

October 7, 2019

SBI Holdings, Inc.

(TOKYO: 8473)

SBI Investment Co., Ltd.

Notice Regarding an Investment into Tide Holdings Limited, which offers Digital Business Banking Services to SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises)

SBI Investment Co., Ltd. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director: Katsuya Kawashima; hereinafter “SBI Investment”), is a subsidiary of SBI Holdings, Inc. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director: Yoshitaka Kitao), which conducts investments and management of venture capital funds. SBI Investment hereby announces that it has invested in Tide Holdings Limited (Head office: London, UK; CEO: Oliver Prill; hereinafter “Tide”) through the SBI AI&Blockchain Fund (Registered name: SBI AI&Blockchain LPS; hereafter “SBI A&B Fund”).

Tide, a UK fintech, which offers state-of-the-art digital business banking services to SMEs, is the leading challenger and the first-mover in the British market. In addition, by partnering up with ClearBank Limited (Head office: London, UK), they have secured £60m in grants from the RBS Alternative Remedies Package, an initiative lead by the UK government early this year, to create genuine competition to the high street banks that dominate the UK business banking sector.

Tide’s banking service allows SMEs to open a business account in as quick as 5 minutes, and supports SMEs to meet their needs through its unique APIs. On a monthly basis, the number of new signing accounts exceeds 8,000, reaching to total of 100,000 accounts in around 2.5 years since its service launch.

The SBI A&B Fund of SBI Investment has been actively investing in promising start-up companies inside and outside of Japan in sectors such as AI, blockchain, and the fintech, which has seen a marked increase in global interest. The SBI A&B Fund also actively invests in the IoT, robotics, and sharing economy sectors, which have close links to AI, blockchain, and fintech sectors. More than 120 companies have contributed capital to SBI A&B Fund. They comprise financial institutions, non-financial companies, and institutional investors, and include domestic regional financial institutions and overseas entities. Capital contributors will introduce and use their advanced technologies and services to assist individual investee companies to engage in open innovation, consequently raising the value of the investee companies.

After years of actively investing in venture companies in fintech and other growth fields, such as the IT, mobile and bio-life science sectors, the SBI Group is now equipped with a wealth of experience from investing in those companies and supporting their development. We will continue to actively develop next-generation industries and enhance the enterprise value of the venture companies in which we invest.



For further information, please contact:

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