

【NEWS RELEASE】

July 10, 2025

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Investment in and Business Alliance Agreement with Interstellar Technologies Inc.

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (President & CEO: Akihiro Fukutome, hereinafter "SMBC") has invested in Interstellar Technologies Inc. (hereinafter "Interstellar"), a start-up company aiming for vertical integration of the space transportation and the satellite communication businesses. At the same time, SMBC has signed a business alliance agreement with Interstellar to support the establishment of supply chains in space-related industries. This is the inaugural investment for SMBC in a space-related start-up company.

In the space industry, demand is increasing in various industrial fields that have been difficult to realize with conventional businesses based on ground infrastructure, such as autonomous driving technology using satellite data and smart agriculture. Accordingly, the market is expanding not only in the conventional business centered on public demand but also in the private sector. In addition, the Japanese government has set a goal in the Basic Plan on Space Policy to double the market size of the space industry, which was 4.0 trillion yen in 2020, to 8.0 trillion yen in the early 2030s, and is strengthening the support in order to make it a growth industry in the Japanese economy in the future.

In particular, rocket launches are becoming increasingly important as an infrastructure that supports other areas of the space industry, such as the utilization of satellite data and space exploration. In addition, it is an area where there is a lot of room for the utilization of technological capabilities in which Japanese industries have been internationally competitive, such as internal combustion engines and interest from private companies in the non-space industry is increasing. However, transportation of satellites into outer space is heavily dependent on overseas private companies since the number of private companies aiming to manufacture and launch rockets in Japan is still limited and the supply chain that supports manufacturing is also immature.

Under these circumstances, in order to establish a rocket manufacturing and launch capacity of several dozen rockets per year in Japan, and to establish the space business as a key industry in Japan, it is necessary to simultaneously promote the creation of demand and the expansion of supply capacity for private rocket launches, not only among start-up companies responsible for rocket manufacturing and launches, but also among large companies, mid-tier and small and medium-sized enterprises, and local governments.

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (President & Group CEO: Toru Nakashima) has set "Create social value" as one of the basic policies in its current Mid-Term Management Plan and designated "Japan's Regrowth" as one of its priority issues. In addition, the "Social Value Creation Investment Fund" (*1) has been established as a framework to support the co-creation and development of businesses with customers and the development of new technologies and industries which contribute to the creation of social value through risk-taking.

Interstellar is a leading private space transportation company that has reached outer space as the first private company in Japan, and aims to realize Japan's first vertically integrated rocket business and communication satellite business through development of the orbital launch vehicle "ZERO".

In order to contribute to the "Japan's Regrowth" through support for the development of new industries, we have invested in Interstellar using the Social Value Creation Investment Fund, and have concluded a business alliance agreement with IST to support the establishment of supply chains in space-related industries.

By leveraging SMBC's customer base and financial solutions and IST's technological development capabilities, we will accelerate the establishment of supply chains and industrial clusters, thereby supporting the development of the space industry in Japan.

[Reference] Overview of Interstellar Technologies Inc.

Commencement of Business	2013
Headquarter Location	149-7, Memu, Taiki, Hiroo-gun, Hokkaido, Japan
Representative	Takahiro Inagawa, Director of the Board / Chief Executive Officer
Business Overview	Space Transportation Services Satellite Communication Services
Website	https://www.istellartech.com/en

*1 Social Value Creation Investment Fund

This investment framework was established for the purpose of supporting the co-creation and development of businesses with customers and the development of new technologies and industries which contribute to the creation of social value through risk-taking. The scope of investment has been expanded from that under the former "Sustainability Investment Fund" to cover the five priority issues that SMBC Group should proactively address: "Environment," "DE&I/Human Rights," "Poverty & Inequality," "Declining Birthrate & Aging Population" and "Japan's Regrowth." The maximum investment amount of the fund for FY2025 is set at 50 billion yen, an increase of 10 billion yen from the previous fiscal year.

[Reference] Press Release on the Establishment of the Social Value Creation Investment Fund

"Establishment of Expense Budget for Creation of Social Values" (dated May 17, 2024)

https://www.smfg.co.jp/news_e/pdf/e20240517_01.pdf

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