

## 【NEWS RELEASE】

February 6, 2026

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc.  
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

### Launching a Video Pitch Platform for Startups

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (President & Group CEO: Toru Nakashima; hereinafter "SMBC Group") and its wholly owned subsidiary Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (President & CEO: Akihiro Fukutome, "SMBC") will jointly launch a new video pitch platform for startups (the "Platform") in collaboration with GoAhead Ventures LLC ("GoAhead"), a Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm led by Managing Partner Takeshi Mori.



GoAhead is a U.S.-based venture capital firm that invests in seed and early-stage startups. The firm operates a video pitch platform that receives more than 3,000 applications annually. In October 2024, SMBC made an LP investment in GoAhead Ventures III, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("GoAhead Fund III") managed by GoAhead Ventures III Management, L.L.C.

The Platform is a Japan-adapted version of the online video pitch platform that GoAhead operates in the United States. It aims to provide startups with equitable pitching opportunities regardless of geography or network barriers. The Platform aims to broaden opportunities for startups and venture capital firms to connect. We will leverage the Platform as a source of deal flow for GoAhead Fund III and promote its adoption in Japan through the SMBC Group's network.

SMBC has set "Japan's revitalization" as one of its priority initiatives. Through the Platform, we will work to create an environment that fosters sustainable innovation and contribute to the revitalization of the startup ecosystem.

#### Overview of GoAhead Ventures LLC

Year Established	2005
Headquarters	535 Middlefield Rd Suite #280 Menlo Park, California, 94025, US
Representative	Takeshi Mori
Business Description	Operates investment funds focused on seed and early-stage startups in the United States
Website	<a href="https://goaheadvc.com">goaheadvc.com</a>

#### Overview of the Video Pitch Platform

Platform Name	GoAhead Pitch
Manager	GoAhead Ventures LLC
Launch Date	February 6, 2026
Eligibility Criteria	Seed and early-stage startups based in Japan
Investment Fund	GoAhead Ventures III, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership
Website	<a href="https://smbc.hiringplatform.com/282872-video-pitch-application/1083519-video-pitch/en">https://smbc.hiringplatform.com/282872-video-pitch-application/1083519-video-pitch/en</a>

END