

December 15, 2020

Aspirant Group

Announcement Regarding Sale of Shares of SORD

Aspirant Group Inc (“AG”) is pleased to announce that a fund managed by AG (AG II Investment Limited Partnership) has reached an agreement with PCI Holdings, INC. (“PCI”) regarding the sale of the entirety of its shareholding in SORD CORPORATION (“SORD”) on December 15, 2020.

Through its group companies, PCI is engaged in business solutions (including contract-based software development), embedded solutions (including embedded software and telecommunication protocol technology), IoT/IoE solutions (including various ICT services), and semiconductor total solutions, based on core technologies in semiconductor design and testing. PCI is aiming to expand its business by proactively pursuing M&A of companies, which has expected synergy with its existing businesses. PCI also has a capital alliance with Restar Holdings Corporation (“Restar”), one of the largest electronics trading companies in Japan, and has a wide network and resources through its group companies and affiliates.

SORD provides industrial embedded computers, embedded software, and call center/kitting services for personal computers and has a strong customer base, including large Japanese corporations. Since the time of investment in 2018, AG has supported SORD’s standalone process from TOSHIBA Group and its growth by strengthening its management infrastructure including but not limited to talent acquisition, the follow-on acquisition of the embedded PC business from Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation and forming business alliances with various new technology ventures.

PCI has announced “offering a One-Stop solution through an integration of software and hardware” as a business strategy of its mid-term business plan and has recognized that SORD’s hardware and software development capabilities and ability to respond to customer needs would enhance their value. AG believes that SORD can further expand its business through collaborations with PCI in next-generation themes, such as edge computing in addition to Restar’s sales network.