



JRI news release

July 16, 2001

The Japan Research Institute, Limited

Announcing the Establishment of "e-Community Consortium 2001"

— For the development of local communities using IT,
cross-industrial / public-private sector—

On July 30, The Japan Research Institute, Limited ("JRI"; Headquarters: 16 Ichiban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Masahiko Koido) will formally establish "e-Community Consortium 2001" ("ecom2001"), a consortium of 10 companies from different sectors of industry, which is to implement the "e-Community", a joint public-private sector project aiming at the development of local communities using information technology (IT).

The companies whose participation in the consortium has been decided to date are Walkerplus.com, NTT Data, Shobunsha, Finest Communications, Marketing Junction, Matsushita Electric Industrial, Mitsui Sumitomo Card, Mitsubishi Corp., Recruit, Lawson, and JRI. The consortium expects more participants capable of offering solutions which would meet local community's needs, such as network operators, cellular phone carriers, hardware & software vendors, or service & contents providers...etc, and eventually about 30 companies are anticipated to take part in.

The purpose of this consortium is to implement "local portal site" projects that would serve as the core part of the e-Community Concept. These projects provide an information infrastructure for local communities, as well as peripheral projects such as community card projects or network projects. For this purpose, the consortium will seek to generate the IT-driven products or services for the local communities, while taking a neutral stance, in collaboration with local governments and businesses in the local community. The consortium has already started examinations such as feasibility of this project, in concert with project committees in Saitama Prefecture and the Nishi-Mino area in Gifu Prefecture.

To mark the establishment of ecom2001, a symposium on " Revitalization of Local Community through the e-Community Concept," will be held at 15:00 on July 30 (Monday), at the Grand Arc Hanzomon hotel, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, with a guest speaker, Keiko Kiyohara , a Professor of the School of Media Science at Tokyo University of Technology.

(Participation in the symposium is free of charge to register, while pre-registration is required. <http://www.sohatsu.ne.jp/ecom/index.html>)

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