



photonamic

May 1, 2018

SBI Holdings, Inc.

photonamic GmbH & Co. KG

**Photonamic Acquires NX Development Corp.**

photonamic GmbH & Co. KG (Head office: Wedel, Germany; Representative: Ulrich Kosciessa, Ph.D.) (“photonamic”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI Holdings, Inc. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, President and CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao) is engaged in the business of pharmaceutical development using 5-aminolevulinic acid (“5-ALA”) (\*) hereby announces that photonamic has acquired NX Development Corp. (Head office: Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A; Chairman & CEO: Alan Ezrin, Ph.D.) (“NXDC”), a business partner of photonamic in the U.S. which secured an approval for “Gliolan™” (“this Drug”) from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2017.

This Drug is an orally administered optical imaging agent indicated in patients with glioma (suspected World Health Organization Grades III or IV on preoperative imaging) as an adjunct for the visualization of malignant tissue during glioma surgery. This Drug was approved as “Gliolan®” by European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2007 and is now sold in over 40 countries through photonamic’s distributing partners.

NXDC is a company with the mission to commercialize this Drug licensed from photonamic and scheduled to place this Drug on the U.S. market in 2018. The merger is expected to contribute greatly to the evolution of the 5-ALA related businesses of the SBI group of life sciences companies, in the market of North America.

The SBI Group will also continue to pursue various potential applications of 5-ALA, and focus on research and development to provide pharmaceuticals that satisfy the unmet medical needs of as many people as possible around the world.

(\*) 5-aminolevulinic acid (“5-ALA”)

An endogenous amino acid produced in mitochondria. It is an important natural substance that serves as a functional molecule related to energy production in the form of heme and cytochromes function and its productivity is known to decrease with age. 5-ALA is contained in food such as shochu lees, red wine and Asian ginseng. It is also known as a material forming chloroplasts in plants and hemoglobin in humans.

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