A place for postdoctoral fellows to work actively - A proposal to dispatch them to innovative SMEs -

The 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Cluster Seminar June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

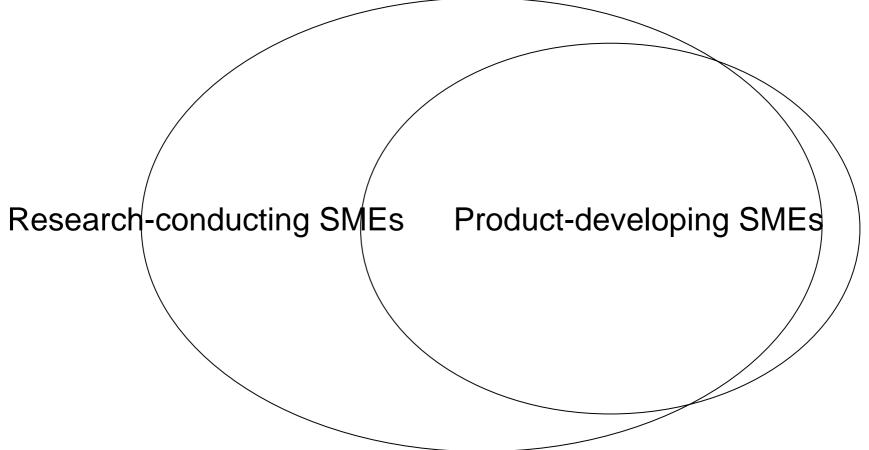
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Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University

### To find innovative SMEs

- Research-conducting firms are not necessarily have a product-developing capacity including that for achieving values from the developed products in the market (innovative capacity).
- We propose a new definition of "product-developing SMEs"



### Types of SMEs

### Product-developing SMEs

- Definition: SMEs that have designing capabilities and their original products in their sales.
- "Original products" refers to products based on their planning and design including semi-products and components, even sold under their customers' brand.
- Non-product-developing SMEs
  - Parts-processing SMEs (mostly sub-contracting SMEs)
    - Definition: SMEs that are engaged in parts processing, such as cutting/grinding/sanding, casting/forging, pressing, plating/surface treatment, component assembly, injection molding and metal tool manufacturing.
  - SMEs research-conducting but not capable of selling their original products

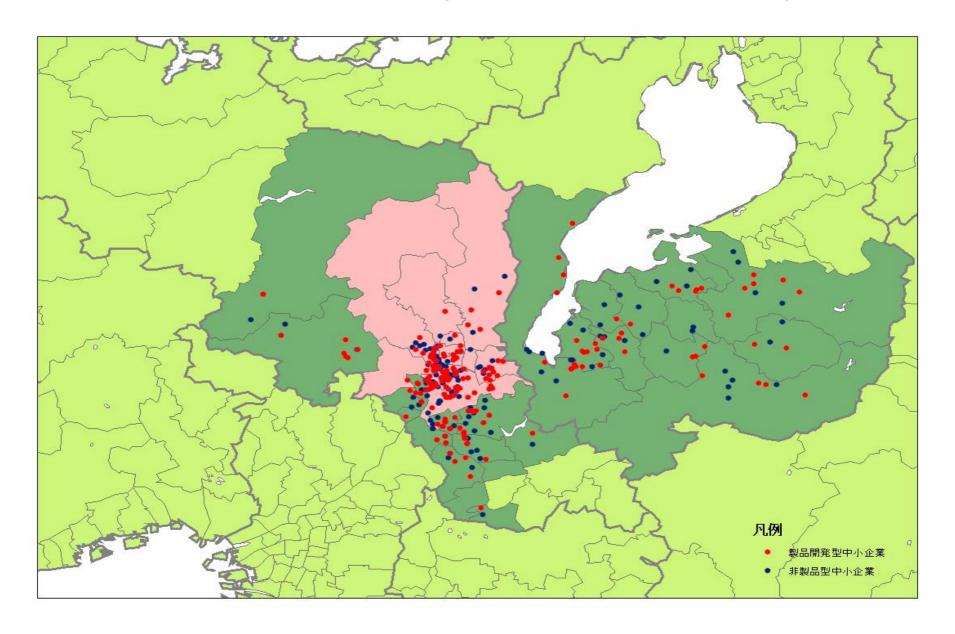
"Keiji region" in the questionnaire survey conducted in Nov.- Dec. 2006



### Number of respondent firms and response rates

		Keiji re	Keiji region					
				Kyoto pref.		Shiga pref.		
					Kyoto city			
(machinery and metal related manufacturing)		Accessed firms	Response rate	Response rate	Response rate	Response rate		
	Survey on Middle-sized and SMEs	2183	371	288	174	83		
	(Response rate)		(17.0%)	(18.4%)	(19.3%)	(13.4%)		
	SMEs	2161	368	286	174	82		
	(Response rate)		(17.0%)	(18.4%)	(19.5%)	(13.4%)		
	Product-developing	-	184	139	89	45		
	Non-product-developing	-	184	147	85	37		
	Middle-sized firms	22	3	2	0	1		
	(Response rate)		(13.6%)	(15.4%)	(0.0%)	(11.1%)		
Survey on large firms		14	7	7	7	0		
	(Response rate)		(50.0%)	(58.3%)	(63.6%)	(0.0%)		

