

**Osaka Gas Invests in Brave group, a Company That Conducts Business in the Field of Metaverse
—Aiming to Expand Communication and Develop New Businesses—**

June 7, 2022

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (President: Masataka Fujiwara) has invested in Brave group Inc. ("Brave group"), which conducts business in the field of metaverse. Through this investment, Osaka Gas will acquire knowledge in the field of metaverse, aiming to expand communication and develop new businesses.

The metaverse enables you to conduct activities and interact with others by controlling a representative of yourself ("avatar") in virtual spaces built on the Internet, such as VR (virtual reality) and AR (augmented reality).

In recent years, digital technologies such as VR have been rapidly advancing. Furthermore, due to the spread of COVID-19, there has been an emerging need to shift to a lifestyle that corresponds to the new normal. Under these circumstances, the metaverse has been attracting attention as a next-generation communication tool that may be a substitute for the real world, and it is expected to spread and expand rapidly in the future.

Brave group was established in 2017. Its major businesses include virtual IP^{*1} and metaverse marketing that helps corporations expand their business into the field of metaverse. The company has been strengthening alliances and raising funds, aiming to expand its business in the field of metaverse and go international.

Osaka Gas offers various services centered around its energy business. The Daigas Group has invested in AVITA, Inc.,^{*2} which conducts an avatar business, and RATH Inc.,^{*3} which conducts an AI business. These two companies' businesses and services are compatible with those of Brave group. Through investment in Brave group, Osaka Gas aims to acquire knowledge about technologies and business in the field of metaverse, create new channels and offer new services through business in the field of metaverse, and enhance communication with customers, especially young adults.

The Daigas Group uses digital technology to propose added value in quick and flexible response to changes in customer needs, further promoting digital transformation (DX). The Group also keeps a close eye on changes in customers' lifestyles and business styles and provides optimal services and solutions for individual customers, aiming to help the customers establish a lifestyle and business style that correspond to the new normal.

*1: An IP development business centered on Vtubers. More specifically, this business includes video streaming on YouTube, the sale of goods and digital content, holding in-person and online events, and music distribution.

*2: Previously announced by Osaka Gas on September 7, 2021 in “Investing in and Entering Business Collaboration with AVITA, Aiming for the Implementation of Avatars in Society”
(https://www.osakagas.co.jp/en/whatsnew/__icsFiles/afieldfile/2021/09/10/210907_1.pdf)

*3: Previously announced by OGIS-RI Co., Ltd. on April 8, 2022 in a press release (in Japanese only, “OGIS-RI Forms a Capital and Business Alliance with RATH, a Start-up, in AI-based Technology Development and the Business of Conversational AI that Supports People's Daily Lives”)(https://www.ogis-ri.co.jp/news/20220408_001.html)

■ (Reference) Overview of Brave group

Company name	Brave group Inc.
Established	October 2017
Representative	Keito Noguchi, President
Location	2F-C, Otomo Building, 2-17-9 Shibaura, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Main business	Virtual IP, metaverse marketing, and esports
Website	https://bravegroup.co.jp/en/