

March 26, 2026

Kureha Corporation

### **Kureha's Investment with US Startup Z-Polymers**

Kureha Corporation (Tokyo: 4023, President & CEO: Yutaka Kobayashi; “the Company”) announced today that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Kureha America Inc., has signed a Stock Purchase Agreement and closed its investment in U.S.-based startup Z-Polymers, Inc. (Z-Polymers) in its Series Seed financing round.

Z-Polymers is an early-stage advanced materials startup developing next-generation polymers based on liquid crystal polymer (LCP) technology. Its proprietary Tullomer™ platform delivers performance beyond conventional LCP fibers and even high-performance fibers such as aramid. Z-Polymers has developed 3D-printable filaments compatible with widely available desktop printers. The platform also enables products for applications across aerospace, medical, industrial, defense, and energy markets.

The Company has entered into a joint development agreement with Z-Polymers and is advancing the development of new high-performance fiber and filament applications. Through this investment in Z-Polymers, the Company aims to deepen the strategic partnership with Z-Polymers and accelerate its joint development efforts, while expanding the business portfolios of both parties in key focus areas including but not limited to maritime, energy and ICT.

“We believe Z-Polymers’ technology platform represents an exciting advancement in high-performance polymer materials,” said Naomitsu Nishihata, Senior Vice President of Kureha Corporation. “Through collaboration with innovative companies like Z-Polymers, we aim to expand advanced materials solutions for global markets.”

“Kureha’s investment represents strong validation of the technical foundation and commercial potential of the Tullomer™ platform,” said Dr. Michael Zimmerman, Founder and CEO of Z-Polymers. “By combining a new class of liquid crystal polymer materials with scalable manufacturing methods, we believe this platform can enable high-performance polymer fibers with capabilities beyond many existing melt-processable materials.”

The Company has set the exploration and development of new businesses through open innovation with external partners. The Company will actively promote collaboration with promising domestic and overseas startups possessing advanced technologies and continue to create new businesses aimed at achieving sustainable growth.

## About Z-Polymers

Z-Polymers is an advanced materials company pioneering a new generation of high-performance polymers designed for extreme environments. Founded in 2021 by Dr. Michael Zimmerman, the company developed Tullomer™, a new class of liquid crystal polymers combining high strength, flame resistance, low outgassing, cryogenic stability, high-temperature capability, and UV durability. These materials enable next-generation fibers and additive manufacturing materials for aerospace, industrial, medical and energy. The company is moving towards industrial-scale production.

For more information visit <https://z-polymers.com>

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