### Locations of product-developing and non-product-developing SMEs



#### Core technologies of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region

Mechanical design and manufacturi	ng domain>					
Technology field and core technology	Firm's name		Technology field and core technology Firm's name			
Optics & image processing technology ( measuring, analysis and high-precision processing by optics & image processing technology )			Mechatronics & automated machines development and manufacturing technology			
X線分析・イメージング技術 計量システム・光センサー技術 光半導体自動検査技術 小型固体レーザ・光学素子・光学機械技術 光学技術、画像処理技術 工業用デジタルカメラ技術 画像処理技術 光学応用計測器技術 光学設計・レーザー光制御・画像処理技術	株式会社エックスレイ・プレジョン 近江度量衡株式会社 株式会社オプトシステム 株式会社島津デバイス製造 株式会社ジャスト 竹中システム機器株式会社 株式会社ビューテック 株式会社ビューテック 株式会社ローザーソリューションス・ processing technology	京滋京京京京京京京京京京京京京市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市	自動化技術 高精度割出技術 プレス機械技術 特殊設計・システム化設計・位置制御設計技術 高速ハンドリング技術 ロボットハンドリング技術 縫製メカトロ技術 分注、分配、液体ハンドリング技術、シーラー技術 パウチのハンドリング技術、紙・フィルムの虹 行修正技術、紙・フィルムの原反の保持技術 自動機技術、制御装置技術	株式会社第一技研 テクノエンジ・ニアリング・株式会社 ハムス株式会社 マイクロニクス株式会社 株式会社三橋製作所	京京滋京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京市市市市市市	
ガス濃度計測検出技術 粉体・液体の自動計量技術 プリント基板検査用の微細治具技術 液体危険物の高精度計量技術 実装プリント基板検査技術 VOC(揮発性有機物質)分析機器技術 対ス濃度計測検出技術 株式会社エムエステック 大西電子株式会社 株式会社富永製作所 株式会社ニューリー・土山 株式会社ニューリー・土山 株式会社本町製作所		市市市府県市県市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市市	Machinery development and manufactue 自動制御、電気計装・設計・施工技術 急傾斜地重量物(3~4t)運搬モルール技術 フリクション巻取軸技術 レス拡管機技術 コーティングラミネート加工機技術 組立パイプのアプリケーション技術 金属切削くず、クーラント及び産業廃棄物の	有限会社アドバンテクノ 内田産業株式会社 有限会社川崎産業 京進工業KK サムエンジニアリング株式会社 スペーシア株式会社	滋京京京滋滋滋	
LCD,PDP, semiconductors and other el manufacturing technology 常圧プラズマ表面処理装置技術 低湿度装置開発製造技術 電子部品製造設備技術 半導体製造ライン等の排ガス除害技術	株式会社イー・スクエア 五和工業株式会社 有限会社エース・エンジェアリング カンケンテクノ株式会社	京都府京都府京都府京都府京都府	搬送機技術 焼却技術 油圧応用技術  Electric machinery development and r	アカイ電子工業株式会社	京都府京都府京都府	
洗浄技術 株式会社三輝 京都市 光学フィルム等の打抜装置技術 株式会社ダイテックス 京都市 メカトロニクス技術、FA装置技術 株式会社 藤堂製作所 京都市 液晶バックライト製造設備等ガラス加工 と時間技術 送賀県	空気分離技術と電気制御技術の応用による窒素ガス・酸素ガス等発生技術 受配電設備技術 放電灯用安定器技術 誘導発熱技術 特殊変圧器・特殊リアクトル技術 電熱技術・温度をふくめた電気制御技術	株式会社アドバン理研 京都精工電機株式会社 ジーエス・ドイ・テック株式会社 トクデン株式会社 株式会社酉島電機製作所 広田製作所	京京京部都都都都都都都都都都都都都都都都			

