

## DMP seeks M&A to build physical AI platform, eyes simulation and 3D graphics firms – CEO

- Bets on M&A to dominate physical AI data market
- Conducting due diligence on multiple targets
- Acquired US mapping company Ushr in 2019

Dynamic Map Platform (DMP) is accelerating its push to build a data platform for the physical AI era through M&A as it pursues its ambition to become a globally recognised Japanese company, CEO Shuichi Yoshimura said in an interview with *Mergermarket*.

“We are aiming to build a platform where data needed for physical AI development can be referenced across industries,” Yoshimura said.

The company plans to leverage M&A to extend its data collection business — rooted in surveying — into simulation and 3D data technologies, positioning itself for the broader physical AI market encompassing autonomous driving, robotics and logistics automation.

M&A sits at the core of DMP’s growth strategy. Following its acquisition of US mapping company Ushr in 2019, the company was largely unable to pursue major deals during its IPO preparation period. With its listing on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Growth Market in March 2025, however, DMP has relaunched its acquisition drive.

The company is currently conducting due diligence on multiple targets, Yoshimura said.

Near-term targets fall into two broad categories: upstream assets such as surveying companies and construction consulting firms, and downstream assets including simulation software developers and 3D data technology companies. On the surveying sector specifically, Yoshimura noted that approximately 11,000 surveying firms operate in Japan, with over 95% having share capital of less than JPY 100m. Many face succession challenges, he added, positioning the sector

as one where DMP can simultaneously strengthen its data collection capabilities and address a social issue.

"We want to first bring a regional core company into the group and then use that as a vehicle to roll up smaller operators," Yoshimura said.

On the downstream side, DMP is eyeing software companies involved in automotive development simulation and traffic simulation, as well as firms with expertise in game engines and real-time rendering. "There is real value in correctly teaching AI about the physical world," Yoshimura said, signalling the company's intent to acquire technologies that unlock new data applications for AI.

### **Driven to acquire**

DMP was established in 2016 under an all-Japan initiative to develop high-precision maps for autonomous driving, with ten domestic automakers among its investors. Following the Ushr acquisition and its subsequent stock market listing, the company's market capitalisation now stands at JPY19.8bn (USD136m). Japan Investment Corporation (JIC), a government-backed fund, holds approximately 31% as the largest shareholder. With JIC's mandate extended through March 2050, no near-term exit is anticipated.

Yoshimura joined DMP from JIC, where he had backed the company as an investor before taking an operational role.

While Yoshimura declined to disclose specific valuation parameters, he indicated that DMP is targeting deals in the "double-digit billions of yen" range, building on the smaller transactions completed this year. International acquisitions are also on the table, though Yoshimura was clear that the rationale has shifted. "We are no longer looking to buy into regions," he said. Future overseas deals will be driven by technology and business acquisition rather than market entry.

On funding, DMP plans to deploy unused proceeds from its IPO, with

cash and cash equivalents of JPY 8.4bn at the end of fiscal year March 2025, according to its annual securities report. Bank financing is also available if needed. Having completed a cross-border deal in 2019, Yoshimura said the company has no hesitation about pursuing further overseas acquisitions.

DMP currently collects and updates data across 26 countries, with overseas markets accounting for approximately 74% of revenue. The company holds around 1.8 million kilometres of high-precision 3D map data — “among the largest in the world by data volume,” according to Yoshimura.

### **Off-road ambitions**

Yet autonomous driving is just the starting point. Yoshimura sees it as the first major market for physical AI but expects the opportunity to broaden over time to encompass robotics, logistics, industrial automation, drones, disaster prevention and defense.

The competitive landscape is also shifting. HERE and TomTom have traditionally been seen as the key rivals in the high-precision map space, but Yoshimura believes the real contest going forward will be “whether you can provide data that is meaningful to AI.”

In his view, the competitive set is evolving away from map companies and towards the broader group of firms building AI ecosystems.

DMP’s ambitions extend well beyond its origins as an autonomous driving map provider. The company envisions a cycle in which real-world data is captured, processed through digital simulation, and fed back into physical decision-making — what Yoshimura calls a “cyber-physical loop.” Building the ecosystem of companies that can power this loop through M&A is, he said, the defining goal.

by Yuki Hagiwara in Tokyo