

January 12, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Company name: H.U. Group Holdings, Inc.
Representative: Shigekazu Takeuchi, Director, President and Group CEO
Securities code: 4 5 4 4 First Section, Tokyo Stock Exchange

Commencement of Operation of New Factory for ESPLINE® Rapid Diagnostic Tests ～ First Shipments of Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Rapid Antigen Tests ～

Fujirebio Inc. (President & CEO: Takeshi Fujita; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter "Fujirebio"), which is a consolidated subsidiary of H.U. Group Holdings, Inc., today began shipments of ESPLINE® SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 (hereinafter the "SARS-CoV-2 Tests") from its Fujirebio Asahikawa Factory (hereinafter the "Asahikawa Factory"), which was established as a new manufacturing site for ESPLINE® rapid diagnostic tests on the premises of Toshiba Hokuto Electronics Corporation in Asahikawa, Hokkaido.

The newly established Asahikawa Factory was able to commence operation and shipments quickly thanks to cooperation from Toshiba Corporation (President & CEO: Nobuaki Kurumatani) and Toshiba Group companies and Hitachi Ltd. (President & CEO: Toshiaki Higashihara) and Hitachi Group companies. ^{*1}

We specified "Reinforcement of POCT^{*2} Business" as a business strategy under our Medium-term Plan "H.U. 2025 ～Hiyaku & United～" announced in September 2020. Besides increasing product strength via expansion of specimen types and our line-up of infectious disease tests, we will work to enhance our production capacity not only of the SARS-CoV-2 Tests but the entire ESPLINE series through the commencement of operation at the Asahikawa Factory alongside the existing Fujirebio Ube Factory to achieve stable supply both in Japan and overseas.

^{*1} News release dated June 5, 2020: The new factory for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) antigen test kit ~ We aim to begin operation early through the participation of Hitachi and Toshiba

^{*2} POCT: Point of Care Testing

For inquiries about this announcement, please use the contact details below

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