

# National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS) and Kyoto University Sign Comprehensive Collaboration Agreement

---

June 4, 2026

National Institute for Materials Science  
Kyoto University

The National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS; President: Kazuhiro Hono; Tsukuba, Ibaraki) and Kyoto University (President: Nagahiro Minato; Kyoto, Kyoto) have concluded an agreement on June 4, 2026, with the aim of playing an important role in advancing academia and science and technology in Japan and contributing to the development of society by leveraging world-leading research achievements in the field of materials science and implementing concrete collaboration and cooperation in research and development and human resource development.

NIMS is a world-class national research institute in the field of materials science and serves as an international research hub. In addition to pursuing materials science, NIMS has extensive experience in research and development oriented toward industrial applications. Kyoto University has produced many outstanding researchers in materials science and chemistry, including Nobel laureates, and is known for its tradition of interdisciplinary research, robust basic research, and creative thinking.

To date, the two institutions have collaborated through projects such as the Advanced Research Infrastructure for Materials and Nanotechnology in Japan (ARIM), as well as through collaborations among researchers with strengths in materials science. Through collaboration and cooperation under this agreement, the institutions will implement initiatives that combine and leverage their respective characteristics and strengths. Specifically, the two institutions will pursue the following initiatives: (1) promoting joint research aimed at pioneering new research fields through cross-appointments of researchers; (2) expanding the mobility of early-career researchers in materials science, including through research fellow appointments at the International Center for Young Scientists (ICYS); (3) fostering human resources by expanding exchanges and training opportunities for technical staff and R&D management professionals; and (4) considering the establishment of a NIMS Joint Graduate School Program. Through these initiatives, the institutions will aim to advance research in materials science and technology, translate research outcomes into societal value, and foster human resources, thereby contributing to the revitalization of science in Japan and the generation of innovation.

## Agreement Summary

- Term: June 4, 2026 - March 31, 2029 (Renewable by mutual agreement of both institutions)
- Scope:
  - (1) Promotion of joint research through cross-appointments and other arrangements
  - (2) Human resource exchange among early-career researchers
  - (3) Exchange and development of technical staff and R&D management professionals
  - (4) Other matters deemed necessary for implementing the collaboration and cooperation contemplated by this Agreement

## Comments

### **Kazuhiro Hono, President, National Institute for Materials Science**

This year, as NIMS marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its predecessor, the National Research Institute for Metals (NRIM), and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of NIMS, NIMS has, under its vision of “Change the World with Materials,” created numerous pioneering research achievements as a world-leading research center in the field of materials science. Moving forward, we will also actively pursue innovative materials research that integrates AI and robotics by leveraging the materials data we have accumulated.

In this milestone year for our next stage of development, it is extremely meaningful for NIMS to establish a partnership, primarily for human resource exchange, with Kyoto University, a world-leading seat of learning that values both tradition and innovation and is distinguished by academic excellence. I am confident that, by combining the strengths of both institutions and bringing together diverse knowledge and cutting-edge research environments through joint research and human resource exchange, this partnership will become a major driving force for creating new academic value and fostering the human resources who will lead next-generation materials science.

With the conclusion of this agreement as a new starting point, we will work with Kyoto University to open up new frontiers in materials science and technology and further contribute to the development of society by strengthening Japan’s science and technology foundation.

### **Nagahiro Minato, President, Kyoto University**

While the rapid development of AI and data science is dramatically accelerating the cycle of materials development, the roles expected of materials science have grown larger than ever before, including realizing carbon neutrality, strengthening supply chains, and responding to economic security concerns.

Kyoto University has concluded a Comprehensive Collaboration Agreement with the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), a world-class materials research center with state-of-the-art research facilities and an international collaborative research network. This agreement marks an important milestone in further enhancing Kyoto University’s collaborative network with one of Japan’s leading national research and development agencies and is a major step toward strengthening Japan’s academic and science and technology foundation.

By bringing together Kyoto University’s accumulated achievements in original research, cultivated through its tradition of academic freedom, and NIMS’s world-leading research environment, we expect the joint research between the two institutions to advance even further. In particular, human resource development through mutual exchange of early-career researchers is an important pillar of this agreement, and both institutions will work together to foster the human resources who will lead next-generation materials science.

We will work to ensure that this agreement makes a broad contribution to the development of both institutions and to the advancement of academia and society in Japan.