

INVESTOR'S GUIDE 2024: STOCKS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

# FORTUNE

## JOSHUA KUSHNER

Bold bets on **Instagram**, **Stripe**, and **OpenAI** made him a billionaire. How he built **Thrive Capital** and paved a path outside his famous family.

## DRILL FOR SUCCESS



**Hideaki Shimizu**  
Representative Director and CEO,  
Via Mechanics, Ltd.

**THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION REVOLVES AROUND THE** development of semiconductors and a manufacturing process in which even the tiniest details and components require the utmost precision. None of it would be possible without the unsung heroics of the companies undertaking this meticulous work, such as Japanese firm Via Mechanics, Ltd. The business specializes in circuit board drilling and is renowned for its role in semiconductor production all over the world, reaffirming Japan's successful contribution to innovative technology. "Via Mechanics can provide the world's top state-of-the-art processing technology to any market in the world, which no other company can," says Hideaki Shimizu, the firm's CEO. The business is built around the in-house manufacturing of its core technologies for use in next-generation developments, such as 5G connectivity, DX and AI. This includes innovative new products, such as mechanical drilling machines, CO2 laser drilling machines and UV laser drills, meaning Via Mechanics is well prepared to support growing demand for semiconductors at home and overseas. The firm's leadership is also proud of Japan's part in the booming sector. "Japanese companies have overwhelmingly strong technological capabilities for high-end semiconductor packaging substrates, for which we provide solutions to our customers," says Shimizu. ■



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