

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.



September 15, 2021

For Immediate Release

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

**Mirai Creation Fund II Invests in WorldLink & Company,
a pioneer of drone solutions in society**
— Skillfully connecting drones and society through hardware and software —

TOKYO—September 15, 2021—SPARX Group Co., Ltd. (SPARX; TSE1: 8739) announced today that its Mirai Creation Fund II, established in July 2018, has executed an investment (the amount is not disclosed) in WorldLink & Company Co., Ltd. (WorldLink). WorldLink uses drones to advance solutions to social issues. WorldLink will use this round of investment to expand its digital data business and enhance its ability to develop proprietary and other technologies.

Portfolio Company Outline

Under its business philosophy of “creating a better future through technology and ideas,” WorldLink sells drones and offers after-sale services under the SkyLink Japan brand, in addition to offering cutting-edge technological solutions in the fields of aerial photography, infrastructure inspection, measurements, and more.

Drones are a new business field that offers possibilities for directly addressing urgent social issues such as aging infrastructure, increasing natural disasters due to climate change, and labor shortages due to a greying society with a low birthrate. WorldLink takes on the role of acting as a hub in the industry by quickly amassing drone deployment expertise and proposing optimal solutions to customers. Going forward, WorldLink will take the hardware-related expertise it has accumulated, combine it with the proprietary software technology it has developed, and further apply these to provide one-stop drone-related services in demand from customers and society. In the process, the company will lead the charge toward full-fledged deployment of drone solutions.

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 August 31, 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/>

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