

February 1, 2019

SBI Holdings, Inc.

(TOKYO: 8473)

SBI Neo Financial Services Co., Ltd.

**Notice Regarding an Agreement for Establishment of Joint Venture between  
Singaporean AI / RPA Venture Company AntWorks™**

SBI Neo Financial Services Co., Ltd. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, President & CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI Holdings, Inc. (hereinafter the “Company”), actively introducing and diffusing new technologies among regional financial institutions, hereby announces that it has entered into an agreement with AntWorks Pte. Ltd. (Head office: Singapore; CEO: Asheesh Mehra; hereinafter “AntWorks”) on establishing SBI Antworks Asia (hereinafter “SBI Antworks Asia”). This joint venture is designed to support the sale and introduction to East Asia and Southeast Asia of AntWorks’ operational automation platform, which integrates its CMR and RPA functions with AI. The SBI Group will hold a 60-percent interest in SBI Antworks Asia.

The Company invested in AntWorks through the SBI AI&Blockchain Fund managed by SBI Investment Co., Ltd. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and President: Katsuya Kawashima), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.



The operational automation platform developed and provided by AntWorks is equipped with a function to deliver a type of operational automation called robotic process automation (RPA), which does not use a programming language, as well as a cognitive machine reading (CMR) function, which is the firm’s fractal theory-based AI technology, for converting printed matter characters into word data that can be handled by a computer. These functions can be provided on an integrated basis. AntWorks is also a provider of solutions for challenges that are difficult to address with conventional OCR technologies, as evidenced by the fact that CMR allows even non-unified format documents to be read.

The Company will enter into an exclusive business alliance agreement with AntWorks on operations in East Asia and Southeast Asia, thereby assisting the sale and introduction of its products.

Japan must pursue operational rationalization urgently as a nation that is now beset with labor shortages against the backdrop of a shrinking working-age population, which stems from a low birthrate and an aging society. In this respect, by leveraging AntWorks products, SBI Antworks Asia will provide solutions for such social challenges, while assisting customers who want to rationalize operations.

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For further information, please contact:

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