

# Canon and 19 Founders Announce OPEN COVID-19 DECLARATION

**Kyoto, Japan (May 7, 2020)** – [Canon Inc.](#) and [GenoConcierge Kyoto, Inc.](#) with 18 other founders announced the OPEN COVID-19 DECLARATION, in which the declarers pledge not to enforce their worldwide intellectual property rights against activities aimed at stopping the spread of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented postwar global crisis. The rapid development, manufacture and provision of therapeutic drugs, vaccines, medical devices, infection control products and the like are central to stopping the spread of COVID-19. “Accomplishing this as swiftly as possible calls for a new kind of cooperation between industry, government and academia, that breaks the molds of traditional models. We believe that, in the current climate, patent, design, copyright and other intellectual property rights should not interfere with the deployment of these critical items,” said Hideki Sanatake, Executive Officer, Corporate Intellectual Property and Legal Headquarters, Canon Inc.

Without seeking compensation, the declarers in essence commit not to assert any patents, utility models, designs or copyrights, against any activities whose purpose is stopping the spread of COVID-19, including diagnosis, prevention, containment and treatment, until the World Health Organization (WHO) declares that the COVID-19 outbreak no longer constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Anybody can use the intellectual property rights of the declarers subject to the IP Open Access Declaration Against COVID-19 without investigating whether those rights are infringed and without spending time and money to negotiate for licenses. “It is expected that the Declaration will contribute to the safety and wellness of us all by enabling a large number of companies, universities and research institutions to conduct COVID-19 related research, development and other activities,” said Hisao Yamasaki, Chief Executive Officer, GenoConcierge Kyoto, Inc.

Keidanren, the Japan Association of New Economy, the Computer Software Association of Japan, the WIPO Japan Office and other industry organizations are supporting the Declaration. The founders hope that other IP rights owners will join them in making this important declaration and encourage all to do so.

Executing the Declaration is easy: just download the form, execute it and upload the PDF file to the Declaration website. For more details please visit <https://www.gckyoto.com/covid-2>

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OPEN COVID-19  
DECLARATION

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## Standard Terms of COVID-19 Countermeasures Declaration

1. The declarer will not assert any patent, utility model, design or copyright (hereinafter referred to as the "Intellectual Property Rights\*1") against any individual or other entity during the period starting with the date of this Declaration and ending on the date on which the World Health Organization (WHO) declares that the COVID-19 outbreak no longer constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, with respect to the activities whose sole purpose is stopping the spread of COVID-19, such as diagnosis, prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19\*2.
2. This Declaration shall not be construed as a warranty, express or implied, of patentability, validity or merchantability, or that any third party's rights would not be infringed by exercise of the Intellectual Property Rights.
3. This Declaration shall not apply to any individual or entity who initiates an infringement warning or suit, or other legal proceeding involving intellectual property, against the declarer\*3 of this Declaration.
4. The declarer shall discuss the possibility and the terms of license under its Intellectual Property Rights in the event that any person or entity wishes to obtain such license after the term of this Declaration.
5. The declarer may impose any additional limitations on the scope of this Declaration by specifying such limitations in the attached Attachment.

**#1** The Intellectual Property Rights shall not include any trademark and trade secrets, and shall exclude any rights under which there exists contractual restrictions with a third party, or which require payment to a third party.

**#2** If there is any existing agreement with the declarer, such agreement shall take precedence over this Declaration.

**#3** Including its subsidiaries.

## Founders

- Ajinomoto Co., Inc.  
Hiroyuki Kojima (Corporate Senior Vice President)
- SRL, Inc.  
Shunichi Higashi (President and CEO)
- NEC Solution Innovators, Ltd.  
Hisayoshi Hondou (Executive Vice President)
- LSI Medience Corporation  
Satoru Kusunoki (Representative Director, Member of the Board,  
Managing Director)

- Canon Inc.

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- Ken-ichi Nagasawa (Managing Executive Officer)  
Hideki Sanatake (Executive Officer)
- Kyoto University, The Center for Genomic Medicine  
Fumihiko Matsuda, Ph.D. (Professor and Director)
  - Konica Minolta, Inc.  
Tetsuya Matsueda (Executive Officer, Responsible for Intellectual Property)
- Motohiro Makino (General Manager of Corporate Intellectual Property Division)
- GenoConcierge Kyoto, Inc.  
Hisao Yamasaki (Founder & CEO)
  - Shimadzu Corporation  
Fuminori Inagaki (Managing Executive Officer)
  - Chanel G.K.  
Guillermo Gutierrez (C.E.O.)
  - Tsubakimoto Chain Co.  
Hisao Nishii (Executive Officer, Technology & Research Development Affairs, Senior Manager, Technology Development Department)
  - Teijin Limited  
Hiroyuki Umetani (Chief officer - Legal, Intellectual Property)
  - Toyota Motor Corporation  
Yosuke Iida (General Manager, Intellectual Property Div.)
  - Nikon Corporation  
Toshikazu Kudo (General Manager of Intellectual Property Division)
  - Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.  
Tomohiro Itou (General Manager, Technology Sales Department)  
Tomonori Bekku (General Manager, Intellectual Property Department)
  - HORIBA, Ltd.  
Masaaki MAGARI (Department Manager Intellectual Property Strategy Department, Research & Development Division)
  - Honda Motor Co., Ltd.  
Hirokazu Bessho (Intellectual Property and Standardization Supervisory Unit, Head of Supervisory Unit)
  - Mitsui Knowledge Industry Co., Ltd.  
Masayuki Ooshima (Director)
  - Yahoo Japan Corporation  
Masahito Seno (EVP, President of Legal Management Group)  
Hiroshi Takabe (Senior manager Intellectual Property Department, Legal Management Group)
  - ROHM Co., Ltd.  
Takaaki Nagura (General Manager)

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