
VELC Inc. Enters into a Framework Contract with the OECD for Technical Consultancy on AI for Educational Assessment and Personalised Learning

To provide technical consultancy on cloud infrastructure, AI model evaluation, security and related areas

VELC Inc. (Head Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director: Yusuke Tamukai; hereinafter "VELC") has entered into a framework contract with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD; headquarters: Paris, France) to provide specialised consultancy services relating to AI and cloud technologies for an educational assessment AI initiative led by the OECD Directorate for Education and Skills.

The framework contract establishes the contractual terms common to future individual assignments. The specific scope of work, deliverables and schedules will be defined in individual Purchase Orders issued by the OECD, and assignments are expected to commence following written requests from the OECD.

About the OECD Directorate for Education and Skills and the Initiative

The OECD Directorate for Education and Skills conducts large-scale international studies, including the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), and provides comparative data, policy analysis and advice to support improvements in education policies across countries and economies.

The initiative covered by the framework contract is formally titled "Developing an International Large-Scale AI Tool for Educational Assessment and Personalised Learning". It is referred to below as the "Initiative".

The Initiative aims to combine AI technologies with advanced psychometric modelling to develop a new approach to educational assessment capable of capturing learners' development continuously and from multiple perspectives. Areas under consideration include diagnostic and analytical functions supporting both formative and summative assessment, detailed data analysis at national, regional and school levels, methods for translating assessment data into concrete educational improvements, and applications in personalised learning environments.

The Initiative also includes consideration of guidelines and best practices relating to data privacy, fairness and transparency in AI-based educational assessment.

Technical Consultancy to Be Provided by VELC under the Framework Contract

Following the issuance of individual Purchase Orders, VELC plans to provide advice, reviews, assessments, recommendations, documentation and knowledge transfer concerning a cloud-based AI system for educational assessment for which the OECD serves as the development lead.

The principal areas of consultancy are expected to include the following.

1. Advice and Review concerning Cloud Environments and Data Infrastructure

VELC will review design approaches and provide technical advice on cloud environments and data infrastructure intended for use in large-scale educational assessment, with consideration given to resilience, scalability, security, availability and governance.

2. Assessment of LLM Output Controls and AI Model Security

VELC will assess the quality and control of outputs from large language models (LLMs), as well as the safety, security and reliability of relevant AI models, and provide recommendations for improvement.

3. Advice on the Evaluation and Optimisation of AI Models and Related Systems

VELC will assess the performance, quality and operational characteristics of AI models and related systems and provide advice concerning optimisation, continuous improvement and the potential application of emerging technologies.

4. Technical Documentation and Knowledge Transfer

VELC will document the results of its reviews and assessments, together with relevant recommendations, and provide knowledge transfer to support the OECD in continuing to develop the system on an ongoing basis and under its own direction.

The OECD will take the lead in the development, implementation and operation of the system, cloud environment and AI models. VELC's role is to support this work from a technical perspective through specialised advice, assessment, documentation and knowledge transfer.

VELC's Expertise at the Intersection of Education and AI

VELC has engaged in industry-academia collaborative research on the use of AI in education, supported the adoption and practical use of AI by higher education institutions, and developed and operated education data platforms.

1. Industry-Academia Collaborative Research on Generative AI in Education

Through collaborative research with higher education institutions in Japan, VELC has undertaken research and development concerning the application of generative AI to education data analysis and educational practice.

Taking account of the objectives of educational institutions and the characteristics of education data, VELC places importance not only on technical validation but also on translating research outcomes into practical use in educational settings.

2. Support for AI Adoption and Use in Higher Education

VELC has supported multiple higher education institutions in considering approaches to generative AI adoption, operating environments, use by faculty and administrative staff, and application to institutional workflows.

Rather than treating the introduction of an AI tool as an end in itself, VELC emphasises practical use that is aligned with each institution's operations, available data, security requirements and organisational structure.

3. Cloud Technology and Operational Expertise Developed through IRQuA

VELC provides IRQuA (pronounced "Iruka"), a university institutional research dashboard service, to higher education institutions of various sizes throughout Japan.

Through IRQuA, VELC has accumulated expertise in cloud-native data platforms, the integration and visualisation of education data, information design tailored to different users, and the continuous operation of education data environments.

Through these activities, VELC has developed cross-functional expertise spanning educational practice, AI and natural language processing, large-scale data search and integration, cloud technologies, security, technical documentation and continuous operational improvement.

VELC will apply this experience and technical expertise to the consultancy services provided under the framework contract.

Next Steps

VELC plans to commence its technical consultancy services after the specific scope of work, deliverables and schedules have been defined in Purchase Orders issued by the OECD.

In supporting the Initiative, VELC will place importance not only on AI performance but also on the validity, fairness, transparency, security and long-term operational sustainability required in educational assessment.

Through its participation in the Initiative, VELC aims to further strengthen its expertise at the intersection of education and AI and apply that expertise to collaboration with educational institutions, local governments and education-related businesses in Japan and internationally, thereby contributing to the advancement of safe and effective AI use.

Comment

Kotaro Tsukui

Director / Architect, VELC Inc.

Lead Technical Advisor for VELC's Engagement in the OECD Initiative on AI for Educational Assessment and Personalised Learning

"It is a great honour to have the opportunity to support, from a technical perspective, the international educational assessment AI initiative led by the OECD Directorate for Education and Skills.

Drawing on our experience in industry-academia collaborative research on the use of AI in education, AI adoption support for higher education institutions, and the development and operation of education data platforms, we will provide advice and assessments aimed at enhancing the safety, reliability and practical value of cloud infrastructure and AI models.

Applying AI to educational assessment requires more than technical performance alone. It is essential to build a trustworthy framework that addresses a broad range of considerations, including validity, fairness, transparency and security. Through collaboration with international experts, we hope to contribute to the advancement of responsible AI use in educational settings."

Related Information

OECD Official Project Page

[Developing an International Large-Scale AI Tool for Educational Assessment and Personalised Learning](#)

IRQuA - University Institutional Research Dashboard Service (Japanese)

<https://irqua.jp/>

Note

This press release is issued independently by VELC Inc. and does not constitute an endorsement or guarantee by the OECD of VELC or any of its products or services.

About VELC Inc.

Company name	VELC Inc.
Head Office	9F, Daiichi Abe Building, 1-8-2 Kanda-Sakumacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Representative	Yusuke Tamukai, Representative Director
Founded	28 December 2010
Capital	JPY 8 million
Business activities	Planning, development and operation of cloud services; business systems development; support for institutional research and education data utilisation in higher education; and AI adoption and utilisation support

Media Contact

VELC Inc. | Contact: Kotaro Tsukui | Email: contact@velc.co.jp