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PRESS RELEASE

Kitazato Corporation
SIOS Technology, Inc.

Kitazato and SIOS Technology Enter into a Business Collaboration to Develop Fertility Treatment Support System Using Advanced AI Technologies

- Aim to Address Challenges in Clinical Environment and Develop a Standardized Fertility Treatment Technology

Kitazato Corporation ("Kitazato"; TSE: 368A) and SIOS Technology, Inc. ("SIOS Technology") announce a business partnership agreement to develop an AI-powered system that supports healthcare professionals in assisted reproductive technology (ART) and improves fertility treatment outcomes.



In recent years, demand for assisted reproductive technology (ART) in fertility treatment has grown rapidly. While ART equipment continues to advance, procedures such as oocyte and embryo quality assessment and sperm selection in intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) still rely heavily on the extensive experience and highly specialized skills of embryologists and healthcare professionals.

The collaboration combines Kitazato's leading expertise in fertility treatment and extensive knowledge of medical needs and SIOS Technology's advanced capabilities in AI and deep learning. The collaboration aims to develop a state-of-the-art AI system that reduces reliance on individual experience and expertise in the clinical environment, reduces workflow times, and contributes to "improving pregnancy and live birth rates."

In conducting the collaborative R&D and commercializing the system, Kitazato and SIOS Technology will leverage their respective strengths and assume the following responsibilities:

- **Kitazato's responsibilities**
 - Provide advanced expertise and clinical perspectives in the medical, reproductive, and biological fields, particularly in media and consumables for fertility treatment
 - Provide data and environments for AI training, experimentation, and validation
 - Define product and service requirements based on the above
 - Conduct sales and marketing activities targeting medical institutions and other customers while providing specialized customer support
- **SIOS Technology's responsibilities**
 - Design, develop, and implement applications and systems using IT technologies
 - Develop advanced algorithms and models by leveraging its expertise in the medical field and research findings related to medical AI
 - Manage the operation, maintenance, and upgrades of systems, applications and IT infrastructure

Both companies will work together comprehensively, leveraging IT technologies, including AI, across the development, delivery, operation and maintenance of products and services with a primary focus on human healthcare and reproductive medicine, while exploring broader opportunities in the life science fields, thereby contributing to society.

Futoshi Inoue, President of Kitazato, commented: “Declining population and birth rates have become common challenges in developed countries. In Japan, fertility treatment has been covered by the public health insurance program since April 2022 as part of the government’s efforts to address the declining birth rate. We believe improving fertility treatment success rates is one effective way to address these challenges, and we are committed to contributing to this effort. By combining our long-standing expertise in fertility treatment with SIOS Technology’s AI analytics capabilities, we aim to improve treatment outcomes and contribute to significant advances in fertility care.”

The joint development with SIOS Technology will extend beyond the use of AI to identify sperm, oocytes, and embryos in fertility treatment. Our broader goal is to help create a society in which more women can pursue parenthood while maintaining their health and well-being. To achieve this, we believe it is important to raise awareness of preconception care*¹, support women in understanding their own health, and contribute to an environment that supports women throughout their life journey, from fertility preservation, family planning to pregnancy, childbirth, and beyond. Through these efforts, we hope to help women build healthier, more fulfilling lives.”

Nobuo Kita, President of SIOS Technology, commented: “We are extremely pleased to enter into this partnership with Kitazato and leverage its leading expertise in fertility treatment. By combining Kitazato’s capabilities with AI analysis technologies we have developed since 2018 -- expanded through joint research with multiple universities since 2019, we aim to codify and standardize advanced techniques that have traditionally relied on the experience of skilled medical professionals, including embryologists and physicians. We are committed to addressing this major societal challenge of improving treatment outcomes.”

*1 Preconception care is encouraging individuals to acquire accurate knowledge about pregnancy and childbirth and to take appropriate steps to manage their health.

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About Kitazato

Kitazato aims to help as many people as possible realize their hopes of parenthood, contributing to addressing the social challenge of declining birth rates and create social value for a sustainable future by confronting the challenges faced by people seeking fertility treatment and healthcare professionals and providing reliable technologies.

Kitazato specializes in assisted reproductive technologies, including artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, cell cryopreservation, and regenerative medicine. To meet the global demand for reproductive medicine, Kitazato develops and manufactures products used in fertility treatment and supplies them to approximately 110 countries and regions.

Kitazato is committed to “advancing reproductive medicine.” To fulfill this commitment, we collaborate with physicians and researchers around the world, leveraging our long-standing expertise and knowledge to improve existing technologies and develop new ones.

For more information, please visit <https://www.kitazato.co.jp/en/>

About SIOS Technology

Since its foundation in 1997, the SIOS Group has developed its business as a pioneer in the social implementation of open-source software.

As the core operating company of the SIOS Group — headed by SIOS Corporation (TSE: 3744) as its holding company — SIOS Technology supports corporate digital transformation by developing and selling software products that leverage advanced technologies such as cloud computing and AI, as well as providing sophisticated system integration services.

Under our mission “Making the Impossible Possible for People of the World,” we are committed to leading the creation of new value in the AI era by consolidating the collective efforts of the SIOS Group.

For more information, please visit <https://sios.jp/>



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