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EMAIL: rachelmchun@korea.kr**The Ministry of SMEs and Startups Holds IR Pitching for Super Gap Startups**

SEJONG – The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS, Minister OH Youngju) held the ‘Super Gap Startup IR Pitching’ in Silicon Valley, U.S., to support the global expansion of super gap deep-tech startups with exceptional technologies in new industrial sectors such as AI and system semiconductors.

The event consisted of two main activities: the ‘Silicon Valley IR Demo Day’ on January 10 (Friday, local time), where super gap startups presented their investor relations (IR) pitches and networked with global corporations such as NVIDIA, venture capitalists (VCs), corporate venture capitalists (CVCs), and U.S. government agencies, and the ‘Cerebral AI MeetUp’ on January 13 (Monday, local time), which facilitated discussions on technology exchange and collaboration between outstanding AI startups in ‘Cerebral Valley’ and super gap startups. A total of 20 deep-tech startups aiming for global market entry in eight new industrial sectors, including system semiconductors, future mobility, and robotics, participated in the event.

Among them, nine companies, including CLIKA in the AI and big data field, participated in ‘CES 2025’ held in Las Vegas, U.S., from January 7 to 10. In addition, The Wave Talk and Medicos Biotech were honored with the prestigious Innovation Awards at CES 2025.

The ‘Silicon Valley IR Demo Day’ commenced with a congratulatory speech by Korean Vice Minister KIM Sung-sup of SMEs and Startups, followed by global CVC reverse pitching, super gap startup IR pitching, U.S. government reverse pitching, and networking sessions. Over 100 participants, including employees from global corporations such as NVIDIA, Google, HP, and Boeing, as well as investors from firms like SOSV and technology agents, attended the event, demonstrating strong interest in Korea’s innovative deep-tech startups.

After the event, Vice Minister KIM held a meeting with Korean startups, such as WittGen Biotechnologies, which have either settled in U.S.-based accelerators like Plug and Play Tech Center or received support services for their market entry into the U.S. He listened to the challenges these startups face in entering the U.S. market and discussed the government's policies to support their global expansion.

On January 11 (Saturday, local time), a training session was conducted for super gap startups to minimize trial and error during their global expansion and help them establish a foothold in the local market. The session included legal and tax education from experts, such as international lawyers, along with lectures on investment trends in Silicon Valley

Meanwhile, the 'Cerebral AI MeetUp' event, scheduled for January 13 (Monday, local time), will begin with a keynote speech by Shailesh Nalawadi, Head of Product at the AI unicorn company Sendbird. The event will feature pitches and networking sessions between 10 super gap startups and outstanding U.S. AI startups, such as Databricks and Zendesk. MSS plans to continuously provide opportunities for domestic deep-tech startups to engage in AI technology exchange and collaboration with U.S. companies.

Vice Minister KIM Sung-sup stated, "The Korean government is providing various policy supports to foster deep-tech startups with high technology and innovation for their global market entry." He added, "As super gap startups represent the highest level of deep-tech startups supported and guaranteed by the Korean government, we hope for active investment from global investment institutions present at today's event."