NEWS RELEASE

Commenced Demonstration Testing of a Generative AI Recommendation System
Joint development began in November with BAKUTAN, a "Go-en Tech" startup from the University of Tokyo

BAKUTAN × **REFINVERSE Group**

Refinverse Group, Inc. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Akira Ochi) and BAKUTAN Inc. (Head Office: Setagaya-ku, Tokyo; CEO: Shudai Komoriya) have begun developing and testing a recommendation system powered by generative AI. This system accelerates business matching within organizations, fostering connections that address sustainability challenges.

■**Background of the Project**

Refinverse Group has been at the forefront of circular economy practices for over 20 years, pioneering initiatives like horizontal recycling of discarded carpet tiles from offices and facilities, and the repurposing of waste materials such as fishing nets, vehicle airbags, and bird feathers. Over the years, the company has built a robust network of sustainability-focused professionals. This network, developed through decades of collaboration, is a unique strength and serves as a vital resource in addressing current ESG and sustainability challenges.

As part of its long-term strategy, Refinverse Group established the "Circular Economy Platform Concept" to support projects in various fields tackling sustainability and ESG issues. In parallel, many companies aiming to transition to a circular economy are actively seeking the "people, products, and technologies" needed to bring their visions to life. Through connections with individuals and industries outside their traditional business relationships, these companies are creating new initiatives and value.

This project combines BAKUTAN's advanced AI technology and matching theory to

create a platform that fosters new connections between individuals and companies. These efforts aim to support the transition to a circular economy. As part of the "Circular Economy Platform Concept," system development began in November 2024, with demonstration experiments proceeding in phases.

*Refinverse Group, Inc. financial results for the fiscal year ended June 2024
  https://www.net-presentations.com/7375/20240826/dfh6i7fwdw9/

■**About the Demonstration Test**

   BAKUTAN will develop an AI-powered recommendation system based on data provided by Refinverse Group. This system visualizes challenges faced by sustainability professionals and matches them with in-house knowledge to strengthen problem-solving and enhance proposal quality.
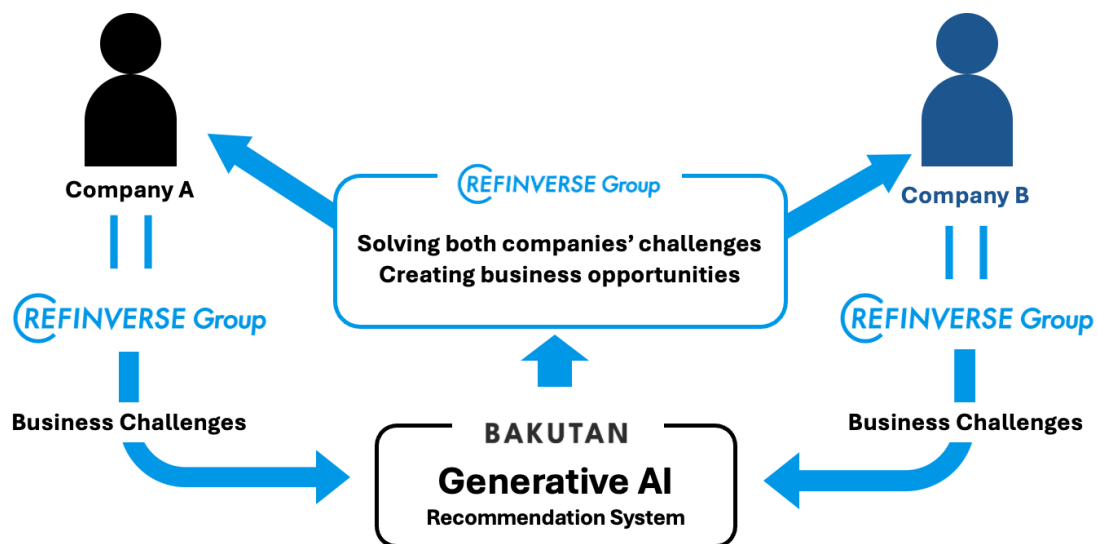

Image of demonstration experiment implementation

■**Comment from Leadership**

Shudai Komoriya, CEO of BAKUTAN Inc.:

"With the rapid expansion of AI applications, leveraging technology to address social challenges is more important than ever. This experiment seeks to uncover and create new business opportunities by visualizing business issues and assets within companies. Together with Refinverse Group, we aim to develop solutions that generate meaningful connections and foster a circular economy."

Akira Ochi, President of Refinverse Group, Inc.:

"Establishing connections between individuals and businesses that differ from those

in the traditional linear economy is a critical factor in advancing the transition to a circular economy. By leveraging BAKUTAN's advanced AI algorithm technology, we aim to facilitate the creation of new connections that serve as a foundation for developing innovative circular business models. Furthermore, we envision this platform evolving beyond just human connections, ultimately becoming a comprehensive resource-matching platform that supports the creation and redistribution of material resources in the future."

■BAKUTAN Inc. Company Profile

BAKUTAN Inc., a University of Tokyo startup, is dedicated to creating connections through advanced technology and design. It develops cutting-edge AI and algorithmic solutions to optimize complex societal and organizational challenges. By evolving connections between people, resources, and information, BAKUTAN aims to drive a more sustainable future.

Representative: Shudai Komoriya, CEO

URL: https://bakutan.com/

■About Refinverse Group

For over two decades, Refinverse Group has been committed to the principles of a circular economy. We focus on reclaiming and developing sustainable materials, including Refine Powder, a recycled material for horizontal recycling of carpet tiles, and REAMIDE®, a high-quality nylon pellet recycled from waste fishing nets and car airbags. In 2023, we expanded our efforts by launching a new biomaterial, ReFEZER, developed from bird feathers.

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