<parts and="" domain="" materials=""></parts>		<environment, and="" biotechnology="" domain="" medical="" related="" services=""></environment,>					
Technology field and core technology	Firm's name		Technology field and core technology	Firm's name			
Electronic devices development and mar	nufacturing technology		Environment improving technology				
半導体デバイス・同プロセス技術、液晶プロ セス技術	エスティ・モバイルディスプレ イ株式会社	滋賀県	廃木材原料活性炭技術 食品残渣処理設備技術、エンジニアリング	株式会社カーボテック ゼロム環境エンジニアリング	京都市 滋賀県		
ドライコーティング技術(真空蒸着、スパッ	ドライコーティング技術(真空蒸着、スパッタリング)、ウェットコーティング技術 光半導体デバイス技術 京セミ株式会社 京都府 圧電セラミック素子技術 有限会社タケムラテクノワークス 京都市プラスティックフィルムの金属蒸着技術 株式会社麗光 京都府		Health care and medical technology				
光半導体デバイス技術 圧電セラミック素子技術			エックス線撮影技術 X線発生技術 高機能FRP成形品技術 カスタムメイドのコンタクトレンズ技術	朝日レントゲン工業株式会社 株式会社近畿レントケン工業社 桑野造船株式会社 株式会社サンコンタクトレンズ	京都市 京都市 滋賀県 京都市		
Materials development technology	1		Biotechnology	<u> </u>			
高機能ポリイミド樹脂成形・加工技術 紫外線硬化技術	株式会社I.S.T 株式会社オーテック工業	滋賀県 滋賀県 滋賀県 滋賀県	微生物を用いる物質生産(酸素&化合物)技 術 微生物培養技術	マルキンバイオ株式会社 洛東化成工業株式会社	京都府滋賀県		
無機合成技術(化学) 鋳物/FRPの開発製造技術	無機合成技術(化学)		<pre><parts-processing developing="" domain(parts-processing="" have)="" product-="" smes="" technology="" the="" which=""></parts-processing></pre>				
#゚リオレフィン架橋発泡シートの成型加工技術 ステンレス材の焼結(拡散接合)技術			Technology field and core technology	Firm's name			
アルミ形機の押出技術	古河スカイ滋賀株式会社	京都府 滋賀県	Mold manufacturing technology				
金属イオンを検出しないシリコンロールの製造技術	有限会社プレン加工	京都府	プラスチック成型用金型技術 精密鍛造金型技術	株式会社阿曽工作所 株式会社ニチダイ	京都府 京都府		
Information and telecommunications dom	ain>		Parts-processing technology				
Technology field and core technology	Firm's name		マシニングセンター・研削加工技術	有限会社旭精工	京都市		
Information system technology マイクロコンピュータ応用システム技術	■ ■ 堅田電機株式会社	滋賀県	レーザー加工技術 研削・研磨加工技術	有限会社今井製作所 エフ・ピー・ツール株式会社	滋賀県京都市		
電気・制御・CPU複合技術(EIC複合技術) 情報処理装置のハード・ソフトのトータルソ	京都EIC株式会社 新世代株式会社	京都府滋賀県	研削加工技術 クリーン環境における、フィルム・両面テープ の打抜、切断加工及び検査技術	株式会社カネコ □ 三幸総研株式会社 □	滋賀県京都市		
リューション技術 人工衛星観測関連技術、情報伝送処理技術 ICカード技術、ICカートリーダ・ライタ技術	東洋電子工業株式会社 マクセル精機株式会社	京都府 京都府	アルミ合金の新陽極酸化皮膜「ミタニライト」技術 機械加工・板金加工・ダイカスト鋳・プラス チック加工技術	日本アルミナ加工株式会社日野精機	京都市滋賀県		
Communication network technology			高周波溶着技術・発泡スチロール加工技術	株式会社藤田化工	滋賀県		
ネットワーク関連機器の省配線システム技術 データ通信計測技術	株式会社エニイワイヤ 株式会社ラインアイ	京都府 京都府	精密インサート樹脂成形技術  (Note)This table exhibits the core techn	ミヤコテック株式会社 ologies with the firm's names wh	京都市		
			the firms granted permission.	3.25			

