

## 【NEWS RELEASE】

April 8, 2021

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Announcement Regarding SMBC's Strategic Investment in TradeIX Limited

TOKYO, April 8, 2021-- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (“SMBC”, President and CEO : Makoto Takashima) announces that it has completed its strategic investment in TradeIX Limited (“TradeIX”, CEO : Robert Barnes), a fintech company that has developed “Marco Polo”, a trade network which utilizes blockchain technology, as the first Japanese bank.

Since its establishment in 2015, TradeIX has been working to develop an advanced trade platform utilizing blockchain technology and establishing a global network in order to improve traditional trade transactions that require complicated procedures between multiple parties. In 2019, SMBC succeeded in a Proof of Concept (“PoC”) using the Marco Polo Network, and from November 2020, started to provide services to its customers in actual transactions.

SMBC has continually focused on digitalization by conducting various PoCs and research in financial fields utilizing blockchain technology. However, due to the effects of COVID-19 since last year, customers' interest in digital transformation has accelerated, and therefore SMBC decided to invest in TradeIX with an eye toward strategic collaboration.

Through its investment in TradeIX, SMBC will strive to provide value-added services to its customers that contribute to improving operational efficiency and creating new opportunities for them by utilizing SMBC's expertise in trade finance in tandem with TradeIX's innovative technology.

Overview of TradeIX Limited

Established :	August 2015
Locations :	Ireland (HQ), United Kingdom, United States, Singapore
CEO :	Robert Barnes
Finance Sector Shareholders :	BNP Paribas S.A., ING Bank N.V., SBI AI & Blockchain LPS
Scope of Business :	Development and provision of the Marco Polo trade platform