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## EXCLUSIVE REPORTS

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### Japanese Tech Group finds home in Phila.

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Staff Writer

A Japanese company charged with licensing technology developed at universities in its home country to U.S. businesses has set up shop at the Science Center.

"We are now the only ... Japanese-operated, U.S.-based technology-transfer company," said Taro Yaguchi, chief executive officer of the Japanese Technology Group, whose office is in the incubator for technology and life sciences companies in the Science Center's Port building at 3701 Market St.

JTG decided to locate in the Science Center because the center is known to large U.S. companies, such as Johnson & Johnson Inc., that JTG wants to deal with, Yaguchi said.

The Science Center, which runs technology parks in Philadelphia's University City section and Newark, Del., also is known in Japan. It and its president and chief executive officer, Jill Felix, have consulted there.

Yaguchi is familiar with the Science Center because his law firm has had an office in Philadelphia for four years. He is a senior partner in Omori & Yaguchi, a Tokyo-based intellectual property firm.

"We are one of only two Japanese law firms who have offices in the United States," Yaguchi said.

JTG was formed by the Japanese government, which wants its country's universities to license their technology to foreigners. The universities have little history of technology transfer, so they aren't set up to do it, especially to companies from outside Japan. JTG will help them overcome that by acting as their broker.

JTG won't actively shop technology developed at Japanese universities to U.S. companies, Yaguchi said. It will spawn relationships with U.S. companies, find out what their technological needs are and then pass that information on to Japanese universities to see if they can fill those needs.

JTG is not the first foreign entity to pass through the Science Center's doors.

The French-American Technology Development Initiative opened an office in the Science Center in 2002 in an attempt to help French life sciences companies interested in establishing U.S. operations. It no longer has the office, but the effort is still going on, Felix said.

One of JTG's neighbors in the Port building will be the University of Singapore. It has an internship program at the University of Pennsylvania that it is looking to expand, said Felix, who is leaving her post at the center.

The University of Singapore also is one of the roughly 30 colleges, universities and other research institutions that have a stake in the Science Center. Its investment in the Science Center and the internship program grew out of a visit by Singapore's president to Penn two years ago, Felix said.

"They became our first international shareholder," she said.

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