

## Appointment of Hirokazu Minami to Advisory Board

### Highlights:

- Mr Minami's family is the largest shareholder of the Mainami Group (<https://www.mainami.co.jp/english/>), a Japanese conglomerate with more than 70 years of operating history, comprising of eight subsidiaries and affiliates across six lines of business, including aviation fuel, petroleum products, logistics, information, real estate management, engineering, and finance development
- Mr Minami has served as a Representative Director across the Group, which operate primarily in aviation fuel and petroleum-related businesses, bringing over a decade of executive leadership within Japanese heavy industry, chemicals, energy, aerospace and defence sectors
- Mainami's Aviation Division provides airplane refuelling at 11 Japanese airport servicing major carriers such as Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airways, as well as other international airlines, and employs in excess of 500 employees
- Mainami Holdings' Fuel Logistics division operates a fleet of ~150 trucks under contracts with major petroleum suppliers
- Mr Minami brings strategic expertise aligned to tackling PFAS contamination at Japanese airports, fuel logistics infrastructure, and heavy industry and his appointment will accelerate ECT's targeted entry into the Japanese PFAS market
- Japan's PFAS market is facing significant challenges and the Government is actively addressing widespread PFAS contamination in its water, air, soil and broader environment
- In September 2024, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, alongside the Ministries of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Environment, unveiled a draft proposal aimed at banning PFAS substances and this was passed and adopted in November 2024. The first action of this plan was the banning of 138 PFAS substances, which came in effect in January 2025
- Japan is estimated to have one of the largest PFAS remediation liabilities valued at \$US 900 million in 2024 and is projected to reach US\$ 1.8 billion by 2033, growing at a CAGR of 8.2% from 2026 to 2033<sup>3</sup>
- Mr Minami's appointment marks the completion of ECT's Advisory Board and sees him join Robert Bilott, Professor James Tour and Lewis Utting, further strengthening the Company's commercial and technical capabilities



Environmental Clean Technologies Limited (**ASX: ECT**) (**ECT** or **the Company**) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Hirokazu Minami to its Advisory Board.

Mr Minami is a highly respected leader in Japan’s energy and industrial sectors. His career has been defined by successfully introducing advanced technologies to the Japanese market and scaling complex industrial businesses.

Mr Minami brings over a decade of executive leadership roles across Japan’s heavy industry, chemicals, energy, aerospace, and defence sectors. He has served as a Representative Director across nine companies within the Mainami Group and is the Group’s largest shareholder, primarily operating in aviation fuel and petroleum-related businesses.

The Group’s Aviation Division provides airplane refuelling services at 11 airports across Japan, including Narita, Haneda, Chubu Centrair, Itami, Kansai, and Fukuoka as well as fuel storage services at Fukuoka and Itami with their cutting-edge fuel hydrant system. Its clients include major Japanese carriers such as Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways, as well as international airlines, and employs in excess of 500 employees with a fleet of 150 trucks.

The Fuel Logistics Division operates under contracts with major petroleum suppliers. Through Fukuoka Fuel Logistics and Osaka Fuel Logistics, the Group ensures deliveries of fuel from refineries to airports storage facilities across Kyushu (Fukuoka, Kita-Kyushu, Miyazaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima) and the Kansai region (Osaka, Nagoya, Hiroshima).

Mr Minami’s experience also includes establishing and serving as Representative Director of the Japanese subsidiary of an overseas counter-drone systems manufacturer, where he led market entry, regulatory engagement, and local business development focusing largely on the defence sector, power plants, and airports. In addition, Mr Minami has held senior business development roles with multiple international technology startups, leveraging his deep industry relationships to support strategic expansion into Japan and to secure long-term commercial partnerships.

### **Key Locations of Contamination Across Japan**

Japan, like many other parts of the world, is facing widespread PFAS contamination in water and soil, with recent government surveys detecting levels above provisional safety standards at numerous sites nationwide, including groundwater and river systems in major prefectures such as Osaka, Tokyo, and Okinawa<sup>1</sup>.

PFAS contamination has been detected near several US military bases, Japanese Self-Defence Forces facilities, and civilian airports across Japan. The contamination is primarily linked to the historical use of PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) for firefighting<sup>2</sup>.

Significant PFAS contamination has been identified or is suspected in water sources and soil near the sites across Japan which are outlined below<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Jiji. 2025. “Potentially Carcinogenic PFAS Chemicals Over Standard at 242 Sites in Japan.” *The Japan Times*, April 25, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Stars and Stripes. 2025. “Okinawa PFAS Survey Flags U.S. Bases as Probable Contamination Source.” *Stars and Stripes*, May 19, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Verified Market Reports. 2026. *Japan Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Market*. Verified Market Reports.

The use of these chemicals has led to widespread concerns over public health and the environment in Japan, with local residents' groups calling for greater transparency and investigation into the sources of pollution.

**US Military Bases and Airfields:** These facilities are frequently cited as sources of contamination, particularly in Okinawa and Western Tokyo, where elevated levels have been found in nearby water sources.

