Press Release

National Quantum Computing Centre

The NQCC and AIST sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen UK-Japan collaboration in quantum computing

6 November 2025 – Harwell, UK / Tokyo, Japan – The National Quantum Computing Centre (NQCC), part of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), through its Global Research and Development Centre for Business by Quantum-AI Technology (G-QuAT), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen international collaboration in quantum computing science and technology.

This partnership establishes a framework for long-term cooperation between the UK and Japan in key areas such as joint research, the exchange of knowledge and expertise, and the organisation of collaborative activities including workshops, seminars, and symposia.

Through this MoU, both organisations aim to accelerate the development of quantum computing technologies and promote their integration into real-world applications that deliver social, scientific, and industrial benefits. The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to advancing quantum innovation, nurturing future talent, and driving global progress in the field.

The NQCC and AIST will work closely to identify strategic opportunities that enhance quantum research capabilities and create an environment for sustainable, impactful partnerships. This agreement marks an important step toward building a strong international ecosystem for quantum technology advancement.

Dr Michael Cuthbert, Director of the NQCC, said:

“This partnership with AIST marks an exciting step forward in global quantum innovation. By bringing researchers and technologists from the UK and Japan to work together on quantum computing challenges, we can leverage many decades of close scientific collaboration between our two countries and help shape the future of computing.”

Dr. Kazuya Masu, Director of G-QuAT, commented:

“We are delighted to embark on this collaborative journey with the NQCC. The signing of this MOU represents a significant milestone in our shared commitment to advancing quantum computing. By combining the strengths and expertise of Japan and the UK, we look forward to fostering innovation and contributing to the development of next-generation computing technologies.”

The MOU will remain in effect for five years and is intended to facilitate scientific collaboration in quantum computing, laying the foundation for future joint projects and knowledge exchange between the UK and Japan.

About the NQCC

The NQCC is the UK’s national lab for quantum computing, dedicated to accelerating the development of quantum computing by addressing the challenges of scaling up the technology. The centre is working with businesses, government, and the research community to deliver quantum computing capabilities for the UK and support the growth of the emerging industry.

The NQCC’s programme is being delivered jointly by UKRI’s research councils, EPSRC and STFC. It is a part of the National Quantum Technologies Programme (NQTP) to develop and deliver quantum technologies across the areas of sensing, timing, imaging, communications and computing.

The centre is headquartered in a purpose-built facility on STFC’s Rutherford Appleton Laboratory site at the Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire.

Visit **nqcc.ac.uk** for more information.

Media contact:
Soma Deshprabhu, Communications Manager, NQCC
soma.deshprabhu@stfc.ac.uk

About the AIST

The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), one of the largest public research organizations in Japan, focuses on the creation and practical realization of technologies useful to Japanese industry and society, and on “bridging” the gap between innovative technological seeds and commercialization.

For this, AIST is organized into 5 departments and 2 centers that bring together core technologies to exert its comprehensive strength.

AIST, as a core and pioneering existence of the national innovation system, has about 2300 researchers doing research and development at 12 research bases across the country, based on the national strategies formulated bearing in mind the changing environment regarding innovation.

AIST is also actively building a global network by, for example, signing memorandums of understanding for comprehensive research cooperation (MOUs) with major research institutes around the world.

Visit https://www.aist.go.jp/aist_e/about_aist/index.html for more information.