

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.



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For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in Latona, an IoT and Edge AI Computing Firm
—Developing services based on AION, an AI/IoT platform the company created in-house—

TOKYO—January 15, 2021—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund II—established in July 2018— has executed an investment (the amount is not disclosed) in Latona. Latona plans to use this round of fundraising to leverage its patented edge-based container orchestration technology; to bolster its business expansion and technology development, primarily in the field of IoT/edge computing for the manufacturing industry; and to amplify its promotion and marketing of OMOTE-Bako, a hospitality application for Japanese-style inns, hotels, and other service-sector businesses.

Portfolio Company Outline

Founded in April 2018, Latona is an early-stage start-up that develops and operates AION, a comprehensive platform for developing, executing, administering, and managing AI and IoT applications. The firm also creates services for AION.

AION is a fully open-source platform with a patented technology to flexibly run microservices and load-balance data traffic on edge nodes. With its low cost, high performance, versatility, and scalability, AION is a solution that can solve the problems of production sites, especially in the manufacturing industry. Latona plans to continue growing AION, as it continues accumulating results in the form of PoC trials and live implementations among leading manufacturing companies.

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, 2020, the combined AUM for Fund I and Fund II were JPY 88.5 billion.

Mirai Creation Fund investment track record: <https://mirai.sparx.co.jp/en/>

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