"FAST Channel" Introduced as Content of Sumai LINK TV Stick, Making It the First of Its Kind in Japan

—Expanding Services with "FAST," a Streaming TV Service Rapidly Growing in North America and Other Regions—

June 20, 2024 Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (Representative Director and President: Masataka Fujiwara, hereinafter referred to as "Osaka Gas"), in collaboration with BBM Co., Ltd. (Representative Director and CEO: Shinya Fukusaki, hereinafter referred to as "BBM"), a provider of the free video streaming service "FAST" (Free Ad-supported Streaming Television), will be the first in Japan to introduce a "FAST Channel" as content for the Sumai LINK TV Stick, with the aim of enriching the time customers spend at home. The "FAST Channel" will be available to new applicants* for the Sumai LINK TV Stick from Thursday, June 20, 2024.

New Consortium-Based Free Broadcasting Service



"FAST" stands for "Free Ad-supported Streaming Television." It is a broadcast-style video streaming service rapidly growing as a new viewing style centered around smart TVs (Connected TVs), particularly in North America and Asia, and it is expected to surpass on-demand viewing in popularity. Unlike traditional paid platforms such as satellite broadcasting, FAST does not rely on distribution fees paid by providers. Instead, it operates solely on advertising revenue, resulting in lower barriers to entry. Consequently, many businesses with video content are paying attention to FAST as a new source of revenue. Unlike subscription-based video streaming services, FAST operates similarly to traditional TV broadcasts, where channels play consecutive programs. This minimizes users' effort of searching for specific programs among a vast library of content, allowing them to easily enjoy programs in their preferred genres for free.

Osaka Gas has been expanding its business domains to provide one-stop solutions to the diversifying needs of customers by adapting to their evolving lifestyles and business styles and utilizing digital technologies and other means. As part of this effort, the company launched "Sumai LINK," a digital lifestyle platform that provides products and services useful in daily life, in March 2022, and it started selling "TV Stick" to use the service via a home TV set or PC monitor in August of the same year.

Osaka Gas is now introducing a "FAST Channel" to the content lineup of the Sumai LINK TV Stick, ahead of smart TV platforms operated by other companies. New applicants for the Sumai LINK TV Stick can start using the service from today, while users who applied for the device earlier will be able to start

using the service from around late August. Through the provision of a FAST Channel, Osaka Gas aims to further enhance customer satisfaction and promote the widespread use of the Sumai LINK TV Stick.

The Daigas Group will utilize digital technology to provide optimal services and solutions tailored to each customer, thereby realizing lifestyles and business styles that adapt to the new normal in the changing times.

1. Features and viewing method of "FAST Channel"

The "FAST Channel" offers highly specialized programs in various categories, such as entertainment, food, camping, cooking, travel, kids, health, period dramas, pets, and business, utilizing content available on YouTube. The initial lineup will feature 10 channels, with more channels expected to be added in the future, making a wider range of genres available. By simply selecting channels of interest, viewers can enjoy their favorite programs across a variety of genres for free, just like watching regular TV programs.

[Screen images of Sumai LINK TV Stick]



Home screen of Sumai LINK TV Stick



When FAST Channel is selected, a menu of channel genres is displayed.



Campaign and special offer information can be accessed through QR codes.



Viewers can also check the program schedule and program details for each genre on the screen.

[Initial lineup]

[Channel genre] [Company name / Channel name]

- 1. Entertainment UUUM Co., Ltd. "Toriaezu"
- 2. Health Ostance. Inc. "Wellness Channel"

^{*} Applies to those whose Sumai LINK TV Stick will be shipped on or after Thursday, June 20, 2024

3. Kids Kids Station Inc. "Kids Station EX"

4. Food Carry On Inc. "Tsumamido"

5. Travel JTB Publishing, Inc. "Miru Tabi Produced by Rurubu"

6. Cooking Snapdish, Inc. "Kyou-No-Gohan-Nani?"

7. Camping Nagoya Broadcasting Network Co., Ltd.

"Camping and Outdoor Channel Powered by Happy Camper"

8. Period dramas Nihon Eiga Broadcasting Corp.

"Jidaigeki TV (Powered by Jidaigeki Senmon Channel)"

9. Business Japan Business Press Co., Ltd.

10. Pets Link Cast Inc. "Pet TV"

2. Service launch schedule

[Early service launch from June 20, 2024]

Sumai LINK TV Stick (new applicants)

https://smilink.osakagas.co.jp/tvstick/

[Service scheduled to start around late August 2024]

Sumai LINK TV Stick/Sumai LINK WEB (non-new applicants)

Official website of "FAST Channel": https://fastv.jp

Leopalace21 Corporation "LEONET Life Stick"

Google TV, Android TV (Google Play Store)

Fire TV (Amazon Appstore)



 For more details about FAST, please visit https://fastv.jp

