

Topics

September 1, 2026

Japan National University Corporation Tohoku University
Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

Honda and Tohoku University Establish “Honda R&D x Tohoku University Innovative Mobility System Co-creation Research Center”

TOKYO, Japan, September 31, 2026 – Honda R&D Co., Ltd. (Honda R&D), the R&D subsidiary of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (Honda), and the National University Corporation Tohoku University (Tohoku University) in Japan have established the Honda R&D x Tohoku University Innovative Mobility System Co-creation Research Center* within the Institute of Fluid Science (IFS) of Tohoku University, effective today, September 1, 2026.

This Co-creation Research Center will serve as a research hub that brings together the advanced academic expertise of Tohoku University and the technical expertise and know-how of Honda for realizing real-world applications of new technologies, which Honda has amassed through its business activities mostly in the field of mobility products and services. By working closely together, Honda and Tohoku University will explore cutting-edge research themes, which have the potential to drive innovation in future mobility systems. In the selected research areas, the two parties will pursue research and development activities oriented toward real-world applications, aiming to leverage the research results to address societal issues and create new value for society.

Through the establishment of this Co-creation Research Center, Honda and Tohoku University will further strengthen their collaboration and foster a virtuous cycle in the areas of research, talent and knowledge, contributing to the creation of innovation and the development of the next generation of talent.

* The Co-creation Research Center is a collaboration scheme established in April 2021 by Tohoku University to leverage the university's research resources to the fullest extent, and to promote co-creation activities for the purpose of creating new value and addressing various societal issues through interdisciplinary collaboration. As of the end of August 2026, there are over 50 Co-creation Research Centers.



From left to right: representing Honda R&D are Fellow Toshiro Kiura, Chief Engineer Shigeru Omura, President and Representative Director Toshihiro Akiwa; and representing Tohoku University are Specially Appointed Professor Masami Terauchi, Executive Vice President Tsuyoshi Tohyama (Industry-University Collaboration), Associate Executive Vice President Yoshio Oda (Industry-University Collaboration), Professor Kaoru Maruta and Research Fellow Yoshikatsu Nakano

■ **Institution name:**

Honda R&D x Tohoku University Innovative Mobility System Co-creation Research Center

■ **Scope of activities:**

- (1) To collaborate with various faculties, schools and other units across Tohoku University to explore trends in deep tech and other advanced research themes/areas.
- (2) Based on the intelligence gained from the activities described in (1), Honda R&D and Tohoku University researchers will advance discussions and formulate research strategies.
- (3) To conduct joint research on themes identified in line with the research strategies and accelerate real-world applications of research results.

■ **Organizational structure:**

- Director of Research Operations: Toshiro Kiura/Fellow, Honda R&D
- Operation Support Manager: Kaoru Maruta/ Associate Executive Vice President, Tohoku University; Professor, Institute of Fluid Science
- Participating Company Liaison: Shigeru Omura/Chief Engineer, Research Center of Excellence, Honda R&D
- Participating Faculty Members:
 - Masami Terauchi/Specially Appointed Professor, Tohoku Center of Excellence for Microscopy (TCEM), Tohoku University
 - Kazuhiko Komatsu/Professor, Research Center for Green X-Tech, Tohoku University Institute for Green Goals Initiative
 - Yoshikatsu Nakano/Research Fellow, Institute of Fluid Science, Tohoku University

■ **Location:** Within the Institute of Fluid Science, Tohoku University

■ **Term of operation:** September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2029

■ **Website:** Head Office of Enterprise Partnership, Tohoku University

(Co-creation Research Center)

https://www.rpip.tohoku.ac.jp/jp/information/kyoso_kenkyu/ (Japanese)

https://www.rpip.tohoku.ac.jp/en/information/kyoso_kenkyu/ (English)