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.

April 6, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in Aidea, an IT Platform Developer for Oceangoing Vessels

—Accelerating the growth of the Aisea business, which offers a support platform for the safety and security of oceangoing vessels—

TOKYO—April 6, 2020—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund II—established in July 2018— has executed a new investment (the amount is not disclosed) in Aidea, a developer of a platform that helps oceangoing ships maintain safety and security on their voyages. Aidea intends to use this round of fundraising to accelerate the growth of its Aisea ocean-oriented IT platform business.

Portfolio Company Outline

Since its founding in November 2017, Aidea has developed and operated a vessel control system for international shipping firms. In April 2019, Aidea began offering Aisea, a platform that prevents shipping accidents and ensures the safety of ships at sea. Currently, the firm is promoting Aisea to improve operational efficiency, resolve labor shortages, and prevent shipping accidents mainly for domestic shippers (companies with ships traveling within Japan). This platform promises adoption within the entire maritime industry. Aidea also aims to establish an offshore platform to realize practical applications for automated ships by FY2025.
(*) June 1, 2018; Maritime Innovation Section, Maritime Subcommittee, Council of Transport Policy: Road Map toward Practical Automated Maritime Navigation

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 February 28, 2020, 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/

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