The following is an English version of the official Japanese announcement, which has been given to the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the media in Tokyo, Japan.

October 17, 2019

For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in Realtime Robotics, a Developer of Responsive Motion Planning Technology for Industrial Robots and Autonomous Vehicles

—Accelerating the growth of product lineups to realize safe cooperation between people and robots—

TOKYO—October 17, 2019—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund II—established in July 2018—has invested in Realtime Robotics, a Boston-based firm that develops responsive motion planning technology for industrial robots and autonomous vehicles. Realtime Robotics will use this round of fundraising to accelerate its product release schedule, while simultaneously expanding its global customer support team and advancing its commercialization timeline.

Portfolio Company Outline

Professor Daniel Sorin and Assistant Professor George Konidaris, experts in motion planning technology and computer science from Duke University, founded Realtime Robotics in 2016. The firm has developed a processor that allows machines to calculate optimal routes at ultrahigh speed with low power consumption and at a low cost. In early 2019, it launched RapidPlan and RapidSense, its first motion planning solutions for avoiding collisions in real-time. Now, the firm aims to expand into next-generation robots that can safely coexist with humans and to develop practical applications for autonomous driving, which requires the most advanced responsive motion planning technology. For more details on the information provided in this press release, visit Realtime Robotics' homepage: https://rtr.ai/.

Mirai Creation Fund I and Mirai Creation Fund II Summaries

The Mirai Creation Fund I began operations in November 2015 with financing of JPY 13.5 billion from three companies: Toyota Motor Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and SPARX, the Fund's general partner. Ultimately, the Fund received contributions from 20 companies, including the above three. Casting intelligent technologies, robotics, and hydrogen-economy technologies 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 September 30, 2019, the combined AUM for Fund I and Fund II were JPY 109.3 billion.
Mirai Creation Fund investment track record: https://mirai.sparx.co.jp/investment/

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