- **Kadena Air Base** (Okinawa): The largest US Air Force installation in the Pacific, it has been associated with high levels of PFOS/PFOA in nearby rivers and springs, affecting local drinking water supplies.
- **Marine Corps Air Station Futenma** (Okinawa): Significant contamination concerns, and local authorities have requested access for testing.
- **Yokota Air Base** (Tokyo): Spills of firefighting foam occurred between 2010 and 2012, and high PFAS levels have been found in groundwater and sewage near the base.
- **Naval Air Facility Atsugi** (Kanagawa Prefecture): This base has reported numerous releases of AFFF, leading to contamination in a nearby river.
- **Misawa Air Base** (Aomori Prefecture): High levels were found in a pond that drains runoff from the base and in the local wastewater treatment plant following a pipe burst.
- **Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni** (Yamaguchi Prefecture): At least 12 spills of firefighting foams were reported between 1997 and 2016.
- **Camp Hansen, Camp Courtney, and Camp McTureous** (Okinawa): Surveys have flagged elevated PFAS levels near these Marine Corps camps.
- **Sagami General Depot** (Kanagawa Prefecture): "Forever chemicals" have been found in groundwater near this Army depot.
- **Yokosuka Naval Base** (Kanagawa Prefecture): High PFOA concentrations were reported in the base's wastewater in 2022.

**Japanese Self-Defence Forces (SDF) and Joint-Use Facilities:** PFAS contamination has also been identified at Japanese military facilities and airports, linked to PFAS-containing firefighting foams.

- **Komaki Airport / Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Plant** (near Nagoya): Water in the region is perpetually contaminated with PFAS from the plant and joint-use airfield.
- **SDF Facilities Generally:** Reports indicate that contamination has been found across various Japanese military facilities, though specific site details are less publicized than U.S. bases due to different transparency agreements.
- **Hokkaido Airports:** PFOS and PFHxS have been detected around airports in Hokkaido, likely due to the use of fire extinguishers.

Mr Minami's vast network is particularly valuable in tackling these critical environmental challenges, including PFAS contamination at airports and fuel depots from firefighting foam residues and petrochemical exposure, one of the largest classes of untreated environmental liabilities globally. His extensive exposure to these markets and commercial landscape in Japan will be invaluable in helping ECT establish strategic partnerships and generate commercial agreements with some of the country's largest contaminated sites.



**Commenting on the appointment of Mr Minami, ECT Executive Chairman, Faldi Ismail, said, “Hirokazu’s appointment will play a key role in the acceleration of the Company’s commercialisation strategy for our REM technology, with Japan identified as a key market.**

*“His extensive experience building and commercialising businesses in Japan, combined with his deep understanding of regulatory frameworks and engagement with industrial stakeholders, will be a major asset to ECT. Hirokazu brings proven operational and governance expertise across complex, highly regulated industries, which will be invaluable as we continue to develop and ultimately deploy this technology.*

*“Japan, like many other parts of the world, is facing widespread PFAS contamination in water and soil, with recent government surveys identifying exceedances of provisional safety standards across multiple regions largely linked to the historical use of PFAS-containing firefighting foams, particularly at defence and aviation-related facilities.*

*“This creates a significant market opportunity for ECT, with strong demand for effective and scalable remediation solutions. Japan’s increasing regulatory focus and commitment to environmental protection position it as an attractive market for the deployment of ECT’s REM technology and a key contributor to the Company’s long-term growth strategy.”*

In connection with his appointment to the Advisory Board, the Company will issue Mr Minami a total of 3,500,000 performance rights, which will vest and convert into fully paid ordinary ECT shares as per the below Schedule.

The Board authorises the release of this announcement.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Forward-looking Statement**

This announcement may contain forward-looking statements regarding future events or performance, including but not limited to projections of financial results, anticipated growth, and business strategies. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, assumptions, and projections that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those anticipated due to various factors, including market conditions, regulatory changes, technological advancements, and economic conditions. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this announcement. The Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise, except as required by applicable securities laws.

Investors should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties disclosed in the Company's periodic reports filed with the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) and other regulatory authorities. Forward-looking statements are provided as of the date of this announcement, and the Company disclaims any obligation to update them, except as required by law.

## **SCHEDULE**

In connection with his appointment to the Advisory Board, the Company will issue to Mr Minami, solely in his individual capacity as an Advisory Board member a total of 3,500,000 performance rights, which will vest and convert into fully paid ordinary ECT shares as follows:

- 1,000,000 will vest if Mr Minami remains on the Advisory Board for one year;
- 1,000,000 will vest if Mr Minami remains on the Advisory Board for two years;
- 750,000 will vest if ECT's share price reaches a 10 day VWAP of 50c at any time within two years from grant and the Company achieves a binding Memorandum of Understanding with a Japanese corporation or government agency; and
- 750,000 will vest if the Company achieves a commercial PFAS remediation contract and/or a Research & Development collaboration for technology commercialisation with a Japanese corporation or government agency with a minimum value of AUD\$5,000,000 (~¥524,000,000) within three years from grant.