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## Japan Stands Up Quantum Technology Industry Group to Boost Commercial Quantum Prospects

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### RECENT DEVELOPMENT

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Japan's NTT, the fourth largest telecommunications company in the world, recently [announced](#) the formation of a cooperative organization of Japanese firms designed to promote Japan's technical position in quantum technologies and to help Japan compete globally with US and Chinese rivals in both quantum computing and quantum communications. The inaugural meeting of the group, held in late May 2021, was attended by 11 Japanese companies, including leading IT suppliers Fujitsu, Hitachi, NEC, and Toshiba as well as industrial partners including Toyota Motor, Mitsubishi Chemical, and the Mizuho Financial Group. More than 50 companies are ultimately expected to join the group.

Officially called the Founders' Association of the Council for New Industry Creation through Quantum Technology, the group's mission includes exploring and then sharing research trends in quantum technology, identifying related industrial applications, outlining human resources requirements, and making overall policy recommendations while increasing public awareness. A key intent of the group is to develop a strong network across Japanese academic, commercial and government organizations to ensure efficient quantum infrastructure development, optimal standardization processes, and strong collaboration with end users. At the recent kick-off meeting, the chairman of Toyota Motor noted that any delays in the practical application of quantum technology could undermine Japan's future industrial competitiveness.

### ANALYST COMMENT

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Despite Japan's world class capability in quantum technology research at facilities such as Riken, the University of Tokyo, and NTT, Japan's commercial quantum suppliers lag behind global counterparts, particularly in the commercial quantum computing space. Formation of such a cooperative group, if managed successfully, could significantly aid Japan's overall competitive position against more comprehensive and better funded quantum efforts taking place in China, the EU, and the US. Likewise, the emphasis on driving quantum technologies into the commercial sector in an integrative, collaborative process could bode well for the development of new use cases and ultimately competitive wins across a wide range of Japan's industrial sectors.

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