

August 6, 2024
Nagase & Co., Ltd.

Capital and Business Alliance Agreement With A1A Inc. —Acquiring Knowledge for Next-generation Business Development

Nagase & Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, President and CEO: Hiroyuki Ueshima), as part of the growth strategy in its Medium-Term Management Plan ACE 2.0, has specified the four quadrants of Foundation, Focus, Development, and Improvement, and is carrying out its businesses along the axes of the trading, manufacturing, and R&D functions. With the goal of building the foundations for next-generation business development and collaboration in the Development quadrant, Nagase & Co. and A1A Inc. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director: Shuhei Matsubara) have entered into a capital and business alliance agreement.

A1A is a startup company that provides a service which digitizes information on quotations for businesses' purchasing and procurement divisions. With this capital injection from Nagase, A1A will enhance product development for Upcycle*, its service to optimize procurement costs for global manufacturing businesses.

With the goal of carrying out more advanced investment activities in startups to create businesses with a different perspective from existing ones, Nagase began utilizing corporate venture capital (CVC) in 2023. As a CVC initiative, through this investment in A1A Nagase will acquire knowledge in the area of digital transformation for supply chain operations, and apply that knowledge to new business creation.

As a company that solves manufacturing issues through materials, the NAGASE Group will continue to provide new value to everyone.

■A1A Profile

- Company Name: A1A Inc.
 - Head Office: 2-6-7 Misakicho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
 - Representative: Representative Director Shuhei Matsubara
 - Business Summary: Development and sales of products to enhance procurement functions of global manufacturing businesses, and consulting
 - URL: <https://a1a.co.jp/>
- *Upcycle website: <https://up-cycle.jp/>

◆Inquiries

Nagase & Co., Ltd. URL: <https://www.nagase.co.jp/english/>

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