

March 6, 2019

MISUMI Group Inc.

Sponsorship provided to "SAKURA Tempesta", an international robotics competition team

Expanding initiatives relating to nurturing engineers- supporting women's participation and advancement in the "field of engineering"

MISUMI Group Inc. (Headquarter: Bunkyo ward of Tokyo, Representative Director, President and CEO: Ryusei Ono) will be sponsoring a junior high and high school students team known as "SAKURA Tempesta", participating in an international robotics competition known as FIRST® Robotics Competition (hereinafter "FRC").

In the FRC 2018 tournament, "SAKURA Tempesta" became the first team from Japan which entitled to enter the world tournament, and awarded the "Rookie Inspiration Award", an award given to first time entrant for their show of excellence. Most of the robot's parts were procured through MISUMI, thus strong affinity existed from before. The team has a female leader, carrying out various "monozukuri" (engineering) events, aiming to offer Japanese junior and high school students opportunities to get familiar with robotics, also aiming to be a role model for "women's participation and advancement in the field of engineering".

As part of MISUMI's social contribution on the theme of "nurturing engineers", sponsorship was granted as we endorse their activities. Support will be provided in the form of offering MISUMI products while also working on contents production and holding events for students in mind, thereby conveying the appeal of monozukuri(engineering).



Group photo of the SAKURA Tempesta team

■Background for support

MISUMI Group has been supporting young people who will be responsible for the future of manufacturing industry, through "MISUMI Student Engineering Support" program providing products to student organizations while also serving as main sponsor to biped robot fighting tournament "ROBO-ONE".

According to a survey carried out by the Cabinet Office (*), whilst the proportion of female researchers and engineers in Japan is increasing, the proportion of female researchers are 15.3% (2016), remaining low compared to around 30% in other countries. As we enter a full-scale population decline, for Japan to maintain sustainable growth as technology-oriented country, and to help solving societal problems by generating innovation, there is an urgent need to promote female researchers' and engineers' activities and expand measures which will increase the number of female students studying science and engineering.

"SAKURA Tempesta" is carrying out various activities contributing to solve these issues, and to this extent, MISUMI supports their activities.

(*) 2016 Comparative analysis survey report on social system / human resources development of related countries for the promotion of women's participation and advancement in the field of science and engineering

■ What is SAKURA Tempesta?

Japanese FRC team formed in 2017 by a female high school student fascinated by engineering / robotics after having participated in FRC while studying in the U.S. .

Participants comprise mainly of junior high and high school students from Chiba prefecture.

> SAKURA Tempesta website: <https://SAKURA-tempesta.org/>

«2019 season's activity schedule»

1/5: Kickoff (Announcement of Game and Season info/ begin building of robots)

2/23: Showcase of completed robots

3/27 - 3/30: Regional tournament in Hawaii, USA

4/24 - 4/27: World Tournament in Detroit (with world competition entry rights)

■ What is FIRST Robotics Competition?

To nurture young people's mind in science and technology, as well as the humanity, four tournament programs are run by FIRST, an NPO founded in the US. FRC is positioned at the pinnacle among the four tournament programs. It's a global-scale international robotics competition for students aged 15 to 18. With a history of over 20 years, the 2018 tournament had 3,600 teams from all over the world, with over 90,000 participants.

> FRC official site <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc>

【MISUMI Group's social contribution activities】

MISUMI Group has been supporting young people who will be responsible for manufacturing industry of the future by way of "MISUMI Student Engineering Support" programs providing products to student organizations and serves as main sponsor to biped robot fighting tournament "ROBO-ONE". MISUMI supports passion for engineering.

> MISUMI Student Engineering Support website: <https://www.misumi.co.jp/st-project/>

>MISUMI ROBO-ONE special website: <https://www.misumi.co.jp/robo-one/>

【For enquires related to this article】

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