-focused think tanks, and strengthen research security to prevent technology leakage.

4. **Enhancing the Innovation Ecosystem Connecting Industry, Academia, and Government**

- Strengthen university management capacities to maximize industry-academia synergy.
- Foster regional innovation ecosystems and support growth-oriented startup networks.

5. **Promoting Strategic Science and Technology Diplomacy**

- Strengthen cooperation with allied and like-minded partners in key technology domains while supporting development in the Global South.
- Lead international rule-making processes to ensure transparency and stability in critical technology fields, while encouraging international brain circulation.

6. **Reforming Implementation Structures and Governance**

- Strengthen the overall "command-post" function of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI).
- Ensure stable, long-term funding structures and management reforms for national universities and research organizations.

B. Impact on future IP world

The proposed goal will result in developments of new technologies which should be protected by the IP rights, particularly patents and copy rights for AI-related inventions and innovations. Our focus will be directed to such advanced areas, and we are pleased to be involved in such advanced technical areas. Our team will be ready to handle any of newly immersing technologies.

Do not forget that the possible protection in Japan is broader than your jurisdiction.

Japanese Patent Law section 2, paragraph 3, No.1 sets forth that **program** is included in the “mono” (substance or matter, usually translated as “product”) as to the working of the invention. That is in Japan, software-related invention, computer-related invention can be claimed and protected. Robotics may be protected more efficiently under the Japanese Law.

Do remember the following point:

Even when an invention would be not patentable subject matter in any of jurisdictions outside Japan, it might be well protectable in Japan.

Your keen attention would be appreciated.