

September 12, 2025  
SBI Holdings, Inc.  
(TOKYO: 8473)

**Notice Regarding Capital and Business Alliance with Ridge-i Inc.  
and Acquisition of its Shares Through Third-Party Allotment, etc.  
(to Make It an Equity-Method Affiliate)**

SBI Holdings, Inc. (hereinafter “the Company”) hereby announces that, as of today, it has entered into a capital and business alliance agreement (hereinafter the “Capital and Business Alliance Agreement”; and the capital and business alliance contemplated under the Capital and Business Alliance Agreement, the “Capital and Business Alliance”) with Ridge-i Inc. (head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; CEO: Takashi Yanagihara; Securities Code: 5572; hereinafter “Ridge-i”) and has agreed to acquire Ridge-i’s shares by subscribing for new shares to be issued through a third-party allotment (hereinafter the “Third-Party Allotment”) to be conducted by Ridge-i. In addition, the Company has agreed to acquire a portion of the shares held by Mr. Takashi Yanagihara, the largest shareholder and Representative Director and CEO of Ridge-i.

As a result of completion of the Third-Party Allotment and the share transfer described above, Ridge-i is expected to become an equity-method affiliate of the Company.

1. Reasons for the Capital and Business Alliance

Ridge-i and its one consolidated subsidiary (Star Music Entertainment Inc.), comprising two companies in total (hereinafter the “Ridge-i Group”), engage in the Custom AI Solutions Business and Digital Marketing Business. The Ridge-i Group is a technology company that provides practical solutions to various social and customer issues through advanced technologies such as AI and deep learning, offering services ranging from on-site consultation to assessment, development, implementation and customer operation.

The Company, together with its 696 consolidated subsidiaries and 64 equity-method affiliates (as of March 31, 2025; collectively, “the Company Group”), is primarily engaged in Financial Services Business centered on banking, securities, and insurance; Asset Management Business; PE Investment Business; Crypto-asset Business, which is a business area expected to grow continuously; and Next Gen Business, which includes Bio-healthcare & Medical Informatics businesses and businesses addressing advanced Web3-related fields. The Company Group and the Ridge-i Group have explored a range of initiatives, including applying AI technologies to the financial and non-financial data held by the Company Group, beginning with SBI SECURITIES Co., Ltd. (hereinafter “SBI SECURITIES”), a consolidated subsidiary of the Company engaged in the financial instruments business, introducing AI solutions for partner regional banks of the Company Group, where digital transformation is a pressing priority, and collaborating with SBI NEO MEDIA HOLDINGS Co., Ltd. (hereinafter “SBI NEO MEDIA”), a subsidiary of the Company, in areas such as social networking services (SNS) and digital marketing. Building on these initiatives, the Company and the Ridge-i have entered into the Capital and Business Alliance Agreement with the goal of promoting AI utilization Company Group-wide and fostering the creation of new solutions and businesses. Through this alliance between the Company and Ridge-i, both the Company Group and the Ridge-i Group will form a unified team that goes beyond a conventional outsourcing relationship, combining their respective resources and AI expertise. In doing so, they seek to accelerate the application of AI to the financial and non-financial data held by the Company Group.

2. Details of the Capital and Business Alliance

(1) Details of the Capital Alliance

The Company intends to acquire 390,000 shares of Ridge-i’s common stock (3,900 voting rights) through the Third-Party Allotment.

In addition, in accordance with the share purchase agreement entered into today between SBI SECURITIES and Mr. Takashi Yanagihara, the largest shareholder and Representative Director and CEO of Ridge-i, SBI SECURITIES intends to acquire 584,000 shares of Ridge-i’s common stock held by Mr. Takashi Yanagihara through an over-the-counter transaction on September 30, 2025, for the purpose of transferring such shares to the Company. On the same date, the Company intends to acquire

all such shares to be held by SBI SECURITIES from SBI SECURITIES through an over-the-counter transaction.

(2) Details of the Business Alliance

The Company Group and Ridge-i strive to revitalize regional areas by leveraging the Company Group's corporate network, with a particular focus on introducing AI and DX (digital transformation) of regional banks. The Company Group and Ridge-i also strive to develop new solutions and create new businesses by applying AI to the financial and non-financial data held by the Company Group, with SBI SECURITIES serving as the central platform. In addition, the Company Group and Ridge-i strive to create digital marketing and Web3 businesses together with SBI NEO MEDIA. To achieve these objectives, both groups plan to commence specific collaboration focused on the following three activities:

