

December 12, 2018

Dai-ichi Life to Impact Invest in QD Laser -World’s first eyewear that employs state-of-the-art laser technology improves quality of life for low-vision patients-

The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited (the “Company”; President and Representative Director: Seiji Inagaki) has made an impact investment¹ as part of its ESG investment program of ¥300 million in QD Laser, Inc. (“QD Laser”; President and CEO: Mitsuru Sugawara), a domestic startup that develops and provides the world’s first eyewear for low-vision patients by employing state-of-the-art laser technology.

Key Points

- A ¥300 million investment in QD Laser that falls within the bounds of impact investment with the intent to gain investment returns and generate social impacts (e.g., structural change in society).

Social Impact

Improving the quality of life for lower-vision patients

QD Laser’s world-first eyewear uses a laser beam to project images directly onto the retina, which is expected to improve the quality of life for low-vision patients.



QD Laser, which possesses state-of-the-art laser and optical technologies, developed and provides the world’s first laser eyewear that projects images directly onto the retina. Using QD Laser’s eyewear enables low-vision patients who have not benefitted sufficiently through conventional corrective measures to see clear images if their retina is normal. This drastically increases employment possibilities for low-vision patients and expands their field of activities, leading to improvements in quality of life.

Laser Eyewear
 (Photo courtesy of QD Laser)

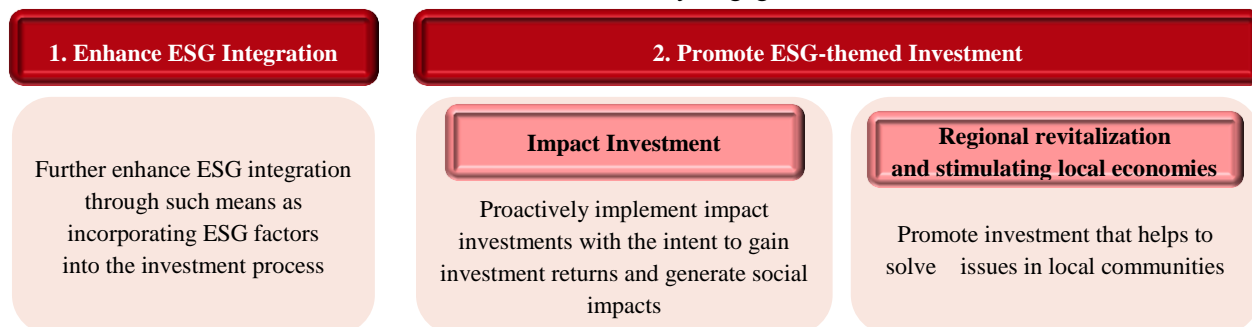


The Company will provide capital support to QD Laser’s initiatives as it expects this investment will realize a high level of investment returns as well as improve the quality of life for low-vision patients (social impact), and will also continuously monitor progress.

The Company will continue to enhance investment returns through increasingly sophisticated and diverse operation methods. As a responsible institutional investor that should contribute toward a sustainable society, the Company is also actively engaged in ESG investment.

¹ Impact investment is an investment method where Dai-ichi Life makes investment decisions with the intent to gain investment returns and generate social impacts (e.g., structural change in society).

Dai-ichi Life's Fiscal 2018 Key Engagement Themes



QD Laser's President and CEO Mitsuru Sugawara made the following remarks:



“Based on our philosophy of "Through light, the world is evolving," we have developed a variety of products by applying the semiconductor laser and optical technologies that we have cultivated since our founding. One example of our products is laser eyewear, which aims to redefine people's vision. Approximately 1.5 million people in Japan and tens of millions around the world are forced to live in a blurred world. We intend to promote technology development, clinical development, and business development so that we can improve the quality of life (social impact) of as many people as possible. ”

Company Outline

Trade name	QD Laser, Inc.
Head Office	Keihin Building 1st floor, 1-1 Minamiwatarida-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture
President and CEO	Mitsuru Sugawara
Established	April 2006
Business Description	Planning, design, development, production and sales of semiconductor lasers and product applications

Dai-ichi Life's Impact Investment History

Headline	Release date	URL
Dai-ichi Life to Engage in Impact Investment –First Impact Investment in Gojo & Company, Inc. which provides support for micro-finance business–	October 23, 2017	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2017/pdf/index_012.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Investment in Spiber Inc. –Second Impact Investment through Support for Development of New-Generation Bio-Materials–	October 23, 2017	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2017_044.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Investment in CureApp, Inc. –Third Impact Investment through Support for Treatment Applications–	February 26, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2017/pdf/index_018.pdf

Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in CROWD CREDIT, Inc. –Energize Business Activities in Developing Countries to Alleviate the Global Supply-Demand Gap for Funds–	April 5, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2018_002.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in SUSMED, Inc. –Promote the Widespread Adoption of Non-Drug Therapies through Insomnia Therapy Apps–	June 4, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/company/news/pdf/2018_008.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in MELTIN MMI –Mitigating Accidents Caused by Work in Hazardous Environments by MELTIN’s Avatar Robots–	October 17, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_004.pdf
Dai-ichi Life to Impact Investment in MOLCURE Inc. –Shortening of pharmaceutical development through the world's first antibody discovery platform utilizing AI –	November 27, 2018	http://www.dai-ichi-life.co.jp/english/news_release/2018/pdf/index_007.pdf