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.

May 29, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in ThinkCyte Inc., Developer of Next-Generation AI Cell Separation System

— Ultra-high-speed imaging and cell-sorting technology is expected to lead to new age of innovative treatment and diagnosis —

TOKYO—May 29, 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 ThinkCyte Inc.(ThinkCyte), an R&D firm developing a real-time imaging and cell sorting system that uses AI to deliver ultra-high-speed, high-precision optical image recognition technology. The firm is located in Tokyo and is lead by CEO and founder, Waichiro Katsuda. ThinkCyte intends to use the funds to advance its joint research using high-speed imaging and cell-sorting technology, with the goal of achieving innovative medical treatments and diagnoses. In addition, they will recruit new talent in line with expansion of operations, and will pursue business development in the US market, where demand is expected to be very high.

Portfolio Company Outline

ThinkCyte is a venture company that aims for development and innovation in the life sciences and medicine, based on advanced technologies developed at the University of Tokyo and Osaka University. They are developing the next generation-high-speed imaging and cell sorting technology by combining technologies from different fields such as advanced imaging, machine learning, and microfluidics. Their goal in using this fundamental technology, is to support the creation of new regenerative and cellular medicine, drug discovery, and medical testing and diagnosis, and to contribute to innovative treatment and diagnosis. In June 2019, the company was certified by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as one of the J-Startup companies.

For more details on the information provided in this press release, visit ThinkCyte's homepage: https://thinkcyte.com.

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 April 30, 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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