

Investment in Japan Legal Network

Summary

- **Omni Bridgeway announces an investment in Japan Legal Network, a Japanese business which provides ATE finance to claimants to pursue legal actions.**
- **This is Omni Bridgeway's first investment in Japan, marking a first step in the development of its Japanese business and the continuing expansion of its Asian operations.**

Omni Bridgeway Limited (**OBL**) announces its first investment in Japan with Japan Legal Network Co., Ltd (**Japan Legal Network**), a new Japanese business providing Japanese clients with access to dispute financing to facilitate access to justice without the associated costs and risks of pursuing their claims. Omni Bridgeway's entry into the Japanese market, is reflective of the execution on the strategic plan to develop and grow its business across the key Asian legal markets.

The investment with Japan Legal Network will facilitate Japanese citizens obtaining access to justice via Omni Bridgeway's funding. The investment also marks the continued development of Omni Bridgeway's expertise in innovative LegalTech solutions and enhances the group's portfolio of LegalTech investments.

Established in April 2015 by two highly experienced lawyers, Japan Legal Network offers a finance service similar to After the Event (**ATE**) insurance for clients pursuing legal actions (such as employees seeking reimbursement of un-paid wages). The ATE finance covers the claimants' legal expenses and is novel for Japan.

The investment, which is financed by Fund 6, includes an equity investment of JPY 40m (approx. USD \$373k) for approximately a 5% shareholding in Japan Legal Network, and a finance facility of up to JPY 150m (approx. USD \$1.4m), to be drawn in three equal tranches (subject to the satisfaction of drawdown conditions) and applied towards legal costs of Japan Legal Network funded clients.

Tom Glasgow, Chief Investment Officer - Asia at Omni Bridgeway, said: *"Omni Bridgeway has the largest team of its kind both in Asia and globally and we are delighted to support Japan Legal Network and be at the forefront of introducing new finance services to another part of Asia"*.

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