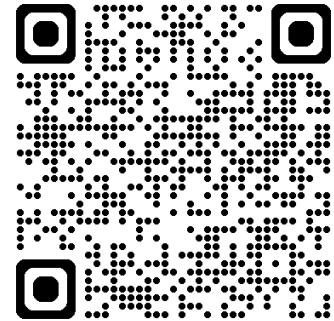


# When earbuds are the smartest thing in the room



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20251110123158306/>

The most powerful tool in future offices may rest snuggly in your ear, whispering AI generated data, context, and cues to you.

This Japan based IT company has started using AI powered earphones for internal meetings among its 54 branch offices. It first deployed the technology in September. The earbuds have built in microphones and can transcribe what they record in real time.

Please strengthen collaboration with business partners while also sharing information.

The device generates a summary of what was said during the meeting: What were the challenges today? Looking back at the situation…, What's the progress status? The AI also concisely summarizes decisions made during the meeting.

It used to take 30 minutes to compile minutes from a 1-hour meeting, so we no longer need to use that time.

The company that makes the system powering the device reports increasing inquiries from people in construction and medical fields who find note taking difficult.

Even in industries currently facing labor shortages, there's a growing momentum to actively adopt tools that save time.

This audio and video equipment maker is also developing earphones that have a camera. This round part is

the lens. An example use is for recording business card exchanges.

Nice to meet you. I'm Yuko Wagatsuma.

The earbuds can remember the face of the person along with their card information, the time, and other details.

Long time no see.

This can be helpful in situations where you've met someone in the past but can't recall their name. In such cases the earbuds match the image to stored data and whisper the person's name and other details into your ear.

I believe she is Wagatsuma Yuko from JVCKenwood innovation design center. You exchanged business cards a few months ago.

The camera equipped earbud maker says it is considering privacy measures to prepare for commercializing the technology. Sales representatives and hotel staff are examples of potential users. The maker also plans to explore features that provide information via voice to visually impaired individuals.

We hope our earphones can provide support tailored to various people's situations.

Earphones are evolving into tools that react to the environment and provide useful information.

Source: (NHK World News)

**Now discuss the questions with a partner.**

1. Can you think of any uses for this technology other than those mentioned in the video?
2. Can you think of any problems this technology might have?
3. Do you think devices like these will become common in the future workplace? Why or why not?
4. Who should accept responsibility if the AI provides incorrect information?
5. Which industries do you think will benefit the most from this technology?