

GIST Holdings, confirmed to operate a 7.5 billion won fund, selected for both the 1st and 2nd rounds of the 2025 Korea Mother Fund, the only university technology holding company

- Accelerate the establishment of a lab startup network centered on master's and doctoral degrees in the Honam region by focusing on early-stage companies centered on GIST's three major deep-tech specialized fields (AI, bio, and optical laser)... Evolving into a regional deep-tech startup hub
- Selected fund management company in the shortest period of time, just 1 year and 4 months after establishment... Establishing a virtuous cycle model for technology-based startup investment ecosystem



▲ GIST Holdings CEO Ju-sang Yeo

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that GIST Technology Holdings Co., Ltd. (GIST Holdings, CEO Ju-sang Yeo, Min-gon Kim), a holding company established in December 2023, was selected for both the 1st and 2nd regular investment projects of the Korea Mother Fund in 2025, and became the only university technology holding company to be listed as an operator both times.

This is a result of GIST's proven deep-tech-centered venture investment strategy and ability to quickly generate commercialization results, and GIST Holdings is expected to play a pivotal role in activating the regional technology startup ecosystem in the future.

In particular, GIST Holdings was selected as an operator of a 5 billion won startup (small-sized) fund in April 2025, just 1 year and 4 months after its establishment, achieving the record of being selected in the shortest period of time among existing university technology holding companies.

In June 2025, it was also selected as the operator of a university startup fund worth 2.5 billion won, securing a total fund of 7.5 billion won.

The two funds secured this time will contribute to the creation of a deep tech startup ecosystem with different strategies.

The first fund, the 'Gwangju Deep Tech Innovation Fund', plans to strengthen the connection with government support projects such as TIPS and promote rapid growth by focusing on early-stage startups in the three major deep tech specialized fields of GIST: AI, bio, and optical laser, through concentrated investment of up to 300 million won per company. Synergy effects between regional innovation organizations are also expected through cooperation with the Gwangju Center for Creative Economy and Innovation, a TIPS operator participating as a co-GP.

The second fund, the 'G-Startup Deep Tech University Startup Fund', focuses on fostering master's and doctoral-level laboratory-based technology startups and establishes a 'deep tech star laboratory chain startup model' through collaboration with Gwangju United Technology Holdings, a co-GP that has the largest university startup network in the Honam region. Based on this, it plans to expand sustainable startup models.

GIST Holdings plans to begin full-scale investment in the second half of 2025, and will also promote additional fund creation and establishment of an independent review model during fund operation through cooperation with universities and research institutes in the Honam region, as well as science and technology institutes such as the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST), and Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST).

In particular, it plans to focus strategic investment on GIST's three major specialized technologies: AI, bio, and optical laser, to realize the core goal of 'GIST Vision 2053' of producing 30 unicorn-level companies, and through this, to drive regional economic innovation and nationwide expansion of technology commercialization results.

GIST President Kichul Lim said, "GIST Holdings is creating a virtuous cycle model of creating the foundation for innovation on its own, accumulating capital, and reinvesting it in the future," and added, "Based on the spirit of practicality, we will lead the innovation economy together with promising local companies."

Ju-sang Yeo, CEO of GIST Holdings, said, "We will provide practical support to deep-tech startups that require rapid growth and revitalize the Honam region's startup ecosystem," and "We will establish ourselves as a leading model for self-sufficient university technology holding companies."

Meanwhile, GIST Holdings has been building a technology commercialization and investment recirculation ecosystem based on GIST's excellent research results.

In April 2024, it recruited Ju-sang Yeo, former CEO of Magellan Technology Investment, the first private venture capital representative among science and technology institutes, as a professional manager, strengthening our investment expertise and market-friendly strategic planning capabilities. In addition, we

are organically linking everything from technology discovery to startup and investment through a joint operating system with the head of the GIST Science and Technology Innovation Business Division.

In addition, in July 2024, it was officially registered as a 'Startup Planner' and 'New Technology Startup Specialist Company (Shin Chang-sa)' by the Ministry of SMEs and Startups, establishing ourselves as a specialized organization with a full-cycle support system from startup discovery to incubation to investment.

Based on this, is plans to fully launch customized acceleration and investment linkages for deep tech startups and accelerate the creation of actual startup results.

