



April 2, 2026

SBI Holdings, Inc.

SBI Investment Co., Ltd.

**Notice Regarding Investment in Cognichip, Inc.,  
Developer of an AI Foundation Model for Semiconductor Design**

SBI Investment Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, Chairman and President: Yoshitaka Kitao; hereinafter “SBI Investment”), a subsidiary of SBI Holdings, Inc. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director, Chairman, President & CEO: Yoshitaka Kitao), hereby announces that it has made an investment in Cognichip, Inc. (Head Office: California, USA; Founder, Chairman & CEO: Faraj Aalaei; hereinafter “Cognichip”) through the “SBI Digital Space Fund” managed by SBI Investment.

While AI software continues to evolve rapidly, the development of semiconductors—the hardware that powers it—still requires significant time and cost. Semiconductor development typically takes three to five years from concept to production and requires hundreds of millions of dollars in investment. Furthermore, by 2030, the semiconductor industry will require the expertise of over one million skilled professionals to meet its demand. Given that chip design workflows have remained largely unchanged since the 1990s, improving the efficiency of semiconductor development has become a critical challenge for the entire industry.

Cognichip is developing ACI® (Artificial Chip Intelligence), a proprietary AI foundation model designed to advance and streamline semiconductor design. While other approaches rely on augmenting general-purpose AI with semiconductor-related knowledge, Cognichip is developing a physics-informed foundation model purpose-built for semiconductors, trained on logic and physics from first principles.

Leveraging ACI® accelerates complex design cycles from many months to just days and reduces development costs by 75%. Furthermore, through a conversational design approach using natural language, the AI autonomously supports design and modification processes, enabling a broader range of engineers beyond a limited number of highly skilled specialists to execute high-quality semiconductor design.

Going forward, Cognichip will continue to enhance its proprietary AI foundation model while working toward SOC 2 compliance and strengthening its security environment to support mission-critical enterprise deployment, with a view to expanding adoption among global enterprises.



SBI Investment will support Cognichip's business growth and global market expansion, keeping in mind collaboration with the ecosystem the SBI Group has built through investments in companies possessing innovative technologies in the semiconductor space, such as Preferred Networks, Tenstorrent, Majestic Labs, and EdgeCortex. Cognichip's ACI® is expected to contribute to the efficiency and advancement of semiconductor design as an essential foundational design technology within this ecosystem.

[Overview of Cognichip]

(1) Name of company	Cognichip, Inc.
(2) Location	California, USA
(3) Title and name of representative	Founder, Chairman & CEO: Faraj Aalaei
(4) Business activities	Development and provision of Artificial Chip Intelligence (ACI®) for semiconductor design
(5) Year of establishment	2024
(6) URL	<a href="https://www.cognichip.ai/">https://www.cognichip.ai/</a>

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