

## Aspirant Group to acquire FILWEL

Aspirant Group (“AG”) announced today that AG managing fund (“AG1”) completed a share transfer agreement with KURAMOTO Co., Ltd. to acquire all outstanding shares of FILWEL Co., Ltd. (“FILWEL”, the “Company”) ( <http://www.filwel.co.jp/> ) through SPC together with Fukuoka Capital Partners (“FCP”).

With technologies originated in the research and development conducted in 1965, FILWEL had created various fine leather products and pioneered possibilities of artificial leather. With the expansion of hi-tech market, the application of polishing pads has expanded as essential indirect materials to support polishing process necessary in the manufacturing of various electric devices. The Company enjoys a high reputation for its continuous commitment to supply quality functional products, based on its profound knowledge and development capability of fine leather. Artificial leather is a major material used in consumer products such as shoes and bags, and the Company also enjoys a high reputation for its artificial leather used for school bags and general goods.

AG and FCP will support the operation of the Company by providing additional management resources, experiences, know-hows, and networks in the manufacturing industry. The Company aims to improve customer satisfaction and to expand the business foundation by pursuing the development of new applications of fine leather and by adding values to the existing products, while further solidifying the existing business foundation of fine polishing pads and artificial leather.

Mr. Kazuhiko Nakamura will remain as CEO of the Company to lead the entire operation and aim to further grow and develop the business along with all employees of the Company.