NEWS RELEASE

Whiz Partners Inc.

July 9, 2026

Axcelead and Mitsubishi Corporation Enter into Strategic Capital and Business Alliance

Toward the Development of a Healthcare Ecosystem Supporting the Entire Value Chain from Drug Discovery Research to Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

Whiz Partners Inc. (head office: Tokyo; the "Company") has been working to build a healthcare ecosystem in Japan (the "Healthcare Ecosystem") together with Axcelead, Inc. ("Axcelead"), a portfolio company in which the Drug Discovery Gateway Investment Limited Partnership and other funds managed by the Company (collectively, the "Company Funds") have invested and to which they provide hands-on support. The Company hereby announces that Axcelead and Mitsubishi Corporation ("Mitsubishi Corporation") have agreed to enter into a strategic capital and business alliance.

The Company views the Healthcare Ecosystem as an open platform for value creation in which like-minded operating companies may participate through business alliances and other forms of collaboration. The alliance between Axcelead and Mitsubishi Corporation represents the first step in this direction. As part of this collaboration, a portion of Axcelead's shares will be transferred to Mitsubishi Corporation (the "Transfer"). Following the Transfer, the Company Funds will continue to support Axcelead's enterprise value enhancement as a major shareholder.

1. Background and Purpose

In recent years, pharmaceutical development has become increasingly specialized across the research, development, and manufacturing value chain. As a result, global demand has continued to grow for pharmaceutical-adjacent services, including contract research organizations (CROs) and contract development and manufacturing organizations (CDMOs). In Japan, the establishment of an integrated platform that can seamlessly support the pathway from drug discovery research through pharmaceutical manufacturing has become an important priority for strengthening industrial competitiveness.

To address this market need, the Company has been advancing the development of a Japan-based healthcare ecosystem with Axcelead at its core, designed to support the full continuum from drug discovery through pharmaceutical manufacturing. The Company believes that this ecosystem should not be built by a single company alone, but rather by bringing together operating companies with complementary capabilities through business alliances and other forms of partnership, thereby enhancing the value of the ecosystem as a whole.

Mitsubishi Corporation will participate as a new partner, bringing extensive expertise in global trading in the pharmaceutical field, investment and business development in pharmaceutical-adjacent service businesses including CDMOs, and materials development leveraging innovative technologies. By combining Axcelead's capabilities with the Mitsubishi Corporation Group's network and business development expertise, the parties will promote the development of a healthcare ecosystem that connects drug discovery research through pharmaceutical manufacturing.

2. Roles of the Relevant Companies

About Axcelead

Axcelead is the core company of the Healthcare Ecosystem and a portfolio company in which the Company Funds have invested and to which they provide hands-on support. Axcelead succeeded to Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited's drug discovery platform in 2017 and became fully independent from Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited in 2019 under the leadership of the Company. Axcelead is not a conventional clinical CRO; rather, it is a drug discovery CRO that covers multiple stages of the drug discovery process, from target identification and lead optimization to bridging the transition from non-clinical to clinical development. In addition, as a "drug discovery orchestration hub" that integrates AI, data, and wet-lab research capabilities, Axcelead serves as the core of the Healthcare Ecosystem and as an integrated drug discovery solution provider. Axcelead is trusted by more than 300 clients worldwide.

About Mitsubishi Corporation

Mitsubishi Corporation conducts diversified business across a wide range of industries through its seven business groups: Energy & Power Solution, Materials Solution, Mineral Resources, Urban Development & Infrastructure, Mobility, Food Industry, and S.L.C. (Smart-Life Creation). In the healthcare field, Mitsubishi Corporation provides products and services that help address a wide range of customer needs, primarily in the areas of medical care, nursing care, prevention, pharmaceuticals, and agrochemicals.

About Whiz Partners Inc.

The Company is an independent asset management firm with strengths in the healthcare sector. Through the Company Funds, the Company invests in Axcelead and provides hands-on support to the Axcelead Group, including Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners, Inc., a core operating company of the group, as well as to portfolio companies, while working to advance the Healthcare Ecosystem.

3. First Step: Transfer of a Portion of Axcelead Shares

As the first step in the collaboration with Mitsubishi Corporation, a portion of the shares of Axcelead, a portfolio company in which the Company Funds have invested and to which they provide hands-on support, will be transferred to Mitsubishi Corporation. Through the Transfer, the Company will further promote the development of the Healthcare Ecosystem with Axcelead at its core.

Following the Transfer, the Company Funds will remain a major shareholder of Axcelead.

Axcelead is pursuing a growth strategy aimed at enhancing its enterprise value over the medium to long term, with an initial public offering (IPO) under consideration as one potential option. Mitsubishi Corporation's participation as a shareholder is expected to support Axcelead's further growth and enterprise value enhancement.

4. Future Outlook

The Company views the Healthcare Ecosystem as an open platform in which like-minded operating companies may participate through business alliances and other forms of collaboration, and will continue to welcome the participation of new operating partners with complementary strengths. Through the Healthcare Ecosystem centered on Axcelead, the Company will contribute to strengthening the international competitiveness of Japan's drug discovery and healthcare industries.

Company Profiles

Whiz Partners Inc.

Established	May 1, 2003
Head Office	2-5-1 Atago, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Business	Management of alternative investment funds focused primarily on the healthcare sector and related fields

Mitsubishi Corporation

Established	April 1, 1950
Head Office	2-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Business	Diversified business across a wide range of industries through seven business groups: Energy & Power Solution, Materials Solution, Mineral Resources, Urban Development & Infrastructure, Mobility, Food Industry, and S.L.C. (Smart-Life Creation).

Axcelead, Inc.

Established	April 27, 2017
Head Office	2-5-1 Atago, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Business	Holding company for a drug discovery platform business centered on drug discovery research support and related businesses

Axcelead Drug Discovery Partners, Inc.

Established	April 1, 2020
Head Office	2-26-1 Muraoka-Higashi, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa
Business	Drug discovery platform business centered on drug discovery research support and related businesses

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