#### Main products of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region

	Widin P	roducts of product-deve		011			
<machinery domain=""></machinery>							
Firm's name		Main product	Firm's name		Main product		
Opt-electronics and image-processir (Measurement and analytical instru	ument and	precision processing equipment by	Machines and instruments for various use				
optical technology and image-process	ing technol	ogy)	内田産業株式会社	京都市	農業用モノレール販売		
株式会社エックスレイ・プレシジョン	可搬型X線透視装置		株式会社オーテック工業	滋賀県	土木用モノレールレンタル 下水管路穿孔機 下水管路内面補修機		
近江度量衡株式会社株式会社島津デバイス製造	滋賀県京都市	計量装置、選別装置 精密屈折計、回折格子	有限会社川崎産業 京進工業KK	京都市 京都市 京都市	フリクション巻取軸 拡管機		
株式会社理工化学研究所	京都府	光学応用計測器	株式会社京都エスアール	京都市	タイマー(少し具体的に)		
Measurement and analytical instru	ment (other	than those above)	小人女 在水 的 <b>二</b> 人 / / / /	N. HIVII	教育用機器(少し具体的に)		
有限会社旭精工	京都市	デバイス評価治具	京阪工業株式会社	京都府	Tシャツ捺染設備 半自動旗印染捺染機		
株式会社エムエステック	京都府	バーンイン検査治具 全自動身長体重測定装置	スペーシア株式会社	滋賀県	組立パイプ部材		
株式会社本町製作所       流たくネームプリンター 繊維摩耗試験機         株式会社本町製作所       京都市       VOC(揮発性有機物質)モニター			京都市 滋賀県	ジャガード織物電子化装置 金属切削くず搬送コンベヤ			
		''''			クリーンルームを含む事業場間仕切 り用等のビニールカーテン		
LCD, PDP, semiconductors and other	electronic (	devices manufacturing equipment	藤田化工	滋賀県	5円寺のヒュールカーテン   天井カセット形ファンコイルユニットの		
株式会社イー・スクエア カンケンテクノ株式会社	京都府 京都府	常圧プラズマ表面処理装置 半導体製造排ガス除害装置	モリミ加工株式会社	┃ ┃ 京都府	一部 熱風乾燥装置		
株式会社ダイテックス	京都市	実装基板分割機、その分割刃型					
株式会社ティーエスインク	京都府	アスクレチクルストッカー	Electric machine apparatus				
トキワ精機株式会社	滋賀県	テレビ用硝子板製造装置	アカイ電子工業株式会社	京都府	一般誘導加熱電源		
		液晶パネル用バックライト製造装置			ボンバータ高周波加熱電源 低周波誘導加熱装置		
		半導体製造装置	株式会社アドバン理研	京都府	図句が研究が表現である。   窒素ガス発生装置、酸素ガス発生装		
Automated machine				N APATT	置		
キョウシンエンジニアリング株式会社	滋賀県	プレス送り装置、プレス機械、プレ ス周辺装置	広田製作所	京都市	電機ヒーター(半導体向け石英ヒー ター)、電気炉		
ハムス株式会社	京都市	リードフレーム加工等の自動機械装置					
■							
		オートベルター(全自動ベルトルー プ縫い付け機)					
		銅箔とフィルムの貼合機械 フィルムの延伸機械			9		
		フィルムの延伸機械フィルムの塗工機					

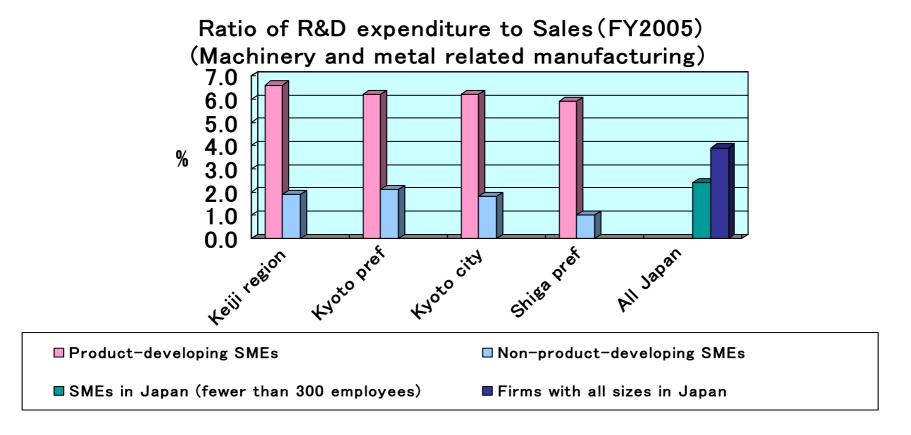
<electronic and="" devices="" domain="" materials=""></electronic>						
Firm's name		Main product				
Electronic devices						
レイデント工業株式会社	京都府	レイデント処理による薄膜形成				
Material technology appl	ied products	3				
シンヨー化成株式会社	滋賀県	塩ビプラッチック、ポリカ波板				
<information domain<="" system="" td=""><td>n&gt;</td><td></td></information>	n>					
Firm's name		Main product				
Information system						
京都EIC株式会社	京都府	硝子溶解炉用監視制御システム 溶融硝子液面センサー 硝子溶解炉内監視カメラシステム				
新世代株式会社 滋賀県 東洋電子工業株式会社 京都府		家庭用情報処理装置 津波早期警戒情報ネットワークシステム WMO(世界気象機関)気象情報交換システム 鉄道旅客案内情報システム				
	vices • hio-r					
Firm's name	V1000 B10 1	Main product				
Environment protecting a	apparatus	·				
ゼロム環境エンジニアリング	滋賀県	生ごみキルン熱風乾燥炉 生ごみ間接乾燥炉				
プレパイ工業株式会社	京都府	グリーストラップ 小型水槽				
Health care and medical	service rela	ated products				
オオイ金属株式会社	京都府	角型二重食缶、学校給食用食缶、 家庭用金物・アウトドア製品				
桑野造船株式会社    滋賀県		競技用ボート、ボート競技会施設、 モータボート(審判用)				
五大エンボディ株式会社	京都市	医薬品外観検査装置、医療用検査システム、 障害支援システム				
マイクロニクス株式会社	京都府	尿自動分析装置 自動シーラー(自動容器密封機)				

