

【NEWS RELEASE】

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Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Capital Alliance between SmartNet and SMBC

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (“SMBC”, President and Representative Director CEO: Makoto Takashima) announces that it has entered into an agreement to engage in a capital alliance with Smart Net Trading Service Joint Stock Company (“SmartNet”) with the purchase of shares valued at 1.3 billion yen (“Proposed Investment”), subject to regulatory approval.

1. Purpose and Strategic Rationale of the Proposed Investment

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (“SMBC Group”, President and Group CEO: Jun Ohta) and SMBC are striving to “expand [their] Asia franchise and strengthen [their] digital banking capabilities in the region” in accordance with their medium-term management plan covering the three-year period starting FY2020. In 2021 they purchased a 49% equity stake in VPBank SMBC Finance Company Limited (“FE Credit”), a leading consumer finance company in Vietnam, and in May 2022 entered into a business alliance agreement with Vietnam Prosperity Joint Stock Commercial Bank (“VPBank”), the parent company of FE Credit.

Established in 2015, SmartNet provides payment solutions in Vietnam and is mainly focused on micro SMEs. In addition, SmartNet provides brokerage services for loan products and other services (personal loans, BNPLs etc.), and has a close business relationship with FE Credit.

With this Proposed Investment, SMBC Group aims to accelerate its growth strategy in Asia by developing the FE Credit business and contributing to the growth of VPBank Group. SMBC Group aims to achieve these goals while supporting SmartNet, which intends to expand its unique payment platform by broadening its customer base in Vietnam where the cashless payments market is growing rapidly.

2. Overview of SmartNet

Company name	Smart Net Trading Service Joint Stock Company
Established	2015
Location of Head office	Ho Chi Minh City, Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Chairman	Marek Eugene Forysiak
Total Assets	2 billion yen (exchanged at 1VND = JPY 0.0056)

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