NEWS RELEASE

Further Strengthening Yakult's Global R&D Framework Establishment of Yakult Americas R&D Center Inc. in the United States

TOKYO, November 13, 2026 - Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. (President: Hiroshi Narita) is pleased to announce the establishment of "Yakult Americas R&D Center Inc." at Aggie Square in Sacramento, California, United States, as a hub in its global R&D framework. The center was officially founded on November 10, 2026, as part of the company's efforts to build a global R&D structure.

＜Exterior View of Aggie Square＞



＊Yakult Americas R&D Center Inc. is based at Aggie Square.

Yakult Honsha operates in 40 countries and regions worldwide, including Japan. In recent years, consumer needs and food-related regulatory requirements have become increasingly diverse across countries and regions. To respond to these changes accurately and swiftly, it is becoming increasingly important to develop products tailored to regional characteristics and conduct research aimed at creating new value.

Against this backdrop, Yakult Honsha established "Yakult European R&D Center B.V." in the Netherlands in September 2025 to strengthen its product development and research capabilities in the regions where it operates. The Americas, where Yakult Honsha operates in countries including

the United States, Mexico, and Brazil, represent one of the world's leading probiotics markets, with diverse consumer needs shaped by a wide range of cultures and dietary habits. The new center will accurately identify consumer needs and food trends in the Americas and promote product development tailored to the region's characteristics.

Aggie Square is an innovation hub developed and operated by Wexford Science & Technology* and located on the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) campus in Sacramento, California. UC Davis, the anchor tenant at Aggie Square, is one of the world's leading research institutions in agriculture and food science, conducting a broad range of food and health research, including studies on food functionality and the gut microbiome. From that perspective as well, establishing an R&D center at Aggie Square, which is home to dozens of researchers and clinicians, is a rare and valuable opportunity. Through interaction, collaboration, and knowledge sharing with universities, research institutions, and companies, the new center will advance research aimed at addressing health challenges, including gut health, and creating new value.

Through these efforts to strengthen its R&D framework, Yakult Honsha aims to contribute further to people's health and wellbeing while continuing to evolve as a global company.

*A U.S.-based company that partners with leading universities, healthcare systems, research institutions, and industry to transform real estate into strategic platforms for innovation; creating vibrant Knowledge Communities that connect research, talent, capital, and enterprise to accelerate discovery, commercialization, and regional economic growth.

Overview of Yakult Americas R&D Center Inc.

1. Name: Yakult Americas R&D Center Inc.
2. Location: Aggie Square, Sacramento, California, United States
3. Representative: Ken Nishikawa
4. Date of establishment: November 10, 2026
5. Company type: U.S. corporation (C corporation, privately held)
6. Capital: US$2 million (wholly owned by Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd.)