

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Company name: H.U. Group Holdings, Inc.
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Securities code: 4544 First Section, Tokyo Stock Exchange

SRL Undertakes Screening Tests for Novel Coronavirus Variants and Genome Analysis Using Next-Generation Sequencers

SRL, Inc. (President & CEO: Shunichi Higashi; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter "SRL") and Japan Clinical Laboratories, Inc. (President & CEO: Takashi Arai; Head Office: Kuse, Kyoto), which are consolidated subsidiaries of H.U. Group Holdings, Inc., announce that they have begun undertaking screening tests (hereinafter the "tests") for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) variants and genome analysis using next-generation sequencers (hereinafter "NGS") at the request of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter "MHLW") and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan (hereinafter "NIID").

Until now, SRL had been conducting practical implementation validation of screening tests for novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) variants using the real-time RT-PCR method developed by NIID. Optimization has now been completed, and SRL has now begun undertaking administrative tests. When variants are detected using the real-time RT-PCR method, SRL will also conduct genome analysis with NGS utilizing the H.U. Group's own proprietary assay.

The tests are currently undertaken at the request of MHLW and NIID only.

End.

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