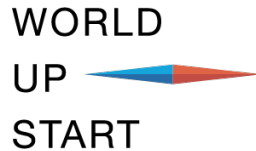


**PRESS RELEASE**

*October 11, 2023*

**Kicker Ventures, WorldUpStart, and Kievit Scientific Announce Joint Launch of New Acceleration Program “Kicker AccelFit” Set for April 2024**



Venture capital firm based in Silicon Valley, Kicker Ventures (Menlo Park, USA, <https://www.kickerventures.com>), WorldUpStart with over a decade of running acceleration programs in Philadelphia (Philadelphia, USA, <https://www.worldupstart.com>), and Kievit Scientific LLC which supports Japanese life sciences and healthcare companies in their international expansion (Bala Cynwyd, USA, <https://kievitsci.com>) have teamed up to announce the launch of a new acceleration program, "Kicker AccelFit".

This innovative acceleration program is designed to enable Japanese life sciences companies to establish a foothold in the U.S. market. Participating companies can not only gain a profound understanding of the American business environment, culture, and legalities but can also maximize the networks and resources of all three firms. The program is slated to commence operations from April 2024.

Mr. Masashi Kiyomine, Founder & Managing Partner of Kicker Ventures, commented, "This program began with the thought that we could provide further support to Japanese life sciences and healthcare companies entering the U.S. market. We hope to pool the strengths of our three companies to back the global success of the participating firms."

Ms. Karina Sotnik, Founder & CEO of WorldUpStart, added, "We're wholeheartedly backing this project to help companies with innovative ideas and passion overcome the barriers to success in the U.S."

For more information about Kicker AccelFit, please visit the official website at <https://www.kickerventures.com/accelfit>.

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