

## The Next Step After Large-Scale Fundraising: New AI-Specialized Product, Low Power and High Speed Semiconductor Chip, to be Released in 2024 - Sakyasingha Dasgupta, CEO of EdgeCortix

10/31/2023 Japan: Nikkei Business Daily

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EdgeCortix (EdgeCortix, Chuo, Tokyo), a designer and developer of semiconductor chips, has raised \$20 million (about 2.98 billion yen) in a third-party allocation of new shares underwritten by SBI Investment and others.

In 2024, the company will launch a new product in Japan and overseas specialized for processing artificial intelligence (AI) calculations. We asked the founder, CEO Sakyasingha Dasgupta, about the company's strategy.

--What is the background of your decision to base the company in Japan?

(Photo caption: The EdgeCortix semiconductor chip is suitable for processing complex image and voice recognition because of its low power consumption and high processing speed.)

Dasgupta said, "My contact with Japan began when I came to Japan as a scientist at RIKEN and later led an AI development team at IBM's research lab in Tokyo. During that time, I realized the high demand for AI-specific software and power-efficient semiconductors. However, while "SaaS" companies were emerging and the market was expanding in Japan, there were few startups focusing on semiconductors and AI.

Sensing a commercial opportunity in this environment, I started a company in Singapore in July 2019. In September of the same year, I established the development headquarters in Japan. Japan was attractive to us because of the large number of talented people and its strong geopolitical ties to the semiconductor market."

--What is the nature of your business?

"We develop and sell semiconductor chips, which are the core components of electronic circuit boards. They control electrical signals and perform complex arithmetic operations in computers. While many companies specialize in chips, we are unique in that we design both hardware and software."

--What are the strengths of your technology and how does it stack up against the competition?

"Our strength is the software technology that runs the semiconductor chips. It is a mechanism that enables efficient computation by making it possible to effectively reconfigure a wide range of connections between different computation engines. We have patented our technology and are licensing it as an intellectual property (IP).

Based on this technology, our semiconductor chip's greatest weapon is its ability to perform high-speed calculations with low power consumption. The computing speed is over five times faster than competing products, and we can achieve power consumption during operation of just 10 watts or lower, about one-tenth compared to competition. The computing power per unit of power consumption is also 5 to 8 times higher. It can be used for real-time image and voice recognition, which requires complex processing.”

--How will the procured funds be used and what is your strategy for the future?

“We will establish a new development base in India while promoting the hiring of engineers. In terms of products, we will launch a new semiconductor chip specialized for AI processing in Japan and North America in 2024. As AI generates heat when it performs advanced video processing, there is a growing need for high-speed processing with low power consumption. We will prepare a supply system by outsourcing mass production to major semiconductor companies, and sell the chips to the likes of electronics and automobile makers.”

Dasgupta received his master’s degree from Edinburgh University in 2010 and his doctorate from the Max Planck Institute in 2014. He has been involved in AI and machine learning for about 15 years in and outside of Japan. He founded EdgeCortex in 2019.

Translation prepared by EdgeCortex. Full Original Japanese Article

[\(大型調達 次の一歩\) 半導体チップ、低電力・高速 24年にAI特化の新製品 EdgeCortex/サキャシング・ダスグプタCEO](#)

## From the Reporter's Eyes: Can Japan Attract International Entrepreneurs?

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The growing use of semiconductor chips for AI is said to be changing the game for the entire industrial world. Advanced image and perception analysis and language processing will become possible, and it's expected to be used in applications for automation in fields such as automobiles, satellites, communications, the military, robotics and more.

In Japan, there are still few innovators like EdgeCortex that specialize in semiconductors for AI. EdgeCortex was founded by a non-Japanese entrepreneur and operates in Japan - a somewhat unusual facet.

Competition with foreign companies in the semiconductor and AI fields is already fierce. For startups to grow, they need to penetrate overseas markets, but many in the industry believe that there are limits to what can be achieved with Japanese human resources alone.

What will be important is for Japan itself to become a magnet for talented foreign entrepreneurs. Diversification of domestic venture capital, improvement of investment capabilities, and creation of a

climate that invites foreign entrepreneurs, including government support equal to the likes of Europe, the U.S., and India, will also be important in the new AI age.

Translation prepared by EdgeCortix. Full Original Japanese Article

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