

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.



March 24, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in AISing, an Edge AI Specialist in Machine Controls

—Proprietary AI in Real-time (AiiR) algorithm allows for real-time autonomous learning and prediction on local devices—

TOKYO—March 24, 2020—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) today announced that its Mirai Creation Fund II—established in July 2018— has executed a new investment (the amount is not disclosed) in AISing, Ltd., an Edge AI provider of a proprietary AI algorithm series it calls AI in Real-time (AiiR). AiiR enables real-time autonomous learning and forecasting on local devices. AISing intends to use this round of fundraising to strengthen its development structure, train its developers, and accelerate investment in commercializing new Edge AI algorithms to an extent never seen before. The firm also aims to grow its business further.

Portfolio Company Outline

AISing is a spin-out from Iwate University. The firm was founded in 2016, originating in the machine control and AI research findings that were primarily the work of CEO Jun'ichi Idesawa. In recent years, the market has seen a growing need for practical installations of Edge AI, through which local devices execute AI data processing—a process that had typically been solely cloud-based. Amid these changing circumstances, AISing is developing and offering its proprietary AiiR series of AI algorithms that allow local devices to engage in autonomous learning and forecasting in real-time, without a cloud-based intermediary. The firm has already established a track record of transactions with several major corporations, receiving high praise for its Edge AI solutions, which address the individual struggles of each company.

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 February 28, 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/>

- 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