- (i) Enhancement of operational efficiency and productivity across the entire Company Group and creation of new projects through the use of AI
  - a Company-wide introduction of generative AI and establishment of a high-speed data analytics platform
  - b Improvement of employee productivity and knowledge integration through the use of generative AI
  - c Integration of AI expertise through personnel exchanges between the Company Group and Ridge-i
- (ii) Implementation of AI and Data Utilization Initiatives to achieve 30 million securities accounts for the Company Group
  - a Providing "Favorite AI": a new investment experience utilizing non-financial data
  - b Optimizing marketing through big data analysis
  - c Developing generative AI channels for customers
- (iii) Strengthening the Company Group's Neo Media strategy and utilizing data in the media and entertainment areas
  - a Joint development of AI scoring models to visualize the "latent value" of talent and intellectual property
  - b Building a new financial infrastructure to support creators and content
  - c Joint promotion of the contents business and entertainment DX business utilizing AI and data
  - d Joint development and provision of financial products for new entertainment utilizing Web3 technologies
  - e Enhancing the Company Group's brand value through integrated media strategies

3. Number of Shares to be Acquired and Acquisition Costs in connection with the Third-Party Allotment

Number of shares to be acquired	390,000 shares
Acquisition costs	1,059,240,000 yen (2,716 yen per share)

4. Shareholding Before and After the Third-Party Allotment and Share Transfer

(1)	Number of shares held before the changes	0 shares (Ratio of voting rights held: 0%)
(2)	Number of shares to be acquired through the Third-Party Allotment	390,000 shares
(3)	Number of shares to be acquired from existing shareholders	584,000 shares
(4)	Number of shares held after the changes	974,000 shares (Ratio of voting rights held: 22.69%)

## 5. Overview of the Capital and Business Allotment Partner

(1)	Name	Ridge-i Inc.		
(2)	Location	1-6-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo		
(3)	Name and title of representative	Representative Director and CEO, Takashi Yanagihara		
(4)	Business description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consulting and development of deep learning technologies</li><li>• Providing products through joint ventures, licensing, maintenance models, and in-house development, and other methods.</li><li>• Providing AI analysis solutions utilizing satellite data</li></ul>		
(5)	Paid in Capital	38,392 million yen (as of July 31, 2025)		
(6)	Date of establishment	July 29, 2016		
(7)	Major shareholders and shareholding ratios (as of July 31, 2025)	Shareholders		Shareholding ratios
		Takashi Yanagihara		26.89%
		Yanagihara Holdings, Inc		16.58%
		VALQUA, LTD.		10.66%
		Trustee of Specified Non-monetary Trust: SMBC Trust Bank Ltd.		5.56%
		EBARA Environmental Plant Co., Ltd.		2.13%
		Daisuke Gomi		1.79%
		Takayoshi Komatsu		1.73%
		Kenji Ishida		1.62%
		The Master Trust Bank of Japan, Ltd. (Trust Account)		1.50%
		Rakuten Securities, Inc.		1.49%
(8)	Relationship with the Company			
	Capital relationship	SBI SECURITIES, a consolidated subsidiary of the Company, holds 0.62% (24,200 shares) of Ridge-i's common stock as inventory for securities business (as of the end of July 2025)		
	Personnel relationship	Not applicable		
	Business relationship	Not applicable		
	Related party status	Not applicable		
(9)	Operating Results for the last three years (unit: thousands of yen, except where specifically noted)			
	Fiscal year	Fiscal year ended July 31, 2023	Fiscal year ended July 31, 2024	Fiscal year ended July 31, 2025
	Net sales	790,384	1,071,954	2,593,322
	Operating income	70,346	152,738	283,137
	Ordinary income	60,896	153,014	290,9846
	Net income	44,564	121,697	-
	Net income attributable to owners of the parent	-	-	139,627
	Earnings per share (yen)	12.54	31.97	36.00

Dividend per share (yen)	-	-	-
Total assets per share (yen)	524.36	552.71	560.33

(Notes) Since consolidated financial statements have been prepared from the end of the consolidated fiscal year ending July 31, 2024, figures for periods prior to the fiscal year ended July 31, 2024, are presented based on non-consolidated financial statements.

6. Schedule

(1)	Date of resolution by the Board of Directors	September 12, 2025
(2)	Date of concluding agreement for the Capital and Business Alliance and the Third-Party Allotment	September 12, 2025
(3)	Date of share transfer from existing shareholders and payment date for the Third-Party Allotment	September 30, 2025(scheduled)

7. Future Outlook

The impact of the Capital and Business Alliance and the conversion of Ridge-i into an equity-method affiliate of the Company on the Company's consolidated financial performance is expected to be minimal.

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For further information, please contact:

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