

July 23, 2019 SBI Holdings, Inc. (TOKYO: 8473)

## **Notice Regarding Joining the German Startup Association**

SBI Holdings, Inc. (Headquarter: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, President and CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao) is pleased to announce that we have joined the German Startup Association (GSA), a German non-profit networking platform, as a support member, which has over 1,000 German startups and over 100 support members (mainly large companies)

GSA also includes working groups (platforms) in about 30 fields including AI, fintech, Industry 4.0, Cyber Security etc., and provides occasions for networking and construction of ecosystems through approximately 70 events per year related to startups across Germany. Moreover, it provides also a forum for exchanging views with the German government. Support members include large German companies such as Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, AOK, ERGO, Telekom, Audi and Porsche, and global actors such as Google, Amazon and Facebook.

SBI, as a member of GSA, builds close relationships not only with innovative German startups but also with German companies that support them from various aspects, in order to contribute to the future business development and open innovation of the two countries that have a relatively similar industrial structure including the automotive industry. In addition, through GSA, we would like to also work with institutes and technical universities all over Germany to support entrepreneurs and startups.

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