June 12, 2019

For Immediate Release

SPARX Group Co., Ltd.
President and Group CEO Shuhei Abe
(TSE1: 8739)

Mirai Creation Fund II to Invest in Groove X, the Robotics Start-up Developing LOVOT, the Family Robot

—Building a relationship of trust between humans and robots to provide comfortable and content lives—

TOKYO—June 12, 2019—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund II—established in July 2018—has invested in Groove X, Inc. (GX), a robotics start-up that is developing LOVOT, a family-oriented robot.

GX intends to use this round of fundraising to bolster its marketing in preparation for the LOVOT launch and to continue actively hiring the personnel required for accelerating its business.

- Portfolio Company Outline

GX was founded in November 2015 by Kaname Hayashi, whose career has included positions at Toyota and SoftBank. Roughly three years after its founding, GX announced LOVOT, its family-oriented robot in December 2018, and it plans to release the product to the public at the end of 2019. Until now, robots have served functional roles, doing the work of people. However, GX is developing an emotional role for robots, through which they can share warm feelings with humans. Moreover, as the aging society, the nuclear family, and two-income families rapidly become the norm, society is facing problems that stem from the loneliness people experience in their lives. The firm believes that LOVOT, by living with people, could provide them with a sense of security and comfortable feeling, and ultimately, it could help cultivate their human capabilities.

Mirai Creation Fund I and Mirai Creation Fund II Summaries

The Mirai Creation Fund I began operations in November 2015 with financing of roughly JPY13.5 billion from three companies: Toyota Motor Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and SPARX, the Fund's manager. Ultimately, the Fund received contributions from 20 companies, including the above three. Seeing intelligent technologies, robotics, and technologies that promote a hydrogen economy as core technologies of the future, Fund I has invested in approximately 50 companies and projects from the US, the UK, Israel, Singapore, and Japan that possess innovative technologies in these fields. In H2 2018, SPARX began managing the Mirai Creation Fund II, which targets the three existing Mirai Creation fields along with the two additional fields of electrification and new materials. As of April 30, 2019, the combined AUM for Fund I and Fund II are ¥109.3 billion.
Mirai Creation Fund investment track record: https://mirai.sparx.co.jp/investment/

■ For inquiries related to this release, contact:
Public Relations, SPARX Group Co., Ltd.
Tel: +81-3-6711-9100 / Fax: +81-3-6711-9101
pr_media@sparxgroup.com