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.

November 7, 2019

For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in Smart Robotics, a Developer of AI-Based Software Platform for Cobots (Collaborative Robots)

—Accelerating the development of a new software application—

TOKYO—November 7, 2019—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund II—established in July 2018—has invested in -Smart Robotics, Inc., an Amsterdam-based firm that develops AI-based software platform. Smart Robotics will use this round of fundraising to accelerate the development of its palletizing and item picking application, while also looking to speed up the development of other new software applications.

Portfolio Company Outline

Smart Robotics was established in the Netherlands in 2015. The firm develops AI-based software platform that does not rely on machinery or equipment to enable the rapid implementation of smart, safe, and simple robotic solutions to packaging and logistics applications. Its software platform brings together intelligent software and collaborative robots (‘cobots’) and makes it simple to implement and configure cobots. With their high reliability and adaptive use, this platform is accessible to operators who have not undergone extensive training. The software platform enables the rapid implementation of cobots in e-commerce, pharmaceutical, and general consumer markets. Smart Robotics also partners with distributors to expand its sales and delivery globally. For more details, including the information in this press release, please visit Smart Robotics' homepage: https://www.smart-robotics.nl

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 areas 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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