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.

January 30, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II (two) Invests in SoLARIS Inc.,

—Revolutionizing the space industry with peristaltic pumps and worm-like robots—

TOKYO—January 30, 2020—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund II (two) —established in July 2018— has executed an investment (the amount is not disclosed) in Solaris, a firm that develops soft robots that function based on lessons learned from biological organisms. Solaris intends to use this round of fundraising to commercialize soft robotics, a technology that has great potential in many industries, including the space industry and construction.

Portfolio Company Outline

Founded in 2017, Solaris—Chuo University's first spin-out—is based on the research findings of the university's Biomechatronics Lab. Its core technologies have emerged from cutting-edge research discoveries on soft robots and robots designed to mimic biological functions. Solaris has proprietary technologies in its peristaltic pumps—which simulate the transporting and mixing functions of the digestive tract—and axially fiber-reinforced pneumatic muscles, which are soft, lightweight, and powerful. The firm's first project, a joint development project with JAXA, aims to use peristaltic pumps to popularize and commercialize solid-fuel rocket propellant, a technology that is safe and becoming dramatically cheaper.

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 December 31, 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/en/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