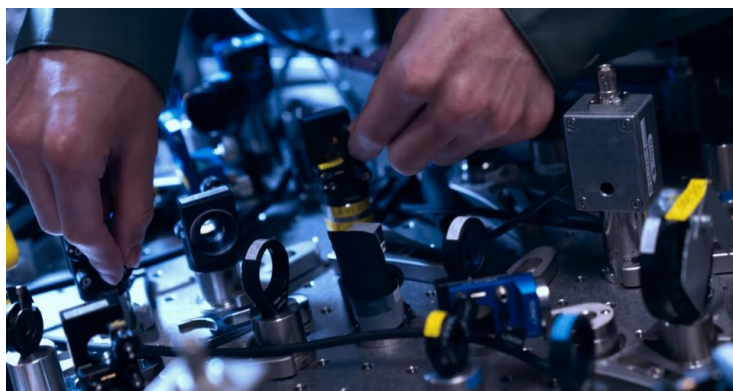


Shimadzu invests in OptQC to advance next-generation R&D infrastructure for drug discovery

August 26, 2026 | News

This marks Shimadzu's first investment in the quantum technology startup



Japan-based Shimadzu Corporation has invested in OptQC Inc., a startup originating from The University of Tokyo, through its Corporate Venture Capital (CVC) fund, “Shimadzu Future Innovation Fund” (Shimadzu FIF).

OptQC is developing optical quantum computers, a next-generation information processing technologies that utilise the principles of quantum mechanics. They are expected to solve complex computational problems that would take conventional supercomputers an enormous amount of time, with potential applications in drug discovery, materials development, semiconductor research, and other fields.

Various approaches to quantum computing, including superconducting, trapped-ion systems, and optical systems, are currently under development. However, no standard technology has yet been established, and global competition to develop practical quantum computers is intensifying. The Japanese government is also promoting the advancement of quantum technologies as a strategic priority.

OptQC is developing optical quantum computers. Its technology is based on an optical quantum computing approach established by Professor Akira Furusawa and his research team at the Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo. A key feature of this approach is that the system does not need to become significantly larger as the number of qubits increases. In addition, unlike superconducting quantum computers, which require operation at extremely low temperatures, optical quantum computers can operate at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, thereby reducing energy consumption. OptQC was selected for a NEDO project in 2025, and its first system was installed to the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in July 2026.