

Osaka Gas Invests in Japan Infra Waymark, Which Offers Infrastructure Inspection Solutions Using Drones

April 20, 2020
Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (President: Takehiro Honjo, hereinafter, “Osaka Gas”) today announced that it has taken a stake in Japan Infra Waymark KK (President: Takumi Shibata, hereinafter, “JIW”), which offers infrastructure inspection solutions using drones. Osaka Gas will increase the efficiency of its inspection operations for infrastructure equipment using drones. The company will also work on joint development and sales of AI solutions in collaboration with infrastructure companies*¹ that participated in the investment in JIW.

Established as a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone West Corporation on April 1, 2019, JIW offers efficient infrastructure inspection services using drones and AI.

Osaka Gas will increase the efficiency of patrol and inspection operations for gas manufacturing equipment by utilizing its expertise in infrastructure equipment inspection, which has been refined over many years of operation. Specifically, work at height will be reduced by using drones, and corrosion of equipment will be analyzed by utilizing AI based on images of equipment captured using drones. New knowledge will be shared with JIW and infrastructure companies, which invested in JIW on the same day, to develop better AI.

Osaka Gas will expand new businesses by harnessing knowledge derived from the investment in JIW and JIW’s high engineering capabilities and by offering inspection services to plants of other companies.

The Daigas Group will continue to further promote innovation activities, such as promotion of open innovation and digitalization, and will build new business models and offer services that contribute to daily living and business operations.

*¹ Infrastructure companies that took part in the investment

TEPCO Power Grid, Incorporated, Hokuriku Electric Power Company, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd., Saibugas Co., Ltd.,*² Toyo Engineering Corporation, NTT DATA Corporation, DRONE FUND

*² Acquisition of shares by SG INCUBATE No. 1 Investment Limited Partnership, an investment fund of SG INCUBATE, INC. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Saibugas Co., Ltd.)

[Overview of JIW]

Company name	Japan Infra Waymark KK
Head office	3-8 Banba-cho, Chuo-ku, Osaka (Tokyo office: 3F, Ginza B Bldg., 1-6-5 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo)
Representative	Takumi Shibata, President
Established	April 1, 2019
Business overview	Total maintenance service, consultation, planning service and aerial photography using drones for infrastructure inspection; AI-based support services (e.g., inspection and diagnosis, preparation of reports); sales/rental, maintenance, education/training, and insurance brokerage for drones

Technologies and global business operations of the Daigas Group are introduced in our special website "ENTERPRISE FUTURE."
(PCs) https://www.osakagas.co.jp/en/company/enterprise_future/
(Smartphones) https://www.osakagas.co.jp/sp/en/company/enterprise_future/