

March 2, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Company name: H.U. Group Holdings, Inc.  
Representative: Shigekazu Takeuchi,  
Director, President and Group CEO  
Securities code: 4544 First Section, Tokyo Stock Exchange

## Practical Implementation of a Genome Analysis Method Using Next-Generation Sequencers, Which Can Detect Novel Coronavirus Variants

SRL, Inc. (President & CEO: Shunichi Higashi; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter "SRL"), a consolidated subsidiary of H.U. Group Holdings, Inc., announces that it has conducted the practical implementation validation of an analysis system using an assay system with next-generation sequencers, which enables the detection of novel coronavirus variants, and has readied the system for practical implementation, together with H.U. Group Research Institute G.K. (President: Kazuya Omi; Head Office: Hachioji-shi, Tokyo). This analysis system was developed by Keio University School of Medicine's Center for Medical Genetics together with their Department of Molecular Biology.<sup>1</sup>

The importance of the technology for this analysis method is the ability to track the variants as described in the paper authored by a team of scientists led by Professor Kenjiro Kosaki from the abovementioned Center for Medical Genetics.<sup>2</sup>

SRL plans to begin genome analysis of the novel coronavirus using this technology as soon as preparations have been made.

This press release amends and supplements the "SRL Undertakes Screening Tests for Novel Coronavirus Variants and Genome Analysis Using Next-Generation Sequencers," press release dated February 17, 2021.

End.

<sup>1</sup> This method was developed in April 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Clinical utility of SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing in deciphering source of infection.

Journal of Hospital Infection. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2020.10.014

To inquire about this announcement, please use the contact information below

For members of the media:

Public Relations Section, Corporate Communications Dept.

Phone: +81-3-6279-0884

e-mail: [pr@hugp.com](mailto:pr@hugp.com)

For investors and analysts:

IR/SR Section, Corporate Communications Dept.

Phone: +81-3-5909-3337

e-mail: [ir@hugp.com](mailto:ir@hugp.com)