

September 26, 2023
Bengo4.com, Inc.
SMBC CLOUDSIGN, Inc.

SMBC CLOUDSIGN Launches Free-of-charge Electronic Contracting Service for All SMBC Business Account Customers*1

SMBC CLOUDSIGN, Inc. (Representative Director and President: Hideki Mishima; hereafter “SMBCCS”), which is a joint venture between Bengo4.com, Inc. (Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, President and CEO: Taichiro Motoe) and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (President and CEO: Akihiro Fukutome; hereafter “SMBC”; “SMBC Group” refers to Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. which includes SMBC), will start providing SMBC CLOUDSIGN <FREE PLAN>, a free-of-charge electronic contracting service for all SMBC business customers with a current account*1.

*1 Excludes customers already using the various plans provided by SMBC CLOUDSIGN.

*1 To use the service, all customers must pass the prescribed screening process.

■ Background

SMBC has developed a framework to help business customers resolve a wide range of management issues by seamlessly providing them with the high value-added financial and non-financial services offered by the SMBC Group.

Meanwhile, each SMBC Group company is committed to further integration in order to make the convenient digital services they provide seamlessly available to business customers, aiming to encourage customers to conduct business activities more efficiently and embrace digitization.

As part of this, SMBC CLOUDSIGN <FREE PLAN>, an electronic contracting service provided by SMBCCS, will be made available to all customers with a business current account.

■ Comments by Taichiro Motoe, Representative Director, President and CEO of Bengo4.com, Inc.

“The provision of an electronic contracting service free-of-charge to SMBC’s business current account customers is a move on an unprecedented scale in the electronic contracting sector. I believe that, as a result of this move, the use of electronic contracting services, which had previously been confined to urban regions, will quickly catch on among SMEs in all parts of Japan. Through CloudSign and SMBC CLOUDSIGN, we will encourage enterprises and organizations in Japan to switch to electronic contracts and accelerate the digital transformation of society as whole.”

弁護士ドットコム

■ Overview of SMBC CLOUDSIGN <FREE PLAN>

Customers who use SMBC CLOUDSIGN <FREE PLAN> will be able to sign and store contracts with their business partners, etc. in the cloud.

Existing business current account customers that wish to use SMBC CLOUDSIGN <FREE PLAN> will not be required to come into their branch to complete the application procedure but will instead be asked to complete the prescribed online application form.

■ Details of Services

What is SMBC CLOUDSIGN?	A cloud-based electronic contracting service. A service that enables contracts to be signed and stored in the cloud.
Details	Number of users per account: 1 Number of contracts that can be sent: 3 per month
Start date:	October 2, 2023
Eligible customers:	Customers holding business current accounts with SMBC
Assumed usage scenarios:	Digitization of the following documents: - Contracts with business partners - Employment contracts with employees - Application forms from customers
Usage fees	Monthly fixed charge and charge for each contract sent: Free of charge
Application	Application through the following dedicated website: https://www.smbc-cloudsign.co.jp/plan_free/ (SMBCCS aims to make it possible, by next spring, for new customers opening an online account to apply for the service at the same time.)
Contact:	Please make inquiries via SMBCCS' website. https://smbc.cloudsign.jp/smbc_contact.html

SMBCCS and Bengo4.com, Inc., which provides the contract management platform CloudSign®, will continue joining forces to help promote electronic contracts and accelerate the DX of society, aiming to transform Japanese business practices and procedures, especially the contracting process.

■ About CloudSign®: <https://www.cloudsign.jp/>

CloudSign® is a contract management platform that enables digitization of everything from contract execution to management and AI review. The electronic signatures and timestamps are compliant with the Act on Electronic Signatures and Certification Business, ensuring smooth and secure contract execution. CloudSign also began offering Japan's first ever MY NUMBER Card signature capability as part of its general-purpose contracting service in 2023. The platform also shortens the time required for the entire contracting process through the active adoption of AI technology including an AI contract management capability and an AI-powered contract review service, CloudSign Review. CloudSign has become the No. 1 service in the electronic contract market (*), and is widely adopted by companies and local governments.

* Market share in "New Markets of Software Business 2023" (2022 result of e-contract tools) by Fuji Chimera Research Institute, Inc.

弁護士ドットコム

■ About Bengo4.com <https://www.bengo4.com/corporate/en/>

Head office | Kurosaki Building, 1-4 Roppongi 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Date of establishment | July 4, 2005

Share capital | 460 million yen (as of end of June 2023)

Representative | Taichiro Motoe, Representative Director and CEO

Listed exchange | Listed on the Growth Market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange

Business activities | With “Be the Professional-Tech Company” as its corporate mission, Bengo4.com provides Bengo4.com[®], Zeirishi.com[®] and BUSINESS LAWYERS[®], all of which are portal sites connecting people with specialists, as well as the contract management platform CloudSign[®].

URL | <https://www.bengo4.com/corporate/en/>

Contact for inquiries

Corporate Communications, Bengo4.com, Inc.

Address | 1-4 Roppongi 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 〒106-0032

TEL | +81-3-5549-2854

FAX | +81-3-5549-2565

E-Mail | info-press@bengo4.com