

GIST faculty-led startup LEECELL Co., Ltd. won the Excellence Award at the Science and Technology Specialized University Technology Venture Investment Competition: 'Next-generation film-type solar cells' herald mobility innovation

- Presented the concept of "energy-generating mobility," which can be attached to electric vehicle bodies and generate energy independently, at the "Technology Venture Investment Competition for Science and Technology-Specialized Universities" hosted by the R&D Special Zone.
- Recognized for both technological innovation and business potential, this next-generation solar cell film boasts flexibility, lightness, low-light power generation, and economic feasibility... CEO Kwanghee Lee stated, "We will lead mobility innovation with film-type solar cells that overcome the limitations of silicon solar cells."



▲ On Tuesday, September 9, at the '2025 Research and Development Special Zone Science and Technology Specialized University Technology Startup Investment Competition' hosted by the Research and Development Special Zone Promotion Foundation, GIST faculty startup company LEECELL CEO Kwanghee Lee (right) poses for a commemorative photo after receiving the Excellence Award.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that LEECELL, a faculty startup founded by Professor Kwanghee Lee of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, won the Excellence Award at the "2025 Research Development Special Zone Science and Technology Specialized Universities Technology Venture Investment Competition" held at the Daedeok Tech Biz Center on Tuesday, the 9th.

This event was designed to leverage the cutting-edge research capabilities and innovation resources of science and technology specialized universities to promote deep-tech startups and investment in national strategic technology fields.

The event was co-hosted by the Research Development Special Zone Foundation and the Future Science and Technology Holdings, with participation from five science and technology specialized universities and the Korea Development Bank.

A total of six teams, consisting of deep-tech companies founded less than five years ago, advanced to the final round after a preliminaries (written) and a finals (presentation) competition, beating a 4.5:1 odds ratio. LEECELL, recognized for its technological innovation and business potential, won the Excellence Award.

LEECELL Co., Ltd. has garnered attention for its next-generation energy film, "SOLASKIN-M," which overcomes the limitations of existing silicon solar cells and allows flexible attachment to mobility devices. "SOLASKIN-M" boasts ultra-lightweight, flexible, and transparent properties, enabling it to be applied to a variety of surfaces, including vehicle bodies, windows, and cabins, where conventional solar cell applications were difficult.

Furthermore, its liquid-based roll-to-roll continuous process enables large-scale production, ensuring cost competitiveness and productivity. This technology can be expanded beyond mobility into diverse areas, including building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV), indoor photovoltaics (LPV), and agricultural photovoltaics (APV).

This award is significant because it officially recognizes LEECELL Co., Ltd.'s unrivaled technological prowess and growth potential.

The winning companies will receive a cash prize and a systematic growth support program provided by the Special Zone Foundation. This program includes technology and business model validation, expert mentoring, follow-up investment, and support for global market entry. This program is expected to provide substantial support for Recell's technology commercialization and scale-up.

Kwanghee Lee, CEO of LEECELL, stated, "This award is official recognition of LEECELL's unrivaled technological prowess and growth potential. We will accelerate technology commercialization and introduce solar cells to electric vehicles, which require high electricity demand, contributing to the realization of energy-generating mobility."

He added, "We will lead mobility innovation with film-type solar cells that overcome the limitations of silicon solar cells."

Meanwhile, LEECELL Co., Ltd. also demonstrated its technological competitiveness and commercialization capabilities by winning the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Award at the 2nd Climate Energy Innovation Award at the 2025 Climate Industry International Expo (WCE) held at BEXCO in Busan last August.