News Release

DIGITAL HEARTS Selected to Implement One of IPA's Projects for the Demonstration of Responses to Cyber Security Incidents for SMEs
- Contributing to the Government's Cyber Security Measures for SMEs with AI and Expert Human Capital -

DIGITAL HEARTS Co., Ltd. (hereinafter, "DIGITAL HEARTS"), a subsidiary of DIGITAL HEARTS HOLDINGS Co., Ltd., announced today that Information-technology Promotion Agency, Japan (hereinafter, "IPA") adopted DIGITAL HEARTS's demonstration project about cyber security incidents of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in a part of the Tohoku region.

Recent years, the risk of cyber attacks have increased. As a result, there is a concern that SMEs not taking sufficient security measures will face more issues, including the possibility of not being able to participate in the supply chain due to security problems. Factors contributing to this include SMEs' low security awareness, which prevents them from suspecting that they have been targeted or noticing that they are being attacked, and also their lack of cyber security knowledge and IT human resources. In response, IPA decided to call for applications from companies for the Project for the Demonstration of Responses to Cyber Security Incidents for SMEs, to raise awareness of cyber security among SMEs and have security measures take root among them.

In response, DIGITAL HEARTS suggested the "Cyber Security Support Team for SMEs in Tohoku region" to the IPA. In this proposed project, the company provides support to SMEs in some parts of the Tohoku district, including Sendai City and other areas of Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, and Iwate Prefecture (hereinafter, the "Project Region"). The support includes visualizing security risks by installing a network sensor that uses AI, as well as providing cyber security consulting services. As a result, DIGITAL HEARTS has been assigned to implement the demonstration project in Tohoku region.

Through this demonstration project, DIGITAL HEARTS will work diligently on cyber security measures for SMEs and provide security services that cater to their diverse needs, thereby contributing to creating a safe, secure digital society.

■ **Key points of the "Cyber Security Support Team for SMEs in Tohoku region"**

Key point 1

Visualizing security risks clearly with a network sensor using AI and analyses by experts

Serious incidents are collected efficiently by the Starlight, a network sensor from Stellar Cyber Inc. that uses AI. Further, experts from DIGITAL HEARTS analyze their causes and countermeasures and report the results in easy-to-understand language. This is aimed at enabling people without security knowledge to correctly understand the actual situation.

Key point 2

Opening a security information website for the Project Region to share countermeasures against incidents

DIGITAL HEARTS will open a security information website, where information about cyber incidents that have occurred in the Project Region will be collected, processed into information that is easy for SMEs to understand, and delivered to them. With this website, DIGITAL HEARTS aims to provide consultation on troubleshooting and building an environment which facilitates SMEs to receive postvention support in the event of a cyber attack, thereby strengthening cyber security in the Project Region.

Key point 3

Disclosing demonstration results to entrench cyber security measures that are usable for SMEs

Results of the demonstration project will be disclosed, so as to build an open environment that facilitates services provided by IT vendors, non-life insurance firms, and other companies to entrench cyber security measures that suit the actual conditions of SMEs.
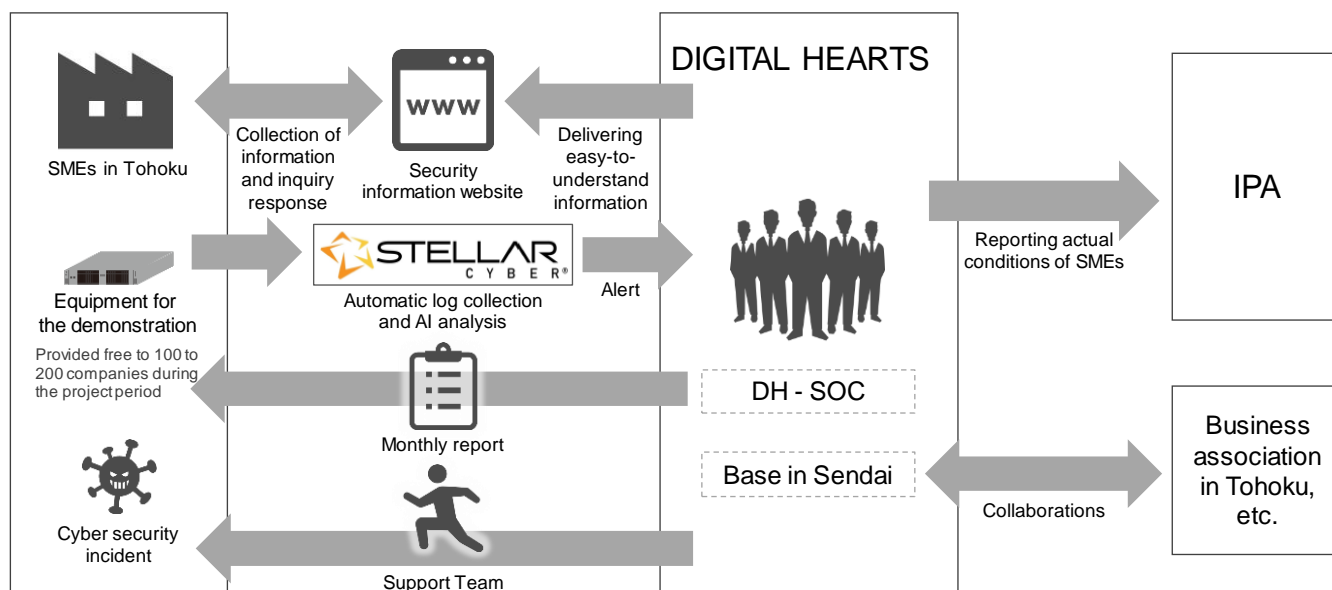
■ **Outline of Cyber Security Support Team for SMEs in Tohoku region**

Project period
    Approximately June 2019 to February 2020 (Plan)

Targets
    100 to 200 SMEs in the Project Region (Miyagi, Fukushima, and Iwate Prefectures)
      *Companies to participate in the demonstration project will be solicited after the finalization of an agreement with the IPA.
      Security risk surveys, security consulting services, and other services will be provided to participating companies for free as a part of the demonstration project.

Contents of the demonstration project
    1. Visualizing facts about cyber incidents
    2. Improving cyber security measures in the Project Region
    3. Developing business model related to cyber security measures for SMEs