

NeoNET

Headquarters: Boston, Massachusetts, UCAS

This corp's primary mover and shaker, Novatech, might just as well be called "Phoenix" for its skill in rising from the ashes of potential disasters. Born first of the leavings when former megacorp Fuchi Electronics fell apart, Novatech has caused quite its share of stirs over the past few years—the most recent being that its spectacular IPO back in 2064 was one of a series of catalysts that led to the second Matrix Crash and the world's subsequent descent into chaos. Another was the fact that they came out of the Crash and the IPO smelling like roses, joining up with communications giant Erika and cybertech powerhouse Transys Neuronet to establish the backbone for the new wireless Matrix and catch most of their competitors flatfooted.

With the influx of money brought on by the IPO and the merger, the new megacorp has diversified its interests into just about every industry, including Matrix infrastructure, cyberware, electronics, software, biotech, aerospace, small arms, and many others. They're definitely one to watch.

Renraku Computer Systems

Headquarters: Chiba, Japan

Renraku, already reeling from the Seattle Arcology debacle, didn't fare too well following the Crash—due to the machinations of former Renraku America division manager Sherman Huang (now rotting in some Renraku jail cell, assuming he's still alive at all), the corp lost a big chunk of money and, much more importantly, the opportunity to get the jump on the emerging augmented-reality market. In the world of megacorps, second best is the first loser, and Renraku didn't even make second best.

That's not to say that the Big R is hurting that bad, though—as their name implies (it means "communication" in Japanese) they're still the world's largest data repository and own a substantial piece of Asia's telecom grids, so they're not without their bargaining chips. After all, when nobody knows what kind of useful or potentially incriminating information you've got squirreled away in your databanks, it's going to take some strong motivation to risk messing with you. That's what Renraku is counting on as it rebuilds and reinvents itself.

Saeder-Krupp Heavy Industries

Headquarters: Essen, Germany

Saeder-Krupp Heavy Industries can be summed up in one word: Lofwyr. The great dragon owns nearly 100% of this German-based megacorp, and he rules it with the kind of attention to detail that only one of his kind can maintain.



It's not impossible to put one over on Lofwyr, but it's *very* difficult—and usually fatal. The wyrm doesn't suffer fools gladly, and shadowrunners who go against him (or fail in one of his jobs) might just find themselves on his list—which also happens to be his lunch menu.

Primarily involved in heavy industry, S-K is also strong in chemicals, finance, and aerospace with a presence in many other areas. Secure in its position as the largest corporation in the world, it wields extensive power and influence.

Shiawase Corporation

Headquarters: Osaka, Japan

The oldest of the megas, Shiawase holds the claim to fame of being behind the court case that ultimately led to the extraterritoriality that all megacorps know and love today. A classic Japanese zaibatsu, Shiawase is run in a traditional "family" style, with most employees signing lifetime contracts and even marrying within the corp. Families, however, tend to squabble—and a big squabble between the corp's various (and interrelated) warring factions back during the Crash resulted in a huge shakeup, redistributing vast swaths of stock and rewriting the top levels of Shiawase's org chart in one fell swoop.

As for what they do, the question is more, "What *don't* they do?" Either directly or through subsidiaries, Shiawase has its hands in nuclear power, environmental engineering, biotech, heavy industry, technical service, minerals, military goods, and a whole lot more.

Wuxing, Incorporated

Headquarters: Hong Kong Free Enterprise Enclave

The only Chinese player on the megacorp scene, Wuxing owes its ascension to the rarefied ranks of the Big Ten to the late great (dragon, that is) Dunkelzahn, who bequeathed a big pile of nuyen to the company—along with a couple of wiz magical goodies for Wuxing's CEO Wu Lung-Wei and his wife Sharon. Wu parlayed this windfall into a position of new power for his corp, allowing Wuxing to muscle its way onto the Corporate Court and into AAA status. Following the Crash, Wuxing has swallowed up sizable pieces of the Pacific Prosperity Group (including the plum-prize Malaysian Independent Bank) which has increased its clout significantly.

Traditionally focused on finance and shipping concerns, Wuxing has drastically-expanded its magical-services and magical-goods projects, making a name for itself as the new "mystic" megacorp. Thanks to its post-Crash buyouts—fueled by profits from the Orichalcum Rush during the Year of the Comet—Wuxing has also expanded heavily into other markets, including agriculture, engineering, consumer goods, and chemicals.



LIFE ON THE EDGE