<pre><parts-processing domain(parts-processing="" have)="" product-developing="" services="" smes="" which=""></parts-processing></pre>					
Firm's name		Main product			
Metallic molds and machine parts					
株式会社砂﨑製作所	京都市	車両用電気部品、起重機部品、			
株式会社ニチダイ 京都府		送配電用アースフック   精密鍛造金型、精密鍛造品、同組み立て、   焼結金網フィルタ			
宮川バネ工業株式会社	滋賀県	板バネ、線バネ、金型			
Parts-processing serv	ices				
株式会社カネコ 近畿総合技研株式会社 日本アルミナ加工株式会社	滋賀県 京都市 京都市	省力設備及び精密部品加工 研削、研磨加工、攪拌機 アルミ部品特殊表面処理 新商品共同開発研究			

(Note) This table exhibits the core technologies with the firm's names which the firms granted permission.

## R&D input index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Ratio of R&D expenditure to sales)

Product-developing SMEs have a high ratio of R&D expenditure to sales. It is higher than R&D-conducting firms all over the country.

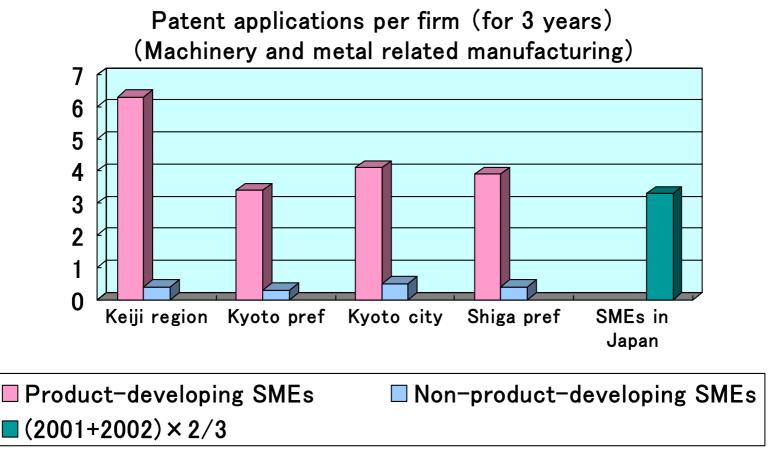


(Note 1) The figures for all Japan is for manufacturing industry and represent only research-conducting firms by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) "Technology research investigation report."

<sup>(</sup>Note 2) The figures for Keiji region are simple averages of the ratio for every firm, while those for all Japan are weighted averages.

R&D output index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Number of patent applications in the 3 most recent years)

Product-developing SMEs files many patent applications. Their number of patent applications is higher than the national average.

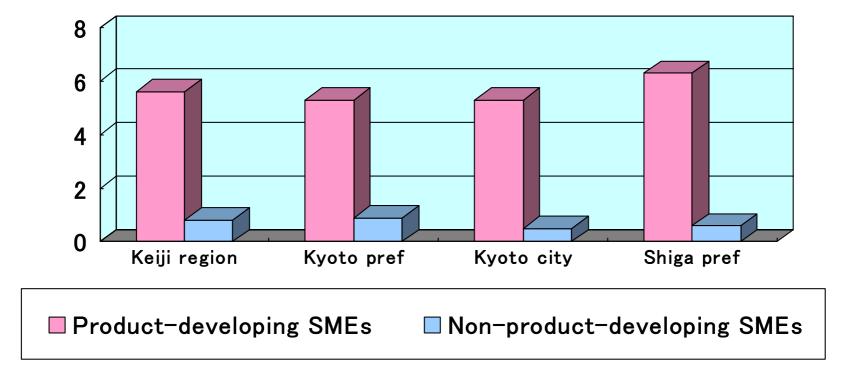


(Note 1) The figure for all Japan represent only the firms experienced patent applications in 2000 Patent Office "Survey report on activities on intellectual properties right" (Note 2) The figure for product-developing SMEs in Shiga pref. excludes an outlier, while that for Keiji region includes the outlier.

R&D output index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Number of new products for the 3 most recent years )

Product-developing SMEs develop many new products.

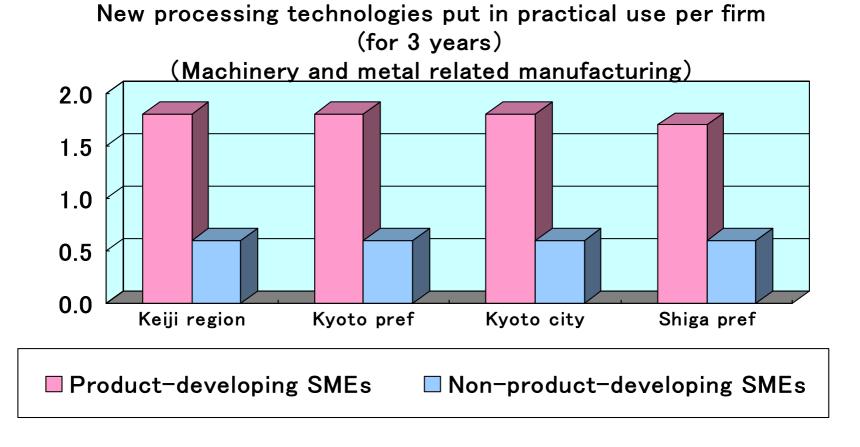
New products per firm (for 3 years)
(Machinery and metal related manufacturing)



(Note) The figures for new products are those launched for the 3 most recent years, including model changes but excluding specific products for one-off orders.

