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Techfirm has entered into a tie-up with JCM AMERICAN in a mobile electronic money business that uses contactless IC chips.

Techfirm Inc. (head office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo; president: Shingo Chihara; hereinafter referred to as “Techfirm”) has entered into a tie-up with JCM AMERICAN CORP. (head office: Las Vegas, U.S.; president: Akiyoshi Isoi; hereinafter referred to as “JAC”), a U.S. subsidiary of Japan Cash Machine Co., Ltd. (head office: Hirano-ku, Osaka, ; president: Yojiro Kamihigashi; hereinafter referred to “JCM”) in a mobile electronic money business that uses contactless IC chips. Through this tie-up, the two companies will complement and combine their accumulated expertise and further improve it to jointly develop and market new cash processing solutions.

Techfirm is one of the leading businesses in Japan developing solutions for contactless IC chip-mounted cellular phones (so-called Osaifu-keitai). The company has a strong record of developing and operating these solutions, including an electronic money application for a large convenience store chain and a coupon application for a major fast food chain. In 2008, Techfirm was recognized as a Gold Partner of FeliCa Networks, Inc. (*1) together with top manufacturers in Japan such as NEC Corporation and NTT DATA CORPORATION.

JAC is a U.S. subsidiary of JCM, a leading global company in cash-processing equipment for handling bank notes and coins. JCM Global is the world’s leading supplier of innovative automated transactions solutions for the banking, gaming and retail industries. Its award-winning products set global standards with ground-breaking products like the iVIZIONR, Universal Bill Acceptor (UBAR) and Vega-RC”! bill validators and the Intelligent Cash Box (ICBR).

Gartner, a market research firm in the U.S., stated in its forecast report on the share of smartphone markets in the world for the 2011-2015 period that Google’s Android OS cellular phones would control a half of the market by 2012. In addition, Google Vice-president Rubin has said that Gingerbread, the latest version of Android Google introduced in December 2010, supports NFC (*2) functions by, for example, reading information with contactless chips, and that Android will offer more NFC functions in the future. As a result, the mobile electronic money business is expected to expand and grow rapidly in the years ahead as Android OS-equipped cellular phones become more widely used.

Anticipating these market trends, Techfirm and JAC will complement and combine their accumulated expertise and improve it further to start developing new cash-processing solutions for global markets, which are expected to grow in the future, and to make this a new business.

*1. The company provides platform services for FeliCa with contactless IC chips used for account settlement with cellular phones (Osaifu-keitai).

*2. Abbreviation of Near Field Communication, which is a wireless communication technology for linking different types of device such as IC cards and cellular phones.

* The product names, service names, and company names used here are trademarks or registered trademarks of each company.

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Date established	August 30, 1991
Capital	¥319,445,000 (as of April 2011)
Business	Development, operation, and maintenance of system solutions for cellular phones, the Internet and business support activities; system consulting; server network integration; development of own products and provision of related services
URL	http://www.techfirm.co.jp/

