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 19, 2021

For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in ThinkCyte, A start-up developing cell therapy and drug discovery platforms based on its proprietary image-based cell sorting system

TOKYO—May 19, 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 ThinkCyte, Inc., a start-up developing cell therapy and drug discovery platforms based on its proprietary image-based cell sorting system. Proceeds from the financing will be used to promote joint research and accelerate the development of its proprietary image-based cell sorting system, with the aim of commercializing innovative therapeutics and diagnosis using Ghost Cytometry technology and expand human resources in line with business expansion and aggressively pursue business development in the U.S. market.

Portfolio Company Outline

Founded in 2016, ThinkCyte developed novel Ghost Cytometry system that is a combination of proprietary advanced imaging, microfluidics, and machine-learning techniques to realize high-throughput single cell sorting based on the image information. It is of use in a variety of research, therapeutic, and diagnostic applications, such as identifying and extracting cells with higher therapeutic values without any labels for cell production in cell therapy. It can distinguish different cell states and cell types based on image information without using fluorescence labeling. This is particularly useful in cell manufacturing for cell therapy because the labeling could affect the final cell products. In June 2019, the company was selected for J-Startup by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

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, 2021, the combined AUM for Fund I and Fund II were JPY 88.3 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