R&D output index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Number of new processing technologies for the 3 most recent years)

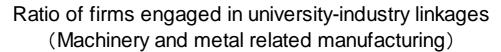
Product-developing SMEs put many new processing technologies in practical use.

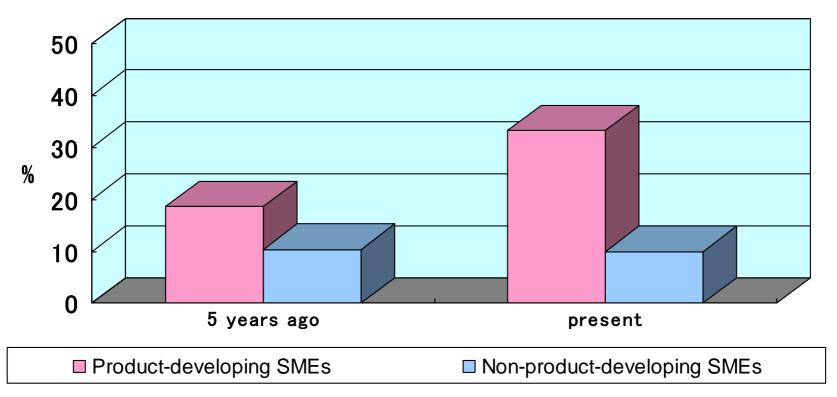


(Note) The figures for new processing technologies are those put in practical use in the 3 most recent years.

# Ratio of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region engaged in university-industry linkages

Ratio of product-developing SMEs engaged in university-industry linkages is higher than non-product-developing SMEs and increased rapidly in the last 5 years.





(Note) Universities as linkage partners include national research institutions.

## Problems for product-developing SMEs which were made clear through interviews and symposium

- Existence of product-developing SMEs as promoters of innovation
  - The results of the questionnaire survey on firms in Keiji region confirmed the existence of many product-developing SMEs (respondent firms:184, the firms which gave permission to make public their names:103)
- Collection of information on development needs and through linkages with large firms
  - Development needs of new products very often occur in relation with large customer firms.
  - There are firms which plans to move into new fields of markets different from their present markets by applying their core technologies for new purposes.
- Needs and problems for university-industry linkages
  - The product-developing SMEs encounter new technological challenges when they plan to move into new fields of markets. They have strong needs for collaboration with universities or public research institutions.
  - There are not many firms which succeeds in search for collaboration partners by themselves (these are model cases).
  - Even a very competent firm feels difficulty for finding a collaboration partner. It is required to build up effective search environment to look for collaboration partners.
  - Using the liaison offices of universities and public support institutions brings a first step.
- Problems for securing human resources
  - Some firms succeeds in securing human resources by establishing their notability and by giving good motivation to young people.
  - However, in general, it is difficult for many firms to hire human resources because they are SMEs
    even in the cases they have advanced technologies and good business achievements. This is
    especially true for recruiting new graduates.
  - The shortage of specialized people graduated universities of science and technology in the firms is also a serious obstacle for university-industry linkages.

## Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with universities (1) Problems in relations with collaboration partners

( multiple answer )

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	62
No suitable collaboration partners	12.0%	1.6%
Difficulty in searching collaboration partners	22.8%	25.8%
Difficulty in evaluating real technological contents of the candidate partners	10.9%	21.0%
Difficulty in applying researches of the candidate partners to actual businesses	13.0%	22.6%
Anxiety about negotiations for allocation of outcomes of the collaboration	3.3%	8.1%
A risk of leaks of technologies and information	6.5%	11.3%

## Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with universities (2) Shortage of business resources of the firm to promote the collaboration project

(multiple answer)

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	62
Shortage of human resources	27.7%	33.9%
Shortage of financial resources	24.5%	33.9%
Difficulty in finding markets	10.3%	21.0%
Difficulty in manufacturing prototypes	22.2%	6.5%

## Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with large firms (1) Problems in relations with collaboration partners

( multiple answer )

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	70
No suitable collaboration partners	9.8%	4.3%
Difficulty in searching collaboration partners	13.0%	10.0%
Difficulty in evaluating real technological contents of the candidate partners	7.1%	11.4%
Difficulty in applying researches of the candidate partners to actual businesses	2.7%	2.9%
Anxiety about negotiations for allocation of outcomes of the collaboration	9.8%	18.6%
A risk of leaks of technologies and information	15.8%	21.4%

## Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with large firms (2) Shortage of business resources of the firm to promote the collaboration project

( multiple answer )

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	70
Shortage of human resources	21.7%	35.7%
Shortage of financial resources	13.6%	17.1%
Difficulty in finding markets	6.5%	10.0%
Difficulty in manufacturing prototypes	2.2%	5.7%

### Sufficiency level of human resources in SMEs in Keiji region

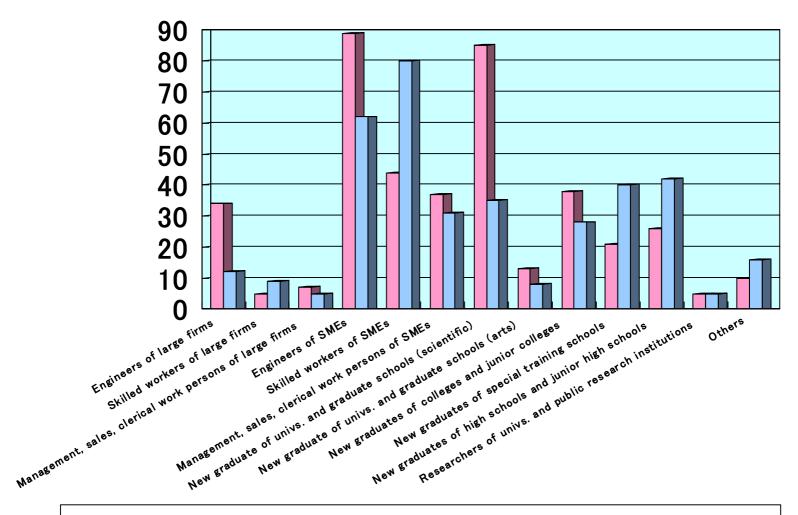
			Respondent firms	Sufficient	Barely sufficient	Partly sufficient, partly insufficient	Unsatisfied	Absolutely insufficient
Keij	i region							
	SMEs	total	358	10	78	80	158	32
			100.0	2.8	21.8	22.3	44.1	8.9
		Product- developing	182	2	41	41	82	16
			100.0	1.1	22.5	22.5	45.1	8.8
		Non- product- developing	176	8	37	39	76	16
			100.0	4.5	21.0	22.2	43.2	9.1

(Note) Upper: Number of firms Lower: Percentage share in respective regions and SME types

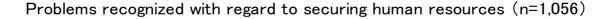
### Types of human resources whom SMEs in Keiji region require

#### Persentage share in respondent firms

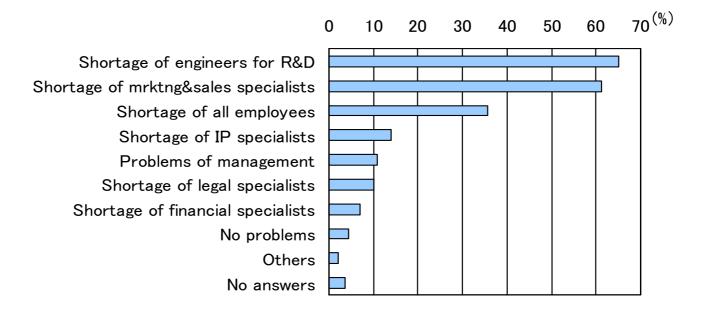
■ Product-developing SMEs



■ Non-product-developing SMEs





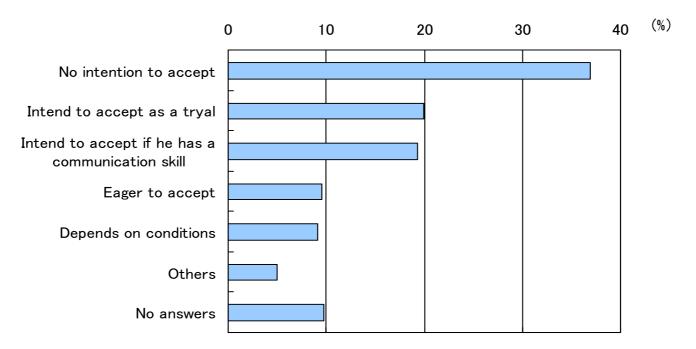


- O Over 60% of firms feel problems in 1) shortage of engineers for R&D such as product development and 2) shortage of skilled persons in marketing and sales promotion.
- O Firms satisfied with human resources are only about 5% and most of firms have any problems in securing human resources.

(Source) Secretariat for Regional Innovation Study Group "Consciousness survey on new business creation, upgrading of technologies and promotion of innovation in regions" April 18th, 2008

< firm >





(Source) Secretariat for Regional Innovation Study Group "Consciousness survey on new business creation, upgrading of technologies and promotion of innovation in regions" April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

#### Employment situation of postdoctoral fellows

- Total number of postdoctoral fellows:15,496(FY2005)
  - NISTEP and Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division, MEXT (2007),"Survey on Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Assistants (FY2006)"
  - c.f. 10,000 postdoctoral fellows support plan (The First Science and Technology Basic Plan)
- Large corporations are not positive to employ doctoral fellows, according to the report of Japanese Business Federation.
  - 73% of new graduates hired for engineering works are masters and doctors account only 3%. The corporations which wants to increase hiring doctors are only about 10%. Most of corporations don't have preferential plan to hire doctors (Japanese Business Federation (Feb 2007)"Summary results of questionnaire survey on doctoral graduate people in corporations").
- On the contrary, arguments which positively evaluate "social capability" of doctoral fellows appear recently.
  - Hamanaka, Junko (2008) "Conditions to promote employment of doctors",
     Journal of Industry-Academic-Government Collaboration, January, 2008 25

#### Postdoctoral fellows by funding sources (FY2005)

(persons)

	Funding source	То	tal	National universities	
C	ompetitive funds and other outside funds	7,317	(47.2%)	3,834	(53.3%)
	Competitive funds	4,752	(30.7%)	2,423	(33.7%)
	21Century COE Program	1,511	(9.8%)	1,232	(17.1%)
	Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	1,163	(7.5%)	829	(11.5%)
	CREST	1,294	(8.4%)	20	(0.3%)
	Special coordination funds for promoting science and technology	404	(2.6%)	194	(2.7%)
	Other competitive research funds	380	(2.5%)	148	(2.1%)
	Scholarship donation by private firms	394	(2.5%)	364	(5.1%)
	Other outside funds	2,171	(14.0%)	1,047	(14.5%)
Fe	llowship / government-financed foreign student	2,766	(17.8%)	1,779	(24.7%)
0	perational-expenses subsidy and other funds	4,663	(30.1%)	1,098	(15.3%)
N	employment relationship	750	(4.8%)	485	(6.7%)
To	otal	15,496	(100.0%)	7,196	(100.0%)

(Source) NISTEP and Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division, MEXT (2007), "Survey on  $_{\rm 26}$  Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Assistants (FY2006)"

#### Regional Innovation Study Report

Promotion of medium-to-long term dispatch of young researchers such as postdoctoral fellows to firms

It would be most beneficial to upgrade basic technologies of SMEs, if we could make use of young university researchers including postdoctoral fellows as researchers and engineers in SMEs. Short term internship programs from universities to firms are already existing, but now demand by firms for young university fellows especially those specialized in science and technology who can work over mid or long term appears. While product-developing SMEs and venture businesses have themes for new business creation or upgrading existing technologies, most of them are suffering from a shortage of researchers and engineers to engage in technological development. Therefore, dispatching young university researchers such as doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to regional firms for mid or long term period would make a better match of firms' needs and technology seeds in universities and promote business creation through university-industry linkages. More specifically, we should start a matching system between young university researchers and regional firms especially product-developing SMEs and venture businesses as a trial program in the Industry Cluster Plan, so that we can identify, investigate and solve concrete problems and construct an effective matching and dispatching system.

Economic and social values of dispatching young university researcher including postdoctoral fellows to innovative SMEs

- To accelerate innovations by the innovative SMEs
- To make university-industry linkages most effective through the transfer of knowledge embodied in the young university researchers
- To settle scientific and technological human resources in the regions
- To rectify the present distribution of highly educated people biased to large corporations
- Significance for the cluster policies
  - To further stimulate activity of the industrial cluster projects
  - Possible to effectively apply the results of knowledge cluster projects to industrial cluster projects through dispatching researchers who had worked in the knowledge cluster projects

## Image of system to dispatch university young researchers such as postdoctoral fellows

#### Outline

 In order to conduct joint research with product-developing SMEs and other regional firms, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students are dispatched in a definite period from universities to those firms.

#### Matching system

- Many regional firms including product-developing SMEs should participate.
  - Industrial cluster promoting organizations have advantage to collect needs information from strong SMEs in each region.
  - The list of product-developing SMEs which was made by Kodama et al. (2007) can be utilized.
- Major universities in each region should participate.
- An overall regional coordination system in each region such as covered by each industrial cluster project etc. should be built.
- Dispatched persons have obligation to keep confidentiality of information.

#### Dispatch period

- Postdoctoral fellows: One year to be renewed each year
- Postgraduate students (doctoral course): 3-6 months

#### Sharing expenses

- Participating firms: Salary for the dispatched persons and a part of operating cost of matching and dispatching system
- Government: A part of operating cost of matching and dispatching system management.

#### Careful preparation is required

- The purpose of the dispatching system must be well-known to the both sides of firms and young university researchers.
- Both needs of firms to accept and universities to dispatch the young university researchers should be searched.
- A concrete system should be designed taking into account of the relationship with labor regulations.

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