

# BUSINESS

## Venture to commercialize Russian military technology

Japanese and Russian companies will set up a joint venture in Japan to commercialize Russian military technology for civilian purposes.

The firm, to be called Life Sensor after its main product, will be capitalized at ¥10 million. Investors will include Tokyo-based ART Laboratory, which offers advanced Russian technology to Japanese firms, and Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture-based Syswave Corp., which develops and designs system chips.

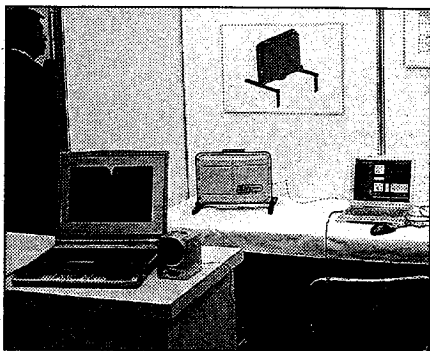
In October, the firm will increase capital through a third-party allocation of shares, with BMT Management, a major Russian investment firm, buying about ¥33 million worth of shares.

The firm will first commercialize a device that can detect the location of victims buried under debris during disasters, for example, by using microwaves to pick up the sounds of breathing and heartbeats.

The technology, developed by a state-run corporation in the former Soviet Union, was originally designed to look for hidden snipers and missing soldiers.

The device measures 36-by-27-by-9.7cm and weighs 4kg. Connected to a personal computer, it shows the location of people in the vicinity on the screen. It can detect people from up to 10 meters away and distinguish them from other living beings.

The new firm has obtained a basic



**The Life Sensor detector is capable of spotting people up to 10 meters away.**

patent for the technology in Russia and the U.S. and has applied for patents in Japan and Europe.

The device will be sold for less than ¥10 million, targeting local governments and the Fire and Defense Management Agency. A similar German-made device is already available in Japan, but can only detect the direction, not the distance, of people. In addition, it costs ¥25 million and weighs 60kg.

Life Sensor will apply the technology to enter larger markets in the welfare and security fields. It plans to ally with major security firms and other companies to develop such products as security alarm sensors and low-cost sensors to detect breathing in the bedridden elderly and infants.