



January 9, 2018

J-STAR Co., Ltd.

Gregory Hara

President & Representative Director

Announcement of Acquisition of Shares in Section Eight

This release is to announce that J-STAR No.3 SS, LP, etc. funds that J-STAR provides investment-related services to, has acquired a majority stake of Section Eight Co., Ltd. (the "Section Eight" Headquarters: Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo, Company Representative: Mr. Junji Yokoyama URL: <https://section-8.jp/>).

According to the 2015 Population Census, there were 19 million unmarried people in Japan within the age demographic from 20's to 40's. 10 million people, out of aforementioned 19 million people do not have an intimate relationship. Section Eight developed a casual dining restaurant called "Aiseki-ya" which has a system to encounter group customers. Also, the company operates stylish standing bar restaurant, "The Public stand" which shares same target customers with "Aiseki-ya."

J-STAR believes SectionEight's business model plays an important role to meet social needs. Therefore, together with the management team of Section Eight, we intend to strengthen a business model of Aiseki-ya and support The Public stand businesses to grow further. To achieve this objective, we invited Mr. Takayuki Yasuda, who is a former CEO for Komeda Co., Ltd, and he became a board member of Section Eight.

We retained Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu, Aqua Corporate Advisory, and Teapot Inc for the execution of the transaction.

*J-STAR Co., Ltd. provides investment related services to, from directly or indirectly through a wholly-owned subsidiary, J-STAR No.3 SS, LP, etc, providing researches about investment opportunities, as well as other investment related services such as training to portfolio companies.

J-STAR Co., Ltd. (www.j-star.co.jp)

Founded in 2006 as an independent firm, J-STAR is involved in private equity investments and investment support, targeting at corporate value enhancement via acquiring management rights. J-STAR has the following three standards for investment: (1) a superior management team and staff,

J-STAR

(2) ample potential for increasing added value through the contributions of fund managers and (3) a uniqueness / superiority of market status and business models. Following these standards, it focuses on companies with a corporate value ranging from 3 billion yen to 10 billion yen. Since its founding, J-STAR invested and/or provided business supports in more than 45 transactions in various industries such as consumer durables, services, healthcare, media and manufacturing.