

News Release

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Securities code: 4544 First Section, Tokyo Stock Exchange

Launch of “COVID-19 & IVD Testing Program” Service

Tokyo, Japan, February 18, 2022 --- H.U. Group Holdings Inc. today announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, SRL Inc. (President & CEO: Shunichi Higashi; Head Office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo), has launched a new service “COVID-19 & IVD* Testing Program” (hereinafter "the Service") designed to confirm negative for COVID-19.

*IVD: In Vitro Diagnostics

The accuracy of tests for COVID-19 currently conducted in Japan has been reported to vary depending on the instruments and reagents. In addition, growing demand for testing has led to concerns about the pressure on the subcontracted testing system. Key challenges to be addressed include the use of appropriate testing methods to suit the characteristics and purpose of the test, the expansion of testing capacity, and establishing an appropriate operational structure up to the reporting of test results.

The Service combines the high-sensitivity quantitative antigen test, the PCR test used for COVID-19 testing at airport quarantine stations and a new system that covers the process from the time a test is requested to the reporting of the result. This makes it possible to perform large volumes of tests in a short period of time, while the use of in vitro diagnostics approved by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare enables stable test results to be obtained. In addition, the newly developed testing support system NEOPOLALIS™ conforms to the free testing system offered by local governments, ensuring a smooth experience for medical institutions and test recipients when requesting tests and receiving results from smartphones and PCs.

The H.U. Group will continue to develop coronavirus testing services, supporting people's peace of mind both during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

Features of COVID-19 IVD Testing Program Service

■ About the tests

- (1) The testing service combines the high-sensitivity quantitative antigen test and the PCR test.
 - ① A high-sensitivity quantitative antigen test that makes it possible to perform large volumes of tests in a short period of time and with stable results.
 - ② The high-sensitivity quantitative antigen test produces results with the level of detection accuracy as the nucleic acid detection test performed with IVD reagents. However, if the result of the high-sensitivity quantitative antigen test is pending or positive, it can be confirmed by combining with a PCR test.
- (2) The high-sensitivity quantitative antigen test and PCR test employ in vitro diagnostics approved by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
- (3) It is planned to expand the testing sites for the Service to regional laboratories nationwide, starting with the SRL Kawasaki Laboratory.

■ About the NEOPOLALIS testing system

- (1) A system that supports reception services for test requests and notification of test results at health care facilities, pharmacies, and aged care facilities for the purpose of confirming negative coronavirus infection.
- (2) Besides high-sensitivity quantitative antigen test and PCR test, the system can also generate requests for qualitative antigen test and test result notifications.
 - In the case of requests for qualitative antigen test, the system can be used simultaneously with the WithInfo™ smartphone app that supports the SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen testing kit ESPLINE® SARS-CoV-2 manufactured and sold by its wholly-owned subsidiary, Fujirebio Inc. (President & CEO: Takeshi Fujita; Head office: Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo).
- (3) NEOPOLALIS can be used by the test recipient himself/herself to request the test and receive the test result notification electronically.
 - The format of the test result notification corresponds to the specifications used in the government's vaccine and testing package (VTP) system or the free testing program.

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