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For Immediate Release

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

Sigma-i and D-Wave Systems Sign Major Agreement for D-Wave 2000Q Quantum Annealing Machine

TOKYO—July 2, 2019—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739), today announced that Sigma-i Inc. (“Sigma-i”) , a company sponsored by SPARX, has signed a major subscription agreement with D-Wave Systems Inc. (Canada, CEO Vern Brownell, “D-Wave”) for the D-Wave 2000Q quantum annealing machine (*1). The agreement is the first of its kind in Japan.

Sigma-i will use this agreement as a basis to promote the use of its technologies in enterprise, as well as in academic and research institutions, in an effort to contribute to the development of quantum computing technology in Japan.

The company will also leverage results from this cooperation with D-Wave, such as the implementation of a use environment, the availability of development methods, and the invigoration of joint research and development, to promote the use of quantum computing technology in industry.

(*1)

Quantum annealing is a quantum computing technology that serves as a method for solving difficult puzzles known as “combinatorial optimization problems.” Its basic principles were the result of research by two Japanese researchers, Hidetoshi Nishimori (Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology) and Tadashi Kadowaki (Denso Corporation). Canadian firm D-Wave subsequently incorporated this technology into a product it released in 2011 as the world’s first commercial quantum computer. Outside of Japan, many research institutions and private enterprises, including Lockheed Martin; the NASA Quantum Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (QuAIL) run by NASA, Google, and the USRA; Los Alamos National Lab; Oak Ridge National Lab; and others have already purchased, installed, and begun extensive use of such computers.

■ Investee Company Outline

Sigma-i is an “academic tech corporation” founded by Masayuki Ohzeki, Kentaro Ise, and Masamichi Miyama of the Tohoku University Quantum Annealing Research and Development Center with full support from SPARX. The company’s mission is to bring the new technologies being developed at universities and research institutions to the world in more visible ways.

The agreement Sigma-i has signed with D-Wave (*2) will serve as a foundation for the spread of quantum computing technologies in Japan. SPARX will use this foundation to both disseminate the results of studies on how this technology will change the way the world works, along with information about day-to-day research and development underway as it brings these technologies to the world.

(*2)

D-Wave is a true leader in its industry, developing quantum computing systems and software for such systems since the company was founded in 1999. It was the first company in the world to release a quantum annealing machine that incorporates quantum computing technologies.

D-Wave’s quantum annealing machines first began to be deployed in Japan in 2016, with a focus on cloud-based use that was limited to short amounts of time.

■ 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

Sigma-I Inc., Ise
info@sigmailab.com