

MONEX GROUP

Monex Activist Fund begins operations

TOKYO, March 31, 2020 – Monex Group, Inc. (“the Company”) is pleased to announce the start of Monex Activist Fund, which aims to raise the corporate value of listed companies and pursue higher investment returns through engagement. Monex Activist Fund is part of Monex Group’s ongoing efforts to activate Japan’s capital markets and provide better investment products to individual investors.

To realize the above-mentioned goals, the Company established Japan Catalyst, Inc. (hereinafter, Japan Catalyst) as a wholly-owned subsidiary (announced on January 16, 2020). Since its establishment, Japan Catalyst has obtained registration as an investment advisory business under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act, has become a member of the Japan Investment Advisors Association, and has formed its team to enable it to provide advisory services. This team is comprised of members with extensive expertise managing bottom-up research-based funds, hedge funds, activist funds and fund engagement as well as experience in management consulting, M&A banking and a diverse range of other fields. Oki Matsumoto, CEO of the Company, is committed to all aspects of operations from team management to engagement.

Monex-Saison-Vanguard Investment Partners, a Monex Group company registered as an investment management business under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act, is in the process of becoming a 100% wholly-owned subsidiary and as of April 1st, will be renamed Monex Asset Management, Inc. Monex Asset Management, Inc. will take on a central role in the Group’s asset management businesses and with advice from Japan Catalyst, begin managing Monex Activist Fund in April.

The Company will provide the seed investment and is fully committed to Monex Activist Fund, as well as its efforts to transition from a broker model to an asset management model.

Monex, Inc. plans to begin handling a publicly offered investment trust whose mother fund will be Monex Activist Fund targeted to individual investors in June. In addition to promoting awareness of engagement among individual investors through such activities as Monex Activist Forum, which began in January 2019, Monex, Inc. has also begun disseminating information about activism trends with its online publication “Activist Times” to respond to increasing interest in activism.

Through these efforts, we hope to bring together companies and individual investors, who are the anchor in the investment chain and primary player in the capital markets, and in turn, revitalize capital markets.

With the rapidly changing market and economic environment, we believe now more than ever is an opportune time for Monex Activist Fund to help raise corporate value of Japanese companies. And precisely given these current times, we as a Group will continue to pursue our mission to provide individual investors high-value-added products and services.

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