Preferred Networks, Inc. (PFN) is a technology company with the mission to make the real world computable by applying deep learning and other advanced technologies to solve difficult real-world problems. Since its founding in March 2014, PFN has applied its technologies to transportation systems, manufacturing, life sciences, and later to robots, plant optimization, materials discovery, education, entertainment and other industry sectors. PFN also develops its own software, processor, and supercomputer to support its deep learning capabilities.

Quick Facts

Headquarters	Otemachi Building, 1-6-1, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Founded	March 26, 2014
Business	Research, development and sales of software, hardware and network technologies that incorporate deep learning and other advanced technologies
Subsidiaries	Preferred Networks America, Inc. (U.S. subsidiary), Preferred Robotics, Inc., Preferred Computational Chemistry, Inc.
Employees	Approx. 300
Website	https://www.preferred.jp

Board of Directors

Toru Nishikawa	Chief Executive Officer, Co-Founder
Daisuke Okanohara	Chief Executive Researcher, Co-Founder
Ryosuke Okuta	Chief Technology Officer
Shinya Hanamura	Outside Director
Shinichi Koizumi	Outside Director
Hiroyuki Morikawa	Outside Director

Investors

Toyota Motor, Fanuc, NTT, ENEOS Holdings, Chugai Pharmaceutical, Hakuhodo DY Holdings, Hitachi, Mitsui & Co., Mizuho Bank, Tokyo Electron

PFN Values

Motivation-driven	Learn or die	Proud, but humble	Boldly do what no one has done before

Awards and Recognition

June 2022	Academic paper on Matlantis™'s core technology PFP was selected as Nature Communications Editor's Highlights
April 2022	#1 out of 1,588 teams in Kaggle competition Happywhale for accurate identification of whales and dolphins
November 2021	PFN-developed deep learning supercomputer MN-3 tops the Green500 list of the world's most energy-efficient supercomputers for the third time
November 2021	Computer science education app Playgram™ receives Japan e-Learning Award
June 2021	MN-3 tops the Green500 list for the second time
March 2021	#4 out of 1,547 teams in Kaggle competition RANZCL CLiP for accurate evaluation of catheter placements on chest X-rays
December 2020	#4 out of 935 teams in Kaggle competition Lyft Motion Prediction for Autonomous Vehicles
June 2020	MN-3 at #1 in Green500 for the first time
May 2020	Best Paper Award at CHI 2020, a conference on human-computer interaction
October 2019	#3 out of 193 teams in the Kaggle competition Open Images 2019 - Instance Segmentation track; #4 out of 559 teams in Object Detection track
May 2019	Prime Minister's Award at 5th Nippon Venture Awards
February 2019	Chainer™ wins Nihon Keizai Shimbun Award at Nikkei Superior Products and Services Awards
November 2018	#6 out of 1,499 teams in Kaggle competition Kaggle RSNA Pneumonia Detection Challenge
October 2018	Semi-Grand Prix, Industries/Markets Category, CEATEC Award 2018
September 2018	#2 out of 454 teams in Object Detection Track at Google AI Open Images
May 2018	Best Paper Award on Human-Robot Interaction at IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation 2018
May 2018	Chainer wins Open Source Data Science Project Award at Open Data Science Conference East 2018
March 2018	PaintsChainer™ wins Excellence Award in Entertainment Division at 21st Japan Media Arts Festival
July 2017	Emerging Leader Award at 2017 Japan-U.S. Innovation Awards
March 2017	Technology Award at FT ArcelorMittal Boldness in Business Awards 2017
February 2017	Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)'s Awards (Partnership of Venture Businesses and Large Enterprises), 3rd Nippon Venture Awards
July 2016	#2 (score tie with #1) out of 16 teams for pick task, #4 for stow task at Amazon Picking Challenge

Milestones

October 2022	HAPiiBOT, a cleaning robot co-developed by Amano and PFRobotics, goes on sale
October 2022	Launches GAN-based entertainment mobile app MEMES
June 2022	Launches deep learning-based 3D scanning service PFN 3D Scan
April 2022	Launches Crypko™ anime character art generating platform as web service
March 2022	Preferred Robotics receives total investment of 600 million yen from Asahi Kasei Homes and Sumitomo-Mitsui Bank
November 2021	Establishes autonomous mobile robot subsidiary Preferred Robotics, receives investment of 2 billion yen from Amano
September 2021	Develops AI drug discovery technology, discovers lead compounds for COVID-19
July 2021	Develops deep learning-based 3D pose estimation technology adopted by SoftBank's sign language service
July 2021	PFCC launches Matlantis™ atomistic simulator
June 2021	Establishes a joint venture Preferred Computational Chemistry (PFCC) with ENEOS
March 2021	Announces collaboration with Toei Animation to streamline anime production using Scenify™ background image production tool
March 2021	Unveils deep learning-based digital asset generation system for creative industries
March 2021	Jointly develops autonomous navigation system for construction site robots with Kajima Corporation, introduced robots to Tokyo area sites
December 2020	Establishes a joint venture YP Switch with Yaruki Switch Group for programming education
September 2020	Establishes a joint venture with Mitsui & Co. to develop and commercialize a deep learning-based AI solution for subsurface structure analysis.
August 2020	Launches Playgram Typing (beta), a typing practice website for children
July 2020	Launches computer science education business, teams up with Yaruki Switch Group for courses using programming education app Playgram™
May 2020	MN-3, PFN's first supercomputer powered by deep learning processor MN-Core™(jointly developed by PFN and Kobe University) begins operation
January 2020	Releases v1 of Optuna™ hyperparameter optimization framework for machine learning
November 2019	Launches collaborative project for sebum RNA monitoring technology with Kao Corporation
August 2019	Begins joint development of service robots with Toyota Motor
June 2019	Receives 1 billion yen investment from JXTG Holdings in a capital tie-up
December 2018	Unveils deep learning processor MN-Core™ at Semicon Japan 2018
November 2018	Establishes a joint venture Prefered Medicine, Inc. in the United States with Mitsui & Co.
October 2018	Unveils Autonomous Tidying-Up Robot System at CEATEC Japan 2018, announces entry to the area of personal robots
August 2018	Receives 700 million yen investment from Chugai Pharmaceutical
August 2018	Receives 200 million yen investment from Tokyo Electron
December 2017	Receives 500 million yen investment from Hakuhodo DY Holdings, Mitsui & Co., Mizuho Bank and Hitachi respectively in capital tie-ups
December 2017	Receives additional investment of 500 million yen from Fanuc
August 2017	Receives additional investment of 10.5 billion yen from Toyota Motor
January 2017	Releases PaintsChainer™ Beta (later rebranded as Petalica Paint)
November 2016	Begins joint development project for AI-enabled integrated cancer treatment system
July 2016	Establishes a joint venture PFDeNA with DeNA with 15 million yen invested from each
December 2015	Receives 1 billion yen investment from Toyota Motor in a capital tie-up
August 2015	Receives 900 million yen investment from Fanuc in a capital tie-up
June 2015	Forms business tie-up with Fanuc
June 2015	Releases Chainer™, open-source deep learning framework
October 2014	Receives 200 million yen investment from NTT in a capital and business tie-up
October 2014	Begins joint research with Toyota Motor
March 2014	Preferred Networks is founded